

GABRIELA MISTRAL

"Many things we need can wait; the child cannot. Now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made, his mind is being developed. To him we cannot say tomorrow, his name is today."

-Gabriela Mistral

Born in 1889 as Lucila Godoy y Alcayagain Chile. Changed her name when she began writing her intensely emotional and feminine poetry because she feared losing her job. (archangel Gabriel + the sea wind = Gabriela Mistral)

As a young woman she was a teacher in rural schools. She wrote little poems for her students to help them learn to read. She was an innovative educator for her time, employing progressive methods like visual aids and games in her curriculum. She gained a respectable reputation for herself as an educator, as well as a poet.

She was the first woman and first Latin American to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature (1945)."

An excerpt from the citation: "...has become the great singer of mercy and motherhood..."

In the author's note in Desolacion, her first book of poetry, Gabriela Mistral wrote, "...dedicated to those women capable of seeing that the sacredness of life begins with maternity which is, in itself, holy. They will understand the deep tenderness with which this woman who cares for the children of others, looks upon the mothers of all the children in the world."

SISTER INES DE LA CRUZ (Sor Juana)

"A poet, playwright, philosopher, scientist and musician, Sor Juana is often called the first feminist in the New World."

-Chicago Sun Times 10/31/94

"She was ultimately branded a heretic for her treatises, which defended the right of women to think and study freely in a society that believed they should submit to men."

-Chicago Sun Times 10/31/94

"In Mexico she is as standard a part of literature as Shakespeare is in English-speaking cultures."

-Helen Valdez, President of the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum

7203

Bob Erwin
from CDC
J

1991

is that
high or
low per
natl rate

- Inf. Mortal Rate for Miami
= 5.3 for 1000 births

4.2 - 6.4 = 95% ←

- Stat. express w/ confidence
limits

Dade County = 7.6
conf 6.7 - 8.6

To KATHY
Date 3/12/16 Time 9:15

While You Were Out

M BARBARA MORRIS / BOB ERWIN
of CDC Wash
Phone 690-8598
Area Number Extension

Fax _____
Area Number Extension

☒ TELEPHONED ☒ PLEASE CALL
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☐ URGENT

Message _____

Operator

Lissa-

I didn't have a lot of information on the "success stories" you were looking for. The information I derived from the materials I got from Nicole is summarized below. Let me know where else I can look.

SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS:

In recent decades, the health and living conditions of Latin American and Caribbean populations have improved significantly (based on maternal and infant mortality rates and life expectancy rates).

However, this is only one-half of the story. Much of what we see in the rest of the hemisphere, in terms of the problems they face, is oddly familiar to the United States.

Problems shared in common:

- Improvements in the standard of living in Latin America have benefitted social groups unequally. In the early '90s, poverty and indigence grew worse all over the region, unemployment rose, and income became more unevenly distributed. The gap between the highest and lowest income groups grew in terms of health and education opportunities.
- Concerning children
 - alarming rates of domestic violence and abuse
 - rise in teenage sexual activity
 - increased use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco
 - rise in violence and crime among the young

Success stories:

- Immunizations.
Latin America has had great success with immunizing its children. If current trends continue until the year 2000, diseases that only a generation ago were leading causes of ill health, disability, and death in childhood will have been eliminated by the turn of the century.
- Safe and ample drinking water.
Universal access to an adequate supply of safe drinking water is a serious problem in Latin America. Incorporating community participation, cost sharing, and cost recovery, the Honduras government, with the help of UNICEF, will achieve the goal of universal access to clean water and proper sanitation by the end of the century. (see attached)

Points HRC can make since she's speaking to women:

- Paul Kennedy says we need to redefine what constitutes as a threat to national and international security. There exists vast non-military threats to the safety and well-being of the

people on this planet which deserve attention [paraphrase].

Women understand this and have naturally dealt within this realm for centuries.

- Health and education is the fundamental basis for personal and collective well-being in any society. Without good health and proper education for all the people of a given country, that country is impeded from developing, from advancing.

SUMMIT

In recent decades, the health & living conditions of the LA & Caribbean populations have improved - maternal & infant mortality rates & life expectancy.

These improvements haven't benefitted all social groups equally. In early 90s poverty & indigence grew worse all over Latin America, in both absolute and relative terms. At the same time, unemployment rose, and income became more unevenly distributed, ~~with the~~ widening gap between highest and lowest income segment of pop in terms of health & education opportunities. — Just like U.S.

Region of the Americas: success in immunization
if current trends continue until the yr. 2000
diseases that only a generation ago were
leading causes of ill health, disability, and
death in childhood will have been eliminated
by the turn of the century.

Children

domestic violence, abuse, rise in teenage sexual activity, increased
use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, rise in violence & crime among young
↳ Just like U.S.

Women

Problem we don't have — universal access to ^{an adequate amount of} safe drinking water
ie Honduras

Paul Kennedy — need to redefine what constitutes a threat to nat'l & intl security, there exist vast non-military threats to the safety & well-being of the peoples of this planet which deserve attention.
= women naturally think & understand this & have for generations

health & educational — fundamental basis for personal & collective well-being and progress/improvement/advancement

Nariño Accord — "Second mtg of on Children and Social Policy in the Americas, Agenda 2000: Children Now"
— one of their statements — ~~final objective is to ach~~
"... human development must form the nucleus of social policy, whose final objective is to achieve adequate quality of life and the full dignity of the human being, one of the priorities of the intl community being the elimination of poverty, hunger, illiteracy, disease, unemployment and violence."
— April 5, 6 1994 Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

H R S
HRS DISTRICT 11

"COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE"
DADE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

1350 N.W. 14 Street
Miami, Florida 33125

FAX COVER SHEET

THE FOLLOWING 2 PAGES ARE:

TO: Ms. Kathy Kim

FROM: Ms. Anita Kimbler *

CONTACT PERSON: _____

³⁰⁵
TELEPHONE #: 325-2557 FAX # 325-5959

DATE: 12-07-94 TIME: _____

COPIES TO: _____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: _____

MEASLES ELIMINATION

Last confirmed case of measles 1 1/2 years ago

VACCINE ADMINISTERED

64,000 doses (publicly purchased) measles vaccine given to children during the past year.

198,000 doses (publicly purchased) of all childhood vaccine given during the past year.

334 providers enrolled in the Vaccine for Children Program (VFC) October 1st.

CLINIC ACCESS

27 new barrier free clinics have been opened as a result of the President's initiated Childhood Immunization Initiative.

VACCINE COVERAGE

→ 75.8% of 2 year olds are fully immunized up from 61% in 1991 (1993 Dade - 72%, U.S.A. - 67.1%)

Dade County has exceeded the national average for vaccination coverage of 2 year old children for selected vaccines, 1993.

	<u>DTP3</u>	<u>POLIO3</u>	<u>Measles/MMR</u>	<u>4DTP/3POLIO/1MMR</u>
Dade	88%	82.6%	84.7%	72%
USA	88.2%	78.9%	84.1%	67.1%

Vaccine coverage levels of selected antigens for 1994 have exceeded the President's Childhood Immunization goals (90%) for 1996.

	<u>DTP3</u>	<u>POLIO3</u>
Dade	96.1%	92.6%
USA	N/A	N/A

IMMUNIZATION COALITION BUILDING**MIAMI COALITION FOR IMMUNIZATION**

National model for public/private partnership with more than 116 member organizations, multi-cultural

Broad based community effort

Committed to removing barriers and expanding immunization services

HRS

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DADE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

1350 N.W. 14 Street
Miami, Florida 33125

FAX COVER SHEET

THE FOLLOWING 2 PAGES ARE:

TO: Ms. Kathy Kern

FROM: Anita Kumbler / Colleen

CONTACT PERSON:

(305)
TELEPHONE #: 325-2557 FAX #

DATE: 12-8-94 TIME:

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Awards

1992 United States Secretary of Health and Human Services recognized the Special Immunization Program (SIP) for an outstanding Community Health Promotion Project in Miami.

1992-1993-1994 Immunization Action Plan Grant Award, President, Childhood Immunization Initiative.

1994 John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Award to the Miami Coalition for Immunization to front a community-based education initiative.

To Kathy

Date 12/8 Time 10 am

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Colleen of Anita Kimbler's office

of _____

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Area Code	Number	Extension
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Operator _____



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CARBONLESS

Kathy Kim

(202)
456-5709**10. Infant Mortality**

Infant mortality is the most common statistic used in expressing the overall health of a community. An infant death is defined as a death which occurs within the first year of life. The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

A comparison of infant mortality ratios for Dade County and the State for 1991, 1992 and 1993 is presented below.

Infant Mortality Rates (per 1,000 Live Births)

	Dade County						Florida					
	Total for County		White		Non-White		Total for State		White		Non-White	
	Infant Deaths	Per 1,000 Live Births	Infant Deaths	Per 1,000 Live Births	Infant Deaths	Per 1,000 Live Births	Infant Deaths	Per 1,000 Live Births	Infant Deaths	Per 1,000 Live Births	Infant Deaths	Per 1,000 Live Births
1991	250	7.5	115	5.2	135	11.8	1,726	8.9	966	6.8	758	14.9
1992	245	7.5	117	5.4	127	11.6	1,685	8.8	987	7.0	695	13.7
1993	253	7.7	113	5.1	138	12.7	1,654	8.6	951	6.7	699	13.7

Source: Office of Vital Statistics, Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services.

Overall, Dade County has met the target for the Healthy People 2000 standard in reducing infant deaths to below 7 per 1,000 live births in the White community but has exceeded the target of 11 infant deaths to 1,000 live births among the non-White population in 1993.

For the years 1991 and 1992, Dade County had lower infant mortality ratios for the non-White population than the state average. In 1993, an increase in the infant mortality ratios among non-Whites in Dade County elevated this ratio to a level similar to the state average.

HRS

HRS DISTRICT 11

"COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE"
DADE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

1350 N.W. 14 Street
Miami, Florida 33125

FAX COVER SHEET

THE FOLLOWING 1 PAGES ARE:

TO:

Kathy Kim

FROM:

Arleta Kimbler

CONTACT PERSON:

Arleta Kimbler

TELEPHONE #: 305-325-2554 FAX # 305-325-3222

DATE:

12/6/94

TIME:

3:53

COPIES TO:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

14TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The San Francisco Examiner

October 10, 1994, Monday; Fourth Edition

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A-4

LENGTH: 1347 words

HEADLINE: School board to decide fate of community park ;
Site named for Chilean poet a labor of love for Mission District volunteers

SOURCE: OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

BYLINE: SEAN KEELER

BODY:

"I will leave behind me the dark ravine, and climb up gentler slopes toward that spiritual mesa where at last a wide light will fall upon my days. From there I will sing words of hope, without looking into my heart."

, Gabriela Mistral
Children who were once playing with their lives on the intersection of 20th and Harrison streets are now playing on jungle gyms.

Once home to an abandoned rail yard, the only trains on the site nowadays are those of grandparents and their kin linked arm in arm, enjoying nature in the middle of an urban jungle.

"It's been totally a labor of love," said architect Jeffrey Miller, designer of the seven-year-old Gabriela Mistral Mini-Park on Harrison Street, named for the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet and diplomat.

But now there's a chance that the labor of love will be resigned to the fate of a love lost.

The school board is scheduled to discuss two proposals on Tuesday that will affect the status of the park's neighbors, the Las Americas Children's Center and George Moscone Elementary School, and the outcome could have a ripple effect on Mistral Park.

With the passage of Proposition A as part of a \$ 95 million bond package in June, the school board was given the money to relocate the two facilities and build a new John O'Connell High School in their place.

Superintendent Bill Rojas backs a proposal to rebuild O'Connell, currently at 41st Avenue, where the children's center and elementary school are now and temporarily move the two facilities to the old O'Connell building on 21st Street until a new building could be built for both to share.

Many in the community are against the measure and an advisory committee has offered the board a counter-proposal suggesting that the elementary school and children's center remain at their present buildings and O'Connell move instead to its old facility on 21st Street.

The San Francisco Examiner, October 10, 1994

The board is expected to discuss both plans and could vote to approve one at its meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Everett Middle School Auditorium, at 450 Church St.

In the meantime, the fate of Mistral Park, which has been maintained by Miller and volunteers from the community since its creation, hangs in doubt. Some fear it could be paved over if the plan to build a high school next door is realized.

"Gabriela Mistral is this nice, shiny park in the middle of (the school relocation issue), it's the innocent," said Frank Lopez, former site manager for Las Americas and one of the driving forces in the park's construction in 1989. "In the preliminary plans I saw, if they build a high school there, (the park) is going to be part of the soccer field."

School administrators insist, though, that fears about the park's demise are unwarranted. They say they expect the area to remain fundamentally the same, regardless of what facility is adjacent to it.

"I have a hard time believing that any proposal would be rigid," said board member Steve Phillips, who supports the proposal to rebuild O'Connell next to the park. "I think there's going to be some ongoing negotiations before the exact design of a new school is approved. We're not in the business of destroying parks, and I don't think we should be."

"The park has got some history to it," said Rafael Parra, facilities manager for the school district. "We don't foresee changing it in any way at this time. We actually were planning to expand it. That's one of the attractions of that particular side (of the street), that it's a long, wide area."

Board President Dr. Leland Yee said the crux of the controversy as far as the park is concerned is "the matter of who's going to be around it."

"(The outcome of the vote) will affect how one would plan that park," Yee said. "If you're going to have an elementary school still around that park, then you plan it a certain way."

"If the community wants to alter it, it would have to have some improvements made," Parra added. "It's beautiful, but it needs some improvements. If it's adjacent to (a high school), it's going to need protection."

But park supporters are wondering if it might need protection from the school board as well.

"They were scheduled to address it Sept. 27," said Lopez, now a vice principal at the Lawton Alternative Elementary School. "Then they got word that parents were going to the meeting, they took it off the table. They're hoping that it would just go away, and by (transferring me to Lawton), it would go away quicker."

The park site was owned by the Southern Pacific Railroad company until 1987. When the company relinquished rights to the property to The City, it was strewn with abandoned railroad tracks, cars, and a bad history.

The San Francisco Examiner, October 10, 1994

"It was a chronic eyesore and a health hazard, there had been rapes reported, it was a real urban blight," Lopez said.

Members of the community came up with a plan to turn the area around, and solicited funding from The City. The mayor's Office of Community Development commissioned the San Francisco Conservation Corps and provided a \$ 60,000 grant to construct a park along the 24-by-180-foot strip.

Miller was hired to design it, and his plans called for a play facility for small children, a performance area, a sitting area with poems inscribed in both English and Spanish and a garden.

But it needed a theme. The idea for incorporating Mistral's name was Lopez's.

"It didn't take a brain surgeon," he said. "The street was called Mistral Alley, which means 'west winds' in French. Taking that as a cue, I thought it would be a good idea for the community to know about a famous Latina."

After community meetings and consultation, the Department of Public Works completed the sidewalk, sitting wall and play area in 1989. Funds from the mayor's office were exhausted one year into construction, leaving the park incomplete.

A "friends" group was formed to try to secure funds to finish the park according to Miller's design.

Grants were obtained to plant flowering trees in the street and an irrigation system and pine trees were donated. Installation of vegetation and the irrigation system was supervised by Miller and volunteers from the community. Only the stage remained, and Miller had to dig into his own pockets to see that part of the plan realized.

"Contributions to the park came from really diverse groups," Lopez said. "It was like the fable of the stone soup, everyone brought their own stuff. It was like bouillabaisse."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO (EXAMINER / CRAIG LEE)

Caption 1, Jeffrey Miller designed Gabriela Mistral Park, and when funding for its construction ran out, reached into his own pockets to build its stage.

MAP

(EXAMINER GRAPHICS)

Caption 2, GABRIELA MISTRAL PARK

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE-MDC: October 12, 1994

19TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

September 24, 1994, Saturday, HOME FINAL EDITION

SECTION: VIEWPOINTS; JACK TAYLOR; Pg. 31A

LENGTH: 497 words

HEADLINE: Richardson school board fumbles one

BYLINE: Jack Taylor

BODY:

When my family moved to Dallas 10 years ago, we were careful to select the proper educational environment so that our children would have the best possible preparation for college and life. We chose the Richardson Independent School District. We are proud that two of our daughters graduated from J.J. Pearce High School and went on to college. One is a college junior. The other is in graduate school.

But today I am both ashamed and dismayed because of the Richardson school board's obvious ignorance and apparent lack of interest in AIDS. To reject a monetary gift because the donor, the AIDS Resource Center of Dallas, is considered a subsidiary of the gay and lesbian lifestyle," and because the gift's use would send the wrong message" vis-a-vis the district's emphasis on sexual abstinence, demonstrates a lack of knowledge of the AIDS Resource Center and a failure to comprehend the most fundamental aspects of AIDS itself.

The AIDS Resource Center, with which my wife and I have had contact in our own AIDS outreach activities, provides many desperately needed resources to a very large AIDS community of men, women and children of all ages in Dallas. AIDS services depend primarily upon public assistance and a complex support system of friends, neighbors and community-based organizations such as the AIDS Resource Center.

AIDS robs people of their health, then of their dignity. The deterioration of one's health cannot be stopped, given the current limitations of medical knowledge. But we you and I and others in our community can make a difference by becoming more knowledgeable about AIDS, by developing compassion for those affected by the illness and by giving of ourselves so that those who are affected by it might have a better quality of life and some dignity.

The Richardson school board appears to have embraced knowledge about AIDS with all the vigor (and, apparently, the thinking ability) of an illiterate bigot with a frontal lobotomy, unable, it would seem, to discriminate between a bicycle accident and the collapse of civilization," as George Bernard Shaw once observed of the press.

This is not to suggest that the AIDS pandemic will lead to the collapse of civilization. But it is no runny nose, simply to be brushed aside, especially when our children are at risk. As Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Gabriela Mistral noted, We are guilty of many errors and many faults. But our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many of the things we need can wait. The child cannot. . . . To him we cannot answer,

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, September 24, 1994

'Tomorrow.' His name is 'Today.' "

I would suggest that each member of the Richardson school board should be required to write an essay on the same topic that produced the winning essay by former Pearce student Becca Myers that led to the spurned monetary award, AIDS: Why should I care."

Jack H. Taylor Jr. of Dallas has been involved in various AIDS outreach activities.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: September 29, 1994

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, August 21, 1994

47 years ago.

Ben Jarrett, the company's marketing services manager, said Skeeter owners have been asking for a tournament like this one. Top prize is a fully rigged boat, but there's a \$ 20,000 cash prize for a lake record bass and \$ 10,000 cash prize for the first-place big fish that weighs an exact poundage (7.00, 8.00, 9.00, etc.)

Safari so good

The newly organized Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter of Safari Club International has exceeded 100 members and aims to surpass the Michigan SCI (395 members) as the largest chapter. Membership Committee Chairman Don Corley said he hopes to take over the No. 1 SCI spot within 45 days.

Bass'n Gals qualifiers

Texas women who have qualified for the Sept. 30-Oct. 1 Bass'n Gals Classic Tournament include Ann Thomasson-Wilson of Jasper, Kathy Magers of Rockwall, Gail Criswell of Del Rio, Nobie Jo Lebert of Sour Lake and Sally Atkins of Cold Springs. The tournament is scheduled for the Mississippi River near St. Charles, Mo. Pam Martin of Bainbridge, Ga. has a shot at a Bass'n Gal Triple Crown, earned when an angler wins a national qualifying tournament, Angler of the Year title and the Classic championship in the same season.

The only Bass'n Gal to achieve that was Chris Houston of Cookson, Okla., in 1977 and 1991.

Roadkill studies

Minnesota, Florida and Pennsylvania are launching long-term studies of roadkills and their effects on wildlife populations.

Volunteers are asked to adopt a stretch of highway and survey the number and types of animals killed by cars in a year. Maybe they could put up signs like the litter patrol signs: The next 2.5 miles of highway roadkill monitored by Boy Scout Troop 206. An estimated 200,000 deer and countless small animals and birds are killed by cars annually.

Pronghorn numbers leap

Pronghorn antelope numbers are up from last year, according to summer pronghorn counts by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Biologists figure antelope in the Trans-Pecos region have increased nearly eight percent over last year while the Panhandle pronghorn herd is up about two percent. The fawn crop in both regions is slightly above the long-term average. For the Trans-Pecos, the fawn crop is estimated at 39.7 percent. The Panhandle fawn crop is estimated at 27 percent.

GRAPHIC: CHART(S): 1. Calendar 2. Solunar Tables 3. On TV

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: August 26, 1994

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*          9 PAGES          261 LINES          *
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*          EEEEE      N   N      DDDD          *
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SEND TO: BOWYER, ELIZABETH
 WHO - COMMUNICATIONS
 ROOM 122
 OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 20500

56TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The Times-Picayune

February 27, 1994 Sunday, THIRD

SECTION: TRAVEL; Pg. E8

LENGTH: 832 words

HEADLINE: OUR SISTERS, OURSELVES

BYLINE: By RHONDA MILLER Contributing writer

BODY:

As one who has started then abandoned more diaries than I can remember, I was delighted to read "Life Notes," a collection of personal writings by contemporary African-American women edited by Patricia Bell-Scott. It includes selections by some of my favorite authors - Alice Walker, Audre Lorde, Sonia Sanchez and Pearl Cleage - as well as entries by authors who piqued my curiosity, such as Rita Dove, who was named U.S. poet laureate last fall.

New Orleans is represented by poet Quo Vadis Gex Breaux. The most memorable of her four selections is "Milwaukee Uncle," which includes a sharp but unsettling poem about the Algiers-Fisher incident 13 years ago. It is a chilling reminder of the fear of police brutality so many African-American parents live with, especially the parents of African-American males.

Not all of the women represented are well-known writers. In fact the beauty of this collection is the mingling of stories from famous writers and everyday sisters who do not earn their living at writing.

Patrica Bell-Scott achieves each of her objectives for this volume: to honor the nameless women and girls who have recorded lives in the face of enormous disadvantages, to share the rich experiences lost when our diversity is ignored, to authenticate our ability as self-defining women who can speak for ourselves, and to encourage other generations to write for self-knowledge, empowerment and posterity. Of course, the success of her last objective won't be apparent for some years to come, but "Life Notes" provides ample models for any aspiring diarist.

What struck me as I read the recollections of these sisters was the way the question of identity (both racial and sexual) influenced their lives. Despite the variety in level of education, family background, life style, economic status or geographic location, identity seemed to take up so much space. Struggles to "fit in" with peers or within segments of the African-American community were complicated by the need/desire/expectation to assimilate into the mainstream (white) society. Many contributors reported rebelling against pressure from teachers and other authority figures who encouraged assimilation. This problem is further complicated by mixed ancestry, noted by Ai in "Arrival."

Many of these stories are eloquently and humorously told, despite much pain. One fascinating example is "Oreo Blues," by Carol McDonnell. McDonnell describes herself as an orthodox, Jamaican woman raised in a Jewish neighborhood, and married to the Irish-American son of atheists. "Oreo Blues" records an irritating aspect of the identity issue: "Like all black women, I'm a great

The Times-Picayune, February 27, 1994

observer of the games folks play in life. Yet I am not like all black women. I've been told that often enough. Black women, like all minorities, try to dictate what the right mode of behavior is. It is a habit of minorities to 'rein in' other members of the minority. Blacks speak of 'not acting black.' Jews speak of 'not acting like a real Jew.' Orthodox Christians speak of 'behaving like a Christian.' Feminists speak of 'being a true woman.' Frankly, I'm sick of trying to be what others want me to be."

~~touchy~~
Readers interested in political commentary, particularly the legacy of colonialism, will enjoy "A Small Place," by Jamaica Kincaid, her witty analysis of the exploitation of her homeland, Antigua, by Europeans and Americans.

Describing a major business section of her homeland, she writes, "In the middle of High Street was the Barclays Bank. The Barclay brothers who started Barclays Bank were slave traders. That is how they made their money. When the English outlawed the slave trade, the Barclay brothers went into banking. It made them even richer. It's possible that when they saw how rich banking made them, they gave themselves a good beating for opposing an end to slave trading (for surely they would have opposed that), but then again they may have been visionaries and agitated for an end to slavery, for look at how rich they became with their banks borrowing from (through their savings) the descendants of the slaves and then lending back to them. But people just a little older than I can recite the name of and the day the first black person was hired as a cashier at this very same Barclays Bank in Antigua. Do you ever wonder why some people blow things up? I can imagine that if my life had taken a certain turn, there would be the Barclays Bank and there I would be, both of us in ashes. Do you ever try to understand why people like me cannot get over the past, cannot forgive and cannot forget?"

Whether the subject is coping with adolescence, surviving divorce, the death of a spouse or child abuse, or contemplating a change in life style, "Life Notes" offers important glimpses into the struggles and triumphs of women working through contemporary issues.

Rhonda Miller is the assistant director of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

GRAPHIC: Bell-Scott. LIFE NOTES 2 PHOTOS

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: March 2, 1994

36TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press

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April 4, 1994, Monday, PM cycle

SECTION: Entertainment News

LENGTH: 783 words

HEADLINE: Returning Home, Jamaica Kincaid Confronts Her Past, Her Bitterness

BYLINE: By DAVID BEARD, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: ST. JOHN'S, Antigua

BODY:

Screwing up her courage, Antigua's best-known writer approached a parliamentarian as he arrived for the inauguration of the Caribbean nation's new leader.

"Molwyn Joseph," Jamaica Kincaid declared to the man, who flashed a neutral politician's smile. "I haven't seen you since you and your brother beat me up when I was 11 years old."

His smile froze.

The encounter symbolizes much about modern-day Antigua, about the power of memory and about the rage of the soft-spoken Kincaid, the Nasty Girl of this island, a native who tells ugly truths about a society that would rather cover them up.

That a neighborhood bully would rise to become a leader in the governing party epitomizes the corruption that Kincaid lambasted in "A Small Place," her 1988 meditation on the land she left in 1965 at age 16.

Although not at all eager for confrontation, she returned to her homeland to watch elections in March, curious to see if Antiguan were ready to break with a half-century of domination by Vere C. Bird and his family.

They were not. And Kincaid did not have to look much beyond her family for reasons.

At 6:04 a.m. on Election Day, Kincaid knocked on her mother's door in a poor neighborhood of the capital. Annie Drew answered in her bathrobe, beaming as she told her daughter about sitting on the dais for a campaign-closing opposition rally the night before.

As the water boiled for instant coffee, Kincaid's three grown-up brothers wandered into the narrow, cramped main room.

The Associated Press, April 4, 1994

The family chastised Devon, 32, for wearing the red shirt of the Birds' Antigua Labor Party, accusing him of selling his vote for hundreds of dollars.

"Me and (governing party candidate) Cutie Benjamin, we go way back," he protested half-heartedly. Devon, who is unemployed, smiled at the bribery allegations but did change his shirt to another color.

The oldest brother, Joe, briefly popped in, telling his mother that he wasn't going to vote. "I don't get involved in politics," said Joe, who has a state job.

Dalma, the youngest brother, also has a state job, but said he was planning to vote for the opposition. By midday he still had not voted.

And by midday, Devon had changed shirts a second time, wearing a red-and-white top emblazoned with the name of the governing party candidate, who won.

As a teen-ager, Elaine Potter Richardson left her mother's home to work as a nanny in the United States, like so many women from the Caribbean. But she continued her education, kept reading and began to write, simply and lyrically.

Convinced that she was a lousy writer, she searched for a pseudonym to cushion the embarrassment. She settled on Jamaica Kincaid. "Much later, someone told me that was the name of a character in a play, and I suppose I had read it, but I didn't remember," Kincaid said.

Her stories got published, and she won a Guggenheim Fellowship. Her first two books, the short-story collection "At the Bottom of the River" and the autobiographical novel "Annie John," both took awards.

Return visits to Antigua prompted a slim nonfiction work, "A Small Place," that she presented one day to Prime Minister Vere S. Bird. His family did not like it, partly because it prompted other journalistic investigation? it hard to summon the outrage Kincaid used in describing the corruption degrading island society. Many profited from the Birds: from government concessions, from a job in the bloated bureaucracy, from easy credit allowed by the offshore banks and money launderers.

Bird's sons, Lester and Vere Jr., who appear to disagree with each other on everything else, both fumed over Kincaid's comparisons of them to Haiti's deposed dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier.

Lester, sworn in as prime minister last month, sought to mend fences with Kincaid in an interview before his inauguration. Speaking gently from the veranda of his hilltop home overlooking the Caribbean, Lester spoke of increasing governmental accountability, of distancing himself from his father's legacy, of introducing modern democracy.

He invited Kincaid and a visitor to follow his car to Government House to attend the inauguration.

The Associated Press, April 4, 1994

About an hour earlier, however, brother Vere Bird Jr. was not in a peace-making mood. Vere Jr., implicated by a British jurist in the smuggling of weapons to Colombia's Medellin cocaine cartel, frequently has blamed Kincaid and others instead of his family's performance for Antigua's poor reputation in the world.

During a tense, impromptu meeting on the steps of his rundown home, Vere Jr. refused to even address her by name. When informed that she was writing a magazine article for The New Yorker, he huffed: "She should stay there."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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November 11, 1994, Friday, Home Edition

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LATINA WRITERS ARE SILENT NO LONGER;

FRESH, FRANK VOICES ARE FUELING A SURPRISING LITERARY BOOM IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA AFTER CENTURIES OF MACHO-MINDED REJECTION.

BYLINE: By WILLIAM R. LONG, TIMES STAFF WRITER

DATELINE: SANTIAGO, Chile

BODY:

When Ana Pizarro returned to Chile in 1991 after 17 years in exile, she offered the manuscript of a novel to a local publishing house, which rejected it.

Pizarro, 53, was discouraged but not surprised. As a scholar of Latin American literature, she knew that innumerable women writers in this region had been silenced for centuries by macho-minded prejudice and rejection.

But through a friend's contacts with another publisher, Pizarro's "The Moon, the Wind, the Year, the Day" finally was printed last June.

Then, much to her surprise, the Sunday book section of the conservative El Mercurio, Chile's most influential newspaper, splashed the author and her novel on its cover.

Now, the publisher tells Pizarro that her book is selling well -- just one sign among many of a growing trend in Latin America, where women authors are enjoying unprecedented success.

"There is an opening for feminine writing," Pizarro said in an interview. "I believe the field is opening up more and more."

Books by Latin American women have become international bestsellers, in what some critics are calling a new boom. It is reminiscent of Latin America's celebrated -- all-male -- literary explosion in the 1960s when luminaries such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez of Colombia, Carlos Fuentes of Mexico and Mario Vargas Llosa of Peru attracted international recognition.

The region's latest crop of big-name writers is headed by a Chilean, Isabel Allende, whose books, including the novel "The House of the Spirits," have sold more than 10 million copies worldwide.

Literary scholars, while reluctant to belittle Allende's knack for telling a popular story, say privately that other women in Latin America are producing richer, more literary material; many of these also are achieving the big sales and critical acclaim once reserved almost exclusively for men.

Los Angeles Times, November 11, 1994

Because books are expensive in Latin America and education levels generally are low, writers of either gender still lack the mass readership that many authors enjoy in the United States.

But economic development, population growth and rising education levels have expanded the market for books, creating openings for new writers.

Meanwhile, gender bias has been breaking down throughout Latin America. Women have more opportunities for education, career success and intellectual freedom. This has translated into a larger public of women readers with greater interest in serious feminine literature. It also has meant that more men are discarding prejudices against reading what women write.

"There are scads of women emerging at this moment, at least in Chile and apparently in Mexico and Argentina also," said Beatriz Berger, editor of El Mercurio's book section.

Growing numbers of Latin American women are being published outside their own countries, including in the United States. (Some finance their writing careers by teaching at American universities; a few, including Allende, have married Americans.)

"Some of them have leverage with American publishers, and they are the ones that get the attention, but there are hundreds more good women writers out there," said Kirsten Nigro, a professor of Romance languages at the University of Cincinnati.

Many others are little known abroad but are changing the face of literature in their home countries.

"One of the most original things being produced in Latin America is women's voices," said Marjorie Agosin, a Chilean poet and professor of Latin American literature at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. Much of the new writing reveals refreshing -- sometimes even shocking -- frankness by women on society, politics, sex and other subjects.

"It's women talking about themselves in a very open way, very transparent, very daring," Agosin said in a telephone interview. "Before, women never spoke about how they felt, they never spoke about their sexuality. They censored themselves. It's new in the sense that women are doing it with great openness."

Claudia Ferman, an Argentine who teaches Latin American literature at the University of Richmond in Virginia, called the trend a Pandora's box: "You open it, and the most unexpected things come out, because this is the classic phenomenon of when someone is silenced, then there are many things in fermentation. And that, it seems to me, is what is attracting the public . . . that novelty of vision."

For example, women's erotic poetry is breaking ground in Caribbean Basin countries. In other parts of the region, women's poetic expression is invading the traditional territory of narrative writing "so there is a kind of very lyric narrative," Ferman said. "What we are seeing is that, when women start writing massively, they change not only what is said, but the genre it is said in."

When experts are asked who are the best women writers in Latin America today, the most-mentioned names include novelists Elena Poniatowska of Mexico, Diamela Eltit of Chile and Cristina Peri Rossi of Uruguay.

Poniatowska's novels "Here's Looking at You, Jesus" and "Tinissima" are "testimonial narratives" that look at history through the eyes of women who lived it.

The avant-garde Eltit challenges conventional thinking with stories about misfits, rebels and others on society's fringe.

Peri Rossi, who lives in Spain, deals with the confused sexual and national identities of the exiled characters in her best-known novel, "The Ship of Fools."

Dozens of other women have well-established reputations, and scores more are seen as promising new talents.

David Geis, head of the Spanish and Portuguese department at the University of Virginia, is especially enthusiastic about Mexican novelist Maria Luisa Puga. He said her works are "powerful and lyrical," exploring the condition of women in developing countries with critical realism.

Until the last decade or two, women in Latin America did not have opportunities that men did "to make a life in writing, to think they could be writers," Geis said. A few exceptional women did break through. Chile's Gabriela Mistral won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1945 with her earthy, maternal-voiced poetry, and Brazilian Clarice Lispector's reflective novels and short stories are ripe with provocative ambiguity.

But only since the early 1980s have greater numbers of Latinas gained broader access to publishing circles, to the press and to the literary Establishment.

"They've broken in," Geis said. "I think we've pretty much eliminated the macho mind-set, and we are all richer for it."

Publishers are richer too.

Carlos Orellana, editor in Chile of the international publishing firm Editorial Planeta, observed: "Really, there is a pretty spectacular apogee in Latin America, from the point of view that today the best-selling authors -- Garcia Marquez aside -- are women."

The biggest blockbuster has been Allende's "The House of the Spirits," followed by Mexican Laura Esquivel's first novel, "Like Water for Chocolate."

Both dramatize Latin American cultural virtues and vices with storytelling virtuosity and enticing touches of magic realism -- or "magic feminism."

Orellana said their huge success has helped pave the way for others.

"It contributes to knocking down complexes and prejudices -- in women writers, who dare to do more now, as well as in publishers who could have misgivings about the commercial possibilities of publishing women," he said.

Los Angeles Times, November 11, 1994

Pizarro, a researcher in culture at Santiago University, said that since the 1970s, women's fiction in Latin America has become more daring, while maintaining a female identity.

"It is a writing that has great aesthetic quality and speaks from another place, a place where sensitivities are different, where the relationship with reality is a little different from what we are used to in fundamentally masculine writing," she said.

Many women, such as novelist and poet Carmen Bullosa of Mexico, have developed artful ways of interpreting history through elaborate symbolism, she added.

They are "taking on history, and in a new way," she said. "It is a de-solemnized history -- open, playful."

In her novel "Llanto" (Crying), Bullosa jokingly questions conventional versions of Mexican history, examining it through the eyes of the Aztec emperor Montezuma.

Traditionally, interpretation of such "serious" subjects in Latin American literature had largely been left to men.

Women writers were around but went unnoticed, Pizarro said. "They didn't have a tribune. And because they didn't have a tribune, they couldn't advance in their aesthetic projects, because the only way to advance is to publish."

Then came the political and ideological ebullience of the 1960s, when revolutionary movements and social activism spread through the region.

"There was a great process in Latin America of affirmation of identities," Pizarro said. "Starting from that time, the voice of the woman begins to emerge in the rest of the countries of the continent."

Pizarro earned a doctorate in literature at France's Sorbonne in 1968, then became a professor at Chile's University of Concepcion, a hotbed of social and political activism.

Like thousands of other leftists, she went into exile in 1973 after a right-wing military coup harnessed Chile with a harshly repressive regime.

In the 1970s and 1980s, when much of Latin America was ruled by military governments, women also played an important role in resisting dictatorships and pushing for democracy.

"Men give them a place, because they need women in those struggles," said Ferman of the University of Richmond.

She said a feminist movement and more assertive writing by women have sprung from those political origins.

"They have acquired permission, they have permitted themselves to move ahead, to have a voice," she said. "They begin to understand that they were silenced."

Los Angeles Times, November 11, 1994

The progressive return to democracy throughout Latin America since the early 1980s has permitted more open discussion, and that has further contributed to the surge in women's literature.

The struggle for literary equality has been a long one in Latin America.

Sister Juana Ines de la Cruz, a Roman Catholic nun in 16th-Century Mexico, ran up against a wall of church censorship with her writing. Sister Juana is best known for her penetrating poetry, such as "First Dream," a metaphorical interpretation of dreaming and awakening.

From the 1920s through the 1950s, pioneers included Maria Luisa Bombal of Chile, who wrote subjective, stream-of-consciousness novels about women in reclusion, and Rosario Castellanos of Mexico, whose novels and short stories described native life and racial discrimination in the southern state of Chiapas.

While women authors have come a long way in Latin America, they continue to lag behind their American and European sisters. Silvia Pellarolo, a professor of Hispanic literature at UCLA, said many continue to go unnoticed because what they have to say is "not very appealing to a wider audience or to the owners of the publishing houses, who are usually men."

"What we're seeing is just the tip of the iceberg, and there are many, many, many other women's voices that are completely ignored," Pellarolo said.

GRAPHIC: Photo, Book by Chile's Ana Pizarro, above in Santiago, is selling well.
SANTIAGO LLANQUIN / For The Times

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HEADLINE: OPINION: PROPOSITION 187
SHOULD ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BE DENIED SERVICES?
'My family and I didn't

BYLINE: Isabel Allende

BODY:

MY NAME IS Isabel Allende. I have written several best-selling novels, published in more than 27 languages. Two movies have recently been made of my work. I write in Spanish, my native tongue. My books are used in high schools, colleges and universities of the United States. As a writer, I have to admit that I have been very lucky. Under Proposition 187, however, I am a suspect.

I came to this country seven years ago following a dream. It was not the American dream that most immigrants pursue. In my case, the reason was love ... or should I say lust? In 1987, during a lecturing tour I met a man, fell in love at first sight and decided to spend a week with him to get him out of my system and then go on with my life.

As it happened, we married, in spite of the many obstacles that were in our way. We were not young anymore; he had two broken marriages and four problematic children; I had a life elsewhere. I had to leave my home, my family, my friends and even my language behind.

For a writer, whose only tool is language, this was a major inconvenience. Besides, I had already gone through the painful experience of immigrating to another country.

Although I am Chilean by birth, at the time I was living as an exile in Venezuela. After the military coup of 1973 in Chile -- a brutal coup supported by the CIA, whose foreign policy traditionally supports the wrong governments in Latin America -- my family and I had to escape. That is how we ended up in Venezuela, where I worked and raised my children. For 13 years I waited for the dictatorship to end in Chile so that we could return to our homeland. However, when it finally happened in 1989, I had married an American, was already settled here and my children had followed me. I decided I was not going back to my country.

I have never regretted it. My son and his wife live and work in Marin County. They are both computer engineers, two responsible and smart people who are raising an exemplary family. Under Proposition 187 they are suspects. They have three kids who blend perfectly with the American children in their school. At their early age they have not yet experienced any of the ugly forms of racism that are often present in this society. They are only slightly darker than the blond children in the playground, but they are unmistakably Latin, and I hope they will always be proud of their heritage.

The San Francisco Chronicle, SEPTEMBER 22, 1994

Under Proposition 187 they are suspects, too. They will probably benefit from a good education and many opportunities. If they maintain their family values, they will grow up to be honest and hard-working citizens who will contribute to the greatness of this nation.

My daughter Paula also came here, but her circumstances were different. She came here to die in my arms. Her ashes are scattered in a forest near my home. I know now that I will never leave the United States. You belong where your loved ones are.

I am proud to say that mine is one of the many success stories of immigration to this country. The United States was formed by people like me and my family. Is there any American who could say that they are not descendants of immigrants? Only the true Native American Indians can say that. All the rest of our ancestors came here from another shore, most because they wanted a better life, some because they were brought here in chains.

Immigrants are usually survivors, hard working and creative people, willing to start from the bottom and work their way to the top. Most keep in mind the fundamental principals that formed this nation

My family and I didn't come here to take, but to give. I pay taxes -- Gosh! Do I pay taxes! I participate in innumerable activities to help those in need. I employ several people. My books have become part of American culture. My family and I are not exceptional in any way. We belong to the vast majority who come here with good intentions. Let me tell you, those who abuse the system are not the rule.

The Americans that today want to take away education and health from the children of immigrants will be retired in 20 years and supported by the taxes that the young immigrants -- by then citizens -- will be paying.

Moreover, survey after survey shows that these "illegals" contribute vastly more than they take from society. There is enough space for everybody and many more in this generous paradise that is California. Proposition 187 is fascist in essence and mean in spirit. It is also impractical. As a citizen and as a human being, I feel ashamed that it is on the ballot.

GRAPHIC: GRAPHIC, BY TOM MURRAY, THE CHRONICLE

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September, 1994

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HEADLINE: Isabel Allende; novelist-activist; Interview

BYLINE: Baldock, Bob ; Bernstein, Dennis

BODY:

"The wonderful quality of human beings is that we can overcome even absolute terror, and we do."

Isabel Allende went into exile after her uncle, Chilean president Salvador Allende, was overthrown in a CIA-assisted coup in 1973. She traveled, worked as a journalist, and wrote her books, "The House of the Spirits," "Of Love and Shadows," "Eva Luna," and "The Stories of Eva Luna." Her latest novel, "The Infinite Plan," is set, as is she, in Northern California.

Q: You've lived all over the world and traveled extensively. Now that you've married an American and you live here, what do you find surprising about the United States?

A: I realize that there is much more to it than I ever thought. It is a very complex society--multiracial, multicultural, with many languages. Americans have a warrior's mentality, most of them. That's how this society was built. The fact that you own a gun and shoot to defend your life is a very American way of thinking.

There is also all this spiritual quest, mainly among women. You can afford that, because that's something you can do when you have passed the stages of survival. In other cultures, women are that the stage of feeding their children. There are many people in this country who also have that as their first priority, but there are many who don't. And those people can afford the luxury of searching for the god or goddess, and worrying about the body, and vitamins, and organic chicken, and the perfect cappuccino.

Q: Given the power of your feeling for women in your writing, especially for the connections they sustain over generations, what do you make of tendencies here for generations--families--to drift apart, to become disconnected?

A: One of the characteristics of North American culture is that you can always start again. You can always move forward, cross a border of a state or a city or a county, and move West, most of the time West. You leave behind guilt, past traditions, memories. You are as if born again, in the sense of the snake: You leave your skin behind and you begin again. For most people in the world, that is totally impossible. We carry with us the sense that we belong to a group, a clan, a tribe, an extended family, especially a country. Whatever happens to you happens to the collective group, and you can never leave behind the past. What you have done in your life will always be with you. So, for us,

Mother Jones, September, 1994

we have the burden of this sort of fate, of destiny, that you don't.

There are advantages and disadvantages to both situations. In the United States, the fact that you can start again gives a lot of energy and strength and youth to this country. That is why it's so powerful in many ways, and so creative. However, it has the disadvantage of loneliness, of individuality carried to an extreme, where you don't belong to the group and where you can just do whatever you want and never think of other people. I think it's a great disadvantage--a moral and spiritual and ethical disadvantage.

Q: So how do you see the future for this country, with its separate, isolated peoples and cultures?

A: I'm very optimistic because I think that the real strength of a nation like the United States comes from blending cultures. There's no way that you can close the frontiers, anywhere. The borders are there to be violated permanently. That is what humankind has been doing, at least during the last century. We are living in an era of communications, of masses of refugees that go back and forth crossing all lands. We see these dark--and what they call brown-- people all over, and you can't stop them, why would you?

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**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR THE FIRST LADIES' SYMPOSIUM ON
CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAS
MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 10, 1994**

[Acknowledgements]

Welcome to all of my colleagues and friends from across the Americas, and to all of our distinguished guests.

It is an honor and privilege for me to host this wonderful symposium here in Miami. Let me begin by expressing my gratitude to the First Ladies of Latin America and the Caribbean for your help and guidance in preparing for this session. Your extraordinary efforts in previous First Ladies' meetings in Colombia, Costa Rica, and most recently in St. Lucia, have provided a foundation for all of our work -- today and into the future.

I hope that in the course of our gathering here, and in the weeks and months ahead, we will learn much from each other and find new inspiration to make children, families, and women a priority across our hemisphere.

Today, we live in an age of great promise -- and great peril -- for the 130 million children of the Americas. Great promise because our children are our lifeline to prosperity and democracy in the decades ahead. Great peril because, from the Queen Elizabeth Islands [northernmost Canada] to Tierra del Fuego, our children are shouldering burdens rarely encountered by older generations.

Children suffering from hunger, poverty, homelessness, inadequate health care, disease, illiteracy, violence, and abuse are not confined to a single nation or a single continent. The cries of desperate children are sadly heard in every nation represented here. And it is the plight of those children that brings us together today, not just as the spouses of heads of state or as representatives of our governments, but as mothers, sisters, daughters, grandmothers, aunts, neighbors and friends who believe that every child in every country deserves a fair chance in life.

The political leaders convening at this historic summit have set forth an agenda to promote prosperity and democracy throughout the hemisphere through trade initiatives, sustained development, and more effective government.

Today, summit leaders are outlining goals to ensure the economic, social and physical well-being of children:

The proposed Summit Plan of Action calls for universal access to education so that all children, regardless of economic or social status, racial or ethnic origin, or gender, will receive the basic tools necessary to become full members of society. The goal of requiring children to attend primary school is also under discussion. If this goal is achieved, it will help eradicate child labor and give children a greater hope of acquiring the skills and knowledge needed to compete in a modern global economy.

The proposed Summit Plan of Action calls for equitable access to basic health services, which will be particularly beneficial to children, who are most vulnerable to illnesses and unhealthy living conditions.

Specific programs being recommended will address child, infant, and maternal mortality rates, as well as increasing immunization efforts to eradicate childhood diseases, such as measles, that still afflict too many children. We need only look to the disappearance of new polio cases in the Western hemisphere to know the success of these immunization programs.

We all know that the role of caregiver is crucial to the development of healthy and secure children. And we all know that the primary caregivers in society most often are women. The Summit proposal to strengthen the role of women will increase opportunities for women to participate in all spheres of life -- political, social, and economic.

Empowering women with economic self-reliance, education, and protection against violence is not only a valuable step forward in itself. It's an important step forward for children.

While we recognize that our political leaders are responsible for devising policies and programs to meet these important goals, we also know that, as First Ladies, we have a significant role to play.

Just as advocacy organizations, social institutions, and dedicated individuals are critical to our progress, we, too, can help push the agenda forward in our respective countries.

When it comes to children's issues, women have a special calling. And that's why we have a duty to raise our voices for the voiceless -- our children, the youngest and most vulnerable among us.

This week I've had particular reason to think about the difference one woman alone can make in society, even against

extraordinary odds. My friend, Elizabeth Glaeser, died last weekend after losing a long battle with AIDS.

Elizabeth contracted HIV through a blood transfusion while hemorrhaging during the delivery of her first child, Ariel. Unbeknownst to her, her daughter, and then a son born later, also contracted the virus.

When Elizabeth learned that she and her children had been infected with HIV, she dedicated herself to raising awareness about AIDS. From a small office in Los Angeles, she created the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, which has raised over \$30 million since its founding in 1988.

She often said she was motivated and strengthened by the memory of her daughter, who died four years ago at the age of seven. Her son, now 10, lives every day with HIV.

If Elizabeth could contribute so much on behalf of children, I know we can too. Of course, we will not all be involved in the same ways. Each of us must find a venue appropriate to our own situation as First Lady or government representative. But whatever role we choose represents a rare opportunity to make a difference in the lives of tens of millions of children -- and in the future of all of the Americas.

There is an urgency to our mission. More than half of our population in this hemisphere is under age 23. Ushering children into the world is, of course, the province of families. But building safe and nurturing communities for them to grow up in . . . making sure they have access to schools that teach them to read and write . . . protecting them from avoidable diseases . . . training them for productive adulthoods. . . and honoring their rights in the face of violence and abuse -- these are our collective responsibility.

As the African [?] saying goes: "It takes a village to raise a child." [Hillary: Melanne says you like a quote that goes something like this....do you know who said it, or where I can find the exact phrase?]

To be sure, our challenges differ from country to country, and our recipes for progress may require different ingredients. The purpose of this gathering is not to prescribe one solution, but to share ideas and opinions and learn from each other's experiences.

Here in the United States, for example, we are not doing enough to ensure that women receive adequate pre- and post-natal health care, particularly poor women and teenagers. In 1992, 22 percent of pregnant women in this country received no pre-natal care.

As the rest of the world knows all too well, our nation is struggling against an epidemic of gun violence that daily claims the lives of children in our cities and towns. Today, gun violence is the second leading cause of death for children in the United States between the ages of 10 and 14 [ck?].

Combined with violence is an equally disturbing scourge of narcotics use among our young people. [more on this?]

At the same time, we are making progress on behalf of some of our children -- progress that is visible right here in Miami. Just yesterday I had the opportunity to visit Drew Elementary School and Jackson Memorial Hospital -- two institutions that have achieved remarkable successes in disadvantaged communities.

Drew is located in a predominantly African-American neighborhood. Community leaders in Miami devised a cultural exchange program in which students from Drew and a predominantly Hispanic school called Seminole Elementary come together for a variety of activities that promote tolerance and understanding. To enhance communication across cultures, students at Drew take Spanish from the second grade on.

Jackson Memorial Hospital, which is affiliated with the University of Miami, has the difficult task of caring for some of the poorest and neediest residents of this city. The newborn intensive care unit that I visited yesterday serves the highest risk population in Dade County -- but the hospital has achieved the lowest infant mortality rates in the state.

The hospital also has devised innovative ways for serving its community. A mobile van brings doctors and nurses to those who might otherwise go without necessary treatment and care.

In every one of our nations, dedicated, energetic people are working on the front lines to solve some of our most intractable problems. The purpose of the summit, and of this gathering, is to educate each other about our challenges and our successes -- and to make our efforts more cooperative by sharing the knowledge and experience each of us holds within us.

When we return to our capitals, I hope we will be guided not only by documents, policy papers, and official pronouncements, but also by the desire in our hearts to see that all children have the gift of hope in their lives.

In the words of Gabriela Mistral, the great Chilean educator, poet, and Nobel prize winner for literature: "Let me be more maternal than a mother; able to love and defend with all of a mother's fervor the child that is not flesh of my flesh. Grant that I may be successful in molding one of my pupils into a