

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. article	HRC Talking it Over article re: fax number [partial] (2 pages)	04/08/1997	P6/b(6)
002. article	HRC Talking it Over article re: fax number [partial] (1 page)	02/24/1998	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Shirley Sagawa
OA/Box Number: 24339

FOLDER TITLE:

Talking it Over [Columns of the First Lady] [Binder] [1]

2013-0124-S

rc1074

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Office of the First Lady
Files of Shirley Sagawa
January 19, 2001
Box 4 of 11

Talking Over: Columns of the First Lady

Column Index Summaries 1995-2001

Binder of Columns sorted by issue

Series of Binders of Columns:

7/23/95 – 1/29/97

2/4/97 – 12/1/98

12/8/98 – 1/17/01

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Health Issues

OB Express	10/1/95
Breast Cancer	10/22/95
Christopher Reeve (Kennedy-Kassebaum Bill)	2/11/96
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Chernobyl	5/1/96
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Elizabeth Glaser/AIDS	3/4/97
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Smoking in Movies	7/29/97
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Holidays/Occasions Cont.

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Rabin's Funeral	11/12/95
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Central Europe II	7/10/96
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Australia (Women's Roles)	11/20/96
Thailand	11/26/96
(Child Prostitution)	
Bolivia	12/3/96
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**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEEKLY COLUMN--"TALKING IT OVER"
JULY 23, 1995-PRESENT**

1.	Introduction	July 23, 1995
2.	Adoption	July 29-30, 1995
3.	Working Women	August 5-6, 1995
4.	Public Television	August 12-13, 1995
5.	Vacation	August 19-20, 1995
6.	Women's Suffrage	August 26-27, 1995
7.	UN Women's Conference	September 2-3, 1995
8.	Message from Beijing	September 9-10, 1995
9.	Mongolia	September 16-17, 1995
10.	Calvin Klein	September 23-24, 1995
11.	OB Express	September 30-October 1, 1995
12.	20th Anniversary	October 7-8, 1995
13.	South America	October 14-15, 1995
14.	Breast Cancer	October 21-22, 1995
15.	Reader's Letters	October 28-29, 1995
16.	United Nations	November 4-5, 1995
17.	Rabin's Funeral	November 11-12, 1995
18.	Children's Hospitals	November 18-19, 1995
19.	Thanksgiving	November 25-26, 1995
20.	Christmas at White House	December 2-3, 1995
21.	Ireland	December 9-10, 1995
22.	Military Families	December 16-17, 1995
23.	Christmas	December 23-24, 1995
24.	New Year's	December 30-31, 1995
25.	St. Ann's	January 6-7, 1996
26.	Martin Luther King, Jr.	January 13-14, 1996
27.	Whitewater	January 20-21, 1996
28.	Divorce	January 27-28, 1996
29.	Bosnia Relief	February 3-4, 1996
30.	Christopher Reeve	February 10-11, 1996
31.	HIV Ban	February 17, 1996
32.	Ramadan	February 22, 1996
33.	Chelsea at 16	February 29, 1996
34.	TV Executives	March 1, 1996
35.	RTC 2	March 6, 1996
36.	Women and Men	March 13, 1996
37.	Ladybird Johnson	March 20, 1996
38.	Visit to Bosnia	March 27, 1996
39.	Greece/Turkey	April 3, 1996
40.	Ron Brown	April 10, 1996
41.	Chicago Cubs	April 17, 1996
42.	Legal AID	April 24, 1996
43.	Chernobyl	May 1, 1996
44.	Mother's Day	May 8, 1996
45.	Adoption	May 15, 1996

46.	Arts and Kids	May 22, 1996
47.	Commencement	May 29, 1996
48.	Talking Women	June 5, 1996
49.	Father's Day	June 11, 1996
50.	Summer/Curfews	June 18, 1996
51.	FMLA	June 25, 1996
52.	Central Europe	July 3, 1996
53.	Central Europe II	July 10, 1996
54.	Smoking	July 17, 1996
55.	Olympics	July 23, 1996
56.	Olympics/Terrorism	July 30, 1996
57.	ADA/ Title IX	August 6, 1996
58.	National Parks	August 13, 1996
59.	Chicago	August 20, 1996
60.	Chicago - convention	August 27, 1996
61.	Seeds of Peace	September 3, 1996
62.	Medals of Freedom	September 10, 1996
63.	Lessons Without Borders	September 17, 1996
64.	Nina Hyde Center	September 24, 1996
65.	Beijing One Year Later	October 1, 1996
66.	Shannon Lucid	October 8, 1996
67.	Socks	October 15, 1996
68.	Superman comic	October 22, 1996
69.	Henry Ossawa Tanner	October 29, 1996
70.	Campaign Highlights	November 5, 1996
71.	Election Day	November 13, 1996
72.	Australia	November 20, 1996
73.	Thailand - Child Prostitution	November 26, 1996
73.	Bolivia - Family Planning	December 3, 1996
74.	Life inside the White House	December 10, 1996
75.	Adoption	December 17, 1996
76.	Christmas Eve	December 24, 1996
77.	New Years Eve	December 31, 1996
78.	Gulf War Syndrome	January 7, 1997
79.	Position statement	January 14, 1997
80.	Inauguration Day	January 21, 1997
81.	Abortion	January 29, 1997
82.	Microcredit	February 4, 1997
83.	Working Women	February 11, 1997
84.	Washington, D.C.	February 19, 1997
85.	Millennium	February 25, 1997
86.	Elizabeth Glaser/AIDS	March 4, 1997
87.	Single Parent Scholarships	March 11, 1997
88.	Africa I	March 18, 1997
89.	Africa II	March 25, 1997
90.	Africa III (Women)	April 2, 1997

91.	Child Care	April 8, 1997
92.	Brain Conference	April 15, 1997
93.	Service	April 23, 1997
94.	FDR Memorial	April 30, 1997
95.	Mother's Day	May 6, 1997
96.	Latin America Trip	May 13, 1997
97.	Children's Health Insurance	May 20, 1997
98.	Anne Frank	May 27, 1997
99.	Chelsea's Graduation	June 3, 1997
100.	Fatherhood	June 10, 1997
101.	D.C. Schools	June 17, 1997
102.	Foster care	June 24, 1997
103.	Food Safety	July 2, 1997
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107.	Smoking in Movies	July 29, 1997
108.	Balanced Budget	August 5, 1997
109.	Children Dosage	August 12, 1997
110.	Yellowstone Anniversary	August 20, 1997
111.	Vacation Games	August 26, 1997
112.	Princess Diana's Funeral	September 2, 1997
113.	Mother Teresa's Funeral	September 9, 1997
114.	Chelsea to College	September 16, 1997
115.	Little Rock Nine	September 23, 1997

July 23, 1995

In her first column, Mrs. Clinton talks about her role as the First Lady and her many responsibilities. Although she is able to travel around the world, meet famous people, and support various causes, she never takes for granted the everyday life that other Americans experience.

July 30, 1995

After meeting Mother Teresa at the National Prayer Breakfast, Mrs. Clinton was asked to set up a home for abandoned and neglected children in Washington, D.C. A year and a half later, the Mother Teresa Home for Children was opened. Mrs. Clinton believes that the adoption process is not only expensive, but biased against interracial adoptions and should be made easier to place children in loving families.

August 6, 1995

In this column, the First Lady discusses the difficulties of being a working mother. With the increasing number of working parents, the workplace needs to become more family-friendly. A few examples of flexibility for working parents are given.

August 13, 1995

In supporting public television, Mrs. Clinton states that children who watch public television programs are better prepared to learn by the time they begin kindergarten than children who watch only commercial television. Parents should limit the amount of television that children watch in general and monitor the shows that they do watch.

August 20, 1995

The First Lady remembers the family vacations she used to go on as a child every summer and discusses how it is more difficult now to take vacations. As the First Family, it is especially difficult because staff and security are always escorting them. However, Europeans view vacations as part of their culture.

August 27, 1995

Celebrating the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage, the First Lady recognizes the efforts of many men and women who fought for it in history. Although women in countries all over the world are still being denied this right, women in the U.S. have been taking suffrage for granted. Mrs. Clinton urges women in the U.S. to take action and vote.

September 3, 1995

The U.S. will be sending a delegation of 45 women and men to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Although the delegation and the conference as a whole are made up of citizens from diverse backgrounds, each member has the same concerns: access to child care, education, jobs and credit, the chance to enjoy basic legal and human rights, and the opportunity to participate politically. It is necessary for American women to get involved in this conference because the U.S. has played a leading role in the protection of human rights and the empowering of women.

September 9, 1995

Mrs. Clinton reflects on the UN Fourth Conference on Women. Working with the theme that women's rights are human rights, she details various problems faced by women around the world.

September 16, 1995

This week, for the first time ever, Mrs. Clinton was not there when Chelsea began the school year. Instead, she was visiting Mongolia, where she saw how difficult the transition to democracy can be, particularly for the nation's children who suffer because there is not enough funding for education or health care.

September 23, 1995

Mrs. Clinton rails against Calvin Klein ads which depict children in sexually suggestive poses. She moves on to discuss the widespread depiction of children and women as victims and sexual objects in advertisements, television, and movies, suggesting that public outrage can help stem this unhealthy trend.

September 30, 1995

Mrs. Clinton recalls how attentive nurses aided her in the hospital in the days after Chelsea's birth--and then she notes how unlikely it is that this would happen today. In an attempt to save money, insurance companies are trying to rush women and their babies out of the hospital after childbirth, even though this can lead to disastrous health problems. Mrs. Clinton praises some laws at the state level which mandate that insurance companies cover women for at least 48 hours of hospitalization after childbirth, and she suggests that such legislation might be appropriate on a national level.

October 8, 1995

With her 20th wedding anniversary approaching, the First Lady remembers the time it took for her to make the decision to marry the President. Although being married to a public figure doesn't allow much privacy, Mrs. Clinton and the President manage to spend time together alone.

October 15, 1995

Visiting South America, the First Lady notes that Eleanor Roosevelt had traveled to many of the same places almost fifty years ago. Mrs. Clinton will be attending a conference of First Ladies from the Western Hemisphere in Paraguay, which will discuss ways to improve the health and education of children and families.

October 22, 1995

With October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the First Lady warns us that one out of eight American women will develop breast cancer during her lifetime. The key to living a full and healthy life is early detection, and the key to early detection is regular mammograms. Since many women are reluctant to get examined, Mrs. Clinton believes it is important for doctors to encourage their women patients.

October 29, 1995

After writing this column for a few months, the First Lady has received many letters from readers.

Many letters were received about the adoption system, the United Nations Fourth World Conference in Women in Beijing, Gulf War veterans' illnesses, and cancer.

November 5, 1995

Although much attention is paid to the difficult and sometimes unsuccessful peacekeeping missions of the United Nations, its humanitarian efforts such as the improving literacy rates, preservation of historic and cultural treasures, immunization campaigns, and disaster relief efforts often go unnoticed. The First Lady feels that the United Nations, like many U.S. institutions, needs reform to become more efficient.

November 12, 1995

In this column, Mrs. Clinton expresses her sorrow over the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. After signing a peace treaty with Jordan and Palestine, he was criticized for dealing with former enemies and extremists used this division to increase their own support. She is disgusted that citizens of democratic countries choose violence to bring about political change.

November 19, 1995

Children's hospitals throughout the country rely heavily on Medicaid for the services they offer and will suffer greatly due to Medicaid cuts. Poor and low-income parents depend on Medicaid to ensure health care for their children. Mrs. Clinton believes that cutting back on Medicaid will harm millions of children who are seriously ill and need health care coverage.

November 26, 1995

Celebrating Thanksgiving, the First Lady looks back on the traveling she did and is grateful for the people she met and the places she saw. In particular, she remembers her trip to South Asia and was impressed by the progress the countries were making in spite of internal political strife and great poverty. After seeing the parts of daily life that Americans take for granted such as safe drinking water, paved roads, free public schools, and 24 hour electricity, she sees how truly blessed America is.

December 3, 1995

Christmas planning at the White House begins in May, when a theme is chosen and many volunteers across the country spend months creating decorations and ornaments. This process goes on for months as every detail must be planned. The White House is open to the public for the first reception of the season.

December 9, 1995

Recounting her trip to Northern Ireland, Mrs. Clinton tells the story of Joyce McCartan. After the murder of her son, McCartan founded a neighborhood information center and began to work for peace, inspiring many other women to join her. Both Protestant and Catholic women have realized that they share the same grief, and they have become a driving force behind the peace process.

December 16, 1995

Mrs. Clinton writes admiringly of a group of women who are married to American soldiers stationed

abroad, and who now support one another as their husbands head off to Bosnia. She then asks her readers to support our military men and women, and the spouses who are left alone, by writing letters and praying.

December 23, 1995

After reminiscing about some of her own Christmas experiences, Mrs. Clinton writes about the less fortunate who go needy during the holiday season. She then describes how many Americans, including the Clintons, respond to these needs with charity work.

December 30, 1995

As the New Year approaches, Mrs. Clinton shares her resolutions and hopes for 1996. Among other topics, she touches on breast cancer, voter participation, and the rights of women and children. She closes by providing the address to which cards and letters can be sent to our troops in Bosnia.

January 6, 1996

After discussing what a wonderful time she had with her young nephews and other family members over the holidays, Mrs. Clinton writes about the less-fortunate children she met at St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home just outside of Washington. She then describes many of the problems facing parents and children today and asks her readers to strive to make a better future for our children.

January 13, 1996

When she was a teenager, Mrs. Clinton heard Martin Luther King Jr. speak in her hometown, and his message of racial tolerance and non-violence changed her. So too, his message, was heeded by the people of Billings, Montana who rallied in support of their Jewish neighbors when hate crimes rocked the community. Similarly uplifting stories, Mrs. Clinton explains, can be found in a new book which she describes.

January 20, 1996

Mrs. Clinton explains the Whitewater matter and assures the American people that she and President have done nothing wrong and will continue to cooperate with investigators. She notes, however, that though the Senate committee investigating the matter regularly accuses the Clintons of withholding documents, the committee sought to keep quiet the results of a two year independent study that absolved the Clintons of any wrongdoing in the Whitewater affair.

January 27, 1996

Divorces, Mrs. Clinton tells her readers, ought to be harder to obtain because of the devastating effects they have on children, both emotionally and economically. Adding to what she wrote in "It Takes a Village," Mrs. Clinton explains that though marriage is a difficult thing which must be worked at, it should be worked at--if for no other reason, the sake of the children.

February 3, 1996

Mrs. Clinton celebrates the efforts of Americans performing relief work in the former Yugoslavia, highlighting a joint project undertaken by the Catholic Relief Services and the International Orthodox Christian Charities. This is the first time these religious groups have worked together, and their project provides hope that people in Bosnia as well can get along.

February 11, 1996

Christopher Reeve has been fighting for medical coverage for those whose lifetime health care benefits are limited since his tragic accident left him paralyzed from the neck down. He supports the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill, which would prevent insurers from denying coverage to a person who already has a medical condition and raise the lifetime benefit limit to a minimum of \$10 million for those in situations similar to Reeve. He also believes that more money should be allocated to research for the prevention and cure of costly diseases. The First Lady asks Americans to contact their senators to pass this bill.

February 17, 1996

This column deals with the unfair provision that Congress inserted into the new defense budget, discharging service members who have been tested positive for HIV within six months. Although precautions should be taken concerning occupations where regular exposure to blood occurs, many of the military personnel work behind desks. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense, the Justice Department do not support this bill and the President believes it to be unconstitutional because it singles out the military for unfair treatment.

February 22, 1996

For the first time in American history, the White House hosted a celebration of an Islamic holiday: Ramadan. American society often mis-characterizes Islam, as was demonstrated after the Oklahoma City bombing, by focusing on extremists and terrorists. However, the majority of the 4 million Muslims in the U.S. are loyal citizens.

February 27, 1996

On the occasion of Chelsea's 16th birthday, Mrs. Clinton reflects on the challenges facing teenage girls today and the difficulties of motherhood. She focuses on the expanded career opportunities now available to women, but also on the negative messages aimed at girls regarding beauty, sex appeal, intelligence, and submissiveness.

February 29, 1996

Mrs. Clinton lauds the heads of the nation's major media outlets who, in a recent meeting at the White House, agreed to institute a television ratings system. She also discusses the future v-chip, but notes that, above all, parents must exercise responsibility over their children's viewing habits.

March 5, 1996

Mrs. Clinton explains the results of a recent independent investigation of Whitewater by Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro. The investigation concluded that there was "no hint of fraud or intentional misconduct" in the way in which the Rose Law Firm was retained by Madison Guaranty, and, moreover, that Madison Guaranty's business was not economically significant to the Rose Law Firm, or the Clintons.

March 12, 1996

Mrs. Clinton criticizes typical societal notions of masculine and feminine, suggesting that both

parents ought to play important roles in child rearing.

March 19, 1996

This column celebrates Lady Bird Johnson's love for flowers and the beautification movement she championed.

March 26, 1996

Mrs. Clinton explains the important job being performed by American troops in Bosnia which she was able to see up close on her visit. She emphasizes how the soldiers' presence is improving the life of Bosnian children.

April 2, 1996

Mrs. Clinton discusses her visits to Bosnia, ravaged by war; Turkey, which has a long history of religious tolerance; and Greece, birthplace of Western civilization and the Olympic Games. The Olympics, the First Lady explains, tie all of these nations--and, in fact, all the nations of the global family--together, and help nations build bridges of friendship.

April 9, 1996

Mrs. Clinton mourns the loss of Ron Brown and the other 32 men and women who were killed when an Air Force plane crashed en route to Croatia.

April 16, 1996

Mrs. Clinton explains the unique experience that it is to be a Cubs fan, praising Ernie Banks and extolling the virtues of what he calls positivism.

April 23, 1996

Beginning with her own experience as a professor in Arkansas, Mrs. Clinton stresses the value of legal aid and laments the fact that Congress is seeking to reduce federal funding for the program.

April 30, 1996

On the occasion of a White House celebration for individuals who have aided the victims of Chernobyl, Mrs. Clinton tells of her experience at Children's Hospital No. 4 in Minsk, and in the region in general.

May 7, 1996

For Mother's Day, the President writes this column himself, dedicating it to his mother, who died in 1994. He remembers how hardworking, courageous, and determined his mother was all her life.

May 14, 1996

With tens of thousands of children waiting to be adopted, the First Lady believes that age, disability, race, or ethnic origin should not be factors in finding a home for them. The government has taken steps such as the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Multiethnic Placement Act, and adoption subsidies to make adoption easier in the U.S.

May 21, 1996

Public funding for the arts should not be limited because the arts are invaluable to children. Painting, dance, writing, acting, singing, or playing an instrument can help instill confidence in children, give them a sense of accomplishment, and teaches inner-city children to reach for higher goals in life. The First Lady supports organizations such as the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild and the National Endowment for the Arts.

May 28, 1996

Mrs. Clinton shares some of the messages that she gave at her commencement addresses at various universities earlier in the month. With all of the concerns that recent graduates have, she believes that they should take the time to fulfill their role as American citizens. They should take an active role in politics by getting involved in their neighborhoods, communities, and government.

June 4, 1996

With the coming arrival of the President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, Mrs. Clinton talks about the many women she has met as First Lady. From the Empress of Japan to Ann Landers, Mrs. Clinton has listened to many perspectives and ideas concerning women and their role in the world.

June 11, 1996

For Father's Day, Mrs. Clinton speaks about her father and the responsibility he took during her childhood to be more involved in family life. She also highlights the wonderful job the President and Vice President have done as fathers, and as politicians who have helped so many other fathers be the best parents they can be.

June 18, 1996

Recalling her childhood summers, Mrs. Clinton reminisces about the community organized activities in which she participated, and hopes we can create similar programs for today's children. She mentions programs in Houston and New Orleans that an example for the rest of the nation.

June 25, 1996

Beginning with a touching story about a dying girl and her family who visited the White House, Mrs. Clinton explains the importance of the Family and Medical Leave Act which helps American workers avoid making an impossible choice between livelihood and parenthood. She moves on to discuss more proposals the President is making on this subject.

July 2, 1996

Mrs. Clinton notes what an appropriate place Central Europe is to spend the Fourth of July, a celebration of freedom. Discussing the new birth of democracy in the region, She mentions the important things she has already seen in Romania, Poland, and the Czech Republic, and notes that she will soon visit Slovakia, Hungary, and Estonia.

July 9, 1996

Mrs. Clinton talks about the various countries she visited in Central Europe and the Baltic Region, noting the various signs of democracy at work there. The United States, through the government,

the private sector, and non-governmental organizations, is supporting many local efforts in these countries and creating an alliance of shared values.

July 16, 1996

Although most young children are repulsed by smoking, an increasing number pick up the habit during adolescence. The First Lady supports proposed legislation that would allow cigarettes to be sold only in face-to-face transactions with adults and would prohibit tobacco billboards within 1,000 feet of schools and playgrounds. In addition, products with cigarette logos and names would not be sold and an education program would be started.

July 23, 1996

This column is dedicated to William Milligan Sloane, who believed that sports was a vital part of the human experience. Helping to re-establish the modern Olympic Games, his vision will be fulfilled at the Games in Atlanta.

July 30, 1996

Despite the pipe bomb explosion in Centennial Olympic Park during the Games, many American athletes emerged victorious in Atlanta. Mrs. Clinton feels that it is unacceptable for acts of terror to occur anywhere in the world and that citizens everywhere should take a stand against it.

August 6, 1996

The passing of the legislation Title IX and the Americans With Disabilities Act ended the unfair exclusion of certain groups, enabling a greater participation in the Olympic Games and the Paralympics. As a result of these federal laws, women have the opportunity to play the same sports as men in college and people with disabilities have gained greater access to playing fields and swimming pool.

August 21, 1996

Recently, a 3 year-old boy fell more than 18 feet into a gorilla exhibit at a Chicago zoo. Yet, the small child was carried to safety by a particularly warm and friendly gorilla, reminding Mrs. Clinton that "though Chicagoans may be tough and intimidating on the outside," they are "a city and a people [and a gorilla] with hearts of gold." The First Lady then reminisces about her favorite parts of her hometown, recalling old pastimes and high school friends, among other things.

August 27, 1996

One the eve of the Democratic National Convention in her hometown, Mrs. Clinton once again alludes to Chicago's new hero, Binti, the child-saving gorilla. In addition, she discusses the challenges facing America's children and families, and explains how the President is working to overcome these challenges.

September 3, 1996

Mrs. Clinton praises the Seeds of Peace program which brings together boys and girls from Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia, and Kuwait who show potential for leadership and diplomacy. By spending time together, these children learn to overcome

stereotypes and work for a brighter future.

September 10, 1996

Mrs. Clinton celebrates the remarkable stories of this year's winners of the Presidential Medal of Freedom: Joseph Cardinal Bernadin, James Brady, Millard Fuller, David Hamburg, John H. Johnson, Eugene Lang, Jan Nowak-Jezioranski, Antonia Pantoja, Rosa Parks, Ginetta Sagan, and Morris Udall.

September 17, 1996

Foreign aid, which makes up less than one percent of the federal budget, not only strengthens our democratic interests overseas, but also reaps unexpected benefits at home. For example, the effective and inexpensive Oral Rehydration Therapy used in Bangladesh could also be used to treat patients in America. The first annual Lessons Without Borders conference in Baltimore addressed various ways in which we can learn other lessons--like micro-lending--from communities around the globe.

September 24, 1996

Mrs. Clinton discusses breast cancer and congratulates members of the fashion industry like Ralph Lauren for all they have done to fight the disease. She celebrates the life of Nina Hyde who died of breast cancer and describes a White House breakfast fundraiser for breast cancer research and treatment, attended by Princess Diana, the honorary chair.

October 1, 1996

On the first anniversary of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, Mrs. Clinton celebrates the strides made for women's right in the last year, around the world and in the US. After providing examples from various countries, the First Lady discusses what has been done in America, mentioning a special council set up by the President, new federal laws, and various actions taken in communities across the nation.

October 8, 1996

Mrs. Clinton congratulates Dr. Shannon Lucid who just returned from the longest flight in space by any American and any woman. In addition, the First Lady explains that when she was a child she wrote a letter to NASA to find out what she needed to do to become an astronaut, only to be told that women were not being considered for job. Hence, Dr. Lucid's journey shows how far women have come--and far they can go when they never relinquish their dreams.

October 15, 1996

Mrs. Clinton speaks about Socks and the massive quantities of mail and attention he receives on a daily basis.

October 21, 1996

Mrs. Clinton discusses the unveiling of the Superman comic book in Bosnia and Herzegovina to warn children about the dangers of land mines in the region. A hospital partnership between the U.S. and Bosnia is also being sponsored by the U.S. government to provide care for those suffering from physical and emotional traumas associated with the years of violence and wars.

October 29, 1996

After it was noticed that there was no art in the White House depicting African Americans, the President took action, purchasing a landscape painting by Henry Ossawa Tanner. The column gives a little historical background on Tanner and the racial prejudice he had to overcome in his life.

November 5, 1996

Mrs. Clinton talks about the Presidential campaign from the past fall, remembering the various places she visited along the way, the food she ate, and the people she met. She noticed citizens of all ages taking responsibility by taking action in their communities.

November 12, 1996

The First Lady recalls the excitement and anticipation of Election Day, waiting for Americans to vote and hear the verdict.

November 19, 1996

Mrs. Clinton is visiting Australia, the Philippines, and Thailand to see what has been done to improve conditions for women and promote their involvement in civic life. She speaks of the leadership of Australia in this field, granting suffrage to women two decades before the U.S., having universal health care, and efforts to stop domestic violence.

November 26, 1996

Remembering her trip to Australia, the Philippines, and Thailand, Mrs. Clinton writes about the various places she visited. She spoke on the issue of women's rights in Manila and Northern Thailand, discussing plans to educate girls and protect them from child prostitution.

December 10, 1996

Mrs. Clinton takes the reader behind the scenes of the White House and describes what it's like to live in the home of the First Family.

December 17, 1996

The President announced new steps he was taking to streamline and encourage adoption: tax credits, ending racial preferences for adoption, increasing the number of children in permanent homes, and launching an effort to educate the public about adoption.

December 25, 1996

In a column written on Christmas Eve, Mrs. Clinton describes the First Family's lovely Christmas traditions, reminisces about Christmases past, and speaks of their plans for this year.

December 31, 1996

Mrs. Clinton describes Renaissance Weekend, a year-end retreat she has taken for the past 12 years with the President and Chelsea.

January 7, 1997

Mrs. Clinton describes what she and the President have done to investigate Gulf War Syndrome and help the veterans of the war.

January 14, 1997

At the outset of the President's second term, Mrs. Clinton tells her readers that in the next four years she plans to keep up her hard work and busy schedule, whether by advocating health care reform, speaking out for women and children, supporting the arts, working for the poor, or lobbying for education. She discusses the challenges facing the nation, along with some of the most projects she has undertaken to help meet these challenges.

January 21, 1997

Mrs. Clinton lovingly and movingly describes the President's second Inauguration Day, from morning prayers to the ceremony itself, from the traditional lunch to the evening's balls.

January 29, 1997

In discussing the complexities of the abortion issue, Mrs. Clinton asks Americans to listen to one another's positions and seek common ground, rather than lashing out with hatred. She expresses her support for the President's formulation on abortion (that they should be legal, safe, and rare), and endorses family planning as an effective way to reduce the number of abortions.

February 4, 1997

Mrs. Clinton explains the power of micro credit by telling the stories of several women who used small loans to pull themselves out of welfare and start their own businesses. She then discusses ways in which the President is helping to expand micro credit and community banking in America.

February 11, 1997

Reflecting on White House luncheon that honored working women, Mrs. Clinton discusses how such women are becoming a driving force in America, politically, economically, and socially. And while some commentators have called this the "feminization of politics," Mrs. Clinton explains that she prefers the term the "humanization of politics," noting that issues like child care and health care are just as real as so-called realpolitik. She concludes by saying that society must support working women, respecting their choices and helping to empower them.

February 19, 1997

Our nation's capital, Mrs. Clinton describes, is not all that it should be. We all need to work to improve our schools, clean up our streets and work to rid our cities of drugs and violence.

February 25, 1997

Mrs. Clinton discusses the coming Millennium, and suggests that we use it as an opportunity to reflect on the past. She then describes the recently announced Millennium Initiative to celebrate and preserve American art and culture.

March 4, 1997

Mrs. Clinton recounts the moving story of Elizabeth Glasser, who was infected with AIDS from a blood transfusion she received while giving birth. Though Elizabeth and her daughter have already died of AIDS, the Centers for Disease Control just announced that for the first time, AIDS deaths

in the US had dropped substantially. In order to continue this trend, we must make AIDS medications available to more people, particularly children and the poor, continue education programs, and support organizations like the Pediatric AIDS foundation which Elizabeth Glasser founded.

March 11, 1997

The Single Parent Scholarship Fund, a privately supported program in Arkansas, offers small grants to poor single parents who wish to attend college. To these parents, these small grants can make a huge difference, for example providing a woman like Sarah Clay with enough gas money to commute to school. Such single parents are not looking for handout; they want to get an education and a job, and all they need is a little push. The Arkansas program has produced a remarkable success rate, and there is no reason other similar programs could not be started all over the nation.

March 18, 1997

Reflecting on her visit to a former hub of the slave trade, Mrs. Clinton writes about the remarkable endurance and humanity of the Africans who suffered this fate, yet still made such great contributions to America. She then moves on to talk about the great progress that has been made in Africa recently, particularly the building of democracies and the better treatment of

April 15, 1997

The White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning will discuss the scientific findings that show that time spent talking, singing, and reading to an infant not only strengthens the bond between parent and child, but helps the child develop emotionally and intellectually. Through programs like Reach Out and Read, parents will be encouraged to read to their your children, especially during their first three years of life.

April 22, 1997

In this column, the First Lady stresses the importance of volunteering and its impact on communities and the country as a whole. The Summit for America's Future is a meeting of educators, business leaders, community organizers, and volunteers to discuss volunteer activity and how the nation can meet the special needs of children and families. Every child should have an ongoing relationship with a caring adult, safe places such as libraries and after school programs should be provided for children to grow and learn, healthy lifestyles should be promoted, young people should be provided with effective education and t raining, and children of all ages should get involved in volunteerism and give back to their communities.

April 29, 1997

President Clinton supported the idea of a statue of FDR in a wheelchair because he experienced first-hand what it was like to have a disability when he tore the tendons in his right leg and was in a wheelchair himself. This column discusses the difficulties the President had recuperating from his accident and realizes the daunting task FDR faced as a President during WWII.

May 6, 1997

In celebration of Mother's Day, Mrs. Clinton devotes this column to her own mother. Although her mother went through hard times growing up, she was supported and encouraged by adults who

helped her along the way such as teachers, relatives, and employers. Her sense of caring, compassion, and respect for all people was instilled in her children.

May 13, 1997

After attending summits in Central America, the First Lady discusses the micro credit loans available in these democratic countries. Because micro credit gives opportunity for economic participation, there are many examples of women who have succeeded in earning a living through various means. The President launched an initiative to expand micro credit projects in the Caribbean. To highlight the U.S. commitment to human rights in Latin America, the Secretary of State and the First Lady visited the Institute for Human Rights.

May 20, 1997

Although the U.S. has the most advanced medical facilities in the world, many children are not covered by health insurance. The number of insured poor children has been increasing due to Medicaid, but the number of insured middle-class children has been decreasing. The balanced budget will help millions of children get coverage, but Congress is urged to take action to ensure health care for all children.

May 27, 1997

In celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Marshall Plan, the First Lady is reminded of the story of Anne Frank. She reminds us that the Marshall Plan helped create a democratic, peaceful Europe. Now, European countries are working with the U.S. to fulfill Marshall's vision: to support democracies all around the world.

June 3, 1997

The First Lady reminisces over Chelsea's final year of high school and looks to the future, as her daughter will attend college in the fall. Mrs. Clinton thanks all the people who have touched Chelsea throughout her life, from teachers to coaches, to family friends and staff members.

June 10, 1997

For Father's Day, Mrs. Clinton speaks of the great relationship between her husband and daughter and stresses the importance of fathers in children's lives. Men, as well as women, find it hard to balance work and family life.

June 17, 1997

Although the American public school system has been criticized in the past, Mrs. Clinton points out that exceptions to the rule exist. Schools like Banneker High School and J. O. Wilson Elementary School should serve as a model for other public schools to follow. High standards set by teachers, administration, and parents as well as strong after-school programs contribute to the successes of these schools.

June 24, 1997

The First Lady encourages Congress to improve the foster care and adoption systems in the United States. She supports the idea of protecting children from harm and providing them with permanent, loving families, even if it means separating them from their biological parents due to torture,

abandonment, or physical or sexual abuse.

July 1, 1997

With the Fourth of July, its picnics, and barbeques coming, the First Lady recognizes the need for government regulation of standards and safeguards for food production. A year ago, the President had announced new regulations for meat and poultry that would require tests for salmonella and E. Coli. Such laws help prevent food-contamination outbreaks that can occur.

July 8, 1997

During the First Lady and the President's visit to Spain, the first pictures from Mars came in. The President has always supported various space programs and continues to work with Russia to learn more about our surroundings and also create a greater understanding of the global community. Mrs. Clinton hopes that the successes of the Pathfinder and Sojourner will encourage more girls to become involved in science.

July 15, 1997

During her visit to Austria earlier in the week, the First Lady attended the conference "Vital Voices: Women and Democracy," where women from Central and Eastern Europe gathered to discuss the barriers they face and strategies for furthering democracy. Although Austria's future was uncertain after WWII, the Marshall Plan and the Salzburg Seminar helped secure peace and democracy.

July 22, 1997

In this column, the First Lady focuses on the importance of immunizing young children against diseases like measles, whooping cough, polio, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis. Although President Carter began an initiative to improve immunization rates, the federal government stopped keeping track of such rates in the 1980's. Thanks to the President, new goals have been set for 1996 and 2000 as a part of health care reform, the Child Immunization Initiative, which ensures millions of children the immunizations they need.

July 29, 1997

After watching the movie, "My Best Friend's Wedding," the First Lady is troubled by the portrayal of the modern woman smoking, as it influences young women. With the increase in cigarette and cigar use amongst children, she asks the motion-picture industry to take responsibility for their actions.

August 5, 1997

The balanced budget agreement is to create a strong economy so as not to burden future generations with the debts of the past. With initiatives such as a child tax credit, extension of health insurance for children, and an increase in education funding, the First Lady believes that this agreement will lead America into the next century.

August 12, 1997

Although children and adults suffer from many of the same diseases, the medications prescribed for them may differ. Because thorough testing has not been done on effective dosages for children,

either children are given improper doses or they are not given medication at all. In an effort to bridge the gap in the system of medical treatment, the President has announced that the FDA will require medicine manufacturers to study the effects of urgently needed drugs on children and the dosages required.

August 19, 1997

On the 125th anniversary of Yellowstone National Park, the First Lady celebrates America's commitment to preserve our lands as national treasures. She supports the President's earmarking of funds for maintaining national parks as a part of the balanced budget agreement.

August 26, 1997

In this column, Mrs. Clinton reminisces about the vacations she took with her family growing up and the many games she used to play with them. Now, with her husband and daughter, she still enjoys playing games during their vacations.

September 2, 1997

The First Lady pays tribute to the late Princess Diana, remembering their chats about the difficulties of raising their children in a environment as normal as possible, the fight against AIDS, and the challenges of public life. Mrs. Clinton admires her for her strength, courage, and persistence.

September 9, 1997

In memory of Mother Teresa, this column recalls the times Mrs. Clinton met her, from the National Prayer Breakfast in 1994 to the opening of the Mother Teresa Home for Infant Children in 1995. At the National Prayer Breakfast, she asked the First Lady to help her open a shelter in Washington D.C. for infants and young children awaiting adoption or foster families. After setting up a coalition in Washington D.C., the First Lady was able to open the shelter in a year and a half.

September 16, 1997

This column deals with Chelsea's leaving for college in a week and the excitement, anxiety, and sadness that goes along with it for the First Lady and the President. Although Mrs. Clinton has the same worries as all other mothers, she also has the added concern of privacy and security for her daughter in college.

September 23, 1997

This column discusses race relations, prejudice, segregation and how far we as a country have come in the way we behave towards each and in what we teach our children.

September 30, 1997

In celebration of Arts and Humanities Month, the First Lady discusses some of the events that illustrate the diversity of expression in the U.S. such as the Heritage Awards, which honored folk artists, the new exhibition in the White House Sculpture Garden, which hosted words by Native American sculptors, the Arts and Humanities medals, and the National Award for Museum Service. Mrs. Clinton believes in supporting the arts and humanities, especially in the schools.

presentation of the 1997 National Medals for the Arts and the Humanities

October 7, 1997

This column underlines the grave consequences of global warming due to the rising concentrations of carbon dioxide and other gases released when fossil fuels are burned. One example is the spread of infectious diseases such as malaria, cholera, yellow fever. While the White House has already taken steps to conserve energy, the First Lady believes that everyone can take make small changes towards safeguarding the world for future generations.

October 14, 1997

The Panama Canal, which will revert to Panama on Dec. 31, 1999, was built over a century ago in order to improve economic opportunities for people all over the Americas. At the present time, the U.S and the countries of Latin America are working together to stop hunger and disease, educate all children, and empower all women. The Seventh Annual Conference of Spouses of Heads of State and Governments of the Americas addressed issues facing women and children. In addition, the U.S. is working with Panama to reforest the land around the Canal.

October 28, 1997

In this column, the First Lady talks about the many surprises she had during her 50th birthday. Throughout the weekend, she was showered with many parties and events.

November 4, 1997

The First Lady discusses the strength of the women in Northern Ireland, like Joyce McCatan, who worked together as Protestants and Catholics to bring peace. In spite of religious conflicts, these women and many young people have come together to demand political action to advance the important issues of health care, education, job training, and peace.

November 11, 1997

At the very start of the First Lady's trip to Central Asia, Russia, and Ukraine, the Air Force plane she was on encountered difficulties with one of the engines and returned back to Maryland. The media immediately broadcasted the flight delay as "breaking news" made it the headline in newspapers although Mrs. Clinton felt it was only a minor incident. As she is amused by this situation, she recalls the history of the plane and many of its past passengers.

November 18, 1997

Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 will find a safe, permanent home for children in the foster care system by focusing on the safety of the child first. In addition, foster care will be temporary in order to ensure permanent homes and the legislation will make it easier to adopt children across state and county lines.

November 20, 1997

The First Lady praises new legislation which will help reform the adoption and foster care system. Although efforts have been increased to keep families together, states will not be required to reunify families who have had a history of violence. Unlike before, the children's health and safety will be a priority in court.

November 25, 1997

In celebrating Thanksgiving, Mrs. Clinton recognizes the democratic and economic progress that the countries of the former Soviet Union have made. Young people, women, and non-governmental organizations have been working hard to implement reforms. With the help of the United States, these countries are on their way to becoming full democracies.

December 9, 1997

Although the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed after WWII, many women are deprived of economic, social, and political opportunities all over the world. The First Lady stresses the connection between human rights and women's rights.

December 16, 1997

In this column Mrs. Clinton explains how the First Family got Buddy and picked out a name for him. It goes on to describe his relationship with the President and his adjusting to life at the White House with Socks.

December, 23, 1997

In this column, the First Lady would like to thank all of the American servicemen and women stationed in Bosnia, especially over the holiday season. The First Family had visited Bosnia to thank the U.S. armed forces and encourage the Bosnians to implement the Dayton Peace Accords. Although Bosnia still faces much economic and political hardship, with the help of the United States, Bosnians are able to look to the future with hope.

December 30, 1997

In wishing everyone a Happy New Year, the First Lady reminisces about a New Year's Eve she spent with her family as a child.

January 6, 1998

Mrs. Clinton raises the issue of child care and its importance during the early years of a child's development. Although there are increasing numbers of children needing care during the day and after school, programs have been rated as poor. After the White House Conference on Child Care, the President took some positive steps towards providing safe, nurturing, and stimulating care, such as increasing child-care tax-credits, providing after school care, encouraging states to toughen standards, and promoting the training of child-care providers.

January, 13, 1998

In celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, the First Lady recognizes the 15 Americans awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. With Martin Luther King Jr. Day, service has become an increasingly important, as the President has urged citizens to participate across the nation, through the Corporation for National Service, the Student Service Awards, and the Peace Corps.

January 20, 1998

The White House, as a living museum, must be maintained and preserved in order for it to be opened to the public. The First Lady has been actively involved in the renovating of various rooms in the

White House thanks to the help of the White House Endowment Fund.

January 27, 1998

In the face of controversies and rumors, the President has had to stay focused on his work, mainly, the State of the Union address. He will be highlighting the Saving America's Treasures project, an initiative to preserve the various documents, books, artifacts, and sites that have shaped American history. The First Lady will lead the White House Millennium Council in the national effort and urges all citizens to learn more about American history and preserve our cultural heritage.

February 3, 1998

After speaking in Davos, Switzerland at the World Economic Forum, the First Lady discusses the Swiss commitment to democracy. For example, the Children's Parliament, made up of 8- to 14-year-olds, follows parliamentary rule and meets weekly to debate issues and allocate funds. The First Lady supports Swiss efforts to help the survivors of the Holocaust and stresses the importance of investing in women all over the world to build a strong civil society.

February 10, 1998

Beginning with her own experiences as a mother, Mrs. Clinton discusses how important it is that children receive proper attention and care in the earliest years of life. She describes effective home visitation programs in Alexandria, Virginia and Elmira, New York with provide mothers with advice and support, leading to reductions in government assistance, child abuse, unintended pregnancies, substance abuse, and child hospitalization. Mrs. Clinton points out the importance of identifying, supporting, and replicating more programs like this, and notes that the President's child care proposal would allocate funds to such projects.

February 17, 1998

This column discusses the significance of the coming millennium and the various ways the White House is celebrating it. From the Millennium Evenings to the White House Millennium Council, from the "Save America's Treasures" project to the Star-Spangled Banner restoration, American citizens have the opportunity to use the Internet to keep informed on how they can participate in this celebration.

February 24, 1998

Discusses the need for adequate medical care for children and the nation's most vulnerable citizens. Although many children are eligible for Medicaid, they are not enrolled for various reasons. The Children's Health Insurance Program and a series of new initiatives are being created by the President to focus on this effort.

March 3, 1998

In celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday, this column deals with the various ways in which the government is trying to improve literacy among children. The First Lady discusses the importance of reading in children's development. Programs such as "Read Across America," the America Reads Challenge, the Prescription for Reading Partnership, and the Read to your Bunny Campaign have been launched to encourage reading.

March 10, 1998

Although the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing created an agenda for improving the lives of women around the world, in many countries including the U.S., women are still being subjected to violence, unfair inheritance and property rights, and limited access to economic opportunity. In recognition of International Women's Day, the President is calling upon the Senate to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. In addition, his Interagency Council on Women and several other measures are striving to create a safer, more equal world for women.

March 17, 1998

Describes the importance of national service and details the accomplishments of the Administration in this area, particularly the Corporation for National Service. To illustrate the importance and effectiveness of service, the column tells the uplifting stories of several individuals and groups who have performed national service.

March 24, 1998

Using the story of one mother and daughter as a centerpiece, the column describes how Ugandan children are being kidnapped by Sudanese rebels, and then used as human shields, raped, and killed. Mrs. Clinton moves on to discuss how innocent children around the world are being forced to participate in wars and how this experience damages them. She announces that the US government has pledged \$2 million to help the people of Northern Uganda, and calls for people around the world to speak out against the tragedy taking place there.

April 1, 1998

Mrs. Clinton discusses what she has seen on her Africa trip, noting the problems and accomplishments of women in South Africa, Rwanda, Uganda, Botswana, and Senegal. In these countries women have established micro enterprises, constructed homes, and fought against female genital mutilation.

April 8, 1998

Using the school shooting in Jonesboro, Arkansas as an opening, the column discusses the problems in our society that lead to child violence. Among the issues discussed are single mothers, after-school activities, guns that are not left locked up, the gun and tobacco lobbies, and violence in television, movies, music, and video games.

April 15, 1998

Celebrates the Irish peace accords and the role the President played in negotiating them. Moreover, lauds the role played by several women including Dr. Marjorie "Mo" Mowlam and Joyce McCartan.

April 22, 1998

This column deals with the government and private sectors providing affordable, quality child care. Not only are Congress and the President involved in creating legislation to increase the number of children receiving subsidies, expand child care tax credits, improve the quality of after school programs and child care centers, and provide more funds to train workers, but American businesses are playing an increasing role themselves. They are helping to create better environments for

working parents.

April 29, 1998

This column recognizes the efforts of the many volunteers who put in countless hours each year to help the White House function. In celebrating National Volunteer Week, The President and the First Lady were able to thank all of the White House volunteers.

May 6, 1998

This column expresses concern over the proposed House bankruptcy-reform legislation because it would elevate certain types of credit card debt to the same high priority as child support. This bill would force single parents to compete for child support payments when bankruptcy has been filed. Families and children should be protected in the face of financial insecurity.

May 13, 1998

In celebrating the 50th anniversary of the WHO, the First Lady expresses concern over the increasing number of infectious diseases. The WHO is praised for its efforts to eradicate diseases such as diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, tuberculosis, polio, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. Congress is urged to appropriate funds needed to pay the U.S. debt to the United Nations.

May 20, 1998

This column supports the President's stance to veto the voucher bill which was passed by both houses of Congress, providing money for private- and parochial-schools rather than public schools. It recognizes the need to allocate more money to public schools to improve the quality of education and supports charter schools as an effective alternative to traditional public schools.

May 27, 1998

This column supports the efforts of schools in the country's toughest neighborhoods to create a safer place for learning. Congratulates the entire Chicago school system for its major reforms in the past decade. Of special significance is Du Sable High School, where initiatives have been taken to restore order and improve the school's test scores to the national averages.

June 3, 1998

Focuses on welfare reform, telling the stories of several women who have successfully made the transition from welfare to work. Points out the benefits of welfare reform for businesses, highlighting a few companies that participate in the Welfare to Work Partnership. Notes Administration accomplishments and suggests that more can be done, for example the President's child care initiative the creation of more private sector jobs.

June 10, 1998

Asthma is the most common chronic medical problem afflicting America's children. As many of the problems stem from the environment and air quality, the President has announced new air standards, signed an Executive Order requiring federal agencies to safeguard children from environmental risks, and helped create the Ozone Mapping Project.

June 17, 1998

Using the Monocacy Aqueduct on the C&O Canal as a springboard, the column addresses the importance of historic preservation. The National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places is discussed as is the upcoming Millennium Treasures Tour.

June 24, 1998

Blasts the Republican senators for defeating the tobacco bill and explains the importance of passing tobacco legislation that will reduce teen smoking. Stresses that the President is not giving up and outlines his agenda, including legislation that would raise prices, curb advertising, and allow the FDA to regulate tobacco. In addition the President asked HHS to collect data on teen smoking.

July 1, 1998

Describes the challenges facing Chinese women which Mrs. Clinton saw up-close on her trip. Though the Chinese economy is growing, women are often held back by illiteracy and a lack of legal rights and services. Micro credit programs and new ventures can make an enormous difference in improving the lives of these women.

July 8, 1998

Celebrates the upcoming 200th anniversary of the Marine Band, describing their rich history and proud accomplishments, and noting memorable occasions at which the band has played during the Clinton Presidency.

July 15, 1998

Describes the purpose of the Save America's Treasures tour, and many of the 16 sites that it will visit. Making use of a quotation from James Madison, the column explains the important role historic preservation plays in allowing us to learn from the past and plan for the future.

July 22, 1998

Mrs. Clinton shares three stories President Clinton heard at a roundtable discussion on health care from families who were torn apart by bad decisions on the part of managed health care plans. She calls for support of the Patients' Bill of Rights, which was under debate in Congress.

July 29, 1998

Praises the creation of a Breast Cancer Research stamp, which sends eight cents directly to fund breast cancer research. Mrs. Clinton also discusses the administration's history regarding cancer, and her hope that an upcoming September March on Washington will focus national attention on the magnitude of the cancer problem in America.

August 5, 1998

Describes the Family Medical and Leave Act through examples. Mrs. Clinton explains how the Act increases employee effectiveness while respecting the rights of Americans in their endeavor to balance work and family.

August 12, 1998

Emphasizes the hard work and many responsibilities of Foreign Service employees shifting to the lives of those employees killed in the Kenya embassy bombing. Affirms that Americans will not

be intimidated by terrorism and thanks all of those who helped care for the bombing victims.

August 19, 1998

Discusses natural disasters and the new role of FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) in coping with them.

August 26, 1998

Summarizes the history of the White House Fellows Program. Invoking the names of former fellows like Colin Powell, and Doris Kearns Goodwin to show the immense benefits of a White House Fellowship.

September 2, 1998

Mrs. Clinton discusses her upcoming trip to Northern Ireland and Russia. Announces partnership between KaBoom!, an American non-profit that builds playgrounds for children, and Playboard, a children's advocacy group in Northern Ireland. The two organizations will create a unique play space in Belfast to foster cooperation amongst children of Northern Ireland.

September 9, 1998

America's schools are dealing with many problems including crumbling facilities. Mrs. Clinton notes that the President's budget includes plans to strengthen education, such as hiring more teachers and raising national standards. She urges Congressional leaders to reach across partisan lines when it comes to children's issues, especially education.

September 17, 1998

This column discusses and praises the Peace Corp and its volunteers.

September 23, 1998

Describes Mrs. Clinton's personal experiences with foster care (ie-her mother was briefly in foster care) and uses examples to emphasize the Administration's accomplishments in this area. Mentions several foster care related programs that need to be strengthened like Destination Future and the Federal Independent Living Program.

September 30, 1998

Refers to an "unacceptable" bankruptcy bill passed by the House and a new bill passed by the Senate that Mrs. Clinton recommends. Outlines critical concerns and points of bankruptcy reform. Emphasizes that the administration only supports fair and balanced bankruptcy reform

October 7, 1998

Uses a project Mrs. Clinton conducted while working at CDF to show problems when children are incarcerated with adults. Emphasizes the importance of dealing with juvenile crime. Outlines several strategies that have been used to deal with juvenile crime.

October 14, 1998

Uses stories to demonstrate the need to raise the minimum wage. Condemns Republican Senators for voting against an increase in the minimum wage, and discusses previous successes from the

minimum wage raise in 1993.

October 21, 1998

Discusses the new budget and how partisan bickering among Congress led to an unproductive and inactive legislature. Mentions various aspects of the budget such as Social Security Reform, the IMF, and environmental issues.

October 28, 1998

Encourages people to vote if they are tired of politics coming before important issues. Discusses low voter turnout and the importance of participation.

November 4, 1998

Describes the idea behind the Sculpture Garden and the exhibits that have been there, including the Native American exhibit. Discusses Iris Cantor, who is greatly involved with the Garden. Encourages readers to personally visit the exhibit or conduct a virtual tour on the White House web site.

November 11, 1998

Discusses the tragedy of Hurricane Mitch- transportation problems, crop losses and general infrastructure destruction. Affirms U.S. commitment to help those countries hurt by Mitch and outlines current efforts to do so.

November 18, 1998

Discusses the importance of quality after school care. The current budget includes \$200 million to invest in after school care and will help establish community-based programs such as Chicago's Lighthouse Program.

November 25, 1998

Describes the stories of several children who were adopted on Adoption Day. Discusses President's efforts on adoption including the Adoption and Safe Families Act, the national goal to double the number of adoptions by 2002, and the Family Medical and Leave Act. Emphasizes the need for all children to have a family.

December 1, 1998

Socks and Buddy have received many letters from children all over the country. Mrs. Clinton recounts many amusing "Buddy and Socks" anecdotes and shares questions from letters she has received.

December 8, 1998

This column discusses Eleanor Roosevelt and her legacy of contributions, including and emphasizing the Declaration of Human Rights. Using the Declaration, Mrs. Clinton addresses children's rights issues such as childhood prostitution, child soldiers and child poverty.

December 15, 1998

Discusses the recent Middle East Peace agreement (The Wye Agreement) and the progress made by

individual Jewish and Palestinian families in the region who have chosen to work and live together as the gaps among ethnicities and religions are narrowed.

December 23, 1998

Mrs. Clinton thanks all Americans who have sent her encouragement via calls, letters, faxes and emails. She notes that it is important to look at this Administration's accomplishments and in turn to commit ourselves to reconciliation, an end to partisan divisiveness in our country, and a continued focus on the best for America.

December 30, 1998

The First Lady highlights various projects underway as the millennium approaches, including The Save America's Treasure's tour, the Millennium Evenings, The Millennium Trails Project, and The Mars Project. Mrs. Clinton notes that these and other activities are being orchestrated by the Millennium Council, which was created one year prior to the writing of this column.

January 6, 1999

The First Lady focuses on the issue of long term care for the elderly and the Administration's efforts to provide more support for families "sandwiched" between caring for aging parents and nurturing their children.

January 13, 1999

Focuses on the health hazards of epilepsy, the lifestyle limitations it causes, and the Administration's proposed budget, which seeks to expand funding for epilepsy research.

January 20, 1999

Mrs. Clinton focuses on the need for Social Security as not just a retirement program, but as a source of financial protection for those whose spouses become disabled, holding strong importance in the women's lives. The column discusses the President's proposal to "save Social Security" with money from the budgetary surplus.

January 27, 1999

Takes a historic view of the turn of the Millennium and discusses how we as Americans can use this time as an opportunity to determine our hopes and desires for the country. The column challenges us to commit to action in our areas of concern.

February 3, 1999

Discusses the President's proposed budget, its allocations for "big ticket" agendas like Social Security, Medicare and Education as well as "smaller" priorities such as allocations for foster care, asthma, children's hospital, and mentoring. Outlines a course of action needed to secure the budget and discusses the Administration's continued economic success.

February 10, 1999

Focuses on the connection between the death of Jordan's King Hussein and the United Nations Conference in the Netherlands, both of which occurred the week prior. Envisioning and working towards creating a peaceful, positive future for the world was the work of King Hussein, the duty

of those in attendance at the Hague, and is especially a responsibility shared by all citizens.

February 17, 1999

Discusses the continued need to support and preserve Social Security for unexpected reasons that affect all ages, races and genders. Bipartisan recognition of the importance of Social Security is mentioned along with a call to action for all Americans in this "critical national debate."

February 24, 1999

The importance of insuring children via Medicaid and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) is discussed. The toll-free number 1-877-KIDS-NOW is provided. Big businesses, community organizations and families are encouraged to secure the well being of America's children.

March 3, 1999

Mrs. Clinton discusses the importance of the arts in American education. Creativity is an aspect of a child's personality that is too often underdeveloped, and therefore instruction of the arts in schools is encouraged.

March 10, 1999

America's passion for sports, in light of Joe DiMaggio's death, is discussed. Various sports figures, organizations and the non- gender specific desire to be active and competitive are highlighted.

March 17, 1999

Almost one hundred years after Susan B. Anthony provided her vision for the 20th Century as one of equality between men and women in all aspects of life, the role of the woman remains one of struggle and choice. Women and Women's History Month are celebrated.

March 24, 1999

This column discusses The First Lady's visit and observations in Egypt. Social and government programs and their impact on preserving human lives and the 20th anniversary of the historic Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement are included.

March 30, 1999

The troubling events in Kosovo and NATO's efforts to protect the inhabitants of the former Yugoslavia are described. This column was written from Morocco, where citizens understand themselves as one people, not defined or separated by religion, as "the circle of dignity" is expanded.

April 7, 1999

As problems in Kosovo persist, a focus is taken on the lives and personal trauma suffered by the refugees. American efforts to aid in this battle are discussed. The events in Kosovo continue to remind us of the violence and hatred that plagues our society.

April 15, 1999

The Seventh Millennium Evening featured Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel. The horrors he witnessed and memories he took from his life experiences are connected to the troubles in Kosovo as a reinforced need to never forget, to "listen to the victims of hatred and

evil,” and to “understand the perils of indifference.”

April 21, 1999

Focuses on America's teachers, specifically 1999's Teacher of the Year, Andy Baumgartner of Georgia. The President's Goals 2000: Educate America Act and the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act are outlined and discussed, including a three part strategy to reduce class size, encourage full certification and promotion of every teacher, and increase salaries and scholarships.

April 28, 1999

The impact of present day culture and violence is discussed in relation to the school shootings in Littleton, Colorado. Mentoring of children and the removal of guns from their access are focal points. Grave statistics on gun related violence and the steps government is taking to put a stop to this problem are included.

May 5, 1999

This column consists of excerpts from letters received about the crisis in Kosovo as well as personal refugee stories. Offers of help and hope are welcomed.

May 12, 1999

Parents and victims of gun violence are highlighted while the problem is discussed in light of a Mother's Day pledge taken to prevent children's access to firearms. To stop this “senseless violence,” the President and Mrs. Clinton announced a national public/private campaign to inhibit youth violence.

May 19, 1999

Mrs. Clinton discusses the plight of the Kosovo refugees and their families suffering back home. She speaks of the duty of NATO and the American people to support and protect these people and this effort.

May 26, 1999

Highlights the need to preserve and protect our environment and “America's cultural, historical and natural treasures”. The theme of the White House Millennium Council is “Honor the Past – Imagine the Future” which is discussed in relation to its Save America's Treasure's Program.

June 2, 1999

This column addresses the connection between the images America's children are shown and the violent behavior they exhibit. Mrs. Clinton focuses both on the violence found in children's video games, and the method with which advertisers market these games to children.

June 9, 1999

This column addresses the recent White House conference on mental illness, highlighting the many kinds of mental disabilities and describing specific public figures whom suffer from these problems.

June 16, 1999

Rosa Parks was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal this week. This column discusses the deliberate action taken by Parks on the bus that day and how strong she and all civil rights crusaders were in their fight for equality.

June 23, 1999

One month after her visit to Stenkovac I in Macedonia, Mrs. Clinton returned. This column discusses Kosovar refugees, their safe return home, and the rebuilding of their lives now that victory has been achieved in Kosovo.

June 30, 1999

This column discusses Fourth of July traditions and celebrates democracy and American history. As part of the Save America's Treasures program, plans are underway to develop new exhibits to preserve and display the Charters of Freedom (Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights), as their current archival encasements are deteriorating.

July 7, 1999

This column focuses on microenterprise and public/private partnerships. It reviews the four-day, six state tour the President took to spread the message of "new markets, new hope" to rural America.

July 14, 1999

This column addresses the 1999 World Cup Victory of the U.S. Women's soccer team. It discusses the players and the talent that made the win possible, and Title IX, the historic federal law that provided equal funding and field time to create fairness for female sports.

July 21, 1999

Mrs. Clinton salutes Col. Eileen Collins, the first woman to command a space shuttle mission. Her mission falls at the same time as John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, and sister-in-law's untimely death. President Kennedy was the first to encourage an American voyage to the moon.

July 28, 1999

This column highlights the stories of Americans faced with disabilities forced to choose between health care and a job, stressing the importance of a job for self-assurance. This week marks the nine year anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

August 4, 1999

This column discusses the White House Convening on Hispanic Children and Youth. Mrs. Clinton praises programs like PUENTE and AVANCE in working to improve achievement and graduation rates among Latino children.

August 11, 1999

Mrs. Clinton expresses her pride in the Legal Services Corporation, which funds programs in every county of the nation and helps millions of poor Americans gain "Equal Access to justice under the law."

August 18, 1999

This week the students of Columbine returned to school. Mrs. Clinton discusses the Columbine shooting and other shootings that have occurred since then. She expresses her concerns over the issue of youth violence and gives parents advice on what they can do to help prevent it.

August 25, 1999

Mrs. Clinton discusses the 3rd anniversary of the Welfare to Work Law and its accomplishments. By outlining the plight of a working mom, Mrs. Clinton outlines the importance of President Clinton's decision last month to allow working families to own a car and still be eligible for food stamps.

September 1, 1999

This column addresses the unfinished work of Congress on particular budget issues and reiterates the Democratic agenda of the budget. She notes that in this time of prosperity, there is an unprecedented opportunity to meet the challenge of saving and reforming Social Security and Medicare.

September 8, 1999

Following the White House Convening on AIDS in Africa, Mrs. Clinton discusses the growing proportions of the epidemic and its effects on the African continent.

September 15, 1999

Mrs. Clinton expresses her concern about legislation to cut funding for AmeriCorps. She goes on to discuss the accomplishments of this program and the necessity of its continued existence.

September 22, 1999

In this column Mrs. Clinton discusses the upcoming Millennium events for New Year's Eve and issues an invitation for all to attend the events in Washington.

September 29, 1999

Following a White House Adoption event, Mrs. Clinton's discusses the importance of adoption, this administration's accomplishments on reducing the number of children in foster care and the increased number of adoptions occurring in America.

October 6, 1999

This week Mrs. Clinton discusses her trip to Poland and the remarkable achievements the country has made towards democracy. She talks about the revitalization of Jewish life, the advancement of women in business as well as the booming Polish economy.

October 13, 1999

Here Mrs. Clinton discusses the 8th Millennium dinner at the White House and what the world might look like technologically in the year 2030.

October 20, 1999

Following the 5th anniversary celebration of AmeriCorps at the White House, Mrs. Clinton talks

about the program's success and some of the people honored at the White House event.

October 27, 1999

This column discusses the recent White House Philanthropy conference and the importance of giving. Mrs. Clinton asks all Americans to identify the gifts that they can make in the future, and notes the historical legacy of giving in the United States.

November 3, 1999

Mrs. Clinton talks about the death of Sen. Chafee as a loss for all of America. She reaffirms the administration's budget agenda, and disagrees with the across the board 1 percent budget cut passed by majorities in the House and Senate last week.

November 10, 1999

Mrs. Clinton discusses the importance of the United Nations, its accomplishments and the legal and moral necessity of the US to pay its monetary debt to the UN.

November 17, 1999

Mrs. Clinton discusses the recent earthquake to hit Turkey and thanks Americans who have played a significant role in the relief effort.

November 24, 1999

Here The First Lady discusses Thanksgiving and the recent budget resolution; their meaning and significance. She notes that because Congress failed to enact important initiatives, more hard work is still left to be done.

December 1, 1999

In this article Mrs. Clinton discusses the passage of the Children's Hospitals Education and Research Act in congress and the importance of quality child health care.

December 8, 1999

Mrs. Clinton discusses this year's White House theme for Christmas: "Holiday Treasures at the White House." The theme points to both the celebration of treasured holiday traditions in the past, and also the many historic sites and artifacts that The First Lady has been working to save as part of the White House Millennium Council's Save America's Treasure Project. Mrs. Clinton describes herself as a "Christmasaholic" and wishes everyone a Happy Holidays.

December 15, 1999

Here Mrs. Clinton discusses the unveiling of the USDA's Millennium Green project and the importance of conservation.

December 22, 1999

In this article Mrs. Clinton discusses the National endowment of the Humanities' project "My History is America's History." The project encourages children and families to trace their history in America and thereby honor their own past and imagine America's future.

December 29, 1999

Mrs. Clinton wishes everyone a Happy New Year and Happy New Millennium. She discusses many of the ideas that were sent from Americans on what the White House should include in their Time Capsule. She reminded Americans that our millennium celebration is really about children. When we honor the past by preserving our national treasures, we do it for our children and their children.

January 5, 2000

Here Mrs. Clinton shares with us the "Prayer for the New Millennium" which asks God for the strength and wisdom for the challenge to do better in the future.

January 12, 2000

Mrs. Clinton discusses the problem of affordable housing for low-wage earners and the importance of housing vouchers. She notes that we have an unparalleled opportunity to spread our prosperity to those left behind. She hopes Congress will work with the President in a bipartisan fashion and try to provide every hard-working American the ability to live in safe and affordable housing.

January 19, 2000

Addresses the issue of human trafficking and a possible United Nations treaty to combat the problem. Mrs. Clinton notes the importance of raising awareness of the heinous practices of buying and selling women and children like commodities.

January 26, 2000

This week the President, Senator Schumer and Mrs. Clinton held an event in the OEOB to discuss tax deductions for college tuition. In this article, she discusses the need to make college more affordable to working families.

February 2, 2000

Mrs. Clinton highlights major points of the President's State of the Union Address, and emphasizes the President's plan for childcare funding. The First Lady reiterates the President's call to Congress to pass a comprehensive child care initiative, and help over 8 million American families cover their child care expenses.

February 9, 2000

Mrs. Clinton discusses prescription drug affordability. She laments the fact that 13 million senior citizens in America lack the dependable drug coverage they need.

February 16, 2000

This week at the White House Mrs. Clinton held a Vital Voices conference for women from around the globe. Here she discusses the importance of Vital Voices and the accomplishments women have made in politics and economics.

February 23, 2000

In this article Mrs. Clinton addresses the issue of teen pregnancy. In hopes of curtailing this problem, she joined community leaders to launch the DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. The goal of

the campaign is to reduce the numbers of teens who become pregnant by 50 percent in 5 years.

March 1, 2000

After examining the challenge of recruiting and retaining quality teaching for America's public schools, Mrs. Clinton endorses both President Clinton's proposal for a national recruitment campaign and reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. She contends that ensuring the quality of our children's education demands that attention be given to problems of the teacher shortage, the salary shortage, the support shortage and the quality shortage affecting American schools today.

March 8, 2000

Mrs. Clinton extends an invitation to her readers to join her at the Million Mom March, which will protest Congressional inaction on a juvenile crime bill that would mandate child safety locks on guns and ban ammunition clips. While Congress has failed to act, gunfire has taken the lives of over 3,000 children since the Columbine High School tragedy last April.

March 15, 2000

Mrs. Clinton, who has spent her career strengthening American families, enthusiastically supports the President's major new initiative designed to collect child support from "deadbeat" dads, who can afford to pay but don't, and "deadbroke" dads, who are struggling to do the right thing. She notes that this administration has made child support enforcement a top priority -- child support collections has nearly doubled since 1992.

March 22, 2000

After reading about the dramatic increase of preschoolers on prescription drugs like Ritalin or antidepressants between 1991 and 1995, Mrs. Clinton and Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala are launching an unprecedented effort to help parents appropriately diagnose, treat, monitor, and manage their children. They have requested The National Institute of Mental Health to release an easy-to-understand fact sheet that will help parents make treatment decisions for their children.

March 29, 2000

Mrs. Clinton urges Congress to pass legislation that would allow the Food and Drug Administration to propose rules that would protect children from tobacco by eliminating advertising that targets them and curbing their access to tobacco products. She noted that the importance of preventing teens from starting to light up lies in the fact that 86 percent of teens who start to smoke daily are unsuccessful in trying to quit later on in life.

April 5, 2000

Mrs. Clinton discusses the concept of microcredit, small loans, and how they can substantially improve the lives of women and their families. She notes that microcredit projects have helped poor rural communities around the world, including areas in Arkansas.

April 12, 2000

Mrs. Clinton notes the importance for Congress to support America's leadership role in providing

family planning and reproductive health care to women and their families in developing countries. She and the President hope for an increased investment in family planning efforts overseas, HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment programs in developing countries, and the UN Family Planning Fund.

April 19, 2000

As the upcoming 30th anniversary of Earth Day approaches this week, Mrs. Clinton reminds us that global warming remains one of greatest environmental challenges of the new century. She also notes that while the administration has achieved an unparalleled record on the environment, many members of Congress are still dedicated to slashing support of Environmental enforcement programs, like the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts.

April 26, 2000

Mrs. Clinton reminds us that we hold the fate of our forests, our trees, and our planet in our hands. With the celebration of Arbor Day this week, she invites her readers to participate in The White House Millennium Council's Millennium Green project to encourage every American to plant a tree.

May 3, 2000

Today the White House hosted the first-ever Conference on Teenagers. Mrs. Clinton states that while parents list the threat of drugs and alcohol as their chief concerns, teens list education and not spending enough time with their parents as their top concerns. The First Lady noted the importance of parents to let their kids know that they matter.

May 10, 2000

Mrs. Clinton laments the death of seven children who were shot at the National Zoo by a sixteen-year old. She expresses her support of the upcoming Million Mom March on May 14, and hopes that the large show of support from women will compel Congress to pass common sense gun legislation.

May 17, 2000

Mrs. Clinton warns that if D.C.'s Howard Theater is left to disintegrate, an important piece of American history will crumble. She explains that when people of color were barred from DC's segregated theaters, the Howard Theater became home to many black performers, like Sammy Davis Jr. and Billie Holiday. In recognition of the theater's importance, the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation have joined forces to designate the Howard Theater as a national treasure.

May 24, 2000

Mrs. Clinton encourages her readers to join her and the President at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day as they pay tribute to those fallen heroes who died to protect America's freedom. Activities celebrating the occasion are planned across the nation in malls, airports, and bus terminals. Many of them will ask their patrons for a moment of pause as the tune "Taps" is played.

May 31, 2000

Mrs. Clinton advocates Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater's concept of Millennium Trails. She sees the trails as providing all Americans the opportunity to both enjoy themselves outdoors in

nature, and understand a little about their city's history. Saturday will mark the 10th annual National Trails Day, which will celebrate the existence of National trails that preserve a precious part of our national heritage for future generations to enjoy.

June 7, 2000

Mrs. Clinton discusses the upcoming UN World Conference on Women being held in New York. Since the previous conference in Beijing, much progress has been made: countries have raised the legal age for marriage, banned female genital mutilation, and criminalized domestic violence. Yet, much more needs to be done before women all over the world have the right to be fully human and develop their tremendous potential.

June 14, 2000

Noting that four women die every day at the hands of a husband or boyfriend, Mrs. Clinton joins the National Association of Attorney Generals in urging Congress to reauthorize a stronger Violence Against Women Act. Noting that the VAWA is a top priority of our law enforcement community, she contends that it is time that we start treating domestic abuse as a crime.

June 21, 2000

A Save America's Treasures column with a focus on Val-Kill, Eleanor Roosevelt's cottage in Hyde Park, N.Y. Earlier in the week, Mrs. Clinton had named Val-Kill an official Save America's Treasures project.

June 28, 2000

A follow-up to the White House Conference on Hispanic Children and Youth (August 1999) and the President's White House Strategy Session on Improving Hispanic Achievement, earlier this month, at which he unveiled five 10-year goals to improve achievement for Hispanics in this country.

July 5, 2000

A description of the Millennium Matinee (the one afternoon event that was the last in the Millennium Evenings at the White House series). Called "Exploration Under the sea -- Beyond the Stars," it featured geophysicist, Dr. Marcia McNutt and Dr. Neil de Grasse Tyson, director of the renowned Hayden Planetarium in NYC.

July 12, 2000

A discussion of what to do with the projected \$211 billion budget surplus that is expected to grow to \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years. Among the priorities, a prescription drug benefit for seniors.

July 19, 2000

A look at Ellis Island, designated as one of the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Then a look at Save America's Treasures official projects, 41 of

which Mrs. Clinton has visited; and a look at Anderson Cottage on the grounds of the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, the once summer cottage of the President, where Lincoln drafted the Emancipation Proclamation.

July 26, 2000

The 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and a discussion of new proposals from the President to open an Office of disability Policy in the Department of Labor; increase to 100,000 the number of federal workers with disabilities; improve the procedures for reasonable accommodation requests; rid federal programs of disability-based discrimination; and unveil a new web site, at www.disAbility.gov, designed to offer quick access to services and other resources for people with disabilities and their families.

August 2, 2000

Leading with 5-year-old Matthew Baer who is deaf, and why screening for hearing loss is so important for newborns.

August 9, 2000

A discussion of the flaws in the Republican tax cut proposals and why they would have such a negative impact on the nation's hard-won prosperity. Then a look at the President's own tax cut plan that preserves the resources to fund the Medicare prescription drug benefit, lengthen the life of Social Security and Medicare, help pay for the Boomers' retirement and wipe out the national debt by 2012.

August 16, 2000

A followup to the Democratic Convention that nominated Al Gore and Joseph Lieberman. Her message: "As I contemplated what I wanted to say....., I knew the most important thing was "Thank You." Then, a discussion of everything this administration has done to lift children out of poverty, enroll them in Head Start, child care and after-school care, immunize them against disease, double the number of foster children adopted into loving, permanent homes and FMLA.

August 23, 2000

Following up on the meeting of the Nonprofit Task Force, with its discussion of model nonprofit-federal partnerships. One moving example is the SuAnne Big Crow Boys and Girls Club Youth Opportunity and Wellness Center, a partnership among HUD, private lenders, Agriculture, Energy and the FCC

August 30, 2000

Focusing on Republican efforts to defeat the Democratic education agenda: Congress, embroiled in a budget standoff with the President, finds that the Republicans refuse to fund: teacher quality initiatives, GEAR UP, an intervention and college prep activity; after-school and summer school

activities; after-school and summer school activities; programs to make schools safe and drug-free; computers in the schools; improve the success of Hispanic-American students; encourage mid-career professionals to enter teaching; help students to become readers; and support innovative public school plans.

September 6, 2000

Congress returns with all 13 appropriations bills unfinished with only a few weeks left before members want to adjourn for the campaign. The President has laid out his agenda – paying off the debt, Patients' Bill of Rights, prescription drug benefit for seniors, education, gun safety measures, prevent hate crimes, pass VAWA, and affordable health insurance for low-income families (expansion of CHIP).

September 13, 2000

A new FTC study reports that the media industry advertises violent products. Mrs. Clinton calls for a uniform rating system to make it easier for parents to monitor and control what their children watch and listen to.

September 20, 2000

A Feb. 2000 JAMA story reports that use of prescription drugs by preschoolers has risen dramatically – especially Ritalin, which increased 150 percent between 1991 and 1995. Concerned, Mrs. Clinton asked Donna Shalala, HHS Secretary and other senior health policy officials to meet at White House to talk about how to ensure best treatment for children with mental disorders. One conclusion is key: We need better coordination among the various providers who treat children.

September 27, 2000

Domestic violence is a crime that affects all of us, increasing health costs and keeping adults from work and children from school. Because domestic violence remains a serious issue for far too many women, this column advocates the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act

October 3, 2000

A Valentine to AmeriCorps and a call on Congress to put partisan politics aside and fund this program that is hailed by political leaders from Colin Powell to Marc Racicot and John McCain. HRC urges Congress to reauthorize this very successful youth service initiative.

October 10, 2000

A discussion of the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act, which authorizes \$155 million for microenterprise development programs around the world. Three years ago, HRC spoke at the Microcredit Summit in DC, which set the goal of extending credit to 100 million would-be entrepreneurs. This bill goes a long way toward meeting that goal.

October 17, 2000

According to Theresa Loar, Dir. of the President's Interagency Council on Women, " Trafficking in women and children is now considered the third largest source of profit for organized crime, behind only drugs and guns." The President directed the Council to develop a 3-part strategy to end trafficking; prevention, protection of and assistance for the victims, and enforcement and prosecution of the criminals. HRC congratulates Congress for taking "important first step," adopting legislation to combat this modern form of slavery.

October 25, 2000

A look at what Congress has failed to do and what it has done: Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act; VAWA reauthorization; expanded Medicaid treatment options for low-income uninsured women with breast or cervical cancer; Children's Health Act to improve safety and health of children in day care; Intercountry Adoption Act; expansion of microcredit; arts education. HRC calls for spirit of bipartisanship to prevail.

November 1, 2000

A survey of 18-24-year-olds concludes we may be witnessing the emergence of a permanent class of non-voters, although more than half of this group volunteers. HRC calls on them to vote if they care about the important issues facing our nation.

November 8, 2000

On Election Day, HRC talks about why she ran for Senate and some of the inspirational New Yorkers she met along the way.

November 15, 2000

Citing the inspiring words of the former presidents who came to the White House for a formal dinner marking the 200th anniversary, HRC predicts that our democracy will survive the current failure to determine the outcome of the presidential race.

November 22, 2000

HRC writes about her trip to Vietnam with her husband – undoubtedly her last trip overseas while he is still President: watching Vietnamese and Americans working together to find the remains of an American pilot; the overwhelming welcome; visit to village benefiting from microcredit. She predicts she'll always remember the women she's met around the world – especially as she moves to the Senate.

November 29, 2000

An introduction to An Invitation to the White House: At Home with History by HRC. She talks

about her awe as a little girl and the imprint every First Family leaves on the house.

December 6, 2000

This week is the biannual orientation for newly-elected members of Congress; but it also is the setting for a lame-duck session. Although before the members left town to campaign there was agreement on issues important to children, they have backtracked on school construction, 100,000 new teachers,

smaller high schools, day care subsidies, largest ever increase in Head Start funding. HRC calls on Congress not to let the education of children be derailed by politics.

December 13, 2000

President, HRC and Chelsea travel to Northern Ireland, setting the scene for a discussion of Vital Voices. HRC announces new VV initiatives: conference for newly-elected women; political and media experts meet with women in small-group training sessions designed to thrust women into less traditional jobs. HRC concludes: Working with women around the world has been "one of the great privileges of my life."

December 20, 2000

Opens with Women's Bank story from western India where the women walked 12-15 hours to meet Hillary and tell her what microcredit meant to them. At the end of the meeting, the women spontaneously broke into "We Shall Overcome." When she later speaks at the United Nations, the women do the same thing. HRC describes the meeting she hosted in the East Room to thank the women from Beijing and the founders of Vital Voices. At the conclusion of the White House meeting, the women rise and move to the podium to greet her, singing "We Shall Overcome."

December 27, 2000

The magic of celebrating Christmas at the White House and how looking at the the photographs in HRC's new book, An Invitation to the White House, help to trigger memories before they even moved out. Taking its frame from the human key, the book's theme, they don't go over the homework and see if it works.

January 3, 2001

As she takes the oath of office as a U.S. Senator, HRC ponders the achievements over the last eight years of which she is particularly proud: child immunization; CHIP; increased funding for graduate medical education at children's hospitals; foster care and promoting adoption; increased student aid, family leave, school-to-work programs, youth service opportunities, expanded Job Corps, mentoring programs.

January 10, 2001

Achievements, continued: support for the arts; White House Endowment; showcase American talent at the White House; public-private partnerships like Save the Music with VH1; National Action Plan on Breast Cancer; action for veterans suffering from Gulf War Illness; Vital Voices. Looking toward working on these and other issues in Senate: modern schools; environment; restoring rights to women of Afghanistan; peace in Middle East, ending cancer, AIDS and other dread diseases; providing affordable health insurance to every single American citizen.

January 17, 2001

Thank you to staff and American people for unparalleled opportunity; some of the memories that will stay with her forever; final events.

Bosnia Christmas 12/23/97
Switzerland (WEF) 2/3/98

White House

Christmas at the WH 12/3/95
Lady Bird Johnson 3/20/96
Socks 10/15/96
Henry Ossawa Tanner 10/29/96
Life Inside the WH 12/10/96
Christmas Eve 12/24/96
New Year's Eve 12/31/96
Holiday Season 12/2/97
White House Endow. Fund 1/20/98
1st Millennium Lecture 2/17/98

Whitewater

Whitewater 1/20/96
Whitewater: Resolution 3/6/96
Trust Corporation Report

Women

Working Women 8/6/95
(Supportive Workplace Culture)
75th Anniversary of 8/27/95
Women's Suffrage
UN Women's Conference 9/3/95
Beijing (Women's Rights) 9/10/95
Breast Cancer 10/22/95
Ireland (Women and Peace) 12/10/95
(Women and Peace, Joyce McCarten)
Stereotypes of 3/13/96
Women and Men
Women Who Have 6/5/96
Influenced Me
ADA/ Title IX 8/6/96
Beijing One Year Later 10/1/96
Shannon Lucid 10/8/96
Australia (Women's Roles) 11/20/96
Thailand (Child Prostitution) 11/26/96
Bolivia 12/3/96
(Family Planning & Microcredit)
Abortion 1/29/97
Working Women 2/11/97

(Humanization of Politics)
Africa II 4/2/97
(War, Hardships, and Women)
Latin America Trip 5/13/97
(Women and Microenterprise)
Joyce McCartan 11/4/97
Women's Rights 12/9/97

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**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
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arts

Divider Title: _____

TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A few years ago, no one really thought much about the approaching millennium. We didn't trouble ourselves over the fact that we'd soon be dropping the "19" from the year and replacing it with a "20." But recently, people have become obsessed with the significance of this occurrence. We've begun to realize that in a few short years, we'll be witnessing -- and living in -- a rare historical moment, the conclusion of a century and a millennium.

References to the new millennium are everywhere -- in advertisements and marketing strategies, on web pages counting down the remaining seconds of the 20th century and in political speeches, including my own. People have devised projects with end dates set for the year 2000. And thousands have already booked reservations on cruise ships, at restaurants and in hotels for New Year's Eve, 1999.

We're all trying to figure out how to mark what in many ways is just a random moment in time. When midnight arrives on Jan. 1, 2000, or Jan. 1, 2001 -- experts can't quite agree on when the new millennium actually begins -- none of us will find ourselves suddenly transformed. We won't be trading our jeans and T-shirts for the space suits on "Star Trek." And the only flashes in the night sky will be the fireworks we've already begun planning. (At least I hope so!) But I do think the coming of the year '00 presents us with a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the past, where we've been, who we are and what we hope to be.

Of the many millennium projects out there, one particularly excites me. Earlier this week, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities presented "Creative America," a report that proposes a nationwide Millennium Initiative that will use this unique time in history to encourage Americans to celebrate and preserve the cultural achievements of the past, to raise awareness about the importance of the arts and humanities in our lives, and to examine the ideas, values and experiences that can shape our future.

When we look back on the last 2,000 years and try to understand what it was like to live in a certain age, we rely on the paintings, sculptures, architecture and literature created by the men and women of those times. The larger-than-life sculptures of the Roman emperors, for instance, tell us about their political might. The magnificent, intricately carved stone cathedrals of Europe testify to the power of faith and the church in the Middle Ages. And the strict adherence to rules of composition found in ancient Chinese poetry offers us insight into the rigid order imposed by traditional imperial society.

I believe that future generations, too, will look to our creative endeavors to tell them the story of America and of our times. Dorothea Lange's photographs of 1930s farm families and John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath" record the trials and poverty of the Great

Depression. The blues progressions and syncopated rhythms heard in popular music today hearken to the music of African slaves in the South. And Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings of deserts, clouds and endless blue sky have captured for all time the landscape of the American Southwest.

Last summer, I toured Prague with Czech President Vaclav Havel. As we walked across the Charles Bridge, we fell into a discussion about American culture, about how our greatest and world-transforming exports have been not only our ideas on democracy and the free market but our art, our jazz, our rock and roll. We didn't have to look too far for proof of this idea -- the young people perched on the bridge's balustrades were singing American folk songs and listening to heavy metal music as they read American books and magazines.

So it is imperative for all of us living at the end of the 20th century to encourage the preservation of artistic and intellectual works that will serve as our own unique legacy and our own message to the future. We must continue to nurture the talents of artists, musicians and scholars. And we must continue to support efforts that will allow the artistic potential of so many of our young people -- especially those living in some of our most depressed neighborhoods -- to grow and flourish.

The Millennium Initiative will be a year-long celebration of the arts and humanities beginning on Jan. 1, 2000, and ending on Jan. 1, 2001. In the coming months and years, the President will be calling upon all citizens, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private-sector partners to create programs that reflect our unique cultural heritage. He'll be encouraging communities to identify and preserve their local traditions, history and folk art. He'll be asking us all to help make the resources of our museums and libraries more widely available on the Internet.

Through all these efforts, we can ensure that our country remains the world's strongest nation in the next millennium not only because of our wealth and military power but because of our thriving culture and our boundless creativity. As the President said in his State of the Union, "Our economy is measured in numbers and statistics, and it's very important. But the enduring worth of our nation lies in our shared values and our soaring spirit."

So let's join together in planning a millennial celebration for all time.

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February 25, 1997

**TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

When you think of the arts in America, what first pops into your mind? If you're like most of us, you probably have an image of adults -- wealthy adults -- who have the time and money to go to the opera, attend a play or concert, or spend hours browsing through a museum.

In fact, the greatest beneficiaries of public funding for the arts are America's children. Through federal support of local arts agencies and community groups, hundreds of thousands of children each year are able to discover the joy, discipline and self-confidence that comes from their own artistic and creative expression.

That's why current arguments about limiting public funding for the arts are so misguided -- and short-sighted. Learning to paint, dance, write poetry, act, sing or play an instrument gives children reasons to believe in themselves and their own futures.

For many children from impoverished backgrounds, exposure to the arts can literally mean the difference between a life of accomplishment and one of hopelessness and failure. This idea is not my own; a recent report issued by the President's Committee for the Arts and Humanities, "Coming Up Taller," identified cultural programs that provide young people with safe and productive alternatives to crime, violence, gangs, drugs and other disturbing elements of popular culture.

One of those is the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild in Pittsburgh. It is a testament to the power of the arts to transform children's lives. The organization, which is supported by both the National Endowment for the Arts and donations from corporate and private foundations, trains inner-city schoolchildren in ceramic art and photography and opens their ears to world-class music.

But its students learn much more than how to shape clay, take pictures and appreciate jazz. They leave the guild knowing that they have the potential and tools to become successful and productive citizens. Eighty percent of the guild's students go on to college.

I met Bill Strickland, the founder of the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, last month at a White House ceremony to celebrate arts programs that serve "at-risk" youth. Bill was himself headed in a downward spiral, he says, until an inner-city art teacher introduced him to "ceramics, jazz, and beautiful objects" and taught him that "having ideas had value."

"I learned that I could achieve recognition from my peers through creative activity," he says.

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Determined to give other children the same opportunities he enjoyed, he founded the guild. "The antidote for these 'at-risk' children, we have discovered, is to surround them with good architecture, good food, good artists and good teachers who are allowed to function in well-equipped environments and who will not accept anything less than the best that the human imagination can provide," he says.

Hundreds of young people have passed through the guild's doors during the past nine years. In that time, the guild has never had a police call, a fight, or a drug or alcohol-related incident. Although it's located in one of Pittsburgh's most depressed neighborhoods, there are no bars on the windows, security cameras in the building or guards at the door.

"Given the current enthusiasm for building prisons to lock people up," Bill said, "I would challenge them to build centers like this one to set children free."

While those who oppose public funding for programs like the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild have not succeeded in abolishing the National Endowment for the Arts and other federal cultural programs, their crusade will continue. And that means that all of us who care about the arts -- and what the arts can do for children -- have to work as hard as we can to protect a 30-year bipartisan commitment to making the arts more accessible to more Americans.

That historical commitment represents a belief that the arts have the power not only to improve our aesthetic surroundings but to improve our society as well. Learning about culture, after all, is fundamental to understanding our own heritage and the diverse world in which we live.

I find it particularly ironic that those who bemoan America's loss of values (particularly those arising from Western civilization) are often the first to recommend cutting public funds for the arts. Without federal support for arts programs, countless children would never be exposed to Sophocles, Shakespeare or Mozart -- or the painting of Georgia O'Keeffe, the music of Wynton Marsalis and the dance of Arthur Mitchell.

Today, funding for the NEA costs every American 32 cents a year, less than the price of a candy bar. For those who wonder whether it is money well spent, ask yourself this question: Would you rather see a child pick up a paintbrush or a pistol? Would you rather see a child pick up a guitar or a gun?

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May 21, 1996

TALKING IT OVER**BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

An educator from New York visited Washington a few years ago and decided to go on a tour of the White House. He waited in line with thousands of others, eager for the opportunity to see America's most famous residence.

But as he walked through the public rooms and corridors, taking in all of the beautiful art on the walls, he was immediately struck that something was wrong. There were no depictions of black faces in any of the paintings, not even a portrait of the legendary abolitionist Frederick Douglass. In fact, there wasn't a single work by an African American artist -- not Edward Bannister, or Jacob Lawrence, or William Johnson, or any of the fine black painters our country has produced.

As an African American man, Edward D. Bell was saddened to discover this historical omission. So, he decided to do something about it. He wrote to the President to suggest a more representative White House collection that would offer a truer picture of American history -- one that would make all children who visit the White House feel a connection to our country's past.

The President read Bell's letter and directed White House Curator Rex Scouten to look for a work by a leading African American artist to hang in one of the public rooms. Two leading experts on African American art -- the late Sylvia Williams, former director of the Museum of African Art at the Smithsonian Institution, and scholar David Driskell -- helped locate a magnificent landscape by one of our nation's finest painters, Henry Ossawa Tanner.

Titled "Sand Dunes at Sunset, Atlantic City," the painting was purchased by the White House Endowment Fund earlier this year from Tanner's grandniece, Dr. Rae Alexander-Minter. The painting, along with others by Tanner, had been kept over the years in her mother's house, where the shades were always drawn to preserve the canvasses.

This week at the White House, the President and I presented the painting at a special ceremony that included Dr. Rae Alexander-Minter, Tanner's grandson, Jacques, and Edward Bell. It was a fitting tribute to Tanner and a homecoming of sorts for an artist whose work was far more appreciated overseas than here in the United States, largely because of racism during his time.

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The artist was born in Pittsburgh in 1859, just before the Civil War. His father was a minister, and his mother, whose family had escaped slavery by riding to freedom on the Underground Railroad, was a teacher. Both parents instilled in him a belief in education, good citizenship and racial pride.

His life goals crystallized when he was 13 years old and saw an artist painting in a park. Mesmerized by the painter's work, he decided to pursue an artistic career for himself.

Not only did Tanner have to overcome racial prejudice among art teachers and art schools, he also had to endure skepticism from his peers, who doubted he could ever make a living as an artist.

But he persevered, even when fragile health forced him to scale back his work. By the time he died in 1937, he had won modest acclaim in art circles in the United States, but he had achieved far greater celebrity in France, where he had lived for many years and was named an honorary chevalier of the Order of the Legion of Honor, the highest civilian title the country confers.

In a poignant expression of the difficulties he faced as an African American painter, he once wrote from Paris about the prejudice that led him to live much of his life far from his native land: "True, this condition has driven me out of the country ... and while I cannot sing our National Hymn -- 'Sweet Land of Liberty' -- deep down in my heart, I love it and am sad that I cannot live where my heart is."

Now, at long last, Henry Ossawa Tanner is taking his rightful place alongside Winslow Homer, James McNeill Whistler, Mary Cassatt, John Singer Sargent and the other great American artists whose work graces the White House.

On view for thousands of visitors who tour the Green Room each day, "Sand Dunes" will stand as a shining example of the great contributions that African Americans have made to the cultural life of our nation. And it will offer a reminder to every child who visits the White House that talent always has the power to transcend prejudice.

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October 29, 1996

TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A few years ago, no one really thought much about the approaching millennium. We didn't trouble ourselves over the fact that we'd soon be dropping the "19" from the year and replacing it with a "20." But recently, people have become obsessed with the significance of this occurrence. We've begun to realize that in a few short years, we'll be witnessing -- and living in -- a rare historical moment, the conclusion of a century and a millennium.

References to the new millennium are everywhere -- in advertisements and marketing strategies, on web pages counting down the remaining seconds of the 20th century and in political speeches, including my own. People have devised projects with end dates set for the year 2000. And thousands have already booked reservations on cruise ships, at restaurants and in hotels for New Year's Eve, 1999.

We're all trying to figure out how to mark what in many ways is just a random moment in time. When midnight arrives on Jan. 1, 2000, or Jan. 1, 2001 -- experts can't quite agree on when the new millennium actually begins -- none of us will find ourselves suddenly transformed. We won't be trading our jeans and T-shirts for the space suits on "Star Trek." And the only flashes in the night sky will be the fireworks we've already begun planning. (At least I hope so!) But I do think the coming of the year '00 presents us with a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the past, where we've been, who we are and what we hope to be.

Of the many millennium projects out there, one particularly excites me. Earlier this week, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities presented "Creative America," a report that proposes a nationwide Millennium Initiative that will use this unique time in history to encourage Americans to celebrate and preserve the cultural achievements of the past, to raise awareness about the importance of the arts and humanities in our lives, and to examine the ideas, values and experiences that can shape our future.

When we look back on the last 2,000 years and try to understand what it was like to live in a certain age, we rely on the paintings, sculptures, architecture and literature created by the men and women of those times. The larger-than-life sculptures of the Roman emperors, for instance, tell us about their political might. The magnificent, intricately carved stone cathedrals of Europe testify to the power of faith and the church in the Middle Ages. And the strict adherence to rules of composition found in ancient Chinese poetry offers us insight into the rigid order imposed by traditional imperial society.

I believe that future generations, too, will look to our creative endeavors to tell them the story of America and of our times. Dorothea Lange's photographs of 1930s farm families and John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath" record the trials and poverty of the Great

Depression. The blues progressions and syncopated rhythms heard in popular music today hearken to the music of African slaves in the South. And Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings of deserts, clouds and endless blue sky have captured for all time the landscape of the American Southwest.

Last summer, I toured Prague with Czech President Vaclav Havel. As we walked across the Charles Bridge, we fell into a discussion about American culture, about how our greatest and world-transforming exports have been not only our ideas on democracy and the free market but our art, our jazz, our rock and roll. We didn't have to look too far for proof of this idea -- the young people perched on the bridge's balustrades were singing American folk songs and listening to heavy metal music as they read American books and magazines.

So it is imperative for all of us living at the end of the 20th century to encourage the preservation of artistic and intellectual works that will serve as our own unique legacy and our own message to the future. We must continue to nurture the talents of artists, musicians and scholars. And we must continue to support efforts that will allow the artistic potential of so many of our young people -- especially those living in some of our most depressed neighborhoods -- to grow and flourish.

The Millennium Initiative will be a year-long celebration of the arts and humanities beginning on Jan. 1, 2000, and ending on Jan. 1, 2001. In the coming months and years, the President will be calling upon all citizens, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private-sector partners to create programs that reflect our unique cultural heritage. He'll be encouraging communities to identify and preserve their local traditions, history and folk art. He'll be asking us all to help make the resources of our museums and libraries more widely available on the Internet.

Through all these efforts, we can ensure that our country remains the world's strongest nation in the next millennium not only because of our wealth and military power but because of our thriving culture and our boundless creativity. As the President said in his State of the Union, "Our economy is measured in numbers and statistics, and it's very important. But the enduring worth of our nation lies in our shared values and our soaring spirit."

So let's join together in planning a millennial celebration for all time.

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February 25, 1997

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thousands of people worldwide witnessed history in the making last week -- the first cybercast from the White House. When noted Harvard historian Bernard Bailyn, who has written extensively on colonial and revolutionary American history, delivered the first Millennium Lecture, his remarks were simultaneously broadcast by satellite and over the Internet. People all over the world were able to turn on their computers and literally watch as Professor Bailyn delivered his lecture. They could then send e-mail questions, some of which I read off the screen for him to answer right there in the East Room.

If you missed Professor Bailyn's talk, you can find his remarks by going to the White House web site at www.whitehouse.gov and selecting the Millennium home page. If you want to actually see and hear the lecture in its entirety, you can go to the Sun Microsystems web site at www.sun.com/980126/whitehouse/

I urge you to try this, not only because it is technologically remarkable but also because I hope every American will listen closely to what Professor Bailyn has to say as we prepare to enter the new millennium.

The professor began by pointing out that we are a young nation with a short history but in fact we "live remarkably close to our past." When he said, "A spark was struck two centuries ago which lights the way for us still," it brought to mind the theme that the President and I have chosen for America's Millennium celebration: "Honor the past; imagine the future."

Jan. 1, 2000, not only marks the beginning of the millennium year but also coincides with several significant historical milestones in American history: the 200th anniversary of the occupancy of the White House by American Presidents, the 200th anniversary of the creation of the Library of Congress, and the 200th anniversary of the first meeting of Congress in the new Capitol.

What a remarkable opportunity for America to pause and consider the best of our nation and the things we want to preserve -- for our children and for our children's children. What an opportunity to rekindle our spirit of democracy, renew our commitment to citizenship, and unleash the full creative and intellectual potential of the American people as we chart our common future.

The White House Millennium Council is busy planning events here in Washington and around the country to celebrate this milestone. Professor Bailyn

kicked off the Millennium Evenings at the White House, a series of lectures and cultural showcases designed to highlight America's ideas, art and scientific discoveries. On March 6, world-renowned physicist Stephen Hawking will deliver the second Millennium Lecture, on creativity and science in the 21st century. It, too, will be cybercast from the White House.

A few weeks ago, I wrote about another Millennium project called "Save America's Treasures," a public-private partnership to preserve the nation's documents, artifacts, monuments and historic sites that are most in danger of deterioration. In his budget, the President has proposed a Millennium Fund to stimulate this national effort, but there will also be a parallel private effort, supported by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. More information, as well as an opportunity to share your ideas, is available on the Trust's website at www.nationaltrust.org.

Last week at the White House, I was thrilled by the announcement of the first major private contribution to this effort. The Pew Charitable Trusts will donate \$800,000 to help re-encase the nation's Charters of Freedom -- the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the Constitution -- and \$5 million for the restoration of the most revered symbol of this country's struggle for freedom, the Star-Spangled Banner.

You might ask, as did UPI's White House reporter Helen Thomas, "Why does it take \$5 million?"

Actually, the entire flag project will cost \$18 million. You may not realize that the flag, sewn by a Baltimore widow and housed in the National Museum of American History in Washington, is four stories tall. Because it's been without a protective case, it has suffered from exposure to pollution and sunlight. The Smithsonian plans to take down the flag from its current exhibit and place it in an on-site conservation laboratory where it can be cleaned and treated. During the entire process, the flag will never be out of public view, and after the restoration is complete, it will be encased in 7 tons of protective glass.

I hope you will take a look at the web sites I've listed to learn how you can participate in this grand Millennium celebration. By honoring our past and making gifts to the future, we can be sure that when the new millennium finally comes, we will be honoring not only a new year but also the values that make this country great and that will remain long after the fireworks have faded.

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February 17, 1998

9/30/97 5:45

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TALKING IT OVER
OCTOBER 2, 1997**

My husband is a pretty happy guy. But he doesn't get much happier than he was on Monday, when we walked from the White House to a tent on the South Lawn. Just about anyone would have been in a good mood, because inside the tent were musicians like Tito Puente, Betty Carter, Don Henley, and Doc Watson. There were the actors Angela Lansbury and Jason Robards. And there were writers like Studs Terkel and Maxine Hong Kingston. Gathered on stage were more than a dozen other Americans who have made indispensable contributions to our vibrant and diverse culture.

The occasion was the presentation by the President of the 1997 National Medals for the Arts and the Humanities. The 21 recipients marks the largest number of people ever to receive the awards.

As I travel the country, I am privileged to see the sheer breadth and depth of our artistic and intellectual life. I am also fortunate enough to witness the contributions the arts and humanities make to the strength of our families and communities. Our artists and thinkers challenge us to see who we are and inspire us to live up to our highest ideals. They remind us that fulfilling the promise of our American motto, E Pluribus Unum, is our greatest strength -- for what we call American culture is many different cultures coming together, like rivers running

into the sea. The free flow of ideas and the diversity of expression in the United States today is a sure sign of our democracy's health.

In the last few days, the White House has hosted a number of events that underscore the scope of American creativity. Because October is Arts and Humanities Month, I thought I'd share a few of them with you.

First, there were the Heritage Awards, which honored 11 uniquely American folk artists. Before I arrived in the East Room for the ceremony, I knew something out of the ordinary was going on. The doors in the White House were shaking. The chandeliers were quaking. And all because of the full-throttle, Gospel trombone music of one of the honorees -- Ed Babb and his band, the McCullough Sons of Thunder from the United House of Prayer in Harlem.

Though not every Heritage Award recipient reached quite the volume of Mr. Babb and his band, all were unforgettable. There were bluegrass singers from Tennessee and a woodcarver from New Mexico. There were people keeping alive traditions passed on to them by relatives or neighbors long ago -- from blacksmithing to quilting to Chinese opera. Their individual work couldn't have been more different, but what they taught us was remarkably the same: That our traditional arts not only bind us to our past, they also bind us to each other.

The power of our arts to connect us to our heritage is also apparent in a new exhibition in the White House Sculpture Garden of works by Native American sculptors. Each piece, in its own way, represents the seamless fusion between ancient roots and modern spirit, the ties between past cultures and present-day creativity. It's an extraordinary collection, the sixth to showcase American sculpture since we inaugurated the garden in 1994 -- and it's there for anyone who visits the White House to see.

Museums are also crucial. In fact, after Bill finished presenting the Arts and Humanities medals, I hosted a ceremony for recipients of this year's National Award for Museum Service. In honoring the work being done by American museums from Baltimore, Houston and Indianapolis, it seemed to me that not only were these institutions stewards of our artistic and cultural heritage, they were also instrumental in building up our communities -- giving people a place to come together and teaching our young people how wide their horizons can be.

The private sector also plays a critical role in our efforts to preserve and nurture American creativity. Individuals, foundations and corporations provide the lion's share of support for art and culture in our country. So, after the museum awards, it seemed fitting to continue my "arts day" by meeting with business and foundation leaders. What was on their minds?

Most notably, arts education. We shared our concerns about the cuts in arts programs in our schools, which are depriving today's students of the chance to play an instrument or sing in a

choir or act in a play when we know that exposing children to the arts can improve academic performance and help youngsters grow into productive adults. These comments mirrored the findings of a government report issued by the President's Committee for the Arts and Humanities, which I wrote about in my column last year: cultural programs can steer young people away from crime, violence, gangs and drugs, and toward positive and fulfilling futures.

[5/21/96]

To my mind, that's just one more reason why government has an important role to play in supporting the arts and humanities. I know I've written this before, but some things are worth repeating: A modest investment in our National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities yields incredible returns by sparking local, state, and private contributions. I am proud that Bill has fought so hard to protect the federal role. I am proud, too, that he is making the preservation and celebration of American culture the centerpiece of his White House Millennium Program.

Looking at the faces of the men and women on stage to receive the arts and humanities medals, I thought of the children they had taught, the lives they had inspired, the minds they had opened. Their presence seemed the strongest possible reminder that the arts are essential; that they lift us up and unite us. From a band that plays in town on a summer afternoon to a dance class for children to a new library, the arts and humanities make a difference in our lives. We all have a responsibility to support them. And government has a responsibility to lead.

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**children &
families**

Divider Title: _____

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

If you're a parent, chances are that you don't stop to think about the medicine your pediatrician prescribes when your child has a common illness. You're probably just relieved that the symptoms can be treated and your son or daughter will feel better in time.

Yet while many medications prescribed for children are safe and effective, many other drugs have never been tested specifically for use on infants, toddlers and older children.

A wide range of asthma treatments, for example, are routinely given to children even though they were tested only on adults. This poses a particular problem because of the rise of asthma and the severe impact it has on children. As of 1994, 4.8 million children under 18 have been diagnosed with asthma. Indeed, the hospitalization rate for children under 5 has increased by 57 percent since 1980.

Likewise, it was shocking to discover that Ritalin, a drug prescribed to millions of children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder, has never been thoroughly tested for use on very young people. The same is true for Prozac, which is used increasingly to treat children with depression.

Children and adults suffer from many of the same diseases, but this doesn't mean they will react to drugs in the same way. For many important medicines, there is a startling lack of information on safe and effective doses for children. In fact, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, less than 50 percent of the medicines that have proved helpful to children have not been tested for use on kids.

As a result, many pediatricians are forced to guess the proper dose for a child or forgo what might be the most useful treatment available. Parents are left to worry that their children are not getting the best possible care.

The terrible dimensions of this problem were made clear to many of us by Elizabeth Glaser, the crusading mother who helped found the Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Elizabeth contracted HIV from a blood transfusion she received shortly after giving birth to her daughter Ariel in 1981. Elizabeth unwittingly passed the virus on to Ariel through her breast milk. Yet while Elizabeth was able to take the drug AZT to fight the disease, Ariel was not. The medication -- the most effective treatment at the time --

was not available for children. As one doctor told Elizabeth, "We don't even know what dose to give her. We can't just experiment. This is a toxic drug. It could kill her."

Elizabeth was put in a heartbreaking position: She was able to extend her life but not the life of her daughter. By fighting for action in Congress, the White House and around the country, she was able eventually to secure AZT for Ariel. But precious time had been lost. Ariel died in 1988. Elizabeth passed away in 1994.

This is but one example of a problem that exposes a dangerous gap in our system of medical treatment. Fortunately, it is a gap that parents, health activists, pharmaceutical companies, the medical community, the government and my husband are working to close.

This week, the President announced that the Food and Drug Administration will propose a rule to require the manufacturers of medicine needed urgently by children to study the effects in young people and provide information on dosages. The information will be displayed on drug labels to help pediatricians and other health-care professionals make good decisions about how to treat their young patients.

The President's action will apply to new medicines now in development as well as medicines already on the market. And it will extend not just to medications for critical illnesses but also to widely used treatments for conditions like asthma, allergies, ear infections and pain.

Vital medications will be tested and made available to children more efficiently than ever before. Children will get the same access to newly developed drugs as their parents. As important, better testing will point out drugs that either should not be prescribed for children or should be prescribed in far fewer instances.

The result will be simple peace of mind for doctors and parents alike. Doctors will have the information they need. When it comes to treating a sick child, they will not have to rely on guesswork.

And parents will know that if there is a medicine out there that can help their child, then they will be able to have access to it. The best medicine in the world will no longer be stuck on a shelf -- it will be put at the service of our families and our children. And that's how it ought to be.

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August 12, 1997

ALKING IT OVER

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

RELEASE: WEEKEND, JULY 29-30, 1995

The first time I met Mother Teresa was not in an urban slum or a remote village in India but in the fancy ballroom of a Washington hotel. It was February 1994, and she had just delivered a speech against abortion at the National Prayer Breakfast. When she finished her remarks, she pulled me aside for a chat.

She told me about her homes for orphaned children in New Delhi and Calcutta and asked for my help in setting up a similar home for abandoned and neglected babies in Washington, D.C. I agreed to work on the project. Although we differ on some issues, we found common ground on adoption. So we sat and talked about how to find homes for the hundreds of thousands of American children who need loving families.

A year later, my daughter and I visited Mother Teresa's home for children in New Delhi. There were too many cribs and too few toilets, and there was too little space. There was no way the place could ever pass inspection in any American city. But there were also dozens of beautiful babies, mostly girls, being fed, clothed, sheltered and loved until they could be adopted.

These images stayed with me when I returned home. I was even more determined to help Mother Teresa bring to Washington the compassion I had witnessed in India. But you cannot imagine how much red tape was getting in my way. Ironically, many regulations designed to protect children often overlook what kids need most: love and attention.

Finally, on a sweltering day this past June, the Mother Teresa Home for Children opened in an affluent residential neighborhood of the nation's capital. It is a two-story Tudor house with a swimming pool in the backyard, donated by a remarkably generous person who chose to remain anonymous. At the dedication ceremony, Mother Teresa — happy, enthusiastic and all business — took me on a tour. Grabbing my hand and leading me up the stairs, she walked me through brightly painted rooms filled with cribs, bassinets and stuffed animals.

Although it will accommodate only eight children at a time, this home is a crucial step in awakening Americans to the crisis of adoption.

We should worry less about how many cribs can be placed in a room and more about how many children can be placed with loving families. And instead of yelling at each other about abortion, we should spend our energy making adoptions easier. If that were to happen, there would be far fewer abortions and far more children in happy homes.

Today, there are about 450,000 children in the United States who need permanent families. There are tens of thousands of parents seeking to adopt.

Yet every day, complex regulations, outdated assumptions and wrong-headed laws stand in the way of bringing these parents and children together.

For some Americans, like a woman who wrote to me recently, cost is the biggest barrier. She and her husband, both musicians, spent thousands of dollars adopting a little boy six years ago. He is, she said, "the joy of our life." When her cousin's daughter recently became pregnant at age 18 and could not afford to keep the child, this same couple volunteered to adopt again.

As simple as this case should have been -- the parents and baby were members of the same extended family and all parties agreed to the adoption -- it still cost upward of \$4,000 because of legal fees and paperwork.

For others, there is a fear factor. Like many Americans, a 40-year-old newscaster I met recently in New Mexico was interested in adopting but was discouraged by highly publicized cases like Baby Richard's. However rare they are, cases in which birth parents seek to reclaim custody of adopted children undermine people's faith in the adoption system.

Decisions to give up children for adoption should be difficult to overturn, especially in the cases of children who become attached to their adoptive families during their formative years, like Baby Richard. The decision to return the child to the biological parents or to uphold the adoption should be made as quickly as possible. No child should be left in limbo.

The whole process also is made more difficult because of a historical bias against interracial adoptions, which can mean endless waiting until children are matched with parents of the same race.

In a perfect world, most of us would choose parents who shared our cultural and racial identities. But our world is not perfect. Today, there are far more minority children needing homes than are being placed for adoption. To prevent these children from languishing in foster care, new guidelines are now in place that will prohibit federally funded agencies from using race as a factor in placing children.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we did something dramatic about adoption? Why not set a goal of placing 100,000 children each year for the next five years? To do this, we would have to make adoption easier and enlist volunteer lawyers and judges to speed up the legal process. And we should also follow Mother Teresa's model, in which considerations like money, regulations and skin color do not outweigh the more important gift of love that adoptive parents want to offer.

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TALKING IT OVER**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON****RELEASE: WEEKEND, AUGUST 12-13, 1995**

Have you seen what's on daytime television lately? During a recent workout, I started channel surfing, and the first show I saw was about wild teen-agers and their mothers. Another network featured women who use men for money. And on a third were people who believe their thoughts are controlled by aliens.

I cringed.

Then, I found refuge in Big Bird.

For many parents across our country, there is great comfort in knowing that however prurient, violent or sensational daytime programming has become, there is still an oasis for children called public television.

The truth is, my daughter is a Sesame Street kid. When she was younger, we would tune in together and read the books that went along with the shows. Over the years, my husband and I could see that Big Bird, Ernie, Bert and Cookie Monster had helped her learn to spell, count and, perhaps just as important, appreciate the cultural richness of our country.

But my daughter's experience is not the only reason I am disturbed by recent attacks on public television. There is no escaping that television is a pervasive influence in the lives of all of our children -- one that can have a significant impact, positive or negative, on their social and intellectual development.

A friend told me recently about the time her daughter came home from the first day of school and was so excited that she couldn't stop talking about it. After telling her parents about everything that had happened, she went to the television set and told Mr. Rogers too. Can you imagine that child having the same conversation with the Power Rangers?

The little girl's story gives us a window on the latest research. Studies show that children who watch programs like "Sesame Street," "Barney" and "Mister Rogers Neighborhood" are better prepared to learn by the time they begin kindergarten than children who watch only commercial television. Early on, reading becomes a part of their lives. So do numbers, ideas and a rich imagination.

In fact, just at that wonderful stage when young children seem to absorb every new word and concept they come across, educational television provides a unique learning tool. Even watching as little as 25 minutes a day can help.

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON 8/12-13/95

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Researchers have found that low-income children between the ages of 2 and 5 who watch a small amount of educational programming do significantly better on tests of reading potential, vocabulary, mathematical reasoning and overall readiness for school.

By contrast, kids who spend the same amount of time watching non-educational cartoons and adult programs are not as well prepared for learning in school.

Recently, Sonia Manzano, known to millions of children as "Maria" on "Sesame Street," came to the White House to talk about educational television. She described what it was like to grow up in the Bronx as a Hispanic child who never saw anyone who looked or talked like her on television.

"I know that if a child spends his life not seeing himself reflected in society, which mostly means on television, it will wear him down," she said.

Children's programs like "Sesame Street," she said, offer a feeling of belonging and positive role models to all children in our society.

They are particularly beneficial to low-income children whose families often lack other opportunities for intellectual stimulation.

The public broadcasting channel is the only source available for educational children's programming for about one-third of American families that cannot afford or do not have access to cable television. And I bet most Americans would be surprised to know that the majority of public television viewers come from families with annual incomes of less than \$40,000. It is the children in these families who gain the most from public broadcasting.

I do not mean to suggest that public television is a panacea. Clearly, we parents must take responsibility for turning off the television more often and monitoring the shows our children do watch. And we can do more as a society to help our families meet that challenge. A rating system and the proposed v-chip to block out violent programs from individual homes could make a difference.

But let's not kid ourselves. In a culture like ours, which is so dominated by television, children's programming is not a luxury enjoyed by a privileged few. It is a necessity for tens of millions of American families.

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TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

RELEASE: WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 23-24, 1995

It's amazing what you miss when you are on vacation or traveling out of the country. Until recently, I hadn't even heard about the controversy over the new Calvin Klein ads.

Now that I'm back in Washington, I'm finally tuned in. Friends have sent me clippings and news stories. I've seen the ads myself, which show young people in sexually suggestive poses, their underwear in view beneath their shorts and skirts.

From what I can tell, most of the controversy centers on definitions of pornography, First Amendment rights, and the boundaries of artistic expression.

All of those things are important. But I think we're missing a larger point.

Not every question of morality and taste is a question of the Constitution or the law.

The Calvin Klein ads are disturbing because they feed on the innocence and vulnerability of children. And the cynical message delivered to young people is that their value as human beings depends on looking sexy and acting cool.

It's hard enough for kids these days to grow up feeling confident and secure about who they are. What we should be doing as a society is helping young people focus on schoolwork and other positive activities that build self-discipline and character -- not adding to the confusion and anxiety that are part of growing up.

If you care about your family's values, as I do, you have to be concerned about values in the marketplace. You have to be concerned about the messages conveyed through the things we buy and sell.

Let's face it: Business decisions affect how people think and behave. In his recent book, "Selling Out America's Children," David Walsh points out that careful calculation -- and billions of dollars -- go into advertising campaigns in order to shape opinions and change tastes.

Advertising, he says, is really "adver-teasing."

And "adver-teasing" is usually driven by a yearning for profits more than any concern for decency, civility, taste or morality.

That is why raising our voices about how a company sells blue jeans can be just as important as the values we teach in our own homes.

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The Calvin Klein ads are merely the latest proof that some businesses are willing to push the envelope of gratuitous sex and exploitation of children as far as possible if it's good for the bottom line.

But they are not the only ads we need to worry about. The pervasive influence of exploitative advertising touches every aspect of our lives.

We all know what it is like to drive along the highway and see a pile-up of cars. You slow down. You can't resist looking, even though you know that your own rubbernecking could cause another accident.

Today, it's as if our society is a highway full of car wrecks. Only worse. Nobody purposely causes an accident to attract the public's attention. But in the case of commercial marketing, we are purposely teased and titillated with sex and violence, simply because they sell.

What modern culture desperately needs are internal values that call on us to exercise our responsibilities, as well as our rights, as citizens. Instead of trying to justify inappropriate behavior, people in positions of power must start to behave responsibly and show restraint.

Sadly, we seem to be a long way from that. This fall, new movies and television shows that go further than ever before in showing graphic images of sex and violence will appear in theaters and on prime time. No doubt, they will make lots of money from the controversies they generate.

We can only hope there is a silver lining here. Maybe -- just maybe -- we, the public, finally have had enough of seeing children and women depicted as victims and sexual objects.

Calvin Klein was forced to pull his ads last month because of public outrage. And hopefully, in the weeks ahead, those of us who go to movies and watch television will stay away from the theaters and turn off our sets because we are so offended by the gratuitous violence, sexual degradation and bad taste we are subjected to on the screen.

But let's not wait for the marketers of sleaze to wrestle with questions of taste and morality. As parents and consumers, let's make it clear where we stand.

If you don't like the message, don't buy the product. Don't let your kids buy it. And remember that even if your own child doesn't fall for the marketing ploys, millions of other children are being exploited and devalued because adults can't control their own greed.

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TALKING IT OVER**BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON****RELEASE: WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 18-19, 1995**

I met 16-year-old Lisa DelMauro the other day at Babies and Children's Hospital in New York City. She was in a wheelchair, wrapped in bandages, having just undergone her 50th operation for a congenital birth defect known as spina bifida.

Still, she was upbeat about her life and her future. Her treatments, she said, had enabled her to continue her schooling and read her favorite Nancy Drew novels.

Joshua Lentin, age 6, had a different medical problem but a similar outlook: He was born with a serious heart condition and, after two heart transplants, is thrilled that he can now play roller hockey and dream about a career in the NHL.

These and the other brave children I met -- a 19-month-old baby undergoing radiation treatment for abdominal cancer, a high school student who had just endured a painful bone marrow transplant, and a 4-year-old born with health problems brought on by his mother's drug addiction -- are among thousands of children treated each day for illnesses and injuries at children's hospitals around our country.

Unlike adult hospitals, children's hospitals specialize in diagnosing and treating children. They train pediatricians who become experts in children's care. They conduct innovative research in the causes and cures for childhood diseases. And they provide millions of dollars in free care to needy children.

Today, the average children's hospital relies on Medicaid for 46 cents out of every dollar it uses to function. This long-standing federal commitment is one important reason that children's hospitals offer the unique and vital services they do.

That is why I am worried about the future of children's hospitals -- worried because proposed cuts in Medicaid threaten to compromise the care they give.

These cuts will hurt children's hospitals because Medicaid is the primary source of health care coverage for nearly one in four children in America -- and one in three children under age 3. And contrary to what many people think, more than half of the children covered by Medicaid have parents working at low-wage jobs, not receiving welfare checks.

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Medicaid is also the main source of health care coverage for millions of children like Lisa, Joshua and the others I met in New York who are disabled or who suffer from chronic illnesses -- the kinds of illnesses that regular health insurance will not cover and that adult hospitals cannot always treat.

Children's hospitals simply cannot exist without government support.

For more than a decade, I was fortunate enough to serve on the board of Arkansas Children's Hospital, chairing the annual telethon and raising money for a newborn intensive care nursery. Recently, I met a group of generous men and women who give and raise money for some of the largest children's hospitals in our country. While I applaud these private efforts, I know that the generosity of individuals alone cannot fill the gap projected by the proposed \$186 billion cut in Medicaid.

Every parent knows from personal experience what it is like when a child is sick. Nothing else in the world matters. Will your son or daughter get better? Is the illness something that will pass, or is it life-threatening? You just want your child to get the treatment she needs.

Sometimes, though, when it comes time to make decisions that affect all of America's children, good parental instincts retreat.

As parents, would we ever say that one of our own children with a serious illness or chronic medical condition did not deserve the best available treatment? Of course not. We would make the sacrifices necessary to help our child get well.

Why, then, as citizens or decision makers are we ready to say that only parents who can afford comprehensive insurance will be able to take care of their sick children? What about all the uninsured working parents who care just as much about their kids? What about the poor and low-income parents who, up until now, thought they could at least rely on Medicaid if their kids needed to see a doctor or go to the hospital?

Even if you don't know a soul who has relied on Medicaid for health coverage, and even if your child has never been seriously ill, remember that children's hospitals are there if, heaven forbid, any of our children need them.

Cutting back on our commitment to children's hospitals will not help America's children. It won't help our country, either.

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TALKING IT OVER**BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON****RELEASE: WEEKEND, DECEMBER 16-17, 1995**

They call themselves sisters. That's how close they feel, having gone through their husbands' military service together and even waited together as their husbands went to war.

They are the wives of Army soldiers and officers now heading for Bosnia as part of the NATO peacekeeping effort. I met them at the Smith Barracks in Baumholder, Germany, earlier this month when I accompanied my husband on his visit to the First Armored Division.

I visited with many soldiers and their families after the President's speech and during the lunch we shared in the mess hall. Later, I spent nearly two hours over coffee with 20 women whose husbands will be leading American forces in Bosnia.

Often when our troops represent us around the world, we overlook the sacrifices made by their families. Some of these wives have spent years overseas, far from friends and relatives. They have raised their children in foreign lands, often on their own, while supporting their husbands' careers and our country.

The wives I met told me about the challenges young couples face finding adequate child care and making ends meet on military pay. These challenges only increase when a husband — or wife — is deployed.

Now, while their loved ones prepare for duty patrolling the frigid terrain in Bosnia, these veteran spouses are helping other Army "sisters" get ready for the family disruptions that every military operation inevitably brings.

The more experienced among them are busy teaching young wives — some just teen-agers — how to cope on their own. They help them interpret military jargon about the operations their spouses are involved in. They get together with other wives in support networks to talk about mutual concerns and experiences. They even show some of the younger wives how to balance the family checkbook.

Just knowing that others understand what they are going through can make a difference. "If you're having a bad day, somebody else has had that day before," one woman told me. "You know you've got that camaraderie and that sisterhood."

Our Armed Forces are also doing their part to help. As we learned in Desert Storm and other recent deployments, no operation can fully succeed without the "rear detachment," the military personnel who stay behind on the base to back up our troops and their families.

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During a peacekeeping mission in Macedonia, for example, the rear detachment held briefings on bases about Macedonia's culture, language and environment and the soldiers' duties in the field. (The spouses were so pleased with the support they received, they recommended that the rear detachment commander be presented with an award for his service.)

For the spouses of the service members going to Bosnia, the Armed Forces will relay information about everything from the weather in Tuzla and Sarajevo to what the soldiers are eating for dinner that night (beans 'n' franks, turkey a la king or dehydrated beef patties, for instance).

Whenever American troops are sent thousands of miles from home, particularly at this time of year, loneliness is bound to set in. The women I talked with expressed particular concern about single service members, many of them young, who don't have wives, husbands or children.

Letters with news and support from the United States can mean a lot to our troops. A sentence or two about a local sports team, a good book or a new movie will help keep spirits up during the holiday season.

The Defense Department will be setting up a special address where we can send letters to service members in Bosnia and their families. As soon as the address is available, I will pass it on to you in this column.

Please make an effort to support our military men and women deployed in Bosnia in the coming weeks. Write to them. Encourage them to write back. Most of all, tell them how proud we are of them and how grateful we are for the sacrifices they are making on behalf of American values by working to implement the peace agreed to in Bosnia.

I also want to ask Americans to think about and pray for the brave spouses and families that are left behind. They need our support as well.

Many of the officers and enlisted men and women the President and I met in Germany told us that there has never been a better-trained, better-educated, better-prepared military in the history of the world.

Their spouses have never been more prepared to help each other, either. As one woman said, "We are ready."

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TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

RELEASE: WEEKEND, JANUARY 6-7, 1996

Over the holidays, Bill and I delighted in the company of our nephews, 19-month-old Tyler and 6-month-old Zachary.

Along with their parents, grandparents, Chelsea and assorted other baby watchers, we read and talked to them, ran after Tyler as he explored the White House and encouraged Zach to follow in his walker. We took turns telling Tyler that he shouldn't throw his food on the floor and carrying Zach around when he needed comforting.

No one can predict what the future holds for these little boys, but for now, they are being guided and protected by adults who are nurturing them with the love, time and energy that children need to develop their brains, bodies and characters.

Zachary and Tyler are luckier than many children. It's hard to pick up a newspaper or watch the TV news without finding a story about an abused, neglected or abandoned child. When I look at the children I love, I ask myself how anyone could mistreat a child.

I thought about that question when I recently visited St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home just outside Washington, D.C. For 136 years, St. Ann's has taken in and cared for children whose own families have been unable or unwilling to give them the love, care and security they deserve from the adults in their lives.

I took Socks, our cat, with me. He was the real star, as little hands reached out to pet him and voices pleaded for permission to hold him.

While Socks was holding court, I saw babies whose development had been delayed or disturbed because they suffered from the effects of drugs their mothers had taken. I saw tiny bodies that had been abused physically and sexually. I looked into the bewildered eyes of children whose fathers had never known them and whose mothers had given up trying to cope with life. Sister Josephine Murphy, the director, told me stories about how the children's academic and behavioral problems were rooted in their feelings of worthlessness and insecurity.

I also met young mothers enrolled in a parenting program who are learning how to take care of their babies and acquiring skills that will enable

them to work and support themselves. As I talked with these young women, I was reminded yet again that parenting does not come naturally to many of us. We frequently need hands-on instruction to take care of our children. I know I needed help and advice, which I sought out from other parents, books, advice columns, doctors and friends.

As a modern society, we know more about what children need to develop than ever before. But, ironically, we still have too few organized ways of supporting parents in the most important work they do. We have not figured out how to replace the extended family, clan or village that looked out for children in earlier times. As a result, many parents don't get the information or the help they need to become the best possible mothers and fathers they can be.

For example, many parents still don't know that reading and talking to children are the most important ways they can help prepare them for school. Other parents don't know what questions to ask to distinguish between good and inferior child care. Still others are at a loss about how to childproof a home to avoid the thousands of accidents that injure and kill children every year.

It is time to make some changes for our children's sake. Advances in technology and the global economy along with other developments in society have brought us much good, but they have also strained the fabric of family life, leaving us and our children poorer in many ways -- physically, intellectually, emotionally, spiritually.

This is one of the reasons I wrote my book, "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child and Other Lessons Our Children Teach Us." My goal was to share ideas and programs that work and to start people thinking about what all of us can do in our homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, schools, churches and governments to help families raise happy, responsible and resilient children. It truly does take a village of caring adults to raise a child. I hope all of us will choose to help ensure a brighter future for our children.

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TALKING IT OVER**BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON****RELEASE: WEEKEND, JANUARY 27-28, 1996**

While I was traveling recently to promote my new book about children, a lot of people asked me about the Whitewater controversy, which I wrote about last week. But many more men and women were interested in discussing the issues of real life. They wanted to talk about family concerns -- from affordable health care to job lay-offs to how we can raise standards in our schools.

In particular, my position on one subject -- divorce -- seems to have taken people by surprise. As I say in my book, I think getting a divorce should be much harder when children are involved.

For much of the 1970s and 1980s, many believed that a bad marriage was worse than a good divorce. Now, however, we know that children bear the brunt of failed marriages.

Children living with one parent or in stepfamilies, for example, are more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems. Kids who grow up in single-parent families are also more likely to drop out of high school, become pregnant as teen-agers, abuse drugs, behave violently and become entangled with the law. Even if a parent marries again, it doesn't necessarily improve a child's odds.

Apart from the emotional trauma that divorce inflicts on children, there are also financial considerations. Usually, children live with their mother after divorce, and women tend to make lower wages, particularly if they are also caring for children. Child support contributions often can be woefully insufficient, and as we saw recently in the case of the New York investment adviser who owed more than \$500,000 in child support, even some wealthy fathers fail to support their children after getting divorced.

As a lawyer, I handled more than my share of divorce cases. I witnessed otherwise rational men and women, overwhelmed by jealousy and an urge for revenge, force their own children to choose sides. Many times, I saw children used as bargaining chips to obtain better divorce settlements.

Most married couples know that living happily ever after is not always an easy, or painless, proposition. My own marriage has become stronger, I believe, because Bill and I have worked hard at it, even when times were rough. As I told Barbara Walters in a recent interview, we have learned to compromise and bite our tongues when we need to. And like many other couples, we've learned to confront problems before they reach irreparable proportions.

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I'm not saying that divorce should never happen. I know of cases, as I'm sure you do, where divorce was the best option for all family members involved. No one should have to endure the physical and emotional abuse that my own late mother-in-law, Virginia Kelley, recounted in her witty and touching autobiography, "Leading With the Heart."

Virginia was married to an alcoholic who sometimes became abusive during drinking binges. She finally divorced him but re-married him three months later -- against Bill's advice -- because she felt sorry for him and believed he would change his ways. In later years, she told me she regretted not having stuck to her decision for the sake of her children.

Most marriages dissolve because of far less desperate circumstances. Divorce has become too easy because of our permissive laws and attitudes. Just look at our culture today: Good marriages are seldom celebrated, while every tiff or spat in a celebrity marriage becomes tabloid fodder.

For too many people, "Till death do us part" means "Till the going gets rough." With so many marriages failing -- nearly half end in divorce in our country -- we need to do more to encourage parents to work out their problems, stay together and strengthen their families. In cases where problems can't be reconciled, parents ought to put the needs of their children first in working out the terms of divorce. They must understand that their parental responsibilities continue even after a marriage splits up.

The good news is that attitudes about marriage and divorce seem to be changing. Some states are beginning to examine whether their divorce laws are too lax. Grass-roots campaigns to help preserve marriage are flourishing around the country.

More churches are offering marital counseling, and ministers are using sermons to educate parents about the responsibilities of marriage and family life. Some courts now require that divorcing parents attend classes to learn about the potential effects of divorce on their children. These and other efforts are welcome braking mechanisms that can slow down the process of divorce when children are involved.

Children are the issue here, as a 15-year-old boy from Louisiana noted in a letter he wrote me not long ago. "It is not fair to me or my mom that she has to be both mother and father to me and my little brother," said the boy, who went on to describe how his parents' divorce had affected his whole family. "It makes no sense to me."

It should make no sense to any of us.

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TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

My daughter just turned 16. She can't wait to get her driver's license. She's thinking about college. And she is already a pro at talking on the phone.

To mark the occasion, Bill and I had a celebratory dinner for her at home and then took her to see "Les Miserables," one of her favorite musicals.

I look upon all of these developments with a mixture of joy and relief, and also a measure of maternal pride and humility in the young woman Chelsea is becoming. Still, the idea of my only child growing up and going out into the world fills me with more than a little anxiety.

As I write these words, I can see Chelsea rolling her eyes and saying, "Mom, have some faith."

It's just that the world is so different now than when I was growing up. (And worrying is, after all, an occupational hazard of motherhood.)

When I turned 16, my parents didn't have to feel anxious about my safety every time I ventured out in our suburban neighborhood or even to see a movie in Chicago. Television was limited to three networks, and in those days, "The Patty Duke Show" was about the raciest program we ever saw.

To be sure, girls today have more opportunities than they did 30 years ago. I remember how disappointed I was when, as a teen-ager, I wrote to NASA to inquire about my future prospects as an astronaut and received a letter back saying that women weren't allowed in the space program. (It didn't help to learn that my terrible eyesight would have disqualified me anyway!)

Now, girls can realistically dream of flying in space, piloting jet fighters and running Fortune 500 companies. They can be Supreme Court justices, network television anchors and big-city police chiefs. Or they can choose full-time motherhood and homemaking. The point is, it's now a choice.

But for all the changes we've seen, it's still tough to be a teen-ager today -- maybe tougher than ever.

In her best-selling book, "Reviving Ophelia," psychologist Mary Pipher warns that we live in a "girl poisoning" culture that demeans the intelligence and creative spirit of teen-age girls. Young women are not rewarded for having brains, strength or character but for their looks, sex appeal, popularity and even submissiveness.

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Girls are bombarded with messages about what society expects of them and are taught to measure themselves against an impossible standard of physical perfection. They're supposed to be thinner, taller, sexier and prettier.

No wonder so many adolescent girls develop substance abuse problems, eating disorders or other self-destructive behavior. Like Ophelia in Shakespeare's "Hamlet," who inspired the title of Dr. Pipher's book, many girls reach adolescence and lose a sense of who they are and what they can be.

And they feel they have nowhere to go for help.

A wise friend once counseled me that teen-agers need as much time and attention from their parents as toddlers. In different ways, both are seeking independence. It was about the best child-rearing advice I ever got.

Like all parents of teen-agers, I've learned that there are times when my daughter is eager to talk and times when she doesn't want to say a word. And while it's not always easy to read signals from an adolescent, I've found that the most important thing a parent can do is keep the lines of communication open, no matter how distant or detached a teen-ager may seem.

Dr. Pipher recommends that parents look for things to praise and respect in a teen-age girl's behavior -- her insight, maturity or good judgment. "It is almost never helpful to label girls as young and immature," she says. "To girls, that feels contemptuous."

Most important, parents need to resist feeling hurt when an adolescent girl gives off signs of rejection. I know how hard this is: There have been times in the past when I've felt lucky my daughter was willing to be seen in my presence.

Parents also need to remember that as hard as it is to raise a child in today's world, it's much harder to be a child.

We never stop worrying about our children. But we can try, as Dr. Pipher says, to "stay reasonably calm through the storms" of adolescence.

The writer Elizabeth Stone once wrote that deciding to have a child "is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body."

For my part, when my daughter jumps behind the wheel of the car and takes off on her own soon, I'm sure I'll be filled with excitement at her newfound independence.

I'll also take a deep breath -- and hope for the best.

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February 27, 1996

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

March 1, 1996

MEMORANDAUM FOR FIRST LADY STAFF

FROM: LISA CAPUTO

RE: HRC COLUMN

Attached is HRC's additional "bonus" column for the upcoming week. Enjoy!

NOTE TO HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON EDITORS: THE FOLLOWING IS A BONUS COLUMN FOR YOUR USE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION. -- CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

**TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

As one of the few mothers in the room when the President met with leading entertainment executives at the White House Thursday, I can tell you how encouraging the discussion was.

The heads of companies that produce our movies and television shows were all there. Cap Cities/ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, PBS, Disney, Turner Broadcasting, DreamWorks, Warner Bros., Sony and Viacom, along with other major media companies, cable stations and the creative guilds, joined together to launch plans for a television rating system.

They pledged to develop a system by early next year that will help parents gauge the amount of violence, sex and profane language used on shows. Also discussed were ways to improve the quality of children's programming.

During the meeting, I had a strong sense that these executives are listening to America's parents.

They are the people who run the networks, operate the cable stations and produce the shows -- the men and women who are, as one executive put it, "setting the cultural agenda for the world."

Just getting these entertainment executives to sit down at a table together was remarkable. After all, the entertainment industry is highly competitive, and many of these professionals have conflicting interests. A few weeks ago, there were doubts that such a meeting could ever take place, let alone at the White House.

This is an impressive step forward. Information is power. And right now, parents don't have enough information or power when it comes to the programs their children watch on television.

I know this from experience. As hard as I tried to be vigilant about my own daughter's viewing habits when she was younger, I couldn't monitor the television screen 24 hours a day.

Today, the majority of American children live in houses with three television sets. The typical family watches 51 hours of television a week. They can get shows on up to 70 channels, making it even harder for parents to control the messages and images their children absorb.

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON 2/29/96

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A rating system may not be the perfect solution, but it certainly will help. Ratings will be encoded so that parents can use the new v-chip to block out programs that are inappropriate for their children. As part of the telecommunications bill the President signed into law last month, v-chips will be required in all new television sets starting in 1998.

As the President said at Thursday's meeting, "We are handing the TV remote control back to America's parents -- so that they can pass on their values and protect their children."

The industry leaders know it will be a daunting task to give ratings to hundreds of thousands of television shows. Yet, to a person, they seemed ready and willing to rise to the challenge.

At the same time, nobody in the room was under any illusion that a rating system or the v-chip will end violence in America or get rid of all the guns on our streets.

Even with ratings and a v-chip, parents have to take more responsibility by turning the television off sometimes. They have to work harder to engage their children in other activities. They have to take the time to talk to their kids instead of parking them in front of the tube at every opportunity.

Vice President Gore told the broadcast executives that parents have to take primary responsibility "for raising their children in an era of information overload."

Better programming is also part of the solution. One of the legitimate concerns of the industry representatives is that educational and quality programming on commercial television is not always watched as much as the alternative. Parents must not just screen out bad programs but tune in good ones.

One executive emphasized that education and entertainment are not mutually exclusive and that quality programming can be profitable. The Discovery Channel, for example, has started a 24-hour children's educational channel with no commercials.

Nickelodeon, Disney and A&E are staples of our household, and I'm sure that's true for many other parents and children who want a steady diet of family-friendly programming.

This is all happening because millions of parents across the country have let the entertainment industry know that there is an audience out there for quality programming. Violence, sex and profanity are not the only things that sell.

Now, with a rating system in the works, the industry has taken its biggest step ever on behalf of parents and children. For the commitment they made to the President and the American public Thursday, the leaders of our media and entertainment industry deserve our thanks and praise.

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February 29, 1996

**TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The woman visited her new daughter in the hospital every day, reaching into the incubator to stroke her foot. The receiving blanket seemed heavier than the baby, who was being fed by a tube in her stomach.

The woman is not the baby's birth mother, but she is her mother in every way that matters.

She and her husband already had a 3-year-old adopted son when they heard about a premature 1-pound baby girl whose birth parents could not take care of her. The couple decided to adopt the tiny baby. Her start was rocky, but now the child is a healthy 3-year-old.

"She was just like a little flower that blossomed," the mother says. "She is a burst of energy."

Now, the couple, who are African-American, are in the process of adopting a 12-year-old girl who was abused. They also are encouraging more African-American families to open their homes to children in need.

Last summer, I wrote about this important issue. I'm writing about it again because so many children's lives would be better if they could only find a home. Today, 21,000 children are ready and waiting for families to nurture and care for them. Tens of thousands of others will be eligible for adoption in the coming months and years.

Not all these children are healthy, white babies. Many are physically and developmentally disabled. Many are minorities. Many suffer from emotional traumas wrought by abuse, neglect and unstable living arrangements. And many are teenagers who already have been shuffled from home to home.

Fortunately, some steps have been taken in recent years to make adoption easier. The Family and Medical Leave Act, which became law three years ago, ensures that parents can take time off when they adopt a child without fear of losing their jobs. The Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 prohibits adoption agencies from denying the placement of a child solely on the basis of the adoptive parents' race, color or national origin. Over the past three years, adoption subsidies have helped an increasing number of families cope with the costs of adopting and raising children with special needs.

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The President is supporting legislation in Congress that will give tax credits to families that adopt. The House, for example, just approved a bill that would give adoptive families a \$5,000 tax credit. The Senate, meanwhile, is considering a \$7,500 credit for families who adopt children with special needs. This may not be enough to cover medical and emotional health care costs for special-needs kids, or even education, but it's a step in the right direction.

Not only is adoption good for children, it saves taxpayers a lot of money. As one woman said at a recent adoption discussion at the White House her family has saved the state and the federal government in excess of \$1 million by adopting several special-needs children.

In addition to government, the private sector also has a role to play. Wendy's, the hamburger chain founded by adoption advocate Dave Thomas (who himself was adopted), gives workers paid leave and financial assistance with adoption costs.

Margaret Fitzgerald, who participated in our gathering, said her employer, AT&T, gave her six weeks of unpaid leave when she and her husband adopted a son four years ago. The company also reimbursed her legal fees.

But the most important thing of all is for more people to reach out and give every child, regardless of age, disability, race or ethnic origin, the chance to be part of a loving family.

Just ask Julie Stinger, a teacher with five adopted children -- four biracial and one white -- several of whom had health problems. She told us how, as a white woman, she had to fight to adopt her first two black children, even though the birth parents agreed to the adoption and she had cared for them as a foster parent for 18 months. "I fought tooth and nail," she said.

Later, she had similar trouble when she wanted to adopt her fifth child, who is white. Authorities were concerned about placing a white boy with four non-white brothers and sisters.

"Even though we went through some traumas in the adoptions, I would do it again, I would do it 10 times over," she said. "Adopting a child is the most gratifying thing that ever happened to me."

After Julie recounted her story, I asked her oldest son, Joey, if he had anything to add. He nodded.

"I just want to thank my mother," he said.

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May 14, 1996

**TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

When you think of the arts in America, what first pops into your mind? If you're like most of us, you probably have an image of adults -- wealthy adults -- who have the time and money to go to the opera, attend a play or concert, or spend hours browsing through a museum.

In fact, the greatest beneficiaries of public funding for the arts are America's children. Through federal support of local arts agencies and community groups, hundreds of thousands of children each year are able to discover the joy, discipline and self-confidence that comes from their own artistic and creative expression.

That's why current arguments about limiting public funding for the arts are so misguided -- and short-sighted. Learning to paint, dance, write poetry, act, sing or play an instrument gives children reasons to believe in themselves and their own futures.

For many children from impoverished backgrounds, exposure to the arts can literally mean the difference between a life of accomplishment and one of hopelessness and failure. This idea is not my own; a recent report issued by the President's Committee for the Arts and Humanities, "Coming Up Taller," identified cultural programs that provide young people with safe and productive alternatives to crime, violence, gangs, drugs and other disturbing elements of popular culture.

One of those is the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild in Pittsburgh. It is a testament to the power of the arts to transform children's lives. The organization, which is supported by both the National Endowment for the Arts and donations from corporate and private foundations, trains inner-city schoolchildren in ceramic art and photography and opens their ears to world-class music.

But its students learn much more than how to shape clay, take pictures and appreciate jazz. They leave the guild knowing that they have the potential and tools to become successful and productive citizens. Eighty percent of the guild's students go on to college.

I met Bill Strickland, the founder of the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, last month at a White House ceremony to celebrate arts programs that serve "at-risk" youth. Bill was himself headed in a downward spiral, he says, until an inner-city art teacher introduced him to "ceramics, jazz, and beautiful objects" and taught him that "having ideas had value."

"I learned that I could achieve recognition from my peers through creative activity," he says.

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Determined to give other children the same opportunities he enjoyed, he founded the guild. "The antidote for these 'at-risk' children, we have discovered, is to surround them with good architecture, good food, good artists and good teachers who are allowed to function in well-equipped environments and who will not accept anything less than the best that the human imagination can provide," he says.

Hundreds of young people have passed through the guild's doors during the past nine years. In that time, the guild has never had a police call, a fight, or a drug or alcohol-related incident. Although it's located in one of Pittsburgh's most depressed neighborhoods, there are no bars on the windows, security cameras in the building or guards at the door.

"Given the current enthusiasm for building prisons to lock people up," Bill said, "I would challenge them to build centers like this one to set children free."

While those who oppose public funding for programs like the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild have not succeeded in abolishing the National Endowment for the Arts and other federal cultural programs, their crusade will continue. And that means that all of us who care about the arts -- and what the arts can do for children -- have to work as hard as we can to protect a 30-year bipartisan commitment to making the arts more accessible to more Americans.

That historical commitment represents a belief that the arts have the power not only to improve our aesthetic surroundings but to improve our society as well. Learning about culture, after all, is fundamental to understanding our own heritage and the diverse world in which we live.

I find it particularly ironic that those who bemoan America's loss of values (particularly those arising from Western civilization) are often the first to recommend cutting public funds for the arts. Without federal support for arts programs, countless children would never be exposed to Sophocles, Shakespeare or Mozart -- or the painting of Georgia O'Keeffe, the music of Wynton Marsalis and the dance of Arthur Mitchell.

Today, funding for the NEA costs every American 32 cents a year, less than the price of a candy bar. For those who wonder whether it is money well spent, ask yourself this question: Would you rather see a child pick up a paintbrush or a pistol? Would you rather see a child pick up a guitar or a gun?

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May 21, 1996

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Father's Day always reminds me of my father's favorite sayings. He was a fountain of advice and cautionary words, most of them designed to keep me and my brothers on a straight track in life.

"When you work, work hard," he used to say. "When you play, play hard. And don't confuse the two."

He constantly reminded us of the advantages we had over his generation and over most people in the world. "You will never know how lucky you are" was a constant refrain.

It was clear to me and my brothers that our father's stern advice was his way of giving us the tools we needed to survive in a tough, competitive world.

To him, part of being a good father meant moving the family to a suburb with good schools, even though the property taxes were higher. It also meant exposing us to some of life's harsher lessons: More than once, he drove us down to skid row to see what happened to people who lacked self-discipline and motivation.

My father probably couldn't have explained what "quality time" was. But he was always there for us -- at meals, on weekends, during holidays -- a fixture in our daily lives.

History and circumstance helped. Fathers in the 1950s had more time to be with their kids. The pace of life just wasn't as hectic then, and economic pressures on families were not nearly as great as they are today.

My father was also blessed to own a small business. He set his own hours and never had to worry about getting permission to go to his children's school and sporting events. If he needed time off, he took it.

Nowadays, meeting one's parental responsibilities is not so simple. Not only do parents have to work longer hours to make a living, they likely have to commute farther to and from their jobs. The trade-off between time and money has become harder and harder for many parents.

Still, I've met fathers at the bottom of the pay scale who make extraordinary sacrifices to spend meaningful time every day with their kids. I've also seen millionaire fathers who are so busy talking on their cellular phones that they ignore their children altogether.

No one can force a father to take responsibility for his children. But there are things that can be done to help fathers become more involved in family life.

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That's what the President and Vice President had in mind when they launched the Fatherhood Initiative last year to find out how the federal government can help fathers fulfill their parental obligations.

So far, the findings are encouraging.

At the Department of Defense, for example, there are many programs that help service men and women cope with being separated from loved ones. Not only does the military offer counseling and support programs for fathers, on some ships, there is a special video room where parents can tape bedtime stories for their children.

A local program sponsored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Hartford, Conn., provides jobs for low-income fathers if they attend parenting classes, spend time with their children and avoid drugs. In some cases, fathers get help from the state in paying child support if they take full responsibility for their children.

The Healthy Start program in Baltimore, sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services, serves women with high-risk pregnancies. But it also involves fathers by requiring them to attend prenatal and pediatric appointments in return for family-planning counseling, jobs and training to use and repair computers.

Through Goals 2000, Even Start and the Family Involvement Partnership for Learning, the Department of Education promotes parental involvement in education. Nearly half of the participants in Even Start are fathers.

Perhaps most important, the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, which the President signed in 1993, guarantees American workers time off for family emergencies.

The President wants to make sure that the federal government practices what it preaches when it comes to the role of fathers in their families. Now, many federal agencies, such as the Department of Transportation, offer parents the options of telecommuting, alternative work schedules, parenting classes and child care.

On this Father's Day, my father won't be here, so I can't thank him for all the love and attention he gave me when I was growing up. But I can thank my husband and the Vice President for being such good fathers to their own children and for helping so many other fathers be the best parents they can be.

Bill and Al, Happy Father's Day.

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June 11, 1996

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A few Sundays ago, a friend and I were walking through one of Washington's residential neighborhoods when we happened upon a little girl selling lemonade from a homemade stand in front of her house. We bought two cups -- for 5 cents apiece.

"How's business?" I asked the little girl.

"It's great," she said. "You're my first customers ever."

The girl couldn't have been more than 5 or 6, but there she was, renewing that time-honored (and vanishing) tradition of American children: spending a hot summer afternoon peddling lemonade to thirsty adults and taking pride in doing something all by herself. My visit with the little girl brought back memories of the ways my brothers and I spent summer days while we were growing up.

We were blessed to live in a community that provided lots of summer activities for children. School cafeterias and playgrounds were open in the morning for arts and crafts projects and vigorous games of scatterball and kickball. Teen-agers hired by the recreational district ran these programs, and all during grade school, I dreamed of becoming one of those supervisors and having a whistle of my own.

Finally, when I turned 13, I was eligible to apply for a position. It was my first real job besides baby-sitting. I had to be interviewed by Mr. O.K. Wilson, a former coach, who ran the summer activities. I can still remember his questions about whether I would take good care of the equipment I'd be given. I swore to guard those bats, balls and board games with my life.

So I was hired. The only trouble with my assignment was that the school was about 2 miles from my home. My mother didn't drive at the time, which meant I had to get to and from work by bike. Worse, I had to carry my equipment with me.

First, I tried balancing the bag on my bike. That was a no go. Then, I put the bag in our old red wagon and tied the handle to my bike seat. I quickly discovered that I couldn't steer. So I ended up walking and pulling the wagon behind me. Finally, I arrived at the playground, which was filled with kids who wanted to climb on my lap, challenge me to endless rounds of jacks or checkers, or beg me to join in games of volleyball. (In these games, the ball rarely cleared the net.)

After lunch, my brothers and I headed for the local swimming pool. I hung out there with my friends for hours, swimming, gossiping and trying to catch the lifeguards' attention. The pool emptied out by closing time because we all had to be home for

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dinner. I had to set the table and help my mom. After dinner, we were out the door again to play until dark.

Thinking back on those summers past, I realize that our days were filled with activities organized by a whole community of caring adults and teen-agers. Too many kids today don't have that help. Instead, they have too much free time and too little supervision. It's a situation that often leads to trouble.

That's why I'm heartened to see efforts in some of our communities that provide our children with productive and safe outlets for their energies.

Under Mayor Bob Lanier, the city of Houston has started soccer leagues and golf instruction for kids, built parks and playgrounds, and supported a variety of youth programs.

Curfews can also be an effective tool for keeping our children safe, especially when they are part of a larger strategy of programs for young people. Two years ago in New Orleans, Mayor Marc Morial declared a dusk-to-dawn curfew for children under 17. Curfew violators are sent to centers staffed by counselors, law enforcement officers, and religious and medical professionals. There, the children and their parents (who are required to meet their children at the center) are counseled about the curfew violation. The counselors help get parents and children to talk to each other more directly about their problems.

After the first year of the curfew -- part of a comprehensive effort to combat juvenile crime that included more summer recreation programs and new summer jobs for young people -- youth crime dropped by 27 percent during the hours it was in effect.

While the causes and solutions to juvenile crime are many, they all begin with adults. Each of us has the responsibility to do something to prevent our children from doing harm to themselves and to others.

With hot summer days now upon us, maybe we can come up with some new ways to recreate the secure, fun and creative environment my brothers and I and so many of our peers enjoyed during our childhood. Our kids deserve nothing less.

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June 18, 1996

**TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Not long after taking office, my husband came home from a jog early one morning to find Kenneth Weaver, his wife, Rosie, and their three children waiting to introduce themselves. One daughter, Melissa, was in a wheelchair. Eleven years old and battling a rare form of cancer, she had come to Washington through the Make-a-Wish foundation.

As the President was getting ready to leave, Kenneth grabbed him by the arm. He wanted my husband to know that the first bill he had signed as President -- the Family and Medical Leave Act -- had made a huge difference to the Weaver family.

"Mr. President, let me tell you something," Kenneth said. "My little girl here is desperately ill. She's probably not going to make it." But because of the family leave law, he was able to take time off from work to be with Melissa without fear of losing his job. It was, he told the President, "the most important time I ever spent in my life."

Six days later, Melissa died.

The Family and Medical Leave Act requires companies with 50 or more workers to grant up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-guaranteed leave to employees who need the time to care for children, spouses or parents with serious health conditions. It also grants time off for workers who are ill themselves and for parents who have just given birth to a new baby or adopted a child. In short, the law helps American workers avoid making an impossible choice between livelihood and parenthood.

When family leave became law in August of 1993, its opponents worried that it would hurt businesses and be abused by workers. But a recently released study conducted by a bipartisan commission has shown that those fears were unfounded.

As many as 3 million workers used the Family and Medical Leave Act during the 18 months covered in the study. Most took about 10 days off -- far short of the 12-week maximum. Eighty-four percent of the leave-takers returned to their same employers. And some 90 percent of businesses reported that complying with the law required little or no extra cost.

In some cases, companies found that the policy actually helped them save money by reducing turnover and eliminating the expense of training new workers. "If the ethical obligation we all have as employers isn't reason enough to support these types of leaves, the financial impact certainly is," Terri Wolfe, human resources director

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at Patagonia, a large clothing manufacturer, told the bipartisan commission. "The choice to implement family and medical leave policies is a matter of priorities."

Taking care of and spending time with a loved one who is seriously ill is an emotionally wrenching and physically draining process. I know from my own experience.

When my father fell ill just after we moved into the White House, I flew back to Little Rock and spent more than two weeks at his bedside. My father, mother, brothers and I spent hours reminiscing about the old days in our home on Wisner Street in Park Ridge, Ill. We laughed about our vacations to Pennsylvania and my brothers' childhood hijinks. We talked of Chelsea and our hopes for her. Although we didn't -- and couldn't -- say it in so many words, those weeks helped us strengthen our bonds of affection, respect and love. I'll always be grateful that I could be with my father before he died.

I was lucky because I didn't have to make a choice between family and work. I was no longer working as a lawyer, and my husband was President. I was able to give my family all the time and attention they needed.

The same should be true for all Americans.

This week, at Vice President and Mrs. Gore's annual family conference in Nashville -- which this year focused on balancing the pressures of family and work responsibilities -- the President announced several new initiatives to make America's workplaces even more "family friendly." He hopes to expand family leave to allow for 24 hours of unpaid time off each year so that parents can attend parent-teacher conferences and take children or elderly relatives to the doctor. And he wants to change labor laws to give workers the option of taking their overtime pay in time off from work.

We should all consider the family leave law a positive first step in our effort to strengthen families in America. We need to find other ways of giving American workers more flexibility to care for their children and their parents without hurting their employers' bottom lines.

The President never forgot his meeting with Kenneth Weaver and his daughter Melissa. They are a reminder of the difference one law can make in the lives of our children and families.

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June 25, 1996

NOTE TO HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON EDITORS: TWO PIECES OF ART FROM THE "SUPERMAN: DEADLY LEGACY" COMIC BOOK ACCOMPANY THIS COLUMN. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION. -- CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

**TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The newest comic book to hit the streets in Sarajevo is an American classic with a modern twist. Predictably, the hero wears a red cape and has a large "S" emblazoned across his chest. He has special vision, supernatural powers and a big heart.

But this Superman doesn't just fight villains in a mythical Metropolis. He is crossing the Atlantic to warn children in Bosnia and Herzegovina about the dangers of land mines in a region still emerging from the darkness of war.

Superman's arrival in Bosnia is the result of a public and private partnership involving our Defense Department, United Nations Ambassador Madeleine Albright, UNICEF and its special representative Judy Collins, Warner Bros. and DC Comics. The comic book will be a vital educational tool in a country where millions of land mines currently lie in wait for vulnerable children and civilians.

I was honored to help unveil the comic book at the White House this week and to announce a new American hospital partnership that will help boost the recovery effort in Bosnia.

Standing in the East Room with children from Bosnia -- some of them war refugees -- and watching the mayors of Tuzla, Bosnia, and Buffalo, N.Y., sign the hospital agreement, I felt pride in our nation's tradition of humanitarian assistance and our commitment to democracy in the former Yugoslavia and around the world.

The hospital partnership, sponsored by our government through the U.S. Agency for International Development and the American International Health Alliance, will involve Buffalo General Hospital and the Tuzla Clinical Center. Like other hospital partnerships that I've visited in Russia, Estonia, Ukraine and Belarus, this one will benefit both hospitals and countries involved.

Not only will American physicians and nurses be exposed to new and different medical challenges, the resources, expertise and technology they bring to Bosnia will improve the availability and quality of medical care for tens of thousands of people

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there. Many of those needing care are women, children and refugees suffering from physical and emotional traumas associated with years of violence and war.

Already, American medical personnel from Buffalo have traveled to Tuzla and worked side by side with their Bosnian colleagues, even in the midst of war and violence. They have procured \$1.5 million in supplies for use in Tuzla. And Eli Lilly & Co. has committed \$250,000 in donations for next year.

In addition to expanding pediatric services, improving pre-natal care and the treatment of chronic diseases, the hospital partnership will enable the Tuzla Clinical Center to improve its care of children maimed and injured by land mines, many of whom are taken there.

Today, one out of every eight homes in Bosnia is endangered because of a proximity to mines. In central Bosnia, one of every three acres of land is unusable because of mines. And even though the fighting is over and peace has taken hold, the detonation of land mines has become the most common cause of serious injury in the country.

The prevalence of mines prompted UNICEF to launch a mine-awareness campaign for children and civilians. Superman seemed just the sort of person to help get the message across.

The comic book, called "Superman: Deadly Legacy," tells the story of two boys in Bosnia. They are walking along a road looking for a friend when one bends down to pick up some debris from a mortar. Quickly, Superman pulls him away, and the boy narrowly misses stepping on a mine concealed underground.

As the boys continue to search for their friend, Superman teaches them how to avoid places where land mines might be hidden: bombed-out houses, abandoned buildings, old checkpoints and trench lines. Even paths and bridges are sometimes littered with land mines, Superman explains.

With Superman's help, the boys eventually find their friend but not before happening upon a wounded dog (who dies) and a playmate who has lost a leg and is wrapped in bandages. He tripped a mine while practicing soccer in an open field.

It is a chilling tale, one that reflects the chilling reality of children's lives in Bosnia. But it is also a tale of hope for the people of Bosnia who, with our help, will be able to take one more step to a stable, peaceful and democratic future.

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October 21, 1996

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**TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

My husband wrapped up the final campaign of his political career this week. I was at his side 22 years ago in northwest Arkansas when he ran for Congress -- and lost. And I have been a part of every single one of his subsequent campaigns -- for attorney general, governor and president -- endeavors that have taken us to all corners of Arkansas and America. This last campaign was a remarkable, moving experience that made me very proud of my husband and proud to be an American.

For most of this fall, I was on the road, traveling across our country from Florida to Missouri to Oregon, asking Americans to re-elect Bill Clinton and Al Gore. I'll always remember the sights and sounds of the past few months: college campuses covered in homecoming banners and the colors of fall, schoolchildren in Yelm, Wash., debuting a song written by one of their teachers, "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child," and a chorus of 4,000 voices led by Garrison Keillor in an impromptu rendition of "Home on the Range" in Faribault, Minn.

Sometimes, it seemed like I was eating my way across the country. I was invited to sample the local specialties everywhere I went -- from barbecued ribs in Kansas City to tacos and enchiladas in San Antonio to deep-dish pizza in Chicago to lasagne and spaghetti in Bangor, Maine. I also carried a little bottle of hot sauce to rev up each meal. After 18-hour days, the sauce provided just the kick I needed to keep going. For my birthday, I took hearty helpings of at least six different cakes at my various stops.

Luckily, my stomach was empty when I tried out the new "Tower of Terror" ride during a stop to celebrate Disney World's 25th anniversary. The ride, which sends you down a 13-story elevator shaft, was no shock after four years in Washington.

But at the heart of all these campaign experiences were the people. This campaign was about the thousands of Americans I met in schools, community centers, churches, restaurants and rallies. They took time from their busy schedules to learn about the candidates and share with me their own hopes and dreams for the future.

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At a rally in Iowa, I had the chance to catch up with Ryan Moore, a 10-year-old boy living with several birth defects whom I met two years ago during the health care debates on Capitol Hill. I was heartened to see that time hadn't dimmed the bright smile and happy disposition Ryan had charmed me with in 1994. Ryan stayed by my side for a whole day of campaigning.

In Arizona, I dropped in on Barry Goldwater, the first politician I ever campaigned for. Though much has changed since my "Goldwater Girl" days, it was a great honor to see him. I also met many other dedicated men and women willing to take on the challenges of running for office.

Looking back, I realize that almost every person I met, whether he or she was a senior citizen, a college student or a working mom, had similar aspirations and concerns. I believe that most people play by the rules and are trying to do the best they can to support their families. We all want to be good parents and to be able to give our children the time, love and discipline they need. We all want to be able to send our children to good schools. We all want to live in safe neighborhoods. We all want to be able to see a doctor when we get sick and to retire in security when we grow old.

This fall, I met people all over the country who are rolling up their sleeves and working together to make these things happen. They are forming partnerships to fight crime in their neighborhoods, improve their local schools, clean up the environment and expand opportunities for young people.

At an elementary school in a poor section of Lynn, Mass., I met parents, teachers and administrators who had pulled together to improve their school. They set up night classes for adults, special family nights, and after-school and Saturday enrichment programs for students. The parents and the teachers told me the spirit of working together had spread beyond the school to the whole community.

"Ten years ago, people all looked the other way and said, 'It's not my problem,'" one woman said. "We don't have that feeling anymore. We feel empowered. We help each other out."

No matter who you voted for, our country needs every one of us -- not just those whose names appeared on ballots -- to work to build America's future.

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November 5, 1996

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

I am writing this week's column on Air Force One, still in the pale blue evening suit I wore to the state dinner hosted by the King and Queen of Thailand at the Grand Palace in Bangkok. My head is spinning -- and not just because it's past midnight and we're about to fly halfway around the world to get home in time for Thanksgiving. I'm mentally digesting the memorable experiences I had in Australia, the Philippines and Thailand.

I'll never forget my first sight of the Opera House in the harbor, in Sydney, Australia, the solemn splendor of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, or the visual power of the aboriginal art. I'll never forget the feel of a kangaroo's fur or the expression in the eyes of a koala bear named Chelsea, the rainbow colors of the Great Barrier Reef through my snorkeling mask, or the sounds of friendly Australian voices saying "G'day" -- just like in the movies!

In the Philippines, we stayed in the MacArthur Suite in the Manila Hotel, which was Gen. MacArthur's home after he returned during World War II. In one room, there is a collection of memorabilia, including a display on the wall of all his medals and decorations. I walked around the room imagining the history that was made there. Meanwhile, history was also being made at the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting my husband attended. Manila was alight with Christmas decorations to welcome the heads of state who had come to discuss trade issues.

At the city's new cultural center, I felt the warmth and friendship of the crowd of more than 12,000 people -- most of them women. I spoke about progress being made around the world to protect women's rights and applauded the actions taken in the Philippines to promote family planning and reduce domestic violence.

After Manila, I headed to Northern Thailand, where I planned to see two projects designed to educate girls and protect them from child prostitution. When I landed at Chiang Rai, I was greeted by a troupe of 200 dancers in traditional Thai costumes and hundreds of children waving American and Thai flags.

The first project I visited, Thai Women of Tomorrow, pays families a small stipend to permit their daughters to attend school. As I stood in front of the rows of schoolgirls dressed in uniforms of white blouses and blue skirts, I thought about how young they were and how thousands of girls their age all over the world are denied not only the opportunity to learn but the chance to be young before they grow old.

In the hills above Chiang Rai, I visited a hill-tribe village where some of the students are from. Hill-tribe girls, whose families are desperately poor, usually illiterate and frequently stateless, are especially vulnerable to exploitation. I spoke with several girls, who were clothed in their native dress, and their parents, who explained how they had decided education and job training could prepare their daughters for better and longer-lasting careers than potentially deadly lives as prostitutes.

When I returned to the airport, the full moon was up and the dancers and children were still there. Music filled the air, and the tarmac was a sea of dancing lights. The dancers had strapped candles to their delicate wrists, and children waved paper lanterns.

As our plane approached Chiang Mai, Thailand's second largest city, the sky was full of tiny red stars, which turned out to be hot-air paper lanterns launched as part of the annual Festival of Lights held during the last full moon of the lunar year. It is a three-day celebration of fireworks, lanterns and candle-lit floats made of banana leaves and flowers. The Thai people believe they can load the sins of the past year and wishes for the future onto these floats. After asking for forgiveness, they then cast the floats off into a river or lake. I lit one and placed it in the Ping River, where it joined the procession.

I thought about forgiveness and hope the next day when I visited the second project of my trip, the New Life Center. Run by Rev. Lauren Bethel, an American missionary, the center gives girls rescued from prostitution a second chance at life. I also met girls from the House of Love, a shelter for former prostitutes dying from AIDS. One 18-year-old girl came in a wheelchair. She had been sold as a maid when she was 10 and then forced into prostitution. Even after she became HIV-positive, she had to keep working. Only after she became too sick with AIDS to function was she taken to the hospital. As I knelt beside her, I could see the skin stretched tightly across her face. She tried to speak but could not be heard. She was not expected to live out the week.

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Despite witnessing the ravages of AIDS and the cruel reality of how girls are still being exploited, I came away from the center hopeful and heartened. I was encouraged by the commitment of private individuals, like Rev. Bethel, the organizations that support such work and the growing willingness of governments to combat sexual exploitation and the economic and social problems that lead to it. The Thai government has enacted legislation and adopted a plan to end child prostitution. The United States has passed a law permitting the prosecution of any citizen who engages in such illegal activities. No one who saw the face of that dying girl in the wheelchair could doubt the urgency of persuading more countries to take similar steps.

So, as I fly home to my daughter, I want to give thanks for her and for all our children -- and wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving.

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November 26, 1996

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Last week in the Oval Office, 7-year-old Adam looked uncomfortable. He stared down at the floor, at the ceiling, anywhere but at the President, who had asked him a question. Adam, who is living in foster care, had come to watch the President deliver his weekly radio address about the new steps his administration is taking to streamline and encourage adoption.

After the radio address and a discussion with adoptive families, Bill invited Adam to sit behind his desk and to explore the nooks and crannies of the Oval Office. Within minutes, Adam came out of his shell. He was full of smiles and questions as he made himself comfortable in the huge leather chair and inspected Bill's coin and badge collection.

I found it difficult to believe that this beaming and vivacious child had no permanent place to call home. Adam is just one of the thousands of children in communities across our country -- children with tremendous capacities to love and bring new joy and energy into a home -- who are still waiting for the love of a mother, a father and a family. These children live with few constants but painful memories of neglect or abuse, growing case files and the hope that someday they will join loving, permanent families.

My husband and I have considered adopting ourselves, but as Bill said in a recent interview: "If ... we were going to adopt a little baby at our age, if we stayed healthy, we could raise the child, but I think it is very important for people to bond with an infant, and it would require massive amounts of time that I don't know whether we could guarantee the child at this moment. If you took an older child that would have a bigger, more difficult adjustment period and would think it was a little weird living in the White House, then that also would require a lot of time. So, I'm doubtful that we could do it right here."

We are, however, both committed to doing whatever we can to help move our country's waiting children out of the limbo of foster care. Earlier this year, the President signed a \$5,000 tax credit to help families adopt children. In 1994, the administration and Congress put an end to racial preferences for adoption, making it illegal to deny or delay any child a loving home simply because the adoptive parents are of a different race. And at the radio address last week, as adoptive families and waiting children watched, the President announced more encouraging news for the tens of thousands

of children in our country's foster-care system and the families who could someday offer them love and permanent homes.

Bill issued a new directive that calls upon his administration to take definite steps to double the number of children who are placed in permanent homes, from 27,000 a year today to 54,000 a year by 2002. By early next year, Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala will report to the President on how the federal government can help states set and meet new adoption targets. She will study how local, state and federal authorities can best work together to encourage adoption in all communities, and she'll make recommendations about the laws and regulations that need to be changed or added to ensure children don't get trapped in foster care.

The President has also asked the secretaries of Treasury, Labor, Commerce and Health and Human Services to launch an all-out effort to heighten public awareness about adoption and recognize those in the private sector who are committing themselves to this important cause. There are already many businesses, television stations, foundations and citizens who are working hard to spread the word about waiting children and to support parents who want to adopt. The National Adoption Center and Children Awaiting Parents maintain a web site called "Faces of Adoption" (www.inetcom.net/adopt/photo.html) with 280 photos of brothers and sisters who need to be adopted together and children between the ages of 7 and 16 who are waiting to be adopted. It also offers comprehensive information on adoption, from support-group lists to legislative news and strategies for financial assistance.

During this holiday season, as we make time to be with our families and recognize how much we love and rely on our parents, spouses, children and other relatives, let us all work together to find loving homes for the boys and girls who need them.

Write to Hillary Rodham Clinton at 71154,1271, and include the First Lady's name in your subject line and a U.S. postal address. Mrs. Clinton welcomes readers' comments, but the volume of mail prevents her from answering each letter personally.

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**TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For years, Sarah Clay supported her two children with low-wage jobs in child care and retail sales, relying occasionally on food stamps to make ends meet. Again and again, she was turned down for better-paying jobs because she didn't have a college degree. "I was running into a brick wall as far as being able to make a livable income," she said.

So, at the age of 42, the single mother decided to go back to school. Pell grants, student loans and academic scholarships covered the cost of her tuition. But there was still the issue of transportation. She lived more than an hour away from campus and had no money for gas.

Then, Clay heard about the Single Parent Scholarship Fund, a privately supported Arkansas program that offers grants of up to \$500 a semester to single parents living at or near the poverty level who are also enrolled in college or vocational training programs. She applied for and received a scholarship that covered the cost of gas and maintenance on her car. While modest, the scholarship made a huge difference in her ability to do well in class and be a good mother to her young son and teen-age daughter. Clay graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in 1994 and earned a master's in social work two years later. She now works with children and families through the Arkansas Department of Human Services.

I met Sarah and four other women helped by the fund at a dinner earlier this week in Little Rock. The fund got its start in a northwest Arkansas county more than 10 years ago. Its founder, a man named Ralph Nesson, noticed that many poor, single parents were having difficulty going to college or vocational school to earn the degrees they needed to find better jobs.

Nesson, who worked in a community-action agency, discovered that a number of factors conspired against these single parents: the high cost of tuition and books, the absence of extended family or friends to help with child care, a lack of transportation and a lack of information about available scholarships and other assistance. So, Nesson and his colleagues raised a scholarship fund to help single parents meet the challenges of raising children and going to college.

I first heard of the Single Parent Scholarship Fund in 1989, when its founders invited me to help introduce the program throughout Arkansas. Over the past seven years, local scholarship committees across the state have awarded 3,148 grants worth

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\$1.2 million and have posted success rates that are the envy of many institutions of higher learning. Seventy-five percent of the scholarship recipients have remained in school or graduated from college, and 72 percent now have careers in fields such as nursing, education, engineering and social work.

I have met dozens of scholarship recipients like Sarah Clay who just needed the helping hand provided by the fund to keep them on the road to greater economic independence. They weren't people looking for a handout or a free ride but women eager to make the sacrifices and commitments necessary to further their education, acquire the skills they needed to succeed and improve conditions for themselves and their families.

The only thing standing in their way was the ability to go back to or stay in school.

Today, education is critical to every citizen's economic security. We live in an Information Age -- an age when education can mean the difference between having a job or no job; between a decent job or a dead-end job; between a sense of fulfillment or a sense of futility.

Nearly one-third of all American families are headed by single parents. And at a time when a woman with a college degree can earn more than double what a woman without one earns, single parent scholarships are needed more than ever. They can be important tools in our efforts to help the many single mothers who are striving to free themselves from welfare dependence. For many of these women, a scholarship can offer not only much needed financial help on the long, hard road to independence but also a vote of confidence in their ability to learn and succeed.

There is no reason that this wonderful idea can't work in places beyond Arkansas. Single parent scholarships can be replicated in communities all across the country. Local businesses, foundations, churches, civic organizations and private citizens can join together to form their own scholarship funds and committees to help single parents in their communities lift themselves and their families out of poverty and off public assistance.

The investment is minimal. But the rewards for the recipient and our communities are great. "I feel self-sufficient. I don't have to depend on anyone anymore," Clay said. "I've got the tools I need to be productive and to make a contribution to society. I have a real sense of freedom because of that."

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TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Here is some news that should bring peace of mind to millions of parents who work outside the home and entrust their children to child care. A long-term study sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development has concluded that children in high-quality day care are just as well off intellectually as children cared for at home by full-time mothers.

But wait a minute, you say. Just last week, there were news reports about an Arkansas church that decided to close its day-care center to force more mothers to stay at home. Church board members said that working mothers were harmful to the family and neglectful of their children.

What's going on here?

The latest research findings should help ease the confusion about what is best for our children. The study -- the most detailed to date -- shows that the quality of child care has a strong influence on a child's development. Researchers discovered that while home and family are the primary influences in a child's life, a nurturing, stimulating day-care environment can indeed have positive effects on our children's cognitive growth. Quality child care in the early years -- care with a high degree of interaction between the adult caregiver and the child -- can also lead to a stronger bond between mother and child. The study did note, however, that children who spend a great deal of time in child care tend to have slightly weaker relationships with their mothers.

In short: Children need love, attention, stimulation and discipline no matter what setting they are in, whether it is with their own parents, baby sitters, day-care workers, preschool teachers, neighbors or relatives. What matters most is the quality of care they receive.

I have seen examples over the years of parents who work full-time and still manage to give their children boundless love and support and others who are stressed out and distracted. And I've seen parents who stay at home all day and are uninvolved, inattentive and emotionally divorced from the children they are raising and others who are models of parenthood. And I, like many working mothers, have seen examples of child care that run the gamut from shameful to superlative.

Put simply, good parenting and good child care are good for children, while lousy parenting and lousy child care are not.

Rather than leap to emotional and impulsive conclusions about the "right" and "wrong" roles for mothers who work in or out of the home, we should focus our energies on ways to help parents ensure that their children's emotional and developmental needs are met, especially during the earliest years.

Most women work outside the home for reasons of economic necessity, not choice. Half of all mothers today return to work before their babies' first birthdays because their families depend on their incomes to make ends meet. And today, the economic and social shifts that have made women valued and essential members of our work force have also made child care a fact of life for most Americans.

As a result, strengthening our child-care system must be a national priority. While there is a variety of child-care options in our country -- from family day-care homes where one adult supervises several children to day-care centers affiliated with churches, universities and businesses -- the quality of care is often uneven.

There are several reasons why: Too many child-care workers are undervalued, underpaid and undertrained. Too many environments for child care do not meet standards of cleanliness, space and size. And too many deny children the affection and attention they need.

Each of us has a stake in changing this situation. As a nation, we need to insist that the training and pay of child-care workers become a higher priority. Businesses can do their part by making sure employees have access to affordable, quality child care through on-site child-care centers, referral services, flexible work schedules and even tax advantages for salary used for child care. And government can play a role in providing subsidies for working parents who are struggling financially and women who are moving from welfare to the work force.

Parents themselves also need to demand better care. Parents can learn a lot about child care by making unannounced visits to a site before and after enrolling their children. They should investigate a site's basic safety, the experience and training of workers, and whether the setting is appropriate for their child's stage of development.

Research and science are telling us more about the kind of care and interactions our children need from the adults in their lives. Now we owe it to ourselves and our children to make good on the reliable new information we have.

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April 8, 1997

TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On a hot summer day in 1982, while helping Bill campaign for governor in a small Arkansas town, I approached a group of women and children and introduced myself. Chelsea -- who was just a toddler then -- was holding my hand when I said to one mother cradling a newborn, "I bet you're having fun, playing with her and talking to her all the time."

The woman gave me a baffled look and said, "Why would I talk to her? She can't talk back."

I wasn't quite sure how to respond. Bill and I knew that talking and reading to Chelsea was not only fun but also helped her begin talking and reading on her own. But we couldn't say why. Until now. In the past few years, researchers have found scientific evidence for what many parents always suspected: Time spent talking, singing and reading to an infant strengthens the bond between parent and child and helps the child develop emotionally and intellectually. In fact, it literally helps a baby's brain grow.

At birth, an infant's brain is far from fully formed. During the first three years of life, the brain is a sponge, absorbing every bit of activity in its environment. It must rely on the stimulation of its surroundings -- a mother's loving voice, sunlight from a window, the warmth of being held against a parent's chest -- to help connect its cells to each other and "turn on" the child's capacity to learn, feel, communicate and relate to others. And without proper stimulation and loving attention from adults in these early years, a child is far less likely to live up to his emotional and intellectual potential.

Thursday, Bill and I will be hosting a day-long conference at the White House to discuss these new scientific findings -- most of them the work of American scientists in government-sponsored labs such as the National Institutes of Health -- and what they mean not only to families but to teachers, employers, lawmakers and our society as a whole. The White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning will bring together leading neuroscientists, pediatricians and child-development specialists with child-care providers, business and religious leaders and others whom we will rely on to help put this new knowledge into practice. It will be transmitted via satellite to some 80 schools, colleges and hospitals across the country.

I'm excited about the conference for a number of reasons. First, we hope to share ways to help parents make sense of and apply this new knowledge in their daily

interactions with children. Second, we hope to spur lawmakers, educators and business leaders to recognize the role this information about early childhood development must play in policy-making. Given what we now know about the first years of life, we have an even greater responsibility to bring issues such as expanding early childhood education and improving child care to the top of our national agenda.

And most of all, I hope this conference will help lay to rest the counterproductive, yet enduring, debate in our society over nurture vs. nature in determining a person's success in life. The new research offers evidence that we are the result of both. Our character and potential are far from completely determined at birth. And we can work together to provide all children with the physical, emotional and intellectual nurturing they need to become healthy and productive citizens.

Today, just 39 percent of parents read to their infants and toddlers daily. But we are already witnessing some hopeful efforts to change this statistic and make good use of the new knowledge about the importance of reading in the early years. This week, I announced a new national partnership among several sectors of our society to encourage more parents to read regularly to their infants and toddlers.

Through a national program called Reach Out and Read, pediatricians, who often are the first professionals to have regular contact with new families, will "prescribe" reading aloud to young patients and their parents during every visit. Publishers such as Scholastic Inc. and non-profit organizations such as First Book have promised to contribute hundreds of thousands of free books to health clinics across the country that serve needy families. And through its Born to Read program, the American Library Association will work with the nation's 16,000 public libraries to establish partnerships with health-care professionals to teach the critical importance of reading and pre-school learning.

But with all this attention on the importance of the first three years, let's not lose sight of the fact that learning is never a one-shot deal. As any parent who has shepherded a child from infancy through adolescence can tell you, children need the love of parents, the attention of teachers and the guidance of mentors at all stages of growing up. As a country whose continuing prosperity depends on unlocking the potential of all our citizens, we can't afford to leave any of our children behind.

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April 15, 1997

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

When our daughter, Chelsea, was 9, she had to have her tonsils taken out. Though we knew it was a low-risk medical procedure, Bill and I were nervous wrecks. But our family was lucky because we had health insurance. Paying for Chelsea's hospital stay was the least of our worries.

Given the stress we felt when our child was hospitalized overnight for a relatively minor procedure, I can barely imagine the heartache experienced by parents who can't afford health insurance for their children each time a child becomes ill. In too many cases, they are overwhelmed by questions not only of how and when their sick child will respond to treatment but whether they will be able to afford the necessary medical care in the first place.

The time is long overdue for all of us to address what I believe is an economic, social and moral crisis in our country. The United States is the only industrialized nation that does not extend health coverage to all of its children. There is no good reason our country, which is blessed with the most advanced and innovative medical facilities and talent in the world, continues to allow so many children to grow up without regular access to basic health care.

Today, nearly 10 million American children under 18 have no health insurance. A recent study showed that 20 million children were without insurance for at least one month over a two-year period. As health-care costs and insurance premiums keep rising, fewer employers are offering health insurance to their workers. And more and more working parents are finding that, after paying the rent, heat, electricity and grocery bills, they cannot afford coverage for their children.

What is most surprising is that the majority of our uninsured children are not poor. At least two-thirds of all uninsured children are being raised by working parents whose incomes are above the official poverty level. In fact, the number of poor, uninsured children has been decreasing (thanks to Medicaid), while the number of uninsured middle-class children has been increasing.

What this means is that too many children who have trouble seeing a blackboard do not get the glasses they need to correct their vision. Too many nagging coughs go untreated until they worsen into life-threatening conditions that require costly treatments and lengthy hospital stays. And many parents,

faced with the threat of an uninsured injury, forbid their children to play sports or visit the playground.

Some people believe we cannot guarantee health care to all children because of cost. But, as other countries have already found, a sensible child health insurance system is a critical, cost-effective investment in the future. That's because most children who become seriously ill or injured are eventually treated somewhere and at a much greater cost than their parents -- or we -- would have paid if their symptoms had been treated earlier.

In negotiations over the new balanced budget, the President has made sure that as many as 5 million children currently living without health insurance can get the coverage and care they deserve. And this spring, several bills are making their way through Congress that build on innovative efforts begun in individual states to cover all uninsured children and make it easier for working parents to buy health insurance for their children.

In recent years, many states have been able to insure thousands of children by expanding Medicaid benefits to include older children and children living in families whose incomes are slightly above the poverty level. Others have created new state-funded child insurance programs or joined forces with private insurance companies to subsidize premiums for needy families.

These efforts represent a good start. But the question of whether a sick American child gets needed medical treatment should not depend on where he or she lives. We must encourage members of Congress to create a plan that ensures every single child in our country enjoys the same health care and security Bill and I are able to give our own daughter.

Providing health care to all of our children is more than just a political challenge. It is a test of our faith in the future and of whether our rhetoric about family values will be translated into action on behalf of our children.

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May 20, 1997

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

I've watched my husband deliver hundreds of speeches over the years, from informal chats in town halls to national addresses on Inauguration Day.

But I've never seen him as nervous as he was last week, when he gave the commencement remarks to Chelsea's graduating high school class.

Nor have I seen him as overtaken with emotion, especially when our daughter doubled back after receiving her diploma on stage and threw her arms around her father.

I know from my relationship with my own dad how important fathers are to their daughters. And it's certainly true for Bill and Chelsea. From the moment she came into the world, Bill has been an anchor in her life, and she in his.

Bill never knew his own father, who was killed in an auto accident three months before he was born. That may be one reason he has been so attentive to his own daughter and so determined to provide her with the love, support and care that every child needs.

Bill was with me in the delivery room when Chelsea was born. In the months afterward, he willingly took turns changing diapers, giving bottles, telling bedtime stories and rocking her to sleep.

As Chelsea grew older, his role expanded. He had no rivals when it came to cheering in the stands for her grammar school softball team. He spent hours late at night helping her with her homework. And he wouldn't dream of missing her annual ballet recital.

Whenever his schedule permitted, he also took Chelsea to work with him, starting when she was 3 or 4. He set up a little desk in the corner of his office where she sat and colored. I remember walking in one day and seeing him earnestly explain some complicated issue to her as she played with the telephone. I think of that today when he talks with her about some matter on his mind while we sit at the dinner table.

Today, we recognize more than previous generations the importance of fathers in their young children's daily lives, whether it is reading a book to an infant, attending a parent-teacher conference or chaperoning a teenager's birthday party. We are also discovering that many men want to spend more time with their children, only to face the same obstacles that women do when it comes to balancing work and family life.

In a new book titled "Working Fathers," Dr. James A. Levine suggests that a lot of fathers are just as torn about meeting their responsibilities to their jobs and their families as women are. The difference is that most men have been conditioned not to talk about the conflicts they feel. And many continue to confront an age-old stereotype of fathers as providers for the family who can't risk taking time off from work to accompany a child to the doctor or a piano lesson.

As a result, the concerns and anxieties that men feel go unstated in discussions about how to create family-friendly work environments. Too often, there's an assumption that new work strategies such as flex time, parental leave and telecommuting are designed for mothers, not fathers, when in fact they can be beneficial to both.

The good news, according to Levine, is that several major corporations have taken steps to help mothers and fathers integrate their family and work lives. And increasingly, men are making their voices heard, too, turning down promotions or job changes that would put unwanted pressure on their families.

More men are understanding how fast the child-rearing years go by and how much they will miss if they don't participate fully in raising their children. As the old saying goes, "No one on his deathbed ever says he wishes he spent more time at the office."

Given the shifting roles of parents these days, and the inevitable stresses and strains that modern life imposes on families, I hope we will use this Father's Day to encourage all fathers to reap the rewards that engaged and active parenthood can bring.

Most of all, I hope we will give fathers the love and support they need as they try to fulfill the many roles that we have come to expect from them.

To fathers like my own who believed their primary responsibility was to provide financial security, and fathers like my husband who have consciously tried to combine work and family activities, and fathers-to-be in the next generation who may find the best balance yet -- let's all join in saying: Happy Father's Day. And from Chelsea and me, Happy Father's Day, Mr. President.

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June 10, 1997

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, D.C., is not a place that conjures up images of great public schools. For too long, the education system in our nation's capital has been dogged by low expectations, lagging standards, crumbling buildings and wasted resources.

Yet despite these shortcomings, there are schools in Washington that are hidden jewels, offering important lessons about how public education can succeed even in the most difficult circumstances.

Two public schools I visited recently are cases in point.

At Banneker High School, all 82 members of the senior class have been accepted to college. Together, they've won hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships and grants. They have all studied Latin and completed year-long research papers on authors as varied as Samuel Beckett and V.S. Naipaul. Every student volunteers in the community throughout four years of high school.

Founded in 1981, Banneker serves 400 high-achieving students of different economic backgrounds from neighborhoods throughout Washington. What they share is a dream of higher education.

When I delivered the commencement address at Banneker earlier this month, I saw just how motivated these students are. Some travel miles across the city just to attend the school. Some give up their Friday nights to work on homework assignments.

One young woman was particularly memorable: Both of her parents were drug abusers. Her mother died this winter, and her father landed in jail. But even in the face of family traumas, the girl persevered in school. With the support of relatives who took her in, as well as friends and teachers, she graduated near the top of her class, won numerous scholarships and was admitted to some of the nation's finest universities. She will attend college on a full scholarship in the fall.

Skeptics may say that Banneker has succeeded simply because it has the luxury of being academically competitive, skimming the best students from other schools. It's true that admission is based on class rank, standardized tests, interviews and recommendations.

But it's also true that more students are yearning for the Banneker experience. Only 100 of 300 who apply to Banneker get in. With that kind of demand, there could be more schools like Banneker across the city and the country.

It's also worth remembering that a selective student body is only part of the story. At Banneker and other schools I have visited, success depends as much on teachers, administrators and parents setting high standards and high expectations. And it depends on the local community pitching in with support.

Many teachers at Banneker stay for hours after school to meet with students. The custodians and security staff pride themselves on maintaining a campus that is immaculate and safe. Parents willingly give their time as volunteers and tutors and help out during field trips and school activities.

Banneker offers a compelling portrait of how one community has come together on behalf of public education in a challenging urban setting. I saw another example when I visited J.O. Wilson Elementary School.

A little over a year ago, community organizations and church congregations from throughout the city recruited volunteers, raised money and garnered support from the private sector to expand after-school activities in the public schools. As a result, J.O. Wilson has been transformed into an after-school safe haven and learning center for children and families in the surrounding neighborhood.

On a recent visit, I saw classrooms that used to sit empty and dark after school. Now they're filled with children extending their learning during non-school hours. One group of youngsters was busy playing chess under the supervision of a community volunteer who offered tips about strategy. Other students were writing plays and illustrating them. Some were working on photography projects. Still others were competing at sports.

I was also impressed to see parents coming to the school to hone their computer skills and study for their GEDs.

Although the program is only a few months old, it confirms the findings of a newly released Department of Education report which says that safe, organized after-school activities strengthen the links among home, school and the larger community. Most of all, these programs expand access to education and give children and their families a greater stake in their own futures.

As I have said many times, you can go into any neighborhood in America and find schools that work and schools that don't.

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But every time I visit a school like those I've seen in Washington recently, I ask myself: Why don't more schools learn from those that are succeeding? Why don't more communities copy the successes of Banneker High School and the after-school program at J.O. Wilson Elementary School? Why don't we provide opportunities for all children who are willing to work hard to meet the rigors of a more challenging curriculum?

There are a lot of great ideas in our public education system that don't require new buildings, more equipment or fancy technology. They simply require the desire and commitment of parents, teachers, administrators and the surrounding community. And they require faith in our children's capacity to excel.

Instead of worrying about what's wrong with our schools, let's focus on what's right. Our public schools can succeed, even in places where we think they can't.

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June 17, 1997

TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The reality of foster care was brought home to Bill and me when we met a teenage boy at the White House this winter. Bill asked him where he was from. "Fairfax County," the boy said. When Bill asked where in the county, the boy shrugged and answered, "All over."

Unfortunately, thousands of children in our foster care system today have similar stories to tell. Because of the complex regulations, outdated assumptions, and understaffed and overwhelmed agencies of our child welfare system, too many children spend their formative years shuttling from one foster home to another. Today, even children lucky enough to find adoptive families will have waited an average of three years or more in a series of temporary homes.

But that can change. The Senate and the House of Representatives are both considering bills that will take important steps toward making sure that no child languishes in foster care.

Currently, a child's case can drag on for years in the foster care system as authorities make repeated attempts to reunite a child with his or her biological parents. Often, these parents, for a variety of reasons, are unable to change the behavior that caused them to lose their child in the first place. If either bill becomes law, "reasonable efforts" to return a child to his or her family would not be required in extreme cases such as torture, abandonment, or physical or sexual abuse. Court hearings to determine the placement of a child would be required within 12 months -- instead of the current 18 months -- of his or her arrival in the foster care system. To make clear their purpose, these hearings would be renamed "permanency planning hearings."

As a children's advocate and lawyer who has represented parents and children in their struggles with the foster care system for more than 25 years, I believe these steps are long overdue. In 1973, I wrote an article about children's rights under the law, specifically their rights in family situations that pose serious threats to their health and safety. Even a few years ago, some considered this view controversial. Critics suggested that by supporting a child's right to a loving family, I advocated giving government more power to break up biological families and giving children the right to bring trivial disputes with their parents -- such as bedtime or who takes out the garbage -- to court.

Thankfully, that erroneous interpretation of my views has given way to a new bipartisan consensus around the idea that protecting our children from harm and working to provide them with permanent, loving families -- even when that may entail separating

them from their biological parents -- should be a priority of our child welfare system. Finally, we are recognizing that there are parents who will never be able to care for their children. And, in order to secure a foster child's well-being and stable development, we as a society have the responsibility to decide as quickly as possible whether a child can return home safely.

Many of the provisions in the House and Senate bills reflect recommendations made in Adoption 2002, a report prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services in response to the President's directive to identify the barriers to adoption and double the number of children placed annually in permanent homes by the year 2002.

Over the years, my husband has dedicated a great deal of time and energy to improving foster care and promoting adoption. As a result of the Administration's efforts, it is now illegal to deny or delay an adoption simply because the prospective parents and child are not of the same race. And last year, the President signed into law a \$5,000 tax credit to help families adopt children.

Federal leadership is crucial, but it will take the commitment of people from all corners of our country to bring about the sweeping change our child welfare system requires. This week, I'll be speaking at a national conference on adoption and child welfare reform sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The conference will bring together business and religious leaders, policy-makers, elected officials, judges, child advocates, and foster and adoptive families to discuss strategies to reduce the number of waiting children and limit the time a child spends in foster care to no more than one year.

The Kellogg Foundation has been working to reform child welfare systems in 11 states and localities. Last year alone, the foundation helped find permanent families for 7,000 children. This was possible because the foundation worked with churches and mounted aggressive media campaigns to recruit prospective adoptive families. And it helped child welfare agencies reform case work procedures, consolidate records and modernize data collection methods so that no child becomes lost in the system.

Now we must build on their work. With thousands of children leading transient lives in foster care, we cannot afford any more delays. We need to encourage Congress to pass the best adoption bill possible. Thousands of innocent children are counting on us.

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June 24, 1997

NOTE TO HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON EDITORS: PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING COLUMN FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, JULY 22, INSTEAD OF THE ONE ORIGINALLY SENT FOR THAT DATE. SEVERAL CORRECTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE THROUGHOUT THE COLUMN. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION. -- CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Some years ago, I met a woman who ran a dairy farm in Vermont with her husband. She was required by law to immunize her cattle against disease. And each year, she dutifully complied and inoculated her herd.

Immunizing her young children, however, was another story. After buying vaccines for her cows, she said, she couldn't afford vaccines for her children. "My cattle," she told me, "are receiving better health care than my children."

Although it may seem inconceivable to many Americans, our country for years lagged behind poorer, less advanced nations in immunization rates among children. As recently as 1994, we had the third worst rate of immunization in the Western Hemisphere. Even as we led the world in new medical treatments and technologies, too many American infants and toddlers were going without simple vaccines that can prevent serious illnesses such as measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis.

Today -- finally -- we have some good news about immunizations. The President announced at a White House ceremony this week that a greater percentage of American children are getting inoculated than ever before. Most diseases that can be prevented by vaccines are at historic lows. And our nation is on track to achieve an immunization rate of 90 percent of all 2-year-olds by 2000.

We wouldn't be where we are today without a renewed federal commitment to immunizations -- and without the work of countless individuals, organizations and corporations who appreciate that immunizing children is not only a health issue but a matter of sound economics. After all, every dollar spent on the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine saves \$21 in later health-care costs, and even more for children who are protected against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus.

The first serious effort to improve immunization rates began 20 years ago when President Carter set a national immunization goal of vaccinating 90 percent of the nation's children against diseases like measles, whooping cough and polio by the time they entered school.

He was encouraged by Sen. Dale Bumpers of Arkansas, who, along with his wife, Betty, made immunizations a personal crusade. When Bumpers was governor of the state, Betty visited every county and showed up at nearly every school to educate parents about the importance of immunizations. Not surprisingly, Arkansas became the first state to meet the immunization goal for school-age children set by President Carter.

When he moved to Washington, Bumpers continued his tireless advocacy for child immunizations, holding hearings and fighting for funding in Congress. Betty also kept the pressure on, joining forces with former First Lady Rosalynn Carter after a measles epidemic in 1989 to create a non-profit immunization education program called Every Child by Two. Together, they have traversed the country, meeting with community leaders, health providers and elected officials to establish and expand immunization programs around the country.

Even so, progress was not guaranteed, despite historically strong bipartisan support and cooperation among state and federal officials. In the late 1980s, the federal government had stopped measuring immunization rates of 2-year-olds, the age by which children should receive 80 percent of their vaccines. Whenever a new, lifesaving vaccine was added to the schedule, there was a fierce battle to obtain the funding needed to buy and distribute it.

To renew the federal commitment to child immunizations, the President set new goals for 1996 and for 2000. As part of his effort to reform health care, he put in place the Child Immunization Initiative, which helped more families afford, gain access to and understand the importance of early childhood immunization. Having exceeded our goals for 1996, we must now redouble our efforts to achieve the same success in the two years ahead. That's why the President announced steps this week to ensure that millions of children in federally funded child care receive the immunizations they need. He also called on state and federal officials to explore how immunization registries can help doctors and parents maintain up-to-date information on the immunization status of their patients and children.

And, as part of his larger effort to promote better health care of America's children, he has urged Congress to earmark new tobacco tax revenues to fund health coverage for millions of uninsured children.

We know what our children need. If we keep working together, we can make sure their needs are met.

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July 22, 1997

TALKING IT OVER

Y HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

I met the Cat in the Hat this week. On Monday, the Cat and I celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with children's author Rosemary Wells and some tiny Head Start students in District Heights, Md.

Dr. Seuss was a beloved author and illustrator who brought joy to and instilled a love of reading in generations of children and their parents. I can still recite from memory the lines of some favorite Dr. Seuss books that Bill and I read to Chelsea -- over and over again. Remember this? "The sun did not shine. It was too wet to play. So we sat in the house all that cold, cold, wet day." And what about "People are people no matter how small"? Here's my personal favorite: "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose."

On March 2, the National Education Association organized "Read Across America" to honor Dr. Seuss and to spark a love of reading in a new generation of American children. All across the country, millions of teachers, parents and volunteers participated in events designed to encourage reading aloud to children.

We know that students who read for enjoyment outside of school do better in school. Unfortunately, we also know that the number of older children who read for pleasure outside of the classroom is gradually decreasing and that 40 percent of this country's 8-year-olds cannot read even at the basic level.

Last year, in an effort to reverse this trend, the President launched the America Reads Challenge to make sure that all children can read on their own by the end of the third grade. In response, tens of thousands of volunteer tutors are already at work giving our children the intensive reading help they need. More than 900 colleges are committed to granting work-study credit for tutoring children. And this year, 3,000 new AmeriCorps members and thousands of new senior volunteers will recruit more than 100,000 volunteer reading tutors for our children.

With the help of dedicated volunteers like these, we can teach our children to read. But learning to read must start even earlier -- as soon as a child is born.

Instinctively, we know that reading aloud strengthens the bond between a parent and child. Last April at the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning, new scientific research proved our instincts correct.

Not only does reading aloud strengthen emotional bonds, it also helps a baby's brain develop and grow by stimulating the neural connections that are the basis for language and learning.

When I talk to young parents about the importance of reading and talking to their infants, many ask why they should be talking or reading to a child who can't talk back. Some parents worry that they're not good readers themselves. Some confide that they can't read at all.

It doesn't matter.

Reading and talking are as important to children's brains as car seats and immunizations are to their health. Parents who can't read or don't think they're good readers should just hold open a book, point to the pictures and make up a story.

Because new parents are generally inclined to follow the advice of their pediatricians, last January, I issued a challenge to hospitals, pediatricians, health centers, booksellers, publishers, libraries and others to make sure that every child who sees a doctor has access to books. As a result, several groups joined forces to launch the Prescription for Reading Partnership.

During the past year, the Prescription for Reading Partnership has distributed 2 million books to over a million children through hospitals, pediatrician's offices and health centers around the country.

One of the Partnership's most successful endeavors has been the Read to Your Bunny Campaign. Supported by the American Booksellers Association, the campaign contacted doctors and asked them to give reading "prescriptions" to their young patients. The prescriptions could be redeemed at over 1,500 participating bookstores for copies of Rosemary Wells' new book "Read to Your Bunny." I'm pleased to report that over 200,000 prescriptions have been filled, placing copies of this delightful poem in the hands of children all over the country.

The Partnership can help put a book in a child's hand, but it's you -- the parents and grandparents, older sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles, friends and neighbors -- who must take the next step. It takes only 20 minutes a day.

One of my favorite Dr. Seuss books is "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" Let me share the first lines with you:

Congratulations!

Today is your day.

You're off to Great Places!

You're off and away!

Celebrate reading with your child every day, and you'll both be off to Great Places, too.

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March 3, 1998

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Think about the children you know or come in contact with every day. Do any of them have parents who work but cannot afford health insurance? Do any of them qualify for Medicaid but for whatever reason don't receive it?

Last week, I met just such a family. Linda Havemann is a full-time homemaker in Williamsburg, Va. Her husband, Tom, has a good job working as a mechanic for a construction company, but they cannot afford health insurance for their sons Raymond, 6, Michael, 3, and Andrew, 18 months. The two youngest have suffered with ear infections since birth, but they've never had regular doctor's visits because they don't have insurance.

I'm sure every parent can remember feeling panicked and helpless sitting up with a sick child. I can. Imagine how you would feel if, when your child had a temperature or an ear infection, you couldn't call a doctor.

This is what Linda and Tom had to live with until a Salvation Army social worker informed them that Michael and Andrew were eligible for Medicaid. When the Havemanns finally took the boys to the doctor, they found that Andrew had already lost 20 percent of his hearing and that his speech was delayed. Two weeks ago, after surgery to insert tubes in his ears, he said his first words: "Mama," "Dada," "bubble" and "shoe."

That's the good news, but the bad news is that 6-year-old Raymond is too old to qualify for Virginia's Medicaid program. In an effort to help states extend health coverage to 5 million children in Raymond's shoes, last year's balanced budget agreement included a \$24 billion initiative. Called the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, this program targets children of working families who do not qualify for Medicaid.

There is no excuse in this country for children to go without proper medical care. And yet, 10 million American children -- that's one in seven -- do. Three million of these, like Michael and Andrew, are eligible for Medicaid, but for a variety of reasons, their parents don't enroll them. Some don't know they qualify. Some can't deal with the complex enrollment forms. Others are simply ashamed to ask for help.

We must do everything we can to find and enroll those kids who are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP. We can pass all the laws we want, but if parents don't know their

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children are eligible, or if they can't or won't fill out the forms, these laws will never fulfill their promise.

Last week, the President announced a series of initiatives that will help. First, he ordered federal agencies to develop a national outreach program -- distributing information, coordinating toll-free numbers, and simplifying the application process.

To complement this effort, he also described some extraordinary contributions from the private sector. Within a month, Bell Atlantic will have up and running a toll-free number to help states enroll uninsured children. Safeway will print the number on all its shopping bags, and chain drug stores will provide it to their customers.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Kaiser Family Foundation together will spend \$23 million to research, design and fund outreach initiatives, and Pampers will offer information about available health insurance options in its childbirth education packages, which are given to 90 percent of first-time mothers.

This administration is committed to making sure that every American has access to adequate and affordable health care. In 1996, the President signed a law that keeps an estimated 25 million Americans from losing their insurance if they change jobs, are self-employed or have pre-existing medical conditions.

And just last week, he signed a directive ensuring that everyone covered by a federal health plan -- fully a third of all Americans -- will be protected by a Patient's Bill of Rights. And he announced a new initiative to eliminate, by the year 2010, the disturbing disparities in infant mortality, diabetes, cancer testing and treatment, heart disease, AIDS and immunization among various ethnic and racial groups in this country.

But no goal is more important than providing adequate medical care to our youngest and most vulnerable citizens. Everyone can help. Besides social workers, we need doctors and nurses to inform parents about programs available for their kids. In addition, teachers, guidance counselors and coaches, neighbors and friends, camp counselors and mentors, tutors and members of the clergy -- everyone in the village -- can be on the lookout for children in need.

The health and well-being of our children is everybody's concern. If we work together, our efforts will help assure that America's children get the healthy start they need to live long and productive lives.

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February 24, 1998

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Many of you are rushing to read this as you drink one more cup of coffee before setting off for work. If you're lucky, you won't worry about the safety of your children while you're gone. If you're lucky, you trust that they're in a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment -- one that they're excited about going to each day. If you're lucky

Unfortunately, many working parents aren't so lucky. With the help of relatives, in-home providers, professional day-care centers, and before- and after-school programs, working moms and dads manage to cobble together affordable care for their children. Some of this care is excellent. Tragically, though, recent national studies find that most is "poor to mediocre."

This week, my husband took a major step toward improving child care for America's working families. With the largest investment in child care in our nation's history, he proposed increasing child-care tax credits for 3 million working families; doubling the number of children receiving child-care subsidies; providing after-school care for 500,000 children; funding up to 50,000 scholarships each year to promote the training of child-care providers; providing financial incentives for states to toughen enforcement of quality standards; and providing home visits, parent education, and consumer education about child care.

In the over 25 years I have worked on children's issues, I have seen firsthand the results of our failures to invest in our children at the most critical stages in their lives. I have learned why good child care is so critical to our children, our families and our future. Although studies show that children are not adversely affected by having parents work outside the home, there is evidence that poor care either inside or outside the home has damaging consequences, especially in the first three years of life.

In October, the President and I hosted a White House Conference on Child Care. That conference was meant to start a conversation -- to renew our efforts to improve child care in America. This week, the President took action.

At the White House Conference, lots of issues were raised: how to ensure the safety of every child in child care; how to do a better job of training and paying caregivers; how to encourage more employers to provide child-care benefits to employees; how to make successful after-school programs more widely available; how to learn from the good models that we have in every community. The President's proposal tackles these issues.

Each of us who has frantically scrambled to find alternative arrangements for a sick child, who has murmured instructions into the phone after school, who has sent a child off to school with "just a little cold" -- each of us understands the urgency of the situation.

But new scientific information makes the case even more compelling. We now know from the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development in April that what happens to a child in the earliest years of life affects how well that child will learn for a lifetime. With 45 percent of our children under age 1 in day care regularly, the issue of quality child care has tremendous bearing not just on individual lives but on the future of our nation.

It is no surprise that demand for quality child care is growing with the dramatic changes in the American work force and way of life over the past 40 years.

During World War II, the federal government stepped in to provide federally funded day care for the mothers who went to work to support the war effort. But, today, it is the ordinary, not the extraordinary, that drives our efforts. Now, more than 80 percent of married mothers with a child under age 6 work outside the home, and 13 million children under the age of 6 are in child care.

In addition, because the school day ends before the workday does, families also need care, supervision and stimulating activities for school-age children after school. This is also important in our continuing fight against crime, for it is between 2 and 6 p.m. that adolescents are most likely to find themselves in trouble with the police. Sadly, though, as a society, we have never sufficiently valued the work of caring for our children -- whether by mothers or other relatives who stay at home or by paid child-care providers. On average, child-care providers earn between \$5,000 and \$12,000 per year. It's a sad state of affairs when we pay the garage attendant who parks our car more than the person who cares for our children.

The President's initiative this week is a major step toward turning the situation around by helping working families pay for child care, improving the safety and quality of care, promoting early learning, and building the supply of good after-school programs. No program can stop any of us from worrying about our children. After all, that's what parents do. What this one offers is a helping hand to parents, educators, community, state, and federal authorities working together to provide safe, nurturing and stimulating care for our children in the most important learning years of their lives.

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January 6, 1998

DRAFT

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

COLUMN FOR NOVEMBER 20, 1997

There is no greater tragedy for any family than when parents are unable or unwilling to care for their children. And there is no greater challenge for society than to decide what to do with children in these circumstances.

Today, nearly half a million children are in foster care, separated from their parents because of abuse or neglect. For most of these children, foster care is a temporary safe haven until they can return home. But for others, it's a bleak waiting game that can go on for years. Shuffled from family to family, they have little hope of being reunited with their birth parents or finding permanent placement with adoptive parents who will care for them and love them.

While there is no quick fix for the foster care crisis, and no fool-proof formula for deciding every foster care case, our nation took a giant step this week in improving the prospects for children in need of permanent homes. At a ceremony in the Rose Garden, the President signed legislation that, for the first time, will put the interest of children first when it comes to adoption and foster care. [NOTE: needs more emotion here, something personal would help.]

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This new law gives states greater flexibility in assessing when and whether parents are able to meet their responsibilities to their children. States will no longer be required to reunify families who have come apart due to “aggravated circumstances”, like torture, abandonment or sexual abuse. At the same time, the law will redouble efforts to keep families together by helping families overcome problems that can lead to family instability.

The new law will give states financial incentives to increase the number of adoptions by assuring prospective adoptive parents that children with special needs will retain their health care coverage. It also will require states to come to quicker resolution about permanent plans for foster children. And the new law will provide funding for the education and training of judges who must decide the fate of children in the foster care system.

This legislation surely will ease the pain and confusion that so often marks foster care cases. For too long, in courtrooms across America, children have been caught in a legal tug of war in which their own rights must compete with the noble, but sometimes unrealistic, ideal of family reunification.

I remember once representing a foster family in Arkansas that wanted to adopt a four-year old boy who had been in their care for three years. The boy had been abandoned by a mother who suffered from psychological problems and he showed all the symptoms of severe mistreatment; he had gained little weight, was unresponsive and shied away from human contact.

But in his foster family he began to thrive. Still, when his foster parents tried to adopt him, the state adoption agency refused. Instead, state officials began to consider returning him to his birth mother, who had filed suit to get him back.

It seemed clear that keeping the little boy with his foster parents was in his best interest. What was not clear was whether his health and safety was the priority that counted most in a court of law.

Thankfully, the judge allowed the foster parents to adopt the boy, giving him the opportunity that all children need and deserve: to grow up in a safe, loving, and stable family.

Not all of us are parents, but all of us have been children. We all know the importance of having a caring permanent family - either because we have been fortunate enough to have had the experience or because we are painfully aware of what we have missed.

I know that laws are not the answer to all of our nation's problems. A loving home and responsible parents are not things that can be legislated. But laws can help protect our most vulnerable children and smooth their paths to stable homes with mothers and fathers who want to take them in.

That's what this new law does. And what better gift can we give this Thanksgiving week than the hope for tens of thousands of children in foster care that they, too, may soon know the joy of spending the holiday season with a family that cares for them and loves them.

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

It's fairly easy to disregard dangers to ourselves. We might go out with a fever or cross against the light, but we would never let our children do the same.

When it comes to kids, the rules are different. Our concern for children -- if not for ourselves -- should enable us to face the facts about climate change. Global warming, as we learned at a conference my husband convened this week at Georgetown University, is not just an abstract scientific issue. It is a fundamental health and safety issue that will have a profound impact on the lives of children the world over.

At Georgetown, scientists presented research making it clear our climate is changing. Rising concentrations of carbon dioxide and other gases released when fossil fuels are burned are warming the Earth's atmosphere. While we don't know exactly how much or how fast temperatures are rising, we do know that global warming is taking place.

Today, one of the biggest threats to children is disease -- particularly disease rooted in environmental causes. Millions of children under the age of 5 die every year from preventable, easily treated conditions. As I learned at the conference, these health problems are likely to get worse if we do not do something about climate change.

Let me give you just one example: the spread of infectious diseases.

In 1995, infectious diseases -- like malaria, cholera and yellow fever -- killed more than 17 million people worldwide. Nine million of those were children.

Increases in temperature hasten the spread of infectious diseases for two reasons. First, they shorten incubation periods. That means disease-carrying viruses, bacteria and parasites can reproduce and spread faster. Second, cool temperatures protect parts of the world from certain diseases, serving as an important line of defense. Tropical diseases that can survive in hot, humid climates just aren't going to make it in colder ones. Unless temperatures rise.

Take a disease like malaria, which is spread primarily by mosquitoes. There are half a billion cases of malaria every year. In 1995, 2.1 million of these resulted in death -- mostly to children under the age of 5.

For this reason, higher temperatures should be a matter of real concern. Areas that were previously free of malaria mosquitoes, such as mountainous regions in Rwanda and Kenya, are now reporting an influx of the insects. In Costa Rica and Colombia, mosquitoes that were never seen above 1,000 meters have been spotted at twice that altitude.

In fact, according to one study, as a consequence of climate change, the percentage of the world's population at risk to malaria could increase from 45 percent to 60 percent. And the United States is not immune.

Climate change has the potential to exacerbate other problems that imperil children, including respiratory conditions like asthma. Already, nearly 5 million American children suffer from asthma, and that number is rising.

This is one important reason why the President is working to forge a plan of action to address this threat. Any approach to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions will take time, however, for it will require the cooperation of all sectors of society and the participation of governments around the world.

Fortunately, any one of us can act now. There are simple things we can do in our daily lives to help slow global warming.

For starters, we can conserve energy, reducing the emissions linked to climate change. We can insulate our houses; we can make sure the appliances in our homes are energy-efficient; we can do what my dad used to do every time he left an empty room -- turn off the lights.

While Bill and I don't have a house of our own, we have taken steps at the White House to cut energy usage.

The new energy-efficient lights that illuminate the White House at night have reduced energy consumption by 51 percent. New lighting inside the White House complex is also cutting power usage substantially. There's a state-of-the-art refrigerator downstairs that exceeds energy-efficiency standards by 30 percent, and a new air cooling system that is projected to save more than 400,000 kilowatts of electricity every year.

Not only are these changes saving a lot in energy bills every year, they are expected to keep more than 5.5 million pounds of global-warming greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere by reducing the need for electricity generated by fossil-fuel-burning power plants.

I know these are small steps. But sometimes, small steps can walk us a long way toward solving a big problem. Every time my dad turned off a light switch, he saved something for his children. By acting now to reduce climate change, we can each, in our own way, safeguard the world for our children, their children and generations beyond.

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October 7, 1997

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TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

I was one year out of law school and about to start teaching law at the University of Arkansas. It was 1974, and President Nixon had just signed a bipartisan bill to fund legal services for the poor. The law school was looking around for someone to organize its legal aid clinic. I had already worked in legal services programs. My experience, along with the fact that I was the newest member of the faculty, marked me for the job.

There were mountains of paperwork and logistics to figure out. I didn't know where to begin. Before long, I also discovered an obstacle I hadn't imagined -- local lawyers and judges who were skeptical about any effort to provide free legal aid to the poor.

I remember going to a cocktail party where the president of the local bar took me around to meet everyone, including a senior member of the bench. "Judge," he said, "this is the new lady law professor. She is going to teach criminal law and run the legal aid clinic."

Without taking a breath, the judge looked at me and said, "Well, I don't have any use for either lady law professors or legal aid clinics."

Over the years, as director of that clinic and as one of President Carter's appointments to the national Legal Services Corporation, which oversees local legal aid programs, I met many people like that judge. But I also met many more men and women who appreciate the importance of legal aid in helping all Americans -- not just those who can afford lawyers -- find justice.

For those of us who have seen firsthand the difference that legal aid has meant in the lives of women, children and families, it is distressing to watch Congress' current attempts to move the cause of justice backward. Today, Congress wants to shrink federal funding by almost one-third.

What that means is that somewhere a couple and their young children will have to sleep in an unheated car or on the street because of an unlawful eviction; a woman will be forced to cower in her bedroom, a victim of domestic violence; and a child will go to school hungry because his father refuses to pay child support.

Last year, legal services programs helped 5 million of our country's neediest people resolve civil -- not criminal -- legal problems. The vast majority

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON 4/23/96

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of cases were simple: foreclosures, divorces, evictions, child support enforcement. Often advice, a referral or a few letters or phone calls were enough to solve the problem. Most of these cases were resolved out of court. Such basic assistance can head off more complicated legal troubles and make a world of difference in the lives of clients.

While private law firms, bar associations and individual lawyers have increased their donations and pro-bono hours to make up for the lack of funds, legal aid clinics still have had to scale back dramatically on the number of cases they accept. We can only hope Congress will not make matters worse.

But right now, Congress is further trying to tie the hands of legal aid lawyers by banning them from filing class-action suits, such as those on behalf of groups of poor citizens who want to challenge unfair housing practices or consumer fraud. And even as Congress touts less federal involvement in local programs, it is trying to restrict the funds that legal aid programs are able to raise from private sources.

You may be asking yourself why the debate over the future of legal services matters to you, even if you don't think you'll ever need such help. It has to do with our society's fundamental commitment to justice, law and progress for everyone.

I believe that our society became more just and the legal profession truer to its fundamental mission with the establishment of legal services programs for the poor. The thousands of legal aid lawyers and the tens of thousands of private lawyers who donate time to legal aid work are the heart and soul of the law.

Each time a legal aid lawyer helps a mother petition for child support or forces a nursing home to live up to its contract of taking care of elderly residents, our country moves closer to its ideals.

Legal aid is a way that our country upholds the one true contract that individual citizens have with America -- the Constitution and, specifically, its promise of justice for all.

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April 23, 1996

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

It's no secret that Washington, D.C., is not the city our nation's capital should be. Random violence robs children of their freedom. The public schools are short of text books and teachers. Local housing projects are havens for drugs.

These problems should worry all Americans, not just those of us who live in Washington. We all want to feel proud of our nation's capital, whether it is the gleaming monuments that millions of tourists see each year or the schools, businesses and neighborhoods that exist in their shadows. We all have a stake in the city and its future.

Although many Americans only hear the bad news about our capital city, Washington has some good news, too. It is an international nerve center for finance, communications, law and health-care research. And it has its people -- a wealth of human talent and potential.

That's why I'm optimistic that, if we all pitch in, the city will shine again. Just look at New York City. Twenty years ago, the conventional wisdom was that New York was doomed to decay. Now, its crime rate is down, its reputation is up, and the city is as alive and vibrant as ever.

Chicago, too, is enjoying a renaissance. For years, the city was notorious for having what many experts considered the worst schools in America. Yet, as I saw for myself on a trip to Chicago this week, the city's schools are on the rebound, thanks to strong leadership, better management, more accountability and a committed partnership involving government leaders, business people, school administrators, teachers, parents and members of the local community.

In Washington, solutions will have to come on many different levels. But there are already signs of progress. A new financial control board created by Congress and appointed by the President is now in charge of the city's budget. A well-respected, no-nonsense retired Army general, Julius Becton, has been hired to root out waste, fraud and mismanagement in the public schools. The President and Congress have agreed to make Washington a top priority. And perhaps most importantly, citizens, businesses and organizations across the city are tackling an array of social and economic problems at the neighborhood level.

Last week, I visited the Cleveland School, located in one of the city's most depressed neighborhoods. The school is home to 300 children in kindergarten

through third grade. It has a dedicated principal, committed teachers and an active PTA. It also has the support of partners in the community, like members of the U.S. military who volunteer as physical education instructors at the school and also take the children on field trips.

One particularly active partner is a law firm downtown called Holland & Knight. Every week, lawyers and staff spend afternoons tutoring and reading to students. They have spent weekends repairing school facilities. They even reclaimed a neighborhood park and playground from local drug dealers.

The firm has donated computers, supplies and clothing to the school. Lawyers have helped parents with legal problems and represented non-profit organizations based in the surrounding neighborhood for free.

When I visited the school, teachers told me how the lawyers' visits inspired the students to raise their expectations of themselves. Parents described how the firm's involvement fostered a new can-do spirit throughout the neighborhood. And lawyers talked about the rewards of developing new friendships in a community that they might never have visited otherwise.

Given the number of lawyers in Washington, one can only imagine how much good would come if every firm was as eager to commit its time and resources to improving life in the city.

Fortunately, other professional, business and non-profit organizations are following suit. Recently, a community bank, supported jointly by local private investors and the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, was launched to promote small businesses and spur the local economy. And I have seen the commitment of religious communities across the city, which have come together in an unprecedented partnership to strengthen schools and provide affordable housing.

All of these projects are vital, but they are only part of the solution. There is no panacea or quick fix for Washington's deeply rooted problems. The city needs the budgetary changes that Congress and the President are working for. It needs strong, dedicated leadership in local government and business. And it needs the involvement and commitment of every citizen.

As the President said a few weeks ago, it's time to renew our capital city so that Washington is a great place to work and live -- and once again the proud face America shows the world.

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February 19, 1997

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thousands of people worldwide witnessed history in the making last week -- the first cybercast from the White House. When noted Harvard historian Bernard Bailyn, who has written extensively on colonial and revolutionary American history, delivered the first Millennium Lecture, his remarks were simultaneously broadcast by satellite and over the Internet. People all over the world were able to turn on their computers and literally watch as Professor Bailyn delivered his lecture. They could then send e-mail questions, some of which I read off the screen for him to answer right there in the East Room.

If you missed Professor Bailyn's talk, you can find his remarks by going to the White House web site at www.whitehouse.gov and selecting the Millennium home page. If you want to actually see and hear the lecture in its entirety, you can go to the Sun Microsystems web site at www.sun.com/980126/whitehouse/

I urge you to try this, not only because it is technologically remarkable but also because I hope every American will listen closely to what Professor Bailyn has to say as we prepare to enter the new millennium.

The professor began by pointing out that we are a young nation with a short history but in fact we "live remarkably close to our past." When he said, "A spark was struck two centuries ago which lights the way for us still," it brought to mind the theme that the President and I have chosen for America's Millennium celebration: "Honor the past; imagine the future."

Jan. 1, 2000, not only marks the beginning of the millennium year but also coincides with several significant historical milestones in American history: the 200th anniversary of the occupancy of the White House by American Presidents, the 200th anniversary of the creation of the Library of Congress, and the 200th anniversary of the first meeting of Congress in the new Capitol.

What a remarkable opportunity for America to pause and consider the best of our nation and the things we want to preserve -- for our children and for our children's children. What an opportunity to rekindle our spirit of democracy, renew our commitment to citizenship, and unleash the full creative and intellectual potential of the American people as we chart our common future.

The White House Millennium Council is busy planning events here in Washington and around the country to celebrate this milestone. Professor Bailyn

kicked off the Millennium Evenings at the White House, a series of lectures and cultural showcases designed to highlight America's ideas, art and scientific discoveries. On March 6, world-renowned physicist Stephen Hawking will deliver the second Millennium Lecture, on creativity and science in the 21st century. It, too, will be cybercast from the White House.

A few weeks ago, I wrote about another Millennium project called "Save America's Treasures," a public-private partnership to preserve the nation's documents, artifacts, monuments and historic sites that are most in danger of deterioration. In his budget, the President has proposed a Millennium Fund to stimulate this national effort, but there will also be a parallel private effort, supported by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. More information, as well as an opportunity to share your ideas, is available on the Trust's website at www.nationaltrust.org.

Last week at the White House, I was thrilled by the announcement of the first major private contribution to this effort. The Pew Charitable Trusts will donate \$800,000 to help re-encase the nation's Charters of Freedom -- the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the Constitution -- and \$5 million for the restoration of the most revered symbol of this country's struggle for freedom, the Star-Spangled Banner.

You might ask, as did UPI's White House reporter Helen Thomas, "Why does it take \$5 million?"

Actually, the entire flag project will cost \$18 million. You may not realize that the flag, sewn by a Baltimore widow and housed in the National Museum of American History in Washington, is four stories tall. Because it's been without a protective case, it has suffered from exposure to pollution and sunlight. The Smithsonian plans to take down the flag from its current exhibit and place it in an on-site conservation laboratory where it can be cleaned and treated. During the entire process, the flag will never be out of public view, and after the restoration is complete, it will be encased in 7 tons of protective glass.

I hope you will take a look at the web sites I've listed to learn how you can participate in this grand Millennium celebration. By honoring our past and making gifts to the future, we can be sure that when the new millennium finally comes, we will be honoring not only a new year but also the values that make this country great and that will remain long after the fireworks have faded.

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February 17, 1998

TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

OR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

As I write this, my husband is working hard on the State of the Union message that he will deliver tonight. Yesterday, we both attended a child-care event here at the White House, after which I flew to New York to visit a wonderful after-school program and speak at a dinner honoring the U.S. Committee for UNICEF.

People ask me how we've managed to stay focused on our work this week while the White House grounds have been overrun by members of the press chasing one rumor after another. Let me try to explain.

First, we've been here before. Political opponents of my husband have tried, since the day he announced his candidacy for President, to defeat him with false accusations, rumor and innuendo. Experience has taught us both that with patience and faith, the truth will prevail.

Second, the White House has been overwhelmed by expressions of encouragement and support, each of which makes it easier to persevere.

And, finally, my husband was elected to be President of the United States. That's more than a full-time job, one which takes every ounce of concentration and energy he has to give. He cannot afford to be distracted by constant firestorms of allegations if he is to do the job he was sent to do.

The State of the Union address is one of the most important of the year, laying out, as it does, the President's vision for the direction of the nation. Contained in his speech are ideas and programs that will serve this country well into the next century. I was so pleased that the President chose this important address to highlight a project that's very important to me -- Saving America's Treasures. That is what I had planned to write about this week and what I want to turn my attention to now.

Have you ever thought about what you'd grab first if your house were on fire? After making sure your family and pets were safe, most of you would probably want to save those items that are irreplaceable symbols of your family's history: photographs and old movies, yearbooks, precious nursery-school era artwork, baseball cards, your grandmother's love letters.

As I walk through the East Room of the White House, I often remember First Lady Dolly Madison, who, when the British burned the White House in 1814, rolled up the original Declaration of Independence and Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington, saving them both for posterity.

Unlike Dolly Madison, this country isn't faced with a fire that could destroy the precious symbols of our past -- instead, our past is literally crumbling, chipping and disintegrating away in our libraries, museums, archives, historic sites and private holdings. We are confronted by a truly urgent need to save the documents, artifacts, buildings and sites that tell our history and preserve our identity as Americans.

The Star Spangled Banner, the flag that flew over Fort McHenry and inspired Francis Scott Key to write the poem that would become our National Anthem, is in serious need of restoration.

The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights must be re-encased soon will face deterioration.

The Monroe School in Topeka, Kan., which was desegregated by the landmark Supreme Court decision Brown vs. Board of Education, stands as one of the true monuments of the Civil Rights movement. But it is in such disrepair that it's unsuitable to tell the remarkable story that changed our nation.

Many of our prehistoric sites -- like Mesa Verde, Colo., and Chaco Canyon, N.M. -- need preservation to stabilize their ancient structures. And, according to the National Park Service, not only are Thomas Edison's house and laboratory in "dire" condition, but papers belonging to the father of modern science -- including his letters and lab notes -- are in need of cataloguing and proper storage.

Some 80 million brittle books in libraries and other collections need to be preserved through repair and microfilming, including 12 million that the National Endowment for the Humanities calls "unique and endangered."

As with the treasures in our own homes, these precious places and things -- along with millions more tucked away in communities all across the nation -- comprise the collective memory of America. We cannot save everything, but at the same time, we cannot allow this heritage -- these symbols that bind us together -- to be lost.

In celebration of the millennium, the White House is leading a national effort to showcase the achievements and events that define us as a nation. The White House Millennium Council, which I lead, will provide every American with opportunities to learn our history, preserve our cultural heritage and give permanent gifts to the future.

As part of the celebration, the President included in his State of the Union address a national initiative called "Save America's Treasures," which will direct public and private funding to our nation's most urgent preservation needs as identified by federal and state agencies.

I hope each of you will participate in this unique opportunity to save our historical and cultural legacy so that we can take it with us into the next millennium. Perhaps there's a monument in your town square covered in graffiti, a cemetery overgrown with weeds, a historic building threatened by development, a library lacking in resources, a piece of art tucked away, historic photographs yellowing in a county clerk's file cabinet.

This initiative gives every American, from the kindergarten class to the corporate board, the opportunity to be part of our Millennium celebration.

The President has asked each of us to make a gift to the future. I can't think of a better gift than Saving America's Treasures.

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TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

This week, Americans celebrate the 125th anniversary of Yellowstone National Park.

Of course, Yellowstone's stunning geysers, majestic vistas and spectacular wildlife have been around a little longer than that. The trail Bill, Chelsea and I hiked along when we visited the park last summer is on a mountain that's about 50 million years old. The bubbling mud pots we saw are fueled by heat vents from ancient volcanic activity.

But when you think about it, that's the point. As Vice President Gore said at a celebration of Yellowstone's birthday on Sunday, the park "is in many ways America's holy ground -- a place not only of recreation but of creation, as well -- bringing us face to face with the grandeur of God's works."

So, this week, we celebrate not just God's creation but our commitment to honoring and being good stewards of it.

We also celebrate a uniquely American idea. The United States was the first country in the world to create a national park. And Yellowstone was that park. With Yellowstone, we made clear that our land was a national treasure to be passed from generation to generation.

It all started on a September night in 1870. Members of the Washburn expedition, which was exploring the Yellowstone region in Wyoming Territory, were sitting around a campfire. As the story goes (and there is some debate about it), the talk initially was of how the land could be used for financial benefit. But then, a member of the party, Cornelius Hedges, argued that Yellowstone's landscape was too precious to be exploited. Its rare beauty belonged not to an individual or to a private enterprise but to the nation. Eventually, the rest of the crowd around the campfire agreed. In 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant signed legislation turning Yellowstone into a park.

Today, 125 years later, Yellowstone remains the crown jewel of our park system. It is home to the world's biggest concentration of geo-thermal geysers, including "Old Faithful." The park holds great herds of elk and bison -- among them the only wild buffalo herd in the world to have survived continuously since primitive times. In fact, Yellowstone is one of the few places in the lower 48 states where the plant and animal life remains much as it did before Christopher Columbus set foot in the Americas.

Yellowstone may have been our first national park, but thankfully, it was not our last. Today, the park system is made up of 375 sites. They range from places of great beauty (like Grand Teton and Yosemite) to places of historical and symbolic importance

(like President Lincoln's home and the Statue of Liberty) to places where a family can just go for a walk on a warm summer afternoon (like the park my husband grew up near in Hot Springs, Ark.).

Our national parks are the envy of the world, and that's why people come from thousands of miles away to visit them. But they are also at risk. A Park Service budget that has failed to keep pace with inflation and rising costs combined with increasing numbers of visitors -- 265 million in 1996 -- has put tremendous stress on the parks. That means closed campgrounds and museums, trails and roads that have not been maintained, and too few rangers on duty in the forests and at the information centers.

Even before our family went on vacation in Yellowstone, Bill was determined to do what he could to protect and preserve millions of acres of treasured national parklands, from the Arctic Refuge to the Florida Everglades.

In addition to increasing the Park Service budget and establishing new user fees to help raise park revenues, the President has fought to shield Yellowstone and other parks from the harmful effects of mining. This week, 22,000 acres of America's public forest land near Yellowstone were withdrawn from mining claims that could have threatened vast stretches of the park.

While this is a step in the right direction, much more remains to be done. Last year, Chelsea and I stood with Bill in one of Yellowstone's pristine meadows as he announced an agreement among environmentalists, business leaders and government officials to protect some of the park's most scenic landscape from the proposed New World mine located just outside the park. As part of the balanced budget agreement, funds were earmarked to meet the federal government's end of the New World deal. Now, it's up to Congress to appropriate the money and make it happen.

Our parks aren't preserved once; they're preserved every day. Yellowstone's birthday celebration is a call to Americans to rededicate ourselves to the vision that grew out of that campfire 125 years ago. Progress, after all, need not always be defined as a frontier conquered. Sometimes, progress is a frontier preserved.

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August 19, 1997

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 20, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR FIRST LADY STAFF

FROM: LISA CAPUTO

RE: HRC COLUMN

Attached is HRC's column for the upcoming week. Enjoy!

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

It's impossible to be in Washington in the spring without thinking of Lady Bird Johnson.

Every time I see daffodils on the parkways, I think of Mrs. Johnson. Whenever I see cherry trees blossoming along the Potomac River or tulips dotting the monument grounds, I think of Mrs. Johnson too.

I think of her because, more than anyone else, Lady Bird Johnson was responsible for planting hundreds of thousands of flowers and trees in our nation's capital and inspiring millions of Americans to do the same in their communities.

Now that I find myself in the role she filled so gracefully three decades ago, my admiration for her only grows.

When I talked to Mrs. Johnson recently, she told me about her love of nature and the environment, and her belief that our natural surroundings play an important role in our lives.

Flowers, she said, kept her company as a girl growing up with few playmates in the East Texas countryside.

"To walk through the woods and see the understory of dogwood, it was like fairyland," she said. "To see the first violet -- it was big news for me."

Thirty years ago, during President Johnson's administration, Mrs. Johnson decided to share her love of nature with the nation. "Beautification," as it was called, became her special cause.

Parks, town squares, playgrounds and even highways across the country came alive with newly planted trees and flowers. Garden clubs enjoyed new clout. Litter became a national enemy.

As Mrs. Johnson explains it, beautification was not just about gardening and landscaping. Conservation, city planning, waste management and urban renewal were all part of her effort to encourage Americans to make their environment more pleasing to the eye and to the spirit.

Mrs. Johnson traveled across the country, giving speeches, visiting local beautification projects and touring national parks.

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON 3/19/96

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"I hoped this would be a rippling wave -- all this feeling and talk and work about enhancing the environment -- that it would spread out across the land," she said. "Raising the level of awareness was most important."

The federal highway beautification bill, which focused on cleaning up junkyards and removing billboards along highways, was so strongly identified with her efforts that it was nicknamed "Lady Bird's bill."

President Johnson made no bones about who was the driving force behind it. When he signed the measure, he handed the pen to the First Lady.

Transforming the nation's capital was one of her most energetic campaigns. When she first arrived in Washington, she remembers, the city's landscape was "pretty bare." There were "a few shrubs here and there, a few random tufts of grass, a sagging bench."

Through her Committee for a More Beautiful Capital, Mrs. Johnson worked with philanthropists and the Park Service to re-landscape, plant trees and flowers, and clean up parks, streets, schools and other public areas.

Mrs. Johnson wasn't only interested in beautifying the tourist spots but also the depressed inner city. The committee's motto was: "Plant masses of flowers where the masses pass."

"You want (flowers) to be seen and enjoyed. You want them to be used, to give pleasure," Mrs. Johnson said. "I hoped to add color to the city."

In all, nearly 2 million daffodil bulbs, 83,000 flowering plants, 50,000 shrubs, 137,000 annuals and 25,000 trees were planted in Washington. Ten thousand azaleas lined Pennsylvania Avenue. Mrs. Johnson planted a new group of cherry-blossom trees, a gift from the Japanese Embassy.

At the White House, she always enjoyed looking at the trees that different Presidents had planted on the grounds, especially the Andrew Jackson Magnolia that she could see from the second-floor Truman Balcony.

"I did so want to plant one that was a resident of our own part of Texas for Lyndon to name," she said. "The live oak doesn't grow that far north, so I chose a willow oak and planted it right close to Lyndon's office."

Mrs. Johnson has lived in the Texas hill country for many years now, but she says she still misses spring in Washington.

"It is just a great long symphony. The progress of spring always just lifted me a good bit. At the first faint green of the willows along the Potomac ... you knew it was not fall," she said. "Then pretty soon, there'd be that graceful yellow

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forsythia in people's yards. I miss it. It was a sort of a signature of Washington. It was a story that never grew old, and I loved every chapter."

Now 83, her passion for beautification has never waned. She founded the National Wildflower Research Center in Austin, which, she says, is "my last hurrah." And she continues to encourage Americans to do more to protect and enhance the natural environment we all share.

"It is joy giving," she said. "One can think of it as an inheritance for your children and grandchildren and the future of our nation.

"It's a plus for your town, a plus for your heart. It's just a good thing to do."

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March 19, 1996

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Last summer, Bill, Chelsea and I spent two weeks at Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Like many other families, we hiked and paid our respects to Old Faithful. We came home with memories of long walks past waterfalls, sightings of buffalo, moose and eagles, and multicolored sunsets lighting up an endless Western sky.

But we also came home worried about the future of these beautiful lands. While on vacation, we took a helicopter ride over the site of a proposed gold mine just 3 miles north of Yellowstone Park. Afterward, local residents shared their concerns that the planned mine would leak toxic acid into the park's rivers and poison the wildlife. Bill said he would do everything he could to make sure that Yellowstone came to no harm.

This week, we're back in Grand Teton and Yellowstone for another vacation. A few days ago, Chelsea and I accompanied Bill to a pristine meadow just 5 miles from the proposed mine. There, in the shadow of ancient and magnificent peaks, the President announced that no mine will ever be built near Yellowstone National Park.

After a year of negotiations, the administration and Crowne Butte, the Canadian company that owns the site near Yellowstone, have worked out an agreement to prevent construction of the mine. In exchange for other federal lands, the company will help clean up and turn over the site to the American people.

All this came about because environmentalists, business leaders and government officials overcame their differences and worked together. As the President said, "We don't have to make a choice between the environment and the economy."

Bill, Chelsea and I then drove to the ranger station at the top of Mount Washburn and took in the same breathtaking vistas that inspired Congress to make Yellowstone the world's first national park in 1872. We went on an 8-1/2 mile hike to the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River, walking down a 50-million-year-old mountain, through golden meadows and around bubbling hot mudpots. We saw firsthand how the park is, as the President said, "more precious than gold."

For more than a century, our national parks have remained refuges from the pressures of modern life, places unspoiled by mass consumerism, commercialism and rampant development. At a time when urban skylines seem to transform daily, the

National Park Service ensures that our country's most precious natural park lands survive all seasons of change.

The National Park Service, 80 years old this month, has made it possible for parents to share the beloved forests and streams of their childhood with their children. My husband grew up in Hot Springs, Ark., enjoying the national park of the same name. As a little girl, Chelsea walked the same trails he did and marveled at the city's old Victorian spas and hotels.

Through our parks, generations of children can learn about the importance of conservation. As Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt says, the parks can help "communicate to the American people what it means to live more lightly and respectfully on the land."

But today, our national parks are heading toward a crisis. The National Park Service's budget has failed to keep pace with inflation and rising costs. As a result, some parks have had to close campgrounds and museums, reduce maintenance on trails and roads, and cut back on the number of rangers patrolling the forests. At the same time, more and more people -- 270 million in 1994 -- are choosing to spend their vacations in America's 369 national parks.

And despite our parks' growing needs, and our people's growing love for our natural treasures, there are some in Congress who have made repeated attempts to cut funding for and even close national parks, wipe out wildlife refuges, clear-cut national forests, drain wetlands and repeal water protection.

If we care about the future of our environment and our national parks, we must all do our part to protect them. That means committing ourselves to restoring sites, such as the Everglades, that have been damaged by time and man. It means making environmental values part of all our decisions about how we use our natural resources. Most of all, it means constant vigilance against efforts that undermine our commitment to preserving our environment for future generations.

Perhaps President Theodore Roosevelt said it best at the turn of the century: "There can be nothing in the world more beautiful than the Yosemite, the groves of giant Sequoias and Redwoods, the Canyon of the Colorado, the Canyon of the Yellowstone, the Three Tetons; and our people should see to it that they are preserved for their children and their children's children forever."

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August 13, 1996

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

It's fairly easy to disregard dangers to ourselves. We might go out with a fever or cross against the light, but we would never let our children do the same.

When it comes to kids, the rules are different. Our concern for children -- if not for ourselves -- should enable us to face the facts about climate change. Global warming, as we learned at a conference my husband convened this week at Georgetown University, is not just an abstract scientific issue. It is a fundamental health and safety issue that will have a profound impact on the lives of children the world over.

At Georgetown, scientists presented research making it clear our climate is changing. Rising concentrations of carbon dioxide and other gases released when fossil fuels are burned are warming the Earth's atmosphere. While we don't know exactly how much or how fast temperatures are rising, we do know that global warming is taking place.

Today, one of the biggest threats to children is disease -- particularly disease rooted in environmental causes. Millions of children under the age of 5 die every year from preventable, easily treated conditions. As I learned at the conference, these health problems are likely to get worse if we do not do something about climate change.

Let me give you just one example: the spread of infectious diseases.

In 1995, infectious diseases -- like malaria, cholera and yellow fever -- killed more than 17 million people worldwide. Nine million of those were children.

Increases in temperature hasten the spread of infectious diseases for two reasons. First, they shorten incubation periods. That means disease-carrying viruses, bacteria and parasites can reproduce and spread faster. Second, cool temperatures protect parts of the world from certain diseases, serving as an important line of defense. Tropical diseases that can survive in hot, humid climates just aren't going to make it in colder ones. Unless temperatures rise.

Take a disease like malaria, which is spread primarily by mosquitoes. There are half a billion cases of malaria every year. In 1995, 2.1 million of these resulted in death -- mostly to children under the age of 5.

For this reason, higher temperatures should be a matter of real concern. Areas that were previously free of malaria mosquitoes, such as mountainous regions in Rwanda and Kenya, are now reporting an influx of the insects. In Costa Rica and Colombia, mosquitoes that were never seen above 1,000 meters have been spotted at twice that altitude.

In fact, according to one study, as a consequence of climate change, the percentage of the world's population at risk to malaria could increase from 45 percent to 60 percent. And the United States is not immune.

Climate change has the potential to exacerbate other problems that imperil children, including respiratory conditions like asthma. Already, nearly 5 million American children suffer from asthma, and that number is rising.

This is one important reason why the President is working to forge a plan of action to address this threat. Any approach to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions will take time, however, for it will require the cooperation of all sectors of society and the participation of governments around the world.

Fortunately, any one of us can act now. There are simple things we can do in our daily lives to help slow global warming.

For starters, we can conserve energy, reducing the emissions linked to climate change. We can insulate our houses; we can make sure the appliances in our homes are energy-efficient; we can do what my dad used to do every time he left an empty room -- turn off the lights.

While Bill and I don't have a house of our own, we have taken steps at the White House to cut energy usage.

The new energy-efficient lights that illuminate the White House at night have reduced energy consumption by 51 percent. New lighting inside the White House complex is also cutting power usage substantially. There's a state-of-the-art refrigerator downstairs that exceeds energy-efficiency standards by 30 percent, and a new air cooling system that is projected to save more than 400,000 kilowatts of electricity every year.

Not only are these changes saving a lot in energy bills every year, they are expected to keep more than 5.5 million pounds of global-warming greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere by reducing the need for electricity generated by fossil-fuel-burning power plants.

I know these are small steps. But sometimes, small steps can walk us a long way toward solving a big problem. Every time my dad turned off a light switch, he saved something for his children. By acting now to reduce climate change, we can each, in our own way, safeguard the world for our children, their children and generations beyond.

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TALKING IT OVER**BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON****RELEASE: WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 4-5, 1995**

When I was 10, my family took a trip to New York. One of my best memories of that trip was a visit to the United Nations building. I remember thinking how beautiful it was and loving the wooden doll my father bought me in the gift shop.

Other than collecting money for UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) at Halloween, that was my only firsthand experience with the United Nations. Of course, I knew the United Nations was a body of representatives from nations around the world, and occasionally, I watched on television as our U.N. delegates debated with those from other countries.

Since my husband became president, however, I've learned more about the United Nations and the things it does every day that we don't hear about on the evening news.

Not long ago, when an epidemic of ebola virus threatened to spread out of Zaire, doctors and nurses coordinated by the U.N.'s World Health Organization and our Centers for Disease Control went in and sanitized hospitals filled with disease and death.

When people around the world were stunned by the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl in 1986, the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency took action, sending professionals needed for the cleanup.

Today, in countries like Bangladesh, UNICEF is dramatically improving literacy rates among girls and boys in the poorest regions of the world through financial and technical help to schools.

And generations to come will be able to learn about the history and share the beauty of cultural treasures such as the pyramids in Egypt and the Taj Majal in India thanks to the preservation efforts of the United Nations.

On another front, a U.N.-sponsored immunization campaign has succeeded in wiping out polio from the Western Hemisphere, which is good news for those of us who live here. When I visited Latin America last month, the results of the campaign were evident in every country.

In the aftermath of disasters like the earthquake in Armenia in 1988 and the floods last year in Nigeria that displaced 400,000 people, the United Nations was there, feeding the hungry, tending to the sick, healing the wounded and sheltering the homeless.

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Still, I know from my mail that if you ask many Americans for their view of the United Nations, you are likely to get an earful about the failure of U.N. peacekeeping troops to stop ethnic conflict in Bosnia.

You might also hear some grumbling about why the United States remains so involved in an organization that focuses on problems worldwide when we have so many of our own challenges here at home.

While the U.N.'s difficult and sometimes unsuccessful peacekeeping missions grab the headlines, its humanitarian efforts are quietly saving lives and ending bloodshed around the world.

We don't, for example, hear much about war and carnage in Cambodia or Mozambique anymore or about refugees streaming out of Afghanistan. Why? Because the United Nations helped resolve those conflicts through courageous peacekeeping and humanitarian activities that in some cases stretched over years.

I've had a chance over the past three years to see for myself the work of the U.N. in many different countries. And I am convinced that U.S. support for the United Nations is very much in our own country's interests. Not only does this international body offer the world a moral alternative to war, it helps bring economic and political stability to nations and regions whose futures are tied to ours.

Clearly, like many of our homegrown institutions, the United Nations needs reform. Just as we are working to make our federal government smaller and more efficient, the U.N. needs to do away with unnecessary bureaucracy and streamline its operations. Americans, who support the U.N. more generously than people from any other country, have a right to demand as much.

The United Nations is far from perfect. But it offers a forum where talking instead of fighting is valued. It provides assistance that helps people around the world and even here in the United States. And it holds out the promise of peace, prosperity and democracy, which make the world safer for Americans.

My husband is fond of saying, "Progress can spread quickly, but trouble can too." In a world far more complicated today than it was when the United Nations was founded 50 years ago, we Americans are faced with this choice: Either we pool our resources with other countries to promote peace, eradicate hunger and disease, improve education, protect the environment, assist refugees, and fight terrorist and international drug cartels, or we venture forward alone.

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TALKING IT OVER**BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON****RELEASE: WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 3-4, 1996**

I met some Bosnian war heroes last week. They weren't soldiers fighting for the Serbs, Croats or Moslems. They were Americans -- men and women working tirelessly to promote peace and healing in the former Yugoslavia.

It was an unprecedented gathering at the White House to honor Americans for their relief efforts in Bosnia. It was also a quintessentially American event. Not only did it reflect our nation's unique ability to promote peace and reconciliation in regions divided by violent crises, it also served as an example of how people can transcend long-standing differences and work together for a larger cause.

During the ceremony, I had the privilege of announcing a courageous new project undertaken jointly by the Catholic Relief Services and the International Orthodox Christian Charities.

For the first time, these two religious groups have pledged to work together. They will join forces to train psychologists and social workers desperately needed in Bosnia to counsel children, women and men recovering from the emotional fallout of years of brutality and broken trust.

Countless children were orphaned following campaigns of violence and ethnic cleansing. Thousands of girls and women were raped. Rape is a face of every war, but in Bosnia, rape was used as a tactic of war.

Recovery from particularly vicious brands of violence promises to be one of the greatest challenges to peace in the months ahead. The ground-breaking cooperation between Catholic and Orthodox Christian relief agencies can help heal the emotional trauma and rebuild the trust.

Bishop John Ricard of Baltimore is chairman of the board of the Catholic Relief Services, and he told us that his group has already distributed 200,000 pairs of socks and 6,000 pairs of winter boots to Bosnian war victims -- many of them children and women -- as well as medicine for the local pediatric ward.

Relief workers from CRS also helped start a pasta factory that employs 500 people from the area and produces a staple of the local diet.

Like other humanitarian agencies, CRS doesn't choose its beneficiaries based on their religious beliefs. Anyone who needs help gets it.

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In fact, the agency's workers meet each week with Croatian, Serbian, Moslem and Jewish aid workers to decide how to channel food, clothing and other items to their communities.

"It isn't always easy," the bishop said. "Centuries of animosity and resentment make this war an especially bitter one. I won't say that disagreements don't arise. ... Yet our experience has made us optimistic. It has given us a vision of what the future can hold for Bosnia. It has given us hope."

The International Orthodox Christian Charities is distributing food, infant formula and medical supplies to refugees in Bosnia and Serb-held territories, as Father Nicholas Triantafyllou, chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, told the gathering.

We also heard from representatives of non-denominational organizations that are hard at work in Bosnia, providing food, clothing and medicine to refugees, winterizing homes, repairing gas and water lines, and training teachers for local schools.

Julia Taft, the president of InterAction, a collection of 150 humanitarian organizations, asked us all to spread the word about a new toll-free number that offers ways to help the people of Bosnia: 1-800-841-5872.

It's impossible to meet people like the men and women who gathered in the East Room of the White House and not be moved by the courage and compassion of Americans who are literally dodging bullets to save other people's lives.

A group called World Vision brought drawings by Bosnian children that were on display during the event. They are the best evidence I've seen that Americans are needed to help make peace in Bosnia. One showed a mine exploding on a sidewalk. Another was a 14-year-old's rendition of everyday life: soldiers standing with their rifles cocked, a cemetery of graves nearby. A third was of a missile dropping onto a house.

No people are better equipped than Americans to help rebuild a nation like Bosnia that has been torn apart by violence and war. We are a society whose strength derives from our racial, religious and ethnic diversity. And we have proven, after World War II and now at the conclusion of the Cold War, that we have a special role to play in bringing about reconciliation, forgiveness and healing.

Now is no time to recede from our commitments to peace around the world. When we hear about Bosnia, Haiti, the Middle East or Northern Ireland,

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let's not forget that behind the numbers, graphs and charts are faces of human suffering. By helping people achieve peace and freedom beyond our borders, we are creating a world that reflects our own American ideals. In the end, we are not just helping others. We are helping ourselves.

There are also Americans on the front lines keeping peace in Bosnia so that relief workers can do their jobs. No Greater Love, a non-profit organization that supports our armed forces and their families, is asking citizens and schoolchildren to send valentines to our service men and women in Bosnia, who may be feeling especially lonely during this time.

The addresses are as follows: For Army and Air Force – No Greater Love; c/o Operation Joint Endeavor, APO AE 09391. For Navy and Marine Corps – No Greater Love; c/o Operation Joint Endeavor, FPO AE 09392.

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**TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

At first glance, Children's Hospital No. 4 in Minsk, Belarus, looks like many other hospitals around the world. But there's one big difference: It treats children suffering from illnesses that doctors say are the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

I visited the hospital two years ago and met some of the children whose lives were changed forever when an explosion and fire at the V.I. Lenin Atomic Power Plant in Chernobyl sent a deadly radioactive cloud over Ukraine, Belarus, Russia and parts of Europe.

Singing songs and sporting the green Boston Celtics baseball caps we brought for them, the children greeted me in high spirits, despite their ailments. Many of them would not have been there if it weren't for Chernobyl.

This week marks the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, a tragedy that continues to haunt us to this day. In the vast wasteland around Chernobyl, villages remain ghost towns, rivers are contaminated, and rich farmland is still unusable. I remember being warned not to eat a grape in Minsk because crop soil might be radioactive. Even the protective cover around the reactor is crumbling.

These are the obvious after-effects of Chernobyl. But what makes this tragedy so horrible is that the full extent of the damage may never be known. It will take years, if not generations, to understand the explosion's total impact on the environment, the food chain and human genetics.

Doctors and nurses in Minsk told me that they were seeing increasing rates of respiratory illness, heart disease and birth defects. They also reported abnormally high rates of thyroid cancer and other thyroid diseases in children -- diseases that before the explosion rarely appeared in people so young. Those rates are expected to climb since cancers that result from radiation exposure often do not develop for 10 to 20 years.

Pregnant women at the Left Bank Center for Maternal and Child Health Care in Kiev, about 60 miles from Chernobyl, shared worries with me about

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whether their children would come into the world with birth defects resulting from exposure to the radioactive fallout.

Infertility and other reproductive problems continue to plague couples throughout the region. In 1994, for example, Belarus and Ukraine were the only two countries in Europe that experienced negative population growth. Just last week, Nature magazine reported that scientists have found genetic damage in children born to parents who lived in Belarus at the time of the disaster.

As with so many tragedies, some good has emerged in the 10 years since Chernobyl. Many people around the world are coming to the aid of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.

American doctors from Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh have traveled thousands of miles to treat patients and share new medical techniques with their counterparts in Belarus. Large boxes of blankets, syringes, bandages and medicine have been delivered to hospitals through Operation Provide Hope, a U.S. military program that sends surplus medical supplies to the former Soviet Union. When I was there, we passed out crayons and coloring books donated by American companies. This is the brighter half of the Chernobyl story.

Often at risk to their own health, doctors, scientists, religious leaders, business people and private citizens have spent the last decade aiding the victims of Chernobyl. This week at the White House, Vice President Gore and I are hosting a ceremony to celebrate these relief efforts.

We are also celebrating the resilience of the children of Chernobyl.

One of those children is 11-year-old Vova, whose family lived in a town that lay directly in the path of Chernobyl's fallout. In 1990, when he was 5, he was flown to the United States from Ukraine for treatment for leukemia.

"We should not forget the many children who need our help, who are not as lucky as I have been," he says. "Please do not forget Chernobyl."

The little Ukrainian boy reminds us that he and children like him -- the children of Chernobyl and children everywhere whose health and lives have been devastated through no fault of their own -- were and always will be our common responsibility as members of the human family.

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April 30, 1996

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lina is a 14-year-old Palestinian girl who lives in the town of Jenin on the West Bank. Until a few weeks ago, the only Israelis she had ever come in contact with were soldiers who patrolled the area around the city. Meeting a teen-ager from Israel, much less making friends with one, was unthinkable.

But after spending three weeks in the United States with other Arab and Israeli teen-agers at a camp in the Maine woods, Lina says her outlook about Israel and Jews has changed. One of 170 Arab and Jewish boys and girls selected to participate in a program called Seeds of Peace, Lina will return to the Middle East this month with a greater understanding of the world she lives in -- and the people she lives with.

"They're not just soldiers," she says of her Israeli counterparts. "They are human beings just like us. They have hearts, and they feel, and they don't like the situation either."

I've met with the boys and girls participating in Seeds of Peace several times since the program began in 1993. The first time they came to the White House was to witness Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sign the peace accord in September 1993. They came again this week -- after meeting with senators and with Secretary of State Warren Christopher -- infused with hope about the prospects for peace in the Middle East.

Now 3 years old, Seeds of Peace brings together boys and girls from Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia and Kuwait who show potential for leadership and diplomacy.

Most of the Arab children have never spent time with Jews. Most of the Israelis have never spent time with Arabs. In fact, some have lost family members and friends to the violence in the Middle East.

Seeds of Peace helps them leave the past behind and forge a vision for a peaceful future. During three weeks at camp, they share bunks and meals, play sports together and participate in other traditional camp activities. In the evenings, they hold group discussions about politics and their daily lives. Along the way, they learn the art of conflict resolution and become more skilled at negotiating agreements.

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They learn empathy, respect and how to agree to disagree about topics as sensitive as who should rule Jerusalem. They also learn how to listen, even when they don't like what they hear.

Seeds of Peace was the brainchild of John Wallach, a former journalist, in response to the World Trade Center bombing. "Treaties that are signed are just pieces of paper unless the peace is real in people's hearts," he says.

One of the first boys to participate, an Israeli named Yehoyada, said the camp experience was a perfect warmup for watching the signing of the historic peace accord in September 1993.

"It was like they put into practice what we did in camp," he says. "We had the feeling that we were showing them the way."

As Wallach hoped, Seeds of Peace has had a lasting effect on the children who participate.

Yehoyada, now 17, has visited friends in Egypt and Jordan. He also has remained friendly with Laith, a Palestinian boy he met through Seeds of Peace. Despite recent setbacks in the peace process -- and the wariness of some family members -- they have stayed in touch over the past three years. The two boys visited Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's grave together. This spring, Laith called Yehoyada after each of the bus bombings in Jerusalem to offer his condolences. "It makes you feel there is still hope," Yehoyada said.

A 16-year-old Jordanian girl named Sara found the program just as enlightening. When she returned to Jordan after participating last year, she led a seminar on the Holocaust to help educate Arab youngsters about the experience of Jews in World War II.

Each time I meet young people like Lina, Yehoyada and Sara, I am reminded that we adults have a lot to learn from them when it comes to overcoming stereotypes, bridging historical divides and learning to live in peace. Children often are our best ambassadors. They are our Seeds of Peace.

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September 3, 1996

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Every day across our country, thousands of men and women perform deeds that help make our world a more just place. They don't do it for fame or money. They do it because they believe in the individual worth and dignity of every human being. Their selfless acts of courage and service show the rest of us what we can do in our own lives to strengthen America's tradition of freedom.

Earlier this week, the President honored a handful of these citizens with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States. Only 344 people have received the award since its inception in 1963.

I'd like to share the stories of this year's honorees with you.

-- Joseph Cardinal Bernardin. Throughout a distinguished career in the Roman Catholic Church, Cardinal Bernardin's voice and conscience have set an example for all people. Guided by his faith in God, he has fought tirelessly against some of the greatest enemies of freedom: racial discrimination, poverty and ignorance. As the President said, he is "a remarkable man of God and a remarkable man of the people."

-- James Brady. The freedom to walk the streets and neighborhoods of America in safety is what former White House Press Secretary James Brady and his wife, Sarah, have worked for these past 15 years. Paralyzed by a would-be assassin's bullet in 1981, Brady recovered to fight for stronger gun control laws in this country, including passage of the law that carries his name.

-- Millard Fuller. The founder and President of Habitat for Humanity, Millard Fuller has spent 20 years improving housing for low-income Americans. His organization has recruited thousands of volunteers (including Bill, Chelsea and me) to help 50,000 low-income families build their own homes.

-- David Hamburg. David Hamburg has devoted his life to understanding human behavior, preventing violent conflict and improving the health and well-being of children. As a physician, educator and most recently the President of the Carnegie Corp., he has given voice to the issues that matter most in the lives of children and their families.

-- John H. Johnson. Through Johnson Publishing Co., which prints leading African-American magazines like Ebony and Jet, John H. Johnson has raised the profile of African-Americans in our nation's daily life and discouraged negative racial stereotypes. An Arkansas native and self-made man, Johnson continues to inspire

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young people to believe in themselves and to take advantage of available opportunities.

— Eugene Lang. Fifteen years ago, businessman Eugene Lang promised to pay the college tuition of any member of a sixth-grade class at his East Harlem alma mater who graduated from high school. That promise led to the creation of his "I Have a Dream" foundation, which is helping 15,000 underprivileged students in 59 cities prepare for college with tutoring, mentoring and financial aid.

— Jan Nowak-Jezioranski. Jan Nowak-Jezioranski is revered in both his native Poland and his adopted United States for his lifelong dedication to the cause of freedom and democracy. In World War II, Nowak risked his life to carry vital information from Poland to the allies. Later, he directed Radio Free Europe's Polish Service, a voice of freedom and hope for millions of Poles.

— Antonia Pantoja. The driving force behind innumerable efforts to empower and strengthen the Puerto Rican community, Antonia Pantoja founded ASPIRA 35 years ago. This organization promotes education, leadership training and community service for Latino youth.

-- Rosa Parks. By refusing to surrender her seat on a bus to a white man one evening 40 years ago in Montgomery, Ala., Rosa Parks symbolized a civil rights revolution that forced our country to honor our ideals of equality and justice. Parks continues to work to extend more opportunities for young people through the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development in Detroit.

-- Ginetta Sagan. Imprisoned and tortured during World War II, Ginetta Sagan has devoted her life to saving others from unjust and inhumane imprisonment. Through Amnesty International and her own Aurora Foundation, she has drawn the world's attention to the plight of prisoners of conscience and their families.

-- Morris Udall. A 30-year veteran of the House of Representatives, Morris Udall led our nation's efforts to protect America's natural resources, wildlife and environment. In addition to his skills as a lawmaker, Udall was revered in Congress for the sense of humor and civility he brought to his office.

Like so many other Americans whose names we will never know, the winners of the Medal of Freedom look beyond their own needs to serve the needs of others. Their lives and accomplishments reflect the best of the American character and spirit -- and the best that our democracy has to offer.

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September 10, 1996

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

It comes in a foil packet no larger than the palm of one's hand. But the simple mixture of salt and sugar has saved the lives of millions of children around the world.

I saw firsthand the miracle of this solution when I visited the International Center for Health and Population Research in Bangladesh last year. The center, which is partially supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is a pioneer in the use of the solution, called Oral Rehydration Therapy, to treat children suffering from serious cases of diarrhea.

Walking through rows of beds at the center, I was surprised to meet a doctor from Louisiana. He had traveled all the way to Bangladesh to learn how this inexpensive therapy could be used to treat patients in America. It costs just \$7 a day to administer the solution at home, compared to \$800 a day for intravenous rehydration treatments in a hospital.

The program in Bangladesh is but one example of how American foreign aid supports efforts to promote health, education, economic self-sufficiency and democracy in nations around the world.

Although polls show that many Americans think foreign aid accounts for as much as 20 percent of the federal budget, these expenditures actually amount to less than 1 percent. Not only does this small investment in the developing world strengthen our democratic interests overseas, we reap other benefits at home -- benefits we never anticipated.

Even here, in the world's richest, most prosperous nation, there are still thousands of families and children struggling with the same challenges their counterparts in developing countries face -- from diarrhea to illiteracy to low childhood immunization rates to infant mortality.

The debilitating problems of poverty know no borders. Solutions shouldn't, either.

A few years ago, Brian Atwood, the director of USAID, realized that our foreign aid efforts are not a one-way street. Just as we provide support and technical assistance for projects overseas, we can learn from simple and cost-effective innovations being devised in developing countries to improve economic and social conditions.

That's why he started Lessons Without Borders, a program that brings USAID's decades of experience working with poor communities on the other side of the globe home to our own cities and rural areas. This week, the first annual Lessons Without

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Borders conference took place at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and I had the chance to speak there.

Baltimore was an appropriate place for students, faculty, citizens and development experts to join together for a discussion of what we can learn from the experiences of other countries.

Under Mayor Kurt Schmoke, the city became one of the first in America to adapt strategies based on successful programs in the developing world.

Aware that the city's childhood immunization rates were lower than those of many developing nations, Baltimore officials went to Nairobi to see why Kenya's immunization efforts were so successful. It was clear to them that they had not been doing a good enough job of educating parents at home about the importance of immunizations. So they followed Kenya's example, going door to door to encourage parents to bring their children to local immunization sites. As a result, Baltimore boosted its immunization rates from 62 percent to over 95 percent.

In my travels abroad, I've observed many creative approaches to addressing poverty that can enhance our own efforts to help families in America. I've visited hospitals in the Philippines and Brazil that are developing innovative techniques to care for premature babies, to encourage breastfeeding, and to promote bonding between mothers and their newborns.

But creative approaches are not limited to health. One idea that got its start in the developing world is already flourishing in several cities in America. It's called "microlending," a fancy name for a very simple concept: community banks that offer modest loans for women to start small businesses in poor neighborhoods. For many women in America, access to traditional lines of credit is still very difficult to obtain.

Providing credit to small entrepreneurs who have a market in communities that other businesses shun is one of the best investments we can make to revitalize our inner cities and lift people out of poverty. While small loans have helped women in South America and South Asia start businesses raising milk cows, making fishnets or baking bread, modest loans in America can help women open child care centers, catering firms or word-processing businesses.

Lessons Without Borders helps us distinguish the good ideas from the totally impractical. Mostly, it enables people around the world to share their ideas, experiences and innovations in ways that benefit us all.

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