

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. bio	Bios re: Seneca Fall Dinner (partial) (2 pages)	n.d.	P6/b(6)
002. note	Phone Message to Katy (partial) (1 page)	07/06	P6/b(6)
003. fax	To Katy Button from Linda K. Kerber (partial) (1 page)	07/13/98	P6/b(6)
004. fax	To Melanne Verveer from Betsy Griffith re: Seneca Falls Celebration (partial) (1 page)	06/24/98	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Ruby Shamir (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 23246

FOLDER TITLE:

Seneca Falls Dinner [2]

2012-0565-S

ry1267

RESTRICTION CODES

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

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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Seneca Falls Dinner

Ellen Chesler

Ellen Chesler is best known as the author of Woman of Valor: Margaret Sanger and the Birth Control Movement in America. She has taught history and women's studies at Barnard College and Hunter College and has written articles and book reviews for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *Newsday*. Ms. Chesler is also interested in global environmental issues and population stabilization, and in 1994 attended the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development as a birth control expert. Over the years she has studied and written about family issues and evaluated American public policies towards women.

(212) 548-0600

Alice Kessler-Harris

Alice Kessler Harris is a feminist historian and professor of women's history at Rutgers University. Focused around issues of employment, Kessler-Harris has written about the historical development of equal opportunity policies, women at work, labor legislation and gender and history. Her book Out to Work: A History of Wage Earning Women in the United States, is an overview of the diversity of women's experiences as wage workers in America.

(732) 932-7330 / (732) 932-7905

Ruth Simmons

Former Provost of Spelman College and Vice Provost of Princeton, Dr. Ruth Simmons became the first black President of Smith College in 1995. Referred to as "the Jackie Robinson of Higher Education," her extensive background in higher education includes additional faculty and administrative appointments at many other universities. Having lectured and written extensively on Caribbean and African literature, as well as on a variety of higher education issues, Dr. Simmons has been the recipient of a number of academic awards including a Fulbright Fellowship. A graduate of Dillard University, Dr. Simmons received her Ph.D. from Harvard and in 1993 published a report on Princeton race relations that resulted in a number of initiatives designed to address the difficulties minority students face on American college campuses. In January of 1996, Dr. Simmons was named CBS Woman of the Year, in August of the same year she was named Most Inspiring Woman by NBC Nightly News, and that November was named a Glamour Magazine Women of the Year. Dr. Simmons is also active in a number of charitable and educational organizations and serves as a member of several corporate Boards.

(413) 585-2100

Nancy Cott

Nancy Cott is a historian of women's issues and professor of American Studies at Yale. She has authored several books including The Bonds of Womanhood (1977) a widely acclaimed history of women, and The Grounding of Modern Feminism, a study of the American women's movement from 1910- 1930.

(203) 432-1188

Ellen DuBois- Ellen DuBois is a professor of history at UCLA and author of Harriot Stanton Blatch & The Winning of Women's Suffrage, a detailed account of the controversy over women's suffrage following the drafting of the 14th Amendment. Dr. DuBois is an expert on Susan B. Anthony and is a Wellesly graduate.

(310) 825-1846 / (310) 825-4601

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Paula Giddings

Paula Giddings is a professor of Women's and African American Studies at Duke. A black feminist scholar and historian, she has written When and Where I Stand: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America and When and Where I Enter, the first exhaustive history of Black Women's history in America. She is currently writing about Ida Wells Barnett.

(919) 684-5683

Marie Wilson

Having campaigned on issues such as reproductive choice, child care, and economic empowerment, Marie Wilson has served in the grass roots ranks of the women's movement for over 30 years. President of the Ms. Foundation for Women, which funds local and national organizations that advance the rights and needs of girls and women, Marie is a force to be reckoned with. Under her leadership, the Ms. Foundation has raised public consciousness about women's issues, and ensured the continued funding of groups like the Latina Roundtable on Health and Reproductive Rights (New York). Marie has also used her position at the Ms. Foundation to establish the Healthy Girls/Healthy Women Collaborative Fund, a grant making and public education initiative that focuses on maintaining girls' strength during young womanhood, and the Women's Economic Development Collaborative Fund, which by 1999 will have awarded more than \$6 million for women's job creation, self employment and micro enterprise programs. Marie also sits on The White House Project to elect a woman president.

(212) 742-2300 x 400

Kathryn Kish Sklar

Kathryn Kish Sklar is a professor of history at SUNY-Binghamton. Over the years she has written a number of articles and books on women's rights and political development, and served on the editorial boards of *American Quarterly*, *Journal of American History* and *Ms. Magazine*. Having received over 20 fellowships and grants to pursue her areas of interest, Dr. Sklar is particularly interested in studying the impact of women reformers and women's organization on society. Prior to moving to SUNY-Binghamton, she taught at UCLA.

Binghamton

(607) 777-6202

Linda Kerber

Linda Kerber is an author and history professor at the University of Iowa. She focus her studies around women in the workplace and in 1997 was named president of the America Historical Association. Dr. Kerber has also spent considerable time writing about women of the revolutionary era.

(319) 335-2299

Gerda Lerner

Gerda Lerner is a feminist historian and professor emerita of history and women's studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After fleeing Nazi Germany in 1935, Dr. Lerner made her way to the United States where she married, raised children and went on to a Ph.D. in history at Columbia University. Having directed her graduate interests toward the then unknown discipline of women's history, Dr. Lerner used her knowledge to establish the country's first Women's History Department at Sarah Lawrence College in 1972. She then moved to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to establish a doctoral program in the same area of study and soon became known as "the mother of American feminist scholarship." A founding member of the National Organization of Women, Lerner is a past president of the Organization of American Historian and in 1976, helped establish March as Women's History Month. Her books include The

HM:

P6(b)(6)

[001]

Creation of Patriarchy (1986), The Creation of Feminist Consciousness (1993), and Why History Matters, a volume of essays that examines the effects of race and class on women. Just this May, Dr. Lerner was elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Jean Fox O'Barr

Jean Fox O'Barr is the director of women's studies at Duke

(919) 684-5683

Paula Rayman

Economist and sociologist Paula Rayman is currently the director of the Radcliffe Public Policy Institute at Harvard. Her research focuses around work and family issues, the effects of layoffs, the training of older workers and how to effect employee's quality of life. Through her work she has shown that reorganizing work schedules and introducing flex time, not only enhances the quality of employee's lives, but improves productivity. She feels it is vital that companies begin to understand the importance of being worker friendly.

(617) 496-3478

Barbara Whitehead

Philosopher, feminist author and sociologist, Barbara Whitehead is often referred to as America's Divorce Historian. Author of The Divorce Culture and a 1993 *Atlantic* article entitled "Dan Quayle was Right," Whitehead purports that the modern workplace does not support marriages with children and that Americans expect much too much from marriage. She also alleges that divorce laws are a bad bargain for women and that divorce is never good for children.

(413) 549-6112

Shirley Burggref

Shirley Burggref is the author of The Feminine Economy and Economic Man.

P6(b)(6)

Ask Neera

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MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO:

Katy

☒ YOU WERE CALLED BY—

☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Linda Kerber

OF (Organization)

☐ PLEASE PHONE (Enter area code if necessary)

☐ DSN

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN

☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL

☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Re Letter of invitation

HM Tel.

OF Tel.

P6(b)(6)

(319) 335-4034

Fax (319) 338-7338

RECEIVED BY

ERIC

DATE

7/6

TIME

12:15

NSN 7540-00-634-4018

50363-111
UNICOR FPI-SST

OPTIONAL FORM 363 (Rev. 7-94)

General Services Administration

[002]

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO:

Kathy

☐

YOU WERE CALLED BY—

☐

YOU WERE VISITED BY—

~~*Sarah*~~ *Sarah Dubow*

☒ (Organization)

for Prof. Alice Kessler Harris

☒

PLEASE PHONE

(Enter area code,
if necessary)

☐

DSN

413-528-9526

☐

WILL CALL AGAIN

☐

IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐

RETURNED YOUR CALL

☐

WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Re - July 9 invitation

*Above is the correct #
for Alice Kessler Harris.
She has not yet received
The ~~me~~ message*

RECEIVED BY

Phyllis

DATE

7/6

TIME

11:45

NSN 7540-00-634-4018
50363-111
UNICOR FPI-SST

OPTIONAL FORM 363 (Rev. 7-94)
General Services Administration

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

Phone: (202)456-6266
Fax: (202)456-6244

TO: Anita Jones
PHONE: 812-855-7311
FAX: 812-855-0696
FROM: Katy Button

COMMENTS: Attached is Mrs. Clinton's
speech from Seneca Falls. We would
be delighted if you choose to
re-print or excerpt it in your
newsletter. Since the speech is now
public record, you don't need written
permission from our office.

Please call me if you have any
questions.

-Katy

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THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA



July 13, 1998

TO: Katy Button

From: Linda K. Kerber

=====

Dear Katy,

Thank you so very very much for all your attentiveness last week.

I think you already know how much I enjoyed my evening at the White House, and how much I enjoyed meeting you and your splendid colleagues. I feel very fortunate indeed. It is truly heartening to know that there is so much feminist commitment in the heart of our government; I emerge feeling very optimistic about the future.

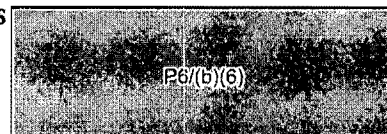
I've asked my publisher to send a copy of the page proof of No Constitutional Right to Be Ladies directly to Suzy George in Secretary Albright's office. I'm grateful for your offer to tell her that it's on its way. [I promise you a copy of your own when it's published!]

I trust you will feel comfortable calling on me whenever you need a historical consultation. If you should decide to pursue your thoughts about graduate work in women's studies or women's history, I'll be glad to share what I know about university programs and women's history in general.

This comes with continuing thanks, and the hope that our paths will continue to cross.

Warmly,

Linda K. Kerber
May Brodbeck Professor in the Liberal Arts
and Professor of History



[003]

Agenda
-entertainment (one man/woman shows)
-Pataki, slaughter Magniha
-Judy Collins
July 8, 1998
-Tribal mother invocation
-Bob Stanton
DINNER WITH WOMEN HISTORIANS

Jackie Kowen
208-6015
been hit - p
re: 2 lot

Jim Madden
530-1464
(was at HRC
meeting)
Jill Nichol
530-1472

DATE: Thursday, July 9, 1998
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Old Family Dining Room
FROM: Melanne Verveer

I. PURPOSE

To meet with women historians and academicians in preparation for your participation in the Seneca Falls Conference.

II. BACKGROUND

Array in prep

As you know, you will be speaking next week at the conference in Seneca Falls commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Women's Rights Convention held in 1848. The Seneca Falls Convention was a precedent-setting gathering; organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the participants presented a "Declaration of Sentiments," based on the language and content of the Declaration of Independence. Stating that "All men and women are created equal," they demanded equal rights for women, including the right to vote. Many of the women you will be meeting with have extensive backgrounds in 19th century women's history and can discuss the original Seneca Falls conference, as well as its continuing impact on American women. A schedule for this year's conference is attached.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Scholars/Historians

Ellen Chesler - Open Society Institute
Paula Giddings - Duke University
Betsy Griffith - Madeira School
Linda Kerber - University of Iowa
Alice Kessler-Harris - Rutgers University
Jean Fox O'Barr - Duke University
Ruth Simmons - Smith College

White House Staff/Others

Melanne Verveer
Ann Lewis
Lissa Muscatine
Christy Macy

Laura Schiller
Jennifer Klein
Nicole Rabner
Neera Tanden
Katy Button

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Informal Dinner

V. PRESS

Closed Press

VI. REMARKS

None

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

Phone: (202)456-6266

Fax: (202)456-6244

TO: Linda Kerber

PHONE: 319-351-8446

FAX: 319-338-7338

FROM: Katy Button

COMMENTS: Please see attached. Let
me know if you have any
questions.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 6, 1998

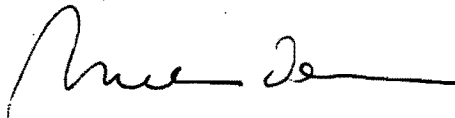
Dr. Linda Kerber
University of Iowa

Dear Dr. Kerber:

The First Lady would like to invite you to attend a dinner with women historians on Thursday, July 9th at 7:00 pm. The dinner will bring together women scholars and historians from around the country for a private, off-the-record discussion on issues that have affected American women throughout our history and which continue to challenge us today.

I hope that you will be able to join us. Please call Katy Button in my office at 202-456-6266 if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Shirley
Burgheff

(850)
224-5495

Katy -

I hadn't heard from

Betsy Griff. This about

- names she recommends
for me thinkers drives
re: Seneca Falls
- whenever 7/4 is ok for her.

703 556-8242(0)

703 556-8231(4)

Also I'd called Ellen Chester
to join us + have not
heard back. Farsi

212 548-0600

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6.24.98

TO: Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
The White House
PH: 202-456-6266
FAX 202-456-6244

FR: Betsy Griffith
Madeira School
W: 703-556-8242
H: [REDACTED] P6(b)(6)
FAX 703-893-3289

[004]

RE: Seneca Falls Celebration

Melanne,

I'm delighted to be able to help prepare the First Lady for Seneca Falls. July 9 works for me.

In thinking about who else might participate, I thought about Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Declaration of Rights and Sentiments, the document she prepared for the 1848 women's rights convention. Based on the Declaration of Independence put substituting "all men" for King George, it enumerated eighteen grievances to be addressed, basically legal rights; employment opportunities and wages; educational opportunities and training for professions; divorce, custody of children, family issues; women's "equal moral obligation" to be good citizens; and the "elective franchise."

Mrs. Clinton could invite historians (and a few others) who know those topics in the past and present tense. I'm assuming she and your office will recognize a lot of these and probably already have their phone numbers; if not, the info would exist in a bibliography directory of American scholars or on the internet. Let me know if you need more info. (List follows.)

In addition to my book, In Her Own Right: The Life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, chapter 4, you might want to have somebody peruse U.S. History as Women's History: New Feminist Essays, edited by Linda Kerber, Alice Kessler-Harris, and Kathryn Kish Sklar (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995).

Thanks again for the invitation. Please tell Hilary I'll help however I can -- on any issue. Bon voyage to you all. You probably know how to say that in Chinese by now.

? - one of these

Theresa?

* Betsy

AA ~~Mary Berry~~

* ✓ Ellen Chesler

Call for reaction
suggestions - in NY
sords

obviously knows employment and ERA

family issues, Margaret Sanger biographer

~~Susan Estrich~~

~~UCLA law school, family & legal issues~~

?? Alice Kessler-Harris - lives in NY

Rutgers, writes about employment

~~Jenetta Cole~~

~~former Pres of Spelman~~

AA ? Ruth Simmons

Pres of Smith

?? Nancy Cott

Dept. of Amer.
studies

Yale, recently Grounding Modern Feminism
203-432-1188

might have
contact info.

Male
PO. Box 208236
New Haven
16520

* ? Ellen DuBois

spec. expertise on
Sen. Falls

Wellesley grad, UCLA, expert on Susan
Anthony and legal issues

AA ? Paula Giddings

at Duke, writing about Ida Wells Barnett

✓ Marie Wilson

MS Foundation, heading White House Project

?? Kathryn Kish Sklar

SUNY-Binghamton

?? Linda Kerber

has written about revolutionary era women,
Iowa

✓ Gerda Lerner

the "Dean" of women's history, prof emerita, U
Wisconsin-Madison

? Jean Fox O'Barr

Duke, head of women's studies

v. interesting
social context

- Get more info
of women

- Get names from Sid (January discussion)

Fax to MU

- Call Betsy for more details.

- Book from Neera

- check w/ Audrey

- Add Marsha Jody, (TW), Belle Sawhill,
Ruth Madel (Rutgers)

- Gloria + Betty?

Ellen
yes, v. smart
doesn't know

good
interesting
wrote on
ECS's daughter
AA, good

wonderful
written about
progressive era
excellent
gr. writer

not well,
retired
doesn't
know her
work

More policy-
focused
less historical
perspective.

Lunch
sometime

24TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1997 Asbury Park Press, Inc.
Asbury Park Press (Neptune, NJ.)

June 1, 1997, Sunday

SECTION: E, Pg. 8, Books

LENGTH: 660 words

HEADLINE: Jewish experience informs and inspires historian

BYLINE: NICHOLAS A. BASBANES; CORRESPONDENT

BODY:

Begin text

AS a teen-age girl growing up in Vienna during the 1930s, Gerda Lerner regarded herself and her family as fully assimilated members of the Austrian middle class.

Things changed dramatically for the Jewish family on March 11, 1938, when millions of enthusiastic Austrians welcomed Adolf Hitler's troops into their country. Over night, people who were once accepted as respected members of the community were treated with contempt, exposed to violence and arrested without just cause.

"I went from being a member of a solid, well-established, middle class, intellectual elite one day to being the next day in the category of vermin. All of a sudden there were people you could abuse and kill, you could take everything they had. This was done by designating the group as deviant and not quite human. And this of course led to the atrocities of the Holocaust," said Lerner, 76, the author of "Why History Matters" (Oxford University Press, 249 pp., \$ 30). This superb new volume of essays gives immediacy and focus to Lerner's pathbreaking work as historian, writer and teacher over the past 35 years.

The young Lerner made her way to the United States by 1939, married, raised two children and worked a variety of jobs until, at the age of 38, she returned to school. Then, with a Ph.D. in history from Columbia University, Lerner directed her interests toward the then unknown discipline of women's history. In 1972, she established the country's first Women's History Department at Sarah Lawrence College. From there, she moved to Madison, Wis., and established a doctoral program at the University of Wisconsin.

"The basis of the program I set up is that every student has to meet all of the requirements of the American history Ph.D., plus a parallel additional requirement in women's history. The result is that all of our students have been hired and have excellent positions because they're the best trained historians, not just specialists in one field," Lerner said.

A founding member of the National Organization for Women, Lerner is a past president of the Organization of American Historians. In 1976, she helped

Asbury Park Press (Neptune, NJ.), June 1, 1997

establish March as Women's History Month. Her books include "The Majority Finds Its Past" (1979), "The Creation of Patriarchy" (1986) and "The Creation of Feminist Consciousness" (1993).

Although her scholarship is centered on women's history and feminist issues, Lerner makes clear why she turned to history at a time in her life when most people are firmly set on established courses.

"I am a historian because of my Jewish experience. I see the acquiring of history as a way of giving meaning to your own life and pursuits. If you keep people ignorant of their past, you can do almost anything in social engineering," she said.

The dozen essays included in "Why History Matters" offer a kind of summation of Lerner's work, reminding readers that people who ignore their past, as the Spanish philosopher George Santayana pointed out, are doomed to repeat it.

"History is under attack in this culture, but much worse, it is being ignored," Lerner said, explaining how she came to select the title for her book. "I think a whole generation has grown up thinking history doesn't matter at all."

At first, Lerner intended to call the book "Life and Thought," which is now the subtitle. "I have always felt that the artificial separation between life and thought was wrong. When we do our best thinking, we bring our life into it, and when we do our best living, we should bring our thought into it. I was interested in showing that."

But then she recalled her own experience of having seen "what the absence of history means to people, and conversely, the dynamic, energizing effect on people when they become aware of it." At that point, the title, "Why History Matters," took on special significance.

"I have three grandsons and a granddaughter," she concluded. "I wrote this book for them."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: ALISA DOUER; Special to the Press; Gerda Lerner wrote "Why History Matters: Life and Thoughts" (Oxford University Press) for her grandchildren.

LOAD-DATE: February 16, 1998

29TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1996 PR Newswire Association, Inc.
PR Newswire

December 19, 1996, Thursday

SECTION: Financial News

DISTRIBUTION: -- WITH PHOTO -- TO BUSINESS EDITOR

LENGTH: 412 words

HEADLINE: Ruth J. Simmons Elected to Pfizer Board of Directors

DATELINE: NEW YORK, Dec. 19

BODY:

Pfizer Inc (NYSE: PFE) today announced the election of Ruth J. Simmons, Ph.D., president of Smith College, to the Board of Directors, effective January 1, 1997.

Dr. Simmons, 51, became president of Smith College, in Northampton, Massachusetts, in July 1995. She had been vice provost of Princeton University since 1992, and was previously provost of Spelman College. Her extensive background in education includes additional faculty and administrative appointments at the University of Southern California, California State University at Northridge, and the University of New Orleans.

"Ruth Simmons' impressive record of achievement will make Pfizer's board stronger than ever," said William C. Steere, Jr., chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Pfizer Inc. "Her understanding of global issues and involvement in all aspects of education, with which Pfizer is deeply concerned, will be a great asset."

Dr. Simmons has received a number of academic awards, including Danforth and Fulbright fellowships, and was plenary speaker at the 50th anniversary of The Fulbright Program in October. Dr. Simmons has lectured and written extensively on Caribbean and African literature and on a variety of critical issues in higher education. Her 1993 report on race relations at Princeton resulted in a number of initiatives designed to address the particular difficulties that minority students face there and at other college campuses in the United States.

A graduate of Dillard University, Dr. Simmons received a Ph.D. in romance languages and literature from Harvard University. She is active in a number of charitable and educational organizations, including the Clarke School for the Deaf, the Health Steps for Young Children Program and the Committee for Economic Development. She is a member of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and is a trustee of the Institute for Advanced Study. She was named a CBS Woman of the Year in January 1996, Most Inspiring Woman by NBC Nightly News in August 1996, a Glamour Magazine Woman of the Year in November 1996, and holds honorary degrees from several colleges and universities.

Pfizer Inc is a research-based, diversified health-care company with global operations. The company reported sales of more than \$10 billion for 1995, and expects to spend about \$1.7 billion on research and development this year.

SOURCE Pfizer Inc

CONTACT: Andy McCormick of Pfizer Inc, 212-573-1226

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 20, 1996

Newsday (New York, NY), September 27, 1997

response for a student feeling so low. "The first thing I'm going to do is say, I know exactly what you mean," says Ruth Simmons, president of Smith College in Northampton, Mass. "That's how I felt."

Simmons' empathy is instructive for students and parents, too. While the transition to college can be relatively smooth and remarkably quick for some, it can seem endless for others.

For Simmons, now 52, it took almost her whole first school year to feel on firm footing after starting college at 17. "I was absolutely certain that the next year I would not be back," she says.

Where would she have gone? It seemed irrelevant. "The most important thing would have been that I leave."

Simmons grew up in poverty, born the youngest of 12 children in Grapeland, Texas, to sharecroppers. When the family moved to Houston, her father, Isaac Stubblefield, became a factory worker and later a Baptist minister; her mother, Fannie, worked as a maid.

Her mother died when Simmons was 15, a loss she still felt deeply when she went to Dillard University, a historically black college in New Orleans, on a scholarship.

"When you're 15, and your mother dies," she says, "you grieve forever. That was at the center of what I was as a person. I was a person without a mother."

Simmons continued to excel academically but considered herself a social misfit. "I didn't feel I had the right kind of clothes," she says. "I didn't hang out with the right group socially. All of that had a great deal to do with how I felt being in college."

Looking back on that freshman year, she says she was so serious, so focused, that other students must have thought she was dreadful. She ultimately found her niche among academic achievers interested in international affairs.

She also made a social breakthrough. "Eventually, I found my way to the theater group," she says. "I found an extracurricular activity." In theater, she notes, you don't have to be an actor. You can paint or help with props. Simmons did everything, including acting. "There is something like that for every student," she says.

Neither of her parents had graduated from high school, so her father didn't relate to the college experience. One of her brothers was at a college in Texas when she started at Dillard; he is the only other college graduate in the family.

Simmons says parents who didn't go to college shouldn't feel at a loss. They can encourage their children to tap the resources of their school when a problem arises - something she advises all parents to do.

If there was not much in the way of modeling to prepare her for college, family helped sustain her in ways that went beyond the small amounts of money that could be spared. "Having that family," she says, "made a big difference."

Newsday (New York, NY), September 27, 1997

And in 1967 the student who didn't know if she'd be in the school for her sophomore year graduated from Dillard summa cum laude. - Gilgoff
GRAPHIC: Newsday Color Cover Illustration by Ned Levine-Man and women leaving a child at college. Dede Hatch Photo, 1995-Smith College president Ruth Simmons, right, greets students.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: September 27, 1997

5TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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November 23, 1997 Sunday, CHICAGOLAND FINAL EDITION

SECTION: WOMANEWS; Pg. 3; ZONE: CN; HIGH PROFILE: Marie Wilson.

LENGTH: 1404 words

HEADLINE: MONEY FOR JUSTICE;

LONGTIME HEAD OF MS. FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN SWINGS BIG ECONOMIC HAMMER TO EFFECT
SOCIAL CHANGE

BYLINE: By Dana Micucci. Special to the Tribune.

DATELINE: NEW YORK

BODY:

"The question I've always asked myself is how can I work to fight injustice and really make a difference," says Marie Wilson, who is in her 13th year as president of the Ms. Foundation for Women, which for 25 years has been funding hundreds of local and national organizations working to advance the rights and needs of women and girls.

Wilson, 56, is especially qualified to lead the troops into battle. A woman of energy and vision, she has served in the grass roots ranks of the women's movement as a civil rights advocate, community organizer, educator, city councilwoman, wife and mother.

Shaped by her childhood exposure to racial segregation in Atlanta, which fueled her quest for justice, Wilson has campaigned for women's rights on issues such as reproductive choice, child care and economic empowerment.

"When you witness racial and social inequities, the biggest challenge is how to keep your resistance alive," says Wilson. "I felt that I had to resist on a daily basis in order to keep my identity and self intact."

Wilson's 30 years of social activism taught her about resilience, courage, persistence, and the power of people working together, qualities that propelled her rise at the Ms. Foundation and helped her to build the organization into a national institution.

"My goal was to institutionalize the Ms. Foundation by expanding our funding capabilities and launching new public education campaigns like Take Our Daughters to Work Day so that women can continue to have a voice," says Wilson, who has raised and administered tens of millions of dollars for programs and organizations serving women and girls. "Not only do we want to help women succeed economically and meet their other needs, we want to encourage them to believe in themselves and in their own power to improve their lives, particularly those women living in low-income communities who have courage and vision but are lacking financial resources."

Chicago Tribune, November 23, 1997

Last year the Ms. Foundation awarded \$1.6 million in grants. Recipient organizations are involved in activities as diverse as creating more jobs for women, establishing shelters, protesting limited access to health care and providing support and guidance to pregnant teens.

Under her leadership, the Ms. Foundation has not only raised public consciousness about women's issues, but has also ensured the continued funding of groups like the Latina Roundtable on Health and Reproductive Rights (New York), Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence (Seattle), Women Employed Institute (Chicago) and Center for Young Women's Development (San Francisco).

The foundation also offers technical assistance, leadership training, public education and advice on publicity and fundraising strategies.

Wilson also established the Healthy Girls/Healthy Women Collaborative Fund, a grant-making and public-education initiative that focuses on how to maintain girls' strength and resilience during adolescence and young womanhood, and the Women's Economic Development Collaborative Fund, which by 1999 will have awarded more than \$6 million for women's job creation, self-employment and micro-enterprise programs, while working to shape policies affecting women's economic lives.

"We don't just ask donors to hand over their money," says Wilson. "We also want their time and energy. They have to take responsibility and be accountable, and they learn more about the issues in the process."

Wilson has become a role model for women leaders nationwide.

"Marie is a passionate, visionary leader for women and girls," says Connie Evans, president of the Women's Self Employment Project in Chicago, which helps women launch micro-businesses.

"She's developed innovative ways to raise money and advance women's issues that have taught me a lot about how to grow my own organization. And she's always willing to share her leadership skills with other women."

Growing up in the racially segregated South charted Wilson's course of resistance to injustice throughout her life.

"It's hard for a child to watch black kids being moved to the back of a bus and drinking from different water fountains," Wilson says. "The inequities were so clear. It was a daily degrading of everyone's soul."

After graduating from the University of Delaware in 1964 with a degree in philosophy, Wilson wanted to study theology. There were few opportunities for women ministers at that time and so she decided to pursue a "civil rights ministry" instead.

In Wilmington, Del., where her husband worked as a choral conductor at the politically active West Presbyterian Church, Wilson organized informal girls clubs and coffee-house gatherings and participated in civil rights marches and boycotts.

Chicago Tribune, November 23, 1997

"We used music as a way to bring people together at the church to discuss politics," says Wilson. "I began to learn so much from African American girls who became young mothers because they didn't see a future for themselves and lacked proper family-planning information."

By 1966, after relocating to Pittsburgh, Wilson herself was the mother of three children, with another on the way.

While living in an integrated neighborhood in Pittsburgh, Wilson met with local residents to exchange information on family planning and politics, but it wasn't until she and her family moved to Des Moines in 1968 that she began to make a name for herself as a community organizer, lobbyist and political activist on behalf of women's needs and rights.

She worked with Planned Parenthood of Iowa and Iowans for Medical Control of Abortion, educating women and legislators about reproductive choice and health care. Her private and public life intersected again when she adopted a black son with cerebral palsy and worked as a preschool teacher during the early '70s, experiences that made her aware of the lack of child care for low- and middle-income working mothers. She joined a community child-care group, lobbying for a national bill that raised increased child-care standards and resources.

"If you want to make a change, you have to focus in on what hurts you privately and then turn it around and do something positive about it in society. Public-advocacy work made me feel effective and gave me a sense of wholeness," says Wilson.

Wilson's experience in education and women's issues landed her a job in 1978 as director of women's programs at Drake University, where she established programs on progressive ideas such as job sharing, flexible work time, employment re-entry training and minority career development.

"I remember speaking to women at a continuing-education seminar about how busy mothers can accomplish something in the world," she says. "I took each woman one by one and said, 'What's holding you back?' There was such a huge outpouring of emotion. Whether single mothers or homemakers re-entering the work force, a lot of these women needed to restructure their lives, and they weren't prepared. So I devised a curriculum that offered women hope and gave them practical, life-management skills."

By the early '80s, Wilson was a divorced working mother struggling to support five kids. After receiving a master's in education at Drake, she left her post there for a higher-paying job as vice president and director of education and human resources for the Iowa Bankers Association.

"I didn't know anything about banking, but I knew how to design educational programs," says Wilson. "The bankers taught me a lot about entrepreneurism and how to work with the private sector and take financial risks in order to build something. But it wasn't always easy being a hard-core feminist in a conservative, male-dominated institution. We fought things out pretty good."

Wilson also tried her hand at public office, serving for one year as the first woman elected to the Des Moines City Council before she left Iowa in 1985 to run the Ms. Foundation.

Chicago Tribune, November 23, 1997

"The biggest obstacle to advocating for women is being labeled as someone who's against men," says Wilson. "Men want to be involved with their children and families. Women can't do it alone. We have to keep educating people that improving women's lives is also good for men and society as a whole. My biggest dream at the Ms. Foundation is to reach out to even more women across race, age and sexual orientation and broaden the meaning of feminism."

GRAPHIC: PHOTOS 3PHOTO: 'When you witness racial and social inequities, the biggest challenge is how to keep your resistance alive. I felt that I had to resist on a daily basis in order to keep my identity and self intact.'; PHOTO: Marie Wilson (standing) meets with Irene Wamsler-Snow (back to camera), coordinator of the Women and AIDS Fund, Marsha Martin (center), a consultant from the Department of Health and Human Services, and Karen Morita, a consultant from the fund.; PHOTO (color): Ms. Pursestrings; Marie Wilson, president of the Ms. Foundation for Women for 13 years, puts money to work working for social justice. Photo for the Tribune by Matthew Day. (Womanews section, page 1.) Photos for the Tribune by Matthew Day.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 23, 1997

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April 26, 1997, Saturday, ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. 7A

LENGTH: 102 words

HEADLINE: Planned Parenthood to honor donors

BODY:

Author Ellen Chesler will be the featured speaker at the annual Margaret Sanger Society Donor Recognition Luncheon sponsored by Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island at noon Tuesday.

Chesler wrote Woman of Valor: Margaret Sanger and the Birth Control Movement in America. She has taught history and women's studies at Barnard College and Hunter College and has written articles and book reviews for The New York Times, The Washington Post and Newsday.

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The New York Times

February 6, 1994, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 6; Page 31; Column 1; Magazine Desk

LENGTH: 1831 words

HEADLINE: No, The First Priority is; Stop Coercing Women

BYLINE: By Ellen Chesler; Ellen Chesler is the author of "Woman of Valor: Margaret Sanger and the Birth Control Movement in America" and a fellow of the 20th Century Fund. She is a director of the International Women's Health Coalition.

BODY:

Reading Charles F. Westoff's critique of the "feminist" agenda for international population policy today, I am reminded of what the birth control pioneer Margaret Sanger said many years ago when charged with taking herself and the cause of reproductive rights too seriously. She responded, deadpan, though with a characteristically dry wit: "I am the partisan of women who have

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The Rights of Woman



East View of Seneca Falls Village

Celebrating in 1998 what
began in Seneca Falls in 1848

