

Rising

First Lady

At P.S. 115, Urban Reality Is Only Pushed Aside

By SAM DILLON

Hillary Rodham Clinton thrilled Public School 115 with her lightning visit yesterday, but minutes after her departure, students were back in mourning for a teacher who may have been murdered, and the principal was worrying that more school ceilings will collapse.

Though it appeared that the First Lady wanted to make an upbeat point about volunteer action — she chose P.S. 115 to honor an innovative tutoring program there — her one-hour tour of the crowded Washington Heights school became a surprise brush with urban violence and decay.

It came one week after school authorities reported the disappearance of a longtime teacher, Patricia Manning, whose body was found by the police in her Queens apartment, her head bloodied. The police are investigating the death as a homicide, though other causes have not been ruled out.

"It was good that Mrs. Clinton came here when she did, because morale was very low," said Graciela Navarro, who coordinates bilingual education at the school. "It cheered us up, but now we'll go back to mourning."

The First Lady's visit lifts morale, but effects are temporary.

Indeed, in the hours after Mrs. Clinton's visit, the mood in the school faded from exhilaration into renewed grief over Ms. Manning's death. Students, teachers and parents milled through the school's office wearing their best clothing, donned for the First Lady's visit, and black ribbons distributed by parents in memory of Ms. Manning.

"We're all just destroyed by Ms. Manning's death, but Mrs. Clinton's visit came just at the right moment," said George Tomka, the school principal. "Out of tragedy comes hope."

Mrs. Clinton visited P.S. 115 as a way of lauding volunteer tutors who work with the school's children one day a week. But students like Ariel Diaz, 8, believed the First Lady had come because of Ms. Manning's death.

"She picked this school 'cause she is helping us feel better when we feel sad," he said. "I miss my teacher, Ms. Manning."

"I cry when my teacher tells me about Ms. Manning, so Mrs. Clinton comes to make me feel better," Ariel added. "I think she knows that somebody killed Ms. Manning, and she has to find the police and tell them to find the robbers that killed her."

Colleagues last saw Ms. Manning at school on Jan. 13. When she failed to call after several days of absence, Mr. Tomka said he phoned the police Jan. 19.

"We think she was murdered — though we're not sure," Mr. Tomka said. Her death had no apparent connection to her school activities, he said.

Lieut. John Shatinski, the detective squad commander in the 113th Precinct, said that the medical examiner has not yet ruled on the case. Ms. Manning was a "very private person" who confided little, even to relatives, and that has made the investigation difficult, he said.

P.S. 115, situated on West 177th Street, is among the city's most crowded schools, with 1,400 students jammed into a structure built for

1,000. Before Mrs. Clinton's visit, custodians and teachers worked feverishly to give it a spit-and-polish shine. But the Gothic 1913 building is crumbling, and Mrs. Clinton was not given a complete tour.

She did not see, for instance, the hole in the auditorium ceiling, four feet in diameter, left when hundreds of pounds of plaster crashed to the floor recently after a water leak caused a cave-in.

"Water is seeping in all over this school," Mr. Tomka said. "And my letters to the school board authorities about it go unanswered."

When Mrs. Clinton stood in the area on the floor above the collapsed ceiling, Isabel Horwitz, a teacher, said she and other teachers became concerned. "We were all afraid she would fall through," she said.

Mr. Tomka said three students were killed in drug-related violence in the streets outside the school about four years ago, and in November 1990, Antonio Otero, 23, the custodian, was attacked inside the school by teen-agers who beat him with a bat, dislocating his arm.

"I'm glad everything went good for Mrs. Clinton here, because the neighborhood around here is terrible," Mr. Otero said.

WNT's
1/27/93

First Lady and Top Official Visit, Both Named Hillary Clinton

1/27/93

By MICHAEL KELLY

On her first day in her new job shaping her husband's health-care plan, Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday mixed private discussions on health policy with a public appearance scripted along the traditional lines of First Ladyhood: a visit to a public school in New York to chat with children in front of cameras.

Mrs. Clinton's approach mixes two Hillaries: one a Presidential partner who is daily setting precedents of perquisite and power, and the other a political wife performing a function a hundred years in the circumscribing.

The mix, mastered over the years as the First Lady of Arkansas, is an essential tool in the selling of Bill Clinton's programs, and one that will likely be much in evidence over the development of the health-care plan.

In the afternoon Mrs. Clinton, taking advantage of her presence in New York to receive a long-scheduled humanitarian award, met privately at the Chemical Bank headquarters with several women involved in health-care issues, all of whom were also in the city to take part in the award ceremony of the National Child Labor Committee.

Substantive Discussions

Mrs. Clinton met with Colleen Luntsford Bevis, who is active in drug education and child abuse issues in Tampa, Fla.; Nan Songer, the chairwoman of the New York State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention Services; Jeri Ann Brooks, a California doctor who works with AIDS patients, and Barbara Carol Staggers, also of California, who works with adolescents on mental health issues.

"We talked about general political issues and health care," said Jeffrey Newman, the executive director of the National Child Labor Committee, who took part in the meeting. He said Mrs. Clinton had quizzed the others about the health needs of their communities.

But in her one public appearance of the evening, a brief speech accepting the 1993 Lewis Hine Award for service to children, Mrs. Clinton spoke entirely in the glowing vagueries and smooth-planed platitudes typical of First Lady oratory, and resisted any temptation to mark her first day as chief health reform planner with an address on the subject.

"We have to fight against our own feelings of cynicism and skepticism," she said in speaking about efforts to improve the lot of children. "The President is convinced, and I am convinced, that each of us can make a difference in the life of a child."

A Veteran Playing the Role

But the part of the day that garnered the greatest attention from the press was spent in pure, old-fashioned First Lady theater.

In a morning appearance at Public School 115, an elementary school in a Washington Heights, Mrs. Clinton gave a demonstration of her mastery of a genre of political behavior defined by 200 years of wives before her.

In a third-floor classroom, 12 fourth- and fifth-grade students and seven tutors involved in the volunteer program New York Cares sat on small, worn wooden chairs around small, worn wooden tables. At one end of the room, a blue and white rope line held back a medium-sized cohort of journalists: six or seven video cameras, as many still photographers, a lesser complement of radio, news service and newspaper reporters. The photographers shouted instructions to the children to move here and there, so as not to block the shot of the First Lady. A White House advance staffer plastered gaffer's tape over the lock on the classroom door, so her entrance would be smooth and seamless.

Mrs. Clinton, with a wireless microphone to broadcast her words tucked into the back of her belt, spent about 20 or so minutes among the children, stopping to sit and talk at each table.

The theme of the visit was to emphasize White House support for the New York Cares program, a six-year-old volunteer organization that enlists the evening and weekend work of some 3,500 people who tutor children, visit the elderly and people with AIDS, plant community gardens and do other good works. Maria Alvarez, 33, a vice president with Chase Man-

hattan Bank, established the program at P.S. 115 last year, and accompanied Mrs. Clinton on her rounds.

The First Lady moved through the room at a practiced clip, and kept the talk light and sweet, as is the norm in these sort of events.

"Hi, Melissa, what a pretty dress, I love the colors!" she said to one 8-year-old girl. "You know I used to do this when I was living in Arkansas, which is where I lived before my husband was President. I would go to a school and work with students and I really liked it, 'cause I always learned something too."

Melissa was reading a book about an ice-skater, which prompted Mrs. Clinton to recall that she had enjoyed skating as a child. "But I never got to go very fast," she said, with a touch of rueful humor. "I was usually trying to prevent myself from skating on my ankles."

Mrs. Clinton capped her visit by

calling the numbers in a brief, not particularly hard-fought game of multiplication bingo. Erick Macea, 10, who played two cards, won. He received a kiss from the First Lady, and two happy faces.

As she was leaving the room, Mrs. Clinton stopped to answer a shouted question from a reporter, her only chance in the morning for making a statement of a substantive nature.

What, the reporter asked, did Mrs. Clinton hope to accomplish with her new committee on the health-care system?

"To do what my husband asked me to do — that's what I'm going to try to do," she said. "To perform the function he outlined yesterday, to come up with, by working and coordinating with a lot of people, his health-care proposal that he will present to the Congress in May. And that's what we're going to do."

The First Lady's performance yesterday comes directly out of difficult experience in Arkansas.

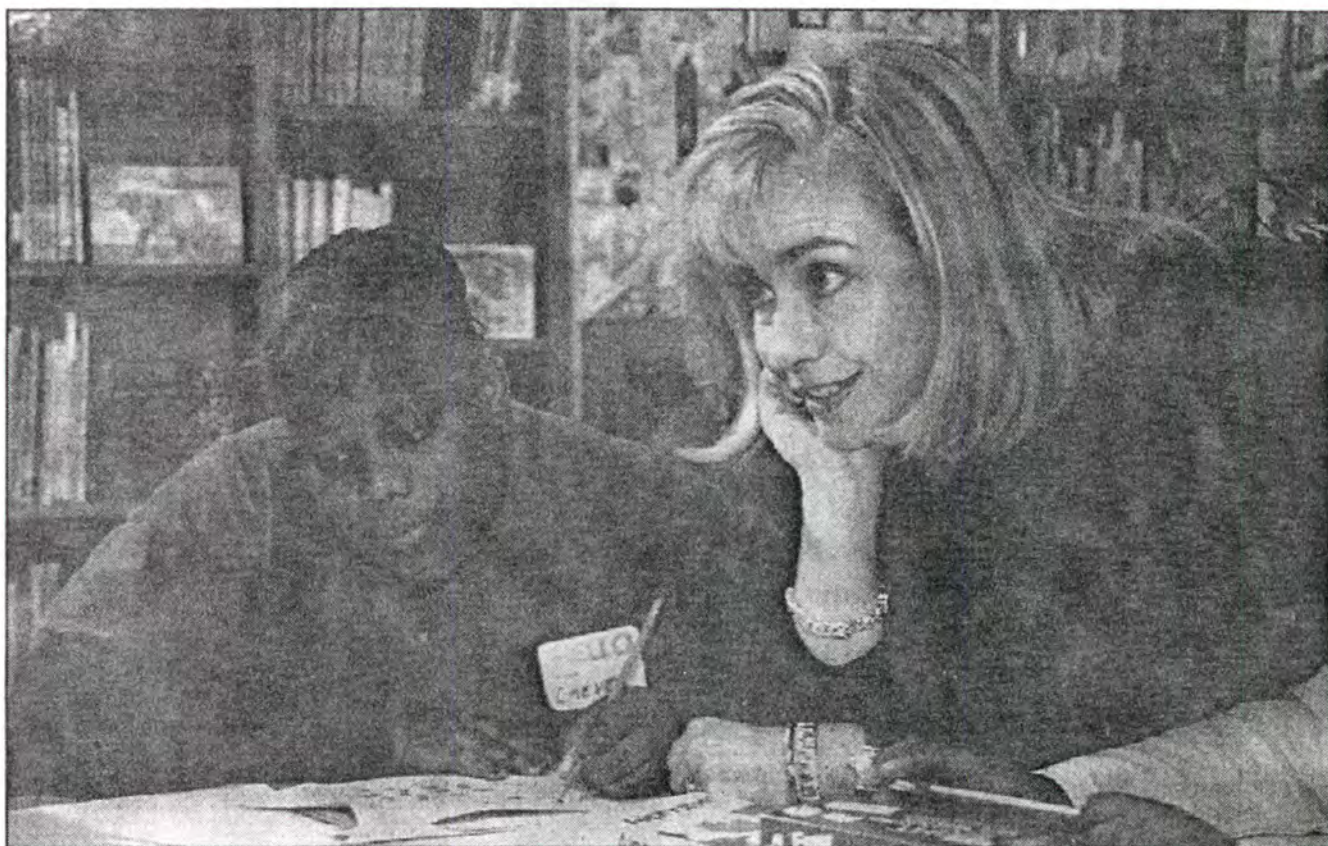
Bill Clinton's first term as Governor of Arkansas ended with the voters throwing him out. Hillary Rodham was part of the reason why. A leftist feminist lawyer who came to Arkansas by way of Wellesley College, Yale and Capitol Hill, she fostered great disapproval with her dismissal of the traditional trappings of the First Lady role.

By 1983, when Mr. Clinton, back in office, appointed his wife to run the commission that would shape the overhauling of the state's public schools, "she had grown tremendously in her understanding of how to present herself," said Bill Bowen, a Little Rock friend and political ally. "And this helped her tremendously in selling the whole education reform to a state that traditionally had always wanted better education but had never wanted to pay for it. If she had not learned to fit in, she would never have enjoyed the same success. We all tend to listen to people who are like us, dress like us, don't put on airs."



Her school colleagues last saw Ms. Manning at school on Jan. 13.

NYT's



By Tim Clary, Agence France-Presse

HELPING OUT: Hillary Rodham Clinton works with Chevon Perry, 12, during a visit to Alexander Humboldt School in New

York. Clinton, in New York to receive an award for her work for children, told the students that math 'was hard for me.'

First lady gets down to business

By Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

President Clinton wasn't kidding when he said his national task force on health-care reform would "work constantly day and night" to come up with a plan for Congress in 100 days.

Monday night at 10:30, just hours after she was named to head the task force, Hillary Rodham Clinton called Sen. Donald Riegle, D-Mich., who was home watching the Detroit Pistons' basketball

game, to talk policy.

Riegle, chairman of a health subcommittee, says he was happy to hear from her. "It's clear to me that she is absolutely focused on this."

On Tuesday, the first lady headed to New York City, aboard the Delta shuttle, to receive the Lewis Hine Award for community service on children's issues.

In New York, her first stop was at Alexander Humboldt School — also known as P.S. 115 — in a gritty immigrant neighborhood in Upper Man-

hattan. She spent about 30 minutes helping tutor fourth- and fifth-grade students.

Meanwhile, her appointment to head the health-care task force generated little controversy. In Washington, most members of Congress praised the appointment.

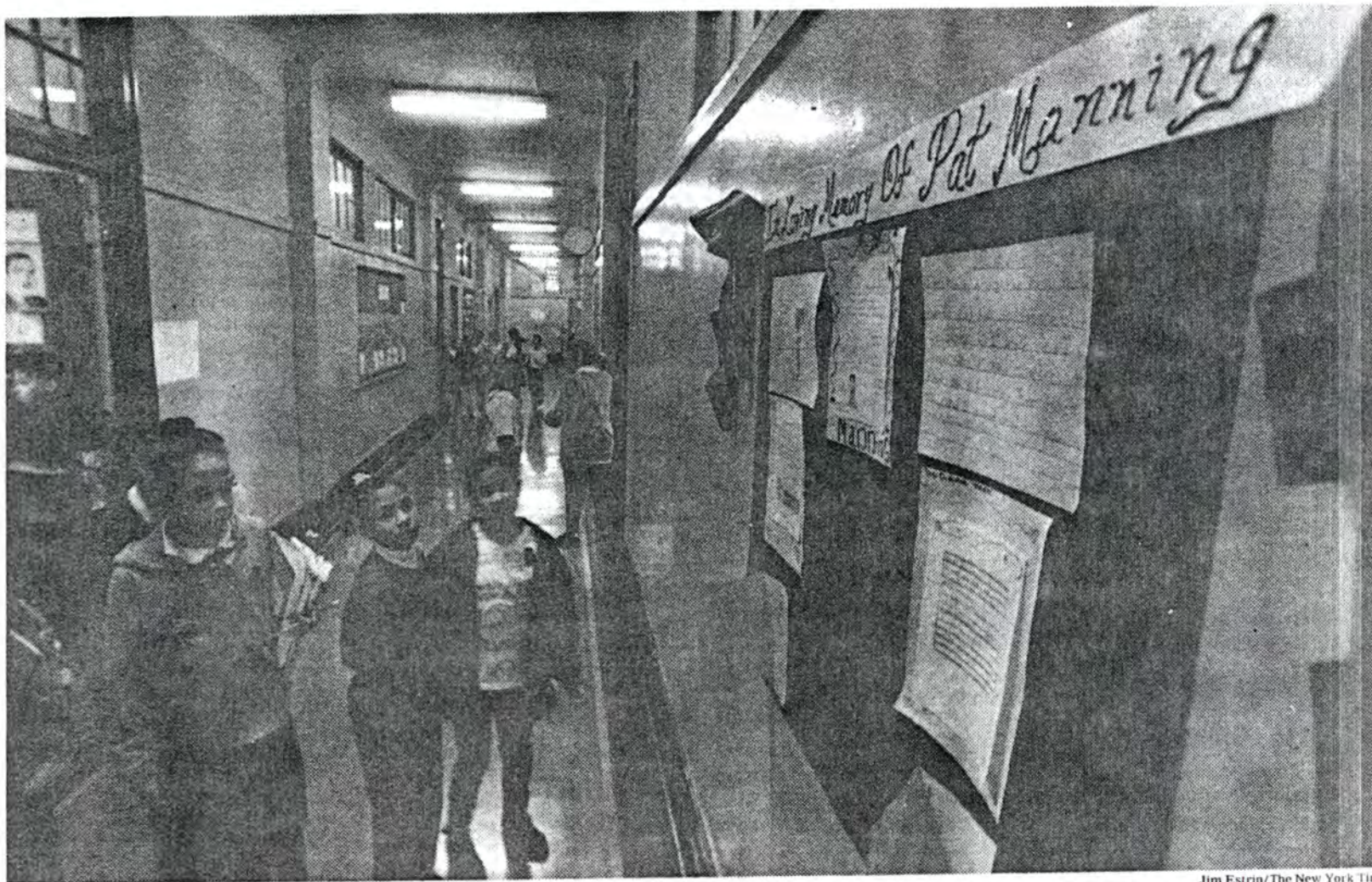
Even House Minority Leader Bob Michel, R-Ill., who initially quipped, "Well, I could always ask my wife, I guess, to come be my representative," quickly amended his comment and added he has "no problem with anyone

who's conversant with the problem and can make a significant contribution."

In Cincinnati, callers to talk radio WCKY were overwhelmingly opposed. "Even people who ... voted for Clinton said this is not what they voted for," said talk show host Mike McMurray.

But in Keene, N.H., most callers "think Mrs. Clinton will do a good job," said WKBK talk show host Dan Mitchell.

► Hillary in N.Y., 2D



Jim Estrin/The New York Times

Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit to Public School 115 in Washington Heights provided a respite from mourning for a beloved teacher who may have been murdered. Students looked at memorial to Patricia Manning, whose body was found in her Queens apartment, her head bloodied.

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OPINION USA

Don't underestimate Hillary Rodham Clinton

She improved Arkansas schools as head of task force and can do the same for nation's health system, says former 'Gazette' editor.

The Arkansas Legislature created a state Education Standards Committee in 1983 largely to humor then-governor Bill Clinton, who appointed his wife as chairman.

The legislators, cynical about the shelves-full of reports critical of the state's schools, were so certain that nothing would ever come of the committee's work that they didn't appropriate any money for expenses.

So, instead of going to a hotel when they came to Little Rock for meetings, committee members from outlying areas bunked with members who lived in Little Rock or close by.

But the legislators underestimated Hillary Rodham Clinton. Under her direction, the commission transformed public-school education in Arkansas. Furthermore, she persuaded the legislators to pass new taxes to fund the transformation.

State Sen. Charlie Cole Chaffin of Benton, a member of that committee, heard on the radio Monday that she was now going to lead a task force on reforming the nation's health-care system. "I decided right then that health care in this

country was going to be OK," Chaffin said. "If anyone in the country can make it OK, it's Hillary Clinton."

The Arkansas Education Standards Committee called for smaller classes, enriched curriculum, a longer school day and year, promotional and competency student testing, mandatory kindergartens, tougher graduation requirements and the like.

Many of the changes were Hillary Clinton's ideas. Requiring counselors in elementary schools was one of them. Like many other recommendations, it wasn't popular with educators (they wanted to rely on school nurses), but because of problems like incest, which in 1983 was not so widely recognized, she insisted that professional counselors were needed at the grade-school level.

She was respectful of the opinions of professional educators, but she didn't accept their opinions as the last word and never hesitated to disagree.

She abhors mediocrity. She is a good listener but also a prodigious reader. Hillary Clinton does her homework. "People are tired of their children going to school and not learning,"



CHAMPION: First lady has been an advocate on many causes for children.



CONFIDANTE: Sharing her thoughts.



LEADER: Heading education task force.

she said many times.

She used her position as first lady to get the opinions of experts, persuading many of them to come to Arkansas to talk to the committee for free. She also wanted to hear from parents and, in a move that surprised everyone, she insisted that the committee hold a public hearing in every one of Arkansas' 75 counties.

Of course, this was wise not only for input but for politics. To overcome the objections of teachers and the cynicism of legislators, Hillary Clinton was building support among the voters for these expensive and major changes in the schools.

Arkansans believed there were many incompetent teachers. Over the protests of the teacher unions, the Clintons

championed this idea and pushed teacher testing through the Legislature. For a time, it made her so unpopular that when she walked down the halls of at least one school, the teachers slammed the doors to their rooms. Many voted against initiating her into an honorary teaching society.

But the changes are now paying off. Arkansas test scores

in some instances are higher than national averages. Only half of the school districts taught physics in 1983; now they all do. More than 60 of the small, inefficient school districts have merged.

School standards weren't her only project in Arkansas. She led a study on rural health and championed many causes for children. She proposed an annual report card for every school district in the state, comparing test scores, attendance and the like, and the idea has now spread to every state.

Hillary Rodham Clinton's management style is unlike her husband's. She starts her meetings on time and does not try to micromanage everything. "Her interest is always in the bottom line, not necessarily how to get there," one of her associates said.

She can be both brief and persuasive. Back in 1983 (then governor Clinton's second term), after she completed explaining the standards to legislators and answering questions, state Rep. Lloyd George of Danville, a veteran of 12 terms in the Legislature, told reporters, "I think we've elected the wrong Clinton."

Robert S. McCord is former senior editor of the Arkansas Gazette.

► Reaction to new job, 4A

First lady's first labors: Hillary speaks up for kids

Hillary Rodham Clinton plunged into her groundbreaking first ladyship Tuesday with a day of serious work in New York City. Get used to her middle name; even Mayor David Dinkins carefully used it Tuesday night to introduce her as she received a special Lewis Hine Award from the National Child Labor Committee.

Clinton, in a long, purple dress with a pin of tiny children given her by her husband, said, "In this information age, we are barraged by images, where the faces of children ... lose their individuality. ... We have to fight our own cynicism and skepticism, we have to fight against our own feelings of hopelessness in the face of such big problems. I know the president is convinced, and I know I'm convinced ... that each of us, every day, can make a difference in the life of some child."

Earlier, Clinton had private meetings, one with Hine awardees in health-care fields, "getting a lens on the current health-care system," part of outreach for the president's reform task force, which she heads, said press secretary Lisa Caputo. Clinton also visited kids and their volunteer tutors at a public grade school in Washington Heights — "lit up and happy," as she called them.

INSIDERS: Al Pacino is hot, with a Golden Globe win for *Scent of a Woman*, and producer Martin Bregman has him. Bregman has known Pacino for years, produced him in *Dog Day Afternoon*, *Scarface* and *Sea of Love*. He may be changing his mind since the Globes, but he figures the Oscars this way for Pacino, who has nev-



JEANNIE WILLIAMS
News & Views

er won: Al gets a nomination this year for his tortured lieutenant colonel in *Scent* (based very much on Bregman), but will actually win next year for his gangster portrayal in *Carlito's Way*.

Now, *Carlito* is Bregman's film, so he's not unbiased. But he says it's a gangster role

playing to Pacino's strength of revealing hidden fury; he's a man trying to escape the mob world. **Brian De Palma** directs.

Bregman, lunching at New York's Royalton Hotel — the newest spot to be seen schmoozing — also has his own take on **Kim Basinger**. She just played a bank robber in *The Real McCoy* for him in Atlanta, and he calls her "an old-fashioned actress. She's very quiet, easy to deal with." Basinger isn't one for an entourage, he says (unless you count **Alec Baldwin**, who adds up to one all by himself).

That duo will continue their support for New York City's Carriage Horse Action Committee by attending a committee cocktail event tonight at Doubles.

FLASHES: Another star



CHUNG: Oh Dave, oh Dave, please come to CBS.



BASINGER: Goes it alone, except for beau Baldwin

who might end up with Pacino in *Carlito's Way* is **Sean Penn**. And Penn has other projects pending — not least of which is the second child that he and **Robin Wright** expect about August. They already have Dylan, almost 2. Penn will direct *The Crossing Guard* but is waiting till fall because **Jack Nicholson** may be bagged for that one.

QUOTABLES: Even if you read every word on **David Letterman's** switch from NBC to CBS, take time for **Ken Auletta's** smooth insider piece in the Feb. 21 *New Yorker*. Even **Connie Chung** was brought into the pitch by CBS Broadcast Group chief **Howard Stringer**. Among a stream of gifts and notes, he sent Letterman a tape of Chung giving reasons Dave should switch, including, "For one year, whenever **Maury (Povich, her hubby)** and I make love, I promise to say, 'Oh, Dave! Oh, Dave!'" A wooer from ABC, **Ted Koppel**, kicked a soccer ball around with Letterman over a hot-dog lunch. Auletta says NBC did offer *The Tonight Show* to Letterman — after June 1994, if he stayed with *Late Night* till then; NBC denies this.

One winner is Creative Artists Agency, which negotiated a \$39 million deal for Letterman and his team. It could get at least \$2 million-plus in fees and a percentage of syndication sales.

USA
Today
1/27

Learning the Ropes



Reuters

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton watches students Chevon Perry, left, and Tanya Perry work on reading drills in their New York City school.

The visit Tuesday to the public school in a drug-plagued neighborhood of upper Manhattan was a symbolic first trip for the fledgling First Lady.

LA Times 4/27/93

Her Visit Multiplies School's Hopes

In her first trip since the inauguration, Hillary Rodham Clinton visits a math class at New York public school in a drug-plagued neighborhood.

By JOHN J. GOLDMAN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

NEW YORK—Hillary Rodham Clinton, making her first trip as First Lady, stood amid math texts and mythology legends, encyclopedias and Bible studies books Tuesday in the library of a public school in a drug-infested neighborhood of Upper Manhattan and, to the delight of the pupils, played multiplication bingo.

"Ready, everybody? I have never done this before," she said before promptly plunging into the game. "O-9x5, N-2x5, O-7x6, I-10x10, N-10x3, I-4x1, N-5x0, E-10x10."

"You are going to have to do better here," she said, glancing down at one pupil's card. "... G-5x1, O-2x2, N-1x8. Yea, Mark, that's great," she said, praising another. "You all were doing two cards, too. I'm impressed."

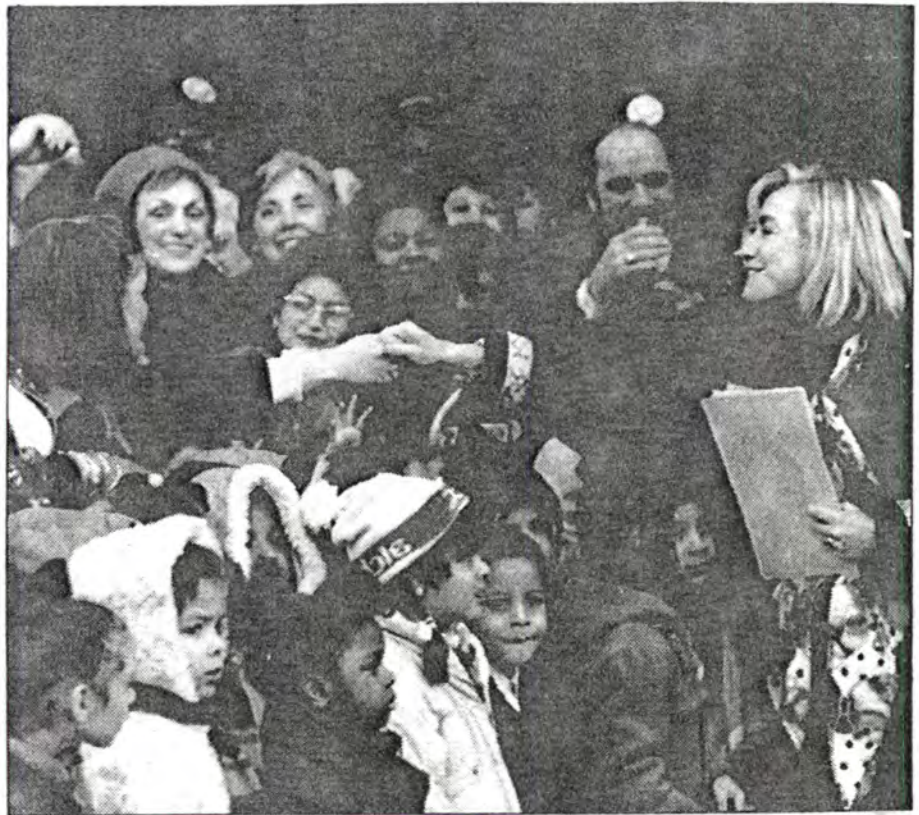
"My father and mother used to quiz us on the multiplication tables. My father would get up in the morning and quiz us before breakfast," she said. "I would say, 'Why do I have to do this now?'"

It was a significant and symbolic first visit, designed to underscore the White House commitment to volunteerism and to inner-city education. At Public School 115, Clinton met tutors from New York Cares, a voluntary organization that provides one-on-one assistance to fourth- and fifth-graders at the school.

Forgoing the typical transportation of first ladies, she traveled to New York on a commercial flight. "She just wanted to fly commercial," said Lisa Caputo, her spokeswoman.

Later in the day, before receiving an award for service to young people, she used the occasion to confer with four health care experts among her fellow prize recipients.

Those at the private meeting said issues discussed included how health services are delivered in poor neighborhoods, the health problems of farm workers and medical questions involving adolescents, including teen-age suicide



Reuters

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, during her first trip since her husband was inaugurated, greets students and parents at a New York elementary school.

and addiction to alcohol and drugs.

At the Park Avenue reception that followed, Clinton received the Lewis Hine award of the National Child Labor Committee, a New York-based group that promotes the rights, dignity and well-being of children. The Hine award is named in honor of an early 20th-Century photographer who documented in gripping black-and-white pictures the exploitation of children.

"There is no substitute for love and caring and compassion and human beings helping one other," the First Lady said in accepting the award. "No matter how much we do, from the White House to the courthouse... what children need is adults who care about them, who are willing to stand up and fight for them against a world that is often unfair."

Speaking to the audience about her visit earlier to the public school in Wash-

ington Heights, a neighborhood with a well-founded reputation as a cocaine supermarket near the George Washington Bridge, she said: "We need to remember those children who were lit up and happy because of the volunteers who had come to see them."

Earlier, speaking to reporters about her assignment to lead the President's drive to reform the nation's health care system, she stressed that a "key part" of the plan will be to make health care more accessible for children.

Asked to define her goals as head of the President's health care reform committee, she said she wants to do "what my husband asked me to do—perform the functions he outlined yesterday [and] work and coordinate with a lot of people" to formulate a proposal to take to Congress.

The First Lady has long been interest-

THE TIMES POLL

Redefining the Role?

Hillary Rodham Clinton has become a symbol for the changing role of women in American society. More than half of Americans believe she will be more heavily involved in presidential decisions than her predecessors, a Times Poll found. The poll was taken before President Clinton this week named his wife as chairwoman of the presidential Task Force on Health Reform.

A NEW DIRECTION

Do you expect Hillary Clinton to play a more important role in national affairs than previous first ladies?

More important role	51%
Less important role	4
About the same	40
Don't know	5

HER VALUES

Does she represent the values that you find important?

Yes	50%
No	26
Don't know	24

PAST COMPARISONS

Do you think she will be a better role model for women than past first ladies?

Will be a better role model	41%
Will not be a better role model	41
Don't know	18

CABINET CONNECTION

Do you think the new First Lady should sit in on the President's Cabinet meetings?

Should sit in	24%
Should not	68
Don't know	8

HER INFLUENCE

Is her influence on her husband a good thing for the country?

Good	39%
Bad	13
Has little effect	40
Don't know	8

OVERALL IMPRESSION

What is your impression of Hillary Clinton?

Favorable	58%
Unfavorable	19
Don't know	23

Source: Los Angeles Times Poll of 1,733 adults nationwide, Jan. 14-17. Margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

ed in children's issues. In 1973, she joined the staff of the Children's Defense Fund in Washington and later served as a board member and chairwoman. When Bill Clinton was elected governor of Arkansas in 1978, she founded the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families.

Mrs. Clinton said she decided to visit P.S. 115 to see the work of Maria Alvarez, a vice president of the Chase Manhattan Bank and a fellow Hine Prize winner, who had established the highly successful tutoring program.

At ease in the glare of television lights, Mrs. Clinton sat down at low tables with the students on the third floor, helping them with multiplication flash cards and reading exercises.

"I'm being reminded of a lot of things," she told one group of pupils. A few minutes later, as people waved from fire escapes across the street, she addressed

students massed at outdoor ceremonies in the school's courtyard.

"I know it is cold and I want all of you to get back inside where it's warm. How many of you saw my husband, President Clinton, when he was sworn in to be President?" she asked. "Did you see him on television?"

The pupils raised their hands and cheered.

"Well, one of the things that he said was all of us are going to have to work harder to be better citizens and better Americans. . . . All of the students here, each of you, will have to work to learn as much as you can learn. I just met some students, and I know that you can learn a lot. So thank you for letting me come."

As she spoke, George Tomka, the principal, proudly stood listening.

"It's a big ray of hope," he said. "It shows that we are being noticed."



New York Post: Don Brinzer

TUTOR FOR A DAY: Hillary Clinton helped Washington Heights kids with math yesterday.

Hillary goes to head of the class

By KIERAN CROWLEY

Hillary Clinton, in her first public appearance as First Lady, helped tutor New York youngsters in math yesterday at Washington Heights elementary school.

Some students at PS 115 were impressed. Some weren't.

"She helped me with my math," beamed 7-year-old Tanya Perry. "She said my homework was nice. She's nice. I'm happy."

"She's tall. She's pretty. She's wonderful. And I think she's powerful," said Ysleny Reyes, 8.

Jenny Nunez, 11, said she admired Mrs. Clinton, but didn't

want to follow in her footsteps.

"I don't want to be a first lady," she said. "Too much trouble. Too much work."

Mrs. Clinton flew here on a commercial flight to visit PS 115 on West 177th Street and to accept a Lewis Hine Award from the National Child Labor Committee for distinguished service to children and youth.

She headed straight for the school, joining bank executive and fellow award recipient Maria Alvarez in helping 4th and 5th graders with their math as part of a one-on-one volunteer tutoring program run by New York Carea.

Mrs. Clinton sat next to Tanya Perry, 7, to go over her sums.

"Let's do it together," said the First Lady, leaning over Tanya, who counted on her fingers and wrote down her answers.

"Good girl," said the visitor.

"My father and mother used to quiz us on the multiplication tables," she said. "My father would get up in the morning and quiz us. I would say, 'Why do I have to do this now?'"

The First Lady also called out the numbers for a round of multiplication table bingo, which Tanya's brother, Mark Patterson, 8, won.

First lady spends first trip with kids

By Anne Gowen
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

NEW YORK — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton spent part of yesterday helping a group of at-risk public school children with their multiplication tables while vowing to "do what my husband asked me to" to help deliver his health care proposal to Congress.

Mrs. Clinton ventured out of Washington for the first time since the inauguration to receive a Lewis Hine Award for Distinguished Service to Children and Youth, given by the National Child Labor Committee, a nonprofit children's rights organization.

During her acceptance speech, Mrs. Clinton sounded familiar themes, calling for Americans to work to see that "no child is left behind."

"We have to fight against our cynicism and our skepticism. We have to fight against our feelings of hopelessness in the face of such big problems," Mrs. Clinton said.

"I know that the president is con-

vinced and I am convinced ... that each of us every day can make a difference in the life of some child," she told her audience of 200 at the Chemical Bank Corp. headquarters on Park Avenue.

Mrs. Clinton told the group that her visit yesterday with students at Public School 115, Washington Heights' Alexander Humboldt School, was an example of what volunteer efforts mean to children.

"The children that I saw at that school were lit up and happy, not because there were TV cameras in the room, but because they were sitting with volunteers who had come to see them," said the first lady, wearing a bright purple dress and a pin with ceramic people on it.

Mrs. Clinton visited the school to see a tutoring program put together by another Hine awardee, Chase Manhattan Bank Vice President Maria Alvarez. Because of Ms. Alvarez's efforts, volunteers tutor Hispanic fourth- and fifth-graders at the school in math and English every other Saturday.

Sitting in the school's library, Mrs.

Clinton called out numbers for math bingo and said, "This [program] has a good reputation and is in line with what I think needs to happen, ... that more adults spend more time focusing on children, whether it's education or health or welfare or recreation. And I like this kind of one-on-one attention. I think there's real substance in that."

Throughout the presidential campaign, Mrs. Clinton said she planned to be a "voice for children" in the White House. But Monday she was given a bigger role when her husband announced that she will head a task force on health care reform.

During the cozy photo session at the school, Mrs. Clinton moved through tables filled with eager children who scribbled with pencils. There were small signs that she is no run-of-the-mill, momlike first lady.

She went on in her folksy, adopted-Arkansan way — "How are y'all doing here?" and "My father used to get me up in the morning and say, 'OK, we're going to do multiplication before breakfast' " — as her prede-

cessor, Barbara Bush, might have done.

But then Mrs. Clinton would say something such as: "Oh, now, what happens [to the tutoring] in the summer? Oh, you continue."

"That's the unusual thing about this. You know, if you chart kids' achievement levels, over the summer there's a drop-off."

She sat down and taught sixth-grader Maria Tories of Manhattan a "trick" to remember multiplying by nine that had reporters frowning over their notebooks.

"She was a nice person," Maria said of the first lady. "I think she is going to help a lot of people."

"It's kind of strange seeing someone of that stature sitting next to you, but I guess she's just a regular person," said Kenny Munno, 30, a computer programmer from Brooklyn and a volunteer tutor.

Ms. Alvarez's project was put together under the auspices of New York Cares, a group of 3,500 volunteers who work with poor children, homeless families, people with AIDS and the elderly.

The Washington Times
1/27/93

Hillary Clinton again securely in high profile

By Sally Jacobs
GLOBE STAFF

For months, Hillary Clinton has been a most pliant political wife. She has stood quietly at her husband's side, face tilted toward his. She has served a compelling complement, trimly dressed and cunningly coliffed.

But now Hillary Rodham Clinton is back.

First, her maiden name cropped up in between Hillary and Clinton shortly after the inauguration. Then came the announcement that she would be the first First Lady to occupy a West Wing office, in addition to the traditional East Wing offices to which her predecessors have been assigned. And now her hairband is back, too.

After being shelved for the final weeks of the Clinton campaign, the velvet arc of control is back on Hillary Clinton's head. And to image-savvy observers yesterday assessing her appointment to a new national health care task force, its significance was vividly clear.

"I think her hairband is indicative of her saying, perhaps unconsciously, that she is back, she is going to be herself and it's a new era," said Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women. "For a busy woman with lots of responsibility the temptation is always to throw a head-

band on, perhaps signifying that she has a lot on her mind besides how her hair looks and that's not bad at all."

In a culmination of the not-so-subtle image changes, Hillary Clinton on Monday was appointed by her husband to head the high-profile President's Task Force on National Health Reform. Hillary Clinton, clearly, not only now holds a policy-shaping position unlike any of her predecessors, but appears likely to be a First Lady like no other. In fact, some muse whether her very title might be changed to something like "First Partner" or "First Spouse" to reflect her unique position.

"Before the election she laid low so as not to cause uneasiness among the American electorate," said Loretta Baldridge, chief of staff for Jacques Kennedy Onassis and now a syndicated columnist. "But now I think she and her husband are going to be

overs said you go right out there at the beginning, bang, bang, and be who you are, and take over this very important job. There'll be criticism, but eventually people will accept it."

Criticism there was.

Some political observers and citi-

zens expressed concern yesterday about potential complications arising from the appointment, mainly that members of the committee might be reluctant to criticize her ideas to her husband. The task force is to prepare legislation for revamping the nation's complex health care system and to present its proposal to Congress within 100 days. Other members of the commission include many members of the Cabinet and senior White House staff.

"How does a secretary of health and human services or a budget director tell a president that his wife's idea is half-baked?" asked Gary Bauer, a domestic policy adviser under Ronald Reagan.

Consultants and observers also expected negative reaction from the public, which has not looked warmly on presidential wives involved in policy in the past. They also objected that lawyer Hillary Clinton has little experience in the field of health care, noting that the absence of such a track record makes her posting unnecessarily politically risky.

"She has the toughest political assignment possible," said Richard Wirthlin, a Republican pollster in Virginia. "No way she can handle that position without a slip-up or two, and when she slips up the con-

sequences will be five times as bad as if she took a lesser role. You could put the best and brightest in that position and they would have difficulty."

But many others applauded the appointment, welcoming the application of a bright, energetic mind to the nation's labyrinthine health care system. That it is the mind of the president's wife, they said, seemed only likely to ensure that the commission would get priority attention from the Oval Office.

"There'll be all kinds of comments about it being the president's wife and all, but all that stuff about her middle name and her office is in order and nobody really cares," said David Garth, the New York media consultant. "She's smart, she's got a kick to her, and if she can get health reform care through she can have a stool in the Oval Office."

Several experts in the health care field also praised the appoint-

ment, saying that Hillary Clinton's experience advising her husband on education reform in Arkansas boded well for health care reform.

And women's advocates greeted the appointment as a welcome sign that the First Lady had abandoned the relatively low profile she adopted in the face of Republican criticism

during the campaign, and would be taking an activist role.

"This is an absolutely fabulous image for women in general," said Boston lawyer Nancy Geitner, a friend of Hillary Clinton's. "What is happening now is people are getting used to seeing her as an extremely talented competent woman and understand that the Clintons' marriage is a partnership. These are not show or hollow gestures."

Added NOW's Ireland: "I don't think we're seeing nearly as much resistance to this as we might have a decade ago. The fact is that most people are in the paid work force and we're getting more used to having women in positions of power."

And far, far from the political power corridor of the Northeast, Hillary Clinton's new image seems to be playing just fine.

"You know, the issue is not her hairband or where she puts her chair," said Tim Witsman, Republican chairman of the Wichita Chamber of Commerce. "The issue is what she does with health care. I don't know a lot about her, but she seems smart, and she has the president's ear so I'm all for it."

► Material from the Associated Press was used in the preparation of this report.

PAGE 1

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TOM BROKAW, anchor:

Hillary Clinton in the White House--Bill Clinton's top adviser, point person on one of his key programs--very much like her role in Arkansas, but now a much larger stage and larger stakes. NBC's senior Washington correspondent John Cochran on a new kind of first lady who flew commercially to New York today.

JOHN COCHRAN reporting:

For her first trip as first lady, Hillary Clinton chose New York, where, as we all know, if you can make it here, you can make it anywhere. Actually, this was a piece of cake--a visit built around an award for her volunteer work with school kids. All first ladies do this sort of thing. What makes Hillary Rodham Clinton different is that she has a real, full-time job heading up the president's task force on health care.

Mrs. HILLARY CLINTON: That's what I'm going to try to do--to perform the function that he outlined yesterday, to come--come up by working and coordinating with a lot of people his health care proposal that he will present to the Congress in May.

COCHRAN: Mrs. Clinton is most often compared to Eleanor Roosevelt, who also wanted a piece of the action. In his third term, her husband finally gave her a minor job as assistant director of the office of civil defense. It was a disaster because her role was so ill-defined that she had no authority. The Clintons are trying to avoid that mistake. Unlike Mrs. Roosevelt, Hillary Clinton will have real authority, not just power based on who her husband is. She also has a reputation for competence.

Ms. DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN (Author): I think the American people have to recognize that Hillary Clinton comes to this job with enormous qualifications, and would have been probably on the short list for even a Cabinet position, had her husband not been president.

COCHRAN: Yes, yes, it all sounds like a smooth fit, but White House staffers love to leak complaints about their bosses. A former Reagan staffer offers this warning:

Ms. SHEILA TATE (Nancy Reagan's Former Press Secretary): Even if she's a saint, she's going to make a mistake somewhere along the line, and you're far more likely to read about it because of her proximity to the rest of the staff.

NEW YORK (AP) Hillary Rodham Clinton got a quick start Tuesday on her job heading her husband's health care task force, pursuing support on Capitol Hill within hours of the appointment and seeking advice from award-winning health care experts.

She also wowed New York school kids, one of whom declared she was pretty "and I think she's powerful."

Mrs. Clinton picked up a community service award on her first trip outside Washington as first lady, and used the occasion to question fellow winners whose projects involve health care for children.

The Lewis Hine Award was for her service to children over the years.

President Clinton appointed his wife, a former corporate lawyer, to lead the task force on one of the most important issues of his presidency, saying Monday that she was "a first lady of many talents."

Asked what she planned to do in her new role, Mrs. Clinton said Tuesday, "Do what my husband asks me to do."

Prodded for specifics, she said her job will be "to perform the function that he outlined yesterday (and) to come up with by working and coordinating with a lot of people his health care proposal that he will present to Congress in May."

Although reluctant to talk publicly about her new role, officials said Mrs. Clinton called several congressmen in the first 24 hours on the job. The conversations were general, part of an initial effort "to reach out to people," said an official familiar with the situation.

The official believed some of the calls were made from New York. Sen. Donald Riegle, D-Mich., said he got a phone call from Mrs. Clinton late Monday.

While her husband was governor of Arkansas, Mrs. Clinton chaired an Education Standards Committee that played a leading role in pushing through school reforms. She also chaired a state panel on rural health problems and was an active board member of the Arkansas Children's Hospital.

For her first trip since the inauguration, Mrs. Clinton chose to forgo the usual government jet generally used by first ladies and took a commercial flight to New York.

"She just wanted to fly commercial," said her spokeswoman, Lisa Caputo.

Her first stop was at Alexander Humboldt School also known as P.S. 115 in a gritty immigrant neighborhood in Upper Manhattan. Mrs. Clinton spent about 30 minutes helping bank executive Maria Alvarez tutor fourth- and fifth-grade students.

Ms. Alvarez, a vice president at Chase Manhattan Bank, is a member of "New York Cares," a volunteer group. She also was a Lewis Hine Award winner.

Mrs. Clinton said she met informally with four Hine health care winners to "learn more about the programs, why they've been singled out, get their advice about what they think will work."

Caputo said the one-hour conversation got very specific, with talk about troublesome regulations and innovative policies. "It put a lens on some of the most fundamental problems that exist in the way health care is funded through their experiences as physicians and leaders" in the health care field, Caputo said.

She declined to release the names of Mrs. Clinton's guests, but Hine winners with health care backgrounds are Colleen Lunsford Bevis of Tampa, Fla.; Nan Songer of Liverpool, N.Y.; Dr. Geri Ann

Clinton told a small crowd on the top floor of the chemical building that she and her husband would dedicate the president's term to improving the lives of American children. But no matter how much work we do, from the White House to the house, up and down every street, in every large city, in every town, what children need more than anything else are adults who care about them, who love them, who teach them and who are willing to stand up and fight for them against a world that is so cruel and unfair," she said.

At the 77-year-old elementary school, Mrs. Clinton offered advice to the students, holding their hands, patting them on their shoulders and recalling her own problems with multiplication tables.

"My father would get me up in the morning and say, 'All right, we're going to do multiplication before breakfast,'" she told the students. She conceded that the math "was hard for me."

PNP-01-26-93 2012EST

Georgetown Is Basking In Clinton's New Glow

By KAREN DE WITT
Special to The New York Times



WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 — The trees are bare, the weather

wintry, but Georgetown University is experiencing an early spring because of President Clinton, class of 1968.

With the installation of the university's most famous alumnus at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Georgetown undergraduates' steps seem bouncier, the faculty's collective chests more expansive.

"He's S.F.S.," said Mgisa Masha, noting that Mr. Clinton had studied in the university's School of Foreign Service, where Mr. Masha is enrolled. "It's a boost to our reputation. Also, the way he's tried to pull Georgetown into his orbit, having the diplomatic reception here, speaking to the students — he's really boosted the pride in the school."

Mr. Clinton visited the campus the day before his inauguration, praised his undergraduate experience and suggested that he would return in June for his class's 25th reunion.

"Everybody feels that it is a new day," said Elise Finch, a senior in the school of business, who is from New York City. She recalled how excited she was to vote for a Georgetown graduate the first time she was eligible to vote.

"Politically, this is our era," said Ms. Finch. "Here is this man who walked the same steps we've walked and he's sitting in the White House."

Even as students and faculty members basked in the glow of an alumnus's fame, that fame was taking on an aura of the heroic. Legends about Mr. Clinton's undergraduate days were circulating.

For example, Stan Majcher, a senior business major from Pasadena, Calif., said he had heard that Mr. Clinton arrived several days in advance of his freshman class in 1964 so he could introduce himself to the 1,077 students. "That takes a lot of initiative," Mr. Majcher said. "The kind that leads to being President."

Indeed, Mr. Clinton was president of his freshman and sophomore classes at Georgetown.

Peter Krogh, dean of the School of Foreign Service, said applications at the undergraduate level had risen. "We like to think that is just because of recognition of our increasingly national and international excellence,

but probably Bill Clinton's Presidency helped," he said.

Dr. Krogh said he was impressed by the financial support Mr. Clinton's classmates gave his candidacy and by the dinner they gave for him the night before the inauguration. "I graduated from Harvard and I'm not sure that a Harvard class would have done what this class did," he said.

No other event in the university's history prompted as many calls to the public affairs office as the diplomatic reception Mr. Clinton held on campus during inauguration week, said Jane Daly Seaberg, assistant executive director of public relations.

"We were flooded with calls about who could come, who could get in," she said. "It was great exposure for the school. But the biggest question came from alumni who wanted to know what Georgetown was doing for its alumnus who had been elected President."

Ms. Seaberg said alumni from all different classes volunteered to do everything from singing to paying to have the campus bells repaired so they could be rung after Mr. Clinton struck the replica of the Liberty Bell.

Charles Deacon, dean of undergraduate admissions, said Georgetown might see more tangible evidence of Mr. Clinton's influence. Undergraduate applications have increased 11 percent this year, a phenomenon running counter to the experience of many other universities.

In conversations with administrators at prestigious prep schools, he said he was told to expect a large increase in students from those schools.

"They said a significantly larger number of their juniors were interested in Georgetown," he said. "But we already draw from those schools. I'm more interested in whether his Presidency will give us a boost among public schools, particularly as he continues to emphasize the Georgetown connection. And I expect he will. He's only 21 blocks away."

Mr. Deacon said the generational change that Mr. Clinton represented had lightened the atmosphere of Washington and its "inside the Beltway" mentality.

"You want young people who have idealism," Mr. Deacon said. "President Clinton is from a small town, a poor kid who came to Washington and got interested in government. He relates a little closer to youth, and that makes Washington suddenly a particularly interesting place for college students."

... And Hillary Clinton's Job

HILLARY CLINTON has always worked closely with her husband, both in government and politics. He and she both wanted it to be that way again in the White House. The plan they've come up with—appointing Hillary Clinton as head of a committee that will oversee health care reform legislation—is straightforward and audacious. It will make the president's wife publicly accountable for the large imprint she was going to make on public policy, whether or not she officially took on another title besides First Lady. It is hard to imagine a more difficult assignment than health care. The precedent Mr. Clinton invokes here is Hillary Clinton's role in helping to get education reform in Arkansas. That reform turned out to be his greatest source of pride during his tenure as governor. The president clearly expects that his wife will do a similar job this time around.

Hillary Clinton has been carrying a heavy burden over the last year. Americans have spent three decades or so in a free-form argument about the roles of men and women, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers. There's been a considerable shift in opinion. When pressed, few people (including few who call themselves conservative) want women to be forced back into the roles that had been defined for them in the 1950s. But the country is still divided and uncertain about many of the questions at stake.

Mrs. Clinton, as the quintessential transitional figure, thus has found herself at the center of many arguments that were not really about her at all. The issue was sometimes muddled by her husband's own campaign, which wanted simultaneously to use her to appeal to feminist voters

and to reassure the tradition-minded that she was really much more old-fashioned than supposed. But the truth is that she has always been more than a one-dimensional figure, that she does represent, in her outlook on life, her interests and activities, vast numbers of women who cannot be pigeonholed as homemakers vs. working women. She is First Lady, with all the duties that go with that role. She also now has a big policy job within the administration. She should be judged by how well she does each—not by whether she should be performing either set of duties or what is fitting for her to do and so on.

And judged she will be. For starters there are bound to be some difficulties inherent in Mrs. Clinton's West Wing role. This is a built-in risk of those who have spouses working for them along with others. Will members of Congress master the art of mixing respect for the First Lady with candor about the matter at hand? Will it be possible for other aides and subordinates of the president to stand up to his wife, or even to challenge her work to him, if they think they should (and as they would with any other person in her job)? With luck it won't come to that, but it is a hazard both Clintons should be mindful of. In fact, we suspect the president's aides would always be able to get any discontent across to him through the wonders of a free press and its obligation to protect sources. More important is that having taken line responsibility, Mrs. Clinton will have to accept the costs of being involved in controversies that revolve not around her "role," but around the public issues at stake. We don't think she'll have a problem with that at all.



REUTERS

Hillary Clinton watches New York public school students Chevon Perry and Tanya Perry work on reading drills during her first official trip.

The Health Czar, At Her Other Job

For Hillary Clinton, Kids and an Award
On a Traditional First-Lady Day

By Martha Sherrill
Washington Post Staff Writer

NEW YORK, Jan. 26—While the private Hillary Rodham Clinton was phoning some of the most powerful members of Congress today to acquaint them with her new role and gathering the advice of grass-roots health care workers, the public Hillary Rodham Clinton was doing what First Ladies have always done: visiting schools, patting children on the head and getting a brass plaque.

"We have to fight against our own cynicism and skepticism," she said later, after receiving the Lewis Hine Award for her longtime work on behalf of children. "We have to fight against our own feelings of hopelessness in the face of such big problems. I know that the president is convinced—and I know that I'm convinced . . . that each of us, every day, can make a difference in the life of some child if we are willing to take the risk to reach out."

It was only Monday that President Clinton announced that his wife would essentially be his czar of health care reform, and when asked about that today, she deferentially told reporters that she would "do what my husband asks me to do."

Prodded for specifics, she said her job will be "to perform the function that he outlined yesterday [and] to come up with—by working and coordinating with a lot of people—his health care proposal that he will present to Congress in May."

See CLINTON, D9, Col. 3

First Trip As First Lady

CLINTON, From D1

And while some of the most entrenched interests and bureaucrats in Washington were trying to figure out exactly what that meant, Mrs. Clinton and a small entourage were making her first official trip by unceremoniously boarding the 8:30 a.m. Delta Shuttle for New York. Maybe it was the new \$99 fare.

In between the visit to P.S. 115 in Washington Heights this morning and receiving an award from the National Child Labor Commission at the Chemical Bank building on Park Avenue tonight, Mrs. Clinton met privately with four grass-roots health care workers who were receiving awards along with her.

For nearly 90 minutes, she picked their brains, asking for advice and input about health care, and revealed a bit of her own agenda: She is looking for creative ways to get around the bureaucracies, ways to "blend funding," ways to teach people how to use the health care already available to them and ways to find new money for children and families.

"If children were properly covered," said Colleen Lunsford Bevis, a 76-year-old children's welfare volun-

teer from Tampa who met with Mrs. Clinton, "then doctors would focus their attention on them, instead of on the elderly like me."

"She was concerned about how to pull money away from the elderly," said Geri Ann Brooks, a nurse and psychologist from Northern California who has founded a summer camp for HIV-positive children. "She was looking for how it could be used for children and families."

"I told her to ask the elderly how they felt," added Bevis. "We don't wish to remain around so long—we'd rather see our money go to the children."

Earlier, Clinton had joined Maria Alvarez—another commission award recipient—at P.S. 115. Alvarez has started a volunteer tutoring program there in which young professionals like herself (she's a vice president at Chase Manhattan Bank) teach struggling students and pay all the costs themselves. "She was very warm," said Alvarez later, "and I was impressed with her ability to interact with the kids."

Confessing her own trouble with math, Mrs. Clinton told the fourth- and fifth-graders that her father, Hugh Rodham, used to get her up in the morning and say, "All right, we're going to do multiplication before breakfast."

She must have learned pretty well, since—in the age of the calculator—she played "multiplication bingo," leading the class in a game involving times tables, and planted a kiss on the forehead of the boy who won. At one point she hunkered down over the desk of a 12-year-old girl toiling over a math problem.

"Good girl!" she exclaimed when the right answer turned up.

Later, Mrs. Clinton told the assembled students to "work to learn as much as you can learn."

Math must have been on her mind all day, ever since she phoned Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. That call was just one of the first steps as she gears up to take on health care, this most complex public policy dilemma, in which numbers routinely get rounded off to the nearest billion. While Hillary Clinton has spent the past 23 years as a pioneering advocate of children's issues, she will now broaden her work considerably—although it's worth noting that many children's issues spin around health care reform too.

"No matter how much work we do," she said tonight, "from the White House to the courthouse, up and down every street in every large city and every small town, what children need more than anything else are adults who care about them and love them, teach them and discipline them, and are willing to stand up and fight for them in a world that is often cruel and unfair."

Mrs. Clinton's work as a children's rights advocate began her first year at Yale Law School, after hearing Marian Wright Edelman, the founder of the Children's Defense Fund, speak on campus. She has worked for the CDF since then, leaving as chairman in 1991 because of her husband's presidential campaign. As an attorney, she has published numerous scholarly papers, such as "Children's Policies: Aban-

donment and Neglect" and "Children Under the Law," which will be collected and published soon by the University of Arkansas Press. In Arkansas, she brought something called HIPPY—Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youth—to the state and served on the Southern Governors' Association Task Force on Infant Mortality and the board of the Children's Hospital in Little Rock.

And in 1983, she was appointed to the Education Standards Board and toured schools and traveled throughout Arkansas, increasingly horrified by the quality of public education—often no foreign languages were taught in high schools, nor mathematics beyond algebra and geometry. Ultimately she worked for reforms like reduced classroom sizes and the very unpopular testing of teachers for competence.

"Last week, during the swearing-in, my husband talked about a season of service for America," Mrs. Clinton said tonight to a room of 400 volunteers and professionals toiling over children's issues. "He said what is so clearly illustrated by the people who are honored tonight. That whatever is wrong with America can be fixed by whatever is right about America. And we have so much of what is right with us tonight."

First Lady's First Task Breaks New Ground

Health Care Panel Chairwoman Introduces Herself to Congress in 6 Hours of Phone Calls

By Dana Priest
Washington Post Staff Writer

Shortly after President Clinton announced Monday afternoon that his wife would lead a national health care reform task force, Hillary Rodham Clinton picked up the telephone and spent the next six hours introducing herself to the most powerful members of Congress on the issue.

While the conversations were light on substance, their significance was obvious: for the first time lawmakers would have to deal with a First Lady on a crucial domestic policy issue.

"At this junction there is some speculation, you know, should it be his wife? Is Mrs. Rodham Clinton starting to take over the White House?" said Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, who received a call yesterday. "This is big for health. This is a president who's laid it all out on the line."

Hillary Clinton is not a health care policy expert, although she is familiar with health care issues from her work on various Arkansas and southern regional programs.

As "chairwoman," as some lawmakers are calling her, she will bring together the diverse experts and interest groups that will have input into the process of detailing a health care proposal and she will be responsible for writing the plan that the administration presents to Congress for approval.

A new Washington Post-ABC News poll suggests that Americans support the appointment of Hillary Clinton to head the task force by better than 2 to 1.

The telephone poll of 549 adults, conducted yesterday, found that 64 percent of those interviewed approved of Hillary Clinton's appointment, while 26 percent disapproved. The remainder expressed no opinion.

But those surveyed were divided whether Hillary Clinton was the best qualified person that her husband could have appointed to head the task force.

According to the survey, 44 percent said she was "probably among the best available people" to fill the job. But 44 percent believed that there were others more qualified, while the remainder expressed no opinion.

The survey also suggests that public concern may be growing

about Hillary Clinton's role in her husband's administration.

The Post-ABC News poll found that 36 percent of those interviewed said they were concerned that Hillary Clinton was playing "too large a role" in the administration. The majority, 58 percent, said Hillary Clinton had neither "too large a role" nor "too small a role" in the administration. Three percent said she had too small a role; 3 percent said they did not know.

Clinton said Monday that his legislative proposal for national health care reform would be ready by the end of May. Leaders of the House and Senate yesterday said they will join the task force, which includes six Cabinet secretaries and numerous senior White House advisers.

Hillary Clinton is the first First Lady to test the official and political limits of her position. The ground-breaking nature of the task is double-edged, members of Congress said.

"I think it's going to require an adjustment on all our parts," said Sen. John H. Chafee (R-R.I.), ranking minority member of the Finance Committee's health subcommittee. "There is a natural

tendency to treat the wife of any official with politeness and kid gloves, particularly the First Lady. However, if she chooses to step into the fray, I'm sure everyone will still be polite, but candor has got to rule in these matters."

That the First Lady enters government working on one of the most complicated and problem-fraught domestic issues of the day has not escaped the health policy community.

"On the surface, her appointment is kind of a way to beat heads together, of solving a managerial problem," said Stuart M. Butler, vice president of domestic and economic policy for the conservative Heritage Foundation. "If the president thinks this is just a matter of getting all the papers shuffled, he's wrong. Painful political decisions will have to be made."

Rostenkowski predicted that Hillary Clinton's appointment to head the task force will expedite the creation of a national health care policy. Noting that she must count on often cumbersome bureaucracy to produce reams of statistics and economic analyses in preparing the plan, he said, "If it's Hillary Clinton calling for some statistics, I bet she's going to get

WASHINGTON POST-ABC NEWS POLL

VIEWS ON HILLARY CLINTON

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of Bill Clinton's appointment of his wife, Hillary, to be head of a task force on health care reform?

Approve	64%
Disapprove	26
Don't know	10

Q. Regardless of whether you approve or disapprove of the appointment, do you personally think that there were more qualified people that Bill Clinton could have selected, or do you think that Hillary Clinton was probably among the best available people for the job?

Others more qualified	44%
Hillary Clinton among the best qualified	44
Don't know	12

Q. Which worries you more: that Hillary Clinton won't have a large enough role in the Clinton administration or that she will have too large a role, or does neither worry you very much?

Too large a role	36%
Too small a role	3
Neither	58
Don't know	3

Figures based on a Washington Post-ABC News telephone poll conducted yesterday with 549 randomly selected adults nationwide. Margin of sampling error for the overall results is plus or minus 5 percentage points. The practical difficulties of doing a survey in a single night represent another potential source of error in this survey. Interviewing was conducted by Chilton Research of Radnor, Pa.

THE WASHINGTON POST

them a lot faster than" other people would.

But some observers, including at least one member of Congress who asked not to be named, believe Clinton has taken a great political risk by appointing his wife to formulate the administration's health care policy. If she is unsuccessful, some people will blame the "Billary" factor, they will say that Hillary

Clinton was a poor choice, the lawmaker said.

Some Hill health care legislative aides also worried about the intimidation factor. They were "stunned," in the words of one, at her appointment. "I don't know how you can be a staffer reporting to her. This is a very powerful woman here, and they will think, if she doesn't like me, I'm out of here."

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That's Fit to Print"

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Jim Estrin/The New York Times

Two Hillary Clintons: One Trailblazing, One Traditional

Hillary Rodham Clinton is both Presidential partner, attaining new kinds of perquisite and power, and political wife, performing a time-tested function. Yesterday, she visited a Manhattan school. Page B3.

WYT:5
1/27/93

Editorial Notebook

The President's Other Running Mate

According to the columnist William Safire, the phrase "first Lady in the Land" was popularized during the Civil War in an 1863 book by William Howard Russell, war correspondent of The Times of London. It instantly took wing, and Hillary Clinton is now 42d in a line that began with Martha Washington (two Presidents remarried in office, Jefferson was a widower, Buchanan a bachelor).

From the outset, First Ladies served as hostesses and role models. After the comparatively staid Martha and Abigail Adams came the first real leader of fashion, Dolley Madison. But she was more than a party-giver.

When the British sacked Washington in August 1814, the frail, 63-year-old James Madison prudently (or cravenly) fled. In the only heroic note in an otherwise humiliating rout, the 45-year-old First Lady remained at the White House until the British were at its gates; she supervised removal of Cabinet records and wrenched Stuart's portrait of Washington from its frame.

Probably the most powerful First Lady was Edith Bolling Wilson. During a speaking tour in September 1919, Woodrow Wilson collapsed and was left partly paralyzed. Mrs. Wilson became his surrogate and steward. Her detractors dubbed her "Acting First Man," and called her period of power "Mrs. Wilson's Regency." Incontestably, she decided who and what the stricken President saw, and the memory of that time contributed to the eventual adoption in 1967 of the 25th Amendment on Presidential disability.

The First Lady most celebrated for her energy and versatility was Eleanor Roosevelt. In 1936 she contracted with United Features to write six columns a week simply headed, "My Day." Once when her husband had disparaged columnists, a reporter reminded him of her work, to which he replied, "She is in an entirely different category; she simply writes a daily diary."

The diary recorded Mrs. Roosevelt's incessant travels and lecture tours. A famous Robert Day cartoon in The New Yorker depicted two miners deep in a shaft; one gasps out, "For gosh sakes, here comes Mrs. Roosevelt." Recent biographers assert that Mrs. Roosevelt worked tirelessly on thankless party chores, that her alert antennae were invaluable to her husband and that she succeeded despite the continuous fault-finding of her mother-in-law. She managed also to raise six children.

His Wife's Key Role — A Logical Evolution

During World War II Mrs. Roosevelt was an omnipresent emissary to overseas installations, ranging as far as Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides. It is said that some com-

manders ordered G.I.'s not to take rain-showers in the nude for fear the First Lady might unexpectedly turn up. After F.D.R.'s death she shone in her own right as U.S. delegate to the United Nations, where she headed the commission that drafted the covenant on human rights.

More recent First Ladies have tended to be more conventional. Jacqueline Kennedy is remembered for her glamour, her cultural evenings and her renovations of the White House. Lady Bird Johnson strove to beautify the American landscape. Pat Nixon also remodeled the Executive Mansion. Betty Ford spoke with compelling candor about mental health.

Rosalynn Carter took a far more activist role. Jimmy Carter writes that along with Vice President Mondale and Charles Kirbo, Mrs. Carter "helped me most" with Cabinet choices. "It was only natural," he says, that his wife chose to pursue the causes she had adopted as Georgia's First Lady, including mental health, the aged and community improvement. "She and I continued to discuss a full range of important issues and, aside from a few highly secret and sensitive security matters, she knew all that was going on."

More problematic was Nancy Reagan's role. Besides the expected good works, Mrs. Reagan lobbied energetically with her passive husband about key appointments; her influence ended Donald Regan's tenure as chief of staff. Far more curious was Mrs. Reagan's reliance on Joan Quigley, an astrologer, whose readings appear to have influenced the timing of the Geneva and Reykjavik summit meetings and the President's changing views about the Soviet Union (all to the sometimes baffled consternation of the President's other handlers).

Thus we come to Hillary Clinton. Her more formal role is less a radical break than a logical evolution of earlier developments in a society where women are seen as partners and co-workers, not simply homemakers. Moving her office to the West Wing formalizes that change in status. The argument that she was not elected is only half-true, since she was clearly as much a running mate as Al Gore. Did anyone doubt that she would play a policy role? Need anyone really mind?

KARL E. MEYER

NYT's
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Hillary Rodham Clinton's Job

It's official. Hillary Rodham Clinton will not bake cookies, keep to the East Wing or stand quietly by her man. No, she will stand *with* her man, or maybe ahead of him, in formulating health care policy.

It's a genuine job and an unusual arrangement, but it is who the Clintons are. In that regard, it is also more honest than the charade they went through before her independence became a campaign liability and Mrs. Clinton helped get her husband elected by pretending to be what she was not.

Her new position and new offices in the active West Wing of the White House will allow her to do openly what she no doubt would otherwise have done covertly — advise her husband the President. That has to be better than pretending, for her and for the country.

By functioning in the open, Mrs. Clinton will exercise influence that others can engage and judge. She and her ideas can be part of the debate, not the stuff of gossip. Perhaps more important, she will be exposed to policy and political questions that she would otherwise see only through the filter of her husband's politics and prejudices.

In other words, Hillary Clinton can be truer to her own person. If she hadn't worked outside the home before moving to Washington, had preferred to occupy a quietly supportive role instead of pursu-

ing a legal career, fine. But she was a successful attorney and policy adviser before her husband became President, so why not after?

Especially since, according to the history in the Editorial Notebook below, First Ladies have long advised and influenced Presidents anyway. As Karl Meyer notes, Eleanor Roosevelt was the prototype of the activist First Lady. But to be effective politically in her day, she said, a woman needed "the wisdom of the serpent and the guileless appearance of the dove."

Here we have a chance to measure how much times have changed. Hillary Clinton's move to the West Wing is not a stealth operation. At best, her candor will also help women feel free to be whatever they choose to be, without apology.

But everyone should be clear-eyed about the risks. This is a test of the national psyche. Millions of citizens will feel threatened by Mrs. Clinton's assertiveness. Others will have questions about the propriety of an unelected, unsalaried person with no formal portfolio exercising authority by virtue of marriage.

That means Mr. Clinton will have to work hard to see that the public understands the arrangement he and his wife have put in place and endorses it politically. And the First Lady will have to deliver if this latest and most riveting experiment in the Age of the Clintons is to succeed.

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Hillary's Job

It was good to read in the Journal yesterday that President Clinton is thinking of giving his wife, Hillary, the job of health-care reform czar. The assignment hasn't been confirmed yet, but it would be good for a number of reasons, some of which bear directly on Hillary Clinton's role and some more generally on the role, or multiple roles, of women in our times.

The consequence of *not* giving Hillary a real job doesn't look attractive. The idea that Mrs. Clinton would have an office in the West Wing (the heavy hitters' wing), would have her own staff, would carry no official title or assignment but would sit in a corner of the Cabinet meetings taking down names is a recipe for a full-core meltdown of the Clinton administration.

The first time it became known that Mrs. Clinton had overruled a Cabinet Secretary, the new Cabinet would collapse as a functioning instrument of discussion and advice. The inherent intimidation factor is overwhelming. How would this be different than to have had Nancy Reagan sitting in on Cabinet meetings?

But Hillary doesn't do teas. And why should she? She is undoubtedly, as her many Boswells have written, a forceful, intelligent woman of independent accomplishment. It may well be that the time has come to rethink the First Lady model that we've lived with for some 200 years.

Hillary Clinton is hardly unique. A President Dick Cheney would come with Lynne Cheney. Phil Gramm comes with Wendy Gramm. As a force of nature, both are Hillary's equal (at the very least).

Once the lawyers figure a way around the Bobby Kennedy rule, putting Hillary at the head of an inter-agency task force on health care makes considerable sense. Certainly it is possible that the dark night of the progressives would descend on us all, that Mrs. Clinton, HHS's Donna Shalala and Clinton aide Ira Magaziner would conspire to truly nationalize health care. But if our reading of the many recent media hagiographies of the First Lady are correct, Hillary Rodham's animating life force has been to succeed. Success in health-care reform is going to require, most of all, a maturity of judgment about how best to handle the issue's endless, often contradictory forces. Simply tying a ribbon around some progressive pipe dream would ensure a large

and very public failure.

Deciphering the health-care puzzle is a serious, complex job—just like the jobs that all the other serious people in the Clinton administration are taking on. If Mrs. Clinton is going to revise the way we think about First Ladies, better it should be in an assignment like this, as a public equal of her administration peers, than as a figure in the shadows.

That said, we think Mrs. Clinton's boosters ought to consider the possibility that they are distorting public understanding of their own cause—elevating the role of women in public life.

It is hard not to notice that when what Hillary Clinton represents is written about, the one group of women who merit no mention are the women who have served in the Bush administration. Our list would include: Carla Hills (the Trade Representative),



Lynne Cheney

Lynn Martin (Labor Secretary), Lynne Cheney (the Humanities Endowment), Wendy Gramm (Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission), Connie Horner (director of White House personnel), Gail Wilensky (who ran Medicaid and Medicare), Diane Ravitch (policy at Education) and Lee Liberman (deputy White House counsel).

You could elect any one of these women to the Oval Office and stock the Cabinet with the rest of them, and the country would run like clockwork. But they are *Republican* women, and solidarity of some sort says they don't count (an exclusionary practice one might have thought abandoned back around the eighth grade).

Such silent blacklisting of accomplished women in public life is going to confuse many less-political women, and perhaps cause some unfortunate casualties. Zoe Baird, one of the few people who seems to have been President Clinton's personal choice, has now fallen into some sort of politically



Carla Hills

incorrect gray area. Many of the women who are pressing Hillary's cause seem content to let Ms. Baird bleed to death in front of Joe Biden's humiliating committee ("Right now, Zoe Baird is his nominee," was the White House's semi-support yesterday).

Hillary Clinton is being asked to carry a heavy load for a lot of other people. It wouldn't be so heavy or risky if her supporters long ago had more honestly dispersed the burden.



Hillary Clinton



Wendy Gramm

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