

**STATEMENT OF FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
JUNE 24, 1996**

On Sunday, June 23, The Washington Post ran a front page excerpt from Bob Woodward's latest book, The Choice, which recounts meetings I had with Jean Houston and Mary Catherine Bateson and suggests that Ms. Houston is my "spiritual adviser." While I have had a number of conversations with Jean Houston, it is simply not true that she is my spiritual adviser.

For more than three years, I have met with a wide range of contemporary thinkers, including Roman Catholic cardinals, bishops, nuns and priests; Protestant clergy and lay leaders; Jewish rabbis; Muslim clerics; theologians, ethicists and religious activists; historians, political scientists, sociologists and anthropologists; professional communicators, management consultants and motivational speakers; business and labor leaders, writers, artists, poets and entertainers, and many other Americans from all walks of life who have interesting ideas or insights into what's happening in our country today.

Mary Catherine Bateson and Jean Houston are two of many people who have been generous in sharing their ideas with me. Mary Catherine Bateson, the daughter of anthropologists Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson, is herself a distinguished field anthropologist and author of a now classic book on women's lives, Composing a Life. Jean Houston, who has published more than a dozen books, has served as a consultant to major corporations, as well as worked with the international children's organization, UNICEF.

Both women were helpful to me in discussing their work in foreign cultures as I prepared for a trip to South Asia in the spring of 1995. They were also helpful when I returned from South Asia and was facing the task of writing my book about the challenges of raising children in the modern world. One of the many meetings I held at the time about the themes of my book included Jean Houston and Mary Catherine Bateson.

During the hours of free-wheeling discussion, Jean Houston suggested that I imagine a conversation with Eleanor Roosevelt, who grappled with the difficult social issues of her day. This was an interesting intellectual exercise to help spark my own thoughts; it was a brainstorming session for my book -- not a spiritual event. In fact, in previous public speeches, I had used the device of an imaginary conversation with Mrs. Roosevelt as a way of discussing what Mrs. Roosevelt would think about the problems of contemporary society and how she would approach her role as First Lady.

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Statement by the First Lady

Imagine my surprise when what I have been doing since 1993 in front of large audiences was now being reported as a sensational revelation.

The bottom line is: I have no spiritual advisers or any other alternative to my deeply held Methodist faith and traditions upon which I have relied since childhood.

And I do wonder what Eleanor Roosevelt might think of all this.

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For further information, contact Lisa Caputo at 202-757-5000.

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June 24, 1996

Dear Susan,

I know you're doing interviews today about the Woodward book and we thought some of the enclosed information might be of use. Included is a statement from Mrs. Clinton released earlier today, a column she wrote earlier this month that mentions Jean Houston and Mary Catherine Bateson (among others), and an interview with Jean Houston on CNN.

Another point I might add (I'm Mrs. Clinton's speechwriter and was present for the allegedly epiphanous event in the White House solarium):

Anyone who wants to do a serious exploration of Mrs. Clinton's spiritual life need only look to the public record. There is a chapter in her book about her own religious faith and her lifelong attachment to Methodism. It's actually quite touching. She also gave a magnificent speech (for which I can claim no credit) to the United Methodist Conference a few months ago. It was a deeply personal statement about the role that religious faith, and Methodism, have played in her life, particularly in motivating her to public service and social action.

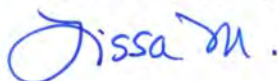
Mrs. Clinton has always found comfort and solace in her faith, not in New Ageism. The fact that she is quiet about it -- indeed quite private -- reflects the depth of her belief and experience.

To diminish her religious beliefs and affiliation by suggesting she has a New Age spiritual adviser is not only lousing reporting, it's a major distortion. The one thing we must ask of journalists is that they are right when they talk about what people believe, especially public figures.

Also, to show how small the world is, my husband, Brad Graham, took you on what was surely an unforgettable date many years ago -- a plane ride that ended up with an emergency landing in a field in Maryland. He says hello. (I also worked with Marty at The Washington Star).

Good luck. Let me know if we can be of any help. I can be reached at work at (202) 456-2935 or at home at (202) 337-3171.

Best regards,



Lissa Muscatine

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Adviser downplays Hillary Clinton's conversations with Eleanor Roosevelt

June 24, 1996

Web posted at: 12:10 a.m. EDT

NEWARK, New Jersey (CNN) — The woman described by Bob Woodward as a spiritual adviser to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton disputed several of Woodward's published assertions Sunday night.

Jean Houston, interviewed at the Newark Airport by CNN, said that Mrs. Clinton did indeed have imaginary conversations with Eleanor Roosevelt at Houston's suggestion. (153K AIFF or WAV sound)

"(But) that was maybe four minutes out of hours and hours of conversation," she said.

In his new book "The Choice," Woodward wrote that Houston, co-director of the Foundation of Mind Research, urged Mrs. Clinton to write "It Takes a Village," and assisted extensively in rewrites. Houston said that she did help edit the book, but that Mrs. Clinton "wrote that book entirely."

Houston said she made the suggestion to hold the imaginary conversations with Mrs. Roosevelt and others "to focus her busy mind on issues that surrounded the book." (255K AIFF or WAV sound)

"That was it," Houston said. "No spooks. No seances. Nothing. She's the least psychic person I've known, and I'm a close second. ... I don't have a psychic bone in my body." (204K AIFF or WAV sound)

Mrs. Clinton wrote about her imaginary conversations with Eleanor Roosevelt in her June 10 syndicated column. She said she talked to Roosevelt about the role of a first lady.

"She usually responds by telling me to buck up, or at least to grow skin as thick as a rhinoceros," Mrs. Clinton wrote.

Houston responded to questions about her comparison to the astrologer who advised Nancy Reagan, saying the difference was "about 180 degrees."

"We (Houston and Mrs. Clinton) were just friends," she said. "Our friendship was one of ladies of a certain age, with similar experience, trying to see how the world is going."

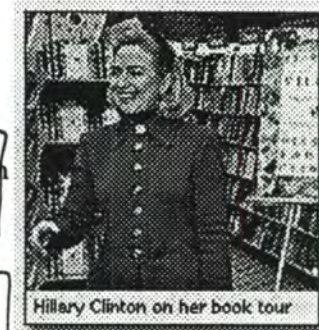
"I hope it's just a two-day wonder," Houston added, about the media attention Woodward's book has given her. "I think [journalist H.L.] Mencken said 'today's tragedies are tomorrow's jokes.' I hope I become a joke fast." (77K AIFF or WAV sound)

The White House also defended Mrs. Clinton on Sunday, saying the revelations, which take up only a few pages of Woodward's book, were overblown.

"To describe it as a consultation with psychics, I think, is to try to .. put it in the wrong frame," White House



Houston



Hillary Clinton on her book tour

Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said Sunday on CBS. (162K AIFF or WAV sound)

"This is not a mystic, this is not channeling," said Neel Lattimore, Mrs. Clinton's spokesman. "This is just her talking, especially at a time when she was working on her book."

The Associated Press and Reuters contributed to this report.

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As a new book links her to a spiritual guru, new investigations will test the First Lady's fortitude as never before. By EVAN THOMAS

Hillary's Other Side

THE OCCASION WAS JUST THE SORT OF SOCIAL event that the Clintons are said to loathe: a gathering of Washington establishment insiders, clustered around candlelit tables for 10 to fete one of their own, media heavy Mortimer Zuckerman. Seated next to Hillary Clinton at this dinner party last week was Bob Woodward, the veteran Washington Post reporter. Famous for his role in uncovering the Watergate scandal, Woodward was only a few days away from publishing his latest investigative chronicle, "The Choice," a narrative of the 1996 presidential campaign that is excerpted this week in *NEWSWEEK*. One of the principal subjects of Woodward's book is Hillary Clinton.

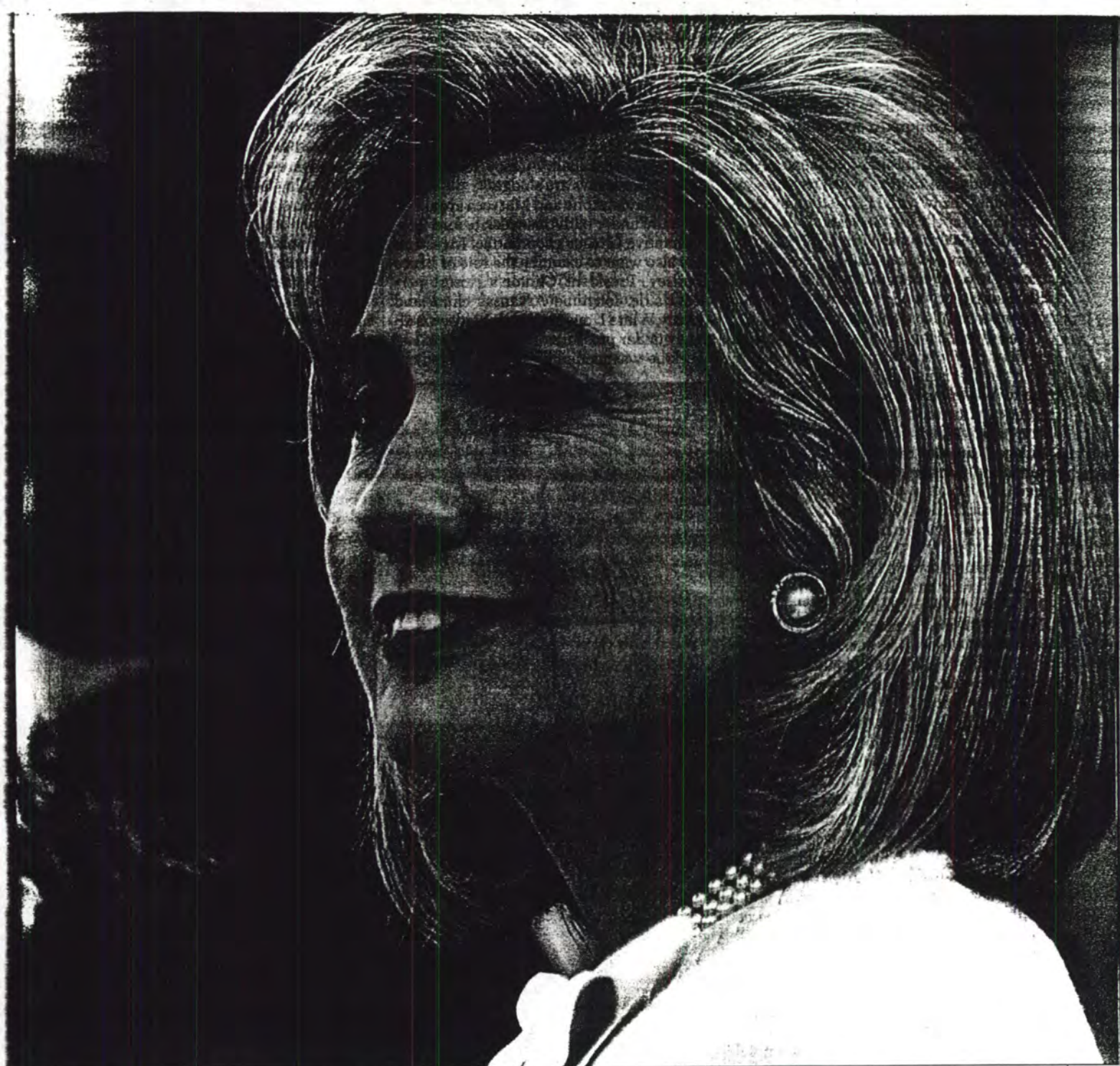
In his new book, Woodward writes that one of Mrs. Clinton's favorite sayings, borrowed from Alcoholics Anonymous, is "fake it till you make it." Self-control, the First Lady tells her friends, is the key to survival. Woodward quotes Hillary as saying, "I really believe you can change the way you think and feel if you discipline your-



Solarium séances
Hillary imagined
talks with Eleanor
Roosevelt and
Gandhi

self." Sitting next to Woodward on this evening gave Mrs. Clinton an opportunity to practice her theory.

Hillary could not have felt relaxed about Woodward's book. The White House had picked up rumors about a "bombshell" that would embarrass the First Lady, as well as hints of other revelations that could possibly harm her husband's chances for reelection. The week was already shaping up as a rough one for the Clintons: Whitewater was bubbling once again, and Republican congressmen, particularly House Government Reform and Oversight Committee chairman William Clinger, were



gleefully beginning to probe Filegate, the latest White House scandal. Yet not once during the hour and a half she was seated beside the veteran investigative reporter did Mrs. Clinton mention either the scandals or Woodward's new book. Instead, she chatted graciously and amiably about Chelsea and asked Woodward about his daughter, who is a junior in college. Hillary's bitterness surfaced only once. Making conversation, Woodward remarked that that evening, June 17, just happened to be the 24th anniversary of the Watergate break-in. Mrs. Clinton dryly responded that Congressman Clinger "will

probably be blaming me for that soon."

The First Lady could be excused for a momentary lapse into cynicism. Some of the scenes portrayed by Woodward's new book will be grist for late-night talk-show comics for weeks to come. According to White House insiders who spoke to Woodward, Mrs. Clinton, discouraged and wounded by the failure of health-care reform and the GOP rout in the '94 elections, came under the influence of a New Age psychic philosopher, Dr. Jean Houston, in the spring of 1995. During several "reflective meditation" sessions in the White House solarium, Houston persuad-

ed Hillary to enact conversations with Eleanor Roosevelt and Mahatma Gandhi (the First Lady drew the line at talking to Jesus Christ—too personal, she said).

Inevitably, Hillary's solarium séances will be mockingly compared to Nancy Reagan's astrology. The image of the First Lady, eyes closed, summoning up her "mythic archetype" is made to order for Jay Leno. Still, the joking is bound to exaggerate the depths of the First Lady's psychic revelation. As Woodward's account makes clear, Mrs. Clinton was only imagining what it would be like to talk with Eleanor Roosevelt and Gandhi, not literally trying to

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

"channel" the spirits of the dead. A long-time searcher for spiritual meaning, Mrs. Clinton had conjured conversations with Eleanor Roosevelt before she met Dr. Houston. Mrs. Clinton is not even the first First Lady to dabble with psychics or mediums: the wives of Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, John Tyler, Woodrow Wilson and Warren G. Harding all tried, in one way or another, to communicate beyond the grave. Unlike Nancy Reagan, Hillary never tried to use psychic powers to influence her husband.

The White House understandably tried to play down Mrs. Clinton's relationship with the charismatic Dr. Houston. According to White House sources, the solarium scene was a daylong "brainstorming session" for Hillary's book, "It Takes a Village," and the Eleanor Roosevelt "conversation" made up only a small part of the meeting.

The snickering about psychics will eventually subside. More troubling to the Clintons may be the scandals that swirled around them last week, particularly the latest flap to win the stale "gate" suffix. How the Clinton White House kept the confidential FBI files of more than 400 people began as a tale of bureaucratic bumbling. But Filegate could end up looking like the plumbers operation of Watergate lore. GOP investigators are probing to find out whether high-level White House officials tried to use the files to dig up dirt on their enemies or expose leaky employees.

THE INITIAL EXPLANATIONS offered for Filegate are crumbling. The White House first claimed that it had been working from an outdated list of White House passholders supplied by the Secret Service. But testifying last week before Congress, Secret Service official Richard Miller stated, "I have no idea where the list came from." Nor does the FBI. White House officials are no longer trying to explain. White House counsel Jack Quinn somewhat lamely argued last week that any internal inquiry by the White House would simply lead to charges of a cover-up.

White House aides do not try to disguise their lack of confidence in the two main figures of Filegate, personnel security chief Craig Livingstone and his old crony Anthony Marceca, a civilian investigator for the army who handled the FBI files at the White House. Livingstone, a onetime bouncer in a bar, has a reputation for bluster and for taking the political low road. Dennis Casey, a Democratic campaign consultant in Pennsylvania who worked with Livingstone on the 1984 Gary Hart campaign, told congressional investigators last week that Livingstone had offered dirt dug up on the supporters of Hart's opponent,

Fritz Mondale. Casey told him to "cut it out." When Casey ran into Livingstone's sidekick, Marceca, later that day in a restaurant, Marceca remonstrated, "You've got to play hardball." Casey told Newsweek: "These guys are sludge."

Both Livingstone and Marceca are slated to testify under oath this week before Representative Clinger's committee. Investigators also want to examine the role of Bruce Lindsey, President Clinton's closest personal aide, longtime Arkansas chum and deputy White House counsel. Lindsey is already under pressure on another front: last week he was named as an "unindicted co-

conspirator" in the Arkansas trial of two bank officials who are charged with illegally trying to siphon money into Governor Clinton's 1990 re-election campaign.

There are hints the blame in Filegate could go higher. Clinger's committee will also interrogate Gary Aldrich, a former FBI agent stationed at the White House who has publicly charged that Livingstone had demanded FBI investigations of White House staffers deemed to be "disloyal" to the First Family. Aldrich claims that Livingstone was under orders from Mrs. Clinton. Specifically, he says, Mrs. Clinton wanted to know who was leaking stories



On the hot seat: Named last week as an unindicted co-conspirator in the trial of two Clinton-connected bankers, Lindsey (above) will likely face Filegate investigators soon; Marceca (right) has a taste for political 'hardball,' according to one Democratic operative

that she had thrown a lamp at President Clinton. Confirming at least parts of Aldrich's account last week was Chris Emery, a former White House usher who was fired from his job in early 1994 after being told that the First Lady disapproved of his speaking on the phone to her White House predecessor, Barbara Bush. (Emery says he was helping Mrs. Bush retrieve a lost file on her personal computer.)

The Clintons can hardly be blamed for wanting to ensure the discretion of their household staff. But misusing confidential FBI files is not the way to do it. Top White House aides are already under scrutiny by

Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr. Filegate only adds to the impression that they have something to hide.

Actually, most people simply assume that the White House is covering up. Polls generally show voters disbelieving White House explanations for Whitewater, Travelgate, Filegate and all the rest. But it isn't yet harming Clinton politically. The same polls show Clinton maintaining a strong 10- to 20-point lead over Bob Dole.

And to many women, Hillary Clinton is not a cold-eyed conspirator but a martyr. Last week 1,200 professional women clamored into a \$250,000 fund-raiser for the

Democratic Party in Boston to see Hillary speak. Women teetered on high heels standing on precarious plastic folding chairs to catch a glimpse of the First Lady as she worked the crowd. Is there anything to Whitewater? "Noooo, she's just being bashed by the press," said Joan McGrath, a retired telephone worker. Why? "A lot of people don't like a strong woman."

To voters like McGrath, Hillary looks just the way she does to her philosopher friend, Dr. Houston—as a Joan of Arc figure, persecuted for her righteous crusade.

With MICHAEL ISIKOFF and DANIEL KLAIDMAN in Washington and MARTHA BRANT in Boston

A Collector of People, Living and Dead

The woman who gave 'New Age' to Hillary

JEAN HOUSTON IS A COLLECTOR of famous people, living and dead. As a teenager, she claims to have met Eleanor Roosevelt six times, and says she once asked Helen Keller, "Why are you so happy?" In high school, Houston recently told the Chicago Tribune, she met an elderly Frenchman in Central Park. They struck up a friendship. It wasn't until years later that she realized he was Teilhard de Chardin, the famed priest and mystic. Houston was also friends with Aldous Huxley and Margaret Mead. Hillary Clinton is merely her latest acquisition.

You may not have heard of Houston, a disciple of mythologist Joseph Campbell's who will now likely be remembered as Hillary Clinton's "guru." But among followers of New Age mysticism, this pop psychologist and avatar of the Human Potential Movement is a legend.

The daughter of a gag writer for Henny Youngman and an actress, Houston, 55, received a doctorate in the philosophy of religion from Columbia. In speeches, Web sites and 15 books with titles



BILL HOGAN—CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Houston: Making a 'z-z-z-z-z-z sound like a bumblebee'

like "The Search for the Beloved: Journeys in Mythology and Sacred Psychology," Houston teaches how to train the mind to get in touch with "the wonder of the inner and outer worlds that is our legacy." Houston argues that a finely tuned mind can in effect reach back in time, tapping into the vestiges of our evolutionary ancestors that she says still exist in our brains.

This feat is said to be accomplished through a rigorous regimen of mental exercises. In "The Possible Human," readers are taught to spend

hours acting out various stages of evolution—pretending to be a fish, then an amphibian, then a monkey. Eventually, they imagine themselves in the future as "extended humans." Later, readers are told to become "units of time," making a "z-z-z-z-z-z sound like a very large bumblebee" and pretending to be a minute, a year, a million years.

Part textbook psychology, part Eastern mysticism, part self-help inspiration, Houston's program stresses exercises intended to sharpen the senses, improve memory and

help followers discover hidden "myths" that hold the key to a fulfilling life.

Lively and self-assured, Houston made an instant impression on the First Lady, Bob Woodward writes. "Jean is a tall, engaging, big person who is very exuberant, an earth-mother personality," adds a White House aide. "She casts a sense of warmth. She has all this ancient history in her head. She's kind of a character. You can laugh her off or listen to her." Woodward writes that Houston "strongly encouraged Hillary to write a book," and "virtually moved into the White House residence for several days at a time to help."

The White House is no longer flattered by the attention. While Houston herself is not commenting on Woodward's book, administration aides now say that Houston's friendship with the First Lady isn't particularly close at all. And they bristle at Houston's claim to Woodward that she was instrumental in persuading Mrs. Clinton to travel to Asia. "She's magnifying her own importance in Hillary's life," says one aide.

Mrs. Clinton devoted her newspaper column two weeks ago to naming the many women to whom she has reached out, including authors Doris Kearns Goodwin, Mary Pipher and Deborah Tannen. Jean Houston is also very much on Hillary's list, here and beyond.

WESTON KOSOVA and MARTHA BRANT

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An extraordinary woman is coming to the White House next week: Mary Robinson, the President of Ireland. She is also a mother, a human rights lawyer, a law professor, a force for reconciliation between Protestants and Catholics, and a voice for women all over the world.

I met President Robinson last year when Bill and I were in Dublin. I admire her efforts to legalize contraception and to help women win the right to sit on juries when she was a young legislator in the Irish Senate. In outlining her philosophy, she has quoted the early feminist writer Mary Wollstonecraft, who said 200 years ago: "I do not wish women to have power over men but over themselves."

President Robinson's message about women's empowerment echoes the thoughts and words of many other women I have spoken with around the world during the past three and a half years.

Whether they are scholars, poets, historians, journalists, political activists or stay-at-home mothers, women have much to teach each other about the choices and challenges we face as we try to lead integrated lives.

As the writer Deborah Tannen has pointed out in her books about communication and gender, women need to talk, and often they need to talk to each other. It is that need for conversation and direct communication that distinguishes most women from most men.

As women, talking can be our greatest friend. That's why I'm so excited that President Robinson will be in the United States, spreading her message of humanity and opportunity for the people of Ireland and for women everywhere.

It's also why I feel so fortunate to have had face-to-face discussions about women's lives with everyone from the Prime Minister of Norway, to the Empress of Japan, to a destitute mother of 10 children in a dusty village in rural Pakistan.

When the best-selling author Mary Pipher visited me recently at the White House, we talked about our lives and the pressures confronting teen-age girls today.

The poet Maya Angelou teaches me about literature and life, particularly from the perspective of an African-American woman who grew up in Arkansas and is now a citizen of the world.

TALKING IT OVER 6/4/96

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Rose Styron, the writer and human rights activist, always provokes my thinking about the obligations we owe to men and women whose names are unknown, yet who are suffering for the cause of freedom and democracy.

Historians Doris Kearns Goodwin and Blanche Wiesen Cook both have shared their thoughts about Eleanor Roosevelt, someone I wish I could have talked to in person about the role of First Lady. In fact, I occasionally have imaginary conversations with Mrs. Roosevelt to try to figure out what she would do in my shoes. She usually responds by telling me to buck up or at least to grow skin as thick as a rhinoceros.

Mary Catherine Bateson, an anthropologist and the daughter of Margaret Mead, has written many books, including one called "Composing a Life." She and I have spent hours discussing the ways in which women in different societies attempt to fulfill their responsibilities to their families, jobs and communities.

Jean Houston, an expert on philosophy and mythology, has shared her views with me on everything from the ancient Greeks to the lives of women and children in Bangladesh.

I've even had the pleasure of sitting across the dinner table from Ann Landers, asking advice on matters both trivial and not-so-trivial.

But of all the women I've had the chance to meet, I've probably learned the most from those you've never heard of -- women who have never written a book, appeared on television or been the subject of a newspaper article. From a poor barrio in Managua, Nicaragua, to a grassy field in Indonesia, I've met women who find comfort and unity in telling each other about their children, jobs, families, health, education and all the issues that touch their lives.

I don't always agree with what I hear. What's important is to have the chance to listen to women whose perspectives and ideas may differ from my own so that I can broaden my understanding of women's lives and roles today.

Whoever is doing the talking, the stories we share contribute to our history as women and our understanding of our own time.

I hope we will all make time to talk things over with each other.

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June 4, 1996

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 21, 1993

REMARKS BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
AT FIRST LADIES OF SONG EVENT

New York City, New York

10:51 P.M. EST

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you so much, and thank everyone from Frankie and James Roosevelt and the extended Roosevelt family and -- Stone, and all of the first women of song and theater who were here tonight, for making us all feel so good about our country and about someone who, on a continuing basis, inspires us and prods us. Thanks aslo to the first ladies of New York City and New York, Matilda Cuomo and Joyce Dinkens who were here with us tonight, and all of us who try in whatever way we can to do what these days should be done.

As I was sitting here this evening I thought about all of the conversations that I have had and might have with Mrs. Roosevelt this year. (Laughter.) It's one of the saving graces that I have hung on to for dear life. (Laughter.) The early conversations were I'm sure not very satisfactory to her because, early on as the campaign would go and things would happen, I would shake my head and I would say, "Why me?" (Laughter.) And I wouldn't get any answer at all.

A little while later, after some more time had passed and I had read even more and more -- actually devoured more and more about Mrs. Roosevelt, I realized that that was not a question that she would ever give an answer to. One did what one was expected and did it in in the best way possible.

So my conversations turned to really requests for information -- how did you put up with this? (Laughter.) How could you go on from day to day with all that would happen and the kind of attacks and criticism that would be hurled your way? Again, I have to confess, it was not a very satisfactory conversation, because as you can see by looking at this wonderful, wonderful monument that will be erected, she listened calmly and looked at me very serenely, in my mind, but didn't say very much.

And then one day I had a wonderful revelation. And that was when I learned that even before President Roosevelt was inaugurated, newspapers were editorializing against Mrs. Roosevelt. They were saying she should keep her opinions to herself, that her husband had been elected President and no one in America wanted to hear a thing that she had to say. Actually, one of the most incredible editorials to that effect happened right here in this city, if I recall.

And so it struck me that what was really happening to me wasn't anything very new at all. That it was an ongoing story of what happens often as we relive history because we failed to learn from it, and that what we all must do in the best way we can -- take those lessons to heart.

So I began having much better and more satisfactory conversations with Mrs. Roosevelt. (Laughter.) Because I began to talk with her about what she was really interested in and how she could help me. And now the conversations that I've had for the past

MORE

month have been especially gratifying to me. Because she has said on several occasions as I have shaken my head over some problem or another, or as I watch my husband work very hard on the economic plan or some other important issue -- she's probably shaking her head, I said in my mind, "I thought that would have been solved by now." (Laughter.) "Since it's not, then you are just going to have to get out there and do it and don't make any excuses about it."

So from my perspective, what Mrs. Roosevelt has done is what she is still doing -- she says far better than I what I feel. I was struck tonight that perhaps what I should do is just take all these wonderful quotes we heard, write them down on notecards, and when I'm ever asked a question, shuffle through them and just hand them over. (Applause.)

But mostly I'm grateful because you will have this monument. I will, I hope, someday have a small replica of it and will -- because I hope that's one of the things which come from this. -- that I can put on my desk or in the window of my study; and when I feel a little discouraged or a little down, think about this woman who, although born to privilege, did not have much of what I have taken for granted -- a warm and loving and supportive family, an education that went on beyond my 17th year, an opportunity to see many things and have many experiences. But I don't feel that I was as well prepared in many ways as she was, pursuing these responsibilities. And I only hope that as the years go by, my heart and my mind will expand and grow, so that some day I will feel worthy of being mentioned in the same sentence with her.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

10:58 A.M. EST

STATEMENT OF FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
JUNE 24, 1996

On Sunday, June 23, The Washington Post ran a front page excerpt from Bob Woodward's latest book, The Choice, which recounts meetings I had with Jean Houston and Mary Catherine Bateson and suggests that Ms. Houston is my "spiritual adviser." While I have had a number of conversations with Jean Houston, it is simply not true that she is my spiritual adviser.

For more than three years, I have met with a wide range of contemporary thinkers, including Roman Catholic cardinals, bishops, nuns and priests; Protestant clergy and lay leaders; Jewish rabbis; Muslim clerics; theologians, ethicists and religious activists; historians, political scientists, sociologists and anthropologists; professional communicators, management consultants and motivational speakers; business and labor leaders, writers, artists, poets and entertainers, and many other Americans from all walks of life who have interesting ideas or insights into what's happening in our country today.

Mary Catherine Bateson and Jean Houston are two of many people who have been generous in sharing their ideas with me. Mary Catherine Bateson, the daughter of anthropologists Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson, is herself a distinguished field anthropologist and author of a now classic book on women's lives, Composing a Life. Jean Houston, who has published more than a dozen books, has served as a consultant to companies such as Xerox and IBM, as well as worked with the international children's organization, UNICEF.

Both women were helpful to me in discussing their work in foreign cultures as I prepared for a trip to South Asia in the spring of 1995. They were also helpful when I returned from South Asia and was facing the task of writing my book about the challenges of raising children in the modern world. One of the many meetings I held at the time about the themes of my book included Jean Houston and Mary Catherine Bateson.

During the hours of free-wheeling discussion, Jean Houston suggested that I imagine a conversation with Eleanor Roosevelt, who grappled with the difficult social issues of her day. This was an interesting intellectual exercise to help spark my own thoughts; it was a brainstorming session for my book -- not a spiritual event. In fact, in previous public speeches, I had used the device of an imaginary conversation with Mrs. Roosevelt as a way of discussing what Mrs. Roosevelt would think about the problems of contemporary society and how she would approach her role as First Lady.

--more--

Imagine my surprise when what I have been doing since 1993 in front of large audiences was now being reported as a sensational revelation.

The bottom line is: I have no New Age "gurus." I have no spiritual advisers or any other alternative to my deeply held Methodist faith and traditions upon which I have relied since childhood.

And I do wonder what Eleanor Roosevelt might think of all this.

###

For further information, contact Lisa Caputo at 202-757-5000.

DRAFT 2A

2237556

I want to make sure
he book uses the
phrase, not just
the Post headline

On Sunday June 23, The Washington Post ran a front page excerpt from Bob Woodward's latest book, The Choice, which recounts meetings I had with the philosopher Jean Houston and the anthropologist Mary Catherine Bateson and suggests [asserts?] that Ms. Houston is my "spiritual adviser." While I have had a number of conversations with Jean Houston, Mr. Woodward's claim that she was my spiritual adviser is simply false [Note: should we say "ridiculous" or "absurd"?]

he
author +
teacher

For more than three years, I have met with a wide range of contemporary thinkers, including Roman Catholic cardinals, bishops, nuns and priests; Protestant clergy and lay leaders; Jewish rabbis; Muslim clerics; theologians, ethicists and religious activists; historians, political scientists, sociologists and anthropologists; professional communicators, management consultants and motivational speakers; business and labor leaders, writers, artists, poets and entertainment celebrities; and many other Americans from all walks of life who have interesting ideas or insights into what's happening in our country today.

Mary Catherine Bateson and Jean Houston are two of the many people who have been generous in sharing their ideas with me.

I first met them in ^{Dec. 1994} ~~January 1995~~. Mary Catherine Bateson, the daughter of anthropologist Margaret Mead and biologist Gregory Bateson, is herself a distinguished field anthropologist and the author of a now classic book on women's biography, Composing a Life. Jean Houston, who holds a doctorate from Columbia in the philosophy of religion, has published more than a dozen books on symbolism, myth and history, and has served as a consultant to companies such as Xerox and IBM [ck], as well as the international children's organization, UNICEF.

Union
Graduate
School
Psychol.

myth
philosophy +
psychology
or
Cognition
+
human
deeper
revelations
in words
or actions

Both women were helpful to me in discussing their work in foreign cultures as I prepared for a trip to South Asia in the spring of 1995. They were also helpful when I returned from South Asia and was facing the task of writing a book about the challenges of raising children in the modern world. One of the many meetings I held at the time included Jean Houston and Mary Catherine Bateson.

During hours of free-wheeling discussion, Jean Houston suggested that I imagine a conversation with Eleanor Roosevelt, who grappled with the difficult social issues of her day. This was an intellectual exercise – not an exploration of spiritualism. In fact, on several previous occasions, I had raised the idea in public of what Mrs. Roosevelt would think about the problems of contemporary society and how she would approach her role as First Lady.

Imagine my surprise when what I had already done in front of large audiences was now being reported as a sensational revelation.

The bottom line is: I have no New Age "gurus." I have no spiritual advisors. I only have my Methodist faith and traditions.

↑
Method

DRAFT #2 (with HRC edits)

On Sunday June 23, The Post ran a front page excerpt from Bob Woodward's latest book recounting meetings I had with Jean Houston and Mary Catherine Bateson suggesting that Ms. Houston is my "spiritual adviser." As is often the case with reporting today, it is factually true that I have met with Jean, but the conclusions implied from that fact – that she, or anyone, is my spiritual adviser -- are not. Let me explain.

I first met the two women in January 1995 and quickly discovered they had a wealth of stimulating and provocative ideas to share. They were particularly helpful in talking about their experiences in different cultures as I prepared for my 1995 trip to South Asia and after I returned. Jean had spent time working with UNICEF and had traveled frequently through India lecturing business and government groups about changes in the world. Mary Catherine, the daughter of anthropologists Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson, is herself a distinguished field anthropologist and has developed an expertise in women's lives from villages in Iran to cities in America.

I like talking about women's lives and the changes we are all confronting, and both Jean and Mary Catherine gladly shared their opinions with me and my staff.

When I returned from my South Asia trip, I faced the daunting task of writing my own book, and convened a staff meeting that included Jean, Mary Catherine and Barbara Feinman, hired by my publisher to assist me. I thought Jean and Mary Catherine, who have authored many books and articles, could help me talk about my experiences in South Asia as well as my concerns for children in ways that would benefit my own writing.

I found Jean's suggestion to pretend I was talking to Eleanor Roosevelt an interesting intellectual exercise—not a spiritual event. In fact, I had used the device of such an imaginary conversation with Mrs. Roosevelt on several previous occasions in front of large audiences who had seemed to enjoy it. I also found it a useful way to make the point that much of what I have experienced as First Lady is hardly new.

This meeting in the White House solarium was a fun conversation—one of the thousands I had that year with all kinds of people. Jean and Mary Catherine remained helpful to me as I struggled to finish writing my book, missing numerous deadlines. Along with a number of other friends—and my husband—they critiqued drafts and suggested better ways to put down on paper what was stuck in my head.

Imagine my surprise when these friendships and conversations became big news.

Anyway, for more than three years, I have met with a wide range of Americans, including Roman Catholic cardinals, bishops, nuns and priests; Protestant clergy and lay leaders; Jewish rabbis; Muslim leaders; theologians, ethicists and religious activists; historians, political scientists, sociologists and anthropologists; professional communicators, management consultants and motivational speakers; business and labor

leaders, writers, artists, poets and entertainment celebrities; and many other Americans from all walks of life who have interesting ideas or insights into what's happening in our country today.

I have shared many meals and cups of tea with these visitors, and whether I have agreed with them or not, I have valued the chance to exchange ideas with stimulating people.

This does not, however, mean that they are my personal gurus.

The bottom line is: I have no "gurus," spiritual advisors or any other New Age alternative to my Methodist faith and traditions. But I will continue eagerly to take advantage of this time in my life to meet with all sorts of folks and try to do the best I can to help the President and make my own contribution to our nation and the future of our children.

(8824531)

S 110

The Choice

have

philosopher

anthropologist

asserting

On Sunday June 23, The Post ran a front page excerpt from Bob Woodward's latest book, recounting meetings I had with Jean Houston and Mary Catherine Bateson implying that Ms. Houston is my "spiritual adviser." As is often the case with reporting today, it is factually true that I have met with Jean, but the conclusions implied from those facts are not. Let me explain.

while I have had a #1 conversation her w/ me

M.W.'s claim that she was acting as my spirit adviser is simply "false."

who holds a doctor in philosophy

I first met the two women in January 1994 and quickly discovered they had a wealth of stimulating and provocative ideas to share. They were particularly helpful in talking about their experiences in different cultures as I prepared for my 1995 trip to South Asia and after I returned. Jean had spent time working with UNICEF and had traveled frequently through India lecturing business and government groups about changes in the world. Mary Catherine, the daughter of anthropologists Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson, is herself a distinguished field anthropologist and has developed an expertise in women's lives from villages in Iran to cities in America.

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I like talking about women's lives and the changes we are all confronting, and both Jean and Mary Catherine gladly shared their opinions with me and my staff.

about... the challenges of raising children in the modern world. when I heard

When I returned from my South Asia trip, I faced the daunting task of writing my own book, and convened a staff meeting that included Jean, Mary Catherine and a young woman, Barbara Feinman, hired by my publisher to assist me. I thought Jean and Mary Catherine, who have authored many books and articles, could help me talk about my experiences in South Asia as well as my concerns for children in ways that would benefit my own writing.

I found Jean's suggestion to pretend I was talking to Eleanor Roosevelt an interesting intellectual exercise—not a spiritual event. In fact, I had used the device of such an imaginary conversation with Mrs. Roosevelt on several previous occasions in front of large audiences who had seemed to enjoy the exercise. I also found it a useful way to make the point that much of what I have experienced as First Lady is hardly new.

This meeting in the White House solarium was a fun conversation—one of the thousands I had that year with all kinds of people. Jean and Mary Catherine remained helpful to me as I struggled to finish writing my book, missing numerous deadlines, because I had an unrealistic timeline in mind. Along with a number of other friends—and my husband—they critiqued drafts and suggested better ways to put down on paper what was stuck in my head.

Imagine my surprise when these friendships became big news.

what I had done several x what I had done in public suddenly was reported as a

Sensational revelation.

Anyway, for nearly two years, I have met personally with a wide range of Americans, including Roman Catholic cardinals, bishops, nuns and priests; Protestant clergy and lay leaders; Jewish rabbis; theologians, ethicists and religious activists; academicians (including historians, political scientists, sociologists and anthropologists); professional communicators, management consultants and motivational speakers; business

anyway

This was an intellectual exercise that I would have raised the idea on my own

has published more than a dozen books on symbolism, myth, and history. I've also served as a consultant for major American corporations, such as Xerox and IBM, and UNICEF.

42

and labor leaders, writers, artists, poets and entertainment celebrities; and many other Americans from all walks of life who have interesting ideas or insights into what's happening in our country today.

Managers who are two of the way people who have been generous in sharing their views with me.

I have shared many meals and cups of tea with these visitors; some have spent the night with us. I have enjoyed the chance to talk with stimulating people, many of whom care deeply about what the President is trying to accomplish for America; others are totally non-political, and some even oppose the administration, but have points of view I want to hear.

And what have I learned from all this? I suppose that no matter what I do—or do not do—I will be criticized and exploited by some. Yet I will continue casting a wide net to meet with as many different Americans as I can; to listen hard and learn so I can grow and challenge myself, to understand better what's happening in our country and world and put that in an historical and social context so I can better explain the President's vision for our future.

New Age
The bottom line is: I have no "gurus," spiritual advisors, *I have no* or any other New Age *I don't subscribe to* *nostrums.* alternative to my Methodist faith and traditions. But I will continue eagerly to take advantage of this time in my life to meet with all sorts of folks and try to do the best I can to help the President and make my own contribution to our nation.

In an election year, with so much at stake, perhaps it would benefit all of us in Washington to worry a little less about irrelevant sensational stories and more about the issues and problems people live with everyday.

And that will be no mistake to anybody who
It should be no

Call Geneva Overholts
Markia Berry / Lisa
Dipper

FAX: 508 369 5488
↳ 508 369 2112

On Sunday June 23, The Post ran a front page excerpt from Bob Woodward's latest book recounting meetings I had with Jean Houston and Mary Catherine Bateson ^{suggesting} implying that Ms. Houston is my "spiritual adviser." As is often the case with reporting today, it is factually true that I have met with Jean, but the conclusions implied from those facts are not. Let me explain. ^{that she -- or anyone -- was acting as a spir. adviser is not true.}

I first met the two women in January 1994 and quickly discovered they had a wealth of stimulating and provocative ideas to share. They were particularly helpful in talking about their experiences in different cultures as I prepared for my 1995 trip to South Asia and after I returned. Jean had spent time working with UNICEF and had traveled frequently through India lecturing business and government groups about changes in the world. Mary Catherine, the daughter of anthropologists Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson, is herself a distinguished field anthropologist and has developed an expertise in women's lives from villages in Iran to cities in America.

I like talking about women's lives and the changes we are all confronting, and both Jean and Mary Catherine gladly shared their opinions with me and my staff.

When I returned from my South Asia trip, I faced the daunting task of writing my own book, and convened a staff meeting that included Jean, Mary Catherine and ~~a young woman~~, Barbara Feinman, hired by my publisher to assist me. I thought Jean and Mary Catherine, who have authored many books and articles, could help me talk about my experiences in South Asia as well as my concerns for children in ways that would benefit my own writing.

I found Jean's suggestion to pretend I was talking to Eleanor Roosevelt an interesting intellectual exercise—not a spiritual event. In fact, I had used the device of such an imaginary conversation with Mrs. Roosevelt on several previous occasions in front of large audiences who had seemed to enjoy the exercise. I also found it a useful way to make the point that much of what I have experienced as First Lady is hardly new.

This meeting in the White House solarium was a fun conversation—one of the thousands I had that year with all kinds of people. Jean and Mary Catherine remained helpful to me as I struggled to finish writing my book, missing numerous deadlines, ~~because I had an unrealistic timeline in mind~~. Along with a number of other friends—and my husband—they critiqued drafts and suggested better ways to put down on paper what was stuck in my head.

Imagine my surprise when these friendships became big news. ^{and conversations}

Anyway, for ^{more than 3} ~~nearly two~~ years, I have met personally with a wide range of Americans, including Roman Catholic cardinals, bishops, nuns and priests; Protestant clergy and lay leaders; Jewish rabbis; theologians, ethicists and religious activists; ^{Muslim clerics, Buddhist monks} ~~academicians~~ (including historians, political scientists, sociologists and anthropologists); professional communicators, management consultants and motivational speakers; business

and labor leaders, writers, artists, poets and entertainment celebrities; and many other Americans from all walks of life who have interesting ideas or insights into what's happening in our country today.

I've enjoyed talking w/ all these people -- even those

I agree w/ some, and disagree w/ others.

make words, I've been in a position where I

I have shared many meals and cups of tea with these visitors; ~~some have spent the night with us.~~ I have enjoyed the chance to talk with stimulating people, many of whom care deeply about what the President is trying to accomplish for America; others are totally non-political, and some even oppose the administration, but have points of view I want to hear.

Share your view

I've never thought that in somebody's ideas were deep

than mine (not)

didn't have st. to learn

And what have I learned from all this? I suppose that no matter what I do—or do not do—I will be criticized and exploited by some. Yet I will continue casting a wide net to meet with as many different Americans as I can; to listen hard and learn so I can grow and challenge myself, to understand better what's happening in our country and world and put that in an historical and social context so I can better explain the President's vision for our future.

The bottom line is: I have no "gurus," spiritual advisors or any other New Age alternative to my Methodist faith and traditions. But I will continue eagerly to take advantage of this time in my life to meet with all sorts of folks and try to do the best I can to help the President and make my own contribution to our nation.

which have been part of my life since childhood.

and he found four children.

In an election year, with so much at stake, perhaps it would benefit all of us in Washington to worry a little less about irrelevant sensational stories and more about the issues and problems people live with everyday.

I take my personal faith seriously which

TO: MRS CLINTON

FROM: LISSA MUSCATINE

⁵
~~THREE~~ PAGES INCLUDING COVER

URGENT!

Mrs. Clinton needs this
before leaving Monday
morning.

Doris,

I'm enclosing two drafts of the prospective op-ed piece: one longer (and not as cogent), one shorter and more to the point (although the ending may be too abrupt). The final version will probably fall somewhere in between the two.

Again, we're grateful for all the perspective (and comfort) you lend at moments like these.

I'll look forward to talking to you on Monday.



Lissa Muscatine

202-456-2935

TO: HRC
FROM: Lissa
RE: Op-Ed
DATE: June 23

I'm enclosing two drafts:

The first, marked #2, is the original versions with the edits we discussed.

The second, marked #2a, is a revised version based on a conversation that Melanne and I had with Sid. All three of us think it is better, although the ending is too abrupt.

I also talked to Boris, who is going to help.

FAX to Lissia

202-337-0589

Davis KG - SOB 369 5488

FAX 369 2112

① On Sunday June 23 1996 The Post

~~[redacted]~~ excerpt from Bob
recounting meeting I had w/ JH + MCE
book/implying that

Jean Houston is my "spiritual advisor." As

is often the case with ~~ff~~ reporting today,

it is factually true that I have met w/ Ms
Houston, but the conclusions ^{implied from these facts} ~~suggested~~

are not. Let me explain.

② I first met MCB + JH in January of 1994 and
quickly discovered they had a wealth of
inspiring stimulating and provocative ~~ideas~~ ~~ideas~~

~~ideas~~ ideas to share. They were particularly
helpful in talking about their experiences in
different cultures as I ~~both~~ prepared for

~~and sought to make sense of~~ my 1995
trip to South Asia, ^{and after I returned.} Jean had spent time

working with UNICEF in Bangladesh and

had traveled frequently through India frequently
lectures, bus. men + government groups about changes in the world
Mary Catherine ^{best} the daughter of anthropologist,
(Margaret Mead + Gregory Bateson) ^{was her key} ~~was~~ a
disappointed ^{and anthropologist} ~~one herself~~ ^{was} ~~has~~ ^{was} ~~has~~
developed an expertise in women's lives from
villages in India to cities in America.

I like talking with ~~other women~~ ^{women} about
their lives and the changes we are all
confronting ~~in~~ and both Jean and Mary
Catherine gladly shared their ~~own~~ opinions
with me and my staff. th When I returned
from my South Asia trip, I faced the
daunting task of writing my ^{own} book, and
convened a ^{small} meeting that included Jean,
Mary C and a young woman, Barbara
Inman, hired by my publisher to
assist me. ~~And~~ I thought Jean &

ML, who have authored many books and articles, could keep me track about my experience in South Asia as well as my concerns for children in ways that would benefit my own writing. I found Jean's suggestion to pretend I was talking to an ~~audience~~ ^{host} E R as an ~~explaining~~ ^{hook} what I ~~seen~~ ^{had} to Gandhi interesting intellectual exercise - not a spiritual event. In fact, I had used the ~~lowest~~ ^{device} of such an imaginary conversation w/ Mrs R on several previous occasions in front of large audiences who had seemed to enjoy the ~~role-playing~~ ^{exercise}. I also found it a useful way to make the points ~~indirectly~~ that much of what I

have experienced as FL is hardly new.

This meeting in the WH Solarium
was a free conversation - one of ^{the} thousands
I had that year - ~~with all kinds of people.~~ ~~just the two women &~~

~~being~~. They remained helpful to me as
I struggled to finish writing my book.

missing numerous deadlines, because I had

an unrealistic ~~Acte~~ timeline in mind.

along with a number of other friends - and my husband
They critiqued drafts and suggested better
ways to ^{put down on paper} say what was stuck in my head.

~~but~~ Imagine my surprise when these
friendships became big news. ^{seem} ~~the~~ ~~long~~
way from ~~deep throat~~.

insert #s Anyway, ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ ~~(4)~~ ~~(5)~~ (6) + (7)

(7) And in an election year with so much
at stake perhaps it would benefit all
of us in Washington to worry a little less

about manufacturing occasionally irrelevant
stories and more about the issues and
problems people live with everyday.

ESQUIRE

TEL:212-265-0234

Jan 25 '95 11:45 No.001 P.02

Esquire

EDWARD KOSNER
EDITOR IN CHIEF
(212) 649-4270

January 25, 1995

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Thank you for your letter about about Esquire's Reality Check item concerning you and Marianne Williamson. I can understand your concern that your relationship with Ms. Williamson and others may be misconstrued by the press, but I must point out that the characterizations "guru" and "spiritual advisor" are yours, not Esquire's.

I think it's always of interest when the President or the First Lady consults with people identified with evangelical religion, personal or spiritual development, astrology or numerology and the like. Certainly the involvement of Presidents with Billy Graham and Mrs. Reagan's association with an astrologer were reported in the press, as is Speaker Gingrich's admiration for Arianna Stassinopolous Huffington, a keen follower of John-Roger. Similarly, President Clinton's meeting with Tony Robbins, who was profiled in Esquire last April, is legitimately of interest to the press.

That being said, I assure you that neither Esquire nor its editor seek to "marginalize" you or diminish you or President Clinton. Indeed, I was the editor of New York Magazine, when many people thought that our Joe Klein was leading the press campaign to make Governor Clinton the 1992 Democratic nominee.

BCC: Maggie
Lisa
Melanne
Lissa

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 20, 1995

3370589

Mr. Edward Kosner
Editor-in-Chief
Esquire
250 W. 55th Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Kosner:

You recently ran a story that I had met with Marianne Williamson implying she was my "spiritual advisor" or "guru". As with some press reports, it is factually true that I have met with Ms. Williamson, but the conclusion is untrue. Let me explain.

For nearly two years, I have met personally with a wide range of Americans including Roman Catholic cardinals, bishops, nuns and priests; Protestant clergy and lay leaders; Jewish rabbis; theologians, ethicists and religious activists; academicians (including historians, political scientists, sociologists, and anthropologists); professional communicators, management consultants and motivational speakers; business and labor leaders, writers, artists, poets and entertainment celebrities; and many other Americans from all walks of life who have interesting ideas or insights into what's happening in our country today.

I have shared many meals and cups of tea with these visitors; some have spent the night with us. I have enjoyed the chance to talk with stimulating people, many of whom care deeply about what the President is trying to accomplish for America; others are totally non-political, and some even oppose the Administration, but have points of view I want to hear.

So, have I met with Americans of every stripe, some of whom are controversial or "politically incorrect"? Yes, of course, I have. I find it interesting that very few of these visits have been publicized or viewed as significant unless those who oppose the President or his goals or my role think they can score points against us by using the old tactic of "guilt by association" or unless the visitor decides it will benefit him or her to be seen as associated with us in the public's eye. I have experienced both forms of publicity.

Marianne Williamson, for example, is a political supporter who has an intriguing view about popular culture today that she shared with me; she is neither my "guru" nor spiritual advisor.

Edward Kosner
January 20, 1995
Page Two

I believe those who publicized her visit want to marginalize my expression of faith as a Christian because they fear a view of Christian witness and obligation that differs from the religious right's could create political opposition to its agenda. Some visitors have exploited their time with me for their own purposes. The prime example of that is the magazine editor who paid a short courtesy call in my office and has promoted the perception that he is my "guru".

And what have I learned from all this? I suppose that no matter what I do -- or do not do -- I will be criticized and exploited by some. Yet, I will continue casting a wide net to meet with as many different Americans as I can; to listen hard and learn so I can grow and challenge myself, to understand better what's happening in our country and world and put that in an historical and social context so I can better explain the President's vision for our future.

Well, your report provoked a long answer with a simple bottom line: I have no "gurus", spiritual advisors or any other New Age alternative to my Methodist faith and traditions. But, I will continue eagerly to take advantage of this time in my life to meet with all sorts of folks and try to do the best I can to help the President and make my own contribution to our nation.

If you ever have any questions concerning me in the future, please feel free to call me or my press secretary, Lisa Caputo. And, if you could ever come to visit, I'd be glad to offer a cup of tea and some conversation.

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Hillary Rodham Clinton

ESQUIRE

TEL:212-265-0234

Jan 25 '95

11:46 No.001 P.03

[REDACTED]

(omitting the last paragraph) will appear in
the April issue, out in mid-March.

I would be honored to visit with you whenever it's
convenient.

Very truly yours,

Edward Kosner

Edward Kosner

Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

EK:fjk

As members of the First Lady's staff at the White House, we have worked closely with Hillary Rodham Clinton for more than three years. One of the many pleasures of working for her is that she is smart, open-minded and willing to hear people out -- even people whose ideas diverge from own. During the past xx year, for example, Mrs. Clinton has met with dozens of provocative and xxx thinkers ranging from the Nobel Prize winning poet, Seamus Heaney to xxx.

She also has exchanged ideas with Jean Houston, whose relationship to Mrs. Clinton is highlighted in Bob Woodward's new book and an excerpt that ran on the front page of Sunday's editions of The Washington Post.

It is because we believe so deeply in the importance of the press (one of us was a reporter for 12 years for The Washington Post before moving to the White House, the other spent years in public advocacy defending the freedom of the press) that we feel compelled to write this piece.

While some (but not all) of Woodward's facts are correct, the importance that he attaches to Mrs. Clinton's relationship to Jean Houston is not only wrong, it's absurd.

Mrs. Clinton first met Jean Houston 17 months ago through a mutual friend, the anthropologist and writer Mary Catherine Bateson. Since then, Houston and Bateson have visited the White House a number of times, both to help brainstorm ideas for the First Lady's book, as well as to talk about religion, history, literature, anthropology, and current events. Like Mrs. Clinton, we and other members of the staff quickly discovered that Jean Houston was eager to share her views. As one of our colleagues put it, "she's a character" -- a flamboyant and funny person who isn't shy about regaling others with jokes, ideas, and her philosophy of the world.

To suggest, however, that she is Mrs. Clinton's "spiritual adviser," as the Post headline described her, is laughable. Mrs. Clinton is hardly a New Age aficionado, and to the extent that she has a spiritual adviser, it's the traditional Methodist Church).

It also defies logic to suggest that Jean Houston is influential in the key decisions that the First Lady makes. Mrs. Clinton talks to dozens of people a week, if not every day, and seldom accepts wholeheartedly any single person's advice. (We know this from experience).

Woodward also suggests erroneously that Jean Houston was instrumental in persuading Mrs. Clinton to go to Beijing last fall to address the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. Hundreds of Americans, including Jean Houston, wrote

letters to Mrs. Clinton urging her to go. While the First Lady appreciated the encouragement, she relied exclusively on the national security apparatus at the White House and State Department to make the final call.

One giant flaw in Woodward's book is his unquestioning acceptance of Jean Houston's version of events (she was interviewed at length). Jean Houston may believe that her meetings with Mrs. Clinton were of central importance, but they hardly had the profound therapeutic effect that Woodward describes. Even the episode in the White House when Mrs. Clinton imagined aloud how Mrs. Roosevelt would respond to certain situations (something the First Lady has mentioned in her own speeches over the past few years), is treated by Woodward as an epiphanous moment. In fact, it amounted to less than an hour of Mrs. Clinton's year -- an interesting intellectual exercise, nothing less, nothing more.

Doubtless Mr. Woodward will respond to criticisms such as ours by citing his countless sources, memos, transcripts, and interviews. But what good is such voluminous reporting when the writer is so willing to distort the facts?

Sadly, the attention Woodward devotes to this subject is not an attempt to paint a complete and fair portrait of our First Lady, but a cheap and cynical marketing ploy.

Snapshots and caricatures of public figures do not make history. But they do sell books.

As members of the First Lady's staff at the White House, we have worked closely with Hillary Rodham Clinton for more than three years. One of the many pleasures of working for her is that she is smart, open-minded and willing to hear people out -- even people whose ideas diverge from own. During the past xx year, for example, Mrs. Clinton has met with dozens of provocative and xxx thinkers ranging from the Nobel Prize winning poet, Seamus Heaney to xxx.

She also has exchanged ideas with Jean Houston, whose relationship to Mrs. Clinton is highlighted in Bob Woodward's new book and an excerpt that ran on the front page of Sunday's editions of The Washington Post.

It is because we believe so deeply in the importance of the press (one of us was a reporter for 12 years for The Washington Post before moving to the White House, the other spent years in public advocacy defending the freedom of the press) that we feel compelled to write this piece.

While some (but not all) of Woodward's facts are correct, the importance that he attaches to Mrs. Clinton's relationship to Jean Houston is not only wrong, it's absurd.

Mrs. Clinton first met Jean Houston 17 months ago through a mutual friend, the anthropologist and writer Mary Catherine Bateson. Since then, Houston and Bateson have visited the White House a number of times, both to help brainstorm ideas for the First Lady's book, as well as to talk about religion, history, literature, anthropology, and current events. Like Mrs. Clinton, we and other members of the staff quickly discovered that Jean Houston was eager to share her views. As one of our colleagues put it, "she's a character" -- a flamboyant and funny person who isn't shy about regaling others with jokes, ideas, and her philosophy of the world.

To suggest, however, that she is Mrs. Clinton's "spiritual adviser," as the Post headline described her, is laughable. Mrs. Clinton is hardly a New Age aficionado, and to the extent that she has a spiritual adviser, it's the traditional Methodist Church).

It also defies logic to suggest that Jean Houston is influential in the key decisions that the First Lady makes. Mrs. Clinton talks to dozens of people a week, if not every day, and seldom accepts wholeheartedly any single person's advice. (We know this from experience).

Woodward also suggests erroneously that Jean Houston was instrumental in persuading Mrs. Clinton to go to Beijing last fall to address the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. Hundreds of Americans, including Jean Houston, wrote

letters to Mrs. Clinton urging her to go. While the First Lady appreciated the encouragement, she relied exclusively on the national security apparatus at the White House and State Department to make the final call.

One giant flaw in Woodward's book is his unquestioning acceptance of Jean Houston's version of events (she was interviewed at length). Jean Houston may believe that her meetings with Mrs. Clinton were of central importance, but they hardly had the profound therapeutic effect that Woodward describes. Even the episode in the White House when Mrs. Clinton imagined aloud how Mrs. Roosevelt would respond to certain situations (something the First Lady has mentioned in her own speeches over the past few years), is treated by Woodward as an epiphanous moment. In fact, it amounted to less than an hour of Mrs. Clinton's year -- an interesting intellectual exercise, nothing less, nothing more.

Doubtless Mr. Woodward will respond to criticisms such as ours by citing his countless sources, memos, transcripts, and interviews. But what good is such voluminous reporting when the writer is so willing to distort the facts?

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- Although JH may have found her mps w/HMC profoundly therapeutic, they were not central to Mrs. C. life
- So often ppl who have access to this & FL cannot resist exaggerating how critical they are
- Neither of us is a pers-basher
 - one = former Post
 - other - spent yrs defendi friend of the pers
- Unfortunately, distressing to see fundamental rules of journalism so wilfully violated
- Doubtless the author will cite his numerous sources, news, etc.... but what good does the solutions art of the spirit & theme of his work have so fundamentally & wilfully distorted.
- When a journalist chooses to rely almost exclusively on sources -
- (How could W'd have omitted that Mrs C ^{dearly} loved to fence bc of JH's rem. w/ Athens) -
bc of JH's spiritual ^{archetypal spiritual partner} connections to the goddess Athena)
- ➔ Batson - first met at Renaissance wkend?

② Spiritual life not really explored

3346097

① Reliance on 2 flawed sources

334-67502

③ Not an attempt to

334 5660

- Susan Estrich > X fire

This is gotten so ridiculous

Powell + Deenunsa

pilgrimage / sexist

This is a reaction to a ble

212 898 7655)

- Bona fides - worked closely w/ her last 3 1/2 years
- One of benefits of why for Mrs C is her open-mindedness & her willingness to hear anyone out
- Both have had occasion to meet w/ many people w/ HRC
- Among them JH - friend of MCB (established how they met)
- On several occasions Apparent on 1st mtg that JH is a "character" - energetic, humor & a theory in issues ranging from A to Z (religion, civilization, etc.) obvious she is interested in sharing her knowledge of xxxx
- Mrs C has ^{counted} ~~regarded~~ her among her interests, entertaining friends/people she has met
- We've been in mtgs w/ Mrs & JH in which - as she always does - Mrs. C graciously listens to anything the person has to say.
- Smart person who doesn't buy everything wholesale
- c 400 pp - 12 pages - this relationship
- JH is not a "spiritual adviser" - as Post suggests to the extent she has one, it's the Methodist Church
- May be a great marketing technique for a log & dry book, but it's a cheap & cynical way to treat a public figure
- While some (though not all) of the facts are correct, the importance w. attaches to them are ridiculous
- (Shoot down significant)
- China was visited all over the globe - w/ respect to B's she wanted to go to Moscow it was left & had spent more than a yr
- nat'l security apparatus approved
- why casual about the decision -