

TALKING IT OVER**BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON****RELEASE: WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 23-24, 1995**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON 9/23-24/95

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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CREATORS SYNDICATE

KATHERINE A. SEARCY
Vice President and Editorial Director

August 30, 1995

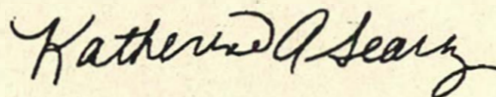
Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

This letter hereby grants permission to Hillary Rodham Clinton to publish reprints of her columns on adoption (released by Creators Syndicate on July 29-30, 1995) and working women (released by Creators Syndicate on August 5-6, 1995) in her book "It Takes a Village, and Other Lessons Our Children Teach Us."

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of service in any other way.

Best regards,



Katherine A. Searcy

cc: Richard S. Newcombe
Anita Tobias
Mike Santiago

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BYLINE: Geneva Overholser

BODY:

Twenty phone calls, as many letters, a fax or two and some e-mail. That's a summertime daily diet at the ombudsman's office. Here's a look at some of what has piqued responses in my first two months on the job:

Why doesn't The Post run Hillary Clinton's column? Dozens of callers said they want to hear what the First Lady has to say, don't want to have to call mom in San Luis Obispo to get it and are tired of big-shot newspaper types standing in the way of their access to information like this.

"You people in newspapers act like little fleas trying to make yourselves grand by attacking elephants," said one woman. "I feel like I'm robbed of even having a president, the way journalists pick away at the White House. Now we have a chance to hear straight from the First Lady something about where they hope to take this country, and you've decided we can't read it."

Meg Greenfield, editorial-page editor, explained to me her discomfort with using the First Lady's column. She did not believe that The Post should be in a relationship with any administration in which it weekly printed what is essentially a White House document as a syndicated column. Yes, newspapers ran Eleanor Roosevelt's columns, but in a different era. In any case, editors here made the decision not to use the column -- the kind of tough call I don't have to make any more, no longer being an editor. There's no question we'd have had even more calls if we'd taken it, calls from folks who would charge that The Post is in the Clintons' lap. But we'll get those, no matter what, and a lot of readers would simply like to read it. I'd sort of like to, too.

Another wave of calls came on the as-yet-unresolved UNABOM controversy, with people leaning slightly toward printing the manifesto as demanded. You can't hope that by printing it you'll stop the author's killing, say some; I'd simply like to read it. I wouldn't read it, say others, but if there's any hope of protecting a life, do it.

Last month's rich special section on World War II provoked two unhappy reactions. Its timing outraged Korean War veterans in town to dedicate their memorial. Editors had their reasons for publishing it that day, but readers understandably care little about press or advertising imperatives. Also in the section, a caption that to many readers blamed Holocaust victims for the displacement of Palestinians caused a lot of pain.

Along with specific concerns, I hear complaints on a number of recurring themes:

The Washington Post, August 06, 1995

Give us the facts, and give them to us quick and straight, say readers. Don't say G-7 nations without citing them. Name the four faces on Mount Rushmore. And please don't put a story on curfews on the front page, force me to read five paragraphs and follow the story inside to paragraph eight, before you tell me what times the new curfews are.

Then there are questions of style and taste: puns in headlines, for example. One reader harvested "Is Marion Buried?," "The Estate of the Art," "The Story of a Barn Loser" and "New Business Is Going Through the Woof" all in one day.

You can never be sure what will offend. Fat and thin mouse photos on a Style story last week elicited this: "I'm complaining about the rats on the front page of Style. You could have at least put them in the sports section where the men like to read the paper. Us women don't like to look at rats."

Finally, there is the question of the wandering comics. In a couple of years, new presses will allow The Post finally to anchor the funnies. Meanwhile, a glance at the Page A2 index is better than what one man swears he does, combing every section before settling down for his chuckles.

My favorite letter is on this subject. John B. Morris of Alexandria wrote plaintively of The Post's "playing 'Button, button, where is the button?' with the comics," and of the misfortunes that occur when "the husband accidentally takes the comics on the bus or subway with the sports or business sections." His crescendoing plea uses more and more capital letters, more and more exclamation points, until he ends, begging us to remember: "This is most important!! Marriages are at stake!!"

All in an ombudsman's midsummer day.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 06, 1995

8/6/95

Fy8

My friends and I are calling this week to add to protests.

Page design:
LINCOLN JOURNAL-STAR

OPINION

Clinton column can't pass fairness test

When the First Lady begins a national column, it is news. We carried Hillary Rodham Clinton's earliest columns for their novelty value and to give readers a chance to debate their merits.

But a sense of fairness intrudes and deters us from continuing it. The president is looking toward a second term. His wife's column is a potentially powerful and abusable political weapon during this election season.



Hillary Clinton

More than 50 readers called or wrote us with their opinion on the column written by the First Lady. The bulk of those who responded (41) liked the column. A dozen did not.

Here's a sample of reader views:

"I think that you should run the column. It was well written. She is extremely intelligent and a wonderful role model. She has brilliant ideas and it's too bad she's criticized like she is."

"I happen to admire Mrs. Clinton. Her column would be a great addition."

"I have had enough of her lies and she is not a credible person."

"We have become increasingly disappointed in the liberal, sensationalized and biased reporting (of the Lincoln Journal Star)."

"It is not appropriate for the wife of a presidential candidate to write a weekly column expounding her views during an election year. It smacks of partisan politics and comes at a time when both the president and his wife seek to reshape and soften their political image. Even though Mrs. Clinton claims the column is not political in nature, it's obvious the ultimate purpose is to re-elect the president. Since it is not reasonable to publish the weekly writings of other candidate's wives, let's eliminate the preferential treatment given to Hillary and leave the politicking to her husband Bill."

"She wrote a delightful and worthwhile article. I am cutting out her articles so I can read them again later."

"Before we all turn to stone from intellectual rigor mortis, a little fresh air is blowing in from the east."

"We are very disappointed that you are carrying the Hillary Clinton column in your paper. This is just a political ploy to show her as a person she really isn't. Also, it is to take attention off her involvement in the Whitewater scandal."

"Please keep the Hillary Rodham Clinton column in your paper. She is such an intelligent person who writes so well. We need more of that kind of writing in all papers."

"I'm sorry, but this couple has so much negative baggage, writing a column is not impressive to me."

"It doesn't say much. It may be an advertisement for Clinton. I'd say give it a couple of weeks."

"I am a longtime subscriber to the Journal-Star and I did appreciate the First Lady's last letter. I certainly hope you continue it. We need a breath of fresh air running among all of the tripe that goes on. I really do appreciate the First Lady's column and hope you keep it up."

"Keep Hillary. She's an intelligent writer and could provide some interesting insight to her particular position."

"I don't think that she is a very credible person. There are other people out there with columns you can trust. This is just a presidential election ploy to get the word out about her husband Bill."

"We have been solicited on three occasions in the past couple of

months to take the Lincoln Star. Every time we have said the opinion page was too liberal. If you are going to give campaign space to the Democratic liberal president, you are going to continue to perpetuate that image of your newspaper as you regroup to one paper. You are doing yourself a great disservice to put one more left-wing, foam-at-the-mouth liberal on your opinion page."

"I really liked the column written by Hillary Clinton. I really admire her. She is smart, sensible and has been a very gracious First Lady."

"I enjoyed Mrs. Clinton's first article very much. She writes very candidly about the daily life of a celebrity family. I look forward to reading her weekly column. It will be a feature that definitely enhances your new paper."

"Hooray for Hillary. At last a brilliant, compassionate star with the good sense to remember that women own their own bodies. At last, a small counterbalance to the Nebraska press's near stranglehold on debate. And first and last, the First Lady is a lady."

"I thoroughly enjoyed the first column by Hillary Clinton and expect I will enjoy future ones also."

TALKING IT OVER**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON****RELEASE: SUNDAY, JULY 30, 1995**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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August 8, 1995

Mrs. C.,

The NSC (Berger & Sens) has approved the language in the vacation column. The latest draft Lissa faxed to me today is about 150 words over (ATTACHED). She has made some edits and bracketed some language she thought could be cut.

Pam

US - Here are HRC's
changes.

Pam

DRAFT #2
8/7/95
918 words

with possible trims

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
COLUMN #5 -- VACATIONS
CREATORS SYNDICATE

As a child my family took the same vacation every summer to visit ~~my father's~~ relatives in ~~Scranton~~, Pennsylvania. In mid-August, my two brothers and I would pile into the back seat of the car at the crack of dawn and immediately begin arguing about who got to sit where. As the oldest, and as one who professed to get carsick at the sight of any moving car, I would try to claim most of the seat. When I was old enough to get an allowance, I ~~tried~~^{resorted to} bribery, promising to pay my brothers a dollar each if they would let me lie down during the trip.

There was nothing exotic or luxurious about these vacations. My father drove for hours on end, my mother relieving him for brief spells so that we didn't have to spend the night in motels. WE played endless games using license tags and road signs. We took breaks at roadside restaurants and turnpike rest stops. ~~WE~~^{And traveled along} side roads ~~and visited~~^{to} historic sites. ~~[And my brothers and I passed some of the time whining and bickering as children do.]~~

Even though I complained, especially as a teenager, about the endless hours and miles we traveled, I loved those trips, ~~because~~^[because] they meant time together as a family, ~~and~~^{9- and} [They meant] a chance to break from the routine and build ~~some~~ lasting memories. I can still shut

my eyes and see my father driving through the night or my mother laying out a picnic on the side of the road.

Today, it seems harder for people to take such simple family vacations. Although vacation travel is up this year thanks to a stronger economy, too many parents still can't afford to take more than a few days off. And still others travel places but never really get away. With fax machines, cellular phones, and laptop computers in their luggage, ~~their~~ work stays with them even if they are halfway around the world.

I have to admit that I long for the car trips my family went on years ago. I also miss the easy, carefree vacations I took as a student, and when my husband and I were a young couple. I had never been overseas until I was 25 years old, and I remember the wonder I felt the first time I visited the lake country in England ^{or} and had the chance to explore the great monuments and museums in Florence.

When Chelsea was a little girl we took long car trips to beaches in South Carolina and Long Island and flew to places like Montana and Florida, where we rented cars to take us on adventures.

We carried lots of tapes with stories to share and songs to sing together. And, unlike my father, we stopped at motels to sleep.

Of course, vacations like those are next to impossible for me now. Traveling as First Family means traveling heavy: We can't go anywhere without dozens of staff and security people. And it's hard to sneak in and out of town on Air Force One.

Worst of all, our presence inevitably disrupts the places we

visit.

When we went on an official trip to Japan and Korea last year, I was lucky enough to bring my mother along. She and my daughter also joined us when we traveled to Germany, Italy, and France, ~~for~~ commemorations of World War 2. They had even more fun than I did, shopping, sightseeing, and dropping into little restaurants without being noticed. Then again, I had more fun than my husband, who can never go anywhere without a crowd swarming around him.

~~Whatever complications one's circumstances present, we all need to remember that vacations are essential to our well-being. Given the hectic nature of our daily lives, many families seldom even have time to eat dinner together. For those working harder and harder to make ends meet, a few days away in the Winnebago can be as restorative to the family as lying on a beach in Hawaii for a week.~~

I have always admired the European approach to vacations. The first time I traveled to the Continent in the late summer I was surprised to find that all the shops were closed. Everyone -- from construction worker to Prime Minister -- was away on vacation.

It's not that the Europeans don't work as hard as we do. And it certainly isn't that they are all wealthy enough to take long breaks. It's just that vacation is ingrained in their culture. It's understood that time off is vital to one's spirit, family, and work life.

I know this because whenever I accompany my husband to meetings with foreign heads of state, I am asked about our vacation

plans.

I remember once explaining to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl that we were hoping to get a few days off later in the year. His plans were to spend a month in the forest.

Jacques Chirac, the new President of France, once told me that he had spent a recent vacation exploring the countryside of Japan. British Prime Minister John Major often blocks off the whole month of August for vacation.

Right now, my husband, daughter and I are beginning a two-week ^{Vacation in} ~~trip to~~ the Grand Tetons. It's a place where my husband can play golf, my daughter can ride horses, and I can take long hikes. I hope the time away gives us moments like the ones I remember from earlier years.

The only problem is: the phone, fax, and laptop are ^{Vacation} ~~on~~ ~~here~~ with us.

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