

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
COLUMN FOR RELEASE JUNE 4, 1997
CREATORS SYNDICATE/TALKING IT OVER

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Now, with my own daughter's graduation from high school this week and her departure for college looming on the horizon, I understand the bittersweet emotions that my mother must have felt on that fall day in 1965. And I can only hope I show as much restraint as she did before I climb into the backseat myself.

Bill and I have watched Chelsea make her way through her final year of high school with equal doses of pride, joy and sadness. We tried to offer moral support as she agonized over college essays, worked on the ~~senior class yearbook~~ ^{school magazine}, and rehearsed for her last ballet recital in Washington. And like parents across the country, we find ourselves fighting back tears as we contemplate what our days will be like when our daughter leaves the nest to embark on a new stage of life.

Over the years, we have done our best to give our daughter the roots and wings that every child needs to enter adulthood.

[CUT THIS IF OKAY WITH YOU] Roots -- a strong family, clear values, and a sense of their own obligations and responsibilities to the world -- are what ground our children and enable them to rise to challenges and cope with adversity. Wings give them the confidence to take advantage of their independence, pursue their dreams and live up to their abilities once they grow up.

Yet as proud as we are of the young woman Chelsea has become, it doesn't erase the worries that we -- and all parents -- feel when a child goes off into the world.

This week, as we've gone to school assemblies, barbecues, and other commencement festivities with Chelsea and her classmates, we've been filled with memories of our own high school years and anticipation and hope for our daughter and her generation's future. We've been moved by the affection and camaraderie of her friends and peers and by their own excitement and optimism about the roles they will play in the world. ~~We've pored over the Class of '97 yearbook, puzzling over the cryptic references, laughing at the humor, and absorbing the sincerity and fresh insights of the students.~~ We've laughed and reminisced with other mothers and fathers and shared in a collective anxiety about the coming separations.

We also have been struck by how grateful everyone is that their children have made it this far -- and that they have successfully navigated a world far more complicated than the one we confronted at their age. And while we understand that none of the graduates would have reached this point without the love, attention, and devotion of their parents, we also know that many others helped guide and inspire them along the way.

Often, it's not the big moments or celebrations that matter most in the lives of our children, but the little daily acts of kindness, discipline, and encouragement that help them mature and grow.

I want to thank every adult who has ever touched my daughter's life -- every teacher from pre-school through 12th grade; every coach who challenged her on the soccer and softball fields; every dance instructor who helped her learn plies and pirouettes; every youth leader from church who asked the hard questions about faith and conscience; every friend of mine and Bill's who took the time to talk or give advice, whether it was teaching her to take photographs or working with her on a homework assignment; every staff member in the Governor's Mansion in Arkansas and the White House who lent concern and support over the years.

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###

R. Kelly

I Believe I Can Fly

I used to think that I could not go wrong And life was nothing but that an awful song But now I know the meaning of true love I'm leaning on the everlasting arms

If I can see it, then I can do it If I just believe it, there's nothing to it

I believe I can fly I believe I can touch the sky I think about it every night and day Spread my wings and fly away I believe I can soar I see me running through that open door I believe I can fly I believe I can fly I believe I can fly

See I was on the verge of breaking down Sometimes silence could seem so loud, There are miracles in life I must achieve But first I know it starts inside of me

If I can see it, then I can be it If I just believe it, there's nothing to it

I believe I can fly I believe I can touch the sky I think about it every night and day Spread my wings and fly away I believe I can soar I see me running through that open door I believe I can fly I believe I can fly I believe I can fly

Yeah, cause I believe in me

If I can see it, then I can do it If I just believe it, there's nothing to it

I believe I can fly I believe I can touch the sky I think about it every night and day Spread my wings and fly away I believe I can soar I see me running through that open door I believe I can fly (I can fly) I believe I can fly (I can fly) I believe can fly (I can fly)

Heah, If I just spread my wings (I can fly) I can fly (I can fly) I can fly (I can fly) I can fly (I can fly)

Heah, If I just spread my wings (I can fly) I can fly

Hmmm. Fly Fly Fly



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To Chelsea, her classmates, and all the young men and women around our country and the world who are graduating, we borrow from the words of singer R. Kelly: "We believe you can fly. We believe you can touch the sky. We think about it every night and day. Spread your wings and fly away."

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Every year, from kindergarten through the eighth grade, Bill and I were at Chelsea's side for her first day of school. Overwhelmed by ~~pride~~ ^{hope of passing another step.} and the sadness of letting go, I cried each time. And I know that on this final day of school, the same tears will be plentiful.

This time is no different.

To Chelsea, her friends, and to you now around our country & the world, who are
Godspeed to all of the members of the Class of 1997.

↓
I've finally asked

This time, I'll
be surrounded by
her & friends.
And there won't be
any more
tears.

###

you roots and
ready to test their
wings. ~~offer~~

Congratulations - And Godspeed.

Your parents are very proud.

To everyone who helped
them reach this
milestone

And on this final day of school,

the tears will

R. Kelly

Don't forget roots as you

spread your wings.

As the sun goes:
As ~~up~~

You'll
spread your wings
& fly away.

③ M. D. Baynet -
I believe you can fly
" " " to reach the sky
I think of abba ~~day~~ ^{you} ~~anyone~~ ^{can} fly
we believe can soar

we see you reaching

I believe I can fly
I believe I can touch the sky
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share sthis w/ other pc
how fast

how grateful our children are
Mr have reached
this pt

^{not just}
primarily work as he does
but

I wish I did have in me now
every teacher she had
any person who coached
her at soft ball &
soccer
or pinetree

wish even if
friend of mine who talk ^{talk him to}
to her or give advice
a little from how to
ride a bike -
give a doctor
on call

wish her grandpa. Va were here
to see how well he
grand

we get the benefit of our
those healthy in
grandfather fly -

see the encouragement he
gave him to study hard
had paid

Gov's mansion

esp. Liza Akley - es
who kept her
well fed through days

We have time planned for ppl in
the WH -
concern -

For e. child who is graduate -
the same could be said

Often times what matters
most are not the
big moments but
all the little acts of
kindness, discipline

that help a child mature &
grow

I ^{when Bk} used to take her to the trough 8th grade
I cried every time

Every parent who watches a
child grow up.



< mention >

Carolyn Huber

don't know!

< little ad in yearbook >

everyone in whitehouse who have given support
Every child who is great. same could be said
not big moments, but little daily acts of love, respect
discipline, limit. set
mature from

Draft

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→ Bill & I took her kind-seigh grade (I cried) every time.
Every child.
Thank you the people who make H.S. graduation possible.

family

families
I reminded of how
same experience is
being played out
around world this
month.
I don't do for

Adults don't
give kids credit for
navigating through
much more
complex world
stores

As 9 share stories -
struck by how grateful
we are our children have
reached this point
we've done

we are
reached the
not just work we've done
work we've done w/
teacher for

But wait - every preschool
every soccer coach
ballet teacher.
- took time to

ever
ballet teacher
baby sister
friend of mine who took time to
talk to her - give advice on
riding bikes
what it's like
to raise children

to see how
wealthy enough
how done.
has done + to study have

governments officials
Liza Ashley
on days only
wanted

Vir Silesia-
well Shale - enclosed
Hyp - no paid (Corynthe)

wish

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[any more specifics?]

[any memories of your own graduation or POTUS'?]

[Ending]

By and these for ppl + their fans who
have invested so much love, time

Reminded how this same cap
played out

Adults today don't give kids the
credit they deserve for
navigating this as a new
complex world
to enter