HRC Clips



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PERISCOPE



The ambulance transporting Princess Diana to the hospital

DIANA

Focusing on the Fiat

FROM THE FIRST HOURS AFTER THE CRASH THAT KILLED Princess Diana, Dodi Fayed and driver Henri Paul, investigators focused on the *paparazzi*. Nine photographers and a motorcyclist were charged with involuntary homicide and failure to render assistance at the scene of an accident. Now it appears they may be guilty of nothing more than being obnoxious. NEWSWEEK has learned that the investigating judge has told the attorneys for at least two of the paparazzi that once the inquiry is completed he expects the charges to be dropped. While a preliminary check of phone records indicated that none of the paparazzi had called the Paris emergency number for help after the accident, it turns out that one photog did dial an alternate number. Then he shouted to the others that he'd called, so they wouldn't clog police lines. As for the involuntary-homicide charges, certainly the photographers were chasing the Mercedes, but none of the witnesses saw them come close enough to interfere directly with the car.

With the paparazzi apparently off the hook, the investigation is now focused almost entirely on the white Fiat Uno that may have played a key role in the accident. New evidence filed in the official police dossier last week indicates that the Mercedes not only clipped another car but sideswiped it, leaving traces of white paint and black rubber along the entire right side of the Mercedes. The paint, identified as Bianco Corfu 224, was applied to Fiat Unos manufactured in Italy from 1983 to 1987; the rubber was found to be the same as used on the side moldings of the Unos. Police sources say they have eliminated all such autos registered in the area around Paris and are concentrating their search in central France, where a "considerable number" fit the criteria. "It's really a mystery," said an attorney familiar with the case. "Nobody saw the little car in the tunnel. Nobody saw it go backward; nobody saw it go forward. But for sure it existed."

ROD NORDLAND

CAMBODIA

Dying But Not Apologizing

POL POT, THE FORMER Khmer Rouge leader responsible for killing at least 1 million Cambodians in the 1970s, is now obsessed with his own mortality. His first interview in nearly 20 years, conducted by Nate Thayer and published last week in the Far Eastern Economic Review, "will likely be his last," says Thayer. Pol Pot, who lives under house arrest in northern Cambodia, suffers from a congenital heart defect, the effects of a 1995 stroke that partially paralyzed his left side and a serious respiratory ailment. "He said a number of times, 'I am finished as a human being. I'm dying'," recalls Thayer. But Pol Pot is unrepentant: "I want you to know that everything I did, I did for my country."



His final interview? Pol Pot

PEARL FAX

Satanism?

On Oct. 1, police say, 16-year-old Luke Woodham opened fire at Pearl High School, killing two students and wounding seven. Since then everyone from Geraldo Rivera to CNN's Greta Van Susteren have camped out in the Mississippi town, chasing down rumors of satanic activity behind Woodham's alleged outburst. Six teenagers have been indicted for conspiring with Woodham to murder Pearl High students, but privately locals are beginning to question the supposed cult connection. Pearl's mayor says he's never heard of Satanism in the town before last month. Rumors of rampant animal sacrifice have boiled down to one beating of the Woodham family dog. Says PHS principal Roy Ballentine, "Those kids weren't even among the group that wore black."

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM WATCH

Asia Anxiety Edition

The markets in Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia—to name a few—are putting a crimp in the CW's retirement accounts. The CW sez: sell, sell, sell! Or was that buy, buy, buy?

Hillary	↑	She's 50 and never looked better. Can she make Bill *really* care about child care?
Jiang	↔	Visiting China leader is a harsh dictator. Upside: postpones World War III.
Pol Pot	↓	Million-man murderer says, "Mistakes were made," but he's not sorry. Roast in hell.
Marv A.	↔	Gets off easy. CW tip for rehab: ditch the rug Milken-style, tell Baba Wawa you're sorry.
Baseball	↓	Old CW: Must-see fall classic. New: They pre-empted "Seinfeld" for this?
Ketchup	↑	Reagan was right: it *is* a vegetable. Now told it fights cancer. Pour it on broccoli.

TOP TO BOTTOM: SIPA, REUTERS

Hillary leads boomer women into their 50s

By Gail Sheehy

Welcome, Hillary, to the flaming 50s.

This Sunday the first lady officially enters the stage when women soar. Rather than turning off their mental engines and retreating into invisibility, as did so many of our mothers, women in their flaming 50s today find themselves blazing with post-menopausal zest and accomplishing things they never thought possible. The woman in her 50s today broke out of '50s conformity, into '60s revolution, '70s feminism and '80s ambition, only to roar into the '90s having detonated all the expectations for herself.

Surprise. She is enjoying higher well-being than at any stage of life. Among the thousands of professional women I have surveyed in their 50s, almost all say that 50 feels like "an optimistic, can-do stage of life." In fact, they have a third of their adult lives yet to live — time for a second adulthood.

Hillary Rodham Clinton felt much older five years ago. The press criticism that stung her the most in the '92 campaign was reading that she was "middle-aged" — and then she was only 45. This is what often happens; women go from the pits in their mid-40s to the peak at 50.

From Hillary's generational perspective, there is not more middle age. Fifty is what 40 used to be. And women of the Vietnam generation are on a demographic roll. By 2000, 30% of American women will be age 50 or over.

But en route to this stage, Hillary has struggled through a very rough midlife passage — in public. Over the past four years, she has lost her father, lost her mother-in-law and lost a dear friend to suicide. She recently let go of her adored daughter, arguably the most satisfying and successful work of her life. And like all of us, she has had to give up some dreams and illusions, including her dream of becoming the first female president.

Back in the heady days of the first presidential campaign, when I asked Bill Clinton who he saw as his successor, he responded: Hillary Rodham Clinton. Hillary herself told an audience, "We'll have a woman president by 2010." Asked if she'd consider running, she said, "We'll talk later."

But later, she lost enormous popularity. Few would recall that Hillary entered the White House with a more favorable poll rating than her husband. A majority of Americans saw her as an asset to her husband's campaign — intelligent, tough-minded, and a good role model. But in office her know-it-all style overshadowed her husband, and voters punished them both. When the administration's critics found Bill Clinton able to brush off whatever mud was thrown at him, they looked for feet of clay in Hillary. Attacks on her moral and ethical probity all but shattered her. But instead of growing bitter or depressed, she strategically withdrew from any overt policymaking role.

Hillary is determined to rehabilitate herself and to divert her attention and energies from the empty nest. As a woman of 50, she is no longer confined by society's narrow definition of woman as sex object and breeder. She is freer to use both the masculine and feminine aspects of her nature.

The greatest gift to a woman on her 50th birthday is the license to say what she thinks. A crisis of meaning challenges us all in midlife: What can we do that matters?

Hillary is doing the most important thing a woman can do in her flaming 50s — following her passion. Having championed better child care for years, she now intends to make it a national issue. She will put us on the spot, forcing us to decide what responsibility the government and private sector have for keeping the two-earner family together and strong.

She will be the poster woman for boomer women hitting their flaming 50s. She is demonstrating how to redirect their creative, nurturing instincts into the broader world. If she can't have make 'em-jump power, she will exercise every opportunity for influence.

I'd be willing to predict that 10 years from now, her efforts to redefine the first lady's role will be seen as courageous and historic.

Gail Sheehy is author of New Passages: Mapping Your Life Across Time.

USA TODAY • THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1997

Clintons convene 'village' meeting on child care

Issue seen as part of president's legacy

By Paul Bedard
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A1

It's "village" time at the White House again.

Promoting one of their favorite issues, President Clinton and the first lady today are hosting a day-long conference on child care aimed at expanding and improving institutional day care and building on Hillary Rodham Clinton's model spelled out in her 1995 book "It Takes a Village: And Other Lessons Children Teach Us."

The conference is part of a combined effort to touch on an issue the president considers one of his lasting "legacies" and to reach out to women groping for solutions to day care.

"It's one of the hallmarks of the Clinton presidency — making children and education a national issue," said the president's former political adviser Dick Morris.

And, he added of the conference, it helps the Democrats seize a major factor in the political gender gap.

"The Republicans think the gender gap is due to abortion, but it's due to education and children. It's the cause of the gender gap," Mr. Morris said.

While framed in family-friendly themes, the conference marches head first into the politically charged debate over government regulation and involvement in day care.

While liberal advocates such as the first lady want greater federal regulation and participation by the federal government in day care, conservatives want the president to promote home and church day care while providing tax breaks for

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MEETING

From page A1

families so that parents can stay home more to care for their children.

"Everything they are doing is geared toward institutionalizing day care," said Gary Bauer, president of the influential Family Research Council.

"The Clintons care about children, but they believe that the solution for America's children lies with bureaucrats and social workers," he said in an interview.

"Their goal is to let the government get your kids and train them, and when they get older they accept their thinking," added Carmen Pate of Concerned Women of America.

Robert Rector, a senior policy analyst at the Heritage Foundation, said the Clinton agenda "is exactly the opposite agenda of what parents want."

He joined Mr. Bauer in calling on the government to provide tax breaks to working families, especially low-income mothers, so they can spend more time at home with their children instead of dumping them in day care centers, where parents have little control over the curriculum.

"The agenda of the left has been the dismantlement of the family . . . ultimately by dismantling family child care," Mr. Rector said. "If you want to help families raise their children, stop stealing from them through taxes," he added.

Conservatives have not been invited to speak at the conference.

Advocates of the Clinton approach, however, argue that the only way to provide safe and healthy day care is for the government to get involved.

Featuring participants who generally favor government or corporate day care operations, the conference is expected to back efforts to make day care facilities safer, cleaner and healthier through greater regulation and demands on providers for improved services.

The administration has already called on corporations to provide free day care, and the White House is eager to push the Pentagon into helping local communities set up day care centers and to persuade local school boards to keep school doors open later, or until parents can get home, said a senior Clinton adviser.

Those involved with the Clintons' second White House child care conference in six months said the administration has accepted as "reality" that both parents or single parents must work to make ends meet and that day care availability must be expanded.

"As long as we are promoting an economic system where two parents or single parents work, it is the responsibility of the federal government" to promote affordable and accessible day care, said Joyce Shortt, a conference participant who runs a three-city day care organizing group.

"The role of the government is consumer protection here," added conference speaker Dr. Susan S. Aronson, a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

She wants the government to help make day care centers healthy and safe; take advantage of day care centers to provide health care such as immunizations; and coordinate government, private and corporate providers to join in day care programs.

"We need to teach everyone how to work with each other," Dr. Aronson said.

The event at the White House will be broken into six sessions, according to White House documents. It will also be broadcast to satellite sites around the nation.

The opening session will include comments from Mr. Clinton and Mrs. Clinton.

That will be followed by a panel discussion on why child care is important and include "presentations by experts addressing the relationship between child care and the economy and work force; child care and children's healthy development, particularly in the earliest years of life; and child care and the health of our communities, with a focus on the need for adequate care for children of school age."

The next session will cover "good" child care from the eyes of a lawmaker, a parent and a day care provider.

Several Cabinet aides will host luncheon working sessions.

After that, the conference will study successful day care models, such as the military system's.

The Washington Times
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1997

Skeptics leery of Clinton day care agenda

By Julia Duin
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Although today's White House Conference on Child Care is expected to put the topic in the best possible light, it is unlikely to change the minds of those parents who refuse to add their offspring to America's 13 million children in day care.

They include King Ferry, N.Y., artist Anto Parseghian, who, as the father of nine whose wife stays at home, paints tableaux of a lonely child being left at a curb. They also include the Fairfax-based Mothers at Home, which says parents would rather have tax breaks and family-friendly work policies than a national day care system.

"Although full-time child care is a necessity for some families and a choice for others, it is *not* what the majority of America's parents want for their children," writes MAH public policy analyst Heidi Brennan.

"Parents want respect and support for their decisions about how to care for their children," Mrs. Brennan says. "Parents don't want their government, influenced by the advice of some well-funded day-care and education interests or so-called 'experts' to create and/or fund expensive 'one-size-fits-all' solutions."

She's referring to proposals put forth by Edward Zigler, one of the invited guests to the White House gathering. As a psychology professor at Yale University and director of that university's Bush Center for Child Development and Social Policy, he advocates a national day care system costing $75 billion to $100 billion annually to the American taxpayer.

"[The government] subsidizes people who go to school," Mr. Zigler says. "I don't see these as taxes or costs; I see these as investments. I'm reluctant about government intrusion, but we don't mind it when we want our water safe to drink or our medicine safe to take.

"Sixty to 75 percent of family day care is not regulated and is underground. Parents are so desperate for child care. As a nation, we've moved so slowly on this."

He predicts today's conference will look favorably on day care centers reconstituted as "schools of the 21st century" or "family resource centers." Those would be a vast improvement, he says, over "family day cares" — typically one woman caring for her own children plus four or five others.

"I've been working with the Clinton people because they have to come up with some initiatives," he says. "One will be school-aged child care, which will solve the delinquency problem."

What he'd prefer, he says, is day care beginning at age 3. Of the 13 million children requiring child care, 6 million of them are 2 years old or younger.

"That way, every child would get preschool education and their day would be as long as the workdays for mothers and fathers," he says. "There would be before- and after-school care, as well as summer care for children up to the age of 12. Thus, you've solved all the child care needs of families of kids ages 1 through 12."

The jury still appears to be out on day care's effect on children. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, which is doing a multiyear study involving 1,364 racially and socially diverse children in 10 cities, said in April that children in day care test out as less warm and responsive than those whose mothers are at home.

This alienation is most pronounced with children less than 6 months old, the study said. The more hours they spend in day care, the fewer "positive strokes" — hugs, kisses and praise — they get. This has broad social implications because half of all working mothers leave their infant children in day care beginning at ages 4 to 6 months.

More than half of all American infants less than 1 year old are cared for by people other than their mothers.

Proponents of a national day care system say that parents simply need to select better caregivers for their children. At the same time, they concede how rare such caregivers are.

Mr. Zigler, who is releasing his own study of day care in four states — Colorado, Connecticut, California and North Carolina — says only 14 percent of these centers were of high quality. In 40 percent of the cases, the care was so poor that children's health and safety were at risk. He suggests that caregivers, especially those caring for children under 3, combine forces with their local elementary schools, where they would get training.

At present, "we have a hodgepodge of profits, nonprofits and family day care homes; every study shows we have a very poor system," he says. "A woman with two of her own kids providing day care for five others often has no training and no support. What if she gets sick one day?

"I've proposed taking all the family day care centers around a school and using the school as a hub to train and support these women so if one mom gets sick, the kids can go to another home."

As for qualifications, a day care center under his system would require what he terms a "child development associate certificate."

"Day care is a cosmic crapshoot. Behind one door is a wonderful woman who will love your children. Behind another door, if you leave your child with that woman, when you come back that night, it will be dead."

Allan Carlson, president of the Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society, which is aligned with the Rockford Institute in Rockford, Ill., rejects Mr. Zigler's views. Mr. Carlson believes the government is ignoring the most recent research on infants.

"What's come up regarding infant brain development and the need for close human attachments in the first three years all points to one conclusion never brought up at these [White House-sponsored] event," says Mr. Carlson, who will be listening to the White House conference from a nearby auditorium.

"We need to ensure every infant receives the full-time protective care of its mother, or its two natural parents," he says. "Instead, we examine strategies on how to expand the day care movement. Because there's an agenda. And that agenda is social parenting."



Photo by Anto Parseghian/Special to The Washington Times

New York artist Anto Parseghian's "Daycare" expresses his distaste for national child care — in spite of having nine children of his own.

The Washington Times
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1997



Good child care calls for societywide effort

As Bill and I prepared for Thursday's White House Conference on Child Care, we tried to recall what things were like when we were two working parents with a young child. Back then, we did what most American parents do all the time: juggle and hope for the best.

And we were lucky. Because we were both employed, had flexible schedules and had the privilege of living in a governor's mansion with a staff for all but two years of Chelsea's young life, Bill and I did not have to worry that our daughter was being well cared for when we were out of the house.

That is not the case for most Americans. In the last 4½ years, as I have traveled our country talking to parents, no concern has been more prominent than child care. I know the questions by heart: How can I find quality child care? How can I afford it? Will child care harm my child?

According to a survey released this week by Parents magazine, nearly 75 percent of American families with young children use some form of child care. More than half of these parents worry every week whether or not their child is looked after properly.

Parents have reason to be concerned. According to research by the Families and Work Institute, 13 percent of regulated and 50 percent of nonregulated family child care providers offer care that is inadequate. That can mean centers that are unsanitary or lack toys and other materials to encourage development. It also can mean caregivers who rarely interact with children — or who are simply outnumbered by them. A recent University of Colorado at Denver study of child care in four states found only one in seven child care centers to be of good quality.

And the quality care that is available is often financially out of reach for parents. According to 1995 Census Bureau figures, families earning less than $1,200 a month pay an average of 25 percent of their income for child care. A divorced mother I met who works as a secretary said she was able to send her child to day care only because of a scholarship and because she had moved back in with her parents. Otherwise, she told me, "I would probably have to quit my job and go on welfare. Who would watch my child during the day?"

The urgency of improving child care in America is heightened by new information about the intellectual and emotional development of children. As we learned at the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development in April, what happens to a child in the earliest years can make a difference in how well he or she can learn for a lifetime. With 45 percent of children under age 1 in day care regularly, the issue of quality has tremendous bearing not just on individual lives, but on the future of our nation.

Fortunately, recent studies tell us that good care — whether given at home or at a day care center — is good care. Done right, day care can be beneficial for children.

At the White House conference this week, experts from around the country will gather to discuss steps to raise the quality and expand the accessibility of child care. It is important to remember that any solutions that come out of the conference must involve all sectors of society. The national government has a role to play, but so do state governments, the private and nonprofit sectors, school systems, and individual citizens. It is important, too, that we find ways to make it easier for parents who want to stay home with their children to afford to do so.

We should take inspiration from the fact that there are models of quality child care around the country. This month, I visited two of them. At the Quantico Marine Corps Base in Virginia, I learned how the military has put in place a superb child care system — with high standards, mandatory training, and good wages and benefits for the staff. In Florida, I saw how the business community is getting involved. Funds raised by the Florida Child Care Executive Partnership are matched by the state and then disbursed in grants to communities with child care initiatives.

When I asked Quantico's commander and the Florida business leaders why they were focusing on day care, their answers were remarkably similar. When parents come to work confident that their children are well looked after, they can make a much more positive contribution. It doesn't matter whether they are Marines or bank tellers.

People ask me what I want this conference to achieve. The answer is simple: I want it to call attention to the fact that we must make quality child care more accessible and more affordable. And I hope it will prepare the way for specific actions to make that happen.

The Washington Times
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1997

MONA CHAREN

Contrived crisis in child care

Following up on last summer's White House conference on early childhood development, the Clinton administration this week is hosting what it is pleased to call the "first ever" White House conference on child care.

It's not the first. The Nixon administration hosted just such a conference in 1970 (facts always seem to be tripping up this crowd).

What the White House has in mind is fairly predictable based on last summer's early childhood development conference. Then, experts offered testimony about the key brain development that occurs between birth and the age of 3. Everyone stressed how crucial it is that babies and toddlers get lots of stimulation during this period to maximize their intelligence and social growth. Yet, all of the participants stayed away from the obvious policy implications of the research — namely, that babies and toddlers are best off in the care of their parents.

At the upcoming White House conference, we will no doubt hear about the need for more and better child care. As Clinton aide Rahm Emanual put it, the mantra will be "access, affordability and safety."

In other words, the assumption going in is that institutional child care, even for very young children, is a good thing (when done properly). That is not the way most parents see it.

According to the 1994 Census report "Who's Minding the Kids?" only 13 percent of preschool children are in center-based care. Sixty-one percent are cared for by their mothers (4 percent of whom also have home-based businesses), fathers or both mothers and fathers in tag-team arrangements. Twelve percent are looked after by grandparents or other relatives, 9 percent by neighbors, and 3 percent by nannies. In other words, people are voting with their feet, and their preference is not for institutional care.

As well it should not be. Dr. Stanley Greenspan, a respected psychiatrist, writing in The Washington Post, has listed a number of reasons that institutional child care is bad for kids. Among his reason are a lack of continuity with one caregiver and a lack of prolonged interactions between child and adult.

Fully 80 percent of existing child-care centers, Dr. Greenspan asserts, are "inadequate." The limitations of child-care centers are difficult to correct, he argues, since babies and young children require the lengthy attention of one adult. Rahm Emanual may speak of "access, affordability and safety," but affordability is simply not possible — not if the aim is "quality care." Quality costs money. And even the finest day-care centers are not as good as the average mother.

Many parents believe this without the help of experts. A May 1997 survey of 1,100 women by the Pew Research Center for People and the Press found that 41 percent thought "a family in which the father worked and the mother stayed at home was best for raising children." Forty-four percent of respondents with children under 18 said they would prefer part-time to full-time employment. A Parents magazine poll found that 61 percent of mothers would prefer to work part-time and 29 percent would prefer not to work outside the home at all.

Many families cannot afford to have one parent stay at home, right? Right. But fewer than the propagandists would have us believe. The average income of two-parent couples where the mother stays at home is $35,876, which is about $15,000 less than families with children in which the husband and wife are both employed.

American families are creative. Though we hear endless calls for more and better child care, 66.7 percent of mothers with children under age 6 are full-time mothers or are employed part-time. They are not crying out for more institutional child care. What they do need are tax breaks, flex-time, work-at-home options, telecommuting and job-sharing.

The notion of a child care "crisis" is a myth. We now have expert testimony like that of Dr. Greenspan and the other experts cited by the Clintons themselves to bolster the common-sense intuition that parents are the best guardians of young children. The goal of public policy ought to be to ensure that as many parents as possible are free to make that choice. (If you would like more information on this subject, please contact Mothers at Home in Northern Virginia.)

Mona Charen is a nationally syndicated columnist.

The Washington Times
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1997

HOME
HELP ?

COME PEEK IN OUR OLD DRAWERS.

The Boston Globe boston.com

Living | Arts

Hillary at 50

America's first lady reflects on her life, her family, her work, and her legacy

By Trude B. Feldman, Globe Correspondent, 10/23/97

WASHINGTON - On Sunday, America's first lady will celebrate her 50th birthday. Hillary Rodham Clinton - whose youthful zest for life belies her chronological age - says that she lives each day to its fullest, and as if it could be her last.

In an exclusive interview for her milestone birthday, Clinton also said that she feels young, happy, content, and optimistic about her life.

"Over time, I have become more patient, humbler, and less anxious to push the proverbial rock up the hill," she said. "I'm more conscious of the rhythms of life, and those of its simple pleasures that are available to all of us.

"I just love life and I'm blessed with a great one," she beamed. "Ever since I heard it seven years ago from Dr. Estelle Ramey [professor at Georgetown Medical School], the slogan for my life has been `I have loved and been loved and all the rest is background music.'

"You know, everyone has problems and faces challenges, and I'm no exception. But when you strip it all away, Dr. Ramey's slogan has been a powerful influence on me."

So how does Clinton feel about turning 50 years old?

"Well, age never bothered me before ... until now. But I have to confess to you ... being a half-century old is a little daunting. ... Just saying it ... `I am one-half century old,'" she mused in mock astonishment. "But I hope to live to be a century old. ..."

During the 50-minute interview last week in the Map Room

of the White House, Clinton also talked about her childhood, her parents, and her husband; what she might have done differently, and about her legacy. She also revealed her birthday wishes as well as how she copes with adversity.

If she could relive her 50 years, she would not change her personal life. But in retrospect, she said, she might have changed aspects of her professional life.

"I'm not sure I would have become a lawyer," she disclosed. "I might have studied something else. Maybe I'd have aimed for a career as a teacher, either at the high school or college level. Also, I might have studied a musical instrument more diligently and persevered longer so that I might have some of the joy that comes from playing.

"And I would have worked harder to overcome my incapacity to speak another language. I have no ear for languages. I tried French; and I took Latin for four years in high school and liked it. Perhaps if I had not become discouraged, I'd have achieved some fluency. I still remember my professor saying, `This is hopeless. Stick to English.'"

Parents' advice sticks

In her book, "It Takes a Village," the narration of which won her a Grammy Award, Clinton writes that her parents dedicated their time, energy, and money to their children and made sacrifices to "give us a better life."

She also notes that her mother and father had different approaches to character building, but that both approaches were meant to give their children the confidence to "negotiate life's sharper edges without compromising our integrity."

When young Hillary was confronted with a tough situation, her mother would ask whether she wanted to be the "lead actor" in her life or a "minor player who simply reacts to what others think" she should say or do.

"Keeping that in mind has been very helpful to me over the past 50 years," Clinton said. "It was excellent advice and has helped me not to get upset by criticism or worry about the latest fads or fashions prevalent at any given time."

Her father would ask her, "How will you dig yourself out of

this problem?' And she recalls that that would remind her of a shovel. "That image remains with me," she said. "I still reach for emotional, mental, and spiritual shovels."

Today, she has a gold shovel as a constant reminder that she is well equipped to deal with "what life has sent my way and, when necessary, to shovel myself out."

Clinton also remembers her mother saying, "Your father and I will always love you even when we do not approve of what you do. We just hope you will share our values and want to live up to our expectations of you."

She went on to say she still asks herself, "Am I doing what I believe in? Am I living up to my own expectations? Am I treating others the way I would want to be treated?"

How does Clinton cope with the problems swirling around her? "I've been fortunate," she said. "I feel very loved and have a strong faith that has helped me through a lot. At times, I do let off steam, and I will yell and scream when it is necessary, just to vent. Most of the time, however, I'm able to deal calmly with whatever comes my way, because as a child, I was given the tools to do so."

Clinton added: "You know, we make choices daily. We can choose to be overwhelmed by problems or we can choose to try to deal with them, ignore them, or rise above them. We choose the way we cope.

"I like to laugh. Laughter and humor saved many a day for me. ... Looking at the brighter side of things and looking at the absurd parts of human nature have to keep you balanced and going."

First lady as a role model

I asked Clinton what advice for coping she has for women who look to her as a role model. "Take stock of your life and value what you have," she replies. "Where you can change something to make you happier, do it. Otherwise, try to get the most out of what you are. Don't spend time on regrets, recriminations, bitterness, and all the sadness that everyone, at times, confronts."

During my interview with President Clinton last year for his 50th birthday, I asked him to name his most significant accomplishment in his 50 years. "Convincing Hillary to marry me," he quickly responded. "That changed

everything."

Reminded of her husband's answer, Hillary Clinton said, "That's good ... because the most significant decision in my 50 years was being convinced to marry Bill Clinton."

Clinton says she hasn't taken stock of how living in the White House has changed her. "But I'm sure I have changed," she said. "I feel like I've been in graduate school for five years, in a multidisciplinary course in human development and nature; in politics and economics, in arts and culture. I feel immersed in what goes on in the world, not just in the United States."

She continued: "I'm still excited about being here in the White House. I get up every day and think about what I can do to help my husband, to work on issues about which I care deeply - like health, education, and other related issues that affect the well-being of children and families - and to make my contribution to America. That gets me going every single day."

She does not dwell on regrets; and when asked what irritates her the most, she laughs one of her contagiously hearty laughs: "Oh, I don't have enough time to answer that. Seriously, in my position, I cannot allow myself to be irritated by minor matters. If I did, I'd spend all my time being upset.

"Yet what really is irritating to me are people who are malicious and mean-spirited towards others for their own personal, political, ideological, or commericial reasons."

Birthday wishes

If she were granted three wishes for her 50th birthday, what would Clinton wish for?

"The first would be world peace," she told me. "Seriously, I wish that between my birthday and, say, the end of this year, we could see a breakthrough in Northern Ireland, further reconciliation in Bosnia, and a renewal of meaningful peace talks in the Mideast.

"My second wish is that families the world over could be healthy and in a wonderful frame of mind ... and that love and kindness and civility would prevail.

"My third is more personal. I wish I could stop feeling so

bereft about Chelsea being away at college. She is such a joy to us and I know how capable she is. ... Still, I wish I could feel positive that everything is fine ... and I could quit worrying about her. Perhaps then I could more wholeheartedly enjoy her new adventure."

304Trude B. Feldman

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Africare's Bridge to a Far Continent

Benefit Celebrates Group's Aid to Understanding

By Elizabeth Kastor
Washington Post Staff Writer



BY MARTY LaVOR—ASSOCIATED PRESS

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton greets 11-year-old Poppy Khumalo of South Africa at the Africare gala. Judith McHale, center, was the dinner's national chair.

Kente cloth has been something of a problem for Idara Bassey.

"Kente cloth is not worn by every African person," the U.S.-raised daughter of two Nigerians said recently with a wry smile. "You would find it in Ghana, but not everywhere in Africa. It's a relatively expensive, sacred material. It's not meant to be put on coffee mugs and belts."

Bassey was sitting in an office at Africare, where she is the in-house lawyer. The 26-year-old organization, which works to improve rural life in Africa, last night held its annual benefit dinner. Somewhere over the Atlantic, Bassey knows, the brightly colored kente cloth was transformed from a fabric with specific cultural meanings to a metaphor of identity. When people wear it here, she has come to accept, it is a sign that they feel connected to Africa—"an interpretation of what Africa means to them."

Africa is not only a continent. It is also an idea in the minds of Americans in general and African Americans in particular. Sometimes the idea matches the Africa Bassey and others know, sometimes it does not.

Africare works to strengthen and clarify the bond between Americans and Africa—to make the mythologized place real. Last night at the Washington Hilton, more than 2,000

See AFRICARE, D4, Col. 3

AFRICARE, From D1

people gathered to raise money for the organization, including Hillary Rodham Clinton, assorted members of the Cabinet and Congress, and the evening's honoree, civil rights legend Dorothy Height.

Africare president and founder C. Payne Lucas said that when Africa becomes real to people—when they begin to understand the continent in all its variety and see why the place matters—then a commitment can be born.

"We call it bonding," he said.

With an annual budget of more than $35 million, Africare supports projects in agriculture, water management, health, private-sector development and governance training, along with emergency humanitarian aid. Some projects involve millions of dollars, but others bring $6,000 to sheep farmers in Niger, a few thousand to leather crafters in Tanzania.

Many of these smaller ventures are funded solely by individual African American churches and fraternal organizations. The donations may not be massive, but Lucas is after something more than just a big check. He wants people to feel they have a stake in that well, that village. "It's about constituency building," he said.

Africanists—people who study Africa or are in one way or another actively involved with the continent—have been talking for decades about the need to educate Americans about it, to build a support base as dedicated and active as the one Israel has in the United States.

Many saw Hillary Clinton's visit to Africa earlier this year as an invaluable aid toward that end. "It has brought to the attention of the people of the world," host Andrew Young said at last night's dinner, "some of the tremendous wealth and beauty of the people of Africa."

In her remarks, Clinton talked about the value of trade with Africa and America's role as a supporter of nascent democracies. But she also spoke of walking through Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania and considering what scientists have learned there about the

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"We share a common home," she said to the appreciative crowd. "We are part of a larger family. The message embedded in that rock, that gorge, is that we share a common past and a common future."

Ancient bones, distant ancestors: The conversation always circles back to the Africa of the imagination.

Randall Robinson, who founded TransAfrica with the encouragement of Lucas, said he has "always felt indissolubly bound up" with Africa. Not to feel and explore that connection, he believes, is to miss something essential.

"No person can exist in emotional health outside of a timeless frame of his people's journey out of antiquity," he said earlier this week. "One's life cannot be appreciated just between the dates of one's birth and death—to do so renders one lost. You must be part of something larger than your own all-too-brief life."

Lucas remembered that when he was offered a job with the Peace Corps during the Kennedy administration and told he would be going to Togo, "I said, 'Where the hell is Togo?' " All he knew was Tarzan and safaris.

A decade later, Melvin Foote joined the Peace Corps. "I landed in Ethiopia—I was set to go. I had my dashiki and my afro," said Foote, who worked for Africare for years and now heads Constituency for Africa, which focuses on public education and government policy. "But my perception of Africa was wildness and jungles and snakes. You proud!'—but no one understood what that meant."

And if Foote was uncertain about the meaning of his own bond with Africa, back in his home town of Rockford, Ill., his family and friends were completely bewildered by it.

"Oh, you're going to get eaten alive!" they told him when he went to Ethiopia, and for many years the conversation remained much the same.

The Tarzan movies and postcards from game parks had by then been joined by news photos of starving children, tales of corrupt strongmen, genocide and warfare. Americans do not necessarily think of Africa as a place in which, as Lucas says, "there are 700 million people who aren't doing any fighting."

But recently, over the past five or so years, in Rockford, Ill., and elsewhere, "there's been a tremendous change of attitude," Foote said.

The death of apartheid in South Africa and the worldwide admiration for Nelson Mandela have certainly introduced many Americans to a new view of Africa.

The bond, some think, is growing beyond simple disdain or wide-eyed enthrallment. Black Americans long shied from criticizing African leaders. But Robinson and others have vehemently assailed the leaders of Nigeria, and Lucas says he and others have learned that "we have to be candid."

Look at the continent, he says, for everything it is. Look past your imagi-

Government child care

There are two key things to remember in considering Hillary Clinton's latest foray into public policy, kicked off by a White House conference on child care this week.

First of all, like just about everything else in this country, the issue of child care does not lend itself to one big homogeneous solution. Second, the last thing anyone needs or wants is for the government — any government, local, state or federal — which has made such a hash of public schooling, to start working its bureaucratic magic on child care.

Before taking any step at all — or considering allowing Mrs. Clinton and her husband to take any step — we need to separate the apples from the oranges in what Mrs. Clinton insists is to be no more than a national discussion of the problems women are having finding people to take care of their children while they work. Are we, for example, or, rather, are Mrs. Clinton and her collection of entitlement gurus (like Children's Defense Fund leader and Hillary adviser Marian Wright Edelman), to be talking about women who need child care because they need to work to feed, clothe and house their families? Or are we talking about women, like Mrs. Clinton herself, in fact, who wish to have child care — who actually seem to believe they're entitled to have child care — because they wish to work in order to lead fulfilled lives? (Mrs. Clinton, of course, as she is the first to admit, comes to the issue with no experience of her own: she's always had free help around the house, thanks first to the taxpayers of Arkansas, and now to the rest of us as well.)

It certainly seems it would be difficult to address these two entirely different situations in the same way, at the same time. For women who work because they want to, the problem of child care is hardly an emergency; and complaints about it frequently seem to amount to not much more than the old-fashioned tongue-clucking about how hard it is to find good help these days.

For women who work out of economic necessity — many of whom might well choose not to if there were any choice — finding adequate, affordable child care has always been a problem. For them, one can envision at least one helpful hint for Mr. Clinton: How about cutting taxes in a serious way, for instance, so that these women and their husbands and families could use their own hard-earned money as they see fit — to keep mom at home, perhaps, or to pay for better-quality care —rather than handing it over to the government?

Is there an ideal solution to this problem? Quite likely not, just as there are no ideal solutions to most of life's knottier problems.

The one thing to be avoided at all costs, and the one thing one can't help suspecting is the ideal of those involved in Mrs. Clinton's new crusade, is universal, low-cost, high-quality child care for everyone. Quite apart from the fact that this is a fantasy impossible to realize, there is the fact that it isn't even everyone's fantasy. Not by a long shot. While the idea of universal child care, like that of universal health care, may be the utopian dream of the aging '60s types who inhabit the Clinton administration, most Americans prefer to manage their own lives, with the least possible intervention from Washington.

They will be as loath to invite the government into their nurseries as they were to allow it into their doctors' offices.

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Photo by Roger Richards/ The Washington Times

President Bill Clinton watches admiringly while first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks on child care at the White House. She called the issue a "silent crisis."

White House conferees alarmed at 'silent crisis'

Seek public funding, regulation of child care

By Cheryl Wetzstein
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

More leadership, money and respect for caregivers are needed to address the nation's "silent crisis" of day care for working families, speakers at an unprecedented White House conference said yesterday.

"It is America's next great frontier in strengthening our families and our future," said President Clinton, who with Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin tied quality child care to the nation's continued prosperity.

Conferees claimed that severe shortages of care — especially for infants, disabled children, teen-agers and children of parents who work odd hours — undermine the ability of parents, especially women and single parents, to work effectively.

This, in turn, affects the nation's productivity and competitiveness, panelists said. They also spoke of a lack of "quality" child care that can respond to the extraordinary mental and emotional development that occurs between infancy and age 3.

"I think it's a silent crisis," first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" before the conference.

"There are wonderful child care settings and very many good, solid providers who are taking care of our children, but every national survey demonstrates what unfortunately we have to recognize: Too much of our child care is not adequate," Mrs. Clinton said.

The Clintons and Vice President Al Gore gathered some 130 child care leaders, parents, businessmen, members of Congress and Cabinet officials for a daylong conference in the East Room. The proceedings were also watched through more than 100 satellite hookups around the nation.

Many of yesterday's panelists concluded that:

- More public funding is needed for subsidize child care, to ensure that all needy families can find care. Additional funds should come from local communities and private and nonprofit groups.
- More training — and perhaps accreditation — is needed for day care providers.
- Higher wages and more respect is needed for the child care profession, to attract and keep good workers.

Mr. Clinton yesterday proposed several solutions, including a new public-private partnership to expand after-school programs, legislation to help day care employers conduct background checks on prospective employees, and a $300 million scholarship fund for child care providers.

Congressional Republicans said that critical changes, including $4 billion in new funding, are already moving to solve many day care problems.

Last year's welfare reform "completely overhauled federal child care programs" and boosted government spending on child care to $30 billion by 2002, GOP Reps. E. Clay Shaw of Florida and Frank Riggs of California said in a letter to Mr. Clinton this week.

The federal funds are intended to "help parents pay for child care" while allowing parents to choose where they want their children cared for, the Republicans said.

The welfare law also requires states to set health and safety standards in day care facilities, and prohibits spending federal funds on substandard facilities, they said.

"We are confident that states have the legislative tools and financial means to help low-income parents find suitable child care for their children," the Republican lawmakers said. "We should avoid further changes that would make federal law a constantly moving target."

Mrs. Clinton noted on "Good Morning America" that while the welfare-reform law boosted child care funding, it also will "put a lot more children in the child care market" as welfare parents are moved into jobs.

"The real difficulty," Mrs. Clinton added, "is that the real cost of providing child care by well-trained, stable caregivers is not cheap."

In 1995, about 13 million of the 21 million children under age 6 were in child care. Another 5 million school-age children under age 14 are unsupervised after school during a typical week.

Parents pay an average of $50 to $92 a week for child care, according to a 1993 Census Bureau report. But while parents pay an average of $4,000 a year per child in care, "quality" child care costs closer to $6,800 a year per child, experts say.

Because many parents can't afford that, child care providers cut costs. As a result, experts say, roughly 14 percent of day care situations are good, as many as 20 percent are bad, and the rest are safe but "mediocre."

"Mediocre" means the kids "are wandering aimlessly ... running from the front of the couch to the back of the couch," said Families and Work Institute leader Ellen Galinsky, one of the White House panelists.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1997

Clinton Pledges $300 Million Toward Improving Child Care

By JOHN M. BRODER

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23 — Hillary Rodham Clinton invited the President to her conference on child care today, and he obliged by offering a few modest proposals to alleviate parents' concerns about the cost and quality of day care centers.

The President promised to send to Congress a measure providing $300 million over five years to improve the pay and training of child care workers. He also said he would propose legislation to make it easier for parents to run background checks on potential day care providers. And he said he would instruct his Americorps national service program to divert some of its young volunteers to look after latchkey kids — children who return to empty homes after school.

Mr. Clinton also ordered Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin to jawbone private employers about providing on-site child care for their workers.

Although Mr. Clinton provided the day's policy proposals, the spotlight shone on the First Lady. The child care conference was her return to the domestic policy stage after three years of relative obscurity as controversy over her role in the Administration's failed health care initiative and questions about her involvement in the complex of scandals known as Whitewater swirled around her.

But those dark days are past and Mrs. Clinton is riding a wave of popularity to draw notice to issues of concern to women and families that have animated her. Foremost among those issues is the plight of 13 million American children who spend all or some of their day in the care of someone other than a parent. She said today that the quality of many of the facilities ranges from mediocre to poor and that the pay of child care workers is "abysmal."

A First Lady returns to favor and domestic policy.

Today was her day, as she put it, to inaugurate a national "conversation" about the vast disparity between the demand for affordable, high-quality child care and the paucity of supply. The day of discussion in the White House East Room was a testament to the Clintons' continuing belief in the healing power of talk.

"We hope that this conference will spur the conversations around kitchen tables and water coolers and standing in supermarket aisles or at soccer games, or while going to or from work in the car pool," Mrs. Clinton said in calling the daylong conference to order, "whatever it takes to engage more Americans in this discussion, to make it clear that we want American parents to succeed at the most important task they have, caring for the next generation."

But despite hours of testimony about the crying need for more and better day care, the Administration's proposed response was quite restrained, in deference to political and fiscal realities.

Both the President and the First Lady have adopted an incremental approach to social progress, using the White House pulpit to lay issues before the public and urging others to find solutions — and, for the most part, to pay for them.

Mrs. Clinton emphasized that while the Federal Government can contribute to improving the quality of the nation's child care network, through tax credits and other incentives, the bulk of the task lies with employers and unions, churches and charitable organizations, schools and local Governments, and, especially, parents.

Thus the Clintons set out to address a problem identified by millions of working parents as their gravest concern: who is looking after their kids while they are out earning wages.

Mr. Clinton called child care "the single, most important question about social policy today" — although he spoke in similar terms about the issue of race in America, about which he has also launched a national conversation.

The conference, like other such affairs at the White House, was heavily laden with statistics ("between 58 percent and 75 percent of parents feel they have zero choices" of day care arrangements) and scripted questions and answers.

But the President also noted that such conferences pose a danger of substituting talk for real action and real resources from communities. What is needed, he said, are partnerships that "add up to a system that serves everybody instead of just makes nice, touching stories they can all tell each other at seminars till kingdom come."

Mr. Clinton said that he was preparing a package of child care measures that will be announced in his State of the Union address in January. But as a down payment, he offered today's low-cost proposals.

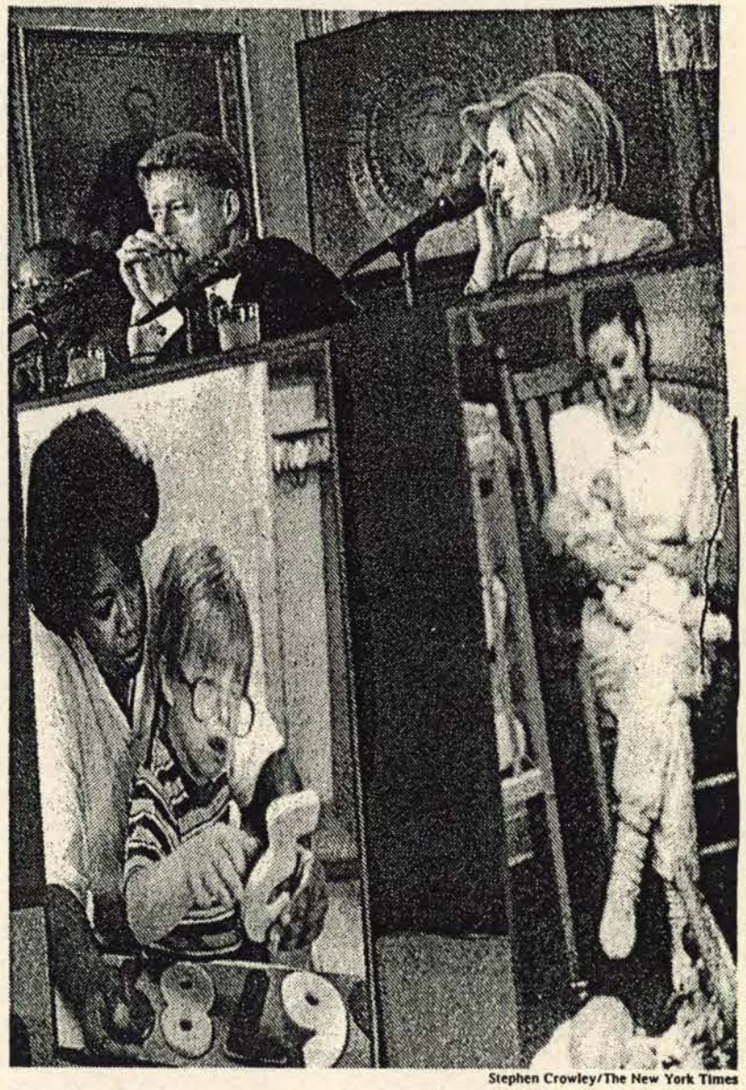
The most ambitious is a scholarship program for caregivers. The $300 million proposal would provide funds to train 50,000 day care providers who promise to stay in the field at least a year. White House officials said the plan is designed to address the twin problems of low pay and high turnover.

The President is also urging businesses to provide their workers more day care options, perhaps as part of a "cafeteria-style" benefits menu. And he wants to open more afterschool programs, staffed by volunteers from Americorps.

But the libertarian Cato Institute today released a study contradicting the premises of the White House parley. The report, by the institute's domestic policy analyst Darcy Olsen, found that the supply of day care workers has kept up with the demand. The report also asserted that employers, unions and communities have responded to the need for day care with creative, low-cost programs. And it said that most families are satisfied with their child care arrangements.

Ms. Olsen's report said that the Clinton Administration would replace the flexibility shown by families and employers "with a set of rigid standards, which would run roughshod over the individual needs of parents and children."

She concluded: "Congress should resist any attempt to increase funding for child care and to impose Federal standards on providers and parents."



Stephen Crowley/The New York Times

President Clinton and the First Lady yesterday at Mrs. Clinton's White House conference concerning the quality of child care.

The New York Times
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1997

President Announces Child-Care Initiatives

Scholarship, Wage Plan Proposed at Conference

By Barbara Vobejda
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Clinton yesterday proposed a $300 million program of scholarships to improve the training and raise the wages of day-care workers and promised to unveil early next year a broader plan to improve child care across the country.

The proposal was among several offered by the president at a day-long White House conference on child care, where numerous experts described a system suffering from poor quality, high costs and a lack of accessible care, particularly for infants and school-age children.

"Too often, child care is unaffordable, inaccessible and sometimes even unsafe," Clinton said. "Even for those who can afford it, sometimes good care is hard to find."

The conference, which brought together state and federal officials, business leaders and child-care advocates, is the first high-profile effort to find solutions to a problem affecting millions of American families.

Several national studies have documented that most of the care provided in centers and in providers' homes is mediocre or even poor quality. Experts attribute that to several factors, including lack of training and low pay among workers, which leads to high turnover rates.

At the same time, the cost of child care presents an enormous financial burden to many families and federal-state subsidies are reaching only about one-tenth of those who are eligible.

Advocates have argued that only a major investment by government or the private sector can address the fundamental problem—parents simply cannot afford to pay the cost of high-quality care.

But the president and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has played a leading role in the administration's efforts to focus on child care, suggested that a large-scale federal program was not the answer. Instead, they explored solutions that relied more on public-private partnerships and efforts by businesses to help make child care more available to their workers.

In addition to the scholarship program, the president proposed legislation that would make it easier to conduct background checks on child-care providers, announced the formation of a group of business leaders to spur private investment in child care and said volunteers in the Corporation for National Service would help improve after-school care programs.

Clinton said he would unveil in his State of the Union speech in January a more comprehensive plan to improve access, affordability and safety of child care.

Aides said the administration would consider increasing federal funding to states to help low-income parents pay for care. Also, the White House will look at expanding the dependent care tax credit, which allows some families to claim a credit on their income tax for child-care expenses up to a certain level.

Bruce Reed, the president's domestic policy adviser, also cited the possibility of creating a tax benefit to encourage businesses to help provide child care.

The scholarship proposal, which will be included in the president's budget package next year, would provide at least $250 million in federal funds over five years.

State, local or private sources would contribute one dollar for every four federal dollars they received, bringing the total to about $300 million. The money would be used by states to design programs to help providers earn credits toward an early-childhood education credential, certificate or college degree. A portion of the scholarship fund would go to increase wages or pay a bonus when workers complete their course work.

The proposal is modeled on a North Carolina program known as TEACH, which was designed not only to improve the training of providers but to reduce turnover, which runs as high as 50 percent among day-care workers nationally each year.

In North Carolina, where the statewide turnover rate is 42 percent, the figure among those who have participated in the program dropped to about 10 percent, child-care experts said, in large part because of wage increases the workers earned after completing training.

Child-care advocates said they welcomed the proposal because it included funds for both training and higher wages.

"What was really good about today was that everybody seemed to understand that if we want quality child care we have to improve child-care jobs and the people have to get adequately compensated," said Marcy Whitebook, co-director of the National Center for the Early Childhood Work Force.

But while they expressed relief that the administration had focused on the issue, advocates also cautioned that the proposals were relatively modest.

"Obviously these are all small things and we need more pieces," said Helen Blank, who specializes in child care for the Children's Defense Fund.

Among the other proposals announced yesterday was legislation creating a compact among states agreeing to release criminal history information for background checks on day-care workers. Currently, laws in many states prohibit the release of such information except for certain criminal investigations, making it impossible for child-care agencies to conduct nationwide checks on prospective employees.



BY FRANK JOHNSTON—THE WASHINGTON POST

The president with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at child-care conference.

The Washington Post
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1997

Clinton Announces New Mammogram Rules

By John Mintz
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Clinton yesterday unveiled final regulations that require breast-cancer detection clinics to use up-to-date mammogram machinery, improve the training of their personnel and keep proper records.

The president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton used his Saturday radio address to urge women to seek the cancer screening tests because, in his words, "mammograms are available, effective and safe."

In the past, some doctors have questioned mammography's utility for women under 50, saying the X-ray equipment used was often so imprecise, and the technicians' knowledge so spotty, that tests frequently yielded false positives for women who had not reached menopause.

Last January, a panel of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) concluded the medical evidence was in such conflict that each woman in her forties "should decide for herself" whether to seek the test. The report caused a firestorm of criticism from Congress and many medical groups, and soon another NCI panel said women in their forties should seek the tests "every one to two years."

Doctors are unanimous in saying women over 65 should have mammograms. Each year, breast cancer kills 44,000 American women, and 180,000 new cases are found. But 93 percent of breast cancer cases are successfully treated if caught early.

Congress passed a law in 1992 requiring federal certification for equipment and personnel performing mammograms. Temporary regulations have enforced that law for more than a year, but the rules announced by Clinton yesterday tighten those regulations by establishing Food and Drug Administration inspection schedules and training requirements for the X-ray technicians and readers.

In 1995, more than one-third of mammography facilities seeking accreditation failed on their first attempt, federal officials said.

"When women do go for a mammogram, we must make sure they receive the highest-quality care," Clinton said. "High-quality mammograms can detect the vast majority of breast tumors, and when followed by prompt treatment can reduce the risk of death by as much as 30 percent."

Hillary Clinton, who has frequently spoken out on the need for regular mammograms, praised a federal program that seeks to persuade older Hispanic and African American women to have the tests.

"Mammography can mean the difference between life and death for millions of women," said the first lady, who rarely has spoken during her husband's radio time. "We must work even harder to reach women who, because of income, language or cultural barriers, are the least likely to get mammograms."

She also spoke of a new series of public service announcements on mammography featuring actress Candice Bergen and the Baldwin brothers. The four actors, Alec, William, Daniel and Stephen appear in the spots with their mother, Carol Baldwin, a double mastectomy survivor and activist on behalf of mammography.

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Sunday, October 26, 1997

For Hillary Clinton at 50, Yet Another Beginning

By JOHN M. BRODER

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25 — There was a certain unintended twist in the setting for Hillary Rodham Clinton's meeting with journalists and child care experts this week. She gathered the group in the White House Map Room, a locale immortalized in the recently discovered videotapes of her husband's glad-handing coffees with big-money Democratic donors.

But if she was aware of it, she did not let on. Wasting no time on formalities, she plunged into her subject, Thursday's conference on child care policy, another of the Clintons' continuing earnest forums on national needs. Sitting beneath a World War II map of the "Estimated German Situation, 1 May 1945," Mrs. Clinton opened a thick black briefing book and dived right into what she called "a frontier issue." In the ensuing hour she stayed strictly on task, not letting the fact-filled discussion stray to other subjects.

So this is the "reborn" Hillary Clinton, famously turning 50 on Sunday, a policy diva in a baby-blue tailored suit and a frosted-blond pageboy. She is very much the same Hillary Clinton who has been the object of public affection, fascination and fury over the past five years: enigmatic, clever, frustrating and remarkably composed.

But her return to the spotlight marks a carefully plotted repositioning, after a period of low visibility that began with the unprecedented appearance of a First Lady before a Federal criminal grand jury.

The White House years have left her a bit chastened, perhaps, and her tactics have changed — she will no longer direct a gigantic policy-making enterprise like the failed health care task force of the first term. But her starring role in the child care conference this week demonstrated that she will continue to be a central policy voice in the Administration.

It is no coincidence that the child care symposium came the same week as Mrs. Clinton's birthday, which is being treated as an unofficial coming-out party for the second-term First Lady.

And it is no accident that the birthday is being celebrated with a policy-making forum. This was how Mrs. Clinton wanted it, despite her friends' efforts to mark the occasion with a nostalgic trip down Hillary Lane. Friends and staff members have been presenting her with a gift a day for the 50 days leading to her birthday. More than a hundred pals are preparing a commemorative book of letters and reminiscences that will be presented to her on Sunday. On Monday, the City of Chicago will put on a day and night of festivities that will include visits to many of her childhood haunts, an occasion one friend described as "all the stations of the cross." And on Tuesday, she does "Oprah."

Although reaching the half-century mark is a traumatic passage for many people, Mrs. Clinton is little given to introspection or self-doubt, her friends say. She is obsessed not with her identity, but with her calling. Her mission, as she sees it, is to advance the status of women and the fortunes of her husband.

"This is a person, as long as I've known her, that has this strong sense of responsibility, a very moral sense that you should do whatever you can do," said Ann F. Lewis, a longtime friend of Mrs. Clinton's and now the White House director of communications. "She has always felt that way and she thinks of that as her role in the White House, too."

Mrs. Clinton is struck by how little time she has remaining on the global stage as First Lady and has begun to think about how she can carry on her good works after leaving the White House 39 months from now, said close friends who have spoken with her recently.

Her thoughts have turned to the best platform from which to address her lifelong concerns, whether a political office, a foundation or a university chair, friends say. But she is also consumed by such mundane matters as finding and furnishing a home, after having spent almost all of her married life in public housing.

A 'reborn' First Lady returns to the spotlight, with a changed image.

"The really fun thing about thinking about her future is that nobody knows," said Mary Steenburgen, an actress and longtime Arkansas friend of the Clintons. "This is a time when both of them have literally the world open to them at a relatively young age. It's exciting to them, and scary, too."

For today, however, Mrs. Clinton seems energized by her husband's re-election, freed for now of the crippling scrutiny that preoccupied her during much of the first term and liberated by her daughter's departure for college. Mrs. Clinton has assumed again an ambitious and visible role in promoting her husband's agenda, and her own.

She is enjoying record approval ratings and hopes to translate her current public esteem into concrete accomplishments across a canvas of policy interests, from improving the state of the nation's child care to fostering women-run business ventures around the world.

In just the past 10 days, Mrs. Clinton has given a major speech on domestic violence and family planning in Argentina, appeared in a public service television spot urging women to get mammograms, presided over the child care conference and unveiled a painting by Georgia O'Keeffe that will hang at the White House.

Surprise: Chelsea Clinton Pays Visit

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25 (AP) — Chelsea Clinton crept into the White House early this morning — a surprise treat for her mom, Hillary, who is celebrating her 50th birthday on Sunday.

It was her first trip home since leaving for college at Stanford University in California last month.

Secret Service agents said Chelsea, a Stanford freshman, arrived from the airport at around 2 A.M., with more than enough time for private celebrations of Mrs. Clinton's birthday.

"It was a huge surprise for the first lady," said a White House spokeswoman, Marsha Berry.

While President Clinton normally spends a few hours in the Oval Office on weekends, it was shuttered today as the family spent a quiet day in the White House residence.

Two days of public festivities surrounding Mrs. Clinton's birthday are scheduled to begin Monday in her home town of Park Ridge, Ill., near Chicago. She is also to appear on the Oprah Winfrey television show.

The New York Times
Sunday, October 26, 1997

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Later this month she will travel to England and Ireland; November will take her for 10 days to Siberia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Her busy schedule and narrowed agenda represent a public reanimation of Mrs. Clinton. They come after 18 months of near-invisibility that began at one of the lowest points of the first Clinton term — her appearance before a Federal criminal grand jury in January 1996, when she strode into a Federal courthouse in a military-style greatcoat to answer questions about the mysterious loss and rediscovery of her law firm billing records.

Since then, Mrs. Clinton's tight-knit circle of aides has painstakingly plotted her return to the spotlight.

"This has been a disciplined and focused comeback, the result of a series of very careful choices," said a senior White House aide who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "Instead of doing 50 things, she's chosen a few high-profile projects and foreign trips with children and women's issues as the central theme. They have picked their spots carefully. And it's worked. They have done a really good job of repositioning her."

This official said the public persona of the second-term Mrs. Clinton is very different from that of the first. "No longer is she the co-President and the co-Vice President of 1993," this official said. "But she's not Barbara Bush, tea and cookies, either."

Mrs. Clinton has traveled widely in her years in the post-health care wilderness, visiting Africa, China, the Indian subcontinent and Latin America. On all her trips, she concentrates on promoting the health, welfare and economic advancement of women and children. She took on the Chinese Communist Government in Beijing over child labor and women's rights and the Roman Catholic Church in Argentina over birth control and violence against women.

She is more outspoken, it seems, abroad than at home. But the rapturous reception she has received around the globe appears to have emboldened her to take a more visible role at home.

"She has taken more interest in international policy since Beijing, the agenda of educating girls, small business loans for women," Ms. Lewis said. "She will be doing more foreign travel. She can really make a difference when she goes into a country; she puts those issues higher on the agenda."

Although Mrs. Clinton has been subjected to some ridicule over her advocacy of a "politics of meaning" and her consultation with personal-growth gurus, she continues to believe that public and private life must be grounded in spiritual principles. She has broadened her thinking to embrace the concept of a "civil society" based on shared faith and mutual respect.

The Czech writer and President, Vaclav Havel, has been an inspiration and an adviser for that concept, Mrs. Clinton's associates say, and his influence can begin to be seen in her speeches. Mrs. Clinton and a small circle of aides are beginning to plan a yearlong global celebration of the arrival of the millennium, one that will center on more closely knitting together the human family.

"We cannot leave the raising of our children, the inculcating of values to the mass media and the consumer culture," Mrs. Clinton said in a speech in Buenos Aires 10 days ago. "We have to do a better job through our churches, our families, our civic associations. We have to build up civil society to reach out to all young people to help them understand why so many of you have fought so long and so hard for the values, the rights and the privileges that now in my country can be too easily taken for granted."



Carol T. Powers for The New York Times

Hillary Rodham Clinton, during a presentation of a Georgia O'Keeffe painting on Friday in the East Room of the White House.

The New York Times
Sunday, October 26, 1997

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Clintons Focus on Importance of Mammograms

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25 (AP) — President Clinton was joined by his wife, Hillary, today on his weekly radio broadcast to prod women to have regular mammograms as they announced new rules to improve the quality of the lifesaving breast X-rays.

Mr. Clinton, whose mother died of breast cancer three years ago, said the recent discovery of two breast cancer genes holds great promise for finding a cure.

"Until that day, we know that early detection is the most potent weapon we possess in our battle against breast cancer," the President said.

"And we know that mammography is the best way to detect breast cancer so that it can be treated before it's too late."

Mrs. Clinton lauded the work of the National Mammography Campaign, an effort begun three years ago to increase awareness through public service announcements and other measures.

The new regulations by the Food and Drug Administration are aimed at elevating quality-control standards for mammography facilities. The rules clarify requirements for hiring capable technicians and using equipment that produces clear and accurate images.

In the weekly G.O.P. radio address, Representative Nancy Johnson, Republican of Connecticut, extolled a proposed restructuring of the Internal Revenue Service as "the beginning of a tax system that's more consumer-friendly."

The New York Times
Sunday, October 26, 1997

The Washington Post
Monday, October 27, 1997

The Reliable Source

By Annie Groer and Ann Gerhart

50 Ways to Say Happy Birthday

There are two ways to turn 50: quietly, for those in chronological denial, or raucously, for those who recognize there's no stopping the clock.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is doing the latter. Having her cake. Eating it, too. Laughing a lot.

The HRC extravaganza started Friday afternoon at the White House, when she was lured into a packed East Room and greeted by staffers, each holding up a mask made from her recent cover of Time. Then, because the Four Tops had entertained her husband on his 50th, the first lady got the Four Bottoms—four guys singing so badly they interrupted their own rendition of "Happy Birthday." They were replaced by Sheryl Crow, who started the song over. Crow, who opened for Mick Jagger et al. last week, said, "The Stones wanted to come, but I told them this was my gig."

Early Saturday, Chelsea came home from Stanford and surprised her mother. The president knocked off work and the three spent a day at home. Saturday night, the first lady got a cake at the National Italian American Foundation dinner at the Washington Hilton, then another at the Hotel Formerly Known as the Ritz, at a party Ann Jordan and Buffy Cafritz threw for about 75 guests.

The first couple and daughter stayed for four hours; the Birthday Woman and her Chief Consort danced to "My Girl" and "Can't Help Falling in Love With You."

Yesterday, under a tent set up for the upcoming state dinner for China's President Jiang Zemin, Mrs. Clinton's staff surprised her again, this time creating an elaborate state fair of her life, with a different booth for each decade.

"People came from all over the place," said spokeswoman Marsha Berry. "She was surprised by all these folks." On hand, said Berry, were her mother, Dorothy Rodham; brothers Hugh and Tony; childhood chums Betsy Ebeling and Ernest Ricketts; friends from Wellesley and and Yale law school; former labor secretary Robert Reich; and Arkansas friends Linda and Harry Thomason and Mary Steenburgen, who brought along husband Ted Danson.

Today, the Clinton birthday cavalcade moves to Chicago, where the first lady revisits her elementary school, her first church and the hall where she heard Martin Luther King Jr. speak. Tonight, there's a huge party at a cultural center, where the president will join her. Tomorrow, it's Oprah. Wednesday, we want her to rest.



BY SUSAN WALSH—ASSOCIATED PRESS

At the Washington Hilton, banquet manager George Pulles surprises Clinton with a cake.

NOW YOU KNOW

■ The Queen of Soul went culture shopping Saturday. **Aretha Franklin** in town for last night's Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz concert at the Kennedy Center, stopped in to see **Gordon Parks**'s photographs at the Corcoran Gallery. Then she just had to pay homage to the Hope Diamond in its new spot in the Harry Winston Gallery at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History.

■ Doctors said **Kevin McCarthy** would never walk again after he was wounded in the 1993 Long Island Rail Road massacre that claimed his father, Dennis. Friday he walked down the aisle, marrying **Leslie Nolan** of Bowie. The couple met when Nolan volunteered to work on the groom's mother's congressional campaign.

Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-N.Y.) had her eye out for a nice woman for her son and gently nudged them together.

6 *You're not gonna believe what just happened. Al D'Amato just hugged me!* —**Geraldine Ferraro**, the former Democratic veep candidate who might try to unseat the New York Republican senator, at a dinner Friday night at Cafe Milano for the National Italian American Foundation **9**

The Gore Corps Score

■ He's a marathon man by day, a werewolf by night. No wonder Tipper loves him so.

Vice President Gore, 49, raced in his first marathon yesterday, flanked by his daughters Karenna, 24, and Kristin, 20. The trio finished the annual Marine Corps calf-cramper in a respectable 4 hours 58 minutes 25 seconds.

After crossing the finish line, the veep looked much like every other mid-pack finisher—cold, pale and exhausted.

"I slowed down the last few miles," Gore admitted to Post special correspondent Jim Hage. "Karenna and Kristin could have gone faster without me." Karenna, a first-year law student at Columbia University, and Kristin, a junior at Harvard, wanted to enter the race and persuaded their dad to join them. They began serious training in August.



BY PHIL APPLETON—USIA

Karenna, left, and Kristin Gore flank an exhausted Al after the race.

Mom snapped photos at the finish line, and then the pack headed home, where face-painted Tipper and Al stood for two hours posing for pictures at their traditional Halloween party. Then, looking fully oxygenated, the veep surfaced in the Presidential Box at the Kennedy Center for an all-star jazz performance. Amazingly, Gore's legs kept him up all day.

FINAL

Hailing the hall and chief

WASHINGTON — They rattled the rafters when **Kathleen Battle** sang with the Morgan State University Choir and cheered lustily after **Leonard Slatkin** conducted *An American in Paris.*

But the biggest ovation at Friday's gala reopening of the renovated Kennedy Center Concert Hall came when **President Clinton** led the National Symphony Orchestra in *The Stars and Stripes Forever.*

Clinton "was a bit of a ham" in his surprise NSO debut, said concertgoer Ken Crognale, "but he sure was a good sport." The rest of the audience clearly thought so, too, clapping along as the conductor in chief beat a sturdy two-four and cheering when he cued the piccolos right on time.

More cheers when roses were delivered to the podium by the first lady, who left the presidential box, where she and her husband had entertained Federal Reserve chief **Alan Greenspan** and wife **Andrea Mitchell** of NBC.

And yes, that was **Van Cliburn** who slipped from the wings to watch while the president led the band. The pianist returned to play Tchaikovsky's first piano concerto Saturday.

Music critics klatched at intermission to debate the hall's new acoustics. The consensus: not quite enough resonance, plus a hard, constrained quality when the orchestra played all-out. Fair points, acoustician Christopher Jaffe said afterward, and they're being addressed as final tweaks are made to resonating chambers and the new acoustical "cloud" above the stage.



By Greg Gibson, AP

Conductor in chief: President Clinton directs the National Symphony Orchestra in 'Stars and Stripes Forever' at the Kennedy Center.

Quibbles aside, the $14 million face lift leaves the hall with a vastly improved sound and a warmer, richer feel, with rose and wood tones replacing the old egg-white paint scheme. Said Slatkin from the stage: "We're one happy bunch of musicians up here."

The hall measures up to his expectations, he said jubilantly at the post-concert party. "I think longtime followers of the NSO are hearing their orchestra for the first time." Not everything went perfectly, though: "The toilets all overflowed tonight."

By Trey Graham

Versace, Al Pacino honored

By Ann Oldenburg
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — "I can lose it at any moment," says Donatella Versace. "I know that."

But the sister of slain designer Gianni Versace kept her composure as she sat in a corner of a VIP reception room before Saturday's National Italian American Foundation dinner here. Model Naomi Campbell ("part of my family") stayed at her side, and husband Paul Beck was nearby.

Wearing a tight Versace gown from Gianni's last collection, Donatella — here to accept an award honoring her brother — chatted briefly, one of the few times she has done so since he was killed in July.

"Gianni left a lot of responsibility to me — a will that is not written down, but in my head, to keep the company alive. It has been hard."

Work, she said, has helped in the last few months. As for Gianni's real will, which left much of the designer's estate to niece Allegra, Donatella's 11-year-old daughter, she said, "That's not important." She added, "Gianni was very close to my daughter, and she's in big shock."

Donatella says the future of the company lies in "new strategies." She and Gianni "had talked about investing more in the young market." Clothes for working women are another goal.

The public outpouring that Donatella has seen since Gianni's death has "shown a great amount of love," she says. "The only thing that makes me upset is that Gianni didn't know how important he was, how loved he was."



By Tim Sloan, Agence France-Presse

Honoring Italians: Hillary Rodham Clinton mingles with Al Pacino Saturday in Washington.

The one who loved most at this dinner was honoree Al Pacino, who sat next to Versace at one end of the first head table, while actress Beverly D'Angelo sat at the other end. D'Angelo, spotted out with Pacino recently, spoke in Italian with fans, but when asked about dating the actor turned away, saying, "Oh, come on!"

Other party tidbits:

▶ Connie Francis sang *Happy Birthday* to Hillary Rodham Clinton.

▶ Lawyer Daniel Petrocelli, who won the civil trial against O.J. Simpson, said of Marv Albert escaping jail time: "I thought the judge didn't cave into public pressure. A lot of people thought he'd do jail time because he was a celebrity."

USA TODAY • MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1997

First lady goes home for birthday bash

Chicago visit also is meant to polish image

By Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

PARK RIDGE, Ill. — Hillary Rodham Clinton, 50 years old but giddy as a schoolgirl, returned Monday to the *Leave it to Beaver*-style neighborhood of her childhood to reminisce and re-introduce herself as a hometown-girl-made-good.

It was a day to exhaust any baby-boomer superwoman: She left Washington just after sunup, was serenaded by high school bands on arrival in Chicago, visited her elementary school and the house where she grew up, toured the hall where she met the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1962, and was interviewed by a historian before an audience of hundreds — all before being feted at the fourth gala in a row to mark her birthday, which was Sunday.

"I am just thrilled," she declared, holding her hand over her heart after being saluted in a military hangar at O'Hare Airport. "This is the best present I could ever ask for."

The celebration was capped by a lavish birthday party at the city's Cultural Center. It followed three parties over the weekend in Washington and a surprise trip home by daughter Chelsea from Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif.

The celebration here went way beyond cake. Chicago's Chamber of Commerce put out a 20-page brochure on her early years. Mayors Richard Daley of Chicago and Ron Wietecha of Park Ridge proclaimed "Hillary Rodham Clinton Day." Chicago dedicated a new park to her. Schoolkids sang. Wietecha unveiled a "Rodham Corner" street sign at the intersection in front of her old house.

White House aides say publicly that she is only doing what she has always done: working on issues affecting women and children.

But privately, they acknowledge that the day was also part of a careful plan to remake the image of a woman who clearly wants to be remembered for something more than testifying before a Whitewater grand jury, who wants a legacy that will overshadow the failed effort in her husband's first term to overhaul the nation's health insurance system.

Her latest foray into policy, starting with last week's White House Conference on Child Care, is a new beginning of sorts for a first lady who has largely avoided a lead role lately.

With her husband re-elected and her only child off to college, she is re-emphasizing public life. In the past couple of weeks, the woman known for a prickly relationship with the media has appeared on the cover of *Time* and on all the network morning shows. On Monday, she invited a sizable contingent of reporters to follow her down memory lane. Today, she's on *Oprah*.

Conservatives, anticipating an expensive "big government" approach to child-care solutions, are wary.

"If she does for child care what she tried to do for health care, it'll be disastrous for her," warns Bradley Keena of the Free Congress Foundation, a lobbying group.

"We're not nervous," says Rahm Emanuel, adviser to President Clinton. "She said it best herself: He decides the policies."

But she can draw attention to the need for safe, affordable child care, White House aides say.

On Monday, talk of childhood was more personal.

At Field Elementary School, she got together, with TV cameras rolling, with a dozen classmates and teachers for a lively, free-floating talk about a time 40 years or so ago when kids didn't use locks on their bikes.

During a round of introductions, Clinton's second-grade teacher, Caroline O'Laughlin, identified herself, then turned to her and joked, "And who are you?"

The first lady threw her head back and roared with laughter. "Oh, yes! This is the question we're all trying to answer," she responded.

The answer kept coming throughout the day: a smart Midwestern girl from a middle-class, hard-working family who developed a social conscience in the 1960s and did right by her community and her country.

Her friends recalled an outspoken girl who once organized a petition to try to persuade the parents of a classmate to allow their daughter to wear nylons to sixth-grade graduation. The girl wore socks.

Clinton recalled how football players in her high school public speaking class tormented her with insults whenever she had to deliver a speech.

After that, she joked, "Washington's nothing."

An hour later, outside the two-story Georgian brick house where she grew up, the first lady told about 200 onlookers that some of her most cherished memories were made at the corner of Wisner and Elm streets.

"I have such a sense of appreciation and gratitude for what I was given," she said.

And she shrugged off questions about whether she's trying to craft a new image.

"I don't think so," she said. "I think I'm working on the same things I've always worked on.... I'm so energetic about what I want to do. I feel that the next three years are a great opportunity."



By Charles Bennett, AP

Birthday party: First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton gets help blowing out candles on her cake from students at Field Elementary School, which she attended as a child, in Park Ridge, Ill., on Monday.

CAPITAL ROUNDUP

Clinton signs 2 spending bills worth $108.5B; could veto parts

President Clinton signed two more spending bills Monday, and he has until Saturday to use his line-item veto power to strike specific items. One bill provides $40.1 billion for transportation agencies. The other provides $68.4 billion for environmental, veterans, housing, community development, space and science programs. Clinton wanted more money for toxic waste cleanup and to tackle climate change and ozone depletion. The president has signed seven of the 13 annual appropriations bills. Two are awaiting final congressional passage and four are bogged down in partisan disputes.

CLINTON STUMBLE: President Clinton stumbled while climbing the steps to the helicopter that ferried him from the White House to Andrews Air Force Base in suburban Maryland. Clinton caught himself by grabbing a railing. A White House physician checked the president to make sure he hadn't reinjured a ruptured tendon in his right knee. Clinton continued with his trip to Chicago for the continuation of his wife's 50th birthday celebration.

FOREIGN MONEY: An Indonesian couple who gave $450,000 to the Democratic Party at the direction of fund-raiser John Huang got the money overseas while Huang still was an official at the Commerce Department, Senate aides said. Arief Wiriadinata and his wife, Soraya, told investigators they got the money from Indonesia in November 1995 to make donations because Huang told them it would help their businesses, aides said.

BORDER PATROLS: House and Senate negotiators agreed to remove from the pending Defense Department bill a provision to deploy 10,000 troops along the Mexican border to help catch illegal immigrants and drug smugglers. Border-state lawmakers said such action is a job for the U.S. Border Patrol, not the military.

ALSO ... The Treasury's redesigned $50 bills were sent to banks and will begin circulating to consumers. The new bills, harder to counterfeit, still feature former president Ulysses S. Grant.... The Senate confirmed former House speaker Tom Foley, D-Wash., as ambassador to Japan and former senator Wyche Fowler, D-Ga., as ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Air Force Lt. Gen. John Gordon was confirmed as deputy director of the CIA.

USA TODAY • TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1997

White House Welcomer

The Clinton's' New Social Secretary Debuts With a Doozy of a Dinner



The Washington Post
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1997

By Roxanne Roberts
Washington Post Staff Writer

Capricia Marshall, the new White House social secretary, should be developing her first ulcer right about now.

With less than a month on the job, Marshall is organizing the most important state occasion in years: Wednesday's formal dinner honoring Chinese President Jiang Zemin. She must contend with the most scrutinized (and vetted) guest list in a decade, the glare of international press coverage, and a crowd of protesters shouting at arriving guests.

After five years behind the scenes as Hillary Clinton's personal assistant, Marshall, just 33 years old, is now the unofficial hostess and greeter of the White House. "It's a thankless job," says Neel Lattimore, outgoing press secretary to the first lady.

The social secretary is responsible for every event inside the executive mansion and on the grounds—breakfasts, receptions, dinners and those infamous donor coffees. Marshall's office issues every invitation to the White House, she greets every person who walks up the marble stairs for a social event and smiles until the last person walks out.

It is her job to keep them all happy, but to keep the president and first lady happiest of all. She has signed up for 18-hour workdays, endless meetings, and juggling competing egos and agendas inside and out of the White House. And there is always the

See MARSHALL, E2, Col. 1

MARSHALL, From E1

chance—indeed the likelihood—that despite all her checks and double-checks, something will go wrong.

If that's not enough to give Marshall gastric distress, consider this: This is only the second real job of her life.

Marshall's résumé is short and sweet: college, law school and a job working for Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Shortly after she graduated from law school in 1991, Marshall signed up to work on Bill Clinton's primary campaign in her home state of Ohio. Her organizational skills impressed the folks in Little Rock and, in early 1992, she found herself campaigning with the governor's wife. Marshall was instantly impressed, star-struck even, and more than five years together have only increased her admiration for the first lady.

"She is my mentor," Marshall says. "She offers so much. Each day is always a lesson with her. She's like rays of light."

Marshall arrived in Washington in 1993 as a $50,000 special assistant to the first lady and quickly established herself as the go-between for Hillary Clinton and the rest of the executive staff. "She's had one of the lowest-profile, highest-pressure jobs in the White House," former Clinton adviser George Stephanopoulos says.

She shows no obvious wear and tear, but then Marshall is a glass-half-full kind of person. She is well-liked inside the White House. Colleagues call her very smart, playful, professional, calm and cool under pressure, and very funny, almost goofy sometimes. Stephanopoulos calls Marshall "hyper-competent."

"You can't underestimate what she did for the first lady," says a member of the first lady's staff. "She basically took care of anything and everything."

Her duties ranged from serving as a gatekeeper for Hillary Clinton to such seemingly menial tasks as coordinating the first lady's wardrobe and makeup to make sure she was "appropriately" attired. "I take great pride in that," she says. "I think it's necessary."

But her greatest role was behind the scenes: protecting Chelsea Clinton from the pressures of the White House and the press. The two are very close; Marshall is a confidante, practically an older sister to the first daughter.

"I was another person that Chelsea could trust, another person that she could call if she was in a bind," she says. "I would have been very lucky to have me when I was Chelsea's age." Marshall helped Chelsea get settled in at Stanford and has sent a few care packages out to California.

Her access to the first family made Marshall one of the White House aides subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury last year about Rose Law Firm billing records discovered in the executive residence. She accompanied the first lady on most international trips, including Princess Diana's funeral last month. She is famous for pulling out a video camera on those trips, although no one has seen her home movies yet. Forget the coffee tapes, says Stephanopoulos with a laugh. "What I want to see are Capricia's Hillaryland tapes."

Now she has moved to the $70,000 job of social secretary with an intimate knowledge of first family's likes and dislikes.

"There is no one who knows the Clintons better than she does," says Lisa Caputo, former press secretary to the first lady. "She knows them so well that she can execute blindfolded. That is an enormous asset. She also has a wonderful relationship with executive mansion staff. She's stepping into this role with a huge leg up over an outsider."

Marshall organized Hillary Clinton's 50th birthday celebration last weekend, as well as surprise birthday parties in past years: a costume party with the first lady as Dolley Madison; a '50s sock hop with everyone in poodle skirts; a western hoedown.

But she has no formal background in party or event planning—and what she calls the "headset mentality" that accompanies it—and she sees that as a plus.

"Sometimes that can draw away from the fact that this is a house," she says. "This is not the Capital Hilton."

The White House, of course, is unlike anyone else's home. And the job of social secretary requires a wide array of skills: political savvy, an understanding of Washington, an appreciation for the traditional role of the executive mansion, and an ability to reflect the Clintons' style. It demands serious organization, management and event planning talents.

"The position is so important it deserves a better, more serious title," the late Gretchen Poston, social secretary to Rosalynn Carter, said in a 1989 interview. "'Social secretary' today sounds like someone who addresses envelopes. I think it should be called 'special events officer.' Today the job has to go to a real professional who knows parties and protocol."

(One of Marshall's first acts as social secretary was posing in Vogue in a clinging, backless Donna Karan gown, which raised more than one Washington eyebrow.)

Each social secretary puts her own stamp on the position (the job has traditionally been held by a woman), including Ann Stock, who just left the White House after 4½ years to become vice president for institutional relations at the Kennedy Center.

Stock had worked in national politics, but her real expertise came from years as an executive with Bloomingdale's, where she was in charge of special events, press and image for the retailing giant. She brought a corporate mind-set to the White House, treating the office of social secretary like a service and events agency.

"I always thought of it in terms of running a business," she says. "Everyone will always say, 'Oh, they throw the parties.' To me, that is one small aspect of what gets done."

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1997

During Stock's tenure, she planned and presided over 2,000 events with 500,000 invited guests: state dinners, Christmas parties, receptions, and yes, those troublesome coffees. Her office was responsible for invitations, programs, music, food, logistics and the press. Her day started at the 7:45 a.m. senior staff meeting and frequently ended at midnight or later.

But the social secretary doesn't control all aspects of White House events. She must coordinate and cooperate with a dozen other White House offices just to put on a simple reception.

"There's a huge organization component," Stock says. "On any given week, we were doing three to 10 events." And they all have to be scheduled so as not to conflict with the daily public tours of the White House.

There's usually a political component as well, especially since the allegations of improper use of the White House for fund-raising.

It is the social secretary's responsibility to designate events as "political" or "nonpolitical." Nonpartisan government events, such as state dinners, are paid for by the taxpayers. "Political events" are attended by members of one political party and are paid for by the Democratic or Republican Party; "nonpolitical events," such as the annual Kennedy Center Honors reception, for example, are paid for by the sponsoring groups.

Vetting of all White House guest lists did not begin until last year, Stock says. Before that, the social office simply compiled party lists submitted by offices throughout the executive mansion.

"I absolutely have a responsibility to look over every guest list," Marshall says. "Just to make sure, I seek people out and say, 'This seems a little odd. Can you give me an explanation as to why this person should be added or why they should not be added?' Then you have background."

Marshall believes that if she talks with enough of the White House staff, she'll establish a safety net to avoid potential social disasters.

"It's not only important to know what you know," says Carolyn Peachey, an event planner who has worked with several social secretaries. "You need to know what you don't know and get help. And she's very good at that."

Capricia Penavic Marshall is a first-generation American born to a Mexican mother and Croatian father. (Marshall speaks a tiny bit of Croatian, and is fluent in Spanish.) "My house—growing up—was like the U.N.," she says, laughing.

Born and raised on the east side of Cleveland, she attended Catholic grade school and an all-girls high school. The nuns, she said, taught her a crucial lesson for success in Washington: "Biting my tongue ... just smiling and gritting my teeth."

She went to Purdue University, where she double-majored in political science and civil engineering, and spent one year studying in Spain. After a year of travel, she started law school at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. She graduated in 1991 and married medical student Robert James Marshall, now a fellow at Georgetown University's postgraduate program in cardiology.

Marshall has few hobbies: working out, reading, movies, "but everything else she does is work," her husband says. She works seven days a week as part of the tight-knit family that is the first lady's staff, while waiting to move into their new home near Georgetown Hospital, the Marshalls lived with Patti Solis Doyle, the first lady's scheduler, and her husband.

With Chelsea at Stanford, one of Marshall's major roles became obsolete just as the position of social secretary became available. "She initially thought there was no way she would be considered because of her age," Marshall's husband says. She sought advice from a friend at the White House, Doug Sosnick, counselor to the president.

"I told her I thought it was a great deal for the president and first lady, and a pretty good deal for her," Sosnick says. "She's the type of person you turn something over to and you don't have to worry about it again."

Marshall and the first lady still talk on a daily basis, and since she already was acting as a liaison to the social office, the Clintons didn't have to break in someone brand-new.

Marshall says she brings "creative energy" to the position. There will be more focus on cultural events in the second administration, she says, in concert with the White House celebration of millennium.

She already knows all the friends of the Clintons; those close to her expect Marshall to cultivate Washington's establishment figures. "She knows Washington," Lattimore says. "Washington may not know her. She's certainly not part of that salon crowd."

But the real test of success for a social secretary is silence: She won't get personal credit for staging a great party, but nobody is complaining about her.

And if someone does?

"Remember who her strongest ally is," one staffer says with a laugh. "I don't think a lot of people are going to screw with her."



BY CRAIG HERNDON—THE WASHINGTON POST

White House social secretary Capricia Marshall: "This is not the Capital Hilton. This is someone's home."

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Art of the State Dinner

By Roxanne Roberts
Washington Post Staff Writer

The White House is trying awfully hard to convince people that Wednesday's state dinner for China is just, oh, like any other state dinner. But the guest list is heavy with the biggest Washington names—and egos.

Former president Jimmy Carter and former first lady Lady Bird Johnson top the list of 200. The White House has also invited Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and four former secretaries of state—Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, James Baker and Alexander Haig—although the prospect of all five egos in the same room is daunting, even by Washington standards.

The black-tie dinner will be held in the spacious East Room, and even then the tables might be a tad close for comfort. The White House originally hoped to seat guests in a large heated tent on the South Lawn, which would have allowed more than 350 to attend. But Chinese officials reportedly nixed the plan because Deng Xiaoping was feted in the East Room during his state visit almost two decades ago.

The White House will not release the guest list until hours before the dinner, but the names that have leaked out indicate an evening with a heavy emphasis on diplomacy and business. Your garden-variety state dinner includes more celebrities, members of Congress and Democratic donors.

Carter will attend with his son, Chip. Johnson will likely be escorted by her son-in-law Sen. Chuck Robb (D-Va.). President George Bush, who visited China in 1989, will not be at the dinner but is scheduled to meet with Chinese President Jiang Zemin for breakfast Friday.

Congressional leaders on hand will include House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, and Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Helms is a vocal critic of China, but will attend out of courtesy to the president, according to his office.

The White House has reportedly invited representatives from companies with heavy investments in China, such as Boeing, Motorola, United Technologies and General Motors. There are also expected to be executives from businesses on the West Coast—oil, high-tech and entertainment. And there should be a CEO or two from the companies Jiang is touring during his visit in the United States: IBM, At&T, Lucent Technologies and Hughes Satellite.

Robert Kapp, president of the U.S.-China Business Council, an organization that promotes relations between the two countries, has been invited, as has Katharine Graham, chairman of the executive committee of The Washington Post Co.

There will be a few uninvited folks hanging outside the executive mansion: human rights protesters. But that doesn't bother White House Social Secretary Capricia Marshall.

"I think that's what's wonderful about our country," Marshall says. "Inside we have a celebration of a head of state. Outside, we have our general public who have the opportunity to voice their opinion."

The only movie star scheduled to be near the White House tomorrow is Richard Gere, who will be speaking at the "Stateless Dinner," a reception for 300 at the Hotel Washington sponsored by the International Campaign for Tibet.

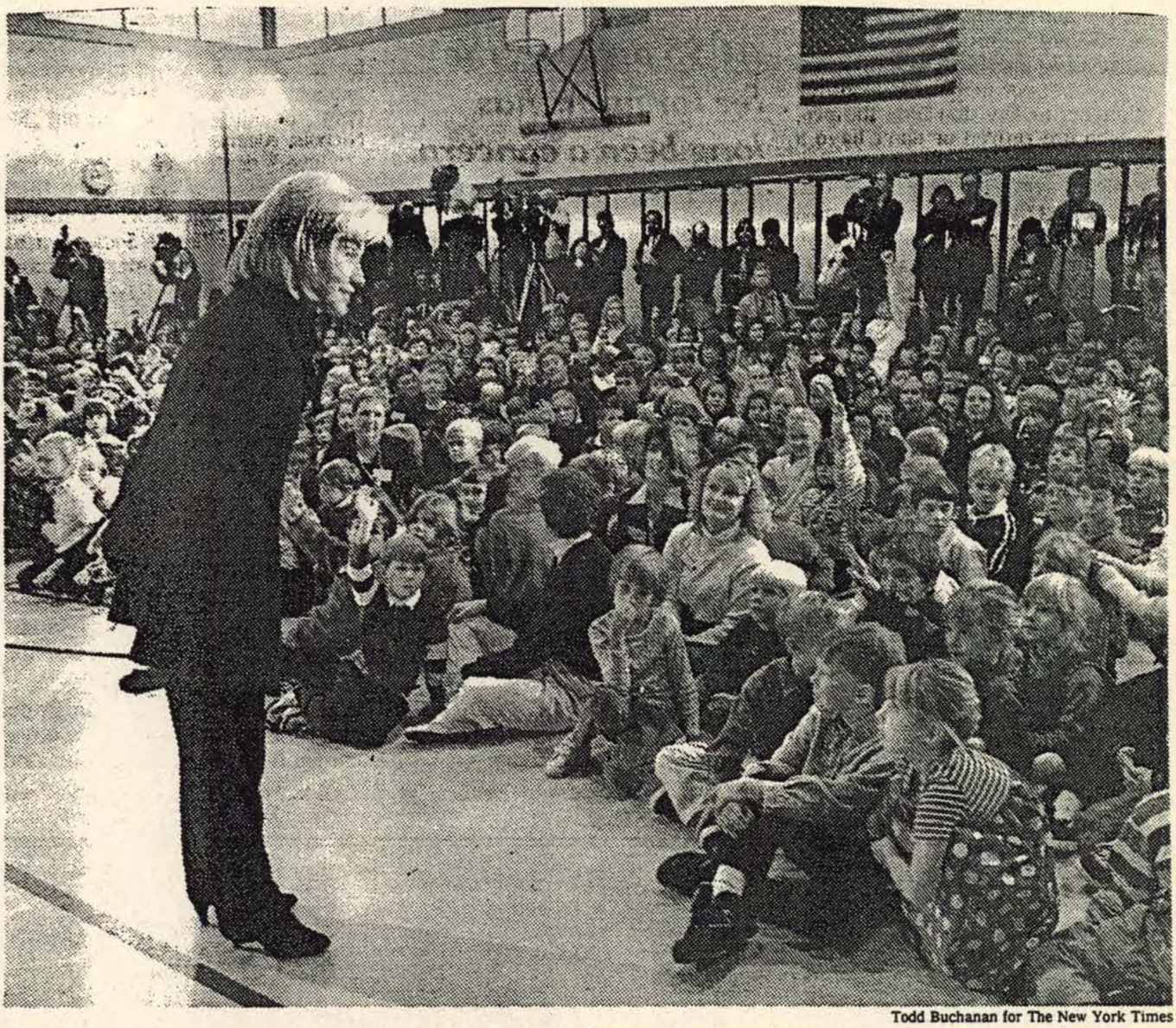
"The people who will be at our dinner *should* be in the state dinner," said John Ackerly, director of the campaign. "The state dinner reflects Clinton's overall policy of putting human rights folks on the back step to eat the leftovers."

The White House said the dinner menu will feature an American menu designed from Jiang's favorite foods.

The evening will end with a grand flourish. Guests will be escorted to a large tent on the South Lawn, where the National Symphony Orchestra led by Music Director Leonard Slatkin will perform a 30-minute program of music by American composers.

"That really says America," Marshall says.

The Washington Post
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1997



Todd Buchanan for The New York Times

Showered by praise, Hillary Rodham Clinton visited her elementary school in suburban Chicago yesterday to mark her 50th birthday, which was on Sunday. The First Lady also visited her old home in Park Ridge.

The New York Times

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1997

Hometown Is Where the Heart Is for First Lady at 50

By DIRK JOHNSON

PARK RIDGE, Ill., Oct. 27 — Back in her hometown to celebrate her 50th birthday, Hillary Rodham Clinton sat in her old grammar school today, surrounded by old chums and teachers, reminiscing about the innocence of their childhoods.

Mrs. Clinton recalled walking to school as a kindergartner. Another friend noted that bikes never had locks. Somebody else remembered the freedom "to go everywhere, trick-or-treating at every single house — except maybe for the one place, where some real old lady lived."

"Yeah," chimed in a fellow Baby Boomer, "she was probably 50."

While most people in their 40's are not particularly eager to turn 50, it must help to come home as a globe-trotting celebrity greeted adoringly by foreign crowds, and to then be able to show off the gold necklace given to her by her husband, the President.

In what seemed as much like a day on the campaign trail as a birthday celebration, Mrs. Clinton arrived at O'Hare International Airport to high school bands playing "Sweet Home Chicago," and then whisked around her hometown, sharing hugs and handshakes with old neighbors and going to a new park in Chicago being named the "Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's Park."

After that was a big party at the Cultural Center on Michigan Avenue, with Mayor Richard M. Daley and other dignitaries, celebrities and movers and shakers on hand to toast the First Lady.

There were a few anti-abortion pickets in Park Ridge, where one sign denounced her as the anti-life co-President. And inside the Happy House coffee shop here, a man grumbled into his soup about Mrs. Clinton's being feted so extravagantly.

"Why should we be proud of her?" he asked. "And who's footing the bill for all this?"

But no sooner had the elderly man spoken, muttering something about women "belonging in the kitchen," than the restaurant's owner, Soula Tsapralis, the mother of three daughters, dispatched with that customer-is-always-right business.

"Women are equal," she told him.

In general, Mrs. Clinton, whose birthday was on Sunday, was showered by praise all day. And she returned the favor at every turn, paying homage to Park Ridge for teaching her lasting values.

Park Ridge, a prosperous, uniformly white, conservative-to-the-bone Chicago suburb, did not, however, succeed in keeping her within the Republican fold. There are still people here who regard the bright, well-behaved Rodham kid from Wisner and Elm as something of a wayward daughter, abandoning the good sense of her childhood years — she belonged to Youth for Goldwater as a teen-ager and played Carrie Nation in a high school play — and straying into the clutches of the Democrats.

Standing in front of her childhood home, a brick colonial with arching windows and tall shade trees, Mrs. Clinton recalled the day she brought "this Arkansas boy" to meet her father, a "gruff, strict" man, especially when it came to young suitors.

"He didn't know what to make of Bill Clinton," she said.

But within three days, she added, her father was "completely charmed" by the future President, and even traveled to Arkansas to do some campaign work for him.

"And this was a man," she said of her father, "who never had anything good to say about a Democrat in his entire life."

Her mother, Dorothy, and her brothers, Tony and Hugh, also came home for the celebration.

While young Hillary was irresistibly drawn to academics — a freshman teacher recalled her handing in a 75-page typed term paper — her brothers had more luck as wrestlers and football players, and succeeded in ruffling a few feathers at school.

Mrs. Clinton waited until a bit later to ruffle feathers. A lightning rod for conservatives and a hero to liberals, Mrs. Clinton's politics have long been a point of discussion around Park Ridge. A few years ago, the suggestion that the library hang a portrait honoring the local-girl-made-good sparked fierce letters to the editor, on both sides. In the end, no portrait went up on the library wall. A painting of Mrs. Clinton ultimately was put up in her high school.

Mrs. Clinton made a trip to Orchestra Hall in Chicago this afternoon, the place where her youth pastor took her to listen to a speech by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on a day in 1962 that Mrs. Clinton says made a lasting impression.

Even as a child, Mrs. Clinton seemed to be trying to change the world, one parent at a time. When a friend was forbidden by her father to wear nylons to the sixth-grade dance, young Hillary circulated a petition among the students asking the strict parent to reconsider. He did not.

Besides the academics, Mrs. Clinton recalled, there were other things in Park Ridge that prepared her for the world of politics.

In speech class as a freshman, Mrs. Clinton recalled, some of the senior boys in the front row, most of them football players, "would sit there and insult me, say mean things," to try to get her rattled.

"So," she said, with an easy smile, "Washington's nothing."

The New York Times
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 199-

Hillary Clinton, in Her Element

By Peter Baker
Washington Post Staff Writer

PARK RIDGE, Ill., Oct. 27

They sat around tables in the Eugene Field Elementary School library, taller, thicker and grayer than they had been during their allotted time here four decades ago. One at a time, the friends and teachers of Hillary Rodham Clinton introduced themselves. Finally, it came around to Clinton herself.

"And who are you?" her lifelong friend Betsy Johnson Ebeling asked mischievously.

Clinton laughed. "This is the question we're trying to answer today," she said.

Like so many others who turn 50, the first lady is using the occasion for a little introspection. For answers, she returned today to her hometown for a nostalgic,

See CLINTON, E8, Col. 1

CLINTON, From E1

this-is-your-life tour of the landmarks of her early years.

The Hillary Clinton who roamed the elm-shaded avenues of this middle-class Chicago suburb today bore little resemblance to the guarded, distant and occasionally bitter figure the nation has come to know in the past five years. This was a person rarely revealed to the public, a warm and funny woman whose eyes pop wide open at a favorite memory. This was the Hillary who once was thrown out of history class for laughing too much. Who loved to play softball with the boys in the intersection, with manholes serving as the bases. And who was predicted in sixth grade to be the future dean of women at Northwestern University, yet in a high school newspaper article expressed her ambition to "marry a senator and live in Georgetown."

"I sort of missed," she noted dryly today. "I don't live in Georgetown."

Her trip took her—and buses of aides, friends and reporters—to the old neighborhood haunts, from Eugene Field Elementary School, which she attended through sixth grade, to the nearby brown-brick Georgian house where she lived from age 4 to 18, to the First United Methodist Church, where the conservative "Goldwater Girl" got her first tiny taste of social activism.

Relaxed and engaging, Clinton joshed with her brothers, Tony and Hugh, about their childhood high jinks, lamented her difficulties learning to drive and earning her Girl Scout sewing badge and recalled giving speeches before classes filled with boys from the football team.

"They'd sit there and insult me and say mean things all during my speech, just to rattle me," she remembered. "Washington's nothing!"

This, friends said, is the true Hillary, or at least the one they knew growing up. "Hillary has always been a very warm person—she's been very maligned in that respect," said Marcia Boemi Buchanan, a friend from first grade who was on hand today. "We always say, 'Hillary, this is what you need to project to the public because this is what you really are.' "

Even after all the years of hearing Park Ridge stories, her chief of staff, Melanne Verveer, said she understands the first lady a little better after visiting the school with her. "This is very revealing," Verveer said. "Our formative years really tell us a lot about who we are and where we come from."

Although the first lady's birthday was actually Sunday, the locals missed no opportunity to help her celebrate. She was serenaded with "Happy Birthday" at least four times before noon—including a cha-cha version by Field School's current student body. The city unveiled signposts outside her childhood home naming the intersection Rodham Corner. A local park was rededicated in her honor. The refurbished Chicago Orchestra Hall invited her to stop by to look at the place where she met Martin Luther King Jr. in 1962. President Clinton was scheduled to fly into town to join her at a gala party for 1,000 at the Chicago Cultural Center.

Outside the old Rodham residence, she recalled bringing a young Bill Clinton home to meet her gruff, tobacco-chewing, Democrat-hating father. "My father didn't know what to make of him," she recalled. "My father ... was very strict and very hard on other people, particularly boys that I went out with. And I have to tell you, my father was totally charmed within about three days by Bill Clinton."

To commemorate the first lady's 50th, a colorful 24-page booklet was published, filled with pictures of her favorite area locales and old black-and-white snapshots of her childhood, including a sixth-grade picture in which the resemblance to daughter Chelsea is striking. In the back were birthday wishes from everyone from Michael Jordan to Studs Terkel to Siskel and Ebert.

Because it was Hillary Clinton, this trip through the time warp had to start with a round-table discussion, the first lady's favorite means of communication. It is a technique she has employed everywhere from Tanzania to Panama, usually as scintillating as a seminar on inflation.

Yet her session with onetime classmates and instructors turned into an unusually spontaneous series of reminiscences about pot pie lunches, square dancing with boys and Yahtzee games in the basement.

On her first day of elementary school, they recalled, their parents allowed them to walk on their own. "But they followed us!" Clinton said. "I learned years later." Dorothy Rodham, it turns out, skulked behind her, slipping from tree to tree.

As they talked today, there seemed to be a wistfulness not only for lost youth but for a sense of lost innocence. "It was really a simpler time because ... kids could walk to school ... and not feel threatened," Buchanan said as her classmates nodded. "We could go trick-or-treating at every house except there was one house we didn't go to—not because it was dangerous but because an old woman lived there."

She was "probably 50," Caroline O'Laughlin, the first lady's second-grade teacher, offered wryly.

It was clear from today's recollections that Hillary Clinton was always an overachiever—one teacher said she turned in a 75-page typewritten term paper in high school—and always a political organizer. Even in the sixth grade, when her friend Sukkie Askew Stanley was forbidden to wear nylons to the school graduation ceremony, young Hillary helped put together an unsuccessful petition drive that was intended to change her mother's mind.

The feminist first lady also recalled a gender gap in school council elections. "The boys would always vote for the boy," she said. "He didn't even really need to be able to stand up and talk. The girls would always make these very considered decisions. And so the boys always won."

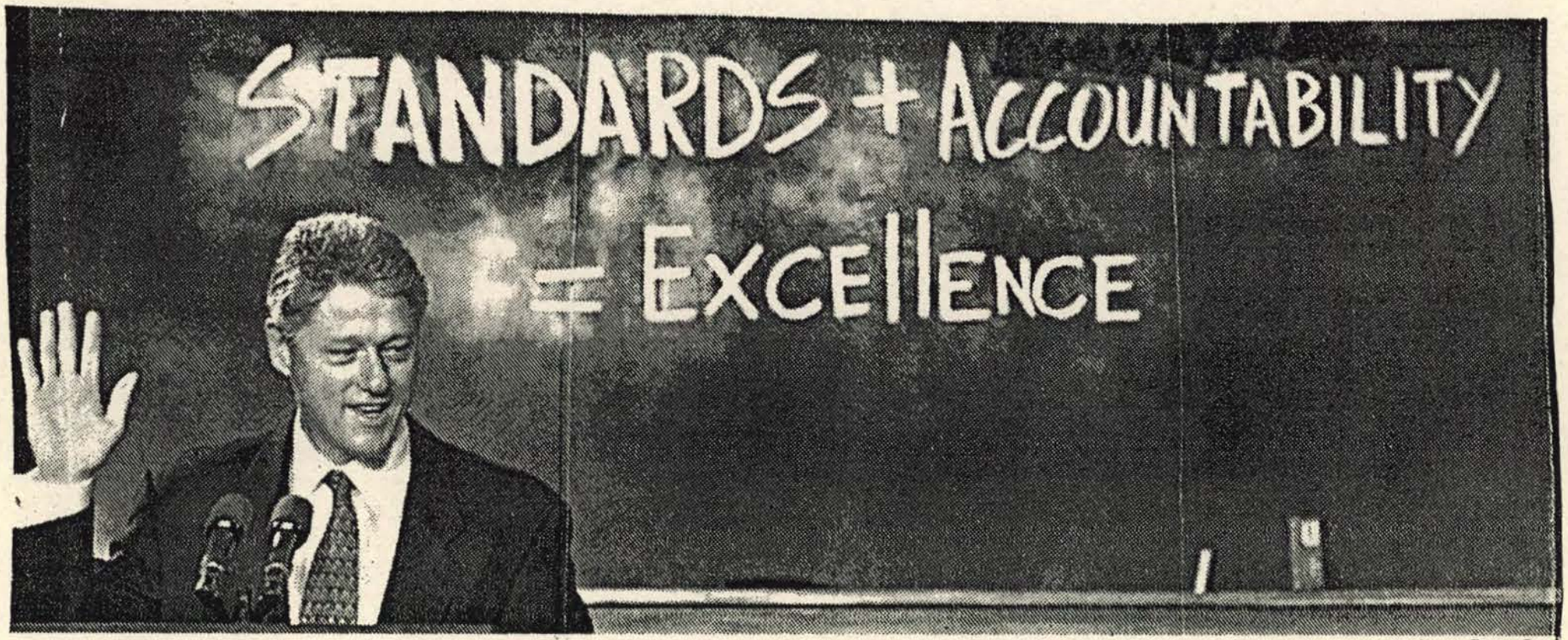
She said this in a tone more amused than resentful. This was not a day for grievances but for happy memories and coming home. "I can't go back and pretend that I can erase time and turn the clock back," she mused, "but I can come back as I've done today ... with such a sense of appreciation and gratitude for what I was given. It seems like it just was yesterday I was walking to school. And I think when people get to be my age and even older it's hard to believe you've lived so many years."



BY RON EDMONDS—ASSOCIATED PRESS

The first lady holds a 1959 class photo during a visit yesterday to Eugene Field Elementary School in Illinois.

The Washington Post
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1997



Agence France-Press

The President Promotes His Formula

President Clinton visited Chicago yesterday and, at Oscar Mayer Elementary School, advanced his proposal for national testing of fourth and eighth graders. He also praised the Chicago district's policy of upholding academic standards by refusing to promote students who do not meet them.

The New York Times
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1997

Clinton Praises Revived Chicago Schools as Examples for Nation

By Peter Baker
Washington Post Staff Writer

CHICAGO, Oct. 28—President Clinton called on the nation's schools today to abolish "the destructive practice" of promoting students who have not learned enough and issued a directive intended to help districts improve failing schools or shut them down.

Visiting a local school, Clinton held up the revival of the long-troubled Chicago school system as a model for the nation, saying the keys to such a turnaround are high standards and accountability.

"Ending social promotion does not put children down," he told parents, teachers and students at Oscar Mayer Elementary School. "It gives us a chance to lift all children up. We are not punishing children by making sure they know what they need to know and that when they move from grade to grade it means something."

Passing students simply to make them feel good, Clinton added, is shortsighted. "I care a lot about the self esteem of the American people," he said. "But ... there is nothing more damaging to self esteem than wanting a job and not being able to get one."

Clinton was in Chicago after flying in the night before to help Hillary Rodham Clinton celebrate her 50th birthday in her hometown. Before heading back to Washington, he thanked Mayor Richard M. Daley (D) for the first lady's daylong festivities by drawing a spotlight to Chicago school reform efforts.

The event also served as another prod to Congress to approve his plan to set up voluntary national education standards that would test all fourth-graders in reading and all eighth-graders in mathematics. House Republicans want to ban such tests on grounds they are redundant and a federal intrusion on local education authority. The issue is in the hands of a joint congressional conference committee that will meet Wednesday. Even if Clinton persuades Congress to go along, he still must win over skeptical state and local leaders who largely have been uninterested in signing up for the program. Just seven states and 15 major cities, including Chicago, have agreed to adopt the Clinton standards.

The directive Clinton signed today orders the Education Department to produce within 90 days new guidelines on effective strategies for fixing low-performing schools and inform cities and states how to tap federal resources for help. Such a move could be interpreted by conservatives as another attempt to insert the federal government where it does not belong, into the decision-making of troubled school districts. White House officials said the guidelines would resemble similar documents the administration has prepared offering help to local districts in setting policies on school uniforms, truancy prevention and school prayer.

"The Education Department can provide a valuable service to districts in showing what models are working," said Bruce Reed, the president's chief domestic policy adviser. "These are not federal regulations. These are suggested reforms." A fact sheet distributed by the White House suggested that one such reform would be to "close down failing schools" but did not elaborate on when or how that should be done. Several districts across the nation have resorted to closing bad schools, building new staffs and curricula and reopening them.

"The point is not to shut them down and throw away the key," Reed said. "The point is to force failing schools to turn themselves around.... We want to encourage school districts to take drastic action."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read details about the politics and policy behind Clinton's national education testing plan, click on the above symbol on the front page of The Post's Web site at www.washingtonpost.com

The Washington Post
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1997

The TV Column

By John Carmody
Washington Post Staff Writer

Former CBS News anchor and series host Connie Chung has been talking to cable and broadcast networks over the past months and is now talking seriously to ABC News...

Yesterday neither she nor ABC News would comment on any phase of their talks, although, a network source confirmed, "We've been talking on and off for about four months—well, actually we've been interested in Connie for the last six years"...

Network sources, none of whom wanted to be identified, indicated that if she signs, Chung would be available for all major ABC News broadcasts, rather than focusing on a single broadcast, at least in the early stages of her return to network television...

"She wants to ease her way back," said one insider...

Chung, who was fired from CBS News in May 1995 after an unhappy time spent as Dan Rather's mismatched co-anchor, most recently has enjoyed a half year on a fellowship at the Joan Shorenstein Barone Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard, which resulted in a 40-page report on "the business of the 'get,'" the increasingly competitive job of landing good guests for an increasing number of competing news shows...

After leaving CBS Chung, along with her husband, longtime talk show host Maury Povich, made a deal with DreamWorks to co-host a syndicated show with a hard news gloss that was supposed to take off a year from now...

However, the popular Povich was prevailed upon to continue his current show, although under his new deal he will switch studios from Paramount to Universal next year...

Chung said yesterday that as word circulated this summer that the DreamWorks deal was a bust, "my phone started ringing" and "I've been exploring work opportunities for quite some time"...

She refused to discuss her talks with ABC or identify other networks she's talked to (though it's very unlikely that CBS is one of them)...

ABC News sources, who would not speak on the record, emphasized that the current talks with Chung are unconnected to a recent report that "PrimeTime Live" co-anchor Diane Sawyer had agreed to an extension of her contract through mid-2000 in exchange for letting her reduce her "PTL" anchor load to spend more time pursuing investigative pieces and other long-term projects for the Wednesday night newsmagazine...

Constance Yu-Hua Chung, 51, a Washington native, broke into television in 1969 at Channel 5 here. Two years later she was a correspondent at the influential CBS News Washington bureau. In 1986 she defected to NBC News but returned in 1989 to the CBS fold, where she anchored various news programs, including "Eye to Eye." Her choice as Rather's co-anchor was doomed almost from the start by his (for the most part private) denial that the show needed a co-anchor in the first place, despite sinking ratings...

In Other News

Washington Post correspondent Peter Baker, who accompanied the first lady to Chicago, reports:

With Oprah Winfrey serving as her confessor, Hillary Rodham Clinton admitted yesterday that there are some positive benefits to daughter Chelsea's departure for college. "I have a confession to make," the first lady said during a 20-minute interview on the "Oprah" show marking her 50th birthday. "I certainly miss her desperately but it is a different experience that makes it kind of fun to have all this time to yourself."

The empty nest, she said, has allowed her and President Clinton to spend more time together and go out at night more frequently. "You know what Harry Truman said about the White House—it's the crown jewel of the American penal system," she said. "If you don't get out, you feel like you're imprisoned."

Still, she said, they find themselves wistfully wandering by Chelsea's room almost as if she were still around. One day, she and the president caught each other visiting the empty room when they walked in through separate doors.

Mrs. Clinton said she exercises a lot and feels good at 50. Winfrey told her she looks "better than ever" and approved of her latest feathered hairdo. "So we finally found a haircut?" the first lady beamed.

As a birthday present, Winfrey gave her a box of leather-bound volumes from her book club. Clinton asked if she had wrapped it. "Well, no I didn't," Winfrey admitted. "I have people who do that"...

CBS Entertainment has ordered nine more episodes—for a total of 22 for the year—of "Step by Step," which moved from last year's ABC Friday night lineup to become the highest-rated sitcom on this fall's CBS Friday lineup...

The network also ordered two additional episodes of Monday night's "Everybody Loves Raymond," boosting the season's total to 24...

The networks bulletined the ups and downs on the stock market yesterday but the cable financial networks stayed with the story all day...

After all the hand-wringing, bat-tossing and whining (from NBC executive Don Ohlmeyer), the World Series wasn't the least-watched Series after all. It was the second least-watched...

Final Nielsen Media Research numbers show the seven-game series (all night games) averaged a 16.9/29, which is only slightly better than the 16.4 compiled by Oakland and San Francisco in the 1989 four-night-game series interrupted by an earthquake...

Six night games between Toronto and Philadelphia in 1993 averaged a 17.3/30. The fourth-least-watched series was the five games between Baltimore and Cincinnati, which were all day games (19.4/53)...

ABC won Monday night this week, as the two "Monday Night Football" games (Green Bay-New England and Miami-Chicago) averaged a 16.8/32. The Peter Jennings special on the Wall Street sell-off averaged only a 4.8/8 before the games began...

CBS was second, followed by NBC and Fox...

Locally, the games did a 15.9/29 on WJLA, the stock market special a 5.2/8. Each local ratings point represents 19,283 TV homes...

TV Ratingzzzz

Following are the top 20 network prime-time shows last week, ranked according to the percentage of the nation's 98 million TV households that watched, as measured by Nielsen Media Research. A share represents the percentage of actual sets-in-use tuned to a particular program when it aired.

	Rating		Share	Network
1	24.5	World Series Game VII (Sun.)	39	NBC
2	17.2	W.S. Game V (Thurs.)	30	NBC
3	15.6	W.S. Game III (Tues.)	27	NBC
4	15.5	W.S. Game VI (Sat.)	28	NBC
	15.5	W.S. Game IV (Weds.)	26	NBC
6	14.9	Miracle in the Wood	22	CBS
7	14.3	Touched by an Angel	20	CBS
8	13.8	60 Minutes	21	CBS
9	12.8	NFL Bills vs. Colts	22	ABC
10	12.7	Home Improvement	19	ABC
11	12.3	W.S. Pregame VII (Sun.)	20	NBC
12	12.0	The Drew Carey Show	18	ABC
13	11.9	W.S. Pregame V (Thurs.)	21	NBC
14	11.7	Dateline (Mon.)	20	NBC
15	11.6	20/20 (Fri.)	22	ABC
16	11.4	Stossel Special	19	ABC
17	11.3	Diagnosis Murder	17	CBS
18	11.2	The Simpsons	16	FOX
19	11.1	PrimeTime Live	19	ABC
	11.1	Dharma & Greg (9:30)	17	ABC

NBC didn't miss the Thursday night blockbuster schedule a bit last week, riding the World Series to a robust 14.9 rating and 25 share, up 55 percent from the same week a year ago...

CBS did a 9.6/16 (+9 percent), ABC an 8.4/14 (-3 percent) and Fox produced a 7.0/11 (off 56 percent from the same week a year ago)...

CBS even managed to have its best Thursday and Sunday night ratings of the season, despite the Series competition on NBC...

Even "CBS Evening News With Dan Rather" had its best week of the early season, averaging a 7.5/16, compared with an 8.1/17 for rare first-place finisher "ABC World News Tonight With Peter Jennings" and a two-day average of 7.9/17 for "NBC Nightly News With Tom Brokaw," who missed a lot of West Coast coverage on account of the Series...

Other than the Series, there wasn't much churn on the networks. Robert Morton's new ABC sitcom, "Over the Top," finished with an 8.8/14 last Tuesday to rank 41st in last week's standings...

CBS's "Public Eye With Bryant Gumbel" was 61st for the week, finishing behind the rest of the network's Wednesday night lineup of "Dellaventura" (tied for 47th) and "Michael Hayes" (50th)...

The Washington Post
Wednesday, October 29, 1997

Hillary does 'Oprah'

First lady talks about the big 5-0

Hillary Rodham Clinton misses college freshman **Chelsea** "desperately," she says, but admits that it's "kind of fun to have a little time to yourself."

Tuesday on **Oprah Winfrey's** TV show, the first lady, 50 on Sunday, chatted with Winfrey, 43, about aging. "One day you're reading along and then the next day you can't see what you could see before," Clinton said. "You think about a lot of that."

She added, "a lot of women who are my friends really feel this burst of energy in their late 40s and early 50s. I've had more women come up to me kind of in a confidential way and say, 'It's really great. You're going to love being 50.' "



By George Burns, Reuters

College contribution: First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, left, presents Oprah Winfrey with a piggy bank full of change from the White House for Oprah's Angel Network, which sends one child from each state to college.

"Don't you think you look better than ever?" Winfrey enthused. "Well," Clinton said carefully, "some days I look OK."

"Really, I think you've found your place," Winfrey insisted, to audience applause. "I think the hair, it's there. It's there."

USA TODAY • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1997

Criticism of China could apply to U.S. death penalty

We should listen when Chinese President Jiang Zemin speaks of deepening understanding between our countries.

It is a simple matter to criticize the policies of another country. Far more difficult is the challenge of understanding them.

In international relations, the terms that are used reflect the political purpose behind statements. When we hear the term "human-rights violation" applied to China, we must acknowledge that capital punishment in the United States easily could be framed in the same terms.

It is a far better policy to express concern and seek understanding than to coerce change through economic or military pressure. Change that is pursued cooperatively is certain to be more acceptable to both parties, although the process may be longer and more frustrating than simply issuing ultimatums.

We also must ask ourselves questions such as these: If faced with the same population and economic problems as China, how might our own system fare? If another nation disapproved of one of our domestic practices, such as capital punishment, and attempted to end it through external pressure and ultimatums, how might we feel about that nation?

Let us hope Jiang's visit builds bridges of understanding between both the governments and people of our two nations.

Dan Tinianow, asst. professor
Austin College, Sherman, Texas

Can't trust Tiananmen killers

The question I would like to pose is whether we should trust China's leaders after we watched them slaughter their children in their front yard.

The logical answer is no. However, it seems the senior leadership in this country treats the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre as an event so distant as to be irrelevant, when in reality the individuals responsible for the "killing of innocents" remain in power.

I'm not alone in feeling that to embrace China's leaders is to embrace the bedfellows of Hitler and Stalin. They have repeatedly and continuously demonstrated that they place a very low value on human life, a trait shared by their aforementioned soul mates. The brutality of their actions can be neither ignored nor forgotten, and it is wise to doubt the credibility of any government that would kill its own citizens.

To those few who compare the shooting of student demonstrators at Kent State and what happened in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, remember, Kent State was unintentional; Tiananmen was premeditated.

I agree we shouldn't allow fears to dictate actions. China may prove to be as trustworthy as other allies, but I wonder if we will hand over Taiwan to placate China's growing power, or whether China fears the mass casualties of a minor nuclear war if it decides to grab its neighbors' land.

With the value it places on life, casualties would be a secondary concern.

Harlan Swyers
Orlando, Fla.

Child care important beyond family, business; it's also public safety issue

USA TODAY's editorial on child care makes some important points but ultimately misses the mark ("Parents need quality care, want choices for children," Our View, Debate, Oct. 17).

Child care is more than a parents' issue or a business issue. It is a crucial public safety issue. Quality early-childhood and after-school programs are among our most powerful weapons in the war on crime.

Study after study shows that quality early-childhood care and after-school programs dramatically reduce crime and that failing to provide these services, especially to our most vulnerable children, can multiply the risk that they will become juvenile delinquents or adult criminals.

Yet early-childhood programs like Head Start and Early Head Start get so little funding that they can serve only a small fraction of the at-risk kids who need them. Millions of poor working families cannot afford the care that can give their kids the right start, help them succeed later, and turn them away from crime. In the end, it is all of us who pay the price — in higher crime costs, in lives and in fear.

In the hour after the school dismissal bell turns millions of kids out on the streets without constructive activities or adult supervision, violent juvenile crime suddenly triples. By dinner time, nearly half of each school day's violent juvenile crimes have been committed.

That's why dozens of us on the front lines of the war on crime — including police, prosecutors and victims — have formed Fight Crime: Invest in Kids (www.fightcrime.org) to tell our neighbors and leaders that when America doesn't invest in kids, we're forced to fight crime with one hand tied behind our backs.

Everyone knows that the delivery of child care must take place not in our capitals but in our communities, through partnerships of schools, parents, businesses and community groups.

But there is no government responsibility more fundamental than protecting public safety. That means standing in the gap, doing what it takes to see that every kid gets the right start. State and federal governments can't meet that obligation without committing to major new initiatives and investing public funds in the early-childhood and after-school programs that are among our most powerful crime-prevention weapons.

John J. Millner, chief of police
Elmhurst, Ill.



White House Conference *on* Child Care



Child care: Acknowledging that quality care for children often is unaffordable and inaccessible to working parents, President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton last week proposed federal programs to improve training and wages of day-care workers. At a conference Thursday for child-care advocates and business, state and federal officials, the administration pledged to push for a comprehensive program to provide safer, more affordable and accessible day care for children of working parents. Right, Louise Woodward, 19-year-old au pair from Chester, England, after testifying in Cambridge, Mass., court where she was charged with shaking to death an 8-month-old baby, one of two children in her care as a live-in baby sitter.

AP photos

Working parents in Catch-22

As a working mother of two toddlers with a few nightmare nanny stories of my own, I was pleased to hear that the White House as represented by Hillary Rodham Clinton is focusing on the child-care issue in the United States.

Hillary Clinton's position on behalf of underrepresented populations is needed, and I hail her willingness to act as a voice for those who do not have one. American families, which we consider to be the primary social and economic building blocks of society, are in crisis.

We are possibly into a second generation of family development where the economic independence of a household requires both parents to work to provide for basic medical, educational and domestic needs. There is a Catch-22 here that says responsible parents must work, but affordable child care is not available.

American women have become part of the economic and social foundation of the family life and the future of America. With the loss of this primary caregiver, the family is no longer self-sufficient.

The traditional domestic support person is now a necessary part of the American workforce. There must be support services upon which the family can rely to provide care for children. The cohesive strength of this basic unit of society is necessary to the future security of our nation.

Lauren Kingsmore-Lutz
Washington, D.C.

Au pairs are not nannies

As a participant in the White House Conference on Child Care, I am most distressed that the media are still referring to au pairs as nannies.

Au pairs are foreign cultural exchange visitors ages 18 to 26, of all backgrounds, who wish to spend a year in the United States enjoying American culture. In exchange for room and board with a family, they agree to work 45 hours a week looking after the family's children.

While in England recently, I discussed the situation of Louise Woodward — the British au pair accused of shaking an 8-month-old Massachusetts baby to death — with nanny educators, nannies and parents ("Nanny trial raises lifestyle issue," News, Friday). All concurred that with only a few hours' experience baby sitting, Woodward was ill-equipped to assume unsupervised, full-time care of an infant and toddler.

Working parents should not be faulted for leaving their children with a caregiver. However, they should be faulted if they don't thoroughly investigate the credentials of the caregiver.

To be a nanny, one must be qualified to accept the responsibility for a child's physical, emotional, cognitive and intellectual development in a safe and healthy environment. Au pairs are not required to meet these demanding standards.

Without knowledge of the serious consequences, a frustrated, impatient caregiver or parent could, with only a good shake, cause shaken baby syndrome with resulting anguish to many.

Sheilagh Roth, executive director
English Nanny & Governess School Inc.
Chagrin Falls, Ohio

To comment . . .

We welcome your comments on editorials, columns, other topics in USA TODAY or on any subjects important to you. Only letters that include name, address and day and evening phone numbers, and that are verified by USA TODAY, can be considered for publication. Send e-mail to editor@usatoday.com. Fax 703-247-3108. Mail Letters to the Editor to 1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22229. Letters and articles submitted to USA TODAY may be published or distributed in print, electronic or other forms.

MAKING CHILD CARE MACHO

As she turns 50, Hillary Clinton seizes the chance to take her pet issue to the big time

BY JONATHAN ALTER

FORGET THE PRESIDENT'S GENITALS. I'M more interested in the genitals of an issue. I'm wondering if child care can develop some *cojones* and move out of the ladies' department into the macho world of big-time, bone-crunching legislation, where the real nuts get cracked. Offended? I hope so, because I'm offended, too. I'm offended by men so out of touch with the needs of children (including their own) that they think of "child care" as just another feminist whine imported from Denmark or someplace. I'm offended by women who claim to recognize that the poor quality of much of the care is a national scandal, but are so badly organized that for a decade many states have actually had to return federal child-care money to Washington because no one persuaded their lame legislatures to match it. And I'm doubly offended by communities all over the country where kids get out of school at 3 p.m. and spend the rest of the day totally unsupervised. Then we wonder why they get into drugs and knock each other up.



WALLY MCNAMEE FOR NEWSWEEK

Children's hour: *At the conference, the First Lady focused on an issue that has long been close to her heart*

Hillary Clinton is offended, too, though she is working hard to control the thermostat of her outrage. With her popularity soaring, she found the perfect way to spend the week before her 50th birthday. After five years in Washington, she is finally immersed in the issue that has been closest to her heart for the last 20. But to what end? The question that hung in the East Room chandeliers last week was whether the White House Conference on Child Care, chaired by the First Lady, was the beginning of a big 1998 idea—a bid to finally catch up to every other industrialized country in the world on this front—or just another gabfest for the faithful.

The statistics are horrifying. Average pay for child-care workers: $12,000, with turnover greater than every occupation except gas-station attendants. Average training: none. Average portion of a low-income worker's wage that goes for this often inadequate care: 25 percent. According to one study, only one in seven child-care facilities meets minimal standards for quality. Hillary says she wants to "start a national conversation" on all of this, with an eye toward what her husband promises will be a major child-care plan in his State of the Union speech next January. The president asked for public advice on what the specifics should be. Expansion of Head Start to reflect new research on the critical importance of the ages zero to 3? Expanded tax credits for child care? Help for after-school programs (many of which have been canceled in recent years) for older kids? All of the above? Because the much-touted "conversation" on race relations isn't likely to lead to new lawmaking, child care might be the last signature legislation of the Clinton era.

But first "Billary" (remember *that*?) must prove they learned something from their health-care fiasco. There are two big lessons that seem to have been drawn from that sorry episode—one right, one wrong. The right lesson is that a Washington-designed Rube Goldberg contraption—even if it's good enough for the U.S. military—will fail; 1970s-style federalized child care is DOA. The wrong lesson is that any kind of big new spending program on a so-called liberal issue is doomed. Quite the contrary. Flexible, hardheaded, locally run liberal ideas that relate to women are booming, and almost untouchable by Republicans staring into the abyss of a 17-point gender gap.

The politics of what were once known as woman's issues are rapidly changing. Remember the "Violence Against Women" bill? A few years ago, it was laughed off Capitol Hill; this year it sailed through virtually unopposed, thanks to the gender gap. Meanwhile, welfare reform (a macho issue) has now melded with child care. Any politician who's for forcing welfare mothers to work without providing help with child care now looks like an idiot.

The Christian Coalition notwithstanding, child care can be redefined as apple pie—under two conditions. The first is that the Democrats aim high. If they propose Dick Morris–style incremental change, without serious money, they'll end up with virtually nothing. The second condition is that the issue be framed so as not to offend stay-at-home mothers. Hillary already seems sensitive to that, stressing that she rejects "one size fits all" ideas about child care. She even points to a North Carolina program that offers new mothers stipends for diapers and baby food if they stay home with their newborns instead of rushing back to work.

Even so, child care is a perfect example of a common conundrum in the Clinton era: how do you replicate what's working in places like North Carolina (the Smart Start early-childhood program). It's not as easy as it sounds. According to market principles, the good ideas should naturally spread, but they don't. "Why is the market dysfunctional in cases like this?" the president asked Treasury Secretary Bob Rubin at the conference last week. Rubin paused, then said, "Are you asking me?" The crowd laughed, but the president was earnest: "I think it's the single most important question about social policy today." Rubin, whose success with the economy allows him some cheekiness, replied, "You're the president of the United States. You're supposed to know the answer to these things."

But of course he doesn't. Even with their bully pulpits and gender gaps, the president and First Lady seem small when arrayed against our longstanding neglect of children. Now we'll see if they're serious about growing larger.

A first for the first lady

Hillary Clinton plans official one-on-one visit with British P.M.

In an unprecedented official trip for a first lady, **Hillary Rodham Clinton** will meet with British Prime Minister **Tony Blair** in London November 1 to discuss ways to strengthen what U.S. officials call "the trans-Atlantic connection" between the White House and 10 Downing Street. Administration officials say it will be the first time a first lady has met one-on-one with a British prime minister for substantive discussions without the president. The topics will include health care, child care, and ideas about connecting schools to the Internet. "They'll discuss large social and political issues," says a senior White House aide, and try to build on **President Clinton**'s already close relationship with Blair. During her five-day trip, which starts October 30, Mrs. Clinton will also visit Dublin and Ulster for a series of public appearances to promote children's rights and equal opportunity for women. It's all part of Mrs. Clinton's rising prominence on policy issues in her husband's second term.

The Burma Road

Pro-democracy activists focusing on Burma are nervous about a recent trip to Rangoon made by three retired senior U.S. officials. They worry that the October trip is part of an attempt to repeal U.S. sanctions on the Burmese junta, which has one of the world's worst human rights records. The visit has also left some State Department officials uneasy. The delegation included **Michael Armacost**, former U.S. ambassador to Japan; **Morton Abramowitz**, former envoy to Thailand; and **Richard Armitage**, a former assistant secretary of defense. In addition to meeting junta officials, the trio talked with Nobel Prize winner **Aung San Suu Kyi** and other dissidents. A seven-year face-off between the brutal junta and its opponents has left Burma a virtual pariah state, sharply limiting diplomatic and trade contacts. Critics are bothered by the trip's sponsor, the Burma/Myanmar Forum, a Washington group with major funding from oil giant UNOCAL. While such companies as PepsiCo and Eastman Kodak pulled out of Burma, UNOCAL maintains the largest U.S. presence, with a $1 billion joint-venture natural gas development. The company has pressed **President Clinton** to end the U.S. ban on new investments that he imposed in April. A forum spokeswoman says the trip was only an attempt to bring diplomatic expertise to a "complicated situation." The former officials, meanwhile, expressed surprise at the controversy. "We weren't going with anybody's agenda," says Armacost, adding he was unaware of UNOCAL's backing of the forum.



RICHARD THOMPSON FOR USN&WR

Behind the green door

Although many environmentalists are upset over the administration's plan to fight global warming (story, Page 40), White House insiders say it was ecology buff **Al Gore** who persuaded **President Clinton** to adopt the final version. So how do White House insiders assess Gore's commitment to fighting global warming, his signature issue? They see Gore as more pragmatic than many of his critics suspected and certainly not the extremist that former **President Bush** derided as "Ozone Man." Here is how the president's plan evolved: On October 4, a week before Clinton was to leave for South America, he received a lengthy memo outlining options. The president spent several days considering the alternatives, but—at Gore's urging—ordered his staff to prepare "greener" options to make the plan more appealing to environmentalists. On the weekend of October 18, he got those proposals while visiting Bariloche, Argentina. Two nights later, the president met with his key advisers back in Washington—including Gore, Treasury Secretary **Robert Rubin**, senior White House adviser **Rahm Emanuel**, and White House economic counselor **Gene Sperling**—to make a final decision. They were deeply divided over setting a target date for rolling back U.S. emissions of atmospheric pollutants to 1990 levels. Rubin led the faction pushing for a target date beyond 2020. A middle group led by Sperling favored a date between 2015 and 2020. Gore led the group that wanted the earliest date, on or before 2010. In the end, the president set the benchmark between 2008 and 2012.

Easy does it

Though a freewheeling Q&A period with students was not deemed threatening to **Mrs. Clinton** and **Yasser Arafat** when they spoke at Harvard University, Chinese President **Jiang Zemin** will have an easier time this weekend. Before his session, a four-member faculty panel will screen all questions

COMMENTARY

By Keith H. Hammonds

CLINTON'S CHILD-CARE CONFERENCE: JUST CHATTER?

In March, acting on a tip, county inspectors visited the Milwaukee home of Dana Jones. As an unlicensed child-care provider, Jones was allowed by state law to look after three kids under age 7. Yet the inspectors that day found at least 34 children, some playing outside, some in sleeping bags, and four babies unsupervised. One child was lying beneath a sink, apparently for punishment. Remarkably, though, Jones's operation, first exposed in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, wasn't shut down. In fact, she regained county certification within four months.

So it goes in the underfunded, barely regulated system that looks after 12 million children under age 6. By some accounts, a majority of American kids in day care spend hours in settings that lack appropriate educational stimulation, safety, and security. This when recent studies indicate intellectual and emotional capacities are shaped most in the first three years of life. "People basically are ignoring kids," says Anne Arneson, director of the Wisconsin Council on Children & Families.

SUPPLY SIDE. What to do in the face of such need? If you're in the White House, you host a conference. On Oct. 23, Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton were set to host 130 legislators, care providers, and child-development experts, all of them ready to agree on why good child care matters and how to get people to pay for it.

Ah, good, another conference. When the Clintons host a confab, chances are that (a) the topic will compel, (b) the discussion will be sober, and (c) not much will come of it. This is social policy, Clinton style: Pick an issue beyond reproach, rebabble the obvious, and hope people forget about campaign finance for a while. Hard choices or financial commitments? Not likely.

There are two straightforward ways to fix the child-care mess, and both require a lot of money. We can reduce demand, limiting the damage that reckless caregivers cause to kids. Or we can expand and improve supply—putting 10 more child-care workers on Jones's block, training them thoroughly, paying them better, and holding them to strict child-to-caregiver ratios.



ELI REICHMAN

BUILDING THE FUTURE

It'll take more than talk. The national bill for more caregivers, better training, and higher pay could top $10 billion yearly

Of the two, cutting demand is the more politically tenuous. Heritage Foundation analyst Patrick Fagan advocates extending subsidies and tax credits to families when a parent chooses to look after kids at home. "It's bad policy to tilt things toward child care only for working mothers," he says. Such a plan could make a difference for some low-income couples, but payments would have to be massive to keep single parents at home.

As for fixing child-care supply, there are many models. Among the states, Florida has allocated $4 million to a pool that will match employers' subsidies to workers. Georgia has used lottery revenues to increase child-care and early-education funding to $255 million, from $37 million four years ago. Indiana has brought together county-based teams of businesses, educators, providers, and community groups to fund provider training.

But such programs, though growing, don't nearly meet the need. Some 20 states, for example, allow infant-to-caregiver ratios above the 4-to-1 recommended by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, an accrediting group; Wisconsin, in fact, recently loosened its standard. Lowering the ratios would raise costs, as would mandating teacher training beyond the 8 to 15 hours common in many centers.

FIXING IT. Researchers estimate that meeting the Association's standards would cost up to $8,500 annually per child. Currently parents pay an average of $3,700 per child; through subsidies, tax credits, and the like, government chips in $1,000 on average. The funding gap—and overall need for day care—both likely will grow in the next five years as low-income mothers move off the welfare rolls. In all, the tab to right child care easily could top $10 billion a year.

To be fair, the Administration has some ideas about increasing federal subsidies to parents and businesses as well as creating scholarships for child-care researchers. "It doesn't take much to improve quality, and we don't need to invent a new system," Hillary Clinton told reporters on Oct. 22. But the First Lady was sugarcoating the problem: It will take a lot to improve the quality of the nation's child care and access to it. Most likely, she knows that Washington—like business and parents—hasn't the stomach for the big spending that true solutions require.

Hammonds covers social issues.

FLORIDIAN

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1997 ■ THE TIMES

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By TRUDE B. FELDMAN

WASHINGTON

On Sunday, America's first lady will celebrate her 50th birthday. Hillary Rodham Clinton, whose youthful zest for life belies her age, says she lives each day to its fullest, and as if it could be her last.

"My goal has always been to do something worthwhile with my life," she says, "and I view any achievement as the fulfillment of my responsibilities to and for society."

In an exclusive interview for her birthday, Mrs. Clinton also says she feels happy, content and optimistic about life.

"Over time, I have become more patient, humbler and less anxious to push the proverbial rock up the hill. I'm more conscious of the rhythms of life, and those of its simple pleasures that are available to all of us.

"I just love life and I'm blessed with a great one," she says. "Ever since I heard it seven years ago from Dr. Estelle Ramey (professor at Georgetown Medical School), the slogan for my life has been, 'I have loved and been loved, and all the rest is background music.'

"You know, everyone has problems and faces challenges, and I'm no exception. But when you strip it all away, Dr. Ramey's slogan has had a powerful influence on me."

So how does Mrs. Clinton feel about turning 50?

"Well, age never bothered me before . . . until now. But I have to confess to you . . . being a half-century old is a little daunting. . . . Just saying it . . . 'I am one-half century old,' " she muses in mock astonishment. "But I hope to live to a century old."

During the 50-minute interview in the Map Room of the White House, Mrs. Clinton also talks about her childhood, her parents and her husband; what she might have done differently; and about her legacy.

If she could relive her 50 years, she says, she would not change her personal life but might change aspects of her professional life.

Please see CLINTON 3D



Times file pho

Hillary Rodham Clinton has borrowed a slogan for her life: "I have loved and been loved, and all the res is background music."





Mrs. Clinton and daughter Chelsea on safari in Tanzania in March Chelsea would leave in the fall fo Stanford University. "I wish could stop feeling so bereft about Chelsea's being away at college," Mrs. Clinton says "I wish I would fe positive that everything is fine . . . and I could quit worrying about her."

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Clinton from 1D

"I'm not sure I would have become a lawyer," she says. "I might have studied something else. Maybe I'd have aimed for a career as a teacher, either at the high school level or college.

"Also, I would have studied a musical instrument more diligently and persevered longer so that I might have some of the joy that comes from playing.

"And I would have worked harder to overcome my incapacity to speak another language. I have no ear for languages. I tried French and I took Latin for four years in high school, and liked it. Perhaps if I had not become discouraged, eventually I'd have achieved some fluency. I still remember my professor saying, 'This is hopeless. Stick to English.' "

Hillary Rodham Clinton was born Oct. 26, 1947, in Chicago and grew up in suburban Park Ridge, Ill., the eldest of three children of Dorothy Howell and Hugh E. Rodham. At the time of her birth, her father operated a plant that screen-printed and sold drapery fabrics. Her favorite pastime (and her brothers', Hugh Jr., now 47, and Tony, now 43) was listening to their father tell stories of his life "before you children were born."

She recalls that her father used to tell them, "When you work, work hard; when you play, play hard, and do not confuse the two."

In her book, *It Takes A Village*, the narration of which won her a Grammy Award, Mrs. Clinton writes that her parents dedicated time, energy and money to their children and made sacrifices to "give us a better life."

It is on that "better life" for all people that she is focusing her efforts. "My church," she says in the interview, "gave me concrete experiences that forced me to confront reality, inequity and injustice."

She notes that her mother and father had different approaches to character-building but that both tried to give their children the confidence "to negotiate life's sharper edges without compromising our integrity."

When Mrs. Clinton would be confronted with a tough situation, her mother would ask whether she wanted to be the "lead actor" in her life or a "minor player who simply reacts to what others think" she should say or do.

"Keeping that in mind has been very helpful to me over the past 50 years," she says. "It was excellent advice and has helped me not to get upset by criticism or worry about the latest fads or fashions prevalent at any given time."

Her father would ask her, "How will you dig yourself out of this problem?"

"That would remind me of a shovel," she recalls, "and that image remains with me. I still reach for emotional, mental and spiritual shovels."

In fact, she has a small gold shovel, a reminder that she can deal with "what life has sent my way and, when necessary, to shovel myself out."

Mrs. Clinton also remembers her mother saying, "Your father and I will always love you even when we do not approve of what you do. We just hope you will share our values and want to live up to our expectations of you."

She says her parents' standards were high, and she wanted to live up to them. "I still ask myself, 'Am I doing what I believe in? Am I living up to my own expectations? Am I treating others the way I would want to be treated?'

"I've been fortunate," she says. "I feel very loved and have a strong faith that has helped me through a lot. At times, I do let off steam, and I will yell and scream when it is necessary, just to vent. Most of the time, however, I'm able to deal calmly with whatever comes my way because, as a child, I was given the tools to do so."

Mrs. Clinton adds, "You know, we make choices daily. We can choose to be overwhelmed by problems or we can choose to try to deal with them, ignore them or rise above them. We choose the way we cope.

"I like to laugh. Laughter and humor saved many a day for me . . . looking at the brighter side of things and looking at the absurd . . . parts of human nature have to keep you balanced and going."



Chelsea Clinton graduates from Sidwell Friends School in Washington in June, ready to set her sights on California.

Mrs. Clinton offers this advice to women who look to her as a role model:

"Take stock of your life and value what you have. Where you can change something to make you happier, do it. Otherwise, try to get the most out of who you are. Don't spend time on regrets, recriminations, bitterness and all the sadness that everyone, at times, confronts.

"No one lives a life free of disappointment, regret and distress. You may not be able to change the circumstances confronting you, but you can change the way you look at or react to them."

She adds, "I recognize the importance of good nutrition and exercise in maintaining good mental and physical health." She eats healthy foods, loves to take long walks, which she finds relaxing, and rides her bicycle for exercise.

A serious baseball fan, she went to Chicago Cubs games at Wrigley Field with her father and brothers as a girl. For the Cubs' 1994 season, she was invited to throw out the first ball.

Contributions, faith and Bill

How is the first lady making the most of her life?

"I take each day as it comes and draw myself into it. For me, that is a positive way of living. I try to live every single day to the fullest and make a useful contribution. That's important to my definition of myself. I also take time to enjoy myself and do what I like doing. For instance, I like working to help others. When I get through the day and feel I made meaningful contributions and also enjoyed myself, it is satisfying."

Raised a Methodist, she spent a good portion of her youth in church and societal concerns. Asked how spirituality manifests itself in her life, she replies, "That's a very important part of my life, and I feel good about the choices I have made and what I have been able to do. I'm a big believer in prayer and meditation, and I'm fortunate I was given a good foundation in a religious tradition and that, over time, I was able to make that part of my adult life."

During an interview with President Clinton last year on his 50th birthday, I asked what was his most significant accomplishment.

"Convincing Hillary to marry me," he quickly responded. "That changed everything."

When reminded last week of her husband's response, Mrs. Clinton tells me, "That's good . . . because the most significant *decision* in my 50 years was *being convinced* to marry Bill Clinton."

She met William Jefferson Clinton in the winter of 1971 outside the Yale Law School Library.

"After we noticed each other in several places, I finally introduced myself," she recalls. "He then took the initiative, and on our first date, we started talking — and we have never stopped."

On Oct. 11, they celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary with a romantic dinner for two at the White House. The next day they left for a week's visit — their first — to Venezuela, Brazil and Argentina.

"I am lucky to be married to a man I love and who loves me," Mrs. Clinton says. "He is so handsome, smart, optimistic, wonderful and so loving to other people as he tries to help them. . . .

"Also, we have the same attitude about life, and we lift up each other. I would have to go a long way to find someone with all those qualities."

Mrs. Clinton says she has not taken stock of how living in the White House has changed her.

"But I'm sure I have changed," she says. "I learn something every day in this position and in this extraordinary place in history. For me, it is a constant learning experience. I feel like I've been in graduate school for five years, in a multidisciplinary course in human development and nature, in politics and economics, in arts and culture. I feel immersed in what goes on in the world, not just in the United States.

"I'm still excited about being here in the White House. I get up every day and think about what I can do to help my husband, to work on issues about which I care deeply — like health, education and other related issues that affect the well-being of children and families — and to make my contribution to America. That gets me going every single day."

She does not dwell on regrets, and when asked what irritates her, she laughs one of her contagious, hearty laughs.

"Oh, we don't have enough time to answer that. Seriously, in my position, I cannot allow myself to be irritated by minor matters. If I did, I'd spend all my time being upset. So I really don't.

"Yet really irritating to me are people who are malicious and mean-spirited toward others for their own personal, political, ideological or commercial reasons."

What would she like to be remembered for?

"Every issue I've worked on has been meaningful to me and is close to my heart," she says. "The health care reform effort is a very important turning point in America's consideration of this crucial issue. I am gratified by the changes that have been taking place, especially in the bill to balance the budget, and the $24-billion for children's health is a great step forward for Americans. I am also proud of our work in advocating a better adoption and foster care system, improving child care and promoting higher education standards."

Three birthday wishes

If she were granted three wishes for her 50th birthday, what would they be?

"The first would be world peace," she says. "Seriously, I wish that between my birthday and, say, the end of this year we could see a breakthrough in Northern Ireland, further reconciliation in Bosnia and a renewal of meaningful peace talks in the Mideast.

"The president has been working so carefully and for so long on these and other trouble spots. If we could bring people together on common ground, that would be a wonderful gift, not only for me but for the entire world.

"My second wish is that families the world over could be healthy and in a wonderful frame of mind . . . and that love, kindness and civility would prevail.

"My third is more personal. I wish I could stop feeling so bereft about Chelsea's being away at college. She is such a joy to us and I know how capable she is. Still, I wish I would feel positive that everything is fine . . . and I could quit worrying about her. Perhaps then I could more wholeheartedly enjoy her new adventure."

Though her 50th birthday is a milestone in her life, Mrs. Clinton remembers other turning points:

"When I decided to leave home and go far away to college; when I decided to go to law school at a time not many young women were doing that; when I met my husband and followed my heart to Arkansas, a place I'd never been; when I decided to marry and commit myself to living in Arkansas and working with my husband; when he decided to run for public office and I decided to actively support him; when I had my daughter; when my husband decided to vigorously campaign for the presidency and when we moved into the White House.

"Each time I have been challenged to meet the change of circumstances and the demands of all these different situations in which I have found myself."



Times file photos

On *Larry King Live* in May 1996, Mrs. Clinton defends her husband against Whitewater allegations before the trial in Little Rock, Ark.

Trude B. Feldman, an internationally syndicated feature writer, has covered the White House for 30 years.

USA TODAY · WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1997

Clintons to tackle child-care issues

Aides won't give specifics about Thursday conference

By Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — As if on cue to illustrate the problem Hillary Rodham Clinton was describing, secretary and single mom Paula Broglio stood up and presented herself to the first lady as a living example of a working woman who can't make it on her own.

On a $25,000 salary and with no child support from her ex-husband, Broglio lives with her 4-year-old son in the guest bedroom of her parents' house so she can afford $200-a-month subsidized child care at a Catholic school while she's at work.

"If I did not have that, and I didn't have my parents, I would probably have to quit my job and go on welfare, because who would watch my child during the day and how could I afford to live in an apartment?" Broglio asked earlier this month at the University of Maryland, where the first lady was speaking about her latest effort to influence public policy.

"That is the problem," Clinton answered. "I could not more vividly describe it."

But Clinton couldn't say how the White House Conference on Child Care, which she and President Clinton will host Thursday, might help the 38-year-old Adelphi, Md., secretary and her little boy, Vincent.

"Your child will be in school before we probably get much of the changes that I would like to see happen," she said.



Reuters

Clinton: Passionate on children's issues

White House aides are being deliberately vague about what the Clintons have in mind to address the problems of affordability, availability and safety in the nation's child-care industry.

During the 1993-94 health-care debates, they learned that large-scale proposals can bring protest from those who see big government taking over a responsibility that should be left to families and private businesses.

"If you're having a White House conference, I suspect you think there's a government solution," says Gary Bauer of the conservative Family Research Council.

In an interview with USA TODAY on Tuesday, Hillary Clinton wouldn't say what the administration will propose.

"What I'm interested in is putting the spotlight on this issue and using the White House to ... ignite a national conversation," she said.

The goal, she said, is to "call national attention to an issue that political leaders and policymakers should focus on but which has often been ignored."

She wouldn't talk specifics, and her aides said she is not necessarily backing ideas she has mentioned recently: creating a national registry of child-care workers who have been convicted of crimes, for example, or offering protection for caretakers who fear being sued over minor accidents.

In her book *It Takes a Village*, Clinton said child care "is an issue that brings out all of our conflicted feelings about what parenthood should be and about who should care for children when parents are working or otherwise unable to."

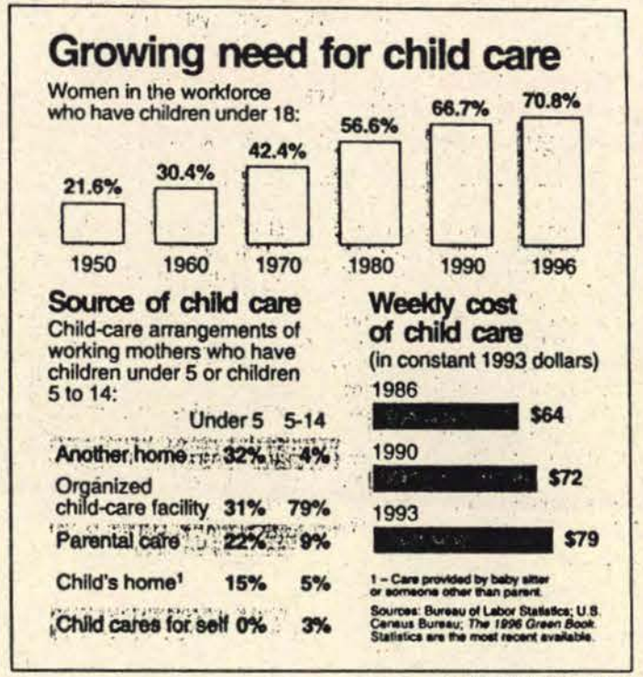
Children's issues have been a passion for Clinton since the early 1970s, when she worked as a lawyer at the Children's Defense Fund, a liberal advocacy group. Now she is wading back in to help tackle what the president calls "the next great frontier" in his effort to help working families.

In a recent speech at a Newark church, he ticked off a list of large and small initiatives he already has promoted: a new TV rating system to alert parents about violent or sexual content, a tobacco settlement that aims to stop smoking among children, a $500-per-child tax credit for working families and a balanced federal budget that increases funding for health care for low-income children.

"But we still have to make sure that our parents have access to quality, affordable child care," he said. "That's the great, big hurdle left."

Richard Stolley, president of the Child Care Action Campaign, hopes Thursday's conference can help convince businesses that helping employees find child care helps productivity. "Business needs to be convinced there is a bottom-line benefit," he says.

But the nation's child-care system is in such bad shape, he says, that "we're deluding ourselves if we think this is going to make an enormous difference."



By Genevieve Lynn, USA TODAY

President, first lady call lack of affordable child care a ``silent crisis'' By Jan Crawford Greenburg Chicago Tribune (KRT)

WASHINGTON The first day Judith Hawley left her baby at day care, she couldn't stop crying. Her distress all but convinced her colleagues she wouldn't be back to work the next day or ever.

``I spent the first morning in tears,'' recalled Hawley, a legal secretary. ``They said, `Don't go home.' They thought I wouldn't come back.''

Today, three months and a few more emotional mornings later, Hawley is more comfortable leaving her 7-month-old son, Dylan, at his day-care center with its cheery atmosphere and attentive, experienced staff. Her office is nearby, so she can spend lunchtime with her son.

Out of millions of working parents, Hawley, who works part-time, considers herself among the fortunate. Although the overwhelming majority of parents work, a recent national study found that child care at most centers is ``poor to mediocre.''

The lack of good-quality, affordable child care is a ``silent crisis,'' said first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who joined the president Thursday in convening a daylong White House Conference on Child Care.

``We want American parents to succeed at the most important task they have: caring for the next generation and being good workers,'' Mrs. Clinton said.

Those two goals often conflict for working parents struggling to find quality care they can afford. Many spend much of their workdays ``worried about the sniffle their daughter had or how their son is faring,'' Mrs. Clinton said, ``murmuring into the telephone instructions their children need.''

The conflict between work and child care was in particularly sharp relief Thursday. As the conference was under way at the White House, CNN was broadcasting live coverage of the trial of a teenage English au pair who is charged with murdering a baby in her care.

In Boston and across the country, the trial has stirred the debate about the role of working mothers and sent shivers through those who turn to others to help care for their children.

Today the number of children cared for by someone other than their parents is staggering: more than 12 million children under age 6. That amounts to 60 percent of all preschoolers and half of all infants under 1 year old. That number could almost double in the next few years, as some 4 million parents now on welfare are forced to get jobs.

The odds those children will get quality care aren't good, and recent studies have brought into focus the ramifications of poor child care. Among other things, it can compromise children's social and intellectual development, hinder their ability to form emotional attachments and prevent them from having trusting relationships later in life.

``I know it sounds very melodramatic, but the reality is that unless we put the kind of resources and attention on this group ... we do so at our peril,'' said Matthew Melmed, executive director of Zero to Three, a non-profit organization that studies infant and child development.

Even when parents manage to afford it, quality care still can be hard to come by. Hawley, for example, was on a waiting list for months to get a spot at her son's center, which costs $900 a month. This month alone, the center had to turn away five infants on a waiting list, said owner Marjorie Schwartzberg.

At the conference, President Clinton said he hopes to draw up a plan by early next year that would make quality day care more available and more affordable by combining government initiatives with business and community programs.

He and Mrs. Clinton stressed the bottom line: Poor day care results in lower productivity today, as workers worry about their children. Tomorrow it could create a generation that never achieves its promise.

``It's America's next great frontier strengthening our families and our future,'' Clinton said.

Conservative Republicans eyed the conference warily, concerned it would lead to plans to increase government spending or regulation. But both Clintons emphasized private solutions, rather than sweeping federal initiatives.

The president noted that ``no government can love a child,'' but said, ``There is much we can do.''

He said he will propose a number of initiatives that would tap corporations for day-care solutions. He also said he will ask Congress to approve legislation that would give scholarships to child care workers, in an effort to attract quality providers.

And he will push for a program that would make background checks on child care workers easier by removing state barriers to sharing criminal histories. ``We have to weed out the people who have no business taking care of our children,'' he said.

Child development experts said Thursday the conference was a promising start toward solving a rapidly developing problem but said the true challenges were ahead.

``We need to improve the quality of care. To do that, we need to have much greater government subsidies and individual subsidies,'' said Stanley Greenspan, clinical professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at George Washington University Medical School and author of ``The Growth of the Mind: The Endangered Origins of Intelligence.''

``Basically, we've been giving lip service to the fact the quality of care is often inadequate.''

Greenspan said most day care doesn't give infants and toddlers the intimate connections they need for social and intellectual development.

``A lot is at stake here, because if we continue a course where we undermine the growth of healthy minds, we challenge the future generation's ability to govern themselves and become future leaders,'' Greenspan said. ``We don't realize how fragile these factors that nurture healthy minds are.''

Even recent studies that have a positive spin, that seem to reassure working parents day care isn't harmful, aren't all good news, he said. For example, a study by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development found that quality day care for infants didn't necessarily compromise the social and intellectual development of children but only if the children had very sensitive care at home.

``When we have looked at even the best day-care centers, the less than 20 percent deemed adequate which is a very small percentage to begin with even there, we find (day care) can't take over family functions,'' he said. ``Babies require ongoing intimacy.''

Melmed said that, as a result of the studies, people are beginning to understand that questions about day care no longer should be considered philosophical or political.

``Science is telling us what we do from the very earliest moments of life with babies will have a profound impact on how they develop, how as they grow older they'll do in school, how they'll be in terms of moral development, how they'll be as workers,'' Melmed said.

``All that is very clearly rooted in the types and quality of relationships they have as babies and toddlers.''

Clinton Unveils $300 Million Child Care Prop. (Washn) By Elizabeth Shogren (c) 1997, Los Ang Times

WASHINGTON Addressing a White House conference on child care, President Clinton announced Thursday a $300 million proposal to provide training scholarships for day care providers and boost their wages when they return to work.

In addition, the president unveiled three initiatives aimed at improving the affordability, safety and quality of child care, including a measure that would make it easier for states to conduct criminal background checks on prospective child care workers.

``No government can love a child, and no policy can substitute for a family's care,'' Clinton told participants in the White House conference. ``But there is much that we can do to help parents do their duty to their children.''

The high-profile conference was convened to draw attention to the problems plaguing the country's patchwork child care system and launch a national conversation on how to fix it. The burgeoning child care industry suffers from low wages, uneven quality and spotty safety. The president plans to announce a new strategy for addressing parents' child care worries during his State of the Union address early next year.

Child care has become an increasingly acute issue for American families; 12 million children under 6 representing half of all infants and 60 percent of all preschoolers are in the care of someone other than their parents. And with welfare reform pushing more single parents into the work force, the demand for child care is expected to grow significantly.

The modest initiatives the president announced Thursday are part of an ongoing effort by the Clinton administration to bolster the country's child care industry without resorting to a big government solution, which the GOP-controlled Congress would surely reject.

``We're not interested in some big federal program directed from Washington that sets one-size-fits-all rules,'' said Bruce Reed, a domestic policy adviser to the president. Clinton's goal is ``to help more states and communities succeed at this'' and to encourage ``companies that don't do much in the way of child care to follow the lead of successful companies that do,'' Reed said.

The president's $300 million, five-year scholarship plan is designed to improve the qualifications of child care workers while cutting down on the rapid turnover of care givers, as many as half of whom leave their jobs every year. Annual stipends of up to $1,500 would be provided to as many as 50,000 current and future child care providers who agree to stay in the field for at least a year after receiving the training. The beneficiaries would receive a bonus when they complete their course work.

The initiative, which will be included in the president's 1999 budget and must be approved by Congress, is modeled after the successful North Carolina T.E.A.C.H. program, which gives participating child care providers wage increases of 10 percent for taking an average of 18 credit hours of classes per year. The program is being replicated in Illinois, Georgia, Florida, New York and Colorado; Pennsylvania will soon follow.

In an effort to make child care safer, Clinton is asking Congress to pass a law that, in the case of applicants for child care jobs, would waive the prohibition on the sharing of criminal records between states.

To beef up staffing and improve the quality of after-school programs for older children, Clinton announced that his Corporation for National Service would train volunteers so the programs could provide better care to more children.

Child Care Talks Return First Lady to Spotlight

G.O.P. Right Is Wary of Conference Today

By ROBERT PEAR

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22 — Hillary Rodham Clinton convenes a White House conference on Thursday to highlight what she and the President see as an urgent need for safe, affordable child care. But conservative Republicans say they fear that the conference will lay the groundwork for plans to increase Government spending or regulation.

Hoping to overcome such skepticism, Administration officials have been trying to enlist moderate Republicans and business executives in their campaign, arguing that improved child care would not only produce healthier, happier children, but would eventually increase the nation's economic output as well.

Mrs. Clinton today described the conference and the Administration's approach to child care in purposefully reassuring terms. The most successful day care programs result from "public-private partnerships," not Government mandates, she said at a briefing for reporters.

The White House conference will probably generate several new policy initiatives, she indicated, but they will not require enormous amounts of public money or a broadly expanded state regulatory role.

And Mrs. Clinton delivered a preemptive answer to critics who say that the focus on child care sends an implicit message to women that it is better for them to work outside the home than to stay at home caring for their own children.

"Despite our rhetoric about family values, we don't do very much to help the parents who want to stay home," Mrs. Clinton said. "We don't want one stereotypical, one-size-fits-all approach to child care."

In their handling of this issue, the Clintons are clearly drawing on lessons learned from the health care debacle of the President's first term. Their proposals to overhaul the health care system were rejected in part because critics painted them as an inflexible Government-decreed solution to major social needs.

In announcing the day care conference on July 23, President Clinton said affordable, high-quality care was "critical to the strength of our families and to healthy child development." Moreover, he said, "it is good for the economy and central to a productive American work force."

Mrs. Clinton's work on the child care conference is her most visible effort at policy making since the failure of the health care project. The conference follows months of White House planning, aides said. It centers on an issue of long interest to Mrs. Clinton and was scheduled to capitalize on favorable publicity surrounding her 50th birthday on Sunday.

Although Mrs. Clinton is the event's chief organizer, she took pains today to emphasize that any policy proposals would come from her husband, not from her. "The President will make recommendations," she said.

Senator James M. Jeffords, a Vermont Republican who recently introduced a comprehensive bill to increase the supply of day care, said, "Having affordable, convenient child care is tied directly to a family's ability to produce income."

Most child care, Mr. Jeffords said, is mediocre, and some threatens the health and safety of children.

Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, said she hoped that the conference would be "a launching pad for significant new investments" in child care, by Federal and state governments and by employers across the country. "The quality of infant and toddler care is shockingly low," said Mrs. Edelman, a longtime mentor to Mrs. Clinton.

Ten million children under the age of 5 have working mothers and need child care. The Census Bureau says that 30 percent of the children are in day care centers or nursery schools, while the others receive care from relatives or neighbors.

The debate over child care is filled with paradoxes. Parents cite the cost of care as one of their biggest concerns. Families with incomes under $14,500 a year spend one-fourth of their income on child care, the Census Bureau reports.

But many child care experts are seeking higher pay for child care workers, higher quality care and stricter regulation, which — in the absence of new investments by government or business — could lead to increased costs for working parents.

Helen Blank, a policy analyst at the Children's Defense Fund, said that child care workers, on the average, earned less than bus drivers, garbage collectors and bartenders.

Marcy Whitebook, co-director of the National Center for the Early Childhood Work Force, in Berkeley, Calif., said nearly one-third of child care teachers earned the minimum wage, now $5.15 an hour. The low wages, Ms. Whitebook said, lead to high turnover among child care workers, who come and go so fast that they cannot develop stable relationships with the children for whom they are responsible.

The White House learned a lesson from the health care debacle.

Congress is considering many bills to increase Federal spending and tax breaks for child care. Democratic authors of such measures have worked closely with moderate Republicans like Mr. Jeffords, Senator Olympia J. Snowe of Maine and Representative Nancy L. Johnson of Connecticut. A few conservatives have also endorsed the proposals.

Republican Governors in Illinois, Ohio, Rhode Island and Wisconsin have joined Democratic governors in efforts to increase spending for child care.

But the White House conference has drawn a cool reception from many conservatives, who note that Congress approved a major increase in child care spending as part of the 1996 welfare law.

Gary L. Bauer, a former Reagan Administration official who is president of the Family Research Council, said: "When I see conferences in Washington, the bottom line almost always seems to be something that makes Government grow. There are deep suspicions on the right that the purpose of this conference is to soften up the ground for proposals involving an entitlement program or new subsidies for institutional child care."

For their part, Administration officials said they wanted to raise the prominence of child care as an issue on the national political agenda, without proposing specific new legislation at this time.

The White House conference will focus on three questions: how to increase access to child care, how to make it more affordable and how to guarantee the quality of care, so children will be safe.

In a report on the nation's child care needs, prepared for the conference, the Department of Health and Human Services makes these points:

¶Forty-five percent of children under the age of 1 are in child care on a regular basis.

¶States with stronger licensing requirements have larger numbers of high-quality child care centers. But the quality of care varies immensely.

¶"Nearly five million school-age children spend time as latchkey kids without adult supervision during a typical week." Juvenile crime is most likely to occur after school hours, when children are unsupervised.

David M. Blau, a professor of economics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, said the availability of "family day care," in which one person typically supervises several children, had a major effect on the entire market for child care.

"Many women are willing to take care of other people's children for relatively low remuneration," said Mr. Blau, who has studied the industry. "They are able to take care of their own kids at the same time, and that provides them with nonmonetary benefits. This tends to hold down wages, so the cost of informal child care is very low. The effects spill over to larger day care centers because the two types of child care providers compete with each other."

In the 1996 welfare law, Congress created a new program of Federal grants to the states, designating $13.9 billion over six years to help finance child care. The Congressional Budget Office said this sum was an increase of more than $4 billion, or nearly 50 percent, over what would have been spent under prior law.

The New York Times
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1997



BY ROBERT A. REEDER—THE WASHINGTON POST

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, spiritual leader of 250 million, meets with President Clinton in the Oval Office.

Clinton Welcomes Orthodox Christian Leader

Discussion Includes Issues of Religious Freedom, Environment, Cyprus

By Peter Baker
Washington Post Staff Writer

With all the pomp reserved for heads of state, President Clinton welcomed the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian Church to the White House yesterday for a private meeting and a gala reception, in part to demonstrate U.S. commitment to religious freedom throughout the world.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I met with Clinton in the Oval Office and later with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton before attending a wine-and-pastry affair in the East Room and State Dining Room. Afterward, he headed over to the State Department for a dinner hosted by Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright.

"For the patriarch, it was very important," said the Rev. Alex Karloutsos, the vicar for public affairs for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. "He came asking what anyone would ask from the United States, which is respect for religious freedom and human rights." Even before the patriarch could raise the issue, Karloutsos added, Clinton volunteered his concern about religious persecution abroad and emphasized his solidarity with the patriarch.

The meeting was "symbolic of both religious freedom and religious tolerance," said John D. Podesta, Clinton's deputy chief of staff and one of several Greek Americans in high-ranking positions in the White House.

The White House visit was the high point so far during the patriarch's month-long journey through the United States, which began Sunday and has also included a ceremony in his honor at the Capitol and encounters with Jewish, Roman Catholic and Muslim communities.

The trip is Bartholomew's first to the United States since his ascension in 1991 to the spiritual leadership of Orthodox Christianity and its 250 million faithful throughout the world, including 5 million in this country. Unlike Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy does not bestow upon the ecumenical patriarch the primacy of a pope, but as the archbishop of Constantinople, Bartholomew is revered as the "first among equals" of the church's various patriarchs.

Bartholomew started his day with elaborate morning services at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Northwest Washington, where hundreds of worshipers packed the pews under the ornate Byzantine dome for a more ritualistic chanting liturgy than typically performed in Greek American churches.

His meeting with the president focused not just on religious tolerance but also on Greek-Turkish relations, including Clinton's recent initiative to resolve long-standing tensions over Cyprus. The two also talked about the environment, with Clinton briefing the patriarch about his new global warming plan and Bartholomew discussing his efforts to clean up the Black Sea and the Danube River.

In fact, Clinton quoted Bartholomew earlier in the day when he announced his proposal to cut back on greenhouse gases. "He reminds us that the first part of the word 'ecology' derives from the Greek word for house," Clinton said, adding that "it is our solemn obligation" to pass along a clean home to the next generation.

Later in his trip, Bartholomew will participate in a symposium on religion and the environment with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt in California.

At the end of his session with the president, Bartholomew brought out snapshot pictures of Hillary and Chelsea Clinton from their trip to his home in Istanbul in March 1996. During the later reception, he recalled their visit warmly, singling out Chelsea for a prayer.

"We always remember her and pray for her that she may progress in her educational endeavors and spiritual growth," he said.

The first lady noted that yesterday's return visit coincided with the sixth anniversary of Bartholomew's uncontested election as patriarch. "This house where our president resides doesn't know anything about unanimous elections," she added in a sly tone, "so we are in awe . . . of such a miracle."

The Washington Post
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1997

Panel Outlines Protections For Health Care Consumers

Commission Would Guarantee Patient Choices

By Amy Goldstein
Washington Post Staff Writer

A presidential commission yesterday outlined a broad set of protections for consumers frustrated by a changing health care system, proposing that patients be guaranteed a choice of medical plans, more information to make smart decisions and new ways to protest when they become dissatisfied with their care.

Under the proposal, intended to protect all Americans with insurance, health plans would be forbidden from imposing "gag rules" that restrict the kind of treatment options physicians can mention to their patients. The confidentiality of medical records would be guarded more closely. And patients who are pregnant or chronically ill would be able to keep their own doctor for a guaranteed period of time, even if forced to switch health plans.

The proposed "bill of rights" is the first concrete plan to emerge from a diverse panel—including representatives of insurance companies, consumers, physicians and employers—that for months has been debating what safeguards Americans need to ensure good medical care. As a result of a quiet, ongoing revolution in health care, most patients now are covered through health maintenance organizations and other forms of "managed care," which try to constrain costs by limiting how much and what kind of care people may receive.

See CARE, A14, Col. 1

CARE, From A1

Even as its members found broad areas of consensus yesterday, the commission remained splintered over several important questions—whether health plans should be able to exclude people who are sick, for example, and whether the government should create a nationwide "ombudsman" system to help patients navigate the often-bewildering ways that their health care has changed. However, only those initiatives that won unanimous approval were included in the proposals agreed to yesterday.

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala, one of two Cabinet members leading the commission, said the group had taken "remarkable steps" to expand patients' rights. But some commissioners disagreed. "It falls short of what the president asked us for. It excludes too much," said Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, a consumer-advocacy group.

The panel plans to adopt its "bill of rights" in final form next month and to submit it to President Clinton, who will have to decide whether it should become the basis for legislation, regulation or exhortations for the insurance industry to police itself. The administration has given no indication which path it prefers.

The Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care System is an attempt to look comprehensively at how to help protect patients in dealing with health insurers. Its work coincides with a flurry of largely piecemeal attempts to rein in managed care that have emerged in Congress, state legislatures, and various factions of the insurance industry.

The panel also is the latest in a series of administration strategies, since the demise of its massive health reform plan three years ago, to tackle the issue in more finite ways. Last year, it backed the Kennedy-Kassebaum law that was designed to make it easier for people to get insurance after they become sick or change jobs. As part of the balanced-budget agreement, the White House gave its support to a $24 billion program to expand health insurance for children.

"We aren't redoing the Clinton health plan," Shalala said yesterday, noting that the panel is not addressing the kinds of benefits insurance companies should provide or how to help the 41 million Americans who have no insurance.

Even in its more targeted debate on the rights of insured patients, the diverse, 37-member commission has become a miniature version of the deep cleavages in opinion over what changes are needed in health care, and what role government should play.

On issue after issue, representatives of consumers and health professionals argued for greater patient protections, while employers and insurance executives opposed them for fear they would cost too much.

As a result, the draft excludes a proposal to guarantee patients the right to take part in medical research to test the effectiveness of new treatments. The panel deferred until next month its decisions over ombudsmen and whether to prohibit health plans from discriminating against certain high-cost or low-income patients in their marketing and enrollment practices.

At the end of the two-day debate that ended yesterday, several commission members said they remained uncertain whether the final version will go far enough in protecting patients for them to support it. Some have talked of turning in a minority report.

Nevertheless, the panel agreed on several important protections that would exceed those currently available to most patients.

It recommended new restrictions to ensure the confidentiality of medical records, largely echoing a proposal that Shalala made to Congress last month—with one significant difference. Shalala urged that law enforcement investigators be granted broad access to patient records, without their knowledge and with their names' attached. The commission recommended such access only for investigations of health care fraud.

The commission also proposed a major expansion of the information that doctors and health plans must give patients. If patients need surgery, for example, their doctors would have to disclose how many times they had performed that type of operation.

For the first time, employers also would have to offer their workers a choice of health plans. And if consumers believed that their health plan had failed to provide or pay for the treatment they deserved, they would be able to appeal to an impartial, outside review panel—a protection available now only in seven states.

The Washington Post
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1997



By Zuzana Jackevicius, AP

Child-care: More than half of kids under 6 need day care.

Child care: Parents need more choices; USA needs more resources, new ideas

If we, as adults and as nations, can be judged by the way we care for our children, we cannot wait a moment longer to address child care.

As the nation's largest civilian provider of that care, the YMCAs applaud the Clinton administration for focusing attention on the evolving child-care system with a conference held in the White House today. But as USA TODAY says, "Government must devise ways to enhance quality without compromising a family's child-care choices" ("Parents need quality care, want choices for children," Our View, Debate, Friday).

Indeed, parents need more choices. Child care needs new resources and new ideas. We must enhance quality. We must make child care more accessible and more affordable.

What 36 million American children urgently require is not a place to be warehoused while parents work, but a safe and nurturing place with high-quality programs that challenge and excite them and throw in added measures of character development and love.

Economic and social changes during past decades and an influx of single parents into the workforce have added chilling immediacy to this problem. At the same time, new research has linked the benefits of learning experience for preschoolers, and after-school programs for school-agers, to school achievement and lifetime success.

Experience with millions of kids in YMCA programs has convinced us that:

▶ Federal, state and local governments must join with the private sector to provide better funding so working-poor families can find high-quality, affordable child care.

▶ Before- and after-school programs should be available and affordable.

▶ Concerned Americans — not only those with children but all of us who hope to live in a nation strong and competitive — must join in the dialogue that the White House is entering.

If we do not take action now, making child care more accessible and more affordable, if we do not aspire to put every child in the high-quality programs that we know determine their future, then we will surely fail them — and ourselves.

David R. Mercer
National executive director
YMCA of the USA
Chicago, Ill.

Disabled need child care, too

We agree with USA TODAY that "innovative experiments" are happening across the country and that "information, incentives and resources that give parents, communities and state and local leaders a chance to create child-care solutions" are urgently needed.

The National Easter Seal Society commends President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton for convening the White House Conference on Child Care.

By examining the strengths and shortcomings of the existing child-care system, this conference can provide leaders at all levels with the tools they need to improve dramatically the availability of safe, affordable, quality child-care services.

Child care that includes children with disabilities is one critical issue that must be examined.

While the lack of safe, affordable, quality child care for all children continues to plague the nation, families with children with disabilities face additional burdens in securing child care. Children with disabilities are barred from far too many child-care programs because of myths, fears and stereotypes.

Moreover, child-care providers too often lack the information and supports necessary to effectively meet the child-care needs of children with disabilities and their families.

Easter Seals directly services more than 100,000 children in early-education and care programs across the country. In many communities, Easter Seals is partnering with public and private organizations to expand the supply of high-quality child care.

Child-care initiatives that follow the White House conference must address the needs of working families with children with disabilities.

Child-care providers need training and technical assistance on how to meet their responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and on how to collaborate with programs targeted at children with disabilities and their parents.

These efforts will increase the availability of quality care for all the nation's children.

James E. Williams Jr., pres., CEO
National Easter Seal Society
Chicago, Ill.

USA TODAY · THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1997

HRC Clips



Wednesday, October 1, 1997-
Tuesday, October 7, 1997



Associated Press

Hillary Clinton, right, promoting causes again, greeted Gwen Berlin of the Women's Leadership Forum yesterday in Bal Harbour, Fla.

The New York Times
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1997

Hillary Clinton Begins Drive To Improve Care for Children

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

MIAMI, Sept. 30 — Largely absent from Washington's policy battles since national health insurance died in 1994, Hillary Rodham Clinton embarked today on a campaign to improve child care for working parents, particularly for people moving off welfare and into jobs.

She said one important first step could be setting up a national registry for child-care workers that would allow parents to check on employment histories.

Mrs. Clinton said that she had not yet formulated specifics but that the registry might include whether someone had been convicted of a crime or dismissed from a child-care job. The First Lady spoke on her way from Washington to a two-day visit in Miami, where she combined a speech to a women's group with an appearance at a fund-raiser for the Democratic National Committee.

This is only the second time in her five years as First Lady that Mrs. Clinton has brought national reporters with her on a domestic trip. Aides said that she hoped to spark interest in a White House conference on child care planned for Oct. 23 and that she planned more such trips with reporters in tow.

Referring to her daughter's departure for college, she joked to an audience tonight, "I'm looking for ways to divert myself from my empty nest, and I'll take just about any dinner invitation I can get."

She spoke tonight to about 500 people at the fund-raiser, where she was expected to raise about $125,000. Supporters paid $125 each to hear Mrs. Clinton's speech and have a question-and-answer session with her. Beforehand, she met privately with about 80 people, most of whom had given $5,000 to the party or had raised that amount. The event was sponsored by the Women's Leadership Forum, a branch of the national party. Another public address later tonight was sponsored by The Miami Herald.

In her question-and-answer session here tonight, she said that children had too much time on their hands without adult supervision, and she made an impassioned plea for adults to spend real time face to face with their children.

"With all due respect to the techies in the audience," Mrs. Clinton said, "it can't be done over the Internet."

The party's current debt of $15.3 million has ballooned in recent months, in part because the party returned some questionable contributions and in part because of mounting legal bills for those caught up in the campaign finance investigations.

Since her efforts at overhauling the nation's health-care system failed two years ago, Mrs. Clinton has sought an issue with which to identify. As President Clinton has searched for his own way to establish a legacy, so has Mrs. Clinton, particularly as legal and campaign finance questions have come to preoccupy the Administration.

She asked an audience tonight, "How do we take this time and make it our own and give it to the next generation?" The answer, she suggested, lay in community service. She said people should not be discouraged if the problems seemed overwhelming. She recalled the words of the late Mother Teresa: "I did the thing that was in front of me."

Mrs. Clinton's aides said her attention to child care was a logical extension of her longtime work on behalf of children.

AM-FL--Mrs Clinton Florida,0400
Mrs. Clinton discusses child care, juvenile crime in Q&A session
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By TOM WELLS= By The Associated Press=

BAL HARBOUR, Fla. (AP) First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton fielded questions Tuesday night on child care, education and other issues at a $125,000 fund-raiser for the Democratic National Committee.

Mrs. Clinton, beginning a two-day trip to boost interest in an Oct. 23 White House conference on child care, took questions from about 500 women activists attending the Women's Leadership Forum.

Miss Florida Christy Neuman asked about ``our smallest and most precious resource,'' the children in foster care and those who are awaiting adoption.

``The foster and adoption care systems are broken and need to be fixed,'' Mrs. Clinton responding, noting there are half a million children in foster care in the United States. ``I cannot stress too strongly how important it is to have a foster care and adoption system that works for children.''

She told of inviting children in foster care and foster parents to the White House last Valentine's Day. Mrs. Clinton said she asked one boy about 14 years old where he was from, and ``he dropped his head and shrugged and said `all over Fairfax County (Va.).'''

She noted legislation that has been approved by the House and is being considered by the Senate ``would give more direction to judges on keeping families together and help guide them in other foster care issues.''

In response to another question about prevention of juvenile violence and punishment, she said one of the problems is ``so many people we are concerned about were not adequately parented themselves.''

She noted that community involvement can reduce juvenile crime.

``There has not been one gun death of a young person in Boston in two years,'' Mrs. Clinton said. ``It happened because enough people got fed up with burying children.''

She said children can be helped only with face-to-face guidance. ``It cannot be done over the Internet.''

On race relations, she reminded the audience that her husband recently appointed a committee to advise him how there can be more dialogue. ``There is no issue my husband has been so committed to,'' she said.

She said Americans should be judgmental about people but ``not about how they look, not how they talk.''

Mrs. Clinton was to deliver a speech later at the Charles Whited Spirit of Excellence Awards for community service in downtown Miami.

**** filed by:APE-(FL) on 09/30/97 at 21:33EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 10/01/97 at 09:18EDT ****

PM-FL--Mrs Clinton,655
First lady feathers `empty nest' with redoubled activism
Eds: Roundtable scheduled to begin at 10:10 a.m. EDT; lead prospects uncertain
d420wdctaf
By SANDRA SOBIERAJ= Associated Press Writer=

MIAMI (AP) With daughter Chelsea settled at college, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton hopes to fill the hollow at home by redoubling her activism. Her first project: quality, affordable child care for working families.

To champion the cause of women in new democracies, she will go as far as Siberia.

``I'm looking for ways to divert myself from my empty nest and I'll take just about any dinner invitation I can get,'' the first lady quipped at an awards dinner late Tuesday. It was stop No. 2 on a packed two-day trip meant first to launch her child-care campaign, and also chip in on paying down the Democratic party's $15 million debt.

Today, she planned to tour a hospital child-care center and hear from local business leaders on their programs, before heading to the Marine base at Quantico, Va., for a speech highlighting the military's commitment to accessible, quality child care.

One proposal the first lady hoped to offer at an Oct. 23 White House conference: a national registry to trace the employment histories of child care workers and give working parents a tool for checking the backgrounds of those to whom they entrust their children.

Long an advocate of government-subsidized child care, Mrs. Clinton said that in general, she wanted ``to talk about how important it is that parents who have to work and especially with welfare reform we're expecting parents to work that we provide the kind of quality care that parents need.''

Speaking with reporters traveling with her, Mrs. Clinton suggested that a national registry could include information not only on caretakers who have been convicted of crimes, but also on those who have been fired with cause from a child care job.

With details still being fleshed out by White House policy analysts, it was unclear how the registry would be paid for and administered, or how privacy rights would be protected.

Her aides said the budding initiative was one example of Mrs. Clinton's policy work outside the limelight in meetings with staff and private huddles with experts. Another illustration they offered was her personal lobbying of members of Congress for passage this fall of adoption legislation.

``She's a doer and she really, really cares. It's not just making speeches. She does the hard work too,'' chief of staff Melanne Verveer said.

The trip, coming after a months-long lull in activity as Mrs. Clinton prepared to send her daughter to Stanford University, marked only the second time in 4&1/2 years as first lady that she brought a small press corps along on domestic travel.

``There was always time in her schedule that was blocked off (for Chelsea). Now, we'll be able to do more,'' spokeswoman Marsha Berry said.

The breadth of Mrs. Clinton's agenda is underscored by plans for a 10-day or longer swing through Central Asia in mid-November, when she hopes to encourage in emerging new democracies both an active role for women and religious tolerance.

That tour will take her to two towns in Siberia, the far Russian outpost where no other U.S. first lady has been, said Verveer. ``We're trying to go off the beaten track.''

Also on Mrs. Clinton's radar screen is fund-raising for the Democratic National Committee in part to help retire the party's massive debt from 1996, but also to help Democratic candidates in the 1998 midterm congressional elections. In seven appearances this year, Mrs. Clinton has brought in almost $900,000 for the DNC.

On Tuesday night, she headlined a $125,000 reception that allowed top contributors a private roundtable discussion and photo session with her. She also inaugurated an Oprah-style presentation to some 500 friendly activists who had paid a minimum $125 apiece and tossed softball questions on the Clinton administration's pet issues.

Mrs. Clinton planned to make her eighth fund-raising appearance at the end of the month in Chicago.

**** filed by:APE-(FL) on 10/01/97 at 04:53EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 10/01/97 at 09:16EDT ****

AM-CA--Chelsea-Columnist,320
RETRANSMITTING to fix cycle designator
Stanford columnist loses job for writing about president's daughter
EDs: Moved first for PMs
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STANFORD, Calif. (AP) Don't ask. Don't tell. And, as a Stanford Daily columnist learned, don't opine if your subject is Chelsea Clinton.

Jesse Oxfeld, a senior at Stanford, lost his job at the student newspaper after writing about the first daughter in a column his boss considered a violation of her strict policy of not covering the president's daughter.

He wrote an opinion piece about the media coverage of Chelsea's arrival Sept. 19, accompanied by her parents. Hundreds of reporters descended on campus but were kept at a distance from the Clintons, who wanted to be like any other family seeing a child to college.

``First, why, precisely, is it that we're all expected to bend over backward to give Chelsea and her family a `normal' Stanford experience while the first family itself is under no similar obligation?'' Oxfeld wrote.

He also criticized the Daily's rule of not writing about Chelsea unless she does something newsworthy, something that the paper would write about if she were just anyone else.

Oxfeld called the rule ``Clintonian.''

He described it like this: ``Don't ask (anything abut her life,) don't tell (anyone outside the campus what you might happen to discover about her life), don't pursue (her, at all.)''

Daily editor-in-chief Carolyn Sleeth decided Oxfeld's column didn't fit in with the paper's guidelines for covering Chelsea. She killed the column on Thursday, after the writer refused to revise it.

``He submitted something and I chose not to run it. I said I wouldn't be using his work,'' Sleeth told the San Jose Mercury News.

Oxfeld, previously the paper's managing editor, may not be without other journalistic options. Since Chelsea announced she was going to Stanford, he has discussed her choice for National Public Radio, Time Magazine and the Today Show, among others.

**** filed by:APW-(CA) on 09/30/97 at 23:12EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 10/01/97 at 09:18EDT ****

BC-CLINTON-CHELSEA

Student journalist fired over Chelsea Clinton column

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 30 (Reuter) - A columnist at Stanford University's student newspaper has been fired over a column about new student Chelsea Clinton, the San Jose Mercury News reported Tuesday.

Carolyn Sleeth, editor-in-chief of the Stanford Daily, killed Stanford senior Jesse Oxfeld's column about President Clinton's daughter last week after he refused to rewrite a section of the column, the Mercury News said.

``We have a policy that we are not going to run stories or articles about Chelsea Clinton until she does something newsworthy,'' the Mercury News quoted Sleeth as saying.

``He (Oxfeld) submitted something and I chose not to run it. I said I wouldn't be using his work,'' she said.

Chelsea entered Stanford University, near San Francisco, in a blaze of publicity on Sept. 19. Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton proudly accompanied their only child to the prestigious university.

White House officials have expressed hope that Chelsea will be allowed to lead a normal life at Stanford, free of media scrutiny.

Sleeth said earlier this month that the Stanford Daily would not write about Chelsea unless she thrust herself into the spotlight.

Oxfeld was crying foul over the newspaper's hard line on what he called the ``C'' word -- for Chelsea Clinton, the Mercury News said.

In his column, Oxfeld referred to the heavy news coverage of the Clintons' arrival at Stanford.

``First, why, precisely, is it that we're all expected to bend over backward to give Chelsea and her family a 'normal' Stanford experience while the first family itself is under no similar obligation?'' he wrote, according to the Mercury News.

Oxfeld called the Stanford Daily's rule on Chelsea coverage ``Clintonian'' and described it as ``don't ask (anything about her life), don't tell (anyone outside the campus what you might happen to discover about her life), don't pursue (her, at all)'' -- an allusion to the Clinton administration's ``don't ask, don't tell'' policy on homosexuals in the military.

Oxfeld, who previously served as managing editor at the Stanford Daily, said he had always said he wanted to be a pundit. ``Until Chelsea came along, I never knew what my entry-level pundit job was going to be,'' he told the Mercury News.

Sleeth could not immediately be reached for comment and Stanford University had no comment. REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 09/30/97 at 21:28EDT ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 10/01/97 at 09:19EDT ****

HERALDLINK FULL STORY
Published Wednesday, October 1, 1997, in the Miami Herald

A common thread of caring: Six feted for righting wrong

By TOM FIEDLER
Herald Political Editor

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton celebrated the works of six South Floridians Tuesday evening whose actions on behalf of others ``exemplify those habits of the heart that every American needs to have."

In the keynote address at the 13th annual Charles Whited Spirit of Excellence Awards dinner in Miami's Crowne Plaza hotel, Clinton linked their lives to what she called a uniquely American spirit of volunteerism and challenged all Americans to follow the example.

``We are here to help celebrate the better angels of our nature," the first lady said, her face projected on huge video screens at each end of the ballroom.

``The men and women we recognize tonight paint a picture of community service in this state," she continued. ``But they do something else: They give us a model of citizenship in this democracy."

The annual awards dinner, sponsored by The Herald and El Nuevo Herald, drew more than 800 people including



HONORING THE 'BETTER ANGELS': *Hillary Rodham Clinton Tuesday at the Charles Whited Spirit of Excellence Awards.*

Democratic group gives Mrs. Clinton a friendly grilling

By TOM FIEDLER
Herald Political Editor

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton subjected herself to public interrogation Tuesday evening in Bal Harbour.

There were no hostile questioners or pesky special prosecutors on the other side, no talk of missing billing records. Instead, she spoke of her role as first lady, about race relations in America, about raising children.

Clinton, slowly resuming the public role she held during her husband's first term, spent an hour handling queries at a Democratic Party fund-raiser with the aplomb of a TV talk-show host.

White House aides said the event, in a Sheraton

than 800 people including Florida Lt. Gov. Buddy MacKay, former recipients, Miami Mayor Joe Carollo, and dozens of civic, media, governmental and religious leaders.

The award is now named for Charles Whited, The Herald's local-page columnist from 1966 until his death in 1991. His written voice on behalf of the community's most vulnerable people made him something of a public conscience.

If a common thread runs through the biographies of the six winners, it is a concern for South Florida's youths, especially those who have been neglected, abused or raised with little hope for the future. Their actions appear emblematic of Clinton's appeal in her bestselling book, It Takes a Village, which draws its title from an African proverb that it takes a village to raise a child.

The winners:

■ Willie B. Brown, 61, a Homestead and Florida City community activist. He founded the Dr. Martin Luther King Festival and has worked throughout his adult life to bring a spirit of renewal to South Dade's minority communities and a sense of hope to its youth.

``I love people,'' Brown said before the dinner Tuesday. ``I like making right what's wrong.''

■ Bill Colson, 71, a Miami native and lawyer. He founded the Leadership Miami program that brings together young professionals to learn about the region's problems and how to better deal with them. His goal, he said when

Bal Harbour Resort ballroom, marked the first in what will be a series of nationwide ``town hall meetings'' where the first lady will take unscreened questions from anyone willing to pay for the $125 tickets.

There was no need to screen the questions at Tuesday's event. Most gave her the opportunity to tout her husband's initiatives -- like race relations -- or her own focusing on children.

On race, for instance, she urged listeners to ``be judgmental about what somebody says or what they do, not how they look or how they talk. And be judgmental about standing up against bias and prejudice wherever we see it.''

On child rearing, she advised direct participation: ``It takes adults willing to put in the time invested in children. With all due respect to the tekkies in the crowd, it can't be done over the Internet. . . . It takes the shoulder on the arm, the face-to-face contact that we need to do to give children something to say yes to.''

On health care, she urged a renewed effort to lobby Congress. ``Health care will not go away as an issue, and we have to educate ourselves,'' she said.

The event demonstrated the importance that Clinton still plays in drawing support to her husband and raising resources for the Democrats. The money is to support the party's Women's Leadership Forum, a relatively new group.

Gwen Berlin, the event's chairwoman, said Clinton told her that she chose Dade County to begin the series of forums because of South Florida's history of providing money for her husband, for the women's group and for the Democratic Party.

The event raised an estimated $125,000.

asked why he established the program, was to find some of South Florida's future ``winners,'' and get them to tackle the toughest problems that few others would touch.

■ Joseph Piñon, 48, a Miami Beach assistant city manager and former cop who has spent much of his career steering kids away from trouble and helping elderly veterans. Piñon, a native of Cuba, came to the United States as a teenager in the Pedro Pan program, which forced him to live apart from his own parents for a lengthy time in the South Bronx. The kind support of a policeman provided Piñon with a role model that he followed as an adult.

And as a Vietnam combat veteran, he also became involved in the lives of other vets.

Piñon said Tuesday night he was honored by all the attention. ``I have friends here that I haven't seen in a decade,'' he said. ``Every time I walk around, somebody pops up and congratulates me.''

■ Edward Pudaloff, 67, of South Broward, who came out of retirement a decade ago to work with abused and neglected children because he was bored playing mah-jongg. With a $1,000 award he won from another foundation, Pudaloff set up HANDY -- Helping Abused, Neglected and Dependent Youth -- to work with kids in foster care.

■ Susan J. Reyna, 41, of Leisure City, who overcame being an abused child to found MUJER, a Spanish acronym for Mujeres Unidas en Justicia, Educacion y Reforma (Women United in Justice, Education and Reform). The group, established in Homestead in 1994, has programs for Hispanic women on child rearing and domestic abuse.

Reyna grew up as the daughter of a Mexican-born migrant laborer who beat her and her mother. Her grandfather sexually abused her. ``My passion is to stop abuse, especially to children,'' she told an interviewer.

On Tuesday night, Reyna said, ``So many people came to see me get this honor.'' Even more important, she said, is that her agency is being honored. ``I am most proud of that.''

■ Marilyn Mailman Segal, 70, founder and retired dean of Nova Southeastern University's Family and School Center in Davie, which conducts parenting classes for 5,000 people. A grandmother of 12, she has said she was drawn to social work after coming to South Florida from Montreal and seeing children playing by the railroad tracks without shoes.

During her address, Clinton recalled visiting last week with the nine African Americans who, in 1956, enrolled in Little Rock's Central High, provoking a national debate about integration and civil rights. She said she stood in awe of them.

``There are stories like that in every corner of our country today, men and

women doing something that requires courage to take a stand,'' she said. It raised the question: ``How do each of us respond when our moment comes? How do we define our spirit of excellence?''

The answer, Clinton continued, ``lies in the same spirit of community service.

``Most won't be tested. But in 100 different ways, each one of us every day has a chance to act in a way to live up to our better angels.''

Herald staff writer Ana Acle contributed to this report.

The Miami Herald
www.herald.com
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1997

Democratic group gives first lady friendly grilling

By TOM FIEDLER
Herald Political Editor

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton subjected herself to public interrogation Tuesday evening in Bal Harbour.

But there were no hostile questioners or pesky special prosecutors on the other side, no talk of Whitewater or missing billing records. Instead, she spoke of her role as first lady, about race relations in America, about raising children — topics she developed in her book *It Takes a Village*, to which she referred often.

Clinton, slowly resuming the public role she held during her husband's first term, spent an hour handling queries at a Democratic Party fund-raiser with the aplomb of a TV talk-show host in a room full of fans.

White House aides said the event, in a Sheraton Bal Harbour Resort ballroom, marked the first in what will be a series of nationwide "town hall meetings" where the first lady will take unscreened questions from anyone willing to pay for the $125 tickets.

There was no need to screen the questions at Tuesday's event. Most gave her the opportunity to tout her husband's initiatives — like race relations — or her own focusing on children. Standing on a raised platform in the center of the room set up like a theater in the round, Clinton served up her philosophies like Ann Landers or, like conservative radio host Dr. Laura Schlesinger, dispensed advice.

'Be judgmental'

On race, for instance, she urged listeners to "be judgmental about what somebody says or what they do, not how they look or how they talk. And be judgmental about standing up against bias and prejudice wherever we see it."

On child rearing, she advised direct participation: "It takes adults willing to put in the time invested in children. With all due respect to the tekkies in the crowd, it can't be done over the Internet. . . . It takes the shoulder on the arm, the face-to-face contact that we need to do to give children something to say yes to."

On health care, she urged a renewed effort to lobby Congress. "Health care will not go away as an issue, and we have to educate ourselves," she said, at one point disparaging the "Harry and Louise" TV ads that many believe derailed her initiative.

Health insurance

Clinton blamed the failure of her highly visible effort to create a national health insurance system in her husband's first term on the lack of an open debate.

"But this will come around again," she said to loud applause.

The event demonstrated the importance that Clinton still plays in drawing support to her husband and raising resources for the Democrats. The money is to support the party's Women's Leadership Forum, a relatively new group.

Gwen Berlin, the event's chairwoman, said Clinton told her that she chose Dade County to begin the series of forums because of South Florida's history of providing money for her husband, for the women's group and for the Democratic Party, especially during the 1996 presidential campaign.

The event raised an estimated $125,000 and attracted more than 500 people despite having to compete for interest against the Florida Marlins playoff game, said Melissa Bonney, a spokeswoman for the Democratic National Committee.

A common thread of caring: Six feted for righting wrong

By TOM FIEDLER
Herald Political Editor

It was more than a village that first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton celebrated Tuesday night in Miami.

Clinton, author of *It Takes a Village* that had community building as its theme, was the keynote speaker at the 13th annual Charles Whited Spirit of Excellence Awards dinner, sponsored by The Herald and El Nuevo Herald at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The dinner, attended by more than 800, honored six people selected throughout South Florida for their efforts at improving the community.

"We are here to help celebrate the better angels of our nature," the first lady said. "These are people who have made such a positive example for South Florida and also set such an example for all of us.

"The men and women we recognize tonight paint a picture of community service in this state," she continued. "But they do something else: They

PLEASE SEE **AWARDS, 18A**



JON KRAL / Herald Staff

HONORING THE 'BETTER ANGELS': Hillary Rodham Clinton Tuesday at the Charles Whited Spirit of Excellence Awards.



SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE

■ Hillary Clinton handles queries at a Democratic Party fundraiser, **16A.**

AWARDS, *FROM* **1A**

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The award is now named for Charles Whited, The Herald's local-page columnist from 1966 until his death in 1991. His written voice on behalf of the community's most vulnerable people made him something of a public conscience.

If a common thread runs through the biographies of the six winners, it is a concern for South Florida's youths, especially those who have been neglected, abused or raised with little hope for the future. Their actions appear emblematic of Clinton's appeal in her bestselling book, which draws its title from an African proverb that it takes a village to raise a child.

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Hillary to chill out on weekend at Chequers

■ The Blairs think Mrs Clinton is "cool", says an American official. Martin Fletcher reports on a flying visit that confirms the growing friendship between the first ladies



Hillary Clinton meeting Joyce McCartan two years ago at the drop-in centre she founded in Belfast. Mrs Clinton is to visi

HILLARY CLINTON is to spend a weekend with Tony and Cherie Blair at Chequers next month in the strongest demonstration yet of how the Prime Minister has revived the so-called special relationship with America.

The First Lady's solo visit to the Prime Minister's Buckinghamshire retreat on November 1 and 2 has no obvious precedent, and reflects the warmth of the friendship that has developed between the two leaders and their wives.

"It's like-minded new Left politicians getting together and brainstorming about problems both countries face," one British source said last night. An American official said the Blairs had personally invited Mrs Clinton to Chequers to "chill out ... The Blairs think Hillary is cool."

Mrs Clinton's visit to Chequers will follow a 24-hour stop in Northern Ireland where she and the President enjoyed such a rapturous welcome two years ago and where she will again seek to bolster the peace process.

Mrs Clinton will deliver the inaugural lecture at the University of Ulster for a chair honouring Joyce McCartan, a voluntary worker she met in a Belfast fish-and-chip shop in 1995 but who died last year.

The shop housed the Women's Information Drop-In Centre, which Mrs McCartan founded to unite Protestant and Roman Catholic women after her 17-year-old son was shot by terrorists in 1987. Mrs Clinton was so impressed that she wrote one of her syndicated newspaper columns about Mrs McCartan. She will also attend a conference on helping young Protestant and Catholics at Belfast's new Waterfront Centre.

Mrs Blair and Mrs Clinton have much more in common than just their husbands' politics. Both are high-powered lawyers. Both have pursued successful independent careers while raising children. Both have refused to play the traditional, circumscribed roles of First Lady or Prime Minister's spouse.

The Blairs' first proper meeting with Mrs Clinton was in Washington last year at a cocktail party at the home of Sidney Blumenthal, the Washington correspondent of *The New Yorker* magazine. Mr Blumenthal has since joined the White House staff and is thought to have arranged this visit. Mrs Clinton stayed so long the Blairs were late for a British Embassy dinner.

The Clintons visited London within a month of Mr Blair's May 1 election. The two wives lunched together, visited the Globe Theatre and "got on like a house on fire" before joining their husbands for dinner at London's Pont de la Tour restaurant. Mrs Clinton advised Mrs Blair on bringing up children in the public eye.

The four met again at the G7 summit in Denver, Colorado, in June, and Mrs Clinton returned to Britain last month for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Relations between the Clintons and John and Norma Major were much more formal and hampered from the start by the Tory party's help for George Bush in the 1992 presidential election. Their meetings became exercises in studied informality. On one occasion the two men made a joint visit to Pittsburgh, where Mr Major's grandfather once lived. On another the President "dropped by" the Washington restaurant where the Prime Minister was dining.

The strains were exacerbated by rows over Mr Clinton's support for Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, and differences on Bosnian strategy.

(THE TIMES (London)

AMERICAN CONSULATE BEL Fax:0123248482 2 Oc

Debate Aside, Fund-Raising Doesn't Stop

A1

By RICHARD L. BERKE

HOUSTON — Shortly after 9 P.M., as the 70 or so guests picked over the last crumbs of their almond tuile with peaches, plums, pears and seasonal berries, President Clinton scanned the candlelit room of eight round tables filled with the wealthiest Democrats in Texas.

"When you go home tonight," Mr. Clinton told his dinner companions in the elaborately decorated 10-car garage at a sprawling Houston mansion, "I hope you will think about it and be glad you came."

Officials at the financially struggling Democratic National Committee were certainly glad they came to the dinner, held Sept. 26 at the home of a restaurant magnate, Tilman J. Fertitta. In a process that took only two and a half hours, Mr. Clinton and his entourage converged on Mr. Fertitta's home; the President posed for photographs, gave a speech, departed on schedule (before many guests had sipped their second cup of hazelnut coffee), and won about $700,000 in mostly unregulated "soft money" donations.

It was another successful evening for the Democratic Party's premier, and most proficient, fund-raiser: Bill Clinton. As inquiries deepen into his fund-raising practices in the 1996 campaign, and as the President himself calls for legislation that would prohibit dinners like Mr. Fertitta's, Mr. Clinton is stepping up his appearances on the money circuit.

(In this, Mr. Clinton is not alone: from Speaker Newt Gingrich on down, Republicans are even more skilled at staging big-money events, but they do not have a President to help attract guests.)

As lavish as the Fertitta party was

Continued on Page A12

Continued From Page A1

— with an entry fee of at least $10,000 per person, a 900-pound ice sculpture of the White House by the pool and chairs covered with yellow silk and and yellow and white roses — the event was fairly typical. It demonstrates how the hunt for money is almost a preoccupation for Mr. Clinton, and shows the way in which the fund-raising zeal and skill of the White House and the Democratic Party combine to carry out the mission. It also shows how sensitivities over fund-raising have forced some changes, like more careful scrutiny of guest lists.

In addition to Mr. Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and Hillary Rodham Clinton have been the star attractions at dozens of fund-raising events this year. Because the fund-raising occasions have become so routine and because they usually occur at night — long after most reporters' deadlines — Mr. Clinton's appearances are not widely publicized. Yet, they often drive his entire schedule on any given day and, as happened in Houston, determine why he travels to a particular state.

Despite the climate of concern in the capital about fund-raising practices, neither Mr. Clinton nor Mr. Fertitta had any apologies. Asked whether it was unfair for the wealthy to get such access to the President, Mr. Fertitta said in an interview: "That's like saying someone who could afford front-row seats at a fight shouldn't go to it. That's the way the world is."

Everyone from the President on down pronounced the event a success. It, like so many others, took months of planning and strategizing and hundreds of decisions large and small.

Host and Guests Chosen Carefully

The selection of Mr. Fertitta as the host of the event arose out of a master plan for raising money late last year. Although the White House eagerly approved the idea, outlined in an "event scenario" by the Democratic National Committee, there was a snag when Representative Martin Frost of Texas, chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, complained that the fund-raising event might interfere with his own ability to hit up donors for candidates for Congress and the State Legislature.

A compromise was reached: White House officials agreed to dispatch Mr. Gore to Dallas in November to raise money for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Once the date was approved, most of the preparations went to officials at the Democratic National Committee. As one White House official put it: "This is their event. I just provide the body."

Although White House officials had initially planned to hold the event at a Westin Hotel here, they relented to the wishes of the 40-year-old host, Mr. Fertitta, the multimillionaire president and chief executive of Landry's Seafood Restaurants. Mr. Fertitta said he was proud of his home and wanted a more intimate approach. "We're not fake people," he said.

Mr. Fertitta had been selected by party officials because he was a generous giver who had put on a dinner at his home for Mr. Clinton a year ago, when he transformed his front yard into an Old West town. He also picked up $75,000 in costs from this year's event, from the food to the catering staff to the string quartet to the tent over his carport.

Trolling for guests, the party sent a feeler letter to reliable big donors in Texas asking if they would attend a dinner for the President. Then Mr. Fertitta and others made calls on their own to add to the list. In early September, Alan D. Solomont, the party's finance chairman, said he spent a day in Houston and a day in Dallas meeting with donors and reminding them "why it was so important to the party" that they help retire its debt of more than $15 million. Gov. Roy Romer of Colorado, the party's general chairman, made a follow-up trip. Not everyone had to pony up $10,000. A handful of politicians were given complimentary tickets, including former Gov. Ann Richards and Representative Sheila Jackson Lee.

Just days before the event, White House aides found an official reason for Mr. Clinton to travel to Houston: they scheduled a speech at San Jacinto College. That way, some of the cost would be paid through the White House travel budget.

As the date grew closer, party officials examined the guest list to make sure that none of those invited had been in prison or had other embarrassing information in their files. Officials said that with all the inquiries into the party's lax procedures in the 1996 campaign, they have become more vigilant in screening guests. Two people were disinvited from Mr. Fertitta's dinner because of concerns about their histories, officials said, but they would not give the reasons.

Party officials put together a seating chart, making sure each table had the right mix of people. The party's finance chairman, Mr. Solomont, chose a prized spot for himself: he sat next to Carl Lewis, the Olympic sprinter who lives down the street. Mr. Lewis was the only African-American spotted among the guests.

"I did say the person I want to sit beside is Carl Lewis," Mr. Solomont said. "He's a very substantive guy. And I'm a little bit of a track-and-field devotee."

Chefs Prepare A Seafood Feast

As officials of the party and the White House were reviewing the seating, the two executive chefs — Kathy Ruiz of Landry's Seafood Restaurants and Lindell Mendoza of the San Luis Resort in Galveston, Tex., which is also owned by Mr. Fertitta — were putting final touches on the menu.

Though she sought advice from stewards at the White House, Ms. Ruiz said the menu fell into place easily. "I know the President likes mangoes," she said, "so that was kind of a no-brainer." She also said she wanted to take advantage of the fresh seafood from her restaurant. So the main course was "Texas Gulf Red Snapper topped with Galveston Bay Jumbo Lump Crab Meat and Mango-Roasted Pepper Vinaigrette."

While the chefs were torn over whether to serve an appetizer of duck tamales with mole sauce or a seafood ceviche, they went with the seafood because even though several convection ovens were installed for the event, they did not think Mr. Fertitta's kitchen was large enough for a hot appetizer and entree. Each ceviche appetizer was served in an individual ice sculpture designed as a big scallop shell. For dessert, Ms. Ruiz wanted something light. She knew that the President did not like chocolate. Thus, the almond tuile with fruit. For a personal touch, every plate had a cookie shaped like a saxophone. (The press, police and support staff were served barbecue in a tent across the street.)

Villa Mount Eden vineyards of Central California donated five cases of its 1995 Special Grand Reserve Chardonnay.

A couple of days before the dinner, the chefs met with the Secret Service to discuss the menu. "They made

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FRIDAY OCTOBER 3, 1997

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Janet and Hillary visit



John Brummett

There's this sweet little story from Thursday and Friday about my two favorite first ladies, Hillary Clinton and Janet Huckabee, and I'm just the guy to tell it.

What happened was that Janet went up to Hillary after the commemorative ceremonies Thursday at Little Rock Central High School and said something to this effect: "You probably wouldn't want to do this, but Mike and I were thinking that if you and the president would be interested in visiting the Governor's Mansion while you're in town, just for old time's sake, I'd like to invite you to do so at your convenience. After all, you did spend 12 years there. You have a pet buried there, even. We'd be happy to leave the house and let y'all just have the run of it."

Something like that. It's an old Bob Woodward trick, fashioning a lengthy direct quote out of a third-hand paraphrase. Actually, I've spoken by phone with Mrs. Huckabee, who insisted that I talk to her directly if I intended to write about something having to do with her, and she said it went more or less like that.

Hillary, who by every account was in a splendid mood during her Arkansas sojourn, replied that the offer was so very nice and that they'd love to accept if they could find the time.

So Janet figured it wouldn't happen. Free time did not appear to be a commodity available abundantly, or at all, to the president and his wife.

But as 11:30 a.m. drew near Friday, the Governor's Mansion got a call from someone in behalf of Mrs. Clinton to inquire as to whether it would be all right if Hillary dropped by in 15 minutes. Mrs. Huckabee called back to verify and determine whether she should get out of the house. The ubiquitous Skip Rutherford, acting as the go-between, said certainly not, that Mrs. Clinton wouldn't hear of such a thing.

Mrs. Huckabee greeted Mrs. Clinton and the two of them proceeded to wander the house and grounds for nearly two hours as a couple of Secret Service fellows kept a discreet distance.

They looked at the azaleas admiringly. I asked Mrs. Huckabee if Mrs. Clinton complained that they appeared to have been pruned improperly, and she said no. "She said they'd never looked better, actually." I was joshing, kind of.

They toured the presidential flower garden containing the bust of the president. Mrs. Clinton thought that was real nice as well.

They strolled the expansive back grounds, including the area containing the brick marker for the grave of Zeke, the Clintons' late and charismatic cocker spaniel, the once-famous playboy roamer of the central city.

I see no need to mention at this point that Mrs. Clinton once wanted to put a swimming pool somewhere out on these back grounds, leading Dick Morris to explain to her about the value of populist images.

Inside the house, Mrs. Huckabee showed off the new kitchen, where a wall had been knocked out to make more room for the large refrigerators formerly stored in the basement, which had required the staff to take hikes while preparing for large dining functions. Mrs. Clinton exulted upon seeing the improvement, declaring it long, long overdue.

I have no information on whether Mrs. Clinton passed judgment on the arrangement of the antique furnishings. But I can tell you about the trunk, the wooden one, painted yellow that had the name "Hillary Rodham" on it.

Mrs. Huckabee mentioned to Mrs. Clinton that this trunk was still in the attic, over in a corner near some air-conditioning equipment, and that apparently the Clintons had overlooked it in their move to Washington. Janet said she wouldn't dare open it. Hillary said she couldn't imagine what it was or what might be in it. She said, "Let's go see."

So there went my favorite first ladies, up the little stairs to the attic as the Secret Service hung back.

Well, I'll be, said Hillary. That's my trunk. We used it as Chelsea's toy chest when she was a toddler.

She opened it. There was nothing in it.

Janet wondered if Hillary wanted the trunk. Hillary said she didn't see any need to go to the trouble to move it. Maybe someday it can go in the Clinton presidential library, she said. Janet replied that she and Mike would guard it until time to ship it to the library, which, you might notice, presumes the Huckabees will remain occupants of the Governor's Mansion into the 21st century.

Even a nicer story is the one about Hillary stopping in after her mansion tour for lunch at the Italian Couple restaurant. That's the authentic and increasingly popular eatery near 12th and Woodrow opened a year ago by Michael Waters, an eager fellow from Pisa, Italy, who was so inspired by seeing Bill Clinton on television a few years ago and by Clinton's reference to Arkansas as the land of opportunity that he uprooted his family to move thousands of miles to Little Rock, where he opened his restaurant in an area some restaurateurs wouldn't dare go.

Waters could hardly speak, so excited was he to look up and see Mrs. Clinton in his restaurant.

"Oh, Mrs. Clin-tone, you are really here," he said several times.

Hillary told him she couldn't promise but that she intended to recommend to her husband that he stop by Saturday. And sure enough, the president dropped in, but didn't eat, Saturday night.

John Brummett's column appears every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

First Lady Presses Child-Care Reform

In U-Md. Speech, Clinton Praises Center There and One at Quantico

By Jackie Spinner
Washington Post Staff Writer

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited a child-care center at the University of Maryland at College Park yesterday and later in a speech used the occasion to repeat her call for reform in the nation's day-care industry.

Addressing a crowd of 1,300 university students and faculty and staff members in a packed Tawes Theatre auditorium on campus, Clinton said the university's Center for Young Children, and a similar facility she visited at Quantico Marine Corps Base this week, are rare examples of quality child care.

She said the U.S. military's approach in particular should be a model for the workplace.

"There are certainly differences between the military and civilian sector, but I believe the military experience can serve as a beacon for the American workplace in general," Clinton said. "When parents don't have to come to work feeling concerned about how their children are doing, they can make a more positive contribution that benefits all of us."

The first lady's visit was intended to set the stage for a White House conference on child care planned for Oct. 23. Upon her arrival in the auditorium, she was greeted with thunderous applause and a standing ovation. She gave her address in front of a huge red, white and blue banner that proclaimed, "Better Child Care for a Better America."

> ***"We have to do more to support those parents . . . who are trying to do the best they can."***
>
> — Hillary Rodham Clinton

Clinton had warm praise for the university's child-care center, where she met with a group of 5-year-olds.

"This is a place where children are treasured and valued and stimulated, a place that any of us would happily stay for juice and nap-time any day," she said. "But that center is far too rare."

Later, when audience members were invited to ask the first lady questions, Paula J. Broglio, a university secretary, told Clinton that she had tried to enroll her own 4-year-old in the Center for Young Children but could not afford the fees.

The center enrolls 120 children, ages 3 to kindergarten. The day-care center has a sliding fee scale, but Broglio said she would still have to pay $500 a month, which is 25 percent of her salary.

Broglio said that if she didn't have the help of her parents, she would have to quit her job and go on welfare.

"The biggest problem out there is affordable, good-quality day care," Broglio said. "I can't find it."

In response, Clinton said Broglio is "a perfect example of the kind of problem I'm trying to illustrate."

She said the October conference at the White House will address the issue of affordable child care and other issues, including the need for day care for school-age children.

"We need more subsidies for working parents, particularly single parents," Clinton said. "If we are going to have a policy in our country of ending welfare and expecting everyone to work, we have to do more to support those parents with children who are trying to do the best they can."

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INSIDE WELFARE'S NEW WORLD
WATCHING REFORM AT WORK

Most D.C. Day-Care Centers Have Expired Licenses

Safety Concerns Threaten a Linchpin of Welfare Law's Success

Fourth in a series of occasional articles

By Katherine Boo
Washington Post Staff Writer

A1

Slip into an alley off New Hampshire Avenue NW. Turn at the dirt lot—the one with the swing set without swings. Climb the broken stairs, pass the screenless open window high above concrete. Survey the rooms stocked with scores of toddlers and infants, who are here at public expense while their parents try to find work and get off welfare.

Follow these directions and check on these children, and you will do what the city inspectors responsible for their safety haven't done in years, according to D.C. records.

The private Humpty Dumpty infant center is one of 180 Washington day-care centers—more than half of all city facilities—operating with an expired license. D.C. officials say most renewals have been held up because of serious health and safety problems. Overcrowding, infestation by roaches and rats, inadequate adult supervision, filthy cots and kitchens: All are part of the landscape of D.C. day care as seen in city records and visits to facilities by The Washington Post.

Municipal efforts to protect children in day-care centers have ranged from haphazard to nonexistent. The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) routinely fails to visit each center once a year, as required by law. The agency has only five inspectors—half the number of three years ago—to fulfill its public charge of monitoring 350 centers and hundreds of home day-care operations. Their supervisor has been absent on a workers' compensation leave since mid-1996.

See DAY CARE, A12, Col. 1

DAY CARE, From A1

Despite obvious shortcomings at many centers, it is virtually impossible in the District to lose a day-care license—or even a day of business. In 1995 and 1996, Maryland revoked 274 day-care licenses and ordered 74 emergency suspensions of centers that failed to meet standards. In the District during that period, not a single license was suspended and only one was revoked—that of a center long closed, according to DCRA.

District day care is not an equal-opportunity hazard. Records indicate the majority of centers with lapsed licenses are in the District's poorer neighborhoods. Many are subsidized by taxpayer dollars, despite city regulations barring public funds for child-care facilities without a "current license."

Humpty Dumpty, for example, is one of the city's largest providers of taxpayer-subsidized child care for the poor. City records show its owner collects more than $850,000 annually to care for 200 children, although the infant center and its sister nursery school have not had valid licenses since spring.

The infant center has not been inspected since May 1995, shortly after a worried inspector warned, "Facility must be closely monitored." At the nursery school, a hardscrabble playground described by monitors over the years as "unsafe" or "potentially life threatening" remains unrenovated.

Such deficiencies cloud the local forecast for welfare reform, which in coming months will channel another 4,000 District children—and millions of tax dollars—into already overextended subsidized day-care establishments. Day care is widely considered a linchpin of successful reform: The new law gives states and the District $600 million a year to provide child care for those being pushed off the dole.

"You cannot ask somebody on welfare to go to work if they're going to neglect their children in doing it," President Clinton declared in signing the welfare reform bill last year. Yet some District parents may be doing just that.

Records indicate some centers have had their licenses delayed by bureaucratic backlog, not quality issues. But Ellen Yung-Fatah, who oversees DCRA's day-care inspectors, attributed the majority of lapsed licenses to "serious" and "systemic" deficiencies, from overcrowding to fire-safety problems, many of which have persisted for years. "Since we discovered the problems," she said, "we've been trying to work with owners to fix them without closing centers and creating mass upheaval."

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is responsible for selecting the centers that get public money for poor children, then adding an extra layer of monitoring to make sure the children are safe. Children's advocates once hailed D.C.'s subsidized day-care program as a model. But DHS has only three monitors, down from eight in 1990; they spend most of their time on contracting paperwork, according to DHS officials, who acknowledge they have not removed a day-care center from the program for years.

For more than a decade, the city government has not increased what it pays subsidized day-care centers. For instance, the District pays $21.10 a day per infant—less than half the metropolitan average. Many centers refuse to take "DHS kids." Staff salaries at those that do accept the children often run as low as $12,000 a year. The result is "economically segregated child care," said Bobbi Blok, head of the Washington Child Development Council. "It's a tale of two cities."

Barbara Kamara, who runs DHS's day-care program, said, "I don't want any of our children in places with roaches and rats. We need to hold people to a higher standard." But memos indicate that the continued flow of tax dollars into centers with lapsed licenses and known problems is now conscious city policy, as DHS and DCRA officials struggle to find thousands of new day-care slots for welfare reform children.

The city has made no effort to notify thousands of parents of the expired licenses or deficiencies at the centers where they leave their children.

"This is nuts," said Liz Siegel, executive director of DC Action for Children. "If the government isn't in there protecting the children, poor parents are in a Catch-22. They're ordered to go to work. But to go to work, they have to risk sending their children to an unsafe day-care center. As a parent, I wouldn't want to make that choice."

Few Options for Poor Parents

In May, a week after his third birthday, Tyrone Temoney was found dazed in a pool of Pine Sol in a laundry room at Christian Tabernacle of God day-care center in Shaw. Center workers rushed him to Children's Hospital, but his mother, Michelle Temoney, says she wasn't notified for four hours. The Christian Tabernacle center's director declined to discuss the case or answer other questions about her operation.

The children of the affluent are not as dependent as the poor on city overseers to protect their children while in day care: If they find roaches or filth or hazardous jungle gyms, they typically have other options—including the many city centers that adhere to private accreditation standards far exceeding regulatory minimums. But even the keenest-eyed poor parent faces a more limited array of day-care choices. When 29-year-old Michelle Temoney entrusted Tyrone to Christian Tabernacle, she says she was taking what she could get.

When Temoney was certified to receive a day-care subsidy, she got a list of centers approved by DHS to accept poor children. Because her oldest child had gone to Humpty Dumpty—"until my husband came there for the first time, smelled the urine and said, 'Oh no, take him out' "—she crossed that one off. But other places Temoney called had a waiting list. Christian Tabernacle didn't. "I was just so relieved I had a place to put him," she remembers.

The day Temoney raced to Children's Hospital to console her son was the last day Tyrone went to Christian Tabernacle. "He said afterward that someone had locked him in the laundry room," his mother said. "What is a child doing in the laundry room in the first place?"

Following the incident, Christian Tabernacle received a $1,500 fine for leaving chemicals within reach of children, among other violations. Last month that fine was reduced to $515 when an administrative report concluded that the incident was a freak accident in what an inspector called "one of the best [day-care facilities] in the District of Columbia." The report acknowledged that it remained a "big mystery" how the tiny boy got past the laundry room's "very heavy door." The U.S. Attorney's Office says it is investigating. Citing the investigation, Temoney's lawyer declined to provide the boy's medical file.

DHS recently recertified Christian Tabernacle to provide another year of subsidized care—shortly before a DCRA inspection found insufficient educational materials, toys and play equipment, peeling paint, and an unqualified teacher there.

Commonplace day-care infractions rarely attract the inquiry of prosecutors, but widely accepted research now suggests that an unstimulating environment impedes a child's brain development. And while day care, good or bad, may have only a limited effect on children from stable family backgrounds with other advantages, studies indicate the impact on low-income children can be significant.

More than 15,000 children are in D.C. day-care centers and homes that require a license. (Some centers and homes that take in a very small number of children do not require licenses. It is unknown how many children are in illegal homes beyond even cursory city scrutiny.) D.C.'s rules for the caretakers of those children include specifications for such things as jungle gyms, toilet seats, and the number and credentialing of staff required to supervise various age groups. When centers are found in violation of those rules, they are given a short period of time to rectify them.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1997

There are things the regulations, passed in 1974, can't measure—inspired, loving teachers, for example. There are things other states insist upon that D.C. regulations don't require—such as criminal checks to keep felons from working in centers. But DCRA rules were designed to ensure minimum standards.

Even so, DHS routinely recertifies centers with lapsed licenses and outstanding violations to receive city money.

The agency continues to subsidize poor children at the I Care center in Northeast, where the license expired a year and a half ago and where records indicate repeated failure to maintain enough adult supervision, get rid of rats and eliminate a certain "odor musty smell." One hundred and fifty subsidized "DHS kids" continue to go to City Wide Learning Center, which, city records show, collected more than $680,000 last year; its license expired in February and the center has been repeatedly cited for staffing shortages, chipped paint and other deficiencies. Public funds—and children—also continue to go to Kiddies Kollege, where records show the license expired a year ago and DCRA reports chronicle peeling paint, substandard learning supplies and unqualified staff.

I Care's director did not return phone calls. Kiddies Kollege's director declined to comment. City Wide's director said "the things we were supposed to fix have been done" and the center is working on renewing its license.

DHS's Kamara said her agency has stopped placing new children in several of the most troubled city centers, but has not removed the children already in them.

DHS documents indicate the agency doesn't consider Humpty Dumpty one of those troubled centers. City funds and children keep flowing there despite years of quality issues. In 1993, an inspector raised flags about the center's crowded infant facility, emphasizing that the center required "a lot of monitoring" and "a lot of training . . . to assist with environment enhancement and curriculum."

A year later, as Humpty Dumpty's license and DHS contracts were renewed, the same inspector was still fretting: "It must be noted that it meets the absolute minimal requirements for licensure. After additional visits it may be recommended that this center not be allowed to house so many infants. It is also my opinion that adequate supervision is not taking place on the part of the director."

In March 1995, inspectors found children sleeping in a hallway, chipped paint, exposed outlets and unlabeled cribs, according to records. Two months later they returned to find many violations uncorrected. They never inspected again.

Humpty Dumpty's nursery school received more frequent visits, and inspired more inspector anxiety about unqualified teachers, inadequate toys and peeling paint. This March, the inspector issued a "cease and desist" demand that the hazardous playground be closed immediately. He failed to visit again for six months; when he returned late last month, he found the playground violations uncorrected.

DCRA records indicate not a single fine has been levied against Humpty Dumpty in the last six years. In the same period, DHS has given the centers several million dollars.

"They told me I was one of their best centers," owner Katherine Sockwell said. "It's only now that they're changing the rules. They're saying I can't do things I've been doing for 20 years, and that makes me hit the ceiling."

Sockwell said she always corrects problems as soon as they are found, and that her lapsed license was the fault of unfair regulations and an inconsistent bureaucracy. But after discussion with DCRA following inquiries by The Post, Sockwell has agreed to make some changes to her operation: to screen the open window, to find a new playground.

"But I'd say the deficiencies are their fault, not mine, and you can put that in the paper," Sockwell added.

Magic on a Shoestring

Big Mama's day care center sits across from a sewage plant in Southwest Washington. On the symbolic map of District day care, it looms as an indication that some subsidized day-care providers are committed to quality whether inspectors demand it or not. The center's ceiling is grody, the kitchen stove is charred. But there is beauty at Big Mama's. On a recent morning a reporter walked in on children singing *"Lundi! Mardi! Mercredi! Jeudi! Vendredi! Samedi! Dimanche!"*

In a yellow playroom, 5-year-olds led by a teacher from Togo whip through *les jours de la semaine*. Some of the children have just been removed from their families and placed in foster care; some belong to women furious about being forced to go to work. There are extreme dramas in their lives. There is little drama in Big Mama's inspection reports. Instead of skimping on staff, owner Debbie Hall funds extra training for employees. She stocks her center with hundreds of books and a turtle named Mr. Alfred.

"I know people feel they can't meet the regulations because of the lack of money," Hall said. "But it can be done. If it's in the regulations we do it. If inspectors find deficiencies we fix them. Sometimes we feel like magicians over here, making something out of nothing, but we survive."

Hall has received calls lately from aspiring day-care providers, asking for advice. "What with welfare reform, they've heard you can make some money," she said.

Across the city, entrepreneurs are opening new day-care centers or expanding existing ones, leafletting subway stops in search of poor women and their government subsidies. Meanwhile DCRA inspectors don't have pens to write with or batteries for the flashlights they need for site visits. And they've already got their hands full with veteran providers like Ernest McClellan, who runs Children's Hut, a large center on Kennedy Street NW.

McClellan's handbook for parents says Children's Hut's goal is to enhance the moral and mental character of children through education and role-modeling by his staff. Last fall a DHS inspector found 2-year-olds playing with roaches. Carpets were fouled with mouse droppings. A subsequent investigation found that despite the balanced menus McClellan's staff produced to show parents and regulators, children were being inadequately fed.

While his staff lists claimed employees qualified to meet city licensing requirements, one highly credentialed "teacher" never worked at the center, two others had been fired, and two others had expired credentials, the investigation found. DCRA noted that McClellan was also running an Amway business from the center.

In November DCRA fined McClellan $100. "It was determined that it would be in the best interest of the children for the administration to work with the director instead of closing the center, thus displacing all children permanently," wrote a city official at the time.

Eight months later, in July, DCRA substantiated a parent's complaint that one of McClellan's teachers punished children by putting them in a closet. It also found continued understaffing and overcrowding, and, again, inadequate meals for children. At about the same time, a parent called DCRA to report a rat in the infant area and roaches on the changing tables.

This time, citing "imminently dangerous conditions," DCRA issued a larger fine, which DCRA records say has yet to be paid. McClellan did not return repeated phone calls. DHS, whose own monitoring reports over the last two years complain of Children's Hut's poor conditions and inaccuracies in its reports and invoices to the city, continues to use the center to care for poor children.

Tenacity Pays Off

A little-noted clause in the federal welfare reform law says states cannot make women comply with work requirements if they can't find adequate day care for their preschoolers. With more than half of the District's centers operating without valid licenses, few parents can be certain how adequate their children's day care is.

JaRonn Latney does feel certain now. The 22-year-old Dunbar graduate and single parent works hard at being a mother, making sure her 3-year-old son's natural brightness isn't stifled by poverty. But ensuring Corey's future has involved tenacity not every parent can muster.

When in job training, Latney took the boy to Christian Tabernacle, the only center near her school where she could find a slot. She says she hated the lack of books, the stressed-out staff. She hated that the bathrooms had no soap. But mostly she hated the way her son winced when they rode a Metro bus near the center. "Don't take me there, mommy," he told her.

Latney had little faith in finding a better subsidized center: "The good ones you can't get into, the bad ones you don't want to get into." She decided she had to find another way. Ditching her subsidy, she approached local philanthropies; she got everyone she could think of to write a letter attesting to the specialness of her child. Then, finally, Latney scored: The Black Student Fund gave her a scholarship to a preschool in Cleveland Park.

"You should see it," she says. "A big house turned into a school, with a garden and flowers, a huge playground! When you walk into the classroom the teachers aren't talking to each other about what they did last night. They are talking to the kids, holding conversations. They're teaching Corey to paint, taking him to the library. And every day he comes home saying 'Mommy, listen! This is what we did in school.' "

"You know what I wish?" Latney says, taking a breath. "I wish everyone had what I have."

Michelle Temoney wishes that too.

After the Pine Sol incident, Temoney says, "My son didn't want to go back to day care. And I thought, forget it, I give up. My son matters more than a job. So now here I am, back on welfare."

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PERISCOPE



A tough witness: The former White House aide and his boss

SCANDALS

Ickes's Turn to Talk

AFTER MORE THAN A DOZEN PRIVATE SESSIONS WITH investigators, former White House deputy chief of staff Harold Ickes will finally testify this week before the Senate campaign fund-raising hearings. Republicans hope to get Ickes to link White House and Democratic National Committee fund-raising efforts, stripping White House officials of the excuse that DNC abuses occurred without their knowledge. Ickes, for his part, will stress that he modeled Clinton-Gore fund-raising efforts on previous Republican presidential campaigns. Early GOP expectations that Ickes, bitter over Clinton's failure to name him chief of staff, would turn on the Democrats have been unfounded. "He's a consultant now," says a Democratic aide. "He can't afford to turn on Democrats, even if he were so inclined."

YELTSIN

Ready to Run?

A YEAR AGO, RUSSIAN PRESIdent Boris Yeltsin was given up for dead—almost literally. But barely a year later, after his quintuple heart bypass, he's hinting he may try to find a loophole in the Russian Constitution, which limits presidents to two terms, and run for re-election in 2000. Kremlin sources tell NEWSWEEK that some of Yeltsin's key supporters, particularly among the business interests which helped elect him in '96, are urging him to run again. Their argument: Yeltsin was first elected in '91, *before* the Soviet Union's legal code was scrapped. Under the new Constitution Yeltsin's in his first term and therefore eligible to run again. Analysts believe Yeltsin hasn't made up his mind but is hinting at a race so he won't be regarded as a lame duck.

The Russian president



IMMIGRATION

On the Move

OPERATION GATEKEEPER, the crackdown at the California–Baja border, is moving east. With increased manpower, new vehicles and high-tech night-vision gear, U.S. immigration officials last year cut the number of illegals apprehended in the San Diego area by 41 percent, to 283,889 for the year ending Sept. 30, the lowest figure since 1980. That success has pushed illegals eastward to the rural El Centro sector. This week, the INS will announce the next phase: beefed-up patrols in the sector to confront the big jump in border crossers there. "Our strategy is working," says one Border Patrol official. "That's why we're heading east."



Detainees at the border



A new project: Mrs. Clinton

FIRST LADY

Going Millennial

BEFORE CHELSEA WENT OFF to Stanford last month, Hillary Clinton often said her daughter was her link to the future. Now the First Lady is building her own bridge to the 21st century. White House aides say Mrs. Clinton will devote an increasing amount of time to the White House Millennium Project. Among the plans: a nationwide program to get children to record their grandparents' oral histories, Internet links between U.S. and overseas classrooms and a lecture series on the millennium. She will also be a millennial diplomat of sorts, discussing millennial themes and projects with world leaders.

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM WATCH

Keeping Promises Edition

The CW promises to stop drinking, be a better father, a better husband and to show Janet Reno who wears the pants in the family. Will GOP impeach Janet? Wouldn't be Christian.

	Past	Conventional Wisdom
Clinton	⇔	Say what? A hearing aid for Boomer Prez. Downside: now he can hear hearings.
Gore	⇓	Hosts weathermen at WH global-warming bash. Watch out for Hurricane Janet.
Lott	⇓	Concocts poison pill for campaign reform. Will GOP moderates swallow it?
Promise K's	⇔	If they're really "promise keepers," why are they meeting in Washington?
AOL	⇓	Online chat room shares the rap in NJ kiddie murder case. CW sez: Parents, wake up.
B. Bonds	⇓	Barry chokes in playoffs again as Marlins sweep SF. CW predicts: Braves over O's.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JOHN FICARA FOR NEWSWEEK, BRIAN E. DIGGS—AP, JOHN GIBBINS—SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE, ITAR-TASS—AP

Hillary plans to step up foreign travel schedule

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Now that her daughter is settled into college, Hillary Rodham Clinton is taking off on a burst of international travel that could rival any secretary of state's.

The first lady heads to Panama this week, and will have made her way to Latin America, Ireland and the newly independent republics around Russia before year's end.

While her journeys abroad usually brim with concern for the world's women and children, her upcoming travels will focus on the expansion of democracy.

"I wish I could take every American teen-ager with me, so that they can see what our country looks like from a distance," Mrs. Clinton told a recent gathering of newspaper columnists. "They can see what other people go through trying to maintain democracy, and they wouldn't necessarily take for granted — as I think too many Americans do — the blessings we have here."

In November, the first lady plans to take her message to the republics that once were part of the Soviet Union, where democracy is very young.

But first, she will attend a first ladies' conference in Panama tomorrow, then accompany her husband to Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela next week. She also will jet off to Ireland to deliver a speech in honor of a mother who became a crusader for peace after her son died in political violence there.

While her itinerary for the November trip is not yet complete, Mrs. Clinton is considering stops in Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, said spokeswoman Marsha Berry.

"It's looking at what they are doing democracy-wise and encouraging them ... particularly in some of these countries that are really starting to be footholds for democracy," Miss Berry said.

When it comes to travel, the first lady's influence on President Clinton is obvious. Places she's already visited, including Africa and India, are now on his travel schedule. She has given him full reports on her visits and is unabashed about saying what she thinks he should do in those countries.

"She wanted the president to get to Africa while [South African President] Nelson Mandela is still in office," Miss Berry said. "She came home with a real optimistic feeling about that continent, and she certainly wants him to see some of what she saw."

The first lady admitted exerting her influence over the president's anticipated trip to India next year.

"I want to be sure that he doesn't just see the insides of palaces and hotel rooms, but also have some sense of what is happening in the largest democracy in the world," Mrs. Clinton said.

The first lady follows such predecessors as Edith Wilson, who went with husband Woodrow to Versailles after World War I; Eleanor Roosevelt, who made goodwill trips on behalf of her disabled husband, Franklin, during World War II; Rosalynn Carter, whose June 1977 trip to the Caribbean and Latin America created a political firestorm for husband Jimmy; and Nancy Reagan, who actively counseled husband Ronald during an arms summit in Geneva.

The Washington Times
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1997

Refitted hall outshines Chicago's orchestra

CHICAGO — Klieg lights lined Michigan Avenue. Placido Domingo had chiseled out time between performances in New York and Madrid. Audiences had paid up to $1,500 for tickets.

But sadistic gods seemed to conspire against the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the gala opening of its $110 million Symphony Center on Saturday almost became a Greek tragedy.

Composer Pierre Boulez failed to finish what might've been a prestigious new piece. The orchestra's beloved former chief Georg Solti was expected to add his luster to opening festivities but died just weeks ago. Then orchestra members threatened to strike. They didn't vote on a settlement until the morning of the concert.

As in Greek tragedies, victories were Pyrrhic.

The Symphony Hall interior looks like a million (actually *several* million) bucks, having been seamlessly reconfigured in the 1904 building's original late-Victorian style. In fact, the gracefully curving enlarged stage plays off the auditorium's circular lines to intoxicating effect. The only anachronism is the acoustical "cloud" of curved plexiglass panels above the stage.

Music
News & Views

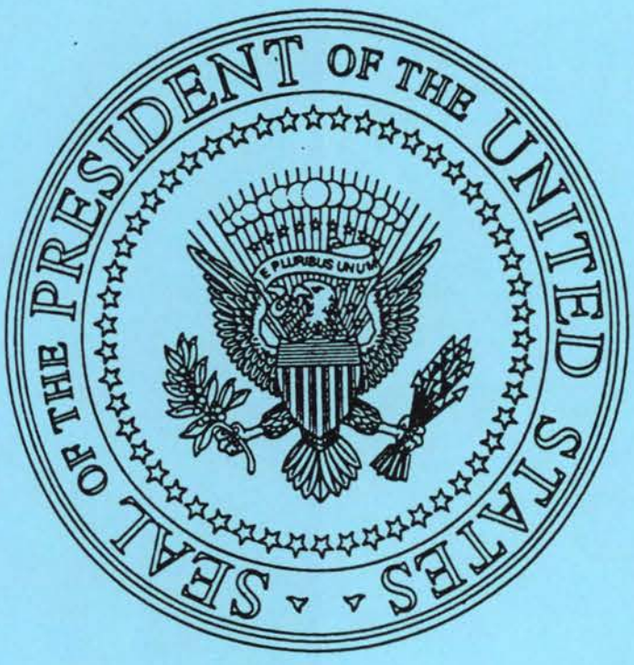
By David Patrick Stearns

Acoustically, which is where hopes ran highest for improvements, the sound had great immediacy. Domingo's scenes from *Otello*, music director Daniel Barenboim's performance of the smaller-scale Mozart piano concerto and the massive choral/orchestral Bruckner *Te Deum* all came through with equal clarity, as though the performers were right next to you.

Yet the sound — at least with the paint barely dry — lacked reverberation, giving an unflattering account of the orchestra's state in front of many of the world's music critics.

The orchestra seemed to be losing its instinctive sense of unanimity. Entrances were clumsy and messy. The brass failed to blend well. In Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*, the strings sounded hard and aggressive; only the wind solos gave pleasure. Though Barenboim's Beethoven had a welcome recklessness and his Mozart an emotional expressivity, virtues and problems arrived in fits and starts. Perhaps the gods weren't being sadistic, but protective.

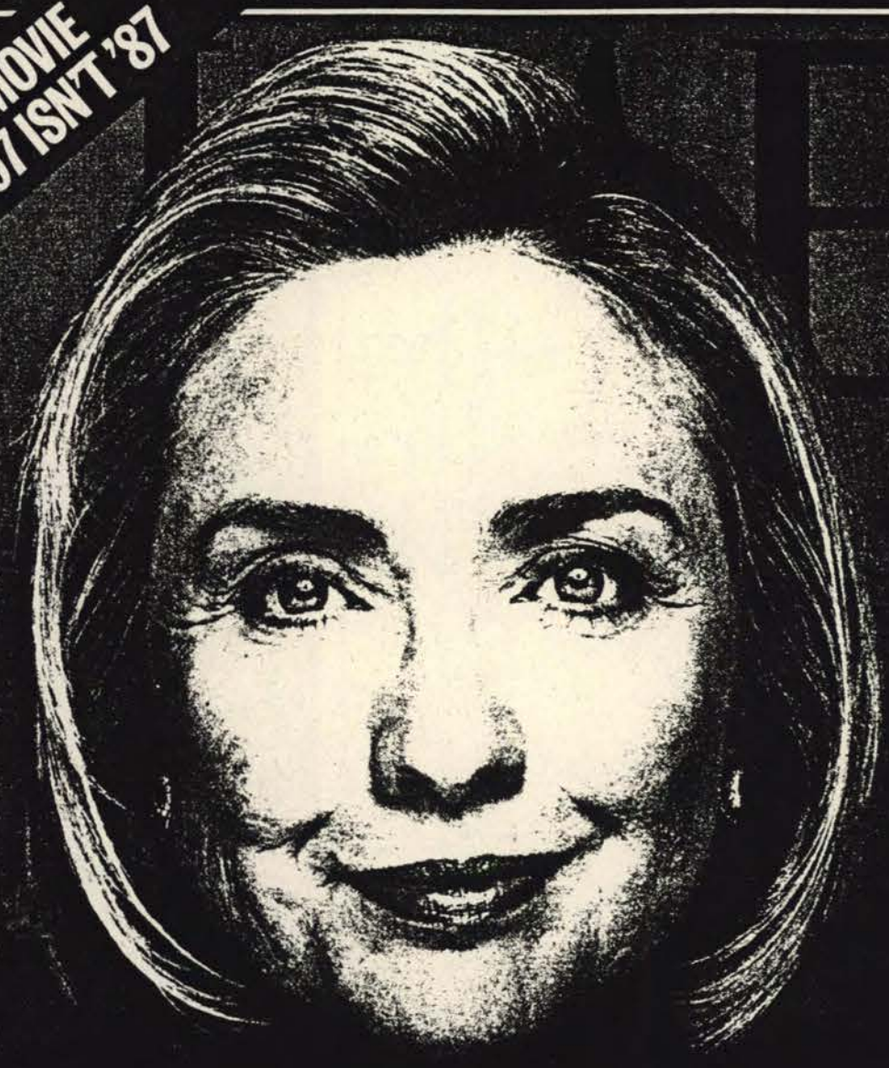
HRC Clips



Saturday, October 4, 1997-
Tuesday, October 14, 1997

EVEREST: THE MOVIE

STOCKS: WHY '97 ISN'T '87



Turning Fifty

Hillary Clinton, confronting a birthday and a newly empty nest, embodies the challenge facing Baby Boom women: What's the next act?

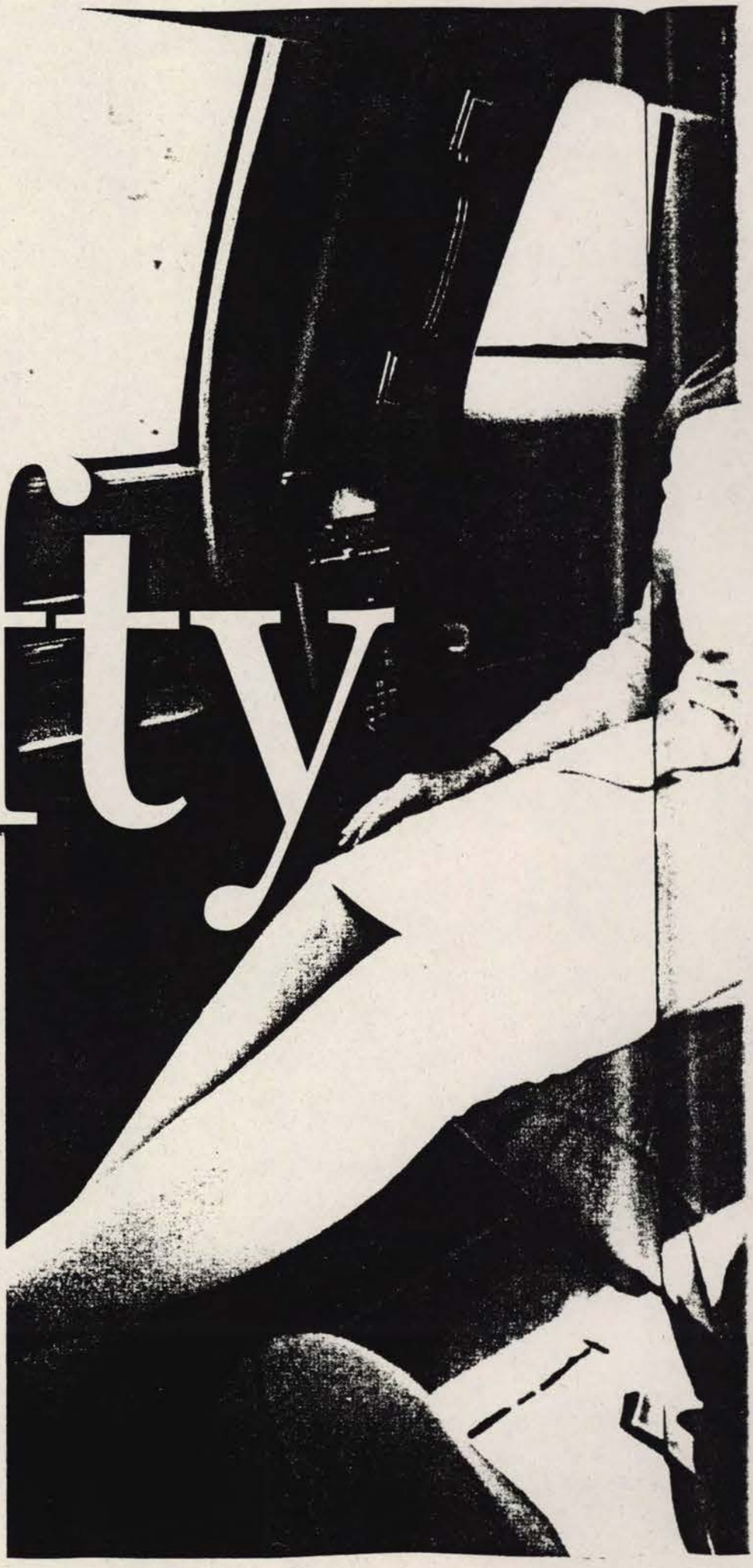
Older and wiser, America's first Baby Boom First Lady wrestles with career, family and how to leave a mark

TURNING Fifty

By KAREN TUMULTY

HOW DO YOU TAKE THE MEASURE OF A woman's life at 50, when her generation—or at least its passionate front line—has broken all the rules? "There is no formula that I'm aware of for being a successful or fulfilled woman today," Hillary Rodham Clinton once said. "Perhaps it would be easier ... if we could be handed a pattern and cut it out, just as our mothers and grandmothers and foremothers were. But that is not the way it is today, and I'm glad it is not."

On Oct. 26, Hillary turns 50, which is a birthday that compels almost any woman to step back and examine whether the drape and line of her life fit the woman she once dreamed of becoming. The cutting edge of female Baby Boomers, of whom Hillary is the most famous, approached adulthood with a wild, subversive earnestness. These women would change the world, have careers, build strong marriages, raise good children and keep their sense of humor. Hillary has been a beneficiary of these expectations, and as First Lady also their most conspicuous victim.



OFF THE CUFF
In her limo, Hillary shares a laugh with her chief of staff, Melanne Verveer

Photographs for TIME by Diana Walker


TIME





KIDS ARE US

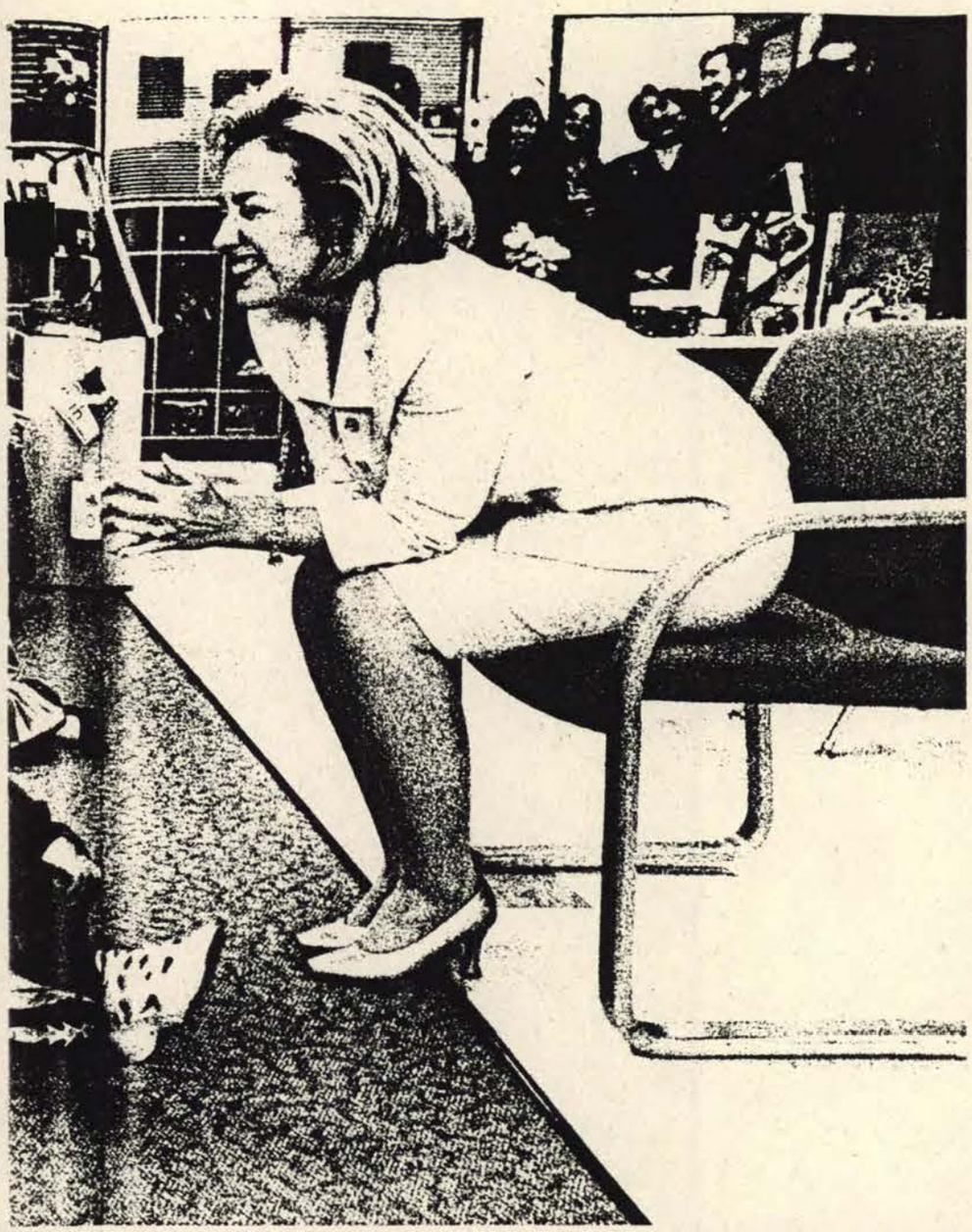
Hillary, at the children's center of the University of Maryland, plans to make the wrenching issue of child care a presidential priority

HILLARYLAND

At scheduling sessions like this, Hillary often shows a maternal affection for her staff members. In turn, they're fiercely protective of her

HILLARY-OUS

Off the record, the First Lady is a wonderful mimic. Here she performs at a send-off for press secretary Neel Lattimore





Her Wellesley education and Yale law degree put her onstage (as the student speaker at her college commencement and later as one of the nation's "most influential" lawyers), but they also moved her to the side when her husband's Arkansas constituency chafed at her insistence on being called Ms. Rodham. They put her in a new kind of spotlight as the victorious spouse of this nation's first Baby Boomer President, but she stepped off the stage again when her mishandling of health-care reform almost crippled his presidency.

NOW SHE IS GETTING READY TO come onstage again, into some treacherous politics. For the first time since her health-care debacle, the First Lady is preparing to assume a leading role on a policy issue that sweeps every corner of American life, opening questions of government's role, corporate responsibilities and even the very nature of family. As Hillary wrote in her best-selling book *It Takes a Village*, "If you want to open the floodgates of guilt and dissension anywhere in America, start talking about child care."

To begin her moderation of the issue, the First Lady will lead a major White House conference on child care next week; she promises to lay out the problem's complexities with her customary intellectual rigor. "You have to put the issue in front of the American people and get them to look at it honestly," she told TIME last week in a late-night interview at her hotel suite in Panama City, Panama, where she spoke at a conference of First Ladies of the Americas. But already the ideological lines on child care are forming, bracing for confrontation. "It's very clear," says Hillary's old ally, children's advocate Marian Wright Edelman, "that child care is going to have a private-sector piece, a state piece, a community piece and a Federal Government piece." In other words, retorts conservative guru Paul Weyrich, child care is going to be "the new entitlement of the next century."

The prospect of this kind of clash helps explain why White House officials, who grow exceedingly sensitive in discussing anything that involves the First Lady, are vague about what will come out of her latest endeavor. Hillary herself raises a wide range of possibilities: policy recommendations that might be carried out by Executive Order or regulation (like a national registry of day-care workers who have been credibly accused of abuse), new legislation, new state and local programs, better enforcement of the laws already on the books. But the President, in his own interview with TIME, set an ambitious goal for his wife:

inner circle: "She was trying to figure out how she could be who she is—a thinker, a doer—without arousing hostility from those who felt she was overstepping her bounds. I think she's figured it out." A former White House official puts it more bluntly: "Fundamentally, Hillary was seared, and seared badly. She's trying to carve her niche so she can be remembered."

Hillary has learned the perverse Washington lesson that a First Lady succeeds in public at her husband's peril. Presidential power being a zero-sum equation, it was impossible for her to look strong without the President's looking weak. She learned the hard way what First Ladies before her had assumed: that her influence was better felt than seen. So late in 1994 she vanished from the West Wing. She sent her chief of staff at the time, Maggie Williams, to meetings. If she needed to make a point, she did it one on one with such trusted aides as deputy chief of staff Harold Ickes and political director Doug Sosnik. And she became the covert campaigner, keeping the national media off her plane as she stumped from city to city. Save for her star turn at the Democratic Convention, the First Lady hovered below radar.



FIRST PARTNERS
Taping a commemoration, Hillary continues to be Bill's closest confidant

It was in her stealth phase, for instance, that she recruited political consultant Dick Morris to craft the move-to-the-center strategy that kept Bill Clinton in the White House. She and Morris were the earliest to press the President into adopting the consultant's campaign of bite-sized, family-oriented initiatives. And after the election, she was one of the most important forces behind the first major decision of his second term: to balance the budget. She did not stay out of personnel decisions either. She backed Erskine Bowles as chief of staff, putting pragmatism over friendship by passing over her ally Ickes, and she put her old pal Ann Lewis in charge of White House communication operations.

But she cut back in the size of her public role. Her causes became Gulf War syndrome, the need for more micro-lending by banks in poor areas, the troubles of American couples trying to adopt 90 babies from Paraguay, and Naina Yeltsin's crusade for Russian children suffering from a metabolic disorder called phenylketonuria. In the White House she moved back into the safety of a world that even its denizens call Hillaryland, a world made up of ferociously protective aides and a collection of friends from Arkansas like television producer Linda Bloodworth-Thomason. (Just two weeks ago, in fact, Hillary called with suggestions for a title for Bloodworth-Thomason's latest sitcom pilot. Bloodworth-Thomason was startled. She says with a laugh, "You want to say, 'Shouldn't you be off inspecting meat somewhere?'")

Among her circle, a former top White House official says, the rehabilitation of Hillary became Topic A. They held meetings on the subject. "Unlike the President, Hillary is very disciplined," the former official says. "She kept the meetings on point, which was how to reposition her." But while Hillary Clinton may seek advice, says former Labor Secretary Robert Reich, "she feels her way by herself. Undoubtedly she did withdraw."

What made Hillary pull back was that by late 1994 her record was a ledger of error and miscalculation. Beyond the health-care disaster, she became the first First Lady to be subpoenaed by a federal grand jury, this one looking into the mysterious reappearance of her Rose Law Firm billing records, of interest in the Whitewater investigation. Earlier in the term, there had been an uproar over her involvement in the firings at the White House travel office, and later over her possible hand in the gathering of FBI files on Republicans who had worked in the White House. By Election Day 1996, every word and deed of this entirely novel First Lady was shadowed by an entirely novel question: Would she be indicted? Hillary had stood by her husband through Gennifer Flowers and Paula Jones, through questions about the draft and whether he inhaled, but to see her own moral standards attacked was something new. "That stung her really hard, put her in shock," says a longstanding ally. "Hillary Rodham Clinton never recovered from that, in a profound way."

Reich, an old friend, sees it differently. "She bounces back easily. She really does," he says. "Except in the one domain of trust." Nowhere does that show more than in her tortured relationship with the media. In the rare instances when she allows reporters on her plane or dines with them on the road, Hillary is charming and revealing. She is a wicked mimic, her repertoire ranging from witty stories of wandering the White House (she and Bill still haven't seen every room) to the migration patterns of screwworms. But the First Lady enforces an almost inviolable rule that these very human encounters are to be off the record. For this article, it was easier to get an interview with her husband than with her. When she finally agreed to talk, near midnight after a punishing day of travel and official events, Hillary turned testy on even softball questions if they approached anything personal. She engaged only when the topic turned to policy, and insisted on approving even the most boilerplate quotes before they could be published.

Hillary's sense of fragility comes not only from her public beatings but also from



PANAMA TOUR

The First Lady has found her voice abroad on trips like these

the deep personal losses she has suffered since entering the White House. Her father died, then the President's mother. Deputy White House counsel Vince Foster, her close friend and law partner from Arkansas, committed suicide, under circumstances that continue to nourish the dark theology of the Clinton haters. Others from the Little Rock circle left in disgrace. "I could see in her eyes a real hurt and a loss of bearings," says Cisneros.

As she foundered, Hillary largely shut out overtures from the Beltway's Democratic intelligentsia, including women who had joined the Administration in large part because of her. A top Administration woman says of the First Lady, "She doesn't travel with her peers." Says Morris: "She's very headstrong and very stubborn, and ultimately very brittle." Her bitterness would occasionally seep out. At the Democratic Convention she told the Arkansas delegation that a friend had told her she would have everything but the kitchen sink thrown at her. "Well," she said, "I just saw it go by."

It is not surprising that Hillary began to regain her voice and her footing far from home, on the other side of the world, at the U.N.'s Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September 1995. That was a delicate time in U.S.-Chinese relations, so tense that some in Washington had argued she should not even attend. When Hillary took the podium, she unleashed the most stinging human-rights rebuke ever by a prominent American speaking for this government on Chinese soil. "It is time to break our silence," she declared. "It is time for us to say here in Beijing, and the world to hear, that it is no longer acceptable to discuss women's rights as separate from human rights." Without mentioning China by name, the First Lady offered an unsparing litany of abuses there and elsewhere: forced abortion and sterilization, denial of political rights, suppression of speech. The address had an odd, disjointed rhythm, losing bits here and there in translation as it made its way to the headphones of women from more than 180 countries. But if at times her words took a moment or two to register, Hillary's message got through clearly enough. Delegates cheered, others leaped from their seats and pounded the tables. The applause lasted more than 20 minutes after she left the stage. Women she has met since in Soweto, Budapest and Manila can recite the lines she delivered that day.

The freedom she feels abroad may explain why Hillary spends so much time there. She is by far the U.S.'s most traveled First Lady. Last week's trip to Panama was her 14th solo journey. In Senegal she was called "Sister Hillary." In Bangladesh an entire village was named for her. But whatever affirmation they offered, those trips did little to help her come to terms with her skeptical audience at home. That was why, on the plane back from Beijing, in Ireland and in Latin America, the computer-illiterate First Lady curled up with a legal pad on her lap to produce, in her semilegible longhand, *It Takes a Village*. The book, subtitled *And Other Lessons Children Teach Us*, took most of 1995 to complete. "The writing of the book was important because it gave her another major project to be involved in," President Clinton told TIME. "She's never comfortable unless she's working on something big that she thinks will have an impact." For Hillary it was also a chance to redefine herself, to return to the causes that had given shape to her entire adult life. As her critics might have expected, she wrote glowingly of expensive social programs, such as France's child-care system. But the book also provided glimpses of a surprisingly conservative Hillary. She advocated school uniforms long before her husband's campaign discovered the issue. She praised the "heartening efforts" of Promise Keepers to strengthen marriage and found common cause with virtuecrat William Bennett on divorce and rap music. She even opened the shutters a crack on the most speculated-upon marriage in America: "My strong feelings about divorce and its effects on children have caused me to bite my tongue more than a few times." The book stayed on the best-seller lists for 20 weeks.

As she contemplates the years ahead, Hillary, like her husband, can't help fretting over her legacy. (She's already started to fret about the birthday and the hoopla it has engendered: friends plan a round of parties; her hometown Chicago has considered fireworks; and the Democratic Party—no surprise—has found in it another occasion

for a fund raiser.) For one thing, her most tangible gift to the future, Chelsea, is on her own now. "I'm looking for ways to divert myself from my empty nest, and I'll take just about any dinner invitation I can get," the First Lady joked recently. Bill too misses having the other night owl in the family around when he is up late working, and he even misses Hillary's nagging them both to get some sleep. "The phone doesn't ring as much—not nearly as much," the President laments. "And every now and then, we ease into her room and look around." With Chelsea's departure, the First Lady who mastered Game Boy has resolved to overcome her phobia of computers. Her chief of staff, Melanne Verveer, lately caught her thumbing through a book called *Internet E-Mail for Dummies*.

But there are other forces besides the empty nest compelling Hillary to move on to the next project. Unlike those of her most recent predecessors, who were nearer retirement age when they left the White House, Hillary's chance to make a mark doesn't end when the helicopter rises from the South Lawn for the last time. A few months ago, she mused to her friend actress Mary Steenburgen that she and Bill might be itinerant college professors for a while, taking stints at various campuses as they sort out their future. On the other hand, says Steenburgen, the idea of putting down roots has more than a little appeal to a woman who has spent most of her adult life in government housing, with each election bringing the prospect of eviction. The President's vision has them sitting on a bench somewhere, "old people laughing about our lives and not begrudging young people having more time than we did."

Chances are, none of those fantasies will completely satisfy Hillary, who says, "I'll go on to do something else that I find challenging and interesting." Last Friday, Hillary and her entourage hiked a slick, muddy trail outside the remote Panamanian village of Chica, where a dozen peasant women were waiting at their nursery of guavas, peppermint and poinsettias. On a dilapidated bamboo bench, Faustina Nuñez told the First Lady in Spanish of the dream they had also harvested from the soil. "Our community could see we were a society of strong-willed women, and we were not going to step backward," Nuñez said. For Hillary and her generation, that is a yearning that needs no translation. —*With reporting by* ***Ann Blackman/Washington***



GAMMA LIAISON

Hillary Rodham and brother Hugh with mother Dorothy

■ PUBLIC EYE ■

Margaret Carlson

MOM'S WAY AND MY WAY

It's hard to know who came out ahead

WHERE'S THE GIRL THAT ONCE I WAS? I HEAR THAT SENTIMENT FREquently from friends approaching midlife. But I never heard it from my mother or the women in the neighborhood, and that wasn't just because they didn't go around paraphrasing Broadway musicals. Unlike Baby Boomer women, dear old Mom just soldiered on without theorizing too much about it. She didn't look for meaning in a diaper, or make distinctions between quality vs. quantity time. She wished she were not so plump, but it would have never entered her mind to take two hours out of her day to jump around to an exercise video. Rocky marriages were talked about over coffee perked in a Farberware pot. But most women didn't expect to find the moon and stars in another human being, or to perfect the institution of marriage. My parents had the good sense not to look for so much *from* each other that they couldn't stick *with* each other.

When '60s daughters became '80s mothers, though, we looked back and saw our moms as chumps. They didn't have it all, or even enough. We'd run banks, law firms and corporations while raising picture-perfect children who would like us as well as love us. We'd find husbands who would treat us as equals and not call it baby sitting when they stayed home to watch the kids.

So as Hillary Rodham Clinton and her cohort of leading-edge Baby Boomers turn 50, it's time to take stock. Women are no longer forced to decide between children and careers (although our salaries are still only about 70% of men's). The kids survive; some thrive, despite the time bind of two parents running from work shift to home shift. We're tired—studies find women sleep fewer hours a week than their husbands—but happy.

Or are we? Fathers today talk a sensitive game, but why do so few take paternity leave? The yuppie dad will put the baby in the Snugli, pick up a steak and light the grill Saturday, then boast about having fixed dinner *and* taken care of the baby all day. Come Monday he'll post a piece about it on the Internet.

Many more of us are divorced now. Our kids have their clothes and hearts in separate houses. Middle age remains less forgiving to women than to men—and no women's movement will ever change that. Our dads may have tuned out in their La-Z-Boy recliners, but fewer of them dumped a first family for second wives and second lives. Women may now have the means to leave dead marriages, but few go on to collect trophy husbands or start new families.

Some days I look in the mirror, see my mother looking back and, after the shock passes, give in to it. Why was I so sure I could do it better? As Letty Cottin Pogrebin says in *Getting Over Getting Older*, it's not so much our fading youth we worry about as our fading future. Hillary may have talked wistfully about adopting a child just as Chelsea was planning to leave home, not for the family-values vote, as cynics suggested, but to duplicate her one unambiguous triumph, the most successful and important enterprise of her life.

Every summer my parents rented a cottage at the shore, lugging Melmac plates and jelly glasses, setting up a beach encampment by day, playing cards by night, always with the same families. Part of the pleasure came from there being ever more children and grandchildren—and the same spouses. All wasn't sweetness in the family: doors were slammed, tears shed, dreams thwarted. With her energy and brains, my mother might have run General Motors. Instead she ran us, and felt there was no greater happiness. As we race from boardroom to courtroom, soccer practice to PTA, with hardly a moment to savor any of it, the thought occurs to us that she may have been right. ■

WHITE HOUSE

Hillary's Turning Point

At 50, she's center stage and taking on a new role

BY MATTHEW COOPER

IT WAS ALMOST A PARODY OF do-goodism. There was Hillary Rodham Clinton with mud-caked boots high in the Panamanian hills touting a trifecta program—a female-run, microenterprise that reforests the jungle. Wearing a wireless mike so reporters could hear her, she proclaimed that this is "exactly the kind of project I've seen all over the world that works."

Showing what works—that has become the new mantra for Hillary Rodham Clinton. With a 50th birthday this month and her only child off at college, the First Lady is using this turning point to orchestrate a new, higher-profile role to spotlight policies she likes. She's attending a birthday gala in her native Chicago, including visits to her childhood haunts. "All the stations of the cross," says a friend. She now takes reporters on all of her trips (though she continues to control the media by conducting her interviews off the record until her staff can review and approve the final results). This month, the White House will hold a splashy conference on child care. All of it comes from a feeling, say her friends, that she's better off highlighting the many projects she cares about rather than making policy or concentrating on one single cause. (Remember health care.) She's not indifferent to her legacy, but—unlike her husband—she is not consumed by it, either.



IRA WYMAN FOR NEWSWEEK

Hitting the road: *The First Lady feels freer to speak out*

Hillary is candid about the lessons she's learned as First Lady. She says she now understands that there is power in words as well as deeds. "I'm much more aware and much more comfortable with the Bully Pulpit," she told NEWSWEEK. "It is something that I've come to appreciate more than I ever thought I would." She's also less worried about what Washington thinks of her: "I was very upset at times and couldn't understand why people were so critical and opposed to what I was trying to do, no matter what I did. Then I came to understand that was just part of the political landscape." She defends her health-care program but acknowledges "that maybe it's easier for people to take reform in small chunks." While she was never in hiding post–health care, stories about Hillary's "influence" disappeared. Now her presence is again being felt inside the White House. Despite her caricature, she took on liberals and urged the president to sign welfare reform last year.

Why the new role? For one thing, her popularity is way up. Internal White House polls show her at practically her highest levels (around 60 percent) since coming to office—perhaps because, for the moment, she's out of the scandal spotlight: her husband and Al Gore are now the ones facing scrutiny. Meanwhile, of course, Chelsea's off to Stanford, leaving Mrs. Clinton freer to travel and work in the evenings. Friends of the first couple's say that Mrs. Clinton is handling Chelsea's departure better than the president. Her absence is especially vexing for him late at night when Hillary has gone to bed and Chelsea, a fellow night owl, is not around to gab with. While both Clintons have vowed to learn e-mail to bridge the nearly 3,000-mile gap, Mrs. Clinton is ahead of her husband in going online. One of the presents her staff got her in the days leading up to her birthday: "E-Mail for Dummies." She loved it.

What's next? NEWSWEEK has learned that next week's child-care conference will be followed by an executive order calling on federal agencies to develop child-care proposals for the country. This isn't the prelude to One Big Program. Instead, Hillary hopes to spotlight favored causes, not only child care but gulf war syndrome—an issue of concern to Ross Perot, who has been in touch with her staff to point out new medical research. A C-Span junkie, she's always loved political speeches. With her new high profile, she may be on the channel more than she's watching it. ■

On Chelsea, the Future and Turning 50

As she approaches her 50th birthday, Hillary Clinton spoke with NEWSWEEK's *Matthew Cooper last week during her visit to Panama. Excerpts from their talk, and from the First Lady's remarks to reporters on her plane:*

On turning 50
It's not being 50 so much; it's being "half a century." [Laughter.] That really gets to you. But it's my daughter going to college more than any birthday that's marked a turning point.

On life after the White House
My husband is a very nostalgic and philosophical man. Now he realizes that he's got fewer years ahead of him in the White House than behind him. I'm not there yet. I do think about doing other things but [have] no plans yet. We have to make a decision soon [about where in Little Rock to build the president's library]. We have to get going on it.

On moving back to Arkansas
He's really looking forward to it. We'll [also] spend time in lots of other places. The Carters live in Plains, but they spend time in Atlanta and they also spend time everywhere else.

On women's rights
I've seen an evolution of issues that governments are willing to talk about—domestic violence, women's political rights. There's a willingness to be identified with issues that five or 10 years ago were viewed as kind of radical.

On child care
We no longer have the welfare system to blame for everything, and that's what happened before when issues like child care got mixed up with feelings about "the undeserving welfare class." Child care now has a real shot.

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COVER: Photograph by Brian Smith—Outline for *USN&WR*

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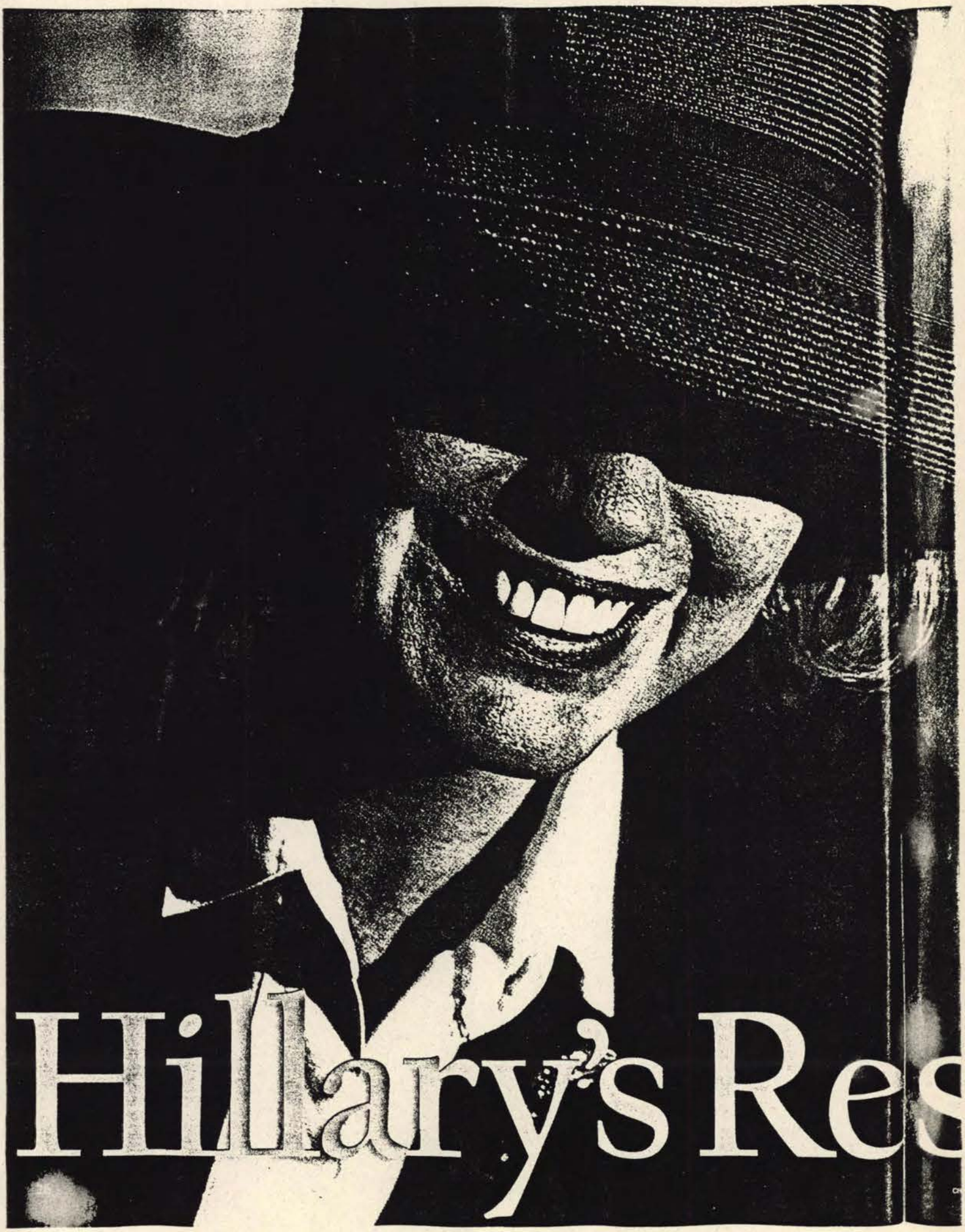
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Hillary's Res

She's back. While no one was looking, the controversial first lady became popular again. How did that happen and what does it mean for her role?

BY KENNETH T. WALSH

At a meeting in the Oval Office several weeks ago, President Clinton's advisers presented a hypothetical case for endorsing a worldwide treaty to ban land mines. Signing the pact, they said, would place the United States on the side of international humanitarianism and possibly save thousands of children and other innocents from death or injury. The commander in chief nodded quietly and said he was already familiar with the argument. "Believe me," he said wearily, "I hear it every night." It turned out that Hillary Rodham Clinton had been waging her own lobbying effort against land mines in the privacy of the White House residence, without the knowledge of most of the president's other advisers.

In the end, Clinton overruled his wife and rejected the treaty rather than place the lives of U.S. soldiers at risk. But Mrs. Clinton's private lobbying reveals several changes in how she views her role. It shows she is, as ever, a major behind-the-scenes force but has expanded her portfolio to include issues like national security where she was thought to be uninvolved. It also shows, strangely, how the first lady has been influenced by the example of Princess Diana, who had conducted a dramatic public campaign against land mines. After representing the United States at Diana's funeral, Mrs. Clinton concluded that Diana's effectiveness as an opponent of land mines came not from the cogency of her arguments but from her ubiquity on television. Public exposure was pow-

esurrection

CHARLIE ARCHAMBAULT FOR *USNEWS*

In a new *U.S. News* poll, **59%** of voters view Hillary Clinton favorably—her highest rating since 1993.



Mrs. Clinton with kids at the Quantico Marine base

er. In part as a result of this insight, Mrs. Clinton has begun to think differently about how to influence politics, according to her close associates. The first lady's shift from the Ira Magaziner model to the Lady Di model means Americans are going to be seeing a lot more of her in the months to come. After nearly three years of relatively low visibility—a diminished role she accepted after the demise of her health care initiative in 1994—Mrs. Clinton is emerging from her cocoon.

This new assertiveness comes in part because she has developed a mild case of empty-nest syndrome and feels the need to fill the emotional void created by daughter Chelsea's departure for college. Part of it is age. On October 26, the first lady will turn 50. Like so many baby boomers, she has been prodded toward action as she reached this milestone.

Record-breaking numbers. Perhaps most important, Mrs. Clinton's re-emergence comes at a time when she is once again popular. According to a new *U.S. News* poll, 59 percent of registered voters surveyed now view the first lady favorably—her highest rating since 1993.* Her job-approval rating is an amazing 67 percent, higher than her husband's has *ever* been in *U.S. News* polls. Aware of private Democratic polls showing the same trend, Mrs. Clinton appears willing once again to test the boundaries of public acceptance of a first lady as aggressive policy maker.

In Panama last week, she was the central figure in a hemispheric summit of first ladies. Not only did she take along a sizable media contingent, but she used the occasion to suggest a conference of activist women to push governments to help women and children throughout the Americas. Next week she and her husband convene a White House conference on child care. And she has become more willing to work with the mainstream media, to gain publicity for her causes, especially children's issues.

There are different views on how, exactly, Mrs. Clinton managed to improve her public image so much. To some extent, the public has come to appreciate in her the quality that earned her husband respect during past elections: perseverance. "Her image has softened as she has endured the travails of being under investigation for so long, and for holding up with good cheer, and for raising her daughter so well despite all the problems of public life," says one aide. Chelsea's departure and the first lady's age have also helped her approval ratings, advisers say. "One reason her life is closely followed, and so many women identify with her, is that she very publicly goes through the life cycles we all do," says Ann Lewis, White House communications adviser.

Not only do people like her more but they hate her less. Internal White House polling shows that the percentage of people who dislike her "viscerally" (mostly conservatives and older men) has fallen from 35 percent to about 25 percent.

Aides concede that some of the new popularity stems from the first lady's having taken a lower profile over the past few years. And the less people see of Mrs. Clinton, the more they like her. This raises a political question: If one of the ways she became popular again was by keeping a low profile, does it make sense for her to become more public again?

An appropriate role. Yes, say Mrs. Clinton's friends, because the first lady learned a lot from the health care debacle about what type of public role she should have. It has taken several years, but she understands that many Americans worry about any powerful White House policy maker who is virtually unaccountable. According to the *U.S. News* poll, about half of registered voters would prefer that she help children by calling attention to their problems as opposed to directly shaping public policy. As a result, her aides say, Mrs. Clinton will be careful not to seem manipulative or secretive and will emphasize that government cannot solve problems alone.

She and her advisers have also concluded that the status of children, unlike health care reform, is a subject appropriate for a first lady in the minds of Ameri-

INTERVIEW WITH HILLARY CLINTON

'INSTANT GRATIFICATION'

Hillary Rodham Clinton discussed her feelings on turning 50, her role as first lady, and her commitment to children's advocacy during an interview with *U.S. News* Senior Writer Kenneth T. Walsh during her trip to Panama last week. Excerpts:

■ **On turning 50 later this month.** It's obviously a real benchmark to pass the half-century mark, but people are making a lot more out of it than I wish they would, to tell you the truth. I'd rather just let it come and go so I don't have to think about it so much.

■ **On the president's remark upon turning 50, that he has more yesterdays than tomorrows.** He doesn't plan to live to be more than 100, apparently. [laughs] I have no philosophical musings about this passage. I'm just trying to navigate it the best I can.

■ **On the welfare of children.** A lot of social indicators suggest that some of our problems are beginning to reverse, not in big enough numbers yet.

■ **On popular culture.** I don't think there's any doubt that the popular culture influences how children see themselves and how they behave. If they're from poorly functioning families, or dangerous neighborhood settings, they're more likely to be influenced than

*U.S. News poll of 1,000 adults designed by Celinda Lake of Lake Sosin Snell Perry and Ed Goeas of the Tarrance Group and conducted by Market Facts' Telenation survey Oct. 3-5, 1997. Margin of error: plus or minus 3.1 percent.



JIM LO SCALZO FOR USN&WR

She has concluded that children's issues are appropriate for a first lady.

cans. White House strategists, basing their views partly on polls and focus groups, say the public views such an issue as a natural outgrowth of past first ladies' activities, such as Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" campaign against drugs and Barbara Bush's children's literacy efforts.

To that end, Mrs. Clinton has been advocating improved health care for kids, clearer labeling of medications for young people, and attention to nurturing children during their first three years of life. At next week's child care conference, she is expected to present a series of specific reform proposals, including a plan for a national registry of the employment and criminal histories of day-care providers. And friends say she plans to write a sequel to her 1996 bestseller, *It Takes a Village: And Other Lessons Children Teach Us.*

Aides say she will call attention to forms of entertainment that harm young people. In her syndicated newspaper column last month, she criticized the film *My Best Friend's Wedding* for scenes in which Julia Roberts's character smokes. "Movie stars who puff away on the screen equate smoking with status, power, confidence, and glamour," she wrote. And in the next year she will take her up-with-kids message to several former Soviet republics, Africa, East Asia, and South America.

Mother Teresa. Her desire to assume a more visible public role has been encouraged by survey research by her aides. It also was intensified by two recent events. The worldwide mourning for Princess Diana reminded the first lady that celebrity can be as important a tool for influencing society as policy wonkery. Mrs. Clinton's visit to Calcutta in September for Mother Teresa's funeral had a similarly powerful impact. After the ceremonies she visited Mother Teresa's orphanage at Shishu Bhavan, where she marveled at the devotion of the caregivers and noted how happy the children seemed to be despite the austere conditions. Mrs. Clinton told friends later that the experience encouraged her to take stock of her own obligations to the wider community.

Increasingly, friends say, she has even been able to filter out the distractions of alleged scandal that had earlier weighed heavily on her. She rarely speaks, even in private, of the ongoing Whitewater investigation by independent counsel Kenneth Starr. Even more telling, *U.S. News* has learned, Mrs. Clinton urged her husband and some of his advisers to settle the sexual-harassment case brought by Paula Jones, even if the president had to accept something less than an absolute refutation of Jones's charges in court. Sources close to her say that while she believes her husband did nothing wrong, she decided to endure whatever embarrassment might result in order to end the lawsuit and all its distractions. It was the president, White House aides say, who decided to seek full exoneration.

Although there are still more than three years left in her husband's term, Mrs. Clinton has already begun to think about life after the White House. She will be only 53 when her husband departs the presidency, and there is widespread speculation among "Hillary's people" about her post-White House plans.

Not that the Clintons see eye to eye on where to go next. Their "base" will be in Arkansas, where Clinton's presidential library will be located. But his friends say Clinton is fascinated by the possibility of living in California because he loves its cultural diversity, which he sees as intellectually stimulating, and warm climate, which he thinks will help his golf game. But Mrs. Clinton's friends say she would be happier farther east, perhaps in the Chicago area where she grew up, and might become interested in running for elective office. Indeed, some friends have already begun to talk among themselves about the possibility of her running for the Senate from Illinois. Other friends predict she'll become a university president, run a foundation, hit the big-fee lecture circuit, or host her own public-affairs talk show on television. Clearly, she is now approaching the future with a sense of optimism that might seem surprising given how controversial she has been. Or maybe it's just the thrill of knowing that the hardest part will soon be ending. ■

not. There's the glamorization of violence and there's the absence of positive role models.

But I think it's more than that. It's the whole consumer culture of instant gratification that influences children and sends messages about what is or isn't popular—and what should or shouldn't be available to kids—that is just very different from anything that any generation of children has ever faced before.

I don't know that the adult world is fully grasping the impact. A child who at the age of 2 has a remote-control device—and is able to click the channel and never have to concentrate on anything—is a very different child when he reaches kindergarten or first grade than kids have ever been. I mean the extraordinary stimulation they've been subjected to makes the concentrated work that's required to learn to form letters, for example, seem not worthwhile in terms of the effort that has to be made. We have to give more thought to what we've done, unwittingly. . . . We need to confront that.

■ **On Promise Keepers.** I think the president was right on target when he said in his radio address that we all should want every parent, every mother, every father, to be responsible and committed to their families. I think we have to wait and see what they do in the future. At this moment, I will take them at their face value that they're concerned about people's spiritual lives, and I'm particularly hopeful that more men will be responsible husbands and fathers.

Orioles beat Indians in AL playoffs

Chicago Sun-Times

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COOL Pages 2, 44 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1997 **Late Sports Final**



Fans mourn singer

John Denver

Page 33



Runner plans return

Joan Benoit Samuelson

Page 92



Shoes step up as art

Page 43

First lady's party puts spotlight on Chicago

Hillary's 50th hits home

BY MICHAEL SNEED AND LYNN SWEET
STAFF REPORTERS

She's not running from her age.

Hillary Rodham Clinton's 50th birthday party will put the national spotlight on Chicago during a daylong extravaganza that will include a visit by the president, a film crew and a nostalgic tour of her childhood influences.

The celebration will take place on Oct. 27, the day after the first lady's birthday. Historian Carl Anthony, who is doing a documentary on Clinton's life and Chicago's impact on her, and a film crew will capture the day.

The celebration will culminate with an evening party at the Chicago Cultural Center--complete with a miniature Taste of Chicago, with her favorite local foods.

The first lady's Chicago friends are organizing the activities. The group of hometown buddies will take a bus to Clinton's childhood home in Park Ridge and visit her elementary school and First United Methodist Church, which she attended as a child. Later, Clinton will visit Orchestra Hall, where she once heard the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. speak in the early 1960s.

"Instead of cruising like teenagers, we are going to cruise like 50-year-olds in a bus," said the first lady's pal Betsy Johnson Ebeling, who spoke with Clinton about the event but is keeping some details secret.

"I didn't want to tell her everything. I told her she will have to have some surprises," Ebeling said.

The first lady also will attend a $125 a person Democratic Nation-

Turn to next page

50-fest set for Hillary in Chicago

Continued from previous page

al Committee fund-raiser.

How big will the 50-fest be? Commerce Secretary Bill Daley has joked that the city will send up fireworks.

Oprah Winfrey also will help Clinton make sense of turning 50 when she interviews her from her Chicago studio on Oct. 28.

Later, Clinton will be interviewed on the role of the first lady at the Chicago Historical Society. The interview will be conducted by Anthony.

Finally, the land surrounding the city's oldest house—the Widow Clarke House, 1800 S. Prairie in the Prairie Avenue Historic District—will be renamed as a park in honor of the first lady as part of an overall plan to honor women.

The splash for the first lady will come as she enjoys her highest approval rating since 1993, according to a new poll by U.S. News and World Report.

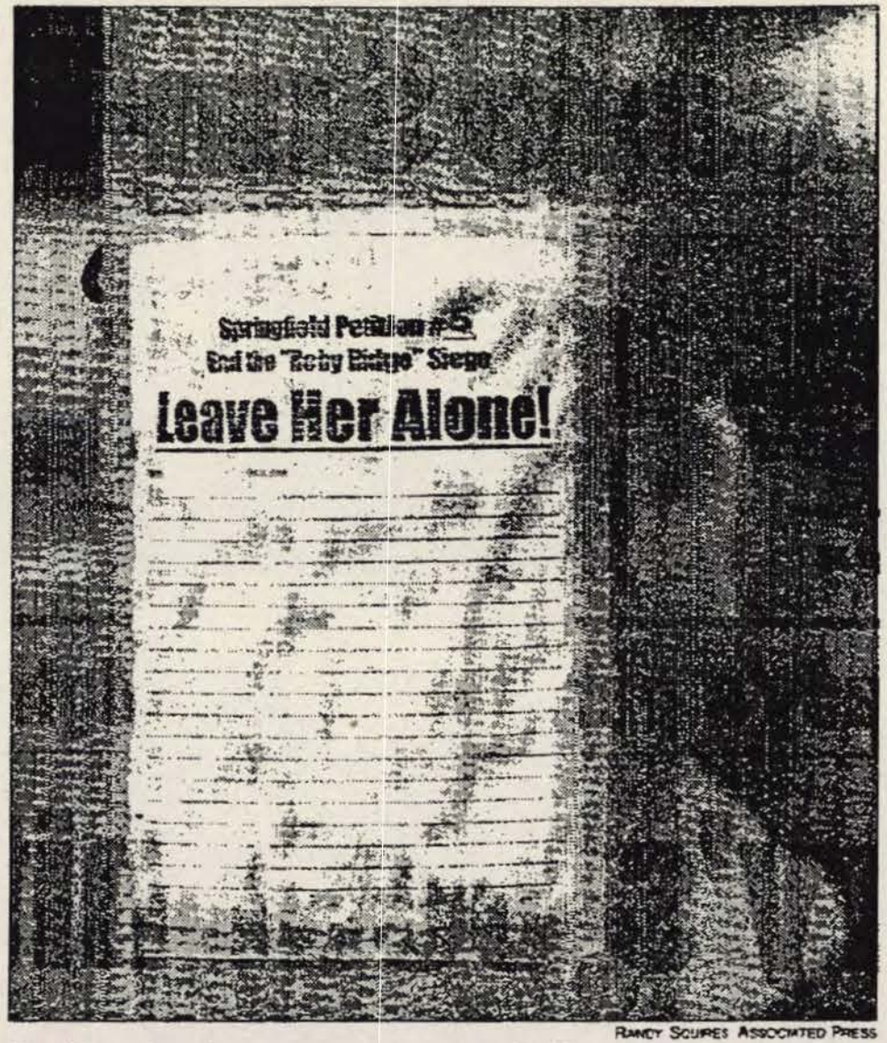
Most of the costs of the day's activities will be underwritten by the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and private donations.

MORNINGLINE

Should a Chicago park be named for Hillary Rodham Clinton?

Yes: (312) 408-3641 **No: (312) 408-3642**

Phone lines open until 5:30 p.m. today. (A charge for a local call to downtown Chicago applies.) Results in Wednesday's Sun-Times.



RANDY SQUIRES ASSOCIATED PRESS

Petition backs woman in standoff

A man peruses a petition posted on a light pole Monday near the Capitol in Springfield in support of Shirley Allen, 51, whose standoff with police in nearby Roby entered its 22nd day Monday. Illinois State Police reported no signs of progress.

Weather

Sunny and cool today. Highs in the lower 50s, lows in the upper 30s. Mostly cloudy Wednesday. Highs in the upper 50s, lows in the lower 40s. Cloudy Thursday. Highs in the upper 50s, lows in the lower 40s. Partly cloudy Friday. **Details on Page 44.**

Chicago Sun-Times InfoLine (312) 321-2211 Weather Category 2500 and Time Category 8463 (TIME).

Lotteries

For tickets dated Monday, October 13, 1997

Illinois

MIDDAY Pick 3—611
MIDDAY Pick 4—2823
EVENING Pick 3—741
EVENING Pick 4—9355
Little Lotto—
01 11 18 21 23
Lotto grand prize:
$20 million

The Big Game

Grand prize: $15 million

Indiana

Pick 3—697 Pick 4—0260
Lucky 5—06 12 22 24 28
Lotto grand prize: $12 mill.

Michigan

MIDDAY Daily 3—153
MIDDAY Daily 4—0436
EVENING Daily 3—129
EVENING Daily 4—5897
Cash 5—09 24 26 27 35
Lotto grand prize: $5 mill.

Wisconsin

Pick 3—800
Super Cash—05 08 12 14 19 32
Megabucks jackpot: $3.4 million

Powerball

Jackpot: $22 million

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