

Lee Bollinger and Nancy Cantor

The Educational Importance of Race

Until fairly recently, our society enforced the separation of the races in virtually all important areas—social, economic, political and educational. As a result of racial isolation, African Americans and white Americans often learned about each other by relying on unfounded images and stereotypes. Demeaning and hurtful images proliferated in the media, in textbooks, in movies and on radio and television. There were no countervailing institutions to perform the function of education and understanding. By design, we did not know each other.

In the decades since *Brown vs. Board of Education*, institutions of higher education have strongly influenced a change in this design. They have opened their doors and aggressively recruited minority students—African Americans at first, and then other underrepresented minority students, to create remarkably diverse student bodies.

Today, with a campus where nearly 14 percent of students are African American, Hispanic and Native American, the University of Michigan is the target of a lawsuit that seeks to prohibit us from ensuring a racially diverse student body by using race as one factor in admissions. The suit, brought by the Center for Individual Rights (CIR), is at the center of a great public debate over one of the most important issues of our time: how our governing constitutional principles permit us to use race to achieve a truly integrated society.

Virtually all institutions with selective

admissions consider race when they choose among applicants who experience shows can thrive in and contribute to a more vital educational environment. This practice was explicitly upheld against constitutional challenge in the Supreme Court's 1978 decision in *University of California v. Bakke*—and wisely so, for now that we have the design in place, we have begun to know each other.

Institutions of higher education have pursued a conception of education that emphasizes the joys of variety and the benefits of engaging those with different experiences and perspectives. This means we ask of every applicant: What will you contribute to the whole, not where do you stand in splendid, isolated comparison with everyone else?

A first-class education is one that creates the opportunity for students, expecting differences, to learn instead of similarities. Likewise, encountering differences rather than one's mirror image, is an essential part of a good education. Race is educationally important for all students, because understanding race in America is a powerful metaphor for crossing sensibilities of all kinds.

Our public universities have always cast a wide net in admitting students. Selecting a student body is not a simple matter of drawing a line through some rank ordering of individual applications. Universities have been especially watchful for merit wherever it is found. They have been alert to the potential of those who may not have had full opportuni-

ty to manifest their talent (immigrants, for example), those who have served the country (e.g., veterans), or who have unconventional talents. They must be responsive to the communities from which they derive (e.g., state residents) as well as to the nation itself (through geographic diversity).

The CIR lawsuit presumes that admissions is an atomized process in which each applicant is evaluated according to his or her "qualifications" and measured against every other applicant. They offer up grids that have been used in our undergraduate admissions process. These grids assign different weights to a variety of factors—academic grade-point average, test scores, alumni relationship, race, residency and so on—that help us make an admissions decision. Different outcomes will follow, depending on any variety of factors. CIR's real argument is not with our use of these grids. There are no grids in the law school process, yet CIR challenges our use of race there, too. Rather, to CIR the fact that race is one of these factors at all is what makes the process unacceptable.

CIR's challenge to "affirmative action" in higher education is a challenge to our philosophy of education and to the historical purposes of our great public universities. Implicit in its claim is a presumption that we admit some students who are not qualified. Let us be clear: All students admitted to the University of Michigan meet threshold requirements establishing that they are fully

qualified to do the work of a demanding undergraduate program. That being the case, surely CIR's objectives rest on an oversimplified idea of what is, in fact, a complex process of selecting students, as well as on a constricted view of the role of universities and the nature of merit. They also rest on a profoundly mistaken conception of education and the role of race in a modern education.

CIR seeks to eliminate all consideration of race in college admissions. If it is successful, as it was in an earlier lawsuit against the University of Texas, we will in all probability soon return to a largely segregated system—de facto rather than de jure, to be sure, but segregated nonetheless. The University of Texas Law School now has only four entering African American students, where former classes had more than 30. We are particularly alarmed at the significant drop in minority admissions at the most selective institutions in the University of California system, which operates under an affirmative action ban.

The country cannot afford to deprive institutions of higher education of the ability to educate generations of young Americans—minority and nonminority—in an environment that enables all to flourish, and understand each other, in a truly integrated society.

Lee Bollinger is president of the University of Michigan. Nancy Cantor is the university's provost.



M Fleet

Team Harmony IV

December 9, 1997

FleetCenter

Media Coverage Print



THE
Rasky/Baerlein
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National

Divider Title: _____

The Los Angeles Times

December 10, 1997



Associated Press

RACE—Hillary Rodham Clinton talked about racism with high school students in Boston. Above, Claudie Belfrage speaks with the first lady. **A17**

First Lady Hails Students in Rally Against Racism

From Times Wire Services

BOSTON—First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton praised middle and high school students attending a rally against racism Tuesday for “standing up for what is best about America.”

At the Team Harmony rally in Boston, which has seen its share of racial strife, the first lady talked to 20 teenagers onstage between speeches by Red Sox star first baseman Mo Vaughn and New England Patriots fullback Sam Gash, as about 10,000 other students listened and cheered.

Tuesday’s dialogue was part of an annual event by Team Harmony, an initiative begun by Boston-area professional sports teams in 1994 to help middle- and high-schoolers combat bigotry.

Clinton cited the effort as an effective program in her book, “It Takes a Village and Other Lessons Children Teach Us.”

After hearing several tales of how the students had experienced and combated racism, anti-Semitism or homophobia, Clinton told them: “You really are standing up for what is best about America.”

The first lady told the children that the best way to handle racist behavior is to refuse to respond.

One student asked Clinton whether she thought affirmative action has helped or hurt American race relations. She replied that it has done both, by uplifting poor minorities and by being “misconstrued and misunderstood and used in a negative way.”

Boston’s past includes vigorous opposition to busing to integrate schools in the ‘60s and ‘70s. About 30 years after passage of federal civil rights laws, the city remains one of racial and ethnic enclaves.

The New York Times
December 10, 1997



Associated Press

Students Recall Memories of Racism

Hillary Rodham Clinton attended a panel discussion with New England school children in Boston yesterday to discuss racism. She listened as Claudy Paul, a senior at a majority white high school, talked about his first experience with racism, which occurred

when a schoolmate used a racial slur as he boarded a school bus. "I felt so stunned," Mr. Paul said. The Boston event brought together 10,000 students. Last week, in Akron, Ohio, President Clinton kicked off what he called a national dialogue on race.

Time Kids

December 19, 1997

**IN THE
NEWS**



Hillary Clinton shared a laugh and lots of serious ideas about prejudice with Boston kids.

Speaking Out Against Racism

Last week Hillary Rodham Clinton had a heart-to-heart talk with a group of kids in Boston, Massachusetts. The subject was one that President and Mrs. Clinton plan to focus on a lot in coming months: racism.

The Boston area's professional sports teams

started a program in 1994 to help middle and high school students fight hate and racism. Besides the First Lady, about 10,000 kids took part this year.

Student after student told of run-ins with prejudice. A girl told the group an anti-Jewish joke that someone shouted at

her. Another spoke of the tensions between Asian, black and white kids on the school bus.

Mrs. Clinton's advice: "It doesn't work to stand there and trade insults," she said. "There are going to be people who are so unhappy that they won't be able to accept other people. We need to surround those people with our own respect and love so they are rendered as harmless as possible."

The USA Today

December 10, 1997



By Victoria Arocho, AP

Boston race forum: Claudy Paul tells Hillary Rodham Clinton about his first experience with racism.

First lady, students talk about race

Hillary Clinton took her husband's race initiative to Boston for a discussion with middle- and high-school students about bigotry and their painful encounters with anti-Semitic jokes and racial stereotypes.

Claudy Paul, a senior at a white-majority high school, said he was stunned when a classmate used a racial slur as he boarded a bus. "From that moment, I felt my dreams were all shattered," Paul said.

The first lady said that as a teen-ager, she once tried to make small talk about the cold weather with a soccer goalie who replied, "I don't care if it's cold. I hope people like you freeze." Clinton said she urged the goalie not to dislike her since she didn't know her, and the goalie replied, "I don't have to know you to hate you."

President Clinton held his first town meeting in his campaign for racial dialogue in Akron, Ohio, last week.

Written by Paul Leavitt with staff and wire reports

The Wall Street Journal

December 11, 1997

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

A Moral Snootful

The White House is now threatening to put Bill Lann Lee in charge of the Justice Department's civil rights division with a "recess appointment," while Congress is out of session. Why not? One more layer of dysfunction at the Justice Department is hardly going to matter. Besides, the White House by now has turned the subject of affirmative action into one of those symbolic abstractions that Mr. Clinton fashioned to flog his opponents during the Presidential campaign. Then it was Republicans threatening Grandma's Medicare; now it's Republicans "alienating" the American people on race. But let Mike McCurry put it precisely for the President:

"They've gone too far," Mr. McCurry said of the GOP's opposition to the Lee appointment. "I think the Republicans ought to think about what they're doing to themselves when they insist on their very narrow, hard conservative point of view as being the only legitimate view on the subject of civil rights."

The weapon here is moral intimidation. And again, why not? In matters such as this liberals have positioned themselves successfully as the moral betters of everyone else for 30 years, so there's hardly reason for them to abandon the strategy now. But maybe it's time for everyone else to start standing up to these snooty moralists. And the battle over "affirmative action" is as good a place as any to start.

We put the phrase in quotation marks because trying to pin down its most ardent proponents on a definition of just what it is has become hopeless. We have been on record in this space in support of voluntary, private efforts at incorporating a range of criteria, including race, in any given selection process, but it is obvious that this is not what Mr. Clinton or the Bill Lann Lee brigades have in mind. They have in mind—if not on their tongues—numbers, quotas, set-asides.

In April 1995, the Sacramento Bee reported Mr. Clinton's views in an interview: "Our diversity is our great strength," Mr. Clinton said. "If a university says, 'Look, we're only going to let in qualified people, but we think that the life of the university will be strengthened if we had different kinds of people,' then I think that's a legitimate thing." Sounds nice until you hear the rest: Otherwise, the President said, "there are universities in California that could fill their entire freshman classes with nothing but Asian Americans."

So to avoid that horrible outcome, we'll enforce a system that ensures that some of these qualified Asian Americans will get rejection letters from California's universities, and if they com-

plain that Asians are numerically the biggest losers from "affirmative action," as they surely will be, we'll send them in to talk to Bill Lann Lee, who of course got his job at Justice, according to his nominators, purely on merit.

At the moment, Mr. Clinton and his side are putting across affirmative action as some sort of disembodied goodness, unconnected to much of anything other than their intentions. As a complement to this effort, Mr. Clinton last week kicked off his series of town hall meetings on what appears to be vaguely the same subject. But there are in fact a couple of concrete, much-studied subjects that haven't come up in these venues—inner-city public schools and the welfare system.

Across the entire length of this 30 years of moral snootiness, every single June has sent yet another nation's worth of "graduating" inner-city 18-year-olds washing over the front steps of public high schools that failed to prepare them for anything, much less an SAT exam. We saw no moral crusades to stop this human waterfall of ill-prepared students. Nor, across those same 30 years, when the pathologies of the welfare system were screaming from hundreds of holes in the inner-city dikes, did we see these same people step down from their pulpits to ask anything other than that more money be poured into the same catastrophic welfare programs.

Then a few years ago Mr. McCurry's "hard conservatives" started suggesting school choice as a competitive prod to the collapsed schools in places like the District of Columbia. The teachers unions said no way, and President Clinton dutifully killed the voucher plan for D.C. students. These are the people claiming the affirmative-action high ground?

On Tuesday in Boston, Hillary Clinton held her own town hall on racial healing inside a basketball arena. One of the students asked Mrs. Clinton if she'd experienced discrimination, and she told a childhood story about a soccer goalie who once said, "I hate you." Flying home later, Ms. Clinton told her entourage that there was a lot of tension in her school in Park Ridge, Ill., among the Italians, Slavs, Poles and so forth. "Some corridors you couldn't walk down without feeling unsafe, uncomfortable."

This is the mountaintop from which we are about to receive a recess appointment for Bill Lann Lee, along with denunciations of his opposition as out of touch with the wishes of the American people. At some level there are surely serious issues to discuss about the appropriate role of race in the nation's future. But under the circumstances, it's probably not going to happen just now.

The Washington Post
December 10, 1997

First Lady Recalls Early Taste of Ethnic Tension

*Celtics' Arena Hosts Youthful New England Group
on Racial Harmony in Upbeat Setting*



BY VICTORIA AROCHO—ASSOCIATED PRESS

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton listens to high school senior Claudy Paul relate his first experience with racism.

By Peter Baker
Washington Post Staff Writer

BOSTON, Dec. 9—The chill in the air prompted her to say something to a stranger, but the chill in the response would stay with her for a lifetime.

During a junior high school soccer game, a teenage Hillary Rodham turned to the goalie from the other team and remarked, "Boy, it's really cold." The other girl snapped, "I wish people like you would freeze." Stunned, the future first lady asked how she could feel that way when she did not even know her. "I don't have to know you," the goalie shot back, "to know I hate you."

More than 35 years later, Hillary Clinton recalled the pain of that childhood encounter today as she discussed the combustible issue of race with a sports arena filled with 11,000 teenagers from throughout New England.

The first lady used the tale as an object lesson about the need for understanding during her appearance at the Fleet Center here, the latest chapter in President Clinton's year-long campaign to start a national conversation on race relations in America.

Only later in an interview did she say that the goalie was white, but Clinton said that the girl came from Eastern European descent and resented what she apparently considered "some sort of uppity, wealthy, white-bread" girl.

The forum was a very different scene from her husband's inaugural town hall meeting on race in Akron, Ohio, last week. Where his was C-SPAN, hers was MTV. With the lights turned down and music from U-2 blaring from the speakers, today's meeting had the atmospherics of a rock concert. The discussion, too, seemed livelier and less structured than the Akron town hall—although, like that dialogue, it was dominated by a chorus of people who agreed with each other.

Wearing matching white and blue T-shirts, mobs of excited eighth-through 11th-graders filled most of the home of the Boston Celtics for the fourth annual such gathering organized by a group calling itself the Team Harmony Foundation.

One of the foundation's co-founders, former Celtics assistant coach Jon Jennings, began working this fall in Marshall's office as a White House fellow. The first lady was invited as

part of a day of activities at the gathering, which featured sports figures such as basketball star Sheryl Swoopes and Red Sox player Mo Vaughn, several musical groups and the stars of MTV's "Real World."

Hillary Clinton sat on stage with 32 teenagers and talked about their experiences. Claudy Paul, an African American high school senior, recalled an encounter at a bus stop when he interrupted another student who angrily dismissed him by saying, "You listen, nigger, this ain't no Dorchester," referring to a predominantly black area in Boston.

"I felt so stunned, I started in tears," Paul said. "From that moment, I felt like my dreams were all shattered."

Amy Coran, a Jewish high school student, remembered the time some boys told anti-Semitic jokes. The most hurtful, she said, asked the difference between a Jew and a pizza: "A pizza doesn't scream in the oven."

Other students told of swastikas in bathrooms, self segregation on buses and racially inspired fights. And several said they took their problems to school authorities only to see nothing done.

Yet much as in Akron, these youngsters were the converted. No one who spoke up today expressed any prejudices of their own. Instead, they recited in unison the "Team Harmony Pledge," which started, "I pledge from this day onward to do my best to

interrupt prejudice and to stop those who, because of hate, would hurt, harass or violate the civil rights of anyone."

Clinton said the gathering will help make bias unacceptable among the next generation. "If we stick with it, we will change minds," she told the youngsters. "Not everybody's. There are still going to be people who are so unhappy inside, so resentful of anybody else's success that they just won't be able to accept other people." But those people should be countered "with our own respect and love so they are rendered as harmless as possible."

During a question-and-answer phase, the first lady said she was of two minds on the effect of affirmative action in the United States. "Affirmative action has helped on the one hand because it has given opportunities to many people to prove themselves, which they have done," she said. "But I think it has hurt because I believe it has been misconstrued and misunderstood and used in a negative way."

Asked by a student if she had experienced discrimination, she mentioned the soccer incident and later elaborated during her plane ride home. Although she grew up in an all-white neighborhood, she said, her school was riven by divisions among Poles, Slavs, Italians and other ethnic groups. "There was a lot of tension because of that," she said. "Some

corridors you couldn't walk down without feeling unsafe, uncomfortable."

That experience, she said, demonstrates that the race initiative needs to focus on animosities among people, although she added "the black-white issue has to be the focus because it's the unfinished business of America."

As it attempts to energize its race initiative, the White House has dispatched a variety of prominent administration figures throughout the country to hold discussion groups, including one today in Petersburg, Va., led by Secretary of the Cabinet Thurgood Marshall Jr. and another scheduled for Monday in Baltimore with Education Secretary Richard W. Riley.

One such session backfired last week when Transportation Secretary Rodney K. Slater met with only other black leaders behind closed doors in Dallas, a move that was repudiated by the White House as a mistake.

The first lady said she "can understand" critics who believe the race campaign has been unfocused, but said conversations are a "good end in and of themselves." She was impressed by someone who told her today that her husband should urge Americans to do little things to reach out, such as going to lunch with a co-worker of another color. "I'm going to tell Bill that was a really good suggestion," she said. "You can't take for granted these really small steps that people can do on their own."

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New England

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The Brattleboro Reporter

December 10, 1997

First lady, Boston youth talk prejudice

BOSTON (AP) — The matter-of-fact tone in Amy Coran's voice belied the pain she felt that day when someone at her soccer game shouted the joke she recounted Tuesday to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"There were these four boys ... Then one said, 'What's the difference between a Jew and a pizza? A pizza doesn't scream in the oven,'" Amy said, as sighs of shock rippled among the thousands of teen-agers listening in Fleet Center sports arena.

"Why do you think young people say things like that? What's going on in their heads?" Mrs. Clinton asked.



AP

TEAM TALK — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton listens to about 10,000 schoolchildren before a panel discussion with New England students, during Team Harmony IV in Boston on Tuesday.

"Ignorance!" shouted a boy deep in the upper-level seats.

"Insecurity!" yelled someone else.

So it went for an hour as Mrs. Clinton engaged Boston-area youth in a discussion about bigotries far older than any of them. It was the type of candor that President Clinton sought — but didn't get — when he kicked off his national dialogue on race in Akron, Ohio, last week.

In an interview, Mrs. Clinton

said the responses in Akron were probably less forthcoming because "people feel overwhelmed by the race initiative." She suggested that there be a focus on "those little things that create human connections."

"I felt so stunned," said Claudy Paul, a senior at a majority white high school, who told Mrs. Clinton a schoolmate used a racial slur one day as he boarded a school bus.

"Did you ever try to sit down and talk with that young man?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

"Yes I did," Claudy replied. "He said, 'I'm sorry,' and 'some of my best friends are black.' My mom was telling me how racist the school was. I did not want to believe her. Then that happened to me."

One student asked Mrs. Clinton whether she thought affirmative action had helped or hurt American race relations. She replied that it had done both, by uplifting poor minorities and by being "misconstrued and misunderstood and used in a negative way."

Since candor was contagious, the first lady told of her own brush with prejudice.

She was about 13 years old and she, too, was on the soccer team. It was very cold, so she tried to make small talk about the weather with the goalie, who replied, "I don't care if you're cold. I wish people like you would freeze."

"I said, 'How can you hate people like us? You don't even know us,'" Mrs. Clinton recalled. "She said, 'I don't have to know you to know I hate you.' And I've never forgotten that."

Hers wasn't a racial incident, Mrs. Clinton said. The goalie was of Eastern European descent; and she considered the then-Hillary Rodham as a "rich, Waspy type." Those kinds of "non-black-white" tensions also need to be addressed, for they are a larger problem than many believe, Mrs. Clinton said.

"People overlook the importance of forcing this conversation," she said. "The black-white issue has to be the focus because it's the unfinished business of America. But I think we can help people understand it better if they see it as part of the overall dilemma of bigotry and prejudice that we have to contend with."

Tuesday's dialogue was part of an annual event by Team Harmony, an initiative begun by Boston-area professional sports teams in 1994 to help middle- and high-schoolers combat bigotry.

Mrs. Clinton joined professional athletes, local bands and the cast of an MTV program before 10,000 eighth- through 11th-graders. The three-hour program also was broadcast live over New England Cable News.

The Call

December 10, 1997

Mrs. Clinton has candid talk with Boston schoolchildren

By SONYA ROSS
Associated Press Writer

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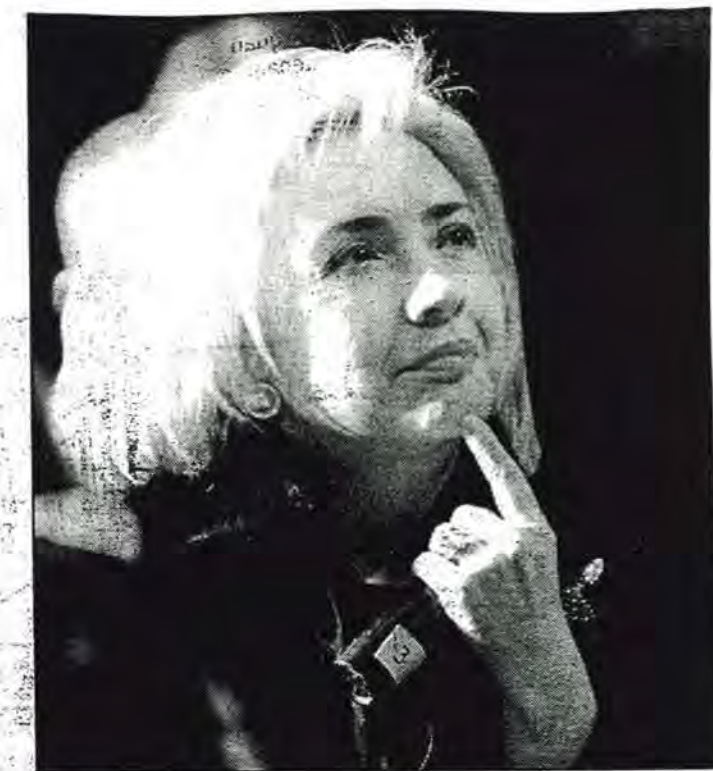
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Associated Press Photo

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Hers wasn't a racial incident, Mrs. Clinton said. The goalie was of Eastern European descent, and she considered the then-Hillary Rodham as a "rich, Waspish type." Those kinds of "non-black-white" tensions also need to be addressed, for they are a larger problem than many believe, Mrs. Clinton said.

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The Connecticut Post

December 10, 1997

Hillary hears ugly message

BOSTON — The matter-of-fact tone in Amy Coran's voice belied the pain she felt that day when someone at her soccer game shouted the joke she recounted Tuesday to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.



CLINTON

shocked at hate

"There were these four boys.... Then one said, 'What's the difference between a Jew and a pizza? A pizza doesn't scream in the oven,'" Amy said, as sighs of shock rippled among the thousands of teen-agers listening in Fleet Center sports arena.

"Why do you think young people say things like that? What's going on in their heads?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

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"Insecurity!" yelled someone else.

So it went for an hour as Mrs. Clinton engaged Boston-area youth in a discussion about bigotries far older than any of them.

In an interview, Mrs. Clinton suggested that there be a focus on "those little things that create human connections."

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The Day
December 10, 1997

First lady meets with teen-agers in Boston for discussion on prejudice

By **SONYA ROSS**
Associated Press Writer

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In an interview, Mrs. Clinton said the responses in Akron were probably less forthcoming because "people feel overwhelmed by the race initiative." She suggested that there be a focus on "those little things that create human connections."

"I felt so stunned," said Claudy Pajul, a senior at a mostly white high school, who told Mrs. Clinton a schoolmate used a racial slur one day as he boarded a school bus.

"Did you ever try to sit down and talk with that young man?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

"Yes I did," Claudy replied. "He said, 'I'm sorry,' and 'some of my best friends are black.' My mom was telling me how racist the school was. I did not want to believe her. Then that happened to me."

One student asked Mrs. Clinton whether she thought affirmative action had helped or hurt American race relations. She replied that it had done both, by uplifting poor minorities and by being "misconstrued and misunderstood and used in a negative way."

Since candor was contagious, the first lady told of her own brush with

prejudice. She was about 13 years old and she, too, was on the soccer team. It was very cold, so she tried to make small talk about the weather with the goalie, who replied, "I don't care if you're cold. I wish people like you would freeze."

"I said, 'How can you hate people like us? You don't even know us,'" Mrs. Clinton recalled. "She said, 'I don't have to know you to know I hate you.' And I've never forgotten that."

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Clinton said. The goalie was of Eastern European descent, and she considered the then-Hillary Rodham as a "rich, Waspy type." Those kinds of "non-black-white" tensions also need to be addressed, for they are a larger problem than many believe, Mrs. Clinton said.

"People overlook the importance of forcing this conversation," she said. "The black-white issue has to be the focus because it's the unfinished business of America. But I think we can help people understand

it better if they see it as part of the overall dilemma of bigotry and prejudice that we have to contend with."

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Mrs. Clinton joined professional athletes, local bands and the cast of an MTV program before 10,000 eighth- through 11th-graders.

The first lady told the children

that the best way to handle racist behavior is to refuse to respond. "It doesn't always work to stand there and yell and trade insults," she said.

"There are still going to be people who are so unhappy inside ... that they won't be able to accept other people," she said. "We need to make that number as small as possible, and then surround those people with our own respect and love, so they are rendered as harmless as possible."

As the president did in leading his discussion in Akron, Mrs. Clinton fo-

cused on attitudes among young people. As in Clinton's dialogue, there was no real divergence of opinion.

"That didn't bother me," Mrs. Clinton said. "Telling their own stories was a big part of educating their peers."

Returning to Washington Tuesday night, Mrs. Clinton was feted by an organization of women dedicated to settling conflicts without violence. The group, Peace Links, was founded by Betty Bumpers, wife of Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark.

The Eagle Times

December 10, 1997

Hillary recalls sting of ethnic tension

The Washington Post

BOSTON — The chill in the air prompted her to say something to a stranger, but the chill in the response would stay with her for a lifetime.

During a junior high school soccer game, a teen-age Hillary Rodham turned to the goalie from the other team and remarked, "Boy, it's really cold." The other girl snapped, "I wish people like you would freeze." Stunned, the future first lady asked how she could feel that way when she did not even know her. "I don't have to know you," the goalie shot back, "to know I hate you."

More than 35 years later, Hillary Clinton recalled the pain of that childhood encounter Tuesday as she discussed the combustible issue of race with a sports arena filled with 11,000 teen-agers from throughout New England.

The first lady used the tale as an object lesson about the need for understanding during her appearance at the FleetCenter here, the latest chapter in President Clinton's year-long campaign to start a national conversation on race relations in America.

Only later in an interview did she say that the goalie was white, but Clinton said that the girl came from Eastern European descent and resented what she apparently considered "some sort of uppity, wealthy, whitebread" girl.

The forum was a very different scene from her husband's inaugural town hall meeting on race in Akron, Ohio, last week. Where his was C-SPAN, hers was MTV. With the lights turned down and music from U-2 blaring from the speakers, Tuesday's meeting had the atmospherics of a rock concert. The discussion,

too, seemed livelier and less structured than the Akron town hall — although, like that dialogue, it was dominated by a chorus of people who agreed with each other.

Wearing matching white and blue T-shirts, mobs of excited eighth through 11th-graders filled most of the home of the Boston Celtics and Bruins for the fourth annual such gathering organized by a group calling itself the Team Harmony Foundation.

One of the foundation's co-founders, former Celtics assistant coach Jon Jennings, began working this fall in Marshall's office as a White House fellow. The first lady was invited as part of a day of activities at the gathering, which featured sports figures such as basketball star Sheryl Swoopes and Red Sox player Mo Vaughn, several musical groups and the stars of MTV's "Real World."

Hillary Clinton sat on stage with 32 teen-agers and talked about their experiences. Claudy Paul, an African American high school senior, recalled an encounter at a bus stop when he interrupted another student who angrily dismissed him by saying, "You listen, nigger, this ain't no Dorchester," referring to a predominantly black area of Boston.

"I felt so stunned, I started in tears," Paul said. "From that moment, I felt like my dreams were all shattered."

Other students told of swastikas in bathrooms, self segregation on buses and racially inspired fights. And several said they took their problems to school authorities only to see nothing done.

The Journal Inquirer

December 10, 1997



Talk about it

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton listens as Claudy Paul talks about his first experience with racism during a panel discussion Tuesday in Boston. The event was part of the annual anti-racism rally of Team Harmony, an initiative begun by Boston-area professional sports teams in 1994 to help middle- and high-schoolers combat bigotry.

Associated Press

The Providence Journal-Bulletin

December 10, 1997

First lady swaps tales about prejudice with youth in Boston

■ Mrs. Clinton achieved a candor in the discussion of racial disharmony that has eluded her husband in his national campaign.

BOSTON (AP) — The matter-of-fact tone in Amy Coran's voice belied the pain she felt that day when someone at her soccer game shouted the joke she recounted yesterday to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"There were these four boys. . . . Then one said, 'What's the difference between a Jew and a pizza? A pizza doesn't scream in the oven,'" Amy said, as sighs of shock rippled among the thousands of teenagers listening in the Fleet Center sports arena.

"Why do you think young people say things like that? What's going on in their heads?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

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So it went for an hour as Mrs. Clinton engaged Boston-area youth in a discussion about bigotries far older than any of them. It was the type of candor that President Clinton sought — but didn't get — when he kicked off his national dialogue on race in Akron, Ohio, last week.

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One student asked Mrs. Clinton whether she thought affirmative action had helped or hurt American race relations. She replied that it had done both, by uplifting poor mi-

norities and by being "misconstrued and misunderstood and used in a negative way."

The first lady told of her own brush with prejudice.

She was about 13 years old and she, too, was on the soccer team. It was very cold, so she tried to make small talk about the weather with the goalie, who replied, "I don't care if you're cold. I wish people like you would freeze."

"I said, 'How can you hate people like us? You don't even know us,'" Mrs. Clinton recalled. "She said, 'I don't have to know you to know I hate you.' And I've never forgotten that."

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Mrs. Clinton joined professional athletes, local bands and the cast of an MTV program before 10,000 eighth- through 11th-graders.

The first lady told the children that the best way to handle racist behavior is to refuse to respond. "It doesn't always work to stand there and yell and trade insults," she said.

"There are still going to be people who are so unhappy inside . . . that they won't be able to accept other people," she said. "We need to make that number as small as possible, and then surround those people with our own respect and love, so they are rendered as harmless as possible."

The Republican American

December 10, 1997

Hillary shares racism tales

Associated Press

BOSTON — Admitting that "we don't have all the answers" for ending bigotry, Hillary Rodham Clinton talked about racism with high school students, and spoke openly of her encounters with prejudice.

For about an hour, Mrs. Clinton sat on stage at the Fleet Center sports arena with 32 teenagers, listening as they told stories of racism with the type of candor President Clinton had hoped to elicit a week ago in Akron, Ohio.

When asked about her own experiences, Mrs. Clinton said as a

teenager she once tried to make small talk about the cold weather with a soccer goalie who replied, "I don't care if it's cold. I hope people like you freeze."

Mrs. Clinton said she told the goalie she shouldn't dislike her because she didn't know her, and the goalie replied, "I don't have to know you to hate you."

The first lady told the middle and high-school students that the best way to handle racist behavior is to refuse to respond, and still treat that person with respect. "It doesn't always work to stand there and yell and trade insults."

The Union Leader

December 10, 1997

First Lady, Boston Youth Talk Prejudice

By **SONYA ROSS**
Associated Press Writer

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Massachusetts

Divider Title: _____

The Boston Globe

October 1, 1997

Clinton, replying to critics, prods race panel

By Ann Seales
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — President Clinton, responding to criticism that his race initiatives may be drifting, tried yesterday to jumpstart the work of the advisory board he has appointed to oversee what he has called his principal domestic priority.

■ A Worcester firm is accused of steering minorities from apartments owned by bigoted landlords. A22.

Joined by Vice President Al Gore, Clinton announced that the first in a series of meetings on race will be held on Dec. 2.

Clinton also said he has awarded \$15 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to enforce fair housing laws. "It is clear to me now that there is more housing discrimination in America than

I had thought there was when I became president," Clinton told the advisory board.

By tying the grant money, which had been allocated, to the race panel, Clinton was seeking to deflect accusations that his initiative has been long on symbolism and short on substance.

"That's what people are wanting to know: How we can combine these wonderful goals with practical steps that will take us toward those goals. And this is an example," said John Hope Franklin, the historian and advisory board chairman.

Clinton's aides yesterday virtually dismissed the suggestion of some letter writers to the advisory board that Clinton apologize for slavery and segregation.

Apologizing "is not of urgent concern to the president," White House Press Secretary Michael D. McCurry said. "The question is frankly a moot point, because it hasn't been part of the active dialogue that we've

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PRESIDENT CLINTON

had with the community or with folks who are interested in the type of dialogue the president has suggested."

Of the race initiative, Clinton said, "It's very important that we throw this into the future now."

Asked by reporters about apologies dur-

The Boston Globe

November 13, 1997

Akron to host first town meeting on Clinton race initiative

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Clinton scheduled his first town hall meeting on race for next month in Akron, Ohio, and met with aides yesterday to refocus his initiative to promote racial harmony in America.

The White House is looking to inject vigor into what has been a slow-moving campaign.

Clinton chose Akron to open the town hall series Dec. 3 because of the city's moves in recent years to confront its racial problems. The

White House was impressed with a program called the Coming Together Project, designed to promote awareness of other cultures through the arts, and with the Akron Beacon Journal's yearlong Pulitzer Prize-winning examination of race.

"We think Akron as a community has really stepped up to deal honestly and openly on race relations," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said.

The Akron meeting is expected to last about 90 minutes, and is expected to focus on attitudes among

young people, at the suggestion of Clinton's race advisory board.

"They've already given us good advice on education and economics and focusing on youth," said Sylvia Mathews, deputy White House chief of staff. "I think the initiative has picked up its speed."

The president scheduled a meeting last evening with young adults aged 23 to 30. White House aides characterized it as one in an ongoing series of general outreach meetings, and not specifically about the race initiative.

Choosing the medium-sized Ohio city also eliminates the prospect that a town hall meeting designed to provoke a blunt discussion on US racial problems would be conducted in a large, urban venue where whites would be unlikely to attend. Akron is 73 percent white, 24.5 percent black and 2 percent Asian, Hispanic, and American Indian.

The president, along with Vice President Al Gore, announced his choice at an hourlong meeting in the White House's Cabinet Room with a half-dozen key aides and a few mem-

bers of his race advisory board's staff.

Lockhart characterized yesterday's gathering as an internal meeting "just to make sure that we are all on the same page."

Since its inception in June, the seven-member board, headed by historian John Hope Franklin, has met only twice. Its third meeting is to be next week at the University of Maryland.

At yesterday's meeting, Gore identified two areas that need to be addressed, the officials said — foster-

ing a broader understanding of the "unique suffering" of minority and ethnic groups and the "unique contributions" such groups have made.

To promote creative ways to resolving racial problems, the advisory board has posted a list of "promising practices" on its Internet site, so that local communities can duplicate those efforts.

Akron's Coming Together Project is among them. Another is Team Harmony, a Boston program that gets young people of all races involved in various projects.

ing a break in the meeting, Franklin said: "Slavery or segregation, what else might there be an apology for?"

He added: "I don't know anybody who knows the history of this country who would be satisfied with that. The problem is much more extensive than that."

The meeting of the board at the Mayflower Hotel here was the group's second since Clinton announced the race initiative at a San Diego commencement speech in June.

Although the advisory board has hired an executive director and 24 full-time employees, the centerpiece of its effort - the dialogue that will come through a series of town meetings - has been slow to develop, as have concrete programs that are another major component of the initiative. Advisory board members say the December town meeting will be held somewhere in the Midwest, though the location has not been determined.

Clinton applauded the panel for deciding

at its first meeting to focus on education and economics as the gateway to improving race relations, and suggested that the advisory board look into using diverse school districts to study how the races can get along on a day-to-day basis.

"I think we might learn a great deal if you could get some of these children and maybe even some of their parents together and have an honest talk about how the kids are doing in the schools, how the parents are doing in the workplace and in the larger society, and what that tells us about where we need to go in the future," Clinton said.

He suggested that the advisory board publish a compendium of such local efforts as Team Harmony, a Boston-based program that brings together middle and high school students of different racial and ethnic backgrounds who spend a year talking in their schools and to students in other schools about racial and ethnic tolerance.

The Framingham Tab

December 2, 1997

Perspective

Taking a stand against discrimination

By Betsy Banks Epstein

As a small child growing up in Brookline, I was often taunted as I walked home in the third grade: "Jews killed Christ ... Jews killed Christ," others my own age claimed. My lower lip quivered, my knees shook, my heart thumped faster. I was vulnerable. My brother was benched for several games when he refused to play soccer on Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of atonement.

In 1997, our world feels more inclusive, yet some stark realities remain. Jewish gravestones are routinely desecrated, crosses are burned on suburban lawns and just last year, five churches in Jackson, Tenn., were destroyed.

My older son had a high school classmate who insisted that the Holocaust was greatly exaggerated. This child pointed out that his parents discovered library books outlining evidence that the statistics of minorities murdered and tortured during World War II have been grossly inflated.

Two years ago, my younger son was one of three white people in a large gathering where people of color were the majority. My son felt neither threatened nor nervous; he was warmly welcomed and wanted. He wonders if the reverse would be true. When a few people of color find themselves adrift in a sea of white bodies, do hands reach out to graciously involve them or are they stared at suspiciously?

Some in our community have wisely realized that our kids need vehicles to help them combat the racial tensions in their schools. The children who stop laughing at ethnic jokes and speak out against the racist graffiti scrawled on their gym lockers become the adults who are committed to wiping out discrimination.

My high school and college days in the late '60s and early '70s were marked by harsh words, protest marches, placards and dissension. Soon I look forward to participating in a different kind of sit-in.

The late Boston Celtics Captain Reggie Lewis, Celtics Director of Basketball

Development Jon Jennings and Executive Director of the New England Anti-Defamation League Leonard Zakim brainstormed the idea of an annual group rally against hate. Now in its fourth year, Team Harmony attracts more than 10,000 middle and high school students from throughout Massachusetts who spend a day (this year, Dec. 9) at the Fleet Center. Professional athletes from Boston's five sports teams — the Red Sox, Celtics, Bruins, Patriots and New England Revolution — as well as musicians and inspiring speakers contribute to a festive atmosphere celebrating diversity.

An event such as Team Harmony provides an opportunity for students from isolated environments to mix with a variety of people. Awards are given to schools that have been leaders in fighting racial incidents and have developed innovative programs which further understanding, such as multicultural food and dance carnivals or shows that instruct the public about anti-Semitism. Individual students who have made a difference by being peer

leaders, Big Brothers/Big Sisters or have taken controversial stands for freedom of expression are also recognized.

The goal of Team Harmony is to motivate kids to take action, to feel empowered to fight prejudice. Even though our society is supposedly a melting pot, the roots of racism run deep. A day comprising part education and part entertainment can start to build a foundation of change as teenagers realize that both name-calling and exclusionary behavior hurt.

Whether a student is a member of her school's multicultural alliance, Jewish group, homosexual-lesbian alliance, Republican club or women's issues group, setting aside a day to gather with all these factions teaches lessons that can be learned beyond the classroom. Youngsters experience the message that there should be space for each of their voices. There is power in their numbers if together they take a stand against ignorance. □

Betsy Banks Epstein is a Cambridge resident.

The Town Crier
December 3, 1997

Hillary Rodham Clinton is part of local rally

On Tuesday, December 9, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will join more than 10,000 middle and high school students representing public, private and parochial schools from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island for Team Harmony IV, the interactive rally against racism, hatred and discrimination of all kinds.

Special guests will also include Boston Red Sox MVP

Mo Vaughn, WNBA high-scorer Sheryl Swoopes, former Boston Bruisingreat Cam Neely, New England Patriots stars Sam Gash and Ted Johnson, and Boston Celtics co-captain Dee Brown. In addition, the cast of MTV's Real World Boston WXKS DJ Billy Costa and musical guests will join the program.

The event will be from 10am to 2pm at the Fleet Center. Team Harmony, now in its fourth year, is a collaborative effort of the Team Harmony Foundation, the Anti-Defamation League of New England, Fleet Bank, all five of Boston's professional sports teams and community and business sponsors.

Team Harmony has become a national model for inspiring and empowering high school students to deal with issues of discrimination, recently earning a spot on The White House's website as one of the top ten success programs in this country to combat discrimination.

The Brookline Tab

December 4, 1997

Perspective

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Taking a stand against discrimination

By Betsy Banks Epstein

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The Dover Tab
December 4, 1997

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Development Jon Jennings and Executive Director of the New England Anti-Defamation League Leonard Zakim brainstormed the idea of an annual group rally against hate. Now in its fourth year, Team Harmony attracts more than 10,000 middle and high school students from throughout Massachusetts who spend a day (this year, Dec. 9) at the Fleet Center. Professional athletes from Boston's five sports teams — the Red Sox, Celtics, Bruins, Patriots and New England Revolution — as well as musicians and inspiring speakers contribute to a festive atmosphere celebrating diversity.

An event such as Team Harmony provides an opportunity for students from isolated environments to mix with a variety of people. Awards are given to schools that have been leaders in fighting racial incidents and have developed innovative programs which further understanding, such as multicultural food and dance carnivals or shows that instruct the public about anti-Semitism. Individual students who have made a difference by being peer

leaders, Big Brothers/Big Sisters or have taken controversial stands for freedom of expression are also recognized.

The goal of Team Harmony is to motivate kids to take action, to feel empowered to fight prejudice. Even though our society is supposedly a melting pot, the roots of racism run deep. A day comprising part education and part entertainment can start to build a foundation of change as teenagers realize that both name-calling and exclusionary behavior hurt.

Whether a student is a member of her school's multicultural alliance, Jewish group, homosexual-lesbian alliance, Republican club or women's issues group, setting aside a day to gather with all these factions teaches lessons that can be learned beyond the classroom. Youngsters experience the message that there should be space for each of their voices. There is power in their numbers if together they take a stand against ignorance. □

Betsy Banks Epstein is a Cambridge resident.

The Sherborn Tab

December 4, 1997

Perspective

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Taking a stand against discrimination

By Betsy Banks Epstein

As a small child growing up in Brookline, I was often taunted as I walked home in the third grade: "Jews killed Christ ... Jews killed Christ," others my own age claimed. My lower lip quivered, my knees shook, my heart thumped faster. I was vulnerable. My brother was benched for several games when he refused to play soccer on Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of atonement.

In 1997, our world feels more inclusive, yet some stark realities remain. Jewish gravestones are routinely desecrated, crosses are burned on suburban lawns and just last year, five churches in Jackson, Tenn., were destroyed.

My older son had a high school classmate who insisted that the Holocaust was greatly exaggerated. This child pointed out that his parents discovered library books outlining evidence that the statistics of minorities murdered and tortured during World War II have been grossly inflated.

Two years ago, my younger son was one of three white people in a large gathering where people of color were the majority. My son felt neither threatened nor nervous; he was warmly welcomed and wanted. He wonders if the reverse would be true. When a few people of color find themselves adrift in a sea of white bodies, do hands reach out to graciously involve them or are they stared at suspiciously?

Some in our community have wisely realized that our kids need vehicles to help them combat the racial tensions in their schools. The children who stop laughing at ethnic jokes and speak out against the racist graffiti scrawled on their gym lockers become the adults who are committed to wiping out discrimination.

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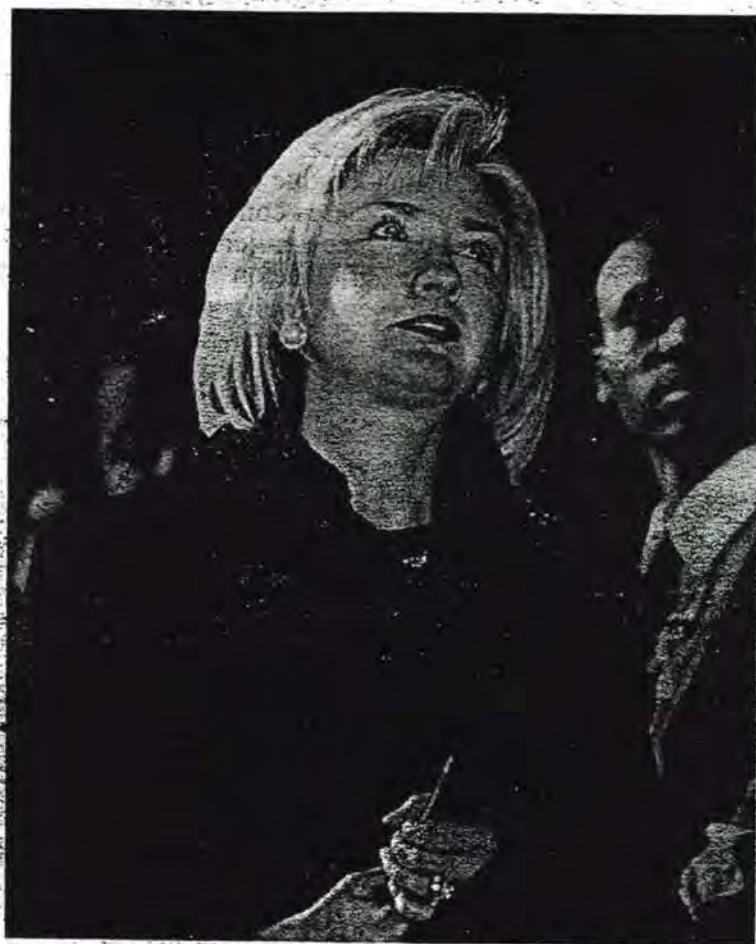
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Betsy Banks Epstein is a Cambridge resident.

La Semana
December 4, 1997

Primera Dama Visita Boston



La primera dama de Estados Unidos, Hillary Rodham Clinton fue la oradora principal en el 4to. evento de Team Harmony, celebrado en el Fleet Center (Foto Reynaldo Maurás)

Hillary Clinton Visita Boston



La Primera Dama Hillary Clinton mientras escuchaba al estudiante de Chalestown High School, Claude Paul, durante la cuarta ceremonia de Team Harmony. (Foto: Reynaldo Maurás).

FLEETCENTER - Hillary Rodham Clinton es reconocida como la "Primera Dama" que más ha viajado en la historia de los Estados Unidos, visitando todos los continentes excepto Antártica.

El pasado martes, la señora Clinton viajó a Boston para unirse a más de 10,000 estudiantes de escuela intermedia y superior del sistema escolar público, privado y parroquial de Massachusetts, New Hampshire y Rhode Island.

El evento fue organizado por Team Harmony en su cuarto año con el propósito de reunir a los jóvenes y discutir soluciones para combatir la discriminación, el fanatismo y promover el respeto mutuo entre los adolescentes en las escuelas y en la vida diaria.

La Primera Dama compartió tarima con un grupo de 35 alumnos del área de Nueva Inglaterra quienes entre otros testimoniaron desagradables experiencias sufridas como consecuencia del racismo.

Algunos se les podía notar la tristeza al indicar que no sabían lo que significaba ser objeto del discrimen hasta que por dolor propio fueron víctima de ataques por su condición de homosexual, judío, hispano, negro y hasta por competir en actividades deportivas donde sólo se le permiten a los varones participar.

La señora Clinton le preguntó al joven de la raza negra y estudiante de Charlestown High School, Claude Paul, qué había hecho luego que un compañero le había amenazado al decirle "Escucha pequeño negro, esto no es Dorchester y salte de mi camino".

Paul le señaló a la Primera Dama, que él lo tuvo que confrontarlo verbalmente y que actualmente son muy buenos amigos.

La señora Clinton mencionó que solamente una comunidad unida puede combatir el odio y el racismo al señalar lo siguiente: "Podemos aprender mucho, si aprendemos a respetarnos unos a los otros. Esto se consigue con el esfuerzo de los jóvenes y los adultos".

El concepto de Team Harmony nació de la amistad entre Jon Jennings, exdirector de Desarrollo de los Celtics y Reggie Lewis, excapitán fallecido de los Boston Celtics. Juntos deseaban ayudar a los adolescentes a terminar con el discrimen racial en las escuelas, y el cual había traído mucha violencia en el sistema escolar.

The North Reading Transcript
December 4, 1997

Hillary Rodham Clinton is part of local rally

On Tuesday, December 9, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will join more than 10,000 middle and high school students representing public, private and parochial schools from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island for Team Harmony IV, the interactive rally against racism, hatred and discrimination of all kinds.

Special guests will also include Boston Red Sox MVP

Mo Vaughn, WNBA high-scorer Sheryl Swoopes, former Boston Bruising great Cam Neely, New England Patriots stars Sam Gash and Ted Johnson, and Boston Celtics co-captain Dee Brown. In addition, the cast of MTV's *Real World Boston*, WXKS DJ Billy Costa and musical guests will join the program.

The event will be from 10am to 2pm at the Fleet Center. Team Harmony, now in its fourth year, is a collaborative effort of the Team Harmony Foundation, the Anti-Defamation League of New England, Fleet Bank, all five of Boston's professional sports teams and community and business sponsors.

Team Harmony has become a national model for inspiring and empowering high school students to deal with issues of discrimination, recently earning a spot on The White House's website as one of the top ten success programs in this country to combat discrimination.

The Milford Daily News

December 6, 1997

Tri-County Delegation To Hear First Lady Speak

FRANKLIN - Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School will be represented at the Team Harmony IV event Dec. 9 at the Fleet Center in Boston when First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will speak.

The program is sponsored by the Team Harmony Foundation, Fleet Bank and Anti-Defamation League. The program's goal is to teach students from every background how they can take the initiative to combat prejudice and promote the value of respecting diversity in their schools and communities.

Students in grades seven through 11 from throughout New England in public, private and parochial schools will participate. The team from each school reflects diversity in gender, ethnicity, race, religion and interests.

The day's events combine entertainment, education, interactive dialogue and inspiration based on a team effort to overcome bigotry by giving the students a chance to make a difference.

Coordinating the event for Tri-County is Ted Barrett, social studies teacher. He will accompany the student delegation along with fellow staff members, Peter Kubiak, Candice Reilly, Jane Baldi, Howard King and Allysa Chamberlain.

Tri-County students who will participate are Paul Bibo, Derek Payton, Joseph Padykula, Greg O'Connell, Dan Silva, Liz Langevin, Christine Bellevance, Jose Rivera, Jen Levesque, Crystal Webber, Danielle Landry.

And, Christopher Ambrose, Laura Estey, Doug Weinburgh, Twyla Anderson, Nicole Newman, Michael Brayman, Jake Donnelly, Tasha Buccchanio, Erica Choquet, Fred Adams, Ann Thomas, John MacClennan, Michelle Savage, Sean Curran, Jen Menard, Miles Benson and Joseph Byrne.

Committee as "kind of like a social action group."

"They can choose what they want to do," she said. "There's no set agenda. The major thing that got the attention of Team Harmony — what I think is the boldest thing we did — is the day of discussions."

Students, with the help of the Williams College Multi-Cultural Center, led the school in a day's worth of talks on discrimination faced by individuals and brainstormed ways to combat such cruelty. "They started to talk about solutions," she said. "The goal of the day was to try to get people talking to each other and unify people's beliefs about getting along together in the school."

This type of event initiated by students was Team Harmony's cup of tea. The event, in its fourth year, is a collaboration of the Team Harmony Foundation, the Anti-Defamation League of New England, Fleet Bank, the five Boston professional sports teams and leading community and business organizations. And its mission is to inspire and empower high school students to deal with issue of discrimination. Team Harmony recently earned a spot on the White House's website as one of the top ten successful programs in the country to combat discrimination.

This year Hillary Rodham Clinton will address the crowd as the keynote speaker, which French did not realize when she nominated Drury's Diversity Committee for the award. "Schools nominate themselves, so I nominated us, and it worked," she laughed.

French said the students could not be more excited about meeting Clinton. Although not all of the 25 students attending today belong to the committee, everyone will participate in the Team Harmony ceremonies on stage — including a scheduled photo shoot with the first lady.

French stressed the Team Harmony event is crucial for students who seek to increase tolerance in their community. She noted the problems of discrimination do not disappear — even after a productive day of discussions. "Unfortunately, it doesn't all go away," she said. "We all wish we could find something that will work ... after the day of discussions, things do seem better for a while, but we need to do it again and again."

French said the school cannot realistically conduct such events more often than once a year, but allowing students to participate in Team Harmony increases the drive and excitement to continue working toward improving rela-

tions among people.

Part of that excitement stems from the VIPs who turn out for the event at the Fleet Center. Some of the stars include Boston Red Sox MVP Mo Vaughn, high-scorer for the Women's National Basketball Association Sheryl Swoopes, former Boston Bruin great Cam Neely, New England Patriots Sam Gash and Ted Johnson, New England Revolution's Ivan McKinley, Boston Celtics co-captain Dee Brown and the marathon legend team of Rick and Dick Hoyt.

In addition, the cast of MTV's *Real World Boston* and WXXS DJ Billy Costa will lead the event with special musical guests the Blessid Union of Souls and video appearances by Green Bay Packer Shawn Jones and Olympic track star Carl Lewis.

The Team Harmony event concept grew out of the friendship between Jon Jennings and former Boston Celtics Captain, the late Reggie Lewis. Jennings and Lewis sought to help young people end discrimination that was leading to violence in the schools. The multi-media event, a unique combination of entertainment, education and inspiration, is based on the philosophy of "team effort" to overcome bigotry through the efforts of young people.

The Boston Globe

December 6, 1997

A question from Little Rock: How do we scale the walls of our ghettos?

LEONARD ZAKIM

For the hundreds of high school students gathered recently at Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., the event had a party atmosphere to it. Loud music with an inescapable beat blasted through the lifting morning drizzle. The insidiously ugly battlefield of hate that symbolized Central High 40 years ago, when nine brave African-American teenage boys and girls tried to enter the school, must have seemed worlds and time eras away. But not for the Little Rock nine: Their scars have not healed, and their reunion was inextricably tinged with dark memories of the intense physical and emotional isolation and assault they endured.

America has long been a nation experiencing various levels of denial about the depth of racial bigotry and its history, scars, and legacy. We exaggerate some progress, ignore evidence of continued bigotry and inequality, and celebrate our diversity, more by eating tacos, pizza, bagels, and Chinese

food than through interpersonal relations.

In Little Rock, the acknowledgment of old sins and the willingness to work to heal the wounds opened a new symbolic door to better race relations. Speaker after speaker distinguished between forgiveness and forgetting. President Clinton eloquently suggested that the opposite of integration was no longer segregation, but disintegration.

Ernest Green, speaking on behalf of the nine, offered hope for a better future – if we get serious about bridging the gap. This will not happen unless we make it a priority in our outreach, social relationships, conversations, actions, and collaborations.

As we in the Jewish community celebrate the high holidays, we are seeking atonement – not first by begging forgiveness but by acknowledging the sins, in word, deed, and thought, we have committed, individually or collectively. This took 40 years to happen in Little Rock. Time did not heal the wounds – actions did. Those of us, Christian, Muslim, and Jew, who understand that we do live in “King’s network of inescapable mutuality,” realize we have much work to do to take this

message across the nation.

The real hope for our future lies in the ability and willingness of all Americans to build our race relations on the shoulders of the Little Rock nine and other civil rights heroes and martyrs.

President Clinton noted the examples of profound isolation and separation that still exist in our schools: separate hallways, cafeteria tables, rooting sections at sports contests and parties. These self-imposed ghettos are walls that need to be scaled and torn down from the inside. Nothing short of a full strategic mobilization of our best resources among educators, the corporate sector, clergy, athletes, political leaders, and ordinary Americans will achieve that.

For the past four years Boston has been home to the nation's largest interracial gathering of youths dedicated to combatting bigotry and promoting respect. Team Harmony, attended by more than 10,000 middle and high schools students each year, focuses on student initiatives against bias and violence and toward diversity.

Sponsored by Fleet Bank, Boston's six

sports teams, Reebok, FleetCenter, and others, this initiative is sparking national interest. Why? Because it's about conversation, not dialogue. It honors students without preaching to them. It recognizes and encourages hundreds of local school assemblies, essay and art contests, and diversity teams. It acknowledges that adults are not the best role models when it comes to race relations and that young people watch what we do more than they listen to what we say when it comes to race, religion, and ethnicity.

As I stood at Central High last week, this montage of images flew before me. Thirty years ago, I encountered anti-Semitism as one of the few Jewish students in Wayne, N.J. I was often told that I wasn't like other Jews. When I asked, amid penny throwing and name calling, how many other Jews did my classmates know, they said I was the only one.

Yet their image of me was rooted in centuries-old anti-Semitic stereotypes. They were afraid or suspicious of people they were not familiar with. Bridges had to be built to get past their ignorance and toward understanding and respect. This came not with

eloquent speeches alone, but through interpersonal relationships and friendships across color, class, and ethnic lines.

Race remains the great divider in this nation. The day-to-day indignities and slurs, arbitrary store detective searches and deep differences of income, mortality, education, health care, etc., between blacks and whites, Latinos, Asians, and others remain our profound challenge.

It's time to get beyond blaming each other or comparing our levels of suffering. Debate about affirmative action that offers no other solutions does not help. Our national volunteerism initiative must also focus on race.

Those who cynically dismiss the president's call for a national conversation about race miss the point. This is not about victims, targets or "those people." It's about us - all of us - and all of us must make this fight our fight. That's the real message of Little Rock.

Leonard P. Zakim is executive director of the New England region of the Anti-Defamation League.

The Eagle Tribune

December 8, 1997

Valley students off to meet First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

IN OUR SCHOOLS

John Macone



Tomorrow hundreds of local students will get to meet First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at the Team Harmony IV event, which will be held at the FleetCenter in Boston.

The event is

meant to encourage students to combat discrimination. Joining Mrs. Clinton will be Mo Vaughn, Sheryl Swoopes, Cam Neely, Sam Gash, Ted Johnson and Dee Brown.

Local schools sending students are Greater Lawrence Technical High, Andover West Middle School, Methuen High, Tenney and Timony middle schools in Methuen, Marsh School, Comprehensive Grammar School and North Andover High.

The Lawrence Girls' Ensemble will be among the musical performers.

Lawrence High: The school marching band won third place in a competition

in Quincy. Among the awards were best drum major, best percussion and best color guards. The band will perform Dec. 18 in the school auditorium, along with concert choir and the jazz band. Performance 7 p.m., tickets \$3.

Presentation of Mary Academy: The Archdiocese of Boston is administering the high school placement exam at the school on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 8:30 a.m. The test is for eighth-graders who would like to enter a parochial high school. Make-up exam is the following Saturday. For more information on the exam, contact Kelly Farrington at Presentation of Mary.



Lawrence High marching band members have won a host of medals and trophies in the past few months. Here are (from left) Lexa Rosado, Judy Abreu, Tim Kowalewski, Christina Downs, Onil Cespedes and Yaco Abreu.

The Berkshire Eagle

December 8, 1997

Drury students to be honored for promoting harmony

By Lisi de Bourbon

Berkshire Eagle Staff

NORTH ADAMS — Disturbed by several reports of racial slurs, gender insults and homophobic remarks at Drury High School, a guidance counselor and a group of students decided in 1995 to do something about it.

That fall, they formed the Diversity Committee, a group consisting of students, faculty and administrators to combat discrimination and intolerance.

The committee wrote a har-

assment policy that included disciplinary action for offenders. And it instituted daylong discussions that are held each year to help eradicate hatred at the school.

Tomorrow, the school and the committee's efforts will be honored in Boston at "Team Harmony IV," a blockbuster rally sponsored by the Team Harmony Foundation, Fleet Bank, the Anti-Defamation League of New England and all five of Boston's professional sports teams.

Anne French, a Drury adjustment counselor who spearheaded the Diversity Committee, said yesterday that first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and such sports giants as Red Sox first baseman Mo Vaughn, former Boston Bruins star Cam Neely, Patriots fullback Sam Gash and linebacker Ted Johnson, Celtics guard Dee Brown and Sheryl Swoopes of the WNBA are expected to attend.

In addition, 10,000 high school

students from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire have been invited to the fourth annual rally.

Drury is one of five schools in New England that will be commended for making a difference by combatting prejudice and promoting respect for diversity, according to a press release from the Team Harmony Foundation.

An estimated 25 students will attend, French said, adding that five from the Diversity Com-

mittee will accept the award.

New England Cable News is scheduled to broadcast the rally, which runs from 10 to 2, French said. And the Drury contingent will have its photograph taken with Mrs. Clinton.

Students from the committee who will accept the award are Becky Cohen, Grade 12; Amanda Hartlege, Grade 10; Alaequah Metter, Grade 11; Danielle Owczarski, Grade 12 and Lyndsey Ritter, Grade 10.

Roger F. Cirone, principal at Drury, said last night that he is extremely proud of the committee, especially since it has contributed to a positive change in the school's atmosphere.

Students, he said, are not as mean-spirited as they were before the committee was founded.

French said that two years ago, she and others at the school were upset by some incidences involving discrimination, including racial epithets

■ Drury from

written on desks, girls making nasty comments about boys' bodies, and boys spreading rumors about girls.

"We were frustrated, yet we didn't think of ourselves as having these kinds of problems," she said. "It was easy to rationalize the situation by saying, 'It doesn't happen that much and it happens everywhere.'"

"We were disturbed by it and wanted to do something but didn't want to just react in terms of discipline," she said. "We wanted to do more than that. We wanted to educate people and to try to prevent it from happening."

The committee's first action was to write the harassment policy forbidding discrimination against race, gender, class, age, religion and sexuality. Punishments range from counseling and suspensions to expulsion and mediation.

But it was the committee's second step that French suspects may have grabbed Team Harmony's attention.

The group sponsored a "day of discussion" about racism and discrimination. In the morning,

the school assembled in the auditorium, and students and faculty delivered testimonials about their experiences with prejudice. Later in the day, with Williams College students serving as discussion leaders, students and faculty broke off into smaller groups to talk about intolerance and possible solutions.

"We've done this for the past two years and it's been a real, unifying [exercise]," French said, adding that the third will be held in the winter.

Team Harmony, based in Boston, sends materials and tools for promoting tolerance to schools throughout New England, she said. The regional organization was conceived by the late Celtics guard and captain Reggie Lewis and John Jennings, a White House fellow and former Celtics assistant coach.

After Lewis died, Jennings joined forces with Leonard Zakim, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League of New England, to establish Team Harmony to fight racial, ethnic and sexual discrimination.

French said the rally is the third Drury has attended, but the first at which it will receive an award.

"It's a very big honor," she said.

The Middlesex News

December 8, 1997

Teens wouldn't throw Hillary any softballs if given chance



NEWS FILE PHOTO

Nearly 10,000 students from more than 400 junior high and high schools in the state will cram the Fleet Center in Boston to listen to Hillary Clinton, among others.

TEENS, FROM 1A
event.

While it is unlikely students will get a chance to meet with the first lady first hand, several MetroWest students interviewed imagined what they might ask if they met with her.

Team Harmony was co-founded by Jon Jennings, a current White House fellow, and Leonard Zakim, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League of New England.

Athletes expected to attend include fullback Sam Gash of the New England Patriots, Dee Brown of the Boston Celtics and former Boston Bruin Cam Neely.

Students from several MetroWest towns are expected to attend the

event, including teen-agers from Framingham, Franklin, Hudson, Marlborough, Medway, Natick and Southborough.

Elana Haimen, a junior at Natick High School, said her questions would deal with the effectiveness of affirmative action programs. She noted that at least 30 Boston children attend Natick High as part of the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity program.

Commonly called METCO, the voluntary desegregation program allows inner-city children to attend schools in 30 Boston suburbs.

"The students coming into this schools are mostly black and I always wonder if they're getting more

or less out of this school," she said. "So I'd probably ask her something about affirmative action."

Haimes said she is often dismayed with the lack of racial diversity in Natick. "The only racial diversity comes from those students," she said.

She added, though, that is the case in many suburbs.

"It's a bigger problem than Natick," she said.

Although she is excited that professional athletes will be on hand, Haimes said she believes people from the "anti-defamation leagues will have more to say than celebrities."

Natick High senior Marci Barry

said she would ask Clinton what her role has been in curbing discrimination.

"I'd ask her what she, herself, has done to end discrimination," said Barry. "I think it means a lot for her to take to come out and talk to us. It says a lot about her."

Liz Krashes, a sophomore at Natick High, said she would ask the first lady if she has ever experienced sexism. "I'd want to know if she's ever been discriminated against."

Krashes would also want to get Clinton's outlook on teen relations today.

"I'd want to know if she sees today's youth as divided," she added.

Krashes thought Clinton's pres-

ence is great, saying "just her being here will influence a lot of us ... I think she's a great role model."

Ashland High initially had planned to send five students, but opted not to participate because students had to choose from several related activities during the school year.

"Team Harmony is a great event, but we have so many activities at the high school that we have to be selective as far as which ones we attend," said Connie Mannal, who teaches English as a Second Language at Ashland High.

Teachers across the region are looking forward to Team Harmony.

The Boston Herald

December 9, 1997

First lady brings students together to promote racial harmony

By PAUL SULLIVAN

First lady Hillary Clinton will address 10,000 middle and junior high students today at the FleetCenter for a rally in support of racial harmony.

Clinton will also lead a discussion with students and professional athletes at Team Harmony IV, set to kick off at 10 a.m. today.

One of the teens attending, Rachel Applebaum, 17, a senior at Cambridge Rindge and

Latin High, said, "I would like to ask her (Mrs. Clinton) whether a dialogue can be achieved by different races about difficult racial issues without offending anyone."

"At my school, it's fine to say things are diverse but some people are afraid to talk about issues or they'll be labeled racist," added Applebaum, who is associate editor of the Register Forum, the school newspaper.

She added, "There's surface harmony at

my school and there is a large amount of diversity and most students are pretty comfortable interacting.

"But outside, to a large extent, the students stay pretty much with their own race," Applebaum said.

The students gathering at the FleetCenter will be from private, parochial and public schools in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

It will be the largest group of students

coming together as Team Harmony to discuss combating bigotry and promoting respect this year.

Also attending the session will be Red Sox star Mo Vaughn, Women's National Basketball League high scorer Sheryl Swoopes, former Bruin star Cam Neeley, Patriots Sam Gash and Ted Johnson, Ivan McKinley of the New England Revolution, Celtics captain Dee Brown and the marathon legend team of Rick and Dick Hoyt.

The Eagle-Tribune

December 9, 1997

Student leaders meet wordly counterparts

◆ Haverhill's top middle-schoolers will see Hillary Rodham Clinton today as part of a program to learn about combating prejudice.

By Gretchen M. Putnam
Eagle-Tribune Writer

HAVERHILL — Kristina Tchir, 13, said she knows what it is like to be discriminated against. She is of Honduran and Ukrainian descent and has experienced it and seen it happen to her friends.

Today, she and more than 75 Haverhill middle school students will learn to be the front line against hatred and bigotry at Team Harmony IV in the Fleet Center. The students will be among 30,000 children

learning ways to combat prejudice and promote respecting diversity. The featured speaker is first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Kristina, daughter of Victorina and Andre Tchir, feels middle-schoolers will be the ones to help defeat discrimination.

"We're not as closed-minded as most adults are," said Kristina, an eighth-grader at Nettle School. "We can tell other kids and word will spread faster and more people will be educated about it."

The students from Nettle, Con-sentino, Hunking and Whittier middle schools were chosen for their leadership and because of their stand-out accomplishments.

Erin Collins, 13, daughter of Laurie and Richard Collins, went last



Gretchen Putnam/Eagle-Tribune

More than 75 of Haverhill's finest middle-schoolers will be in Boston today, listening to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton speak and learning how to combat discrimination. Shown are Nettle Middle School students Jason Burton, 13, son of Joanne and Craig Burton; Kristina Tchir, 13, daughter of Victorina and Andre Tchir; and Erin Collins, 13, daughter of Laurie and Richard Collins.

Students: Local children to hear national leaders

year and was chosen again this year. She is the president of the Nettle student council.

Last year, a film was shown about swastikas painted in a community. Erin said it opened her eyes.

"It really happens, but I don't see it in my community," Erin said. "We were all kind of amazed."

The program is sponsored by The Team Harmony Foundation, Fleet Bank and the Anti-Defamation League. The program began when former Boston Celtics Captain Reggie Lewis and former Celtics assis-

tant coach Jon Jennings wanted to start an event to teach youngsters to respect each others differences. After Mr. Lewis' death, Mr. Jennings worked with the Anti-Defamation League and The Rendon Group to develop Team Harmony.

Jason Burton, 13, son of Joanne and Craig Burton, said teaching against discrimination starts with young people.

"It's important to do it when

you're younger. Eventually we'll be older and we're the next generation of people," Jason said. "If we don't do it, people after us will learn not to do it and we will help stop it."

The Lowell Sun

December 9, 1997

First lady joins Boston race discussion

WASHINGTON (AP) — Team Harmony, an initiative of Boston-area professional sports teams, is drawing the attention of Hillary Rodham Clinton as she takes up the president's effort to get Americans to resolve their racial differences. Mrs. Clinton was to take part in a Fleet Center forum today convened by Team Harmony, which was begun in 1994 to help middle and high school students combat bigotry. Athletes, bands and the cast of an MTV program will also address the audience of 10,000 students. Team Harmony is not affiliated with Clinton's race initiative, but the White House listed today's discussion as one of several intended to continue the discussion begun by the president last week.



Mrs. Clinton

The North Adams Transcript
December 9, 1997

N.A. students in limelight

Drury diversity group honored

By EILEEN E. FLYNN

North Adams Transcript

PAGE ONE

NORTH ADAMS — It's easy to get lost in the crowd when more than 10,000 students from New England high schools converge on the Fleet Center in Boston.

But the 25 Drury High School students attending the Team Harmony event today will garner a bit of the limelight today as they hobnob with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, enjoy reserved front row seating and participate

in the opening ceremonies on stage.

The special treatment is the reward for Drury's active Diversity Committee, a group of students who formed two years ago to address issues of tolerance at their school. Adjustment Counsellor Anne French nominated the committee to receive the recognition, and Drury was one of five schools — out of more than 600 — chosen to receive the award.

French described the Diversity

More than 11,000 students from across the state attended Tuesday's ceremony, adding to the 26,000 who have attended previous Team Harmony events.

Also attending the event were Red Sox first baseman Mo Vaughn, Sheryl Swoopes of the WNBA, Boston Celtics guard Dee Brown, and New England Patriots' stars Chris Slade, Ted Johnson and Sam Gash.

Music and MTV

There was music by the Blessid Union of Souls, an appearance by the cast of MTV's "Real World" and a presentation by Donna Harris Lewis, widow of Boston Celtic basketball player Reggie Lewis. Former Bruins forward Cam

Neely presented the Team Harmony award to North Attleboro High School.

"It makes me feel wonderful to see our kids caring so much about other people," said English teacher Sue Caldwell, who is the SCAR adviser. "I am so proud of the way these kids are willing to reach out to others."

Students who attended the event described their feelings after what they admitted was an emotionally draining day.

"I think we have a better sense of unity, that it will be done if people will work together," said student Christine Truffa.

"When you can actually see and hear what's happened to people, it makes a real difference," said Stacey Philibert.

About 20 students related experiences where they had faced racism and bigotry, including a student from Sharon High School about the anti-Semitic catcalls made during a soccer game against Mansfield High School.

Student Katie Fisher said the words of one speaker stuck with her. The speaker talked about the outside of people's homes, and that people don't generally discriminate against someone else based on what their home looks like.

Why, the speaker asked, should the color of their skin be any different?

"I don't remember who said that, but I remember what she said," Fisher said.

The Standard Times

December 9, 1997

Wareham students off to diversity rally

By Anne Saita
Standard-Times staff writer

WAREHAM — Fleet Bank Branch Manager Ann German wondered if there was much local interest in Team Harmony IV, an annual regional rally at the Fleet Center to promote diversity and teach tolerance.

She feared there would be few representatives from Wareham. Those fears, it turns out, were unfounded.

Almost 100 students from Wareham middle and high schools will board a bus at 7:45 a.m. today to meet with 10,000 of their peers for a party in Boston.

As in past years, the ranks will also include young

people from junior highs, middle schools and high schools all over the SouthCoast.

"I was really encouraged that there were that many children interested in diversity," Ms. German said yesterday. "And I thought that's a wonderful reflection of their upbringing and our community."

Of course, it helps that the itinerary includes a keynote speech by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, whose husband has made race relations a priority this year.

And it certainly didn't hurt to hear that other celebrities would include Boston Red Sox MVP Mo Vaughn,

WNBA high-scorer Sheryl Swoopes, former Boston Bruin Cam Neely, the New England Patriots' Sam Gash and Ted Johnson, the New England Revolution's Ivan McKinley, Boston Celtics co-captain Dee Brown, and marathoners Rick and Dick Hoyt.

Add appearances by the cast of MTV's "Real World in Boston" and musical guests Blessid Union of Souls, and it's a wonder only 100 kids signed up for the field trip.

Actually, more probably would love to attend, but those boarding buses today have made more than a

Rally: Wareham students headed for FleetCenter

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passing pledge to improve race relations in the schools and communities.

Each belongs to a multicultural club that spends the school year hosting speakers and events to promote cultural awareness and community pride.

This trip merely reinforces what these students have been promoting for awhile now: the power of diversity.

That's been the idea of Team Harmony, sponsored by Fleet Bank, since it began in December 1994.

The first Team Harmony brought together 6,000 students from 300 New England schools to take a stand against hatred and bigotry. Last year,

10,000 students from 400 schools attended.

"It's very uplifting and motivating," said Sandra Bell, a seventh-grade language arts and social science teacher who advises the Wareham Middle School's multicultural club.

Sixty members of the middle school club, and another 30 high school club members are planning to go to this year's event.

Team Harmony grew out of an idea from the late Reggie Lewis, the Boston Celtics captain who died of heart disease at the age of 27, and former Celtics director of basketball development Jon Jennings, now a White House fellow.

After Mr. Lewis died, other businesses and Boston's four profession-

al sports teams took up the cause, and the team effort to overcome bigotry was born.

As the New England program — drawing students from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire — has grown through the years, so has the popularity of the multicultural programs at both Wareham schools.

Both programs work to unite students through speakers and school events that lend a positive note to what can be a contentious issue.

The same holds true with Team Harmony, which always ends on an upbeat note.

"They get a lot out of it because the message is very positive about combating racism," said Al Pina, adviser for Wareham High School's multicultural club, which last year raised more than \$1,000 for scholarships for college-bound seniors.

The high school club comprises mostly Cape Verdeans, with a number of African-American and Hispanic students. Club organizers are trying to recruit more members.

"It's not as diverse as I'd like it to be, which is what I'm working on

now. But we do have a white teacher involved, and he's working on getting more white students involved," Mr. Pina said.

The middle school's membership is more varied, Ms. Bell said.

Among other goals, both work to build members' self-esteem and self-identity.

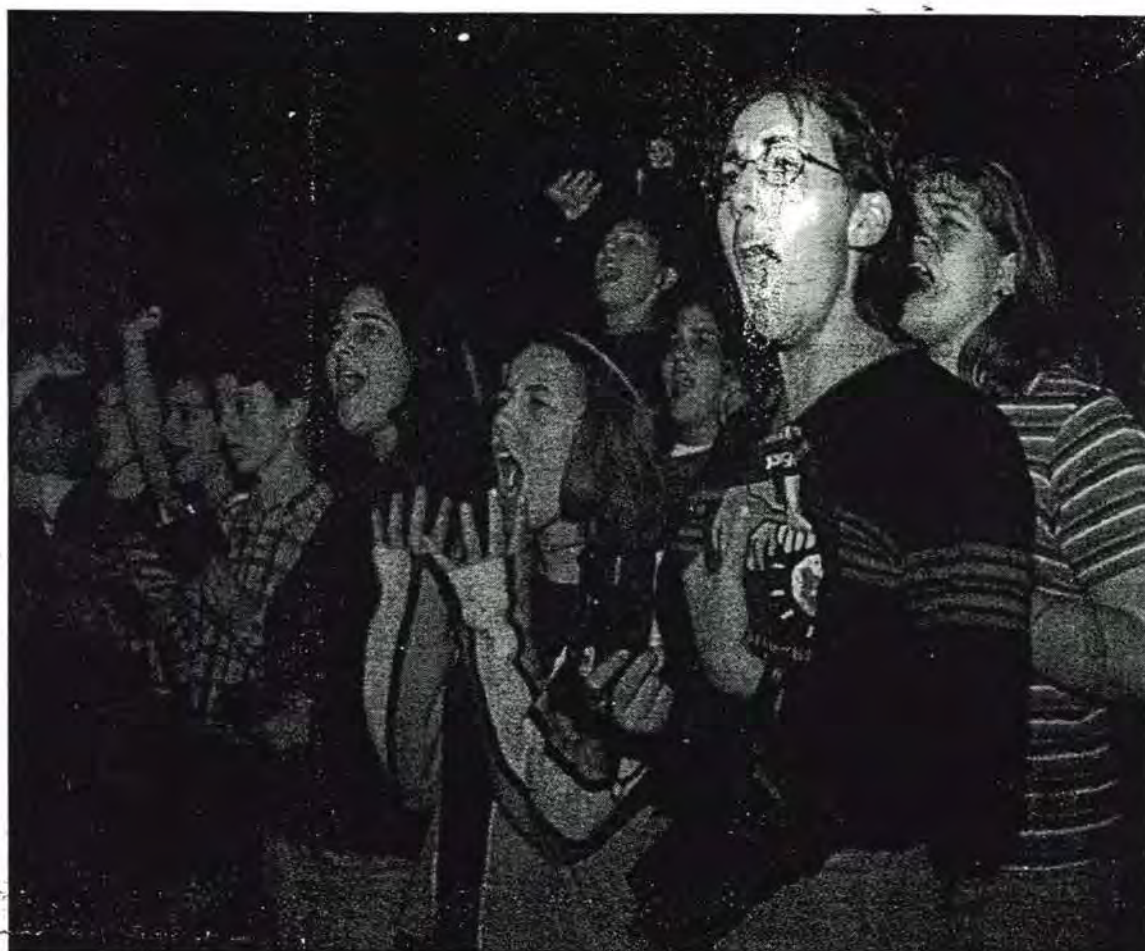
"We know ourselves that the world is becoming more and more diverse," Ms. Bell said. "So it would behoove us to try and build tolerance and respect for individuals and groups within our communities."

"I think we're trying our best. Do we hit the target all the time? No. But I think we're moving forward."

The buses will move forward from SouthCoast schools early today to meet the 10 a.m. opening in Boston. The local Fleet branch in Wareham is planning to provide juice and doughnuts, courtesy of a Dunkin' Donuts discount, for the send-off.

"Fleet wanted very much to sponsor the event locally, not only on the level in Boston," Ms. German said.

The Berkshire Eagle
December 10, 1997



Associated Press photos

Gayle O'Brien, at right, and Serena Dassatti, next to her, were among a group of Drury High School students who cheered yesterday when it was announced that Hillary Rodham Clinton had entered the FleetCenter in Boston.

n Boston, frank talk on bigotry

By Sonya Ross
Associated Press

BOSTON — The matter-of-fact tone in Amy Coran's voice belied the pain she felt that day when someone at her soccer game shouted the joke she recounted yesterday to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"There were these four boys. ... Then one said, 'What's the difference between a Jew and a pizza? A pizza doesn't scream in the oven,'" Amy said, as sighs of shock rippled among the thousands of teen-agers listening in FleetCenter sports arena.

"Why do you think young people say things like that? What's going on in their heads?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

"Ignorance!" shouted a boy deep in the upper-level seats.

"Insecurity!" yelled someone else.

So it went for an hour as Mrs.

Clinton engaged Massachusetts youth — including a contingent from Drury High School — in a discussion about bigotries far older than any of them. It was the type of candor that President Clinton sought — but didn't get — when he kicked off his national dialogue on race in Akron, Ohio, last week.

[Drury High School was one of five schools in New England that were honored for their efforts to help eradicate racism and discrimination. About 25 students from the school attended the event.]

In an interview, Mrs. Clinton said the responses in Akron were probably less forthcoming because "people feel overwhelmed by the race initiative." She suggested that there be a focus on "those little things that create human connections."

"I felt so stunned," said Claudy Paul, a senior at a high school with a

white majority, who told Mrs. Clinton a schoolmate used a racial slur one day as he boarded a school bus.

"Did you ever try to sit down and talk with that young man?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

"Yes, I did," Claudy replied. "He said, 'I'm sorry,' and 'some of my best friends are black.' My mom was telling me how racist the school was. I did not want to believe her. Then that happened to me."

One student asked Mrs. Clinton whether she thought affirmative action had helped or hurt American race relations. She replied that it had done both, by uplifting poor minorities and by being "misconstrued and misunderstood and used in a negative way."

Since candor was contagious — the first lady told of her own brush with prejudice.

She was about 13 years old and

Affirmative action, said Mrs. Clinton, has been 'misconstrued and misunderstood and used in a negative way.'



First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton listens before Team Harmony IV panel discussion that drew 10,000 youths.

she, too, was on the soccer team. It was very cold, so she tried to make small talk about the weather with the goalie, who replied, "I don't care if you're cold. I wish people like you would freeze."

"I said, 'How can you hate people like us? You don't even know us,'" Mrs. Clinton recalled. "She said, 'I don't have to know you to know I hate you.' And I've never forgotten that."

Hers wasn't a racial incident, Mrs. Clinton said. The goalie was of Eastern European descent, and she considered the then-Hillary Rodham as a "rich, Waspy type." Those kinds of "non-black-white" tensions also need to be addressed, for they are a larger problem than many believe, Mrs. Clinton said.

"People overlook the importance of forcing this conversation," she said. "The black-white issue has to be the focus because it's the unfinished business of America. But I think we can help people understand it better if they see it as part of the overall dilemma of bigotry and prejudice that we have to contend with."

Yesterday's dialogue was part of an annual event by Team Harmony, an initiative begun by Boston-area professional sports teams in 1994 to help middle- and high-schoolers combat bigotry.

Mrs. Clinton joined professional athletes, local bands and the cast of an MTV program before 10,000 eighth- through 11th-graders. The three-hour program also was broadcast live over New England Cable News.

The first lady told the children that the best way to handle racist behavior is to refuse to respond. "It doesn't always work to stand there and yell and trade insults," she said.

"There are still going to be people who are so unhappy inside . . . that they won't be able to accept other people," she said. "We need to make that number as small as possible, and then surround those people with our own respect and love, so they are rendered as harmless as possible."

As the president did in leading his discussion in Akron, Mrs. Clinton focused on attitudes among young people. As in Clinton's dialogue, there was no real divergence of opinion here.

"That didn't bother me," Mrs. Clinton said. "Telling their own stories was a big part of educating their peers."

Drury committee

Thao Tran said she didn't think much about race until she noticed that black students, white students and Asian students divided into factions aboard their school bus. Fights began to break out, and the officials at her school didn't handle it well.

"They say, 'We'll take care of it,'" Thao said. "Then the next day, we get beat up."

Drury was honored because in 1995, members of the faculty, administrators and students formed a group called the "Diversity Committee" to combat discrimination at the school.

The committee has written a sexual harassment policy and established daylong discussions that are held each year. During the talks, students, faculty and administrators talk about their experiences with discrimination.

Committee member Amanda Hartlage, Grade 10, accepted an award — a silver bowl with Drury's name printed on it — on behalf of the group and the school from Patriots fullback Sam Gash and linebacker Ted Johnson.

Hartlage also delivered a brief speech thanking Team Harmony for its recognition of Drury's efforts.

"I said that while intolerance has not vanished from the school, it has changed because of our group and others that try to stop racism," she said, referring to her remarks.

Anne French, a school adjustment counselor who spearheaded the Diversity Committee, said the rally was invigorating.

"I think it was very affirming and energizing for the kids and myself to help us keep doing work and keeping the efforts going at Drury," she said.

The method Mrs. Clinton used to address intolerance and discrimination was far more effective than just giving a speech, she said.

Mrs. Clinton was surrounded on stage by a group of 40 students with whom she engaged in a dialogue about their experiences with discrimination and racism. The exercise was very similar to the daylong discussions the Diversity Committee sponsors at Drury.

French added that she and the students were struck by Mrs. Clinton's warmth and poise. The Drury group had its picture taken with her before the ceremony began.

Mrs. Clinton, she said, shook hands with several of the students and chatted a bit with them.

Eagle reporter Lisi de Bourbon contributed to this story.

The Boston Globe

December 10, 1997

DAN SHAUGHNESSY

Vaughn: Bank on his return



NOW MO VAUGHN says his contract extension is going to get done. Seriously, folks. Mo still has his problems with the Red Sox, and there seems to be a quarrel over the length of the extension, but Mo wants you to know, "I think it's going to be done before New

Year's."

Vaughn appeared at the New Garden yesterday, at Team Harmony IV, a wonderful event in which more than 10,000 young people came together to rally against discrimination. Vaughn was followed to the stage by none other than Hillary Rodham Clinton. Fortunately, the First Lady had no comment on Mo's contract extension.

Mo did a great job speaking to the young people. He always does. The guy is a kid magnet, and our city has never had a better ambassador for race relations. This is one of the qualities that makes him so valuable to Boston and so valuable to the Red Sox. But Mo has to answer some difficult questions about his sticky contract talks. Such as why does he keep saying it's not about the money when it's so clearly about the money?

"It's a situation where just because you like a place, you don't give up everything that you've worked for," he answered. "I'm not going to do that."

What I'm saying is that if it were about the money, then you would command the highest prices in the game. That's what you would try and do. I haven't done that. I've commanded what was fair for my age bracket, for what I've done for the past five years.

"If it were about the money, then I would ask to be the highest-paid in the game. Whether or not people are worth it or not, that is not the point. What you ask for is really what the problem is. If there was really a problem in what I was asking for, the negotiations would have been cut off."

At times, Mo is too good for his own good. He doesn't walk around talking about his contract negotiations, but when asked, he answers. Luckily for those of us in the

SHAUGHNESSY, Page F3

Fourth Estate, Mo was born without the "no-comment" chip in his head.

"I'm tired of talking about it," he said. "It's a shame that when it comes to contract negotiations, everybody wants to know about this and that. But that's just the life of what we are. I know I'll never be able to explain myself. The more I try to explain myself, the worse it gets."

Vaughn says the length of the contract the Sox have offered is more troublesome than the dollars.

"It's a year thing," he said. "It's more of a year thing than a money thing. Why should I do a two-year extension? You got guys going out here getting five-year deals? Why should I be offered a two-year extension?"

The Sox probably don't want to get locked into a long-term deal because they fear Mo will fall out of shape and wind up looking like Cecil Fielder.

"Pedro's deal is what they got to do when you trade for a guy and give up your best prospects," said Vaughn. "They've got to lock that guy up."

What about Mark McGwire, who stayed in St. Louis for less than he could have made on the open market?

"Because of what Mark McGwire took because of his situation in St. Louis doesn't mean that I have to take the same situation," said Vaughn. "His deal has nothing to do with my deal. That's just the way it goes. Hey, we could talk Albert Belle, we could talk all kinds of different things."

"The bottom line is that I believe we're close to coming to signing. The player always looks bad, whenever you're talking about \$5, \$6, \$7, \$8, \$9, \$10 million. We could never explain to the blue-collar person what a real situation is in this, but I've worked hard in this game to do what I've done. I've put a lot of blood, sweat, and tears into the Red Sox."

"I think it's going to get done and I'm still optimistic about it. I promise you it will be done, but I can't just give up this stuff. But something will be done, believe me."

We'll try, Mo. But if things don't work out, we won't hold you to these words. It'll be just like with Rick Pitino. You can just say that's how you felt at the time.

"Have my numbers declined?" he asked. "I'll never be Cecil Fielder. I've worked too hard at the game. That's a chance they'll have to take. I'm 30 years old; why should I get a two-year extension and make it seem like I should be happy?"

Vaughn badly wants Sox fans to believe that he'll be back in the fold, but he can't hide his resentment of the current Red Sox management team. When I mentioned that Duquette seems to be taking care of his own people and paying less attention to those who were here before, Vaughn cited veteran scout Erwin Bryant, who recently left the Sox after they stopped listening to him.

"Look at Erwin Bryant," said Vaughn. "How long is everyone gonna say, 'It's all the players' fault'? There were people in this organization before Dan Duquette came here who were good people who aren't here. So why is it always that we're the bad guys all the time? I get tired of hearing that. I built my life here before I knew Dan Duquette. All the people who were my friends here are gone. So why should I do the Red Sox any favors?"

"It's all a posturing process, on both sides. It takes time. I'm gonna get market value. I'm not a person who's just going to give up my market value. If you want to be the highest-paid, that's one thing. But if you want to be paid market value, that's another thing."

So why did he tell the world that the talks were off the day before Thanksgiving?

"All of a sudden, time limits were put into the situation, like a deal had to be done by a certain time. No one has ever felt a sense of urgency like that, but once that happened, that's how I felt. Hey, there are going to be impasses. There's gonna be stoppages of talks. Because you're talking about millions of dollars over a long period of time."

Does he worry that the Sox are more concerned with signing Pedro Martinez than him?

The Boston Globe

December 10, 1997

11,000 students find harmony to applause of Hillary Clinton

By Joe Ryan
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

A discussion of racism in schools came to a hush yesterday for Hillary Rodham Clinton and about 11,000 students at the FleetCenter when a Charlestown High student spoke.

"About three years ago, a classmate threatened me and said, 'Listen you little nigger, this is not Dorchester, get out of my way,'" said Claude Paul.

"May I ask what you did about the incident?" Clinton asked.

"I confronted him on it and today we are friends," said Paul, one of 30 panelists who joined Clinton at the fourth annual Team Harmony event of the Anti-Defamation League of New England. The event brings together middle- and high-school students from New England to celebrate diversity and tolerance.

Clinton, who referred to Team Harmony as a model to replicate across the country in her book, "It Takes a Village and Other Lessons Children Teach Us," took questions from students and led a discussion

'About three years ago, a classmate threatened me ... I confronted him on it and today we are friends.'

CLAUDE PAUL
Charlestown High student

with the panelists.

Leonard P. Zakim, executive director of the ADL of New England and cofounder of The Team Harmony Foundation, called the event "the largest interracial gathering in the country."

Others at the daylong event included Red Sox player Mo Vaughn, the musical groups Blessed Union of Souls, Voices N' Blue, and the Lawrence Girls Ensemble.

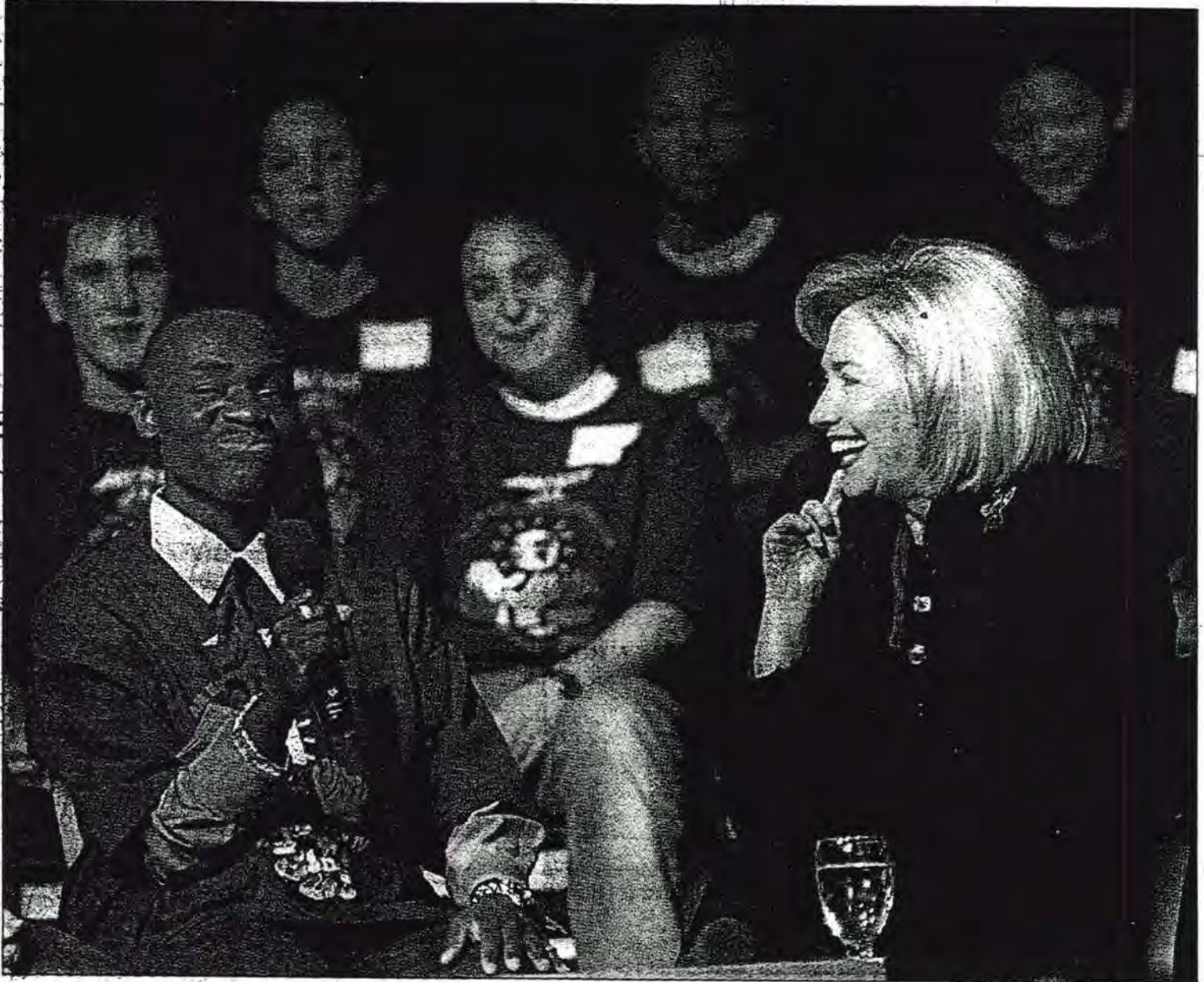
Five student teams received the 1997 Fleet Bank Team Harmony

Awards for the development of innovative student-based anti-prejudice programs. The teams were from North Attleborough High School; Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical in Rochester; Kiley Middle School, Springfield; Wakefield High School; and Drury High School in North Adams.

Youth groups from Boston Latin Academy, Roxbury Latin School, New Jewish High School of Waltham, and Fontbonne Academy in Milton were honored with the Lewis/Jennings Award for having "crossed the barriers of race, religion and ethnic backgrounds to come together ... and make a difference in the lives of others."

The award honors the friendship between the late Boston Celtics captain Reggie Lewis, who died in 1993 at age 27, and former Celtics assistant coach Jon Jennings, who is now a White House Fellow. The Team Harmony concept grew out of that friendship, Zakim said.

TWO-PART HARMONY



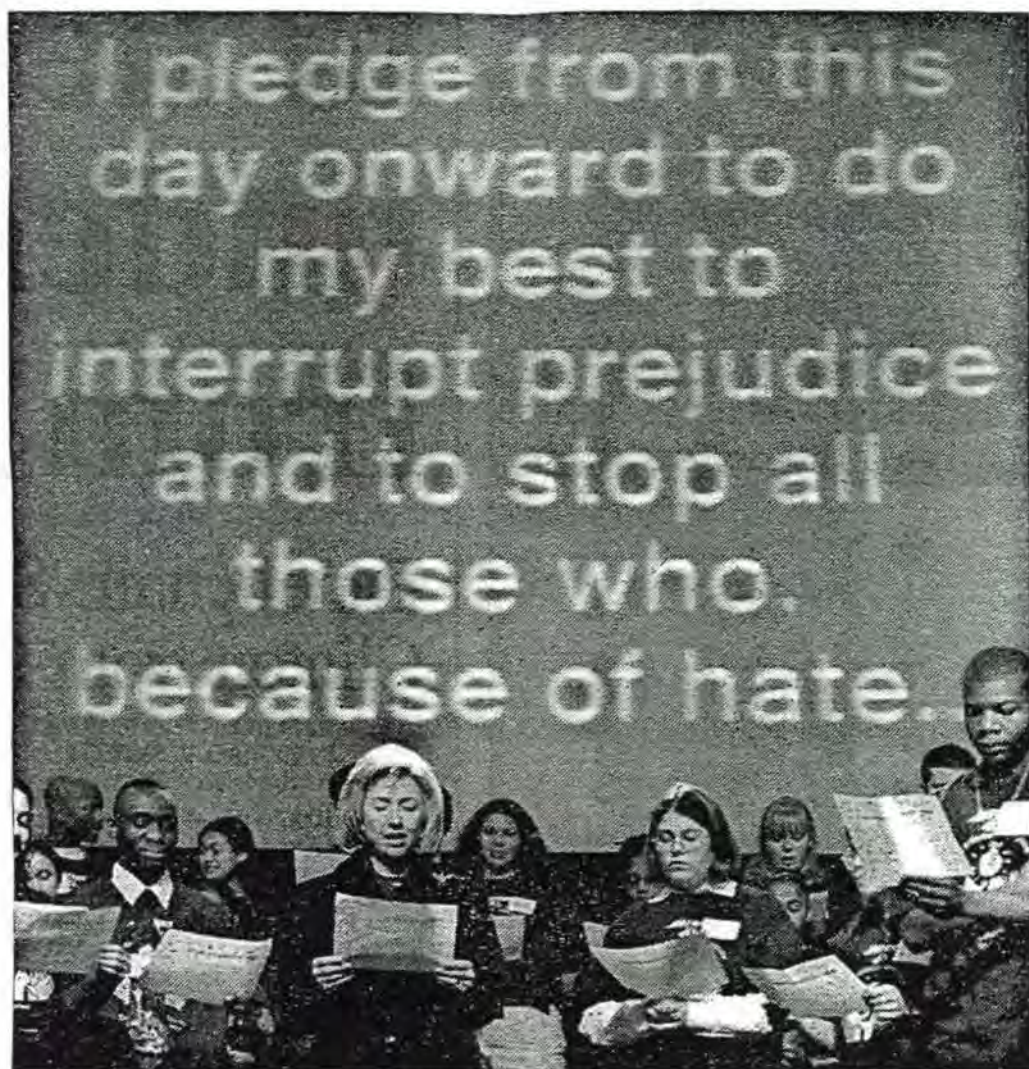
GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / DAVID L. RYAN

Claude Paul, one of 30 panelists at the Team Harmony gathering of students from throughout New England celebrating diversity and tolerance, joked with Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday at the FleetCenter. B2.

The Boston Herald

December 10, 1997

Hillary urges teens: Fight racism



WORDS TO LIVE BY: First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and a group of students take the Team Harmony pledge during yesterday's youth rally at the FleetCenter.

By STACEY URICH

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton joined more than 10,000 teens yesterday and discussed solutions for combating discrimination at the fourth annual Team Harmony youth rally.

Clinton fielded questions from 32 students from around Massachusetts and offered advice as the highlight of the daylong event at the FleetCenter.

"We can learn a lot from each other if we respect each other," Clinton said.

During the hourlong discussion, many students admitted they were unaware of racism's reach until it invaded their lives in the form of other children's comments.

Amy, a Sharon student, was at a school soccer game when a group of boys from the opposing team's school began taunting her because of her Jewish heritage. She told Clinton that what troubled her more than the boys' insensitivity was the lack of action from adults.

Clinton said she realized how difficult it was for teenagers who have adults in their lives that don't support all races and religions, but urged them to keep fighting for equality.

"It has to be a joint effort of younger and older people together," she said.

"I actually think this is one situation where you people can be the leaders by showing the way."

Red Sox star Mo Vaughn, who helped raise a tribute flag and Jackie Robinson's No. 42 into the rafters of the FleetCenter, credited the groundbreaking black player for opening doors for today's sports heroes.

"I feel that if (Robinson) can get out there and go through all the trials and tribulations ... then we as young people can do the same thing," Vaughn said.

The idea for Team Harmony came from the late Boston Celtics captain Reggie Lewis and former Celtics director of basketball development Jon Jennings as a way to combat the discrimination and bigotry that often lead to violence in Massachusetts schools. After Lewis' death, Jennings joined Leonard Zakim, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League of New England,

to make Team Harmony an annual Boston event.

"Reggie did not live to see this become a reality, but Reggie and I believed that we can all make a difference," said Jennings, who is now a liaison to President Clinton's Initiative on Race.

The first lady developed an interest in the

Team Harmony program while researching her book, "It Takes a Village and Other Lessons Children Teach Us."

She said the program was exactly what she and President Clinton were encouraging communities to emulate through town meetings on race relations, the first of which was held last week in Akron, Ohio.

TEENS PUT HARMONY FIRST



Charlestown High School senior Claude Paul shares the FleetCenter stage with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday at the Team Harmony youth rally. More than 10,000 Bay State teenagers gathered to share their stories and hope for combating discrimination in the nation. For more on the fourth annual event, see Page 4.

Staff photo by George Martelli

Achieving unity high on youths' agenda

By STACEY URICH

Teenagers at yesterday's Team Harmony conference at the FleetCenter proved they were doing more than just talking the talk when it came to fighting hatred in their communities.

In response to racist, anti-Semitic and sexist actions they have seen in their communities, many of the teens have joined together to organize multicultural projects and stand up for their fellow students.

"We've started a diversity club, and this year we're having a 50-minute assembly on Dr. Martin Luther King and other black leaders and a dance, and everyone's invited," said Chinedu Anidi, 15, of the River School in Weston.

"We have a unity week at my school to show different backgrounds. We have dances for different cultures and play different music from ethnic backgrounds on the intercom between classes," said Kathy Sayaphat, 17, of Woonsocket, R.I.

At Braintree High School, students organized a club called HEAR — or Help Erase American Racism — to combat bigotry in their school and community.

"We changed our student handbook to change the school laws about discrimination," said Danielle Domenic, 17, the club's vice president.

Students admitted that the news is not as positive at every school.

But students have taken the first small steps toward stopping discrimination in their hallways.

"In our grade, there's wicked cases of homophobia," said Mara Boundy, 14, of Hawthorne Middle School in Townsend.

"Everybody calls people lesbians and stuff. But what if they are lesbians? Who cares? I tell them to stop it and that they should really grow up."

Aysia Abreu, 15, said ignorance and insecurity are usually the reasons for discrimination, and credited her fellow students' diverse makeup as a barrier against racism at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School.

"There's just so many different kids and different cultures at my school, that we try not to let people put each other down. We're like a big family," she said.



TAKING A STAND: More than 10,000 teenagers pack the FleetCenter to join first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, seated front right, discussing solutions for combating racism at the fourth annual Team Harmony youth rally yesterday.

Staff photos by George Mart

The Brockton Enterprise

December 10, 1997

By Lori Ann Neri
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

Jenny O'Meara, an 11th-grader at Plymouth North High School, has never been so excited about a field trip.

Today, she is one of 10,000 middle and high school students who will gather in Boston to fight bigotry and promote interracial awareness.

O'Meara, a member of her school's Cultural Awareness in Racial Equality (CARE) group, acknowledges that combating discrimination is a difficult task.

"The solution? I don't know if there ever will be one," she said Monday.

But, she added, if there's any way to prevent bigotry, it lies in small groups that spur awareness, like her own student organization.

About a dozen schools from southeastern Massachusetts are participating in today's effort, along with public, private and parochial institutions across the state. Students from New Hampshire and Rhode Island will also take part in the event, which has been dubbed "Team Harmony IV."

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Mo Vaughn of the Boston Red Sox, and Sam Gash and Ted Johnson of the New England Patriots will join the youth.

Bill Moore, an English teacher at North Junior High School in Brockton, said the bottom line behind Team Harmony is education.

"It's through education we have harmony and understanding," he said. "It's through ignorance we have bigotry."

He added that the school has been involved in Team Harmony since it began four years ago. Altogether, 21 of the school's seventh- and eighth-graders will attend.

Teachers are hoping that the students who participate in Team Harmony will share what they learn with their peers.

"When you make them aware, they think twice" before telling a racial joke or rattling off an offensive cliché, said Christine Sampson, a special needs teacher at Plymouth North High School, which is sending 40 students to the event.

Frank Carbone, a guidance counselor at Mulcahey School in Taunton, agrees. Altogether, 19 students from the school are attending.

"Jokes sometimes cause conflict, without (people) realizing it," he said. "A certain minority talking about it in jest is the start of disharmony."

Teachers agree that Team Harmony does more than create awareness — it encourages students they can make a difference in and outside of their schools.

"Since we have this program, I think it's a better feeling for everybody," said O'Meara of her school's CARE group. "I think it's making it easier (to prevent discrimination)."

She said she's eager to relate today's experience to her peers: "I really want to tell them about it to make them want to be in the group."

Likewise, Anna Gumabom, an eighth-grader at Mulcahey School in Taunton, can't wait to talk to elementary school students in the area about discrimination.

"We're going to explain to them why it's bad,"

10,000 students rally for harmony

First lady joins area forum
on interracial awareness

she said.

Anna believes the more students talk about the evils of discrimination, the more they can prevent it.

Today's agenda will include award presentations for students, faculty, and administrators who have demonstrated leadership in combating discrimination. Interactive discussions and dramatic presentations will be held to show students how to guard against racism and discrimination.

Leonard Hull, an eighth-grade social studies teacher at the Parker School in Taunton, said the area that will be a real introduction to some students is gay rights.

"Gay rights is still one issue that school systems are very cautious in dealing with," he said.

Team Harmony, held at the FleetCenter, is an effort brought together by the Team Harmony Foundation, the Anti-Defamation League of New England, Fleet Bank, and all five of Boston's professional sports teams, as well as leading community and business organizations.

The Cape Cod Times

December 10, 1997

First lady, students examine racism

By DAN RING

TIMES BOSTON BUREAU

BOSTON — Saying "we ought to be helping each other, not hindering each other," Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday urged students to work toward ending prejudice and intolerance in society.

In an event at the FleetCenter sports complex, the first lady led a discussion about bigotry among 32 teenagers on the stage with her. As she listened to their stories about encounters with racism, she often paused to address the estimated 10,000 middle and high school students in the audience, including students from about 10 Cape Cod schools.

Mrs. Clinton was in Boston to participate in a four-hour forum organized by Team Harmony, an initiative launched by Boston-area athletes three years ago to fight racism.

She told students they must work with their parents and other adults to combat racism.

"This is a really important point," she said. "As important as it is for young people to promote tolerance, harmony and respect ... it has to be a joint effort of younger and older people. I actually think this is one situation where young people can be the

leaders in showing the way." When confronted with racist comments or acts, students should stay calm and give the person a chance to apologize, she said.

"There are still going to be people who are so unhappy inside that they just won't be able to accept other people," she said. "We need to render them as harmless as possible and not allow them to hurt others."

Mrs. Clinton's message seemed to resonate with Cape students. Students from Barnstable, Bourne, Dennis, Falmouth, Harwich and Yarmouth were among those attending the event.

Michelle Vieira, 14, a student at the Barnstable Middle School in Hyannis, said she sometimes must turn the other cheek when other kids disparage her because she emigrated from Brazil.

"Whenever they are mad at me, they tell me to go back," said Vieira, while sitting in the balcony with about a dozen of her classmates. "Most times, I keep it to myself. But if something really bad happens, I'll go to a teacher."

Vieira said she took comfort in the event at the Fleet Center. "It makes me feel ... that there are other kids who feel just the way I feel," she said.

A classmate, Colby Brown, 13, agreed. Brown,

who is black, said he was disturbed when he found racial epithets penned in red on a school desk when he was in the sixth grade.

"It did hurt me in a way," he said. "I did talk to my teacher."

In another section of the FleetCenter, students in the Alliance Against Violence and Racism at Barnstable High School said they were hoping to bring the event's anti-racism message back to the Cape.

Amanda Hourihan, 17, a junior at the high school, said she was grateful that Mrs. Clinton had found the time to come to Boston. She said the event was more than just a day away from the high school.

"Stop the violence and the prejudice," Hourihan said. "We're going to try to take that message out to the community."

"It's a great thing for all these people to get together for one cause," added Cory Sinclair, 15, a sophomore. "It's good for kids to know there is a way to stop racism and we can all make a difference."

Hilary Chamberlain and Jennifer Fulham, both 16-year-old juniors, said the Team Harmony gathering was inspiring. "It's a positive reinforcement for all the things we do all year long," said Fulham. "It's encouraging."



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HILLARY RODHAM
CLINTON
with students at
yesterday's Team
Harmony forum

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Daily News
December 10, 1997

First Lady talks about prejudice with students

By DAN RING
Daily News Boston bureau

BOSTON — Saying that “we ought to be helping each other, not hindering each other,” Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday urged students to work toward ending prejudice and intolerance in society.

In an event at the Fleet Center sports complex, the First Lady led a candid discussion about bigotry with 32 teenagers on the stage with her. As she listened to their stories about encounters with racism, she often paused to address the estimated 10,000 middle and high school students in the audience, including students from about 10 schools on the North Shore.

Mrs. Clinton was in Boston to participate in a four-hour forum organized by Team Harmony, an initiative launched by Boston-area athletes three years ago to help students fight racism.

She told students they must work with their parents and other adults to combat racism.

“This is a really important point,” she said. “As important as



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is surrounded by the 32 members of a student panel she led in discussion about racism during Team Harmony IV in Boston yesterday.

it is for young people to promote tolerance, harmony and respect ... it has to be a joint effort of younger and older people. I actually think this is one situation where young people can be the leaders in showing the way."

When confronted with racist comments or acts, students should stay calm and give the person a chance to apologize, she said.

"There are still going to be people who are so unhappy inside that they just won't be able to accept other people," she said. "We need to render them as harmless as possible and not allow them to hurt others."

Mrs. Clinton's message seemed to resonate with students from the North Shore. Students from Danvers, Hamilton, Ipswich, the Masconomet Regional High School, Newburyport, Peabody and Wenham were among those attending the event.

Rachel Lulay, 16, a senior at Peabody High School, said the event was a lot of fun, but it was also educational. One way to reduce racism is to educate people about its horrible effects, she said.

"It's important to keep up the awareness," Lulay said. "People

are realizing they are not so different than everybody else."

Lulay, who is Jewish, knows firsthand about the pain that can be caused by bigotry. Last year, vandals drew swastikas on the walls at Peabody High School, causing an uproar in the city.

"It's me this time," Lulay said she told fellow students gathered at an assembly in the wake of the vandalism. "Next time, it might be you."

Lulay was among 14 students and three teachers from Peabody High School attending the event. Kelly Robertie, 17, a senior at the school, said it was heartening to see Mrs. Clinton and other political leaders tackle the problem of racism.

"It's good to promote the fact that it is out there," Robertie said. "People can learn about it and discuss it. It's out there, but it's wrong."

When Mrs. Clinton took the stage, students at Ipswich High School joined others in a loud applause for the First Lady. About 15 students from several Ipswich schools were at the event.

"She's an incredible role model," said Kate Taylor, 17, a

senior at Ipswich High, after Mrs. Clinton appeared. "I love her. She is so inspiring."

Adam Stern, 18, also a senior at Ipswich High, said no one should take racism lightly.

"We can learn to get along with each other and get rid of violence and racism," Stern said. "We're all equal. We don't need to have racism and bigotry."

Mrs. Clinton was joined by professional athletes like Mo Vaughn of the Red Sox and Sam Gash of the Patriots. Some of the loudest cheers, however, came for members of the cast of an MTV program.

Mrs. Clinton was continuing a discussion started last week in Akron, Ohio by her husband. While President Clinton failed last week to elicit frank responses from college students and community leaders, Mrs. Clinton succeeded by asking some provocative questions of students.

The Clintons are involved in a campaign to get Americans to challenge and resolve racial problems. The effort is being guided by a seven-member advisory board, which is compiling information for a report by the president.

The Daily Times Chronicle
December 10, 1997

Americans will express true feelings on race

By SONYA ROSS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton says little by little, more Americans will express their true feelings on race as her husband's campaign for racial reconciliation continues working its way through the country.

In an interview Tuesday, Mrs. Clinton compared President Clinton's national dialogue to medicine that needs time to work. She spoke after her own dialogue with Boston-area teenagers who expressed their encounters with racism more frankly than did the group that spoke with the president last week in Akron, Ohio.

The first lady said Tuesday's discussion was blunter because the audience was younger and had been talking about racial issues long before she met with them.

"I think people can get overwhelmed by the idea of the race initiative," Mrs. Clinton said. "They need little pieces that they feel are doable for them."

She encouraged an emphasis on "those little things that can create a human connection" between people of different races. Not everyone will attend the race discussions, "but everyone can make more of an effort," she said.

As the president did at the University of Akron, Mrs. Clinton focused on attitudes among young people. As in Akron, there was no real divergence of opinion in Boston.

"That didn't bother me," Mrs. Clinton said. "Telling their own stories was a big part of educating their peers."

She asked several questions of the 32 teenagers who joined her on stage to get them to say how they felt or what they did

when they encountered racism. She asked whether any of them had family members who were prejudiced — some indicated they did — and if efforts like Team Harmony had changed any of their perceptions about people of other races and ethnicities.

The discussion was part of an annual anti-racism rally of Team Harmony, an initiative begun by Boston-area professional sports teams in 1994 to help middle- and high-schoolers combat bigotry.

But mostly, Mrs. Clinton listened to students like Tonderai Tabaziba, who said she was confused by stereotypes, and Amy Coran, who recounted an anti-Semitic joke that someone shouted at her soccer game one day.

"Why do you think young people say things like that? What's going on in their heads?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

"Ignorance!" shouted a boy deep in the upper-level seats.

"Insecurity!" yelled someone else.

Mrs. Clinton continues her travels today, speaking at the United Nations to open its yearlong celebration of the signing of the declaration of human rights.

In Boston Tuesday, one student asked her whether she thought affirmative action had helped or hurt American race relations. She replied that it had done both, by uplifting poor minorities and by being "misconstrued and misunderstood and used in a negative way."

Since candor was contagious, the first lady told of her own brush with prejudice.

She was about 13 years old and on the soccer team. It was very cold, so she tried to make small talk about the weather with the goalie, who replied, "I don't care if you're cold. I wish people like you would freeze."

"I said, 'How can you hate people like us? You don't even know us,'" Mrs. Clinton recalled. "She said, 'I don't have to know you to know I hate you.' And I've never forgotten that."

Hers wasn't a racial incident, Mrs. Clinton said. The goalie was of Eastern European descent, and she considered Hillary Rodham a "rich, WASP-y type." Those kinds of "non-black-white" tensions also need to be addressed, for they are a larger problem than many believe, Mrs. Clinton said.

"The black-white issue has to be the focus because it's the unfinished business of America," she said. "But I think we can help people understand it better if they see it as part of the overall dilemma of bigotry and prejudice that we have to contend with."



BOSTON — First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is surrounded by 32 members of a student panel she lead in discussion about racism, during Team Harmony IV in Boston. Team Harmony IV gathered together 10,000 high school and middle school students to talk about racism with sports stars and celebrities. (AP)

The Daily Transcript

December 10, 1997

Standing up against racism

10,000 students rally against bigotry at Boston's Fleet Center

By Mia Taylor
STAFF WRITER

BOSTON — The battle against racism is a daunting struggle, according to 16-year-old Yvette Hernandez.

"All you can do is try, but it's hard to stop what's going on," said the Westwood High School student, on her way out of the Team Harmony IV rally against discrimination in Boston's Fleet Center. "Last year a word was written on the wall in the bathroom (at school) that minorities didn't like at all. It was very discouraging."

Yesterday's day-long Team Harmony rally was aimed at giving Hernandez, and thousands of youths like her, the tools to fight racially-charged situations in the future.

Attended by approximately 10,000 students from throughout New England — including dozens from Westwood, Dedham, and other local towns — Team Harmony is in its fourth year. Billed as the largest interracial gathering of youth dedicated to combating bigotry, Team Harmony has become a national model for empowering teens to deal with discrimination and bigotry.

Recently the program was named on the White House's Web site as one of the top ten anti-discrimination success stories in the country. And one of the White

House's most notable occupants was on hand yesterday to recognize that success.

The highlight of the star-studded day, which included speeches from Red Sox MVP Mo Vaughn and former Boston Bruin Cam Neely, was a keynote address about fighting racism from first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

For nearly an hour, Mrs. Clinton sat on stage with a large group of students and led a discussion during which she offered details of her own encounters with racism and questioned the audience about their experiences.

Mrs. Clinton said she grew up in an all white suburb of Chicago, went to an all white school and an all white church. One of the first lady's earliest interracial encounters came when a minister at her church brought Mrs. Clinton's youth group into Chicago to meet with an African-American church group.

From that experience, Mrs. Clinton said she learned that stereotypes work both ways, and that the black people she met then had preconceived notions about what she would be like too.

"It's an ongoing process," Mrs. Clinton said of breaking down racial barriers. "It's a constant effort to keep talking to each other about how we can get along better. I wish when I was growing up in my big,

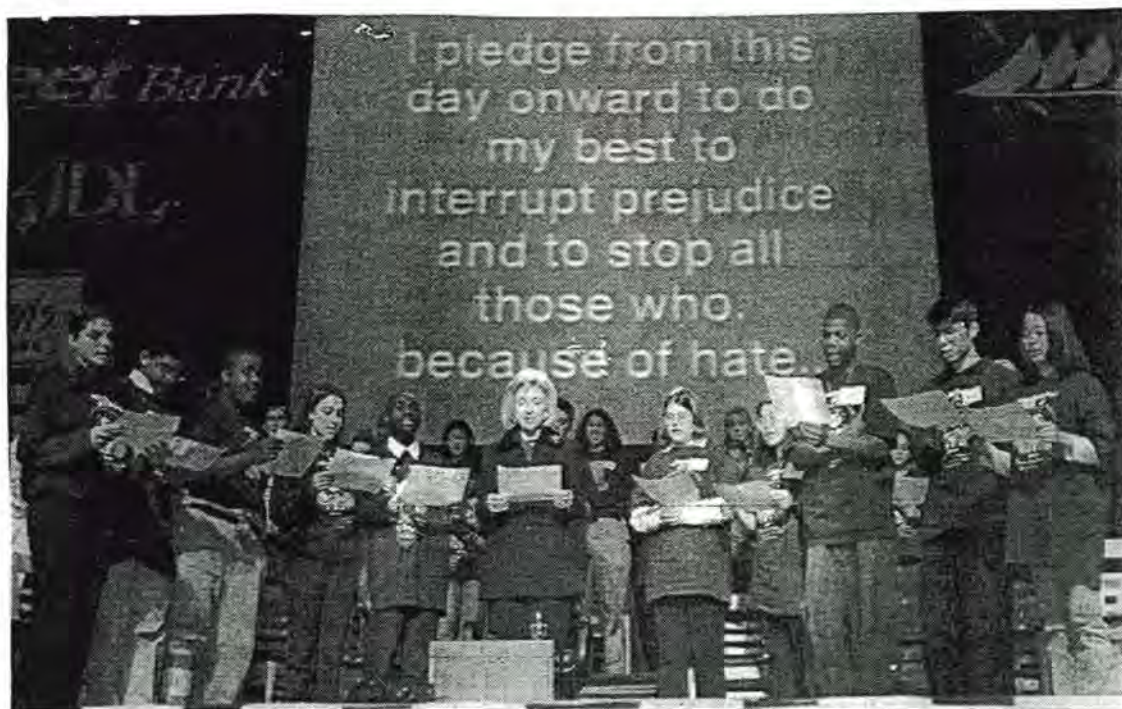


PHOTO BY KEN MCGAGH

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton leads students in a pledge to fight against racism at yesterday's Team Harmony IV, which was attended by about 10,000 students in Boston's Fleet Center.

Taking a stand against racism

RACISM, From page 1

all white high school, we had a Team Harmony."

A constantly smiling Mrs. Clinton listened attentively as students spoke one-on-one with her, retelling their own encounters with racism.

One teen-ager from Boston Latin High School brought a broad smile to Mrs. Clinton's face when she stood up to thank the first lady for being a role model for all women.

"I just want to thank you as a woman and as a role model, for expressing that we can be seen and we can be heard," said the student.

Mrs. Clinton responded that it is time to get rid of the notion that both men and women can not pursue their dreams.

Another student asked Mrs. Clinton how she thinks affirmative action has affected attitudes toward race.

"I think it has helped because it has allowed many people to prove themselves," said the first lady. "I think it has hurt when it is used in a negative way."

"I believe the most important thing we can do is to have affirma-

'This is one situation where young people can be the leaders in showing the way.'

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FIRST LADY**

tive thinking about each other," she added. "The debate about affirmative action is a little off. We should do everything possible to make every school a success so every student can go off to college and make sure as a society we are affirmatively helping everybody."

Before leaving, the first lady challenged the student audience with several questions of her own.

She asked the crowd: "How do we keep our society going, so that everybody feels they can make their contribution?"

A thunderous round of applause erupted when Mrs. Clinton asked: "How many of you believe if we could get more programs like this, we could change the future?" and "How many of you would like to make sure that every adult in your

life will join you in trying to make a difference?"

"I actually think this is one situation where young people can be the leaders in showing the way," Mrs. Clinton said of the fight against racism. "All of you can change attitudes not only among your classmates and your peers but also among adults as well."

Many Westwood students were divided about whether racism is a problem in their hometown.

David Abramson, 16, described the cafeteria at Westwood High School as a "segregated" place.

"If you walk into the cafeteria, people of color are in one corner and everybody who does not agree with the norms in Westwood is in that corner," said Abramson.

Katherine Coteles, 16, said Westwood is an accepting place.

"I never hear anyone talking about racial problems," said Coteles.

Sixteen-year-old Westwood student Douglas Heffel said he learned yesterday that you shouldn't judge people by the way they look. He said if and when racism does become a problem in his life, he now feels prepared.

The Enterprise
December 10, 1997

First lady, local youth tackle racism



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton looks to a sea of 10,000 school children in Boston Tuesday during Team Harmony IV, a forum to discuss racism.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — The matter-of-fact tone in Amy Coran's voice belied the pain she felt that day when someone at her soccer game shouted the joke she recounted Tuesday to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"There were these four boys ... Then one said, 'What's the difference between a Jew and a pizza? A pizza doesn't scream in the oven,'" Amy said, as sighs of shock rippled among the thousands of teen-agers listening in FleetCenter sports arena.

"Why do you think young people say things like that? What's going on in their heads?" Clinton asked.

"Ignorance!" shouted a boy deep in the upper-level seats.

"Insecurity!" yelled someone else.

So it went for an hour as Clinton engaged Boston-area youth in a discussion about bigotries far older than any of them. It was the type of candor that President Clinton sought — but didn't get — when he kicked off his national dialogue on race in Akron, Ohio, last week.

"Team Harmony IV," as the forum was dubbed, included students from about a dozen Brockton area school districts, including Plymouth, Brockton and Taunton.

In an interview, Clinton said the responses in Akron were probably less forthcoming because "people feel overwhelmed by the race initiative." She suggested that there be a focus on "those little things that create

human connections."

"I felt so stunned," said Claudy Paul, a senior at a mostly white high school, who told Clinton a schoolmate used a racial slur one day as he boarded a school bus.

"Did you ever try to sit down and talk with that young man?" Clinton asked.

"Yes I did," Claudy replied. "He said, 'I'm sorry,' and 'some of my best friends are black.' My mom was telling me how racist the school was. I did not want to believe her. Then that happened to me."

One student asked Clinton whether she thought affirmative action had helped or hurt American race relations. She replied that it had done both, by uplifting poor minorities and by being "misconstrued and misunderstood and used in a negative way."

Since candor was contagious, the first lady told of her own brush with prejudice.

She was about 13 years old and she, too, was on the soccer team. It was very cold, so she tried to make small talk about the weather with the goalie, who replied, "I don't care if you're cold. I wish people like you would freeze."

"I said, 'How can you hate people like us? You don't even know us,'" Clinton recalled. "She said, 'I don't have to know you to know I hate you.' And I've never forgotten that."

Hers wasn't a racial incident, Clinton said. The goalie was of Eastern European descent and

she considered the then-Hillary Rodham as a "rich, Waspy type." Those kinds of "non-black-white" tensions also need to be addressed, she said.

"People overlook the importance of forcing this conversation," she said. "The black-white

issue has to be the focus because it's the unfinished business of America. But I think we can help people understand it better if they see it as part of the overall dilemma of bigotry and prejudice that we have to contend with."

Tuesday's dialogue was part of an annual event by Team Harmony, an initiative begun by Boston-area professional sports teams in 1994.

The Gardner News

December 10, 1997

Area students react to first lady's visit

BY JOHN PIKE
NEWS STAFF WRITER

In the vernacular so common among today's youths, the words, "*it was really neat*," was used by six different local students to describe their reaction to seeing first lady Hillary Clinton speak at the Fleet Center in Boston Tuesday.

For those of us too old to know the definition of the word (I had to look it up), the slang definition of *neat* means wonderful or terrific.

Several students from Overlook Middle School and Oakmont Regional High School, both of Ashburnham, and Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School of Fitchburg attended Team Harmony, an interracial gathering of 10,000 youths dedicated to combating bigotry and promoting respect.

"Hillary Clinton knows what we are going through as teenagers," said Haley Sanborn an eighth-grade Overlook student, and one of the few who did not use the word *neat*. "She knows what we can do to stop prejudice. I had a good time."

After several speakers, including Leonard Zakim of the Anti-Defamation League, Clinton led a group discussion among youths about the first time in their lives they experienced racial prejudice.

They talked about the way it made them feel and ways to deal with their emotions and the person that insulted them.

*"Hillary Clinton
knows what we are
going through."*

—Haley Sanborn

Clinton urged the youths to discuss their racial feelings at home and school.

Team Harmony is part of a larger effort by President Bill Clinton to help end racial prejudice through the President's Initiative on Race.

Juliet O'Brien, an eighth-grade science teacher at Overlook, said the Ashburnham delegation of about 35 students was composed of student leaders picked by the faculty, who will take what they learned from Team Harmony and use it to have an effect on other students.

"We think they will bring back something. If the student leaders speak out, we hope the others will follow. It is a snowball effect."

At the junior high school age, the students tend to be more cruel, said O'Brien.

Oakmont in late March will hold a Team Harmony week. Various speakers will come to talk about tolerance, and the classes will teach about different cultures.

Adam Bell, a 10th-grade student at Oakmont, said, "The high school is really closed-minded, maybe Team Harmony will help things out a little bit."

The Gloucester Daily Times

December 10, 1997

First Lady talks about prejudice with students

By DAN RING
Ottaway News Service

BOSTON — Saying that "we ought to be helping each other, not hindering each other," Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday urged students to work toward ending prejudice and intolerance in society.

In an event at the Fleet Center sports complex, the First Lady led a candid discussion about bigotry with 32 teenagers on the stage with her. As she listened to their stories about encounters with racism, she often paused to address the estimated 10,000 middle and high school students in the audience, including students from about 10 schools on the North Shore.

Clinton was in Boston to participate in a four-hour forum organized by Team Harmony, an initiative launched by Boston-area athletes three years ago to help students fight racism.

She told students they must work with their parents and other adults to combat racism.

"This is a really important point," she said. "As important as it is for young people to promote tolerance, harmony and respect ... it has to be a joint effort of younger and older people. I actually think this is one situation where young

people can be the leaders in showing the way."

When confronted with racist comments or acts, students should stay calm and give the person a chance to apologize, she said.

"There are still going to be people who are so unhappy inside that they just won't be able to accept other people," she said. "We need to render them as harmless as possible and not allow them to hurt others."

Clinton's message seemed to resonate with students from the North Shore. Students from Danvers, Hamilton, Ipswich, the Masconomet Regional High School, Peabody and Wenham were among those attending the event.

Rachel Lulay, 16, a senior at Peabody High School, said the event was a lot of fun, but it was also educational. One way to reduce racism is to educate people about its horrible effects, she said.

"It's important to keep up the awareness," Lulay said. "People are realizing they are not so different than everybody else."

Lulay, who is Jewish, knows firsthand about the pain that can be caused by bigotry. Last year, vandals drew swastikas on the walls at Peabody High School, causing an uproar in the city.

"It's me this time," Lulay said she told fellow students gathered at an assembly in the wake of the vandalism. "Next time, it might be you."

Lulay was among 14 students and three teachers from Peabody High School attending the event. Kelly Robertie, 17, a senior at the school, said it was heartening to see Clinton and other political leaders tackle the problem of racism.

"It's good to promote the fact that it is out there," Robertie said. "People can learn about it and discuss it. It's out there, but it's wrong."

When Clinton took the stage, students at Ipswich High School joined others in a loud applause for the First Lady. About 15 students from several Ipswich schools were at the event.

"She's an incredible role model," said Kate Taylor, 17, a senior at Ipswich High, after Clinton appeared. "I love her. She is so inspiring."

Adam Stern, 18, also a senior at Ipswich High, said no one should take racism lightly.

"We can learn to get along with each other and get rid of violence and racism," Stern said. "We're all equal. We don't need to have racism and bigotry."

Clinton was joined by professional athletes like Mo Vaughn of the Red Sox and Sam Gash of the Patriots. Some of the loudest cheers, however, came for members of the cast of MTV's "Real World."

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The Clintons are involved in a campaign to get Americans to challenge and resolve racial problems. The effort is being guided by a seven-member advisory board, which is compiling information for a report by the president.

The Herald News
December 10, 1997

First lady, Bay State teens talk about racism

Associated Press

BOSTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton engaged Boston-area youth, as well as students from Fall River, in a discussion about bigotries far older than any of them Tuesday at the FleetCenter.

What Mrs. Clinton heard from the teens in attendance was the type of candor that President Clinton sought — but didn't get — when he kicked off his national dialogue on race in Akron, Ohio, last week.

In an interview, Mrs. Clinton said the responses in Akron were probably less forthcoming because "people feel

overwhelmed by the race initiative." She suggested that there be a focus on "those little things that create human connections."

"I felt so stunned," said Claudy Paul, a senior at a majority white high school, who told Mrs. Clinton a schoolmate used a racial slur one day as he boarded a school bus.

"Did you ever try to sit down and talk with that young man?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

"Yes I did," Claudy replied. "He said, 'I'm sorry,' and some of my best friends are black. My mom was telling me how racist the school was. I did not want to believe her. Then that happened

to me."

One student asked Mrs. Clinton whether she thought affirmative action had helped or hurt American race relations. She replied that it had done both, by uplifting poor minorities and by being "misconstrued and misunderstood and used in a negative way."

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Associated Press Photo

Hillary Rodham Clinton is surrounded by 32 members of a student panel she lead to discuss racism in Boston Tuesday.

Talk: First lady, teens discuss racism

replied, "I don't care if you're cold. I wish people like you would freeze."

"I said, 'How can you hate people like us? You don't even know us,'" Mrs. Clinton recalled. "She said, 'I don't have to know you to know I hate you.' And I've never forgotten that."

Hers wasn't a racial incident, Mrs. Clinton said. The goalie was of Eastern European descent, and she considered the then-Hillary Rodham as a "rich, WASPY type." Those kinds of "non-black-white" tensions also need to be addressed, for they are a larger

problem than many believe, Mrs. Clinton said.

"People overlook the importance of forcing this conversation," she said. "The black-white issue has to be the focus because it's the unfinished business of America. But I think we can help people understand it better if they see it as part of the overall dilemma of bigotry and prejudice that we have to contend with."

Tuesday's dialogue was part of an annual event by Team Harmony, an initiative begun by Boston-area professional sports

teams in 1994 to help middle- and high-schoolers combat bigotry.

Mrs. Clinton joined professional athletes, local bands and the cast of an MTV program before 10,000 eighth- through 11th-graders. The three-hour program also was broadcast live over New England Cable News.

The first lady told the children that the best way to handle racist behavior is to refuse to respond. "It doesn't always work to stand there and yell and trade insults," she said. "There are still going to be people who are so unhappy inside ... that they won't be able

to accept other people," she said. "We need to make that number as small as possible, and then surround those people with our own respect and love, so they are rendered as harmless as possible."

As the president did in leading his discussion in Akron, Mrs. Clinton focused on attitudes among young people. As in Clinton's dialogue, there was no real divergence of opinion here.

"That didn't bother me," Mrs. Clinton said. "Telling their own stories was a big part of educating their peers."

The Middlesex News

December 10, 1997

Mrs. Clinton talks with local students at Boston rally

By Jennifer Kovalich

NEWS STAFF WRITER

BOSTON — Michael Hurwitz was in fifth grade when he first felt discrimination, the Framingham High School freshman told first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday.

"Kids wrote swastikas on the bathroom walls," Hurwitz said.

Upset by the incident, he told the school's principal, who called an assembly. The discrimination continued for a "few weeks," Hurwitz recalled, then it died down.

Hurwitz's anecdote was just one Mrs. Clinton heard about discrimination, racism and sexism yesterday at the FleetCenter in Boston.

The first lady joined about 10,000 New England students at the fourth annual Team Harmony rally. MetroWest schools that participated in the event included Framingham, Hudson, Marlborough, Maynard, Franklin, Natick, Acton-Boxborough and Newton.

"Breaking down barriers and changing hearts and minds is the most important work we need to do in our country and our world," Mrs. Clinton told the energetic audience.

The event is designed to raise awareness of bigotry, racism and discrimination in society and encourage students to change attitudes.

Team Harmony was a vision of late Celtic great Reggie Lewis and organized by his friend, Jon Jennings, and Leonard Zakim, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League of New Eng-

land.

Mrs. Clinton waved enthusiastically to the cheering crowd as she settled herself on the stage and conducted a talk-show style discussion with students about the issues.

"We can learn a lot from each other and respect for each other," she said.



Hurwitz

"It doesn't mean we have to like everybody. There are a lot of people I don't like," she said, eliciting laughter from the crowd.

Students told Mrs. Clinton about experiences of racist jokes, racial slurs and gay-bashing. She in turn asked students how they handled the situations, relayed some of her personal experiences and urged the youths to action.

"Younger and older people need to take a stand," she said. "I think it is where young people can be leaders."

Franklin Tri-County Regional Vocational School student Derek Payton said the first lady's appearance at Team Harmony carried a lot of weight.

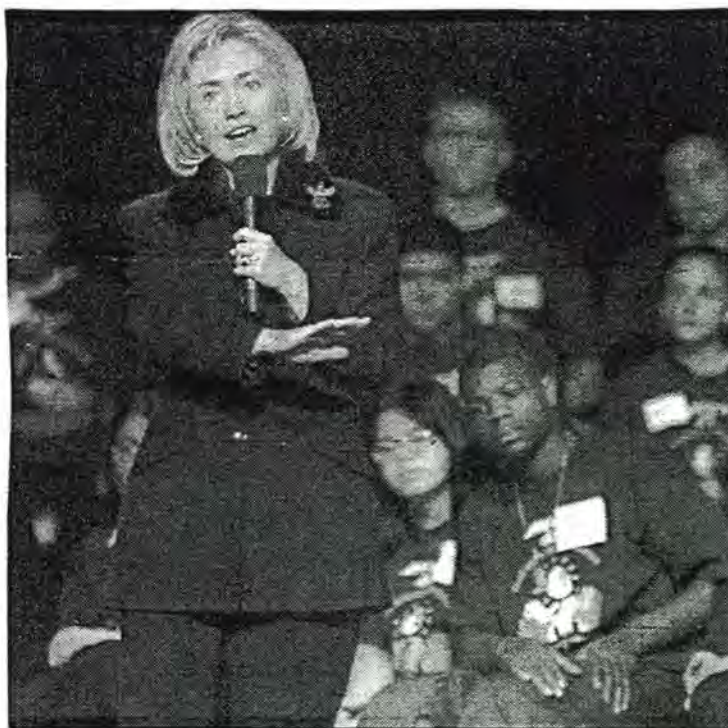
"I think it's really great she's shown a strong interest," he said. Mrs. Clinton wrote about Team Harmony in her 1995 best-seller, "It Takes a Village and Other Lessons Children Teach Us."

Payton said the rally gave him a feeling that if people do work together, change can occur.



First lady Hillary Clinton waves to the audience as she arrives at Boston's FleetCenter yesterday for Team Harmony IV, a rally against discrimination for high schoolers.

NEWS PHOTO BY KEN MCGAGH



NEWS PHOTO BY KEN MCGAGH

First Lady Hillary Clinton delivers the keynote speech during yesterday's Team Harmony IV rally at the FleetCenter.

That message was reiterated to students throughout the day from various celebrities, including Red Sox slugger Mo Vaughn, recording artists Blessid Union of Souls, former Bruins great Cam Neely, Patriots fullback Sam Gash, Celtics center Pervis Ellison, MTV's Real World cast and Boston Marathoners Dick and Rick Hoyt.

"We're all the same no matter what color we are or where we come from," Vaughn said. "No one person is any better than another, and we all need to understand that."

After Vaughn spoke, a banner with the Team Harmony logo and a jersey sporting Jackie Robinson's number 42 were raised to the rafters. Robinson broke the baseball color barrier 50 years ago.

While Team Harmony garnered positive reviews by many teachers and students, Hudson

High School senior Diana Fernandes expressed some reservations.

"We could have this every day," Fernandes said. "I want to know who's going to walk out of here and do something."

Fernandes said even as the event progressed, some students sitting behind her poked fun at a young man who told Mrs. Clinton about how he was harassed after making the cheerleading squad in Lowell.

"If they're thinking that right behind me, how many others may be thinking the same thing?" Fernandes said. She said she tried to get the students to see the situation in a different light.

Overall, many school representatives said the event does give students something to think about.

Some share the lessons with their peers, while others use them in cultural clubs to open eyes to differences.

The News Tribune
December 10, 1997

Teens rally against hate

By Robin Montville
STAFF WRITER

While many of their classmates were home sleeping on a day off from St. Jude's School in Waltham yesterday, 14 of Carol Lewenberg's eighth-grade students got up early to join thousands of others and take a stand against hatred and discrimination.

The importance of the students' crusade was apparent simply with a look at the guest list of the fourth annual Team Harmony Event. The keynote speaker was First Lady Hillary TEAM HARMONY, see page 16



STAFF PHOTO BY KEN MCGAGH
First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton with area students at yesterday's Team Harmony event.

Teens sound call for harmony

TEAM HARMONY, from page 1

Rodham Clinton.

More than 10,000 students met at the FleetCenter to discuss problems like the one Lewenberg's class faced recently.

"There was an incident recently at our school with racial slurs," said Lewenberg. "There was someone who thought it was OK, pretty much OK, to use racial slurs."

The students confronted their classmate and decided attending Team Harmony, would be a good learning experience for everyone who chose to attend. In less than a week, the students were sitting in the audience while a parade of famous faces spoke against hatred.

Red Sox MVP Mo Vaughn, New England Patriots Sam Gash and Ted Johnson, former Boston Bruin Cam Neely and some of the members of MTV's "Real World" Boston cast attended the rally.

"It's all about discrimination. It's all about bigotry. It's all about racism," said Vaughn. "...Try to go out there and be a better person."

Vaughn spoke of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, who paved the way for professional black athletes. Vaughn helped students raise a Team Harmony flag with Robinson's uniform number 42 in hope, "nobody forgets what it stands for." Hugging the children and slapping them high five, Vaughn, like many of the speakers, left a lasting impression.

"What I liked best was Hillary Clinton," said St. Jude student Stacey Bernadeau. "I liked her best because she was on the spot and kids could ask her any questions they wanted. I thought that was very brave of her."

Clinton sat on stage surrounded by a large group of students who told stories of their first-hand experiences with discrimination.

Relaying incidents of discrimination, off-color jokes and racial slurs, students made it clear prejudice still exists.

One Newton North High School student told Clinton about traveling with her family to a college in New York where she encountered her first experience with prejudice when someone said to her sister, who was wearing a Star of David, "Whatever, you're just some little rich Jewish girl."

The high school student who grew up in a community "where most of the people are Jewish," said the incident taught her ster-

cotypes and prejudice exist.

Clinton said she became aware of the efforts of Team Harmony when she was writing her book, "It Takes a Village". Programs like Team Harmony, she said, work toward "changing attitudes and breaking down barriers."

"You are really standing up for what is best for America," said Clinton. "... You've learned we can learn a lot from each other."

The idea for Team Harmony developed from a friendship between former Boston Celtics' Director of Basketball Development and current White House Fellow, Jon Jennings and former Boston Celtics' captain Reggie Lewis who wanted to organize an event for youth which would promote understanding of differences.

"Having an event like Team Harmony allows kids to come together into an event and see 11,000 people together, it really gives them a sense of power," said Jennings.

After Lewis' death, Jennings

joined forces with Leonard Zakim, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League of New England and the League's national anti-bias program, the A World of Difference Institute. Using a format which encompasses entertainment, education and inspiration, the organizers strive to create a "team effort to overcome bigotry."

Participants hope the discussion started through Team Harmony will continue.

Students from eight Newton schools and four Waltham schools attended.

Lewenberg's students look forward to bringing back the lessons they learned at Team Harmony to St. Jude.

"We'll bring back our words," said Bernadeau. "And we'll recommend the next group goes next year."

The students said they learned there were more people discriminated than they thought.

"I learned everybody's equal," said St. Jude student James Joyce.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEN MCGAGH

Barbara Doucette, a health teacher at the Kennedy Middle School, holds up a sign so her students can find her in the crowd.

The Patriot Ledger

December 10, 1997

'Real World' cast turns on teens

BOSTON — She is an accomplished attorney, an author, a famous mother and the first lady of the United States.

But to the thousands of teenagers gathered at the "Teen Harmony" human rights rally yesterday, Hillary Rodham Clinton was just the opening act for the cast of MTV's "Real World Boston."

When four of the seven members of the cast of MTV's real-life drama stepped onto the stage yesterday, teenagers shrieked and ran blindly toward the stage like lemmings.

It was as though The Beatles had come back to the Ed Sullivan Show.

"I loved seeing the 'Real World' cast," said Jonathan Terlaje, an eighth-grader at Broad Meadows Middle School. Terlaje said the program has been one of his favorites this year.

The "Real World" is a weekly program about a group of people from diverse backgrounds who live together in one house. While the show is real, it often features dramatic arguments, passionate love affairs and scandalous infidelities.

Every year a different cast is filmed in a different city.

The "Real World Boston" cast wrapped up filming this spring, and the final episode aired last Wednesday.

"I don't know anything about MTV, but the kids were very excited about the MTV people," said Barbara Fenby, a Broad Meadows teacher who attended the rally.

Even the cast themselves seemed a little taken back by the crowd's exuberance.

"I'm glad you let us back in the city," said Montana McGlynn, who is known for having double-timed her long-distance boyfriend during the show. "I thought you'd never let us back in the city after the show aired."



Amy Coran, of Sharon, sits at first lady Hillary Clinton's right at the FleetCenter in Boston yesterday.

The Patriot Ledger

December 10, 1997

First lady and students discuss diversity, harmony

By Ann Givens
The Patriot Ledger

BOSTON — When a group of Mansfield boys yelled anti-Semitic slurs at Sharon High School ninth-grader Amy Coran and her soccer teammates this fall, Amy fought back.

She told her principal about it and did everything she could to insure such an act of bigotry would not happen again.

Yesterday, Coran learned that one of the most powerful women in the country, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, was first mobilized to action by an almost identical incident.

Mrs. Clinton, the featured guest at a diversity awareness rally in Boston called "Team Harmony," told of a time when she was prejudged while playing soccer in junior high school.

"I was standing by the goal and I mentioned to the goalie that I was cold," Clinton said. "She said, 'I don't care if it's cold. I wish people like you would freeze.'"

Clinton, who did not say whether the attack was motivated by racial or religious prejudice, was shocked.

"I said, 'Why are you saying that? You don't even know me,'" she said. "The girl said, 'I don't need to know you to know that I hate you.'"

Clinton said it was at that moment that she realized how much it can hurt to be prejudged.

Clinton was one of dozens of political figures, television stars, musicians and athletes who took part in the fourth annual Team Harmony event at Boston's FleetCenter.

Others included Boston Red Sox Most Valuable Player Mo Vaughn, Women's National Basketball League high-scorer Sheryl Swoopes, members of the cast of MTV's Real World Boston and the musical group Blessed Union of Souls.

The event was attended by more than 10,000 middle and high school students from about 350 schools throughout the state, including schools in Hanover, Randolph, Sharon and Quincy.

The idea for the event originated several years ago with then Boston Celtic captain Reggie Lewis and former Celtics' Director of Basketball Development and current White House Fellow Jon Jennings. After Lewis' untimely death,



Fred Field/The Patriot Ledger

Sharon High School student Amy Coran talks with Hillary Clinton at the FleetCenter last night.

Jennings joined forces with Leonard Zakim, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League of New England, and various local organizations to put the event together.

Coran was one of 35 students who was asked to sit on stage with Clinton, ask questions and share stories about overcoming bigotry.

"I wasn't really thinking much at all while I was up there," Coran said. "I was too nervous."

Coran sat directly to Clinton's left, and was the second student to share her story.

She told in stark detail of ghastly jokes the boys at the soccer game had told about Jewish people killed in the Holocaust. She added that she does not feel that her community has done enough in response to the incident.

"I wanted to tell Hillary Clinton because no one else seemed to care," she said. "Maybe someone from Mansfield saw me up there and thought, 'Hey, maybe this does matter.'"

Mansfield High School officials have said that they launched an in-depth investigation in response to the incident, and are in the process of reevaluating their diversity education programs.

They were not able to identify the

boys who made the slurs.

Clinton asked the students on stage to think about why the boys might have made such slurs.

"If you don't feel good about yourself or if you're in with a group of people you want to impress, suddenly things might get a little out of hand," Clinton at last offered. "But how long does that make the person who does it feel good?"

Clinton praised the work that Team Harmony and various other school diversity awareness groups are doing.

"Breaking down barriers is the most important work we have to do together in this country and in our world," she said.

Barbara Fenby, a teacher at Broad Meadows Middle School, said she was impressed by Clinton's unpretentious manner.

"It was all about who the kids were and promoting the kids, not about her," Fenby said.

"
I wanted to tell Hillary Clinton because no one else seemed to care.
"

— Amy Coran

The Patriot Ledger

December 10, 1997

Broad Meadows teens bumped from Hub program

By Ann Givens
The Patriot Ledger

QUINCY — Eighth-graders Stacey Smith and Greia Amarra practiced their speeches for more than 16 hours.

They practiced in front of their English class, after school and at home with their families.

So as the time approached yesterday to deliver their speeches on child slavery to an audience of nearly 10,000 people at Boston's Fleet Center, the Broad Meadows Middle School students were giddy.

"We're soooooo nervous!" they squealed before the human rights rally began.

But four hours later, the same two girls looked crestfallen.

The rally, called "Team Harmony," had run behind schedule — and one school had gotten bumped off the roster. It was Broad Meadows.

"I want to acknowledge Broad Meadows Middle School," said Billy Costa, the WXKS DJ who emceed the event. "But we're not going to have time for you. We've got a curfew and there's nothing we can do about it."

Smith and Amarra had planned to tell the audience about the school they raised money to open in Pakistan in honor of Iqbal Masih, a former child slave who visited Broad Meadows three years ago. Four months after his visit, Iqbal was shot to death while riding his bicycle in front of his grandmother's house.

They were going to talk about an e-mail campaign they are launching this spring in support of new international child labor laws.

Every E-mail message they receive



Fred Field/The Patriot Ledger

Broad Meadows eighth-graders Greia Amarra, left, and Stacey Smith want radio station WXKS to broadcast information about their E-mail campaign.

at their address will count as a virtual mile walked in a 3,000-mile virtual march against child labor. The address is endchlabor@aol.com

"We just want to make sure the laws are written and obeyed," Amarra said.

The virtual march will coincide with an actual worldwide march by adults around the same time to support the same laws.

But the girls never got the chance to give their speeches.

"They told us about five minutes before we were supposed to go on that there wouldn't be time," Smith said. "Greia and I didn't really say anything."

The students have decided to take action rather than waste time feeling sorry for themselves.

Smith said she and Amarra are going to write to WXKS, a sponsor of the event, and ask them to broadcast information about the virtual march on the radio.

Local teen-agers hear first lady

By **DAN RING**
Ottaway News Service

BOSTON — Saying that "we ought to be helping each other, not hindering each other," Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday urged students to work toward ending prejudice and intolerance in society.

The First Lady led a candid discussion about bigotry with 32 teenagers on the stage with her at the FleetCenter sports complex. As she listened to their stories about encounters with racism, she often paused to address the estimated 10,000 middle and high school students in the audience, including students from about 10 schools on the North Shore.

Mrs. Clinton was in Boston to participate in a four-hour forum organized by Team Harmony, an

initiative launched by Boston-area athletes three years ago to help students fight racism.

She told students they must work with their parents and other adults to combat racism.

"This is a really important point," she said. "As important as it is for young people to promote tolerance, harmony and respect ... it has to be a joint effort of younger and older people. I actually think this is one situation where young people can be the leaders in showing the way."

When confronted with racist comments or acts, students should stay calm and give the person a chance to apologize, she said.

"There are still going to be people who are so unhappy inside that they just won't be able to accept other people," she said. "We

FIRST LADY, page A10



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton talks with about 10,000 New England school students during Team Harmony IV in Boston, yesterday. The event brought students, sports stars and celebrities together to talk about racism.

Associated Press photo

First lady: Teen-agers hear first lady

Continued from page A1

need to render them as harmless as possible and not allow them to hurt others."

Mrs. Clinton's message seemed to resonate with students from the North Shore, including representatives from schools in Danvers, Hamilton, Ipswich, Peabody, Wenham and the Masconomet Regional High School.

Rachel Lulay, 16, a senior at Peabody High School, said the event was a lot of fun, but it was also educational. One way to reduce racism is to educate people about its horrible effects, she said.

"It's important to keep up the awareness," Lulay said. "People are realizing they are not so different than everybody else."

Lulay, who is Jewish, knows firsthand about the pain that can be caused by bigotry. Last year, vandals drew swastikas on the walls at Peabody High School, causing an uproar in the city.

"It's me this time," Lulay said

she told fellow students gathered at an assembly in the wake of the vandalism. "Next time, it might be you."

Lulay was among 14 students and three teachers from Peabody High School attending the event. Kelly Robertie, 17, a senior at the school, said it was heartening to see Mrs. Clinton and other political leaders tackle the problem of racism.

"It's good to promote the fact that it is out there," Robertie said. "People can learn about it and discuss it. It's out there, but it's wrong."

When Mrs. Clinton took the stage, students at Ipswich High School joined others in a loud applause for the first lady. About 15 students from several Ipswich schools were at the event.

"She's an incredible role model," said Kate Taylor, 17, a senior at Ipswich High, after Mrs. Clinton appeared. "I love her. She is so inspiring."

Adam Stern, 18, also a senior at

Ipswich High, said no one should take racism lightly.

"We can learn to get along with each other and get rid of violence and racism," Stern said. "We're all equal."

Mrs. Clinton was joined by professional athletes like Mo Vaughn of the Red Sox and Sam Gash of the Patriots. Some of the loudest cheers, however, came for members of the cast of an MTV program.

Mrs. Clinton was continuing a discussion started last week in Akron, Ohio, by her husband. While President Clinton failed last week to elicit frank responses from college students and community leaders, Mrs. Clinton succeeded by asking some provocative questions of students.

The Clintons are involved in a campaign to get Americans to challenge and resolve racial problems. The effort is being guided by a seven-member advisory board, which is compiling information for a report by the president.

The Sentinel and Enterprise

December 10, 1997

Area students talk race with first lady



Sentinel & Enterprise / BRAD LEIGHTON

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton greets audience members after speaking with young panelists at the Team Harmony IV rally at the FleetCenter in Boston Tuesday.

Lunenburg student shared panel with Hillary Clinton

By Brad Leighton
Staff Writer

BOSTON — More than 10,000 student voices filled the FleetCenter on Tuesday with a single vow.

Black, Hispanic, white, Asian — all together they pledged to "stop those who, because of hate, would hurt, harass or violate the civil rights of anyone."

The students at Team Harmony IV spent the day celebrating diversity, promising to respect differences in race, religion, culture, gender and sexual orientation.

Among those thousands of voices were hundreds from north central Massachusetts. Fitchburg sent students from the high school, Memorial Middle School, B.F. Brown Middle School and Reingold Elementary School.

Joining the throng were students from Leominster, Lunenburg and Oakmont Regional high schools, Overlook Middle School and several other schools in the Montachusett region.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was the keynote speaker. But instead of giving a speech, she discussed discrimination on stage with a panel of 32 students — one of whom was Lunenburg High School's Meghann Boyle.

Mrs. Clinton asked Boyle why she felt people put down other people for being different. "I think it is because they have low self-esteem. It makes them

feel better to make fun of those who are different," Boyle answered.

Afterward, Boyle said the first lady is an inspiration to many young women. "She is a good role

model as a working woman and a mother. She speaks her views," Boyle said.

Meeting Mrs. Clinton was especially interesting to Boyle, who wishes to attend the University of California at Berkeley or San Diego to major in political science.

"Women need more representation in politics and in business. Both are still dominated by men. But we are getting there," said Mrs. Clinton. "Many of the things I do and enjoy today, I couldn't do 30 years ago."

Boyle has straight A's and is

third in her class. She enjoys kickboxing, soccer and indoor and spring track. She also is in-

"This is a great idea, having everyone coming together to make a stand against racism."

**Kurt Cormier of Ashburnham
a freshman at Oakmont**

involved in school plays and student government.

She received word late Friday she would be on the panel. "I

don't know why they chose me, but I'm glad they did," Boyle said.

In the audience, Overlook eighth-grader Louisa Donelson of Ashburnham thought it was interesting to hear celebrities such as Mo'Nique, Matty Siegal of Kiss 108 radio, WNBA high scorer Sheryl Swoopes, former Bruin Cam Neeley, New England Patriots Sam Gash and Ted Johnson, the cast of MTV's Real World and several others talk about their experiences with prejudice.

"It was interesting to hear them. They had lots of stories and the students had lots of stories, all about how some people can treat other people," Donelson said. "This (the rally) is really neat. There is a lot of diversity here."

"This is a great idea, having everyone coming together to make a stand against racism," said Kurt Cormier of Ashburnham, a freshman at Oakmont. "A lot of people think that kids today just cause trouble. Actually, the ones that cause trouble are the only ones people pay attention to. Most kids are good people. All the people you see here are kids that are standing up for what is right," he said.

Cormier and the other Oakmont students are members of the student council, which has attended the rally the last three years.

The Reingold Elementary School's Diversity Committee agreed with Cormier. "Look at all the kids here. This is wonderful," said Chapter 1 teacher Mabel Hunter. "The Fitchburg school system needs better representation here from the adults. The superintendent of schools and the administrators should be here."

Hunter was impressed with Mrs. Clinton. "She seemed very down to earth and able to relate to the children."

Team Harmony got its start through the friendship of the late Boston Celtics captain Reggie Lewis and Jon Jennings, former Celtics director of basketball development. Lewis grew up in the projects of Baltimore, while Jennings grew up in an all-white rural community in Indiana.

Through their friendship, they decided to plan an anti-prejudice event. Lewis died before the first Team Harmony on Dec. 13, 1994. Jennings joined forces with all four (now five) professional sports teams in Massachusetts, and the Anti-Defamation League of New England. The first event drew 6,000 students and it has grown every year since.

The Southbridge Evening News

December 10, 1997

Appears at Team Harmony in Boston

HILLARY CLINTON ON THE RACE ISSUE

WASHINGTON (AP) — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton says little by little, more Americans will express their true feelings on race as her husband's campaign for racial reconciliation continues working its way through the country.

In an interview Tuesday, Mrs. Clinton compared President Clinton's national dialogue to medicine that needs time to work. She spoke after her own dialogue with Boston-area teen-agers who expressed their encounters with racism more frankly than did the group that spoke with the president last week in Akron, Ohio.

The first lady said Tuesday's discussion was blunter because the audience was younger and had been talking about racial issues long before she met with them.

"I think people can get overwhelmed by the idea of the race initiative," Mrs. Clinton said. "They need little pieces that they feel are doable for them."

She encouraged an emphasis on "those little things that can create a human connection" between people of different races. Not everyone will attend the race discussions, "but everyone can make more of an effort," she said.

As the president did at the University of Akron, Mrs. Clinton focused on attitudes among young people. As in Akron, there was no real divergence of opinion in Boston.

"That didn't bother me," Mrs. Clinton said. "Telling their own stories was a big part of educating their peers."

She asked several questions of the 32 teen-agers who joined her on stage to get them to say how they felt or what they did when they encountered racism. She asked whether any of them had family members who were prejudiced — some indicated they did — and if efforts like Team Harmony had changed any of their perceptions about people of other races and ethnicities.

The discussion was part of an annual anti-racism rally of Team Harmony, an initiative begun by Boston-area professional sports teams in 1994 to help middle- and high-schoolers combat bigotry.

But mostly, Mrs. Clinton listened to students like Tonderai Tabaziba, who said she was confused by stereotypes, and Amy Coran, who recounted an anti-Semitic joke that someone shouted at her soccer game one day.

"Why do you think young people say things like that? What's going on in their heads?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

"Ignorance!" shouted a boy deep in the upper-level seats.

"Insecurity!" yelled someone else.

Mrs. Clinton continues her travels today, speaking at the United Nations to open its yearlong celebration of the signing of the declaration of human rights.

In Boston Tuesday, one student asked her whether she thought affirmative action had helped or hurt American race relations. She replied that it had done both, by uplifting poor minorities and by being "misconstrued and misunderstood and used in a negative way."

Since candor was contagious, the first lady told of her own brush with prejudice.

She was about 13 years old and on the soccer team. It was very cold, so she tried to make small talk about the weather with the goalie, who replied, "I don't care if you're cold. I wish people like you would freeze."

"I said, 'How can you hate people like us? You don't even know us,'" Mrs. Clinton recalled. "She said, 'I don't have to know you to know I hate you.' And I've never forgotten that."

Hers wasn't a racial incident, Mrs. Clinton said. The goalie was of Eastern European descent, and she considered Hillary Rodham a "rich, WASP-y type." Those kinds of "non-black-white" tensions also need to be addressed, for they are a larger problem than many believe, Mrs. Clinton said.

"The black-white issue has to be the focus because it's the unfinished business of America," she said. "But I think we can help people understand it better if they see it as part of the overall dilemma of bigotry and prejudice that we have to contend with."

The Standard Times
December 10, 1997



First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton listens to Claudy Paul talk about his first experience with racism during a panel discussion yesterday at the FleetCenter. Story is on Page A5.

Hillary Clinton, Boston youths discuss prejudice

By Sonya Ross
Associated Press writer

BOSTON — The matter-of-fact tone in Amy Coran's voice belied the pain she felt that day when someone at her soccer game shouted the anti-Semitic joke she recounted yesterday to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

As Amy told the cruel joke, sighs of shock rippled among the thousands of teen-agers listening in Fleet Center sports arena.

"Why do you think young people say things like that? What's going on in their heads?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

"Ignorance!" shouted a boy deep in the upper-level seats.

"Insecurity!" yelled someone else.

So it went for an hour as Mrs. Clinton engaged Boston-area youths in a discussion about bigotries far older than any of them. It was the type of candor that President Clinton sought — but did not get — when he started his national dialogue on race in Akron, Ohio, last week.

In an interview, Mrs. Clinton said the responses in Akron were probably less forthcoming because "people

feel overwhelmed by the race initiative." She suggested that there be a focus on "those little things that create human connections."

"I felt so stunned," said Claudy Paul, a senior at a majority white high school, who told Mrs. Clinton a schoolmate used a racial slur one day as he boarded a school bus.

"Did you ever try to sit down and talk with that young man?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

"Yes, I did," Claudy replied. "He said, 'I'm sorry,' and 'Some of my best friends are black.' My mom was telling me how racist the school was. I did not want to believe her. Then that happened to me."

One student asked Mrs. Clinton whether she thought affirmative action had helped or hurt American race relations. She replied that it had done both, by uplifting poor minorities and by being "misconstrued and misunderstood and used in a negative way."

Mrs. Clinton joined professional athletes, local bands and the cast of an MTV program before 10,000 eighth-through 11th-graders. The three-hour program also was broadcast live on New England Cable News.

The Sun
December 10, 1997

Hillary, Mo and 10,000 children rally in harmony against bigotry



HILLARY CLINTON: "If we stick with it, we'll change minds, but not everybody's."

By COALE PARKER ANDERSON
Sun Staff

BOSTON — Repeat after him.

"I've had it with those who laugh at ethnic or homophobic jokes," said Leonard Zakim, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League. "Words of hate hurt ... I'm ready to speak up ... Together nobody can ignore us."

As Zakim paused after each sentence, about 10,000 students and teachers heartily repeated his cry in the FleetCenter yesterday at Team Harmony — a statewide, anti-discrimination rally.

The gathering, attended by hundreds of students from the Lowell area, fluctuated between a talk-show and sports-event atmosphere.

First lady Hillary Clinton talked on stage with 20 randomly picked students — including two students from Lowell's McDonough Arts Magnet School — while the rest of the audience listened. Between appearances by sports stars such as the Boston Red Sox' Mo Vaughn and the WNBA's Sheryl Swoopes, the students — pushing the air up with their palms in an undulating



UNITED AGAINST RACISM: Hillary Rodham Clinton is surrounded by participants from around the state in the fourth-annual Team Harmony rally at the FleetCenter in Boston yesterday.

AP PHOTO

AREA YOUTH, FIRST LADY FIGHT RACISM



Tonderai Tabaziba, an eighth-grader at the McDonough Arts Magnet School in Lowell, asks first lady Hillary Clinton a question at the fourth-annual Team Harmony rally against discrimination at the FleetCenter in Boston yesterday.

AP PHOTOS

Hillary, Mo, youths rally against racism

motion — danced to songs like Aretha Franklin's "Respect."

Other Lowell schools attending the rally included the Bartlett, Butler, Robinson, Rogers, Sullivan, Wang school in Lowell, as well as Lowell Catholic High School and St. Louis School.

The first student to talk with Mrs. Clinton recalled how he thought, when he started high school, that his mother's warnings of racism were silly. Not too much later, someone called him a "nigger." Shocked, all he could do was stand there crying, he told Clinton and thousands of his peers.

Later the boy confronted the name-caller, who then apologized. Now the slighted boy is the senior class vice president.

After his story, Clinton urged all students who are discriminated against to combat the offense with reason, not with violence, yelling or insults.

"If we stick with it, we'll change minds, but not everybody's," said Clinton, adding that people who are too unhappy to change must be rendered powerless through collective action.

Naron Chrim, of Lowell's Robinson Middle School, provided a textbook example of Clinton's push for the use of brains over muscle.

Several years ago, friends of Chrim's friends made fun of her, saying Asians eat cats and are poor.

"I was kind of confused, but I didn't worry about it," said Chrim, who — uninitiated to racial slurs — thought they must be joking.

When they started pushing

her around a few weeks later, she realized they were serious. Her mother told her to talk to them.

"I said, 'All of that stuff you're saying about our culture is not true. Go find out for yourself,'" Chrim recalled telling them in the park after school.

After doing some research they came back a month later, admitting they were wrong and that her culture is "cool." Now, they're all friends with Chrim.

Arts Magnet students Tonderai Tabaziba and Vuthay Ron, both on the 20-student panel with Clinton, agree with the first lady that the logical approach is the best way to fight discrimination.

"The rally will make people

Voices of the 'Team Harmony' rally

Participants in yesterday's "Team Harmony" — a statewide, anti-discrimination rally held in Boston for students and teachers — speak their minds.

Kelley Chanthavonysack, 14, of the Robinson School, Lowell: "They say, 'You little gook, go back to where you came from. Go back to your own country where they eat cats and dogs.' But (Laotians) don't. We're all from the same country, we're all from the same world. Why do they hate us so much?"

Anthony Sequeira, 12, of the Rogers School: He said he's never seen or experienced discrimination, but that attending yesterday's rally might help him in the future. "Because if I ever see my friends get into trouble, I'll try to get him and the person he's in trouble with to talk it out."

Melanie Ellis, 13, of the Rogers School: "Around my neighborhood they call me chocolate," said Ellis, adding that she

beat up a younger boy for the taunt and would do it again, despite the anti-violence message of yesterday's rally. When her friends objected, she said, "I'm telling the truth right?"

Mo Vaughn, Boston Red Sox player: "I think (the rally) is very important ... We've got to educate people." But, he said, racism doesn't get him down. "I'm so proud of who I am, I just handle it ... it doesn't bother me."



Mo Vaughn

Arene Luteman, teacher at the McDonough Arts Magnet School: After noting that many children at the rally complained that teachers ignored reports of racism, she said, "Hopefully some of the teachers will realize that they do that whether they realize it or not ... An event like this just makes people aware."

understand how people feel if they're making fun of them. They'll learn that it hurts," Tabaziba said.

Other students say that talking won't do any good and are skeptical that the rally's message will change things.

Luis Lopez, of Lowell's Robinson School, said he's not convinced that words can stop children from calling him "Taco," "Burrito," or "Mexican Jumping Bean."

"If I fight them and win, they know not to call me that again," Lopez said.

Robinson School teacher Hilary White said Lopez was talking big.

"He's not down in the princi-

pal's office for fighting," she said.

Some students from several schools were concerned that students who most needed to go to the rally weren't chosen. They thought that teachers picked too many peer leaders and student council members, rather than children who were dishing out slurs or being victimized by them.

But White said that Robinson's teachers carefully overlooked the mere high-achievers and sought out the "thinkers" and students who are popular across many school-yard cliques, like Lopez.

"The kids who are best able to communicate (the rally's message) were there," she said.

The Sun Chronicle

December 10, 1997

North High group leads state in fighting racism

BY AARON NICODEMUS

SUN-CHRONICLE STAFF

NORTH ATTLEBORO — North Attleboro High School's Student Coalition Against Racism received a Team Harmony Award at a state-wide conference Tuesday at the Fleet Center in Boston, one of only five high school groups in the state to be so honored.

The award, meant to recognize schools that have actively worked to combat prejudice and promote respect

among students, singled out North Attleboro High for the activities of its SCAR group.

The school's SCAR group held a conference earlier in the year that involved 11 area schools, and has 230 student members. The North Attleboro High School SCAR chapter's large membership and its active inclusion of other schools in the fight against racism helped them to stand out.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was the keynote speaker at the Team Harmony IV event. Clinton spoke

to students about the effects of racism and praised the students who participated in Tuesday's event. The first lady had her picture taken with the 23 North Attleboro students who attended the event.

The event is meant "to promote the fight against bias and toward mutual respect and civility," one student at a time.

The Sun Chronicle

December 10, 1997

Area joins Team Harmony

Mansfield incident becomes lesson in overcoming anti-Semitism

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

MANSFIELD — What started out as a negative incident at Mansfield High has turned into a plus for the entire state.

Students from around the state learned Tuesday how students from Mansfield, Sharon and the rest of the Hockomock League are working to resolve differences after a series of anti-Semitic incidents.

The event was Team Harmony IV, the fourth annual gathering of high school students to promote diversity. The featured guest at the Fleet Center in Boston was First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. Sharon High School freshman Amy Coran, whose family has been active in trying to identify and deal with prejudice in the community, led a delegation which explained how the anti-Semitic incident led to heightened awareness of the problem.

Sharon has a large Jewish population, and in recent

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'One of the things we've been doing ... is making sure everyone — the players, officials, coaches — have their consciences raised.'

Sharon High Principal Susan Dukess

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years students at the high school have been the target of anti-Semitic remarks at sporting events against teams from the other eight towns in the Hockomock League.



ASSOCIATED PRESS
Hillary Clinton at Team Harmony IV.



HERB RYAN

North award winners

Members of North Attleboro High School's Student Coalition Against Racism show off the award presented during Tuesday's Team Harmony IV at the Fleet Center in Boston. Students are, front row from left, Matt LaFratta, Josh Gagne, Lauren Carey, Katie Fisher, Crystal Ballou and A.J. Mag-

nunson; second row, from left, Mark Rowland, Katie Cella, Liz McKenna, Jen Elliot, Laura Basiliere, Erin McDavitt and Stacy Philibert; third row, from left, Brendan Poirier, Christine Truffo, Bill Smith, Colleen McGahan, Katie Farren, Morgan Beith and Kasey Walters.

► HARMONY: Mansfield fights anti-Semitism

FROM PAGE 1

During an Oct. 27 girls' junior varsity soccer game against Mansfield High, Coran was among several Sharon players who said spectators shouted anti-Semitic slurs at them.

What made that incident different was the fact that when the Sharon players complained to the game official, she stopped the game.

"This was something that didn't necessarily happen years ago," said Susan Dukess, principal at Sharon High School.

When the players pointed out a cluster of teenage boys near the Sharon goal where the slurs were heard, the game official told them to leave.

The following morning, Mansfield High officials launched an investigation.

They could not identify the boys, Mansfield High Principal Edward Rosa said. But in the wake of the incident, Mansfield officials decided to examine their entire school system to figure out ways to increase education about racial and ethnic prejudice, he said.

"It's the first time we've looked at the issue systemically, the way we would if we were trying to improve math skills, for instance,"

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issue systemically,
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Edward Rosa,
Mansfield High principal

▲

Rosa said. "Our awareness level has been heightened."

Mansfield High School will also hold schoolwide forums stressing tolerance and diversity Jan. 6, Rosa said.

Progress made

Dukess said the way the event was handled demonstrates that progress has been made in dealing with bias.

"One of the things we've been doing in the Hockomock League is making sure everyone — the players, officials, coaches — have their consciences raised," Dukess said.

Students from schools in the athletic league have begun planning events to bring students to-

gether so they can get to know one another and build understanding, Dukess said.

"We're appalled that these things still happen," she said, adding that anti-Semitic incidents involving Sharon students appear to be waning. "But the kids knew what to do, the officials knew what to do and the administration knew what to do and they all did it."

The Taunton Daily Gazette

December 10, 1997



Associated Press photo

SPEAKING OUT: At the fourth annual Team Harmony event in Boston, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton listens to Claudy Paul's account of his first experience with racism.

Children listening; adults must show the way

By ALLISON BOWIE CHERRY
Gazette Staff Writer

BOSTON — Our children want to know we care.

The corrosive evils of racial and ethnic hatred and ignorance have marred their world.

They want adults to listen to their concerns. They want understanding. They want enlightenment.

They want more than empty talk. They want solutions.

A hush fell over the Fleet

Center arena, brimming with thousands of teenagers attending the fourth annual Team Harmony event for racial and ethnic unity yesterday, as student after student sat on stage with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and shared their personal, often wrenching experiences with hatred and bigotry.

A black teen from East Boston said he was called "nigger" by a boy he barely knew. A Jewish girl from Newton recalled a hurtful

anti-Semitic joke she heard at a soccer camp. An Asian American girl shared the pain she felt riding a school bus that was rigidly divided into black, Hispanic, white and Asian seating areas. A white young man said he was from a privileged town and family, but wanted to understand and help solve problems.

Mrs. Clinton, to the applause and yells of approval by students

Children: Need for enlightenment is parents' cue

From Page A.

from Taunton and elsewhere, listened attentively, asked how the students handled adverse situations and suggested solutions for conflict resolution, respectful problem-solving and forgiveness.

"Just hearing how she cares made me feel good — to know there are some adults out there who care," said Shannon Craft, an eighth grader at Taunton's Parker School.

"I thought it was pretty cool she got kids to tell them about their problems and stuff, and that she told them how they should have handled it or can in the future," said Craft's classmate, Corey Dugan.

Eighth graders from Taunton's Parker, Martin and Mulcahey schools want adults to know they care, too. They held hands, laughed with classmates, waved to kids from other schools, and beamed with love when praised by the teachers and parents who accompanied them.

They want to be part of the solution.

It's no coincidence these students are members of Peer Advisors, Peer Mediators, Drug Avengers, Project Respect and other groups that work to foster a welcoming,

nonthreatening and peaceful environment for kids in middle and elementary schools.

Students expect the same involvement from adults. When teens told Mrs. Clinton about incidents of racial harassment that were not addressed by their school principals and teachers, our hometown kids shook their heads in disapproval.

"We don't have all that many problems at Parker, and when they do happen they get straightened out as soon as possible," said Shannon Craft.

Zero tolerance for bigotry by Parker's Principal Richard Castro, social studies teacher Leonard Hull and other faculty members earn high marks from the critics who count the most: the children.

But, as Mrs. Clinton said, zero tolerance must be accompanied by a willingness to listen, negotiate and forgive.

Michael Duffy, a Taunton father who served as a Team Harmony chaperone, told some Taunton students he knows how it feels to make a regrettable remark and learn something from it. He said he will never forget the time he used the phrase "Jew me down" during a retail debate with a man whom he soon found out was Jewish.

"He was upset, really upset," Duffy recalled about the merchant's reaction. But, Duffy said, that incident taught him a big lesson and he's never used that hurtful phrase since and won't ever use it again.

Students said little when they heard Duffy's story, but they looked at him with respect, affection, and perhaps a bit of wonder.

Some people try to mask racism and bigotry with talk about how all people make mistakes. Yes, all people make mistakes, but that's no excuse for denial, lies and selfishness. Our children want the truth.

They may have screamed with delight during Fleet Center appearances by the cast of MTV's "The Real World," Red Sox slugger Mo Vaughn and other figures of sports and entertainment, but their spirits were with those who shared their mistakes, their pain and their ideas for improvement.

And they saved a special place in their hearts for Mrs. Clinton, whom 13-year-old Nicole Marshall said she admired "because she listened to other people, to what they did, and how it affected their life."

First lady brings stories, accountability into the open

By SONYA ROSS
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — The matter-of-fact tone in Amy Coran's voice belied the pain she felt that day when someone at her soccer game shouted the joke she recounted yesterday to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"There were these four boys ... Then one said, 'What's the difference between a Jew and a pizza? A pizza doesn't scream in the oven,'" Amy said, as sighs of shock rippled among the thousands of teen-agers listening in Fleet Center sports arena.

"Why do you think young people say things like that? What's going on in their heads?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

"Ignorance!" shouted a boy deep in the upper-level seats.

"Insecurity!" yelled someone else.

So it went for an hour as Mrs. Clinton engaged Boston-area youth in a discussion about bigotries far older than any of them. It was the type of candor that President Clinton sought — but didn't get — when he kicked off his national dialogue on race in Akron, Ohio, last week.

In an interview, Mrs. Clinton said the responses in Akron were probably less forthcoming because "people feel overwhelmed by the race initiative." She suggested that there be a focus on "those little things that create human connections."

Clinton: Chilling stories from around Massachusetts

"I felt so stunned," said Claudy Paul, a senior at a majority white high school, who told Mrs. Clinton a schoolmate used a racial slur one day as he boarded a school bus.

"Did you ever try to sit down and talk with that young man?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

"Yes I did," Claudy replied. "He said, 'I'm sorry,' and 'some of my best friends are black.' My mom was telling me how racist the school was. I did not want to believe her. Then that happened to me."

One student asked Mrs. Clinton whether she thought affirmative action had helped or hurt American race relations. She replied that it had done both, by uplifting poor minorities and by being "misconstrued and misunderstood and used in a negative way."

Since candor was contagious, the first lady told of her own brush with prejudice.

She was about 13 years old and she, too, was on the soccer team. It was very cold, so she tried to make small talk about the weather with the

goalie, who replied, "I don't care if you're cold. I wish people like you would freeze."

"I said, 'How can you hate people like us? You don't even know us,'" Mrs. Clinton recalled. "She said, 'I don't have to know you to know I hate you.' And I've never forgotten that."

Hers wasn't a racial incident, Mrs. Clinton said. The goalie was of Eastern European descent, and she considered the then-Hillary Rodham as a "rich, WASPY type." Those kinds of "non-black-white" tensions also need to be addressed, for they are a larger problem than many believe, Mrs. Clinton said.

"People overlook the importance of forcing this conversation," she said. "The black-white issue has to be the focus because it's the unfinished business of America. But I think we can help people understand it better if they see it as part of the overall dilemma of bigotry and prejudice that we have to contend with."

Yesterday's dialogue was part of an annual event by Team Harmony, an initiative begun by Boston-area professional sports teams in 1994 to help middle- and high-schoolers combat bigotry.

The Telegram & Gazette

December 10, 1997

Team Harmony right in tune

Mrs. Clinton finds more than a village fighting prejudice

By Brian S. McNiff
Telegram & Gazette Boston Bureau

BOSTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton told a gathering of more than 10,000 high school students yesterday that affirmative action has caused hurt only because it has been misunderstood.

The president's wife led a panel discussion on discrimination with 32 selected students at the FleetCenter as part of the fourth Team Harmony event to promote respect and combat bigotry. One of the panelists was 17-year-old Thao Tran, a junior at Worcester's Doherty Memorial High School.

■ President Clinton opens human rights gathering, **Page A3.**

The last question Mrs. Clinton took from the floor at the end of the 50-minute discussion sought her view on the explosive issue of affirmative action.

"I think that's probably the most hotly debated issue that we have to confront right now," she allowed, though she later observed that much of the debate is "off-subject."

"From my personal experience and observation, I think that affirmative action has helped, on the one hand, because it has given opportunities to many people to prove themselves, which they have done," Mrs. Clinton said. "But I think it has hurt because I believe it has been misconstrued and misunderstood and used in a negative way."

"As the president has said, we need to look for ways that we continue to open the doors of opportunity to people who do not otherwise have that opportunity," she added.

Thao Tran: Mrs. Clinton is 'understanding'

Continued From Page One

This gathering of high school students to face discrimination issues, sponsored by the Team Harmony Foundation, the Anti-Defamation League of New England, Fleet Bank, and the area's professional sports teams, has been recognized by the Clinton administration as one of the top 10 programs in combating discrimination.

In the dialogue with Mrs. Clinton, students recounted their experiences with discrimination. Tran said she first experienced it on the school bus when she was in the sixth grade when she had been in America about four years.

"It was the first time I realized, wow, I'm actually different from everyone else," Tran told the first lady. "All the bus would be divided into racial parts: the Asians would be in the back, the blacks would be in the front, and the white and Hispanics would just be in their own little corner."

Crossing those borders, she said, meant scuffles and insults.

"We got into lots of fights where I almost got suspended five times," she related. "I told my principal about it and my teachers about it, but not much has really been done about it."

That, Mrs. Clinton observed,

seemed to be a common thread in the stories the students told. "From what you said, I get the impression that none of you think very much happens by going to adults and saying, 'will you take care of this?'"

Tran was applauded as she agreed. "When we turn to them, they're like, 'we'll take care of it, really we will,'" she said. "But the next day we start to get beat up and yelled at again — when will they really do something about it, when will they really take action on it, really care about it?"

Mrs. Clinton told the students they need support from their families, teachers, churches and coaches. "That's really what the president is trying to get started with his race initiative. To get people talking to each other the way all of you have begun talking to each other."

"I actually think that this is one situation where young people can be the leaders in showing the way, even for people in your own family and in your schools, and other adults around you," she said.

'VERY UNDERSTANDING'

After the discussion, Mrs. Clinton talked with some students on the floor of the arena before departing. Later, Tran told the *Telegram & Gazette*, "I thought that she was very

understanding." Tran said she expected the first lady to be distant. "But when we told her about our issues and our problems, she was, this is how you felt, this is how you feel; what can we do together; what can I help you with; what can the community and government do to help you. Very understanding."

Tran came to the Fleet Center through her involvement in the Coalition for Asian Pacific American Youth at the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

She is co-founder of Doherty Asian American Youth at her school, a group doing community outreach. "In fact, we started the first Asian heritage month assembly in our school, in fact in Worcester history," she said. "We started the whole event, we had a guest speaker, we had the whole school involved."

"We had state recognition for doing that event," she added, "and we're expanding it to all the Worcester schools this year."

The Asian community at the school is very small, she said, primarily students who immigrated from Vietnam and are in Doherty's bilingual program.

Tran, who came to America when she was 6, has lived in Worcester for

10 years. She has two older brothers and an older sister.

She said that when she started attending school, she didn't encounter many racial slurs, but did feel a lack of communication. "There was a tension between the bilingual Asian students and with the whites, the Americans, and the Hispanics," she said, with each group keeping to itself.

HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS

The Team Harmony event grew out of an effort by the late Boston Celtics captain Reggie Lewis and Jon Jennings, then the Celtics director of basketball development and now a White House fellow. The first event on Dec. 13, 1994, drew about 6,000 students. Yesterday, students came from hundreds of public and private schools in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

Before she left the Fleet Center, Mrs. Clinton took note of the fact there were children of affluence as well as children of poverty in the arena. Returning to the theme of affirmative action, she declared, "We shouldn't turn our backs on those among us who, for whatever reason, need more help to be successful and prove themselves than some of us who were born with a lot of opportunities and good fortune that we did not make ourselves."



Hillary Rodham Clinton is surrounded by a student panel at yesterday's Boston event.

First lady's message clear

Area students urged to lead the way against racism

By Chris Echegaray
Telegram & Gazette Staff

SPENCER — Michelle Thibeault, a student at Knox Trail Junior High School, had a great time rubbing elbows with more than 10,000 other students at the FleetCenter in Boston to discuss discrimination.

"I liked the thought of coming together and trying to solve one of the world's problems," Thibeault, 14, said.

Thibeault and 40 of her classmates, peer leaders from Knox Trail Junior High School, made the trek into Bean Town to enjoy the Team Harmony Event, featuring first lady

Hillary Rodham Clinton as the keynote speaker.

The central theme of the event dealt with all types of discrimination: racism, homophobia, anti-Semitism, gender bias and handicap bias.

Joyce B. Hansen, a teacher at the Knox Trail, who traveled with the students, said the message was direct and would serve the Spencer contingent well.

"The message of discrimination was loud and clear," Hansen said. "It's a good opportunity for these kids to see what's going on. There's not a lot of diversity in town."

"Just because we don't have it (diversity), it doesn't mean we have to live in a cocoon," said Maryanne Hammond, health coordinator for the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District. "We need to know that there are differences. Our kids are just not that exposed to it — but that doesn't mean it doesn't matter, because they're not always going to be in Spencer."

Although the topic of discussion was a very serious one, the students did not get lost on the fact that many celebrities were on hand to speak.

The cast of the MTV show, "Real

Spencer pupils take part in Team Harmony event

Continued From Page B1

World — Boston," were there among other celebrities, which included New England Patriot players Sam Gash and Ted Johnson, former Boston Bruin Cam Neely, Sheryl Swoopes from the Women's National Basketball Association, Mike Burn from the New England Revolution, and Billy Costa from the Boston radio station KISS 108, along with musical groups who performed at the event.

James A. Tetreault, 13, said he was content with being in the

FleetCenter, the building where his favorite sports teams play.

"I liked talking to people and having all the celebrities there. I liked it a lot," Tetreault said.

The event was geared toward children. However, that didn't stop the teachers and chaperones who made the trip with the students to enjoy themselves.

"It was completely interactive," Sandra Anderson, a chaperone, said. "They did a wonderful job. It was informative. It was phenome-

nal, the first lady got a huge standing ovation and she signed autographs."

Susan M. Marchetti, a teacher at Knox Trail, said it was a well-organized event and everything went like clockwork.

Vice Principal Paul Jolie, Hammond, Worcester Police Officer William Gardiner, Amy Marchetti and Michael Hoey served as chaperones for the trip to Boston.

It was the third time in the last four years that Knox Trail students participated in the Team Harmony event.



CHRIS ECHEGARAY

Some students, a chaperone and school staff pose for a group picture.

The Union News

December 10, 1997



Students honored in Boston

By JOHN O'CONNELL

Statehouse bureau chief

BOSTON — When friction arose between black and Hispanic pupils at Springfield's Kiley Middle School last year, administrators had Anthony Vasequez, Elizabeth Showers and four other seventh-graders talk it out.

Vasequez, a Hispanic student in a bilingual program, remembers that black students called Puerto Ricans "trash," while Showers said she and her black friends were suspicious of Spanish-speaking pupils.

"We didn't know what they were saying, so we thought they were talking about us," Showers recalled. "It really shows that sometimes the littlest things start the biggest problems."

By discussing their differences and learning about race and ethnicity under the guidance of teachers and administrators, students were able to become friends and improve the racial climate at

their school.

Their efforts won Kiley Middle School an award yesterday at Team Harmony IV, an interracial gathering of 10,000 middle and high school students at Fleet Center.

As one of only five groups in the state to win the Team Harmony Award, Kiley pupils also had a brief meeting backstage with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, star attraction at the fourth annual anti-racism rally.

According to students, Clinton said she was proud of the Kiley group.

"She was very sincere," Showers said. "I thought she might have been stuck up because she's got such a high place. But I think that's just a stereotype and I had stereotyped her, and now I know who she really is."

Clinton, who talked with Boston-area students on the Fleet-Center stage about their experiences with racism, said President Clinton sees Team Harmony as a model for his ongoing

national dialogue on race issues.

She said she grew up in an all-white suburb of Chicago and considered herself fortunate to have some exposure to different people by traveling with a youth minister to meet groups from black churches in the city.

"I wish when I was growing up at my big, all-white high school we had had a Team Harmony," she said.

Creating awareness of diversity is still a struggle in mostly white communities like Belchertown, said Abigail Marean, one of 20 students from that town's high school and middle school who attended the event.

"Some students aren't faced with issues such as racism. We haven't been exposed to them because of our lack of diversity," said Marean, a senior at Belchertown High School.

Belchertown won a Team Harmony Award in 1995, the second year of the rally, for a "Diversity Day" staged at the middle school by students who had attended the

The Wakefield Daily Item
December 10, 1997

Mrs. Clinton: Americans will express true feelings on race

Wakefield students at Team Harmony event

By SONYA ROSS

Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton says little by little, more Americans will express their true feelings on race as her husband's cam-

paign for racial reconciliation continues working its way through the country.

In an interview Tuesday, Mrs. Clinton compared President Clinton's national dialogue to medicine that needs time to

work. She spoke after her own dialogue with Boston-area teenagers who expressed their encounters with racism more frankly than did the group that spoke with the president last

HARMONY see Page 18

● Harmony

week in Akron, Ohio.

The first lady said Tuesday's discussion was blunter because the audience was younger and had been talking about racial issues long before she met with them.

"I think people can get overwhelmed by the idea of the race initiative," Mrs. Clinton said. "They need little pieces that they feel are doable for them."

She encouraged an emphasis on "those little things that can create a human connection" between people of different races. Not everyone will attend the race discussions, "but everyone can make more of an effort," she said.

(Twenty-five Wakefield High students attended the rally, members of the diversity club WHASUP. Wakefield was one of one of five schools to receive an award for student efforts to promote sensitivity to diversity issues.)

As the president did at the University of Akron, Mrs. Clinton focused on attitudes among young people. As in Akron, there was no real divergence of opinion in Boston.

"That didn't bother me," Mrs. Clinton said. "Telling their own stories was a big part of educating their peers."

She asked several questions of the 32 teen-agers who joined her on stage to get them to say how they felt or what they did when

they encountered racism. She asked whether any of them had family members who were prejudiced — some indicated they did — and if efforts like Team Harmony had changed any of their perceptions about people of other races and ethnicities.

The discussion was part of an annual anti-racism rally of Team Harmony, an initiative begun by Boston-area professional sports teams in 1994 to help middle- and high-schoolers combat bigotry.

But mostly, Mrs. Clinton listened to students like Tonderai Tabaziba, who said she was confused by stereotypes, and Amy Coran, who recounted an anti-Semitic joke that someone shouted at her soccer game one day.

"Why do you think young people say things like that? What's going on in their heads?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

"Ignorance!" shouted a boy deep in the upper-level seats.

"Insecurity!" yelled someone else.

Mrs. Clinton continues her travels today, speaking at the United Nations to open its year-long celebration of the signing of the declaration of human rights.

In Boston Tuesday, one student asked her whether she thought affirmative action had helped or hurt American race relations. She replied that it had done both, by uplifting poor

minorities and by being "misconstrued and misunderstood and used in a negative way."

Since candor was contagious, the first lady told of her own brush with prejudice.

She was about 13 years old and on the soccer team. It was very cold, so she tried to make small talk about the weather with the goalie, who replied, "I don't care if you're cold. I wish people like you would freeze."

"I said, 'How can you hate people like us? You don't even know us,'" Mrs. Clinton recalled. "She said, 'I don't have to know you to know I hate you.' And I've never forgotten that."

Hers wasn't a racial incident, Mrs. Clinton said. The goalie was of Eastern European descent, and she considered Hillary Rodham a "rich, WASPy type." Those kinds of "non-black-white" tensions also need to be addressed, for they are a larger problem than many believe, Mrs. Clinton said.

"The black-white issue has to be the focus because it's the unfinished business of America," she said. "But I think we can help people understand it better if they see it as part of the overall dilemma of bigotry and prejudice that we have to contend with."

The Westfield Evening News

December 10, 1997



Above, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is surrounded by the 32 members of a student panel she lead in discussion about racism during Team Harmony IV in Boston.

On the right, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton listens to Claudy Paul talk about his first experience with racism during a panel discussion with New England school children. (AP Photos)



First lady talks prejudice in Boston

BOSTON (AP) — The matter-of-fact tone in Amy Coran's voice belied the pain she felt that day when someone at her soccer game shouted the joke she recounted Tuesday to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"There were these four boys ... Then one said, 'What's the difference between a Jew and a pizza? A pizza doesn't scream in the oven,'" Amy said, as sighs of shock rippled among the thousands of teen-agers listening in FleetCenter sports arena.

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In an interview, Mrs. Clinton said the responses in Akron were probably less forthcoming because "people feel overwhelmed by the race initiative." She suggested that there be a focus on "those little things that create human connections."

"I felt so stunned," said Claudy Paul, a senior at a mostly white high school, who told Mrs. Clinton a schoolmate used a racial slur one day as he boarded a school bus.

"Did you ever try to sit down and talk with that young man?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

"Yes I did," Claudy replied. "He said, 'I'm sorry,' and 'some of my best friends are black.' My mom was telling me how racist the school was. I did not want to believe her. Then that happened to me."

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"I said, 'How can you hate people like us? You don't even know us,'" Mrs. Clinton recalled. "She said, 'I don't have to know you to know I hate you.' And I've never forgotten that."

The Andover Townsman

December 11, 1997

WMS students attend Team Harmony IV

By Arleen Jaracz
West Middle PAC

Students representing West Middle School attended Team Harmony IV on Dec. 9 at the FleetCenter. The school representatives were selected to reflect the school's diversity in gender, ethnicity, race, religion, and other interests.

This year's attendees were: Kristina Araujo, Stephanie Krivelow, Kristen Moffitt, Pauline Jun, Laura Goldstein, Lauren Murray, Liza Roberts, Mike Gibson, Mike Kleinman, Jennifer Flemming, Kate McCormack, Jennifer Green, Adam Edelstein, Hannah Goldstein, Meredith Smidt, Jeffrey Smidt, Keiko Yoshida, Kelly Beatty, Mike Dunn, Natasha Pakravan, Emily Robbins, Bristol Konjoian, Dave Fielding, Ariel Gold and Jeff Sandman.

Team Harmony was developed by former Boston Celtics' assistant coach Jon Jennings,

executive director of the Anti-Defamation League of New England, and Rick Rendon, senior partner of the Rendon Group. They developed the Team Harmony concept as a testimony to Jennings' friendship with the late Boston Celtic Reggie Lewis. Lewis and his friend, Jennings, had wanted to create an event which would help young people realize that regardless of their backgrounds, they needed to learn to respect each other's differences. Team Harmony, attended by thousands of Massachusetts school representatives, is a multimedia event combining entertainment, education, interactive dialogue and inspiration based on a philosophy of a "team" effort to overcome bigotry in our communities. It is driven by the belief in giving young people a

chance to make a difference. This year's event featured a visit by First Lady Hilary Clinton, athletes from New England professional sports teams and dramatic presentations by the Wang Center's Young At Arts program.



Photo by Lisa Adelsberger

This year's West Middle attendees at the Dec. 9 Team Harmony IV were, from left: Natasha Pakravan, Laura Goldstein, Stephanie Krivelow, Emily Robbins, Ariel Gold, Keiko Yoshida; (middle row) Meredith Smidt, Hannah Goldstein, Kristina Araujo, Lauren Murray, Mike Kleinman; (back row) Sandy Lunt (health teacher), Kristen Moffitt, Liza Roberts, Kate McCormack, Bristol Konjoian, Jennifer Green, Jeff Sandman, Adam Edelstein, Jennifer Flemming, Pauline Jun. Not in the photo: Mike Gibson, Jeffrey Smidt, Kelly Beatty, Mike Dunn, and Dave Fielding.

The Berkshire Eagle

December 11, 1997

Editorials

Drury takes stand against intolerance

The struggle over intolerance, it can be argued, has largely shaped this nation's history, a struggle that is ongoing, even in the Berkshires. Since the elimination of racial, ethnic, religious and gender bias begins with our youth when prejudice can become hardened into a habit of thought, Drury High School, its students and faculty have received national recognition for the Diversity Committee which for the past two years has sought to make Drury students aware of racist, homophobic and gender prejudice attitudes and expressions — implicit and explicit — and has established a disciplinary procedure to combat prejudice. On Tuesday, Drury's Diversity Committee was one of five New England high school programs honored in Boston by First Lady Hillary Clinton for promoting tolerance. Intolerance is too often tolerated, but a group of students and guidance counselor Anne French found any sign of bigotry at Drury unacceptable and did something about it. Their example should be followed by other area schools.

The Gardner News

December 11, 1997



News photo by **JOHN PIKE**

TEAM HARMONY — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks to the large gathering of Team Harmony at the Fleet Center in Boston on Tuesday. A number of students from the Greater Gardner area were among those in attendance. A story on their reaction appeared on page 1 of the Dec. 10 edition of *The Gardner News*.

The Georgetown Record

December 11, 1997

Students attend harmony event

These Middle/High school students attended the Team Harmony event in Boston, Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Devin Connolly, Josh Small, Jim McCarron, Emily Granholm and Emily Soucy, Sean LaBelle, Jeff Anderson, Sandy Kereakaglow, Ryan Moody and Emily Riggi.

Zach Smith, Darah Spencer, Shannon MacDonald, Nicole Arsenault and Jillian Kelley, Melika Bessoud, Mike Bonjiorni, Amber Terrell, Mike Bond, Dena Spencer and Justin Shepard.

Kim Ford, Emily Chaloner, Beth Jackson, Megan Wyman, Jennifer Gibbs, Barb Kowalski, Sue Denton, Karen Rowe and Judy MacDonald.

First Lady Hillary Clinton was one of the featured speakers at the event, which focused on how young people can overcome differences and work together to improve their schools and communities.

The Sun Chronicle

December 11, 1997

Tri-County students attend Team Harmony

FRANKLIN — Tri-County Regional High School was represented at the Team Harmony IV event on Tuesday at the Fleet Center in Boston by several students.

Ted Barrett, social studies teacher, coordinated the event and accompanied the student delegation with fellow staff members, Peter Kubiak, Candice Reilly, Jane Baldi, Howard King and Allysa Chamberlain.

Tri-County students who participated included:

Joseph Padykula, Greg O'Connell, Dan Silva and Liz Langevin, all of Seekonk.

Christine Bellevance, Jose Rivera, Jen Levesque, Crystal Webber, Danielle Landry, Christopher Ambrose and Laura Estey, all of North Attleboro.

Doug Weinburgh and Twyla Anderson, both of Wrentham and Ann Thomas of Millis.

Also in attendance were John MacClennan of Plainville and Joseph Byrne of Norfolk.

The program is sponsored by the Team Harmony Foundation, Fleet Bank and Anti-Defamation League.

The program's goal is to teach students from every background how they can take the initiative to combat prejudice and promote the value of respecting diversity in their schools and communities.

The Wakefield Observer

December 11, 1997

WHS wins state honors for diversity efforts

*Students meet with
Hillary Clinton at
Fleet Center*

BY JOHN MCELHENNY
OBSERVER STAFF

Wakefield High School was one of five high schools from across the state to be recognized this week for efforts to promote diversity, at a ceremony at the Fleet Center in Boston featuring Hillary Clinton.

The event, which took place on Tuesday, was called "Team Harmony for a World of Difference." More than 10,000 high school and junior high school students from all over Massachusetts and Rhode Island filled the arena, according to WHS guidance counselor Melissa Buttaro, who attended with 25 WHS students.

The day included an interactive talk between Clinton and a group of students about their experiences with prejudice and discrimination. It also featured a discussion on diversity by four subjects — Jason, Cyrus, Montana, and Sean — from MTV's "Real World," which recently ended a series filmed on Beacon Hill in Boston.

"Team Harmony" day also included the recognition of five schools — including Wakefield High School — for their efforts to increase understanding of people of different races, cultural backgrounds, genders, sexual orientations, and those with disabilities.

WHS was recognized for various programs last year, including a forum on issues of diversity in the community, and a student and faculty questionnaire on harassment and discrimination at the high school. Some

WHS students took part in diversity workshops at Salem State College and helped the high school host the TOEFL exam, for those studying English as a foreign language.

Many of last year's events were organized and carried out by the school's Diversity Club, which formed after a group of WHS students attended last year's "Team Harmony" day in Boston. Buttaro serves as the club's advisor.

On Tuesday, WHS students who made the trip to Boston received "Team Harmony" T-shirts and "goodie bags," containing calendars, a CD, candy and other merchandise. The students also had their picture taken with Hillary Clinton.

"It was a very exciting day and really nice for Wakefield to be recognized for something positive," said Buttaro.

The Wilmington Advertiser

December 11, 1997

A LITTLE JUICE FOR THE ROAD



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN WALKER

Diana Ramos, Fleet Bank branch manager for Wilmington, pours some juice for North and West Intermediate School students Tuesday morning. The students were on their way to the Fleet Center to take part in Team Harmony, a program that introduces students to the diversity in the state.

The Jewish Advocate

December 12, 1997

Boston event promotes religious, racial harmony

By Michael Gelbwasser

Advocate Staff

BOSTON — Up on a stage Tuesday morning in the cavernous Fleet Center, Amy, a high school student from Sharon, told First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and 10,000 local youngsters that she had been the victim of anti-Semitism only recently.

The incident, said Amy, who did not give her last name, occurred on a high school soccer field in Marshfield where she and her teammates on her school's junior varsity girls' soccer team were engaged in a game. Throughout the contest, Amy said, four boys directed anti-Semitic remarks at the squad.

Eventually, the referees asked the boys to leave. They later returned, Amy said. Marshfield's junior varsity and varsity coaches took down the boys' names and told Amy's coaches that the situation would be "taken care of."

"Nothing's happened," Amy said.



Fighting bigotry "has to be a joint effort of young people and older people together."

—Hillary Clinton

"This is one situation when young people can be the leaders in showing the way," the First Lady said.

Several students were cited for their work in promoting racial, religious and ethnic tolerance. Rachel Burstein, a ninth-grader at the New Jewish High School in Waltham, was honored as part of the Youth Voice Collaborative Press Corps, which received the 1997 Lewis/Jennings Award.

The corps is a group of local teenagers who created The Voice, an on-line magazine for young people. The Lewis/Jennings Award honors youth who cross the barriers of race, religion and ethnic backgrounds and make a difference in the lives of others.

Amy related her story during Team Harmony IV, an interracial gathering of youth with the goal of combating bigotry and promoting respect. The fourth such event, it was a collaboration of the Team Harmony Foundation, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith's New England regional office, Fleet Bank and several other community and business groups. Students from the Solomon Schechter Day School in Newton, the Rashi School in Needham and the Maimonides School in Brookline were among those in attendance.

Hillary Clinton, the program's keynote speaker, spoke with a panel of students, including Amy, who shared their feelings about religious prejudice and other forms of bigotry. Several panelists reported being persecuted because they were Jewish, or Asian, or a girl in what was once an all-boys' school or the first boy on his middle school's cheerleading squad.

Some students said they responded to prejudice that was not necessarily directed at them but that offended them. Josh, of Concord-Carlisle, said that when the ADL tried to introduce its World of Difference Institute pledge into his school, several parents wrote letters to the student newspaper opposing the move. The parents argued that the pledge promoted homosexuality, said Josh, who reported he wrote a letter to the school paper criticizing those parents for their concerns.

"The town is relatively enlightened ... but even there, there are problems," he said.

One theme running through the students' anecdotes, Clinton said, was the perception of a poor response on the part of the adults to whom the students had reported hate crimes. Fighting bigotry, she said, "has to be a joint effort of young people and older people together."

The Mashpee Enterprise

December 12, 1997

MHS Students Hear First Lady At Fleet

By SHEILA K. HURST

About 30 Mashpee High School students joined forces with more than 10,000 others from across the state this week to combat hatred and promote harmony.

The Team Harmony Foundation, made up of members of the Boston Celtics, New England Patriots, Boston Red Sox, and Boston Bruins, sponsored a four-hour educational program at the Fleet Center designed to turn younger generations away from racism and sexism and toward understanding. Hillary Rodham Clinton and the Reverend Bernice King, daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., were featured speakers at the event.

The Mashpee students selected to attend the third annual Team Harmony gathering at the Fleet Center in Boston are part of the peer leaders program at the high school. Students are designated peer leaders each year by teachers and other students. Peer leaders then work together as a group to accomplish everything from introducing a new student to the school to helping students with their studies to resolving potential conflicts.

Mashpee peer leaders used words like, "inspiring," "fun" and "worthwhile" to describe Team Harmony. They all agreed that

being a part of Team Harmony taught them how to help others and become better people.

"It was great to see that there are people out there who care about discrimination," ninth-grader Kerry L. Jesser said. "They said we can stop discrimination, racism and sexism, and that it's all up to us."

"I thought it was great how everybody got together to accomplish one goal," 10-grader Megan Walsh said. "You could tell everyone was thinking the same thing."

Team Harmony is based on the philosophy that it will take a team effort to overcome bigotry, and it is driven by the belief that young people can make a difference.

Former Boston Celtics' Captain Reggie Lewis and former Celtics' Director of Basketball Development Jon Jennings came up with the idea to create Team Harmony several years ago. After Mr. Lewis's death at the age of 27, Mr. Jennings joined forces with Leonard Zakim, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League of New England, to develop Team Harmony as a testimony to his friendship with Mr. Lewis. The World of Difference Institute, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts and Bos-



Mashpee High School peer leaders participated in a Team Harmony event held Tuesday at the Fleet Center in Boston. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was a featured speaker at the event, which brought students from across the state together to talk about racism, sexism, and other forms of bigotry.

(Photograph by Amy Riley)

ton's four professional sports teams sponsor Team Harmony.

Celebrities like Mo Vaughn, New England Patriots football players and the "Real World" cast talked to students about their roles in wiping out all forms of hatred.

"They had people that we look up to come out and talk about racism," 10th-grader Nicholas A. Brum said. "They told kids that it's not right."

"Mo Vaughn talked about racial issues and how we can make a difference," 10th-grader Arthur R. Joia said. "He said we're the

ones, we're the first in line who can make the difference."

Ms. Clinton told the 10,000 students who attended the Team Harmony gathering that she grew up in a small town where she was not used to seeing people who happened to be different from her.

"Once she got out into the world, she realized that there were all different types of people," Nicholas said. "She saw how unfair it was when people said negative things to each other, just because they were different."

As part of the event, Ms.

Clinton talked with a group of about 20 students on stage, and listened to their stories of sexism and racism. One girl from Sharon said she was playing soccer one day when some kids on the other side of the goal started calling her names because she is Jewish. She talked about how much the names hurt her. A boy also shared his story about trying to join the cheerleading team at his school, and that all the students laughed at him.

"They talked about different situations in their lives, and jokes that were directed toward them,"

Megan said. "Hillary told everybody to stand up for themselves and not to be victims of racism or hatred."

"Most of the speeches had a story to them," Arthur said. "A lot of the speeches moved the people in the audience, you could tell by how they clapped and responded."

Performances by musical groups, like "Blessed Union of Soul," entertained students in between the speeches.

"I think it was good because

Continued on Page 12

MHS Students At Fleet

■ Continued

they weren't just singing, there were messages in their songs," Kerry said. "They were getting their points across about racism."

"There was a lot of music that basically made you stand up in your seat and dance," Arthur said.

Students agreed that they learned things like how to become better people from the Team Harmony experience.

"I think it was worth being there," Arthur said. "They explained how hard it is to talk to family members or other people about racism, but we still have to get the message across."

"They talked about how jokes can hurt," Nicholas said. "I never realized that, even if you're just joking, you could be offending someone, so I learned that you should watch what you say."

"I learned you can do anything you want to do," Megan said. "If a girl in school wants to try out for football, they should let her. I would try out if the boys weren't so big."

"The whole message was that you just can't give up, even if there is racism and sexism out there," Kerry said. "We have to

get together with people, and learn from each other."

Ninth-grade students who became part of Team Harmony were Amanda Diliddo, Katie Duchemin, Chris Farrell, Jeanette Filling, Rochelle Fitch, Megan Grady, Terri Lee Hakala, Kerry Jesser, Susan Langill, Shannon Lee, Samuel Mauro, Stuart Pasche, Caitlin Palermo, Eileen Pecci, Leah Rowe and Ashley Stewart.

Tenth-graders who attended the event were Jamie Barreira, Nick Brum, William Button, Leonard Goldman, Ryan Grady, Alissa Hufnagel, Arthur Joia, Sarah Kemp, Steven Labreck, Sheila Lentell, Brian Pecci, Jermaine Reid, Erika Scanlon and Megan Walsh.

Peer leader advisers Janet Kraskouskas, Mae Cushing and Patricia M. Farrell chaperoned the students with parent Janet Walsh.

Ms. Farrell, who is a new part-time guidance counselor at the high school this school year, said Team Harmony seemed to hold the students' interest.

"I think it really did what it set out to do," she said. "Hopefully, the kids will go out and spread the word now."

The Middlesex Sunday News
December 14, 1997

State

Mrs. Clinton talks with local students

Michael Hurwitz was in fifth grade when he first felt discrimination, the Framingham High School freshman told first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Tuesday.

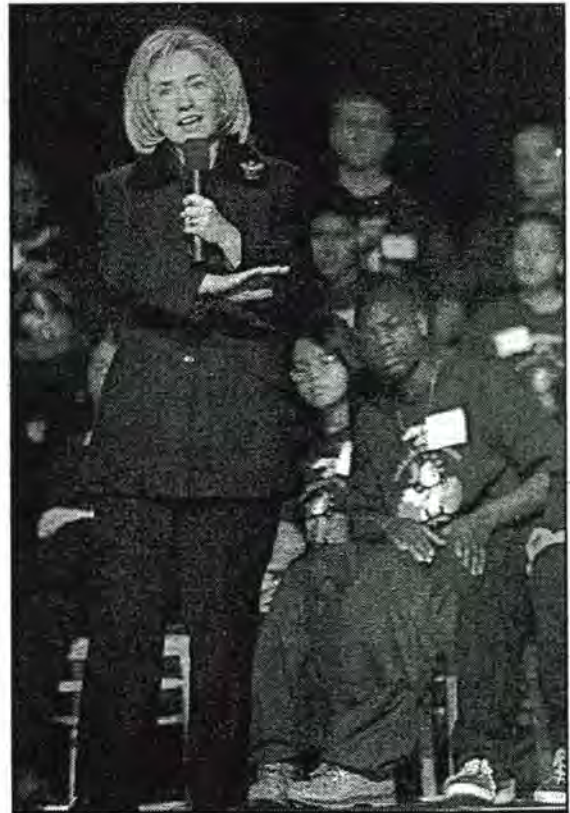
"Kids wrote swastikas on the bathroom walls," Hurwitz said.

Upset by the incident, he told the school's principal, who called an assembly. The discrimination continued for a "few weeks," Hurwitz recalled, then it died down.

Hurwitz's anecdote was just one Mrs. Clinton heard about discrimination, racism and sexism this week at the FleetCenter in Boston.

The first lady joined about 10,000 New England students at the fourth annual Team Harmony rally. Metro-West schools that participated in the event included Framingham, Hudson, Marlborough, Maynard, Franklin, Natick, Acton-Boxborough and Newton.

"Breaking down barriers and changing hearts and minds is the most important work we need to do in our country and our world," Mrs. Clinton told the energetic audience.



NEWS PHOTO BY KEN MCGAGH

First lady Hillary Clinton delivers the keynote speech at Team Harmony IV at the Fleet Center in Boston Tuesday.

The Sunday Sentinel

December 14, 1997

Area students talk race with first lady

More than 10,000 student voices filled the FleetCenter in Boston on Tuesday with a single vow.

Black, Hispanic, white, Asian — all together they pledged to “stop those who, because of hate, would hurt, harass or violate the civil rights of anyone.”

The students at Team Harmony IV spent the day celebrating diversity, promising to respect differences in race, religion, culture, gender and sexual orientation.

Among those thousands of voices were hundreds from north central Massachusetts. Fitchburg sent students from the high school, Memorial Middle School, B.F. Brown Middle School and Reingold Elementary School.

Joining the throng were students from Leominster, Lunenburg and Oakmont Regional high schools, Overlook Middle School and several other schools in the Montachusett region.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was the keynote speaker. But instead of giving a speech, she discussed discrimination on stage with a panel of 32 students — one of whom was Lunenburg High School's Meghann Boyle.

The Sunday Sun Chronicle

December 14, 1997

KP teen has act in harmony



MARTIN GAVIN / THE SUN CHRONICLE

Team member

Joe Gibeault of Plainville took the stage at the Fleet Center last week for a Team Harmony rally to promote diversity and fight prejudice.

BY NANCY GOULET
SUN CHRONICLE STAFF

PLAINVILLE — It was a shining moment for Joe Gibeault.

The lights gleamed. The crowd cheered. The adrenaline pumped. And Gibeault was at the center of it all at the Fleet Center in Boston, sharing the stage with the likes of first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Red Sox first baseman Mo Vaughn, and the rock group Blessed Union of Souls.

The King Philip Regional High School senior and Plainville resident was one of about 20 teen actors from the Wang Young at Arts program to perform for the estimated 11,000

attendees of the Team Harmony event this past week.

The fourth annual event, sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, focuses on promoting diversity and stomping out prejudice.

The Young at Arts ensemble performed three 10-minute acts, which included a song from the smash Broadway hit "Rent."

It was actually the ensemble's rendition, as well as their other skits that landed them the Team Harmony gig.

Gibeault, son of Marty and Mary Gibeault, and the Young at Arts group were spotted performing last May by Esta Epstein, a Wang Center trustee who also serves the Anti-Defamation League. Immediately, she

thought they fit in perfectly with Team Harmony's theme, said Cathy Chun, associate director of the Young at Arts program.

"These kids are real-life models because they are living and practicing what Team Harmony is all about," Chun said. "They match the Team Harmony theme."

Young at Arts pulls together teens of different races and ethnicities from the Boston area. The teens develop a series of sketches over several months, which are performed in May.

Gibeault was selected for the special performance for several reasons, Chun said.

"He takes direction really well . . . and he's open-minded to learning new things," she

said. Acting is all Gibeault has ever wanted to do since he was a toddler, he said.

"I like being the center of attention," Gibeault said, flashing a pearly grin. "I just like to entertain people."

And Gibeault is good at it.

"He's the next James Dean," said friend Michael Spencer, 18.

Spencer and Philip Nerboso joined Gibeault's family in Boston to watch the performance. Both friends have seen Gibeault perform before at school functions. But seeing their friend on the big stage was different.

"They were really good," Nerboso said, "especially considering that the other (performers)

were professionals."

"I was honored to have my son up on that stage," said Mary Gibeault. "We're very proud of him."

Joe Gibeault said there were difficulties. When the lights first rose, he felt a wave of panic wash over him. Then during the "We Can Work It Out" segment, where the actors sang the famous Beatles song of that name, the microphones gave out.

But all in all, it was unforgettable.

"I'm just going to remember it as being huge," Gibeault said.

"I'm happy to have been a part of (the event). I can say that I did something. . . . The word is getting out."

The Sunday Sun Chronicle

December 14, 1997

Local foes of bigotry honored, rejuvenated

In this season of Advent, observed by Christian churches as the time of the coming, it was encouraging to see recognition given to progress made locally on some of the most sensitive moral issues of our times, racism and bigotry.

On Tuesday, North Attleboro High School's Student Coalition Against Racism came in for an award at the Team Harmony convention in Boston.

The student group, identified by an acronym that reminds us of what a scar racism has been on the national psyche, came in for praise for its large membership — 230 students are formally

committed to SCAR's ideals — and for the way it has reached out to other schools, particularly in the Hockomock League.

Meanwhile, the league itself came in for praise at the convention for the way it has responded to the anti-Semitic taunting of students at Sharon High School and to other incidents of bigotry and racism.

▼
**That the leadership
in this endeavor
comes from high
school pupils
speaks well
for the future.**
▲

The taunting has been appalling, but the reaction to it from the schools has largely been encouraging. Mansfield High School has made a concerted effort to identify the most recent taunting and, acting in concert with Sharon High School, is working hard to raise the entire school communities' conscience against prejudice. Beyond that, students have taken it upon themselves to improve communications among league schools — in short, they are working hard to get to know each other. This is the ultimate antidote for the kind of ignorance that produces bigotry. That the leadership in this endeavor comes from high school pupils speaks well for the future.

On Wednesday, the Attleboro Council on Human Rights hosted a celebration of Human Rights Day at the Attleboro Public Library.

The celebration was conducted with an awareness of how much work remains to be done to end discrimination. Rabbi Gail Diamond pointedly questioned whether the gap is growing between the prosperous and less well off in the city. The media was criticized for painting too rosy a picture of the relationships between races and classes.

But the session also included the enunciation of an ambitious goal by Charles E. Walker, chairman of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. "Together I know we can, not bust break down these barriers, but I expect to eliminate these barriers and to eliminate discrimination in Attleboro and the face of the Earth."

This was a session that should surely have recharged the batteries of all people concerned about human rights in the Attleboro area.

Energy of this sort needs constant renewal. It was only days before the Team Harmony convention, only days before the Human Rights Day observance that John Tague was sentenced to life in prison without parole. Tague was convicted of the killing of Jayson Linsky of Foxboro at a party last Halloween in Norfolk. While Tague headed off to prison still protesting his innocence, he had used the opportunity to take the witness stand at his trial to boast that he remained a loyal skinhead and was proud to be one.

Tague's days in court underscore two facts. A peaceful society must guard itself against those like skinheads who would define themselves by hatreds based on skin color and religion. And such racism and bigotry can turn murderous if left unchecked.

The Boston Herald

December 15, 1997

Grievance collectors on race

We've all known grievance collectors, someone who never forgets a slight, a slip of the tongue that hurts, a chance remark that embarrasses. These grievance collectors can spit out ancient recollections with the speed and efficiency of a computer with a Pentium chip.

Sometimes husbands and wives are like that:

"I remember the night you drank too much and flirted with Alice's house guest. You fell up the steps on the way home and the next morning you were so hung over you lost the sale."

"That was Christmas of '84."

"I remember."

Some wives complain not that their husbands remember too much, but never remember anything. Either complaint can make problems, but to "let it all hang out" or to "always speak the truth" doesn't necessarily clear the air. (Sometimes it merely encourages someone to clear out.)

A correspondent tells Miss Manners she wants the man who dislikes her Christmas present to tell her, so she can exchange it for something he likes. Miss Manners warns against the openness and honesty that sounds better in theory than in practice. The love object does not necessarily speak from the script you would write.

The gift-giver, in fact, may hear it as an attack on her taste, her

insensitivity, her blindness in never noticing that he never wore the tie she gave him last Christmas.

Politeness, civility, ignoring a criticism and letting sleeping Dobermans lie can be good ideas even — or especially — with your most intimate friend. "Failure to communicate" is often a successful strategy. Relentless candor, confessing the sins of the other person, tutoring someone for his own good, is what David Stiebel, a business mediator, calls "the great myth of hidden harmony."

"Talking can backfire," he writes in "When Talking Makes Things Worse." The so-called "search for better understanding may drive people further apart." It's often merely self-aggrandizement to be frank, a tactic for indulging a sense of superiority.

President Clinton talked, and talked, and talked at his town meeting on race in Akron, spinning platitudes of conviviality in his desire to be "brief and blunt." The only time he was confronted with an opinion other than his own on affirmative action he shot back in anger and irrationality, bullying his antagonist for a yes-or-no answer to a multiple-choice question.

This is what Michael Eric Dyson, author of "Race Rules," calls "racial conversation as a one-night stand, a cheap thrill."

Hillary Clinton, following her

husband's lead, joined a panel of 32 teenagers at the Fleet Center in Boston before 10,000 students to talk about race. She spoke about her own teenage confrontation with "prejudice" recalling an attempt to make small talk about the cold weather with a soccer goalie. "I don't care if it's cold," the goalie told her. "I hope people like you freeze."

When she told the goalie that he shouldn't dislike her because he didn't know her, he shot back: "I don't have to know you to hate you."

The first lady said this taught her that "it doesn't always work to stand there and trade insults." She's right about that, but trying to reason with someone like that doesn't always work, either.

Is there anybody in America who hasn't heard that bigotry and prejudice are bad? But reasoning together in a manipulated national "dialogue" about race is at best naive, at worst the work of demagogues. It supposes agreement on the easy moral attitudes, but doesn't do much to enhance understanding of complicated public policy issues like affirmative action, preferences, set-asides or academic standards based on race.

Tough decisions require patience and analysis, a thoughtful give-and-take. "Brief and blunt" makes grievance collectors of us all.

Unity First

December 15, 1997

Area student introduces First Lady during diversity celebration

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton joined more than 10,000 middle and high school students representing public, private and parochial schools from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island for Team Harmony IV, the interactive rally against racism, hatred and discrimination of all kinds. The First Lady was introduced by Shoib Shaikh who is a member of the Islamic Center in Wayland and is a participant of the Robert Weaver Youth Leadership Interfaith Program sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League.

Special guests included Boston Red Sox MVP Mo Vaughn, WNBA high-scorer Sheryl Swoopes, Former Boston Bruin great, Cam Neely, and Boston Celtics co-captain Dee Brown.

Team Harmony, now in its fourth year, is a collaborative effort of the Team Harmony Foundation, the Anti-Defamation League of New England, Fleet Bank, all five of Boston's professional sports teams and community and business sponsors.

Team Harmony has become a national model for inspiring and empowering high school students to deal with issues of discrimination, recently earning a spot of the White House's web site as one of the top ten success programs in this country to combat discrimination.

The White House has made race relations one of its priorities this year through the President's Initiative on race.

The Blackstone Valley Tribune

December 17, 1997

High schoolers travel to harmony conference

By **DANIEL BOUCHER**

Tribune Staff

UXBRIDGE – About 40 high school students took a field trip last week that few will soon forget.

They joined 10,000 other students who attended the Team Harmony IV conference held at the Fleet Center in Boston recently.

A lineup of celebrities headed by First Lady Hilary Rodham Clinton addressed the students in an event to promote a message of anti-prejudice. Among the students, Francine Puckett's three government classes participated after recently finishing a section about the Bill of Rights.

"Race is probably one of the most divisive issues in this country," Puckett said.

Puckett also noted today's Constitution is interpreted differently from when it was first passed in 1789 because blacks, women, and anyone without property were excluded.

"We learned how to respect a lot of different people and open your eyes," said Alicia Pincince, one of Puckett's students.

Students were glad they went. Some were even able to make personal contact with celebrities. Pincince and another student got to shake Clinton's hand.

"I screamed to her 'I love you!'," and she screamed 'Thanks!'," Pincince recalled.

Pincince also remembered seeing Clinton jumping up to shake a small boy's hand who was up on a higher level. Shaking Clinton's hand and listening to her story was an experience she won't forget.

"When you do that you realize she's a real person. You know her heart and soul is going into things and she's actually telling you her real life experiences," Pincince added.

Clinton told the audience a story of class prejudice she encountered when playing soccer as a teen-ager, the Associated Press reported. A goalie saw Clinton as a "rich, waspy type" and told her she hated her.

When Clinton noted how she did not even know her, the goalie replied "I don't have to know you to know I hate you."

Another of Puckett's students, Peter

Fontaine, could personally relate to a story like Clinton's. Fontaine said he used to go to a school in Pawtucket, R.I. when he was one of the school's only white students, and could not fit into the group.

'Shunned by everyone else'

"I was one of three Anglo-Saxon white children in the entire school and

I was shunned by everyone else. Nothing that severe, I was just not included," Fontaine said.

"Having all those people there in a positive cause was a real good thing because you only hear the negative a lot," he said. "It really showed there are people that aren't like that, that aren't prejudiced just because of color."

Students also saw the cast from the MTV show "Real World", the bands 'Blessed Union Souls' and 'Voices in

Blue.' Some of them spent 15 minutes talking to Donna Lewis, the widow of ex-Boston Celtic Reggie Lewis.

Other students also praised the event. Jennifer Lynch noted the significance of a "diverse group of people coming together for the same reason."

Jason Joyal added "it kind of reminds me of the Olympics without the sports and medals. At the Olympics everyone is together and they work peacefully and nicely."

"It also showed celebrities really

cared," added his classmate Tim Halacy.

The conference's message of anti-racism fits issues raised in government class, according to Assistant Principal Dan Stefanilo.

"Those are all issues on the table. They're themes right now our president is working toward," Stefanilo said.

The Public Spirit

December 17, 1997

AHS students join Hillary Clinton at the Fleet Center for 'Team Harmony IV'

by Gina McLeod
STUDENT REPORTER

BOSTON - 28 young students from Ayer High School set out to an adventure awaiting them at Team Harmony last Tuesday morning. As soon as they entered the Fleet Center, they could all tell that the day would unfold with laughter and uniting of students from all over New England, who each had their own culture and ethnicity.

December 13, 1994, was when Team Harmony made its first appearance. This year was Team Harmony's 4th year in Boston. Reggie Lewis and Jon Jennings, first came up with the idea of the historic event. When Reggie Lewis died at the age of 27, Jennings got together with Leonard Exacum, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League of New England, along with the A World Of Difference Institute, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts, and of course, Boston's four professional sports teams.

Team Harmony was developed to augment the ongoing work of the Anti-Defamation League's National Anti-Bias program, The A World Of Difference Institute. This Institute is designed to end discrimination through teacher and student workshops.

The show itself started off with a bang. Alpha and Omega, a group of young men that do certain steps and drills for a reason. Big foot, who represents teamwork, stated that "they step to give God all the praise," and that "there is no teamwork without love."

The Young at Arts, came out next. The Young at Arts, is a arts education program that the Wang Center for the Performing Arts sponsors. Young at Arts was founded in 1988, and was happy to participate in Team Harmony.

They put on shows that teaches children how to approach challenges creatively and to better understand themselves and others. A young actor enthusiastically stated "every culture is beautiful," we are humans, let us break the walls. Freedom, Freedom, Freedom."

The glorious theme song was performed by Ray Green and his band, followed by the powerful singing of the National Anthem sung by a group of young students who call themselves the Power Praise.

Shirley Mao followed the anthem with her stating of the commandments of Team Harmony.

1. I believe in myself and my cultural background..
2. I think that valuing and respecting others is moral.
3. Im strong enough to challenge the violence and bigotry in my neighborhood.

The entire arena, lit up as First Lady Hillary Clinton was brought up on stage. Clinton sat on stage surrounded by children from different schools, who each told their experiences with bigotry, racial conflicts, and discrimination, while the First Lady told her views on the situations and how to make them better. She concluded by saying, that "we don't have to like everyone, but we should respect them as a human being." She concluded with the Anti-Defamation League's A World Of Difference Institute pledge.

As the First Lady left the stage, the student reporters were brought to meet Sam Gash and Ted Johnson. Both are players for the New England Patriots. When the question of racial tension on the team was brought up, Gash answered "black teammates tend to hang out with black teammates,

while white teammates hang out with white teammates, but that it also brings guys together."

The most talked about question was about a female Patriot. Sam stated that "he would not care about how much skill she has, he still would not let her play." Johnson just answered with saying "it would be weird, definitely weird."

Team Harmony proved what it stood for. All of the Ayer students enjoyed it and are anticipating going again next year. Those students from Ayer High School who attended were:

Kelly Aponte
Katie Becker
April Boyle
Katelyn Bush
Jessica Conley
Jessica Cronwell
Quiana Davis
Gennifer Denmark
Christa Descheneaux
Crystal Felix
Beth Griswold
Antwain Kuykendall
Gami Malone
Zaharah McKinney
Gina McLeod
Heather Migrants
Damion O'Meara
Liz Pearl
Nick Pearl
Jamie Peters
Jennifer Root
Mandy Stecich
Jennifer Whitenberg
Christine Wilson

Chaperones:
Ms. Lucille DaCosta
Ms. Susanne Ritz
Philana Williams
Jenatte Sutton
Octavia Kilpatrick

The Spectator

December 17, 1997



SJS Peer Leaders

LOCAL STUDENTS attended Team Harmony IV event at Boston's Fleet Center. The program was designed to combat prejudice and promote

the value of respecting diversity with the schools and community.

Youth Congress promotes harmony

Among the 10,000 students attending the recent Team Harmony IV event at Boston's FleetCenter

was a delegation of Somerset Junior High School Peer Leaders. Sponsored by Fleet Bank and the Anti-Defamation League, this youth

congress was designed to combat prejudice and promote the value of

respecting diversity within schools and communities. The keynote speaker for this event was First Lady

Hillary Rodham Clinton together with professional sports figures from the Patriots, Red Sox, Bruins, Revolution and the Women's Profes-

sional Basketball League. Upon returning to Somerset, students were

charged with creating an action plan to promote diversity within the school and community.

Students attending included: Steve Braga, Chris Melanson, Mary Jane Mello, Casey Mulligan, Justin LaCava, Crystal O'Connell, Ryan Benevides, Megan Ariagno, Hannah Schmidt, Ashley Soares, Megan Benevides, Shanna Melanson, Lynn Creamer, Joanne Medeiros, Andrea Roussell, Caroline Shannon, Nicole Roussell, Holly Chagnon, Breanne Hague, Erika DiBiasio, Stephanie Flores, Daniela Fairchild, Susy Arruda, Ashley Baffaro and Katelyn Camara.

Chaperones included Ms. Kim Sousa and Mr. Ken Day, Peer Leader Advisors and Mr. Ken Cwikla, Guidance Counselor.

The Sun Chronicle

December 17, 1997

May lesson of Christmas linger throughout year

It's probably impertinent of someone whose favorite food is bagel and lox instead of Canadian meat pie or baked ham to even broach the subject of the importance of the Christmas message, but in the spirit of ecumenism I will try because it's important that even at least a few more people think about treating each other with respect, because there's still too much hatred.

For example, U.S. soldiers are spending another holiday season in Bosnia, acting as a dividing wall between people who despise each other; the hatred among the factions in the former Yugoslavia is so strong that the U.S. government is afraid of pulling out the troops.

Unrest in many African nations continues to lead to massive bloodshed, the turmoil in Northern Ireland just won't abate, and then, of course, there is the Holy Land, whose inhabitants lead the way in the hatred department.

There's no shortage of hate in the Middle East, where it's become a tradition for the inhabitants to despise each other. Not only do Arabs hate Jews and vice-versa, but there are some Arabs who hate other Arabs because some are Christian and some are Muslim and



LARRY KESSLER

there are Jews who despise other Jews over religious differences. That is to say some are "modern," believing in letting women be equal partners in the prayer rituals, and some are "traditional," believing that only men should run the show when it comes to religion. Those zealots have gone so far as to stone rabbinical students from the United States who dare pray at the ancient Wailing Wall.

Back home, the president has been urging a dialogue on racism while people keep their separate ways amid outbreaks of both blatant and subtle forms of hatred.

The more direct hatred manifests itself every so often in the form of hurtful slogans and words spray-painted on pub-

lic buildings or taunts heard on high school playing fields. The latter happened again this fall when Jewish players from Sharon were the target of derogatory remarks at a game in Mansfield by people who obviously think the SS is a new rap band and not the enforcement officials for one of the most heinous totalitarian regimes in the history of the world, the Nazis. What makes those incidents so dangerous is this historical fact: the Nazis used bigoted remarks that robbed people of their humanity as a basis for lulling the German people into thinking that the Jewish people were responsible for the nation's ills and were therefore expendable.

Ignorance whispers

But as ugly as such incidents are, however, they are not as potentially damaging as the subtle forms of racism that go unanswered every day. I'm talking about the whispers, the remarks made under the guise of an ethnic joke, that are really not funny, but are rather evidence of ignorance. Every time such remarks go unanswered, people are allowed to have their warped sense of the world re-enforced.

One such incident happened to me a

few years ago, when I stopped going to a barber because he referred to the owner of a building by a derogatory term for a Jewish person. The barber did not know that I was Jewish, and that was precisely the point, because even if he had said what I've heard all too often, "that I don't mean you" or "You're not like the other Jews," he would not have gotten off the hook.

Why? Because whether he meant it or not, he was perpetuating a stereotype and making it easier to hate an entire group of people. If he had attacked the person for being an absentee landlord, that would have been one thing; but to just utter such a disparaging remark as he did was inexcusable. I did not confront him, choosing instead to make a quiet statement, taking my business to another barber.

It's important to respond to such remarks, because even though they're not hate crimes, they're precisely what makes a country pliable to the race-baiting politics of the Nazis in Germany in the 1930s. They're also the kind of remarks that White Supremacists in this country use to score points with the general public.

That's why, as speakers at last week's

Team Harmony IV event pointed out at the Fleet Center, it's crucial to repudiate even so-called innocent remarks before they're allowed to escalate into hate crimes. Area students, including North Attleboro High's Student Coalition Against Racism, are to be commended for having the gumption to oppose such forms of hatred.

Most of us realize the need to strive to be better human beings, but what we might not realize is that we're not powerless to stop hatred. We can start by resolving to refuse to accept derogatory remarks that are obviously not meant in a humorous light, and by learning how to disagree with people without denigrating them.

That's something that we need to remember the other 11 months of the year, but which is especially critical to recall at this time, when many people worldwide make an annual effort to be decent human beings.

Who knows? Maybe this year — just maybe — the lesson will stay with people when January rolls around.

LARRY KESSLER is a Sun Chronicle news editor.

The Cambridge Chronicle

December 18, 1997

Matignon students attend harmony event

BY COURTNEY O'KEEFE

Matignon correspondent

More than 10,000 middle and high school students gathered in the FleetCenter Tuesday, Dec. 9, to celebrate diversity.

Twenty students from Matignon High School attended Team Harmony IV.

In addition to classroom efforts to end prejudice within the school, Matignon also sponsors co-curricular programs like Peer Leadership and the International Club to raise awareness about prejudice and to promote diversity.

Joining the students were New England Patriots stars Sam Gash and Ted Johnson; Bruins legend Cam Neely; women's basketball great Sheryl Swoopes; Red Sox MVP Mo Vaughn; and Boston Celtics captain Dee Brown.

In addition, the cast from MTV's "The Real World," WXKS DJ Bill Costa, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton joined the program for the fourth annual Team Harmony.

Team Harmony is a collaborative effort of the Team Harmony Foundation, the Anti-Defamation League of New England, Fleet Bank, all five of Boston's professional sports teams, and community and business sponsors. Team Harmony began as a vision between the late Boston Celtics captain Reggie Lewis and Jon Jennings, a former Celtics assistant coach and scouting coordinator. After Lewis's tragic death, Jennings joined forces with Leonard Zakim, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League, to establish this event to break down preju-

dices and promote harmony.

At Team Harmony IV, teenagers heard inspiring words from Vaughn, who stated, "We are all the same, no matter what color we are or where we come from." With that, Jackie Robinson's No. 42 was raised to the rafters of the FleetCenter after students viewed a video hosted by WCVB's Mike Lynch on the courageous sports figure who broke racial barriers as the first black baseball player in the major leagues.

Following this ceremony, Shirley Mayo from the Anti-Defamation League stepped onto the stage and asked students to make three statements promising that they will be against violence and that they will value other people's differences.

After students made the statement, Mrs. Clinton took the stage, while a recording of U2's "In the Name of Love" played loudly throughout the FleetCenter. A pre-chosen panel of students was able to sit with First Lady Clinton, tell her stories of their experience of racism, and even ask questions. "We can learn a lot from each other when we respect each other," said Mrs. Clinton after one student told his story.

Awards were given to different Massachusetts high schools for their commitment to ending discrimination. Participating schools are encouraged to use information and ideas generated by Team Harmony to promote programs to combat prejudice.

Teenagers at Team Harmony IV learned that they can make a difference if they make an effort. "It's up to you to lead us in this struggle," said Jennings. "As long as there is one person being discriminated against, we are not done."

The Cambridge Chronicle

December 18, 1997

fourth annual Team Harmony event last week.

Cambridge resident Robert Murrell Jr., an art teacher at Newton Country Day school, was selected to participate at event with five Newton Country Day students. Team Harmony, "the largest interracial gathering in the country," is recognized as one of the top 10 nationwide programs designed to promote racial harmony and diversity.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was the keynote speaker along with Red Sox player Mo Vaughn also numbering among the guest speakers.

"It was an exciting experience," said Murrell. "Many school programs designed to combat racial discrimination and prejudice we already have in place at Newton Country Day, but we learned how we can build on them. We appreciated Mrs. Clinton's attentiveness to the issues surrounding racial discord and ethnic stereotypes."

In addition to teaching studio art, media and technique, fine and applied art, sculpture and photography, Murrell is also the moderator for the Newton Country Day chapter of PRISM (People for a Racially Inclusive Society of Multiculturalism).

Murrell joins Team Harmony

Eleven thousand students from 350 high schools and middle schools across the state gathered at the FleetCenter to participate in the

The Cape Cod Chronicle

December 18, 1997

Students, First Lady, Celebrities Advocate Racial Harmony

by Phyllis Gordon Koppel

CHATHAM -- Breaking racial boundaries through education and teamwork was the theme as 25 high school students from Chatham joined 10,000 others from throughout the state for Team Harmony IV on Dec. 9.

The event held at Boston's Fleet Center was the culmination of a year-round effort in schools to bring about change, to promote the value of respecting diversity, and to unite in a stand against prejudice and hatred. The program was developed by Jon Jennings, former Boston Celtics' Assistant Coach/

Scouting Coordinator, the Anti-Defamation League, and The Rendon Group as a testimony to Jennings' friendship with Boston Celtic Reggie Lewis. Before Lewis' tragic death at the age of 27, he and Jennings were working on an activity which would help young people realize that regardless of their backgrounds, they needed to learn to respect each other's differences. The day included entertainment, education, interactive dialogue, and inspiration based on a philosophy of a "team" effort to overcome bigotry.

This year was particularly special because First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton attended. One of the teacher chaperones, Pat Vreeland, said, "It was a wonderful experience - to see what is being done in

other places on the Cape and in the state. We need to do more work here in terms of exposing kids to the diversity they will encounter when they go across the bridge. We need to be more pro-active - to recognize the diversity in Chatham and worldwide. We could also explore the diversity we have in our own backgrounds. In cities there are neighborhoods that sustain cultures, but on the Cape it seems that many people consider themselves solely 'Cape Codders.'

Hillary Clinton did an excellent job. She conducted an open forum where kids discussed bigotry they had experienced or witnessed. The forum seemed truly open and non-rehearsed. She brainstormed with them very well, personalizing her comments, recognizing the Boston and local areas."

Sports celebrities Mo'Nique, Cam Neely, Sheryl Swoops, and MTV stars, bands, and other students addressed the conference. Two of the the most impressive speakers, according to Ms. Vreeland, were the students near the end of the day who explained what is being done in their communities to combat prejudice. One award was given to a school that created a web site to combat racism. Junior Becky Spencer said, "The web site was a good idea because one of the reasons for bigotry is ignorance. And it is important to become educated about different cultures. This was one of the most important themes of the day." She said, "The beginning of the day was especially effective. Bands played and got the entire Fleet Center filled with 10,000 students into it. Songs were about harmony and getting rid of bigotry. There was lots of audience participation. The conference gave us ideas about how to combat racism. Team work was emphasized. Mrs. Clinton's advice about not going along when peers tell offensive jokes or use racist language was good."

Another junior, Heather Baker, thought the experience was "very worthwhile. One of the highlights was the performance of the song 'I Believe' by the music group, Blessed Union Of Souls." It was the big hit along with the presentations of the cast of MTV's Real World." She said, "People in Chatham and most of the Cape are much the same. Students do not realize, are not in touch with the real world. College could be a shock for some people. This event helped us to see more, become more aware of other races and cultures."

Next year Chatham ninth grader Julia Marsh and teacher Jenny Wallace will attend a workshop at the ADL's "A World Of Difference Institute" in preparation for Chatham's "World Of Difference Week." From March 29 - April 4, 1998, students in Chatham schools will be participating in events that explore diversity.

The Carver Reporter

December 18, 1997

Teen meets First Lady

Carver High senior
selected to be on stage

By David Hannon
MPG Newspapers

PAGE ONE

CARVER — High school senior John Crooks got a pleasant surprise last week when he was selected to meet First Lady Hilary Rodham Clinton as part of the Team Harmony event at the Fleet Center in Boston on Dec. 9.

Crooks was selected as a delegate when organizers of the event called director of pupil personnel Penny Scott to ask for a volunteer. "We've started working with the World of Difference foundation for staff diversity training so when they had an opening they called us," Scott said.

Organizers tried to gather an ethnically diverse group of students to participate in the program. "They said they miscounted the number of students to be on stage with the First Lady and they needed a white, male, Irish-American student who was articulate and able to get up to Boston that afternoon to meet with the secret service," Scott said.

As one of the top-ranked students in the senior class, Crooks was the obvious choice. In addition to

As one of the top-ranked students in the senior class, Crooks was the obvious choice.

receiving several academic awards, Crooks recently received early acceptance to Williams College to major in English.

"I was part of a panel of about 30 students who got to have ask the First Lady questions," Crooks said. "We talked about fighting discrimination and prejudice."

Founded by former Celtic Reggie Lewis, the Team Harmony event is sponsored by Fleet Bank and the Anti-Defamation League of New England and seeks to end discrimination through teacher and student training workshops. Over 30,000 students and faculty from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island have attended Team Harmony events.

Crooks said the 10,000 onlookers at the Fleet Center made him a little nervous but he still enjoyed the 45 minute discussion. "There were students from Boston and all over the state," Crooks said.

The Dorchester Reporter

December 18, 1997

Hillary, Boston Youth Discuss Race

By SONYA ROSS

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER WASHINGTON (AP)

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton says little by little, more Americans will express their true feelings on race as her husband's campaign for racial reconciliation continues working its way through the country. In an interview Tuesday, Mrs. Clinton compared President Clinton's national dialogue to medicine that needs time to work. She spoke after her own dialogue with Boston-area teen-agers who expressed their encounters with racism more frankly than did the group that spoke with the president last week in Akron, Ohio. The first lady said Tuesday's discussion was blunter because the audience was younger and had been talking about racial issues long before she met with them. "I think people can get overwhelmed by the idea of the race initiative," Mrs. Clinton said. "They need little pieces that they feel are doable for them." She encouraged an emphasis on "those little things that can create a human connection" between people of different races. Not everyone will attend the race discussions, "but everyone can make more of an effort," she said. As the president did at the University of Akron, Mrs. Clinton focused on attitudes among young people. As in Akron, there was no real divergence of opinion in Boston. "That didn't bother me," Mrs. Clinton said. "Telling their own stories was a big part of educating their peers." She asked several questions of the 32 teen-agers who joined her on stage to get them to say how they felt or what they did when they encountered racism. She asked whether any of them had family members who were prejudiced — some indicated they did — and if efforts like Team Harmony had changed any of their perceptions about people of other races and ethnicities. The discussion was part of an annual anti-racism rally of Team Harmony, an initiative begun by Boston-area professional sports teams in 1994 to help middle- and high-schoolers combat bigotry. But mostly, Mrs. Clinton listened to students like Tonderai Tabaziba, who said she was confused by stereotypes, and Amy Coran, who recounted an anti-Semitic joke that someone shouted at her soccer game one day. "Why do you think young people say things like that? What's going on in their heads?" Mrs. Clinton asked. "Ignorance!" shouted a boy deep in the upper-level seats. "Insecurity!" yelled

someone else. Mrs. Clinton continues her travels today, speaking at the United Nations to open its year-long celebration of the signing of the declaration of human rights. In Boston Tuesday, one student asked her whether she thought affirmative action had helped or hurt American race relations. She replied that it had done both, by uplifting poor minorities and by being "misconstrued and misunderstood and used in a negative way." Since candor was contagious, the first lady told of her own brush with prejudice. She was about 13 years old and on the soccer team. It was very cold, so she tried to make small talk about the weather with the goalie, who replied, "I don't care if you're cold. I wish people like you would freeze." "I

said, 'How can you hate people like us? You don't even know us,'" Mrs. Clinton recalled. "She said, 'I don't have to know you to know I hate you.' And I've never forgotten that." Hers wasn't a racial incident, Mrs. Clinton said. The goalie was of Eastern European descent, and she considered Hillary Rodham a "rich, WASP-y type." Those kinds of "non-black-white" tensions also need to be addressed, for they are a larger problem than many believe, Mrs. Clinton said. "The black-white issue has to be the focus because it's the unfinished business of America," she said. "But I think we can help people understand it better if they see it as part of the overall dilemma of bigotry and prejudice that we have to contend with."

The Everett Herald News Gazette
December 18, 1997

**Pope John
Students
In rally**

On Tuesday, December 9, 1997, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton joined more than 10,000 middle and high school students from public, private and parochial schools from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island for TEAM HARMONY IV, the largest interracial gathering of youth dedicated to combating bigotry and promoting respect. Over 30 Pope John students were joined by principal S. Kristin Hokanson, S. Mary Bedard and Michael Passinissi, who served as chaperones at this national model for inspiring and empowering high school students to combat racism.

The Hudson Sun
December 18, 1997

Marlborough High students attend Team Harmony



Mary Wenzel

*Marlborough
Sampler*

Twenty-seven Marlborough High School students were among 10,000 from throughout New England who attended the fourth annual Team Harmony rally held recently at the Fleet Center in Boston. First Lady **Hillary Clinton** was

the keynote speaker and other celebrities included: **Mo Vaughn**, **Cam Neely**, **Sam Gash** and **Pervis Ellison** as well as father-son marathon team **Dick and Rick Hoyt**. The faculty members attending with the students included: **Linda Perez**, peer mediators adviser; **Mary Carlson**, peer mentors adviser and peer intervention team coordinator; **John Fader**, SADD adviser; **Rich Brissette**, peer leader co-adviser; and **Lisa Roach**, peer leader co-adviser and Panthers for Peace adviser. The event was reported on by the local, state and national media and offered those attending the opportunity to raise awareness of bigotry, racism and discrimination in society.

The Hyde Park/Mattapan Tribune

December 18, 1997

Eleven thousand students from 350 high schools and middle schools across the state gathered at the FleetCenter to participate in the fourth annual Team Harmony event. Hyde Park resident, Alexia White, a sophomore at Newton Country Day, a Sacred Heart School, was selected to represent Newton Country Day at the December 9th model event. Team Harmony, "the largest interracial gathering in the country," is



recognized as one of the top ten nationwide programs designed to promote racial harmony and diversity. Hillary Rodham Clinton was the keynote speaker at the 1997 Team Harmony public dialogue on race, with Red Sox player, Mo Vaughn also numbering among the guest speakers.

"It was an exciting experience. Many school programs designed to combat racial discrimination and prejudice we already have in place at Newton Country Day, but we learned how we can build on them. We appreciated Mrs. Clinton's attentiveness to the issues surrounding racial discord and ethnic stereotypes," said Alexia.

Alexia is also a member of the Newton Country Day chapter of P.R.I.S.M. (People for a Racially Inclusive Society of Multi-Culturalism).

The Marblehead Reporter

December 18, 1997



Marblehead resident Pearl Annis, along with 14 other members of the Wang Center Young Arts Drama Club, performed at the FleetCenter on Dec. 9. First Lady Hilary Clinton was the keynote speaker for the occasion, sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League under the theme "Team Harmony."

The Marlborough Enterprise

December 18, 1997

Hillary says Americans will express true feelings on race

first Lady in
Boston with
Team Harmony

By **SONYA ROSS**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton says little by little, more Americans will express their true feelings on race as her husband's campaign for racial reconciliation continues working its way through the country.

In an interview Tuesday, Mrs. Clinton compared President Clinton's national dialogue to medicine that needs time to work. She spoke after her own dialogue with Boston-area teenagers who expressed their encounters with racism more frankly than did the group that spoke with the president last week in Akron, Ohio.

The first lady said Tuesday's discussion was blunter because the audience was younger and had been talking about racial issues long before she met with them.

"I think people can get overwhelmed by the idea of the race initiative," Mrs. Clinton said. "They need little pieces that they feel are doable for them."

She encouraged an emphasis on "those little things that can create a human connection" between people of different races. Not everyone will attend the race discussions, "but everyone can make more of an effort," she said.

As the president did at the University of Akron, Mrs. Clinton focused on attitudes among young people. As in Akron, there was no real divergence of opinion in Boston.

"That didn't bother me," Mrs.



PHOTO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton listens to about 10,000 school children before a panel discussion, with New England school children, during Team Harmony IV in Boston, Tuesday.

Clinton said. "Telling their own stories was a big part of educating their peers."

She asked several questions of the 32 teen-agers who joined her on stage to get them to say how they felt or what they did when they encountered racism. She asked whether any of them had family members who were prejudiced — some indicated they did

— and if efforts like Team Harmony had changed any of their perceptions about people of other races and ethnicities.

The discussion was part of an annual anti-racism rally of Team Harmony, an initiative begun by Boston-area professional sports teams in 1994 to help middle- and high-schoolers combat bigotry.

But mostly, Mrs. Clinton listened to students like Tonderai Tabaziba, who said she was confused by stereotypes, and Amy Coran, who recounted an anti-Semitic joke that someone shouted at her soccer game one day.

"Why do you think young people say things like that? What's going on in their heads?" Mrs. Clinton asked.

The Methuen Journal

December 18, 1997

Peer leaders will be reporters,

By Michelle Ross

Amanda Kaslow envisions a career in journalism for herself when she grows up.

A seventh grader at the Comprehensive Grammar School, Amanda is one of about 10 student Peer Leaders involved in the school's Reporters' Club.

"I like to question people," she said, during a meeting of the Reporters' Club last Wednesday at the CGS. Her goal is to work for a newspaper in a big city or travel all over the world conducting interviews.

As Peer Leaders, the students perform community service work both inside and outside the school setting, such as organizing events and holding class elections.

To become a Peer Leader, one must fill out an application, write an essay and get recommendations from teachers.

Peer Leaders differ from Peer Mediators, which is a group of students who must undergo hours of training to become conflict resolvers within the school.

Within the Peer Leaders, there are many subgroups of students, such as the Senior Connection, Adopt-a-Pet and the Reporters' Club.

Students in the Senior Connection group do various activities with local senior citizens, while those in the Adopt-a-Pet group research different animals to "adopt".

The Reporters' Club is made up of students who write articles and essays for their school newspaper, The Cyclone News, and for The Students' Journal section of The Methuen Journal.

"We write about things that happen in the school and in the community," said Ashley Corneau, a seventh grader.

Chad Busateri, also a seventh grader, said: "We want to help out the community."

Some topics featured by the Comprehensive Grammar School students include the J.D. Daniels Memorial Walkway, the Drama Club's latest productions, and current events such as Team Harmony IV, which took place last week in Boston.

Some members of the Reporters' Club attended Team Harmony IV held at the Fleet Center last week, an event that attracted Hillary Rodham Clinton, the musical group Blessid Union of Souls, the cast of MTV's The Real World, and many more notables.

The goal of Team Harmony is to promote peace and awareness of how to stop the spread of violence.

"The stars were talking about their experiences and what to do to prevent violence," said Anita. She is one of the editors of the school newspaper and is a volunteer in the school's media center.

The North Adams Transcript

December 18, 1997

Harmony Day points out importance of fighting hatred

By EILEEN E. FLYNN
North Adams Transcript

NORTH ADAMS — When Conte Middle School and Drury High School students attended Team Harmony Day in Boston last week, they came away with more than a glimpse of First Lady Hillary Clinton and several big name sports stars.

Lyndsay Ritter, a sophomore, and seventh grader Alicia Chenail, found they shared common experiences with teens their age around New England as they listened to other students give testimonials on discrimination they've faced.

"A few of them brought tears to my eyes because I've been through it," Ritter revealed.

She said she has endured mean-spirited teasing at school, but she finds initiatives to combat discrimination at Drury have helped raise students' awareness and sensitivity. "In our school last year, we did a day of discussions. Since then, people have watched what they

say. They're not so rude. They're more careful."

For both girls, the Team Harmony Day at the Fleet Center, which was attended by some 10,000 other students, helped them realize the importance of fighting racism and hatred. They were impressed that Clinton took the time to discuss such issues with them and said they appreciated her sincerity in dealing with sensitive matters. Clinton even shared her own battle with discrimination.

Chenail, chosen as one of several Conte students to attend the event, composed an essay, recounting a testimony that touched her.

"One girl's experience really stuck with me and made me feel mad," Chenail wrote. "Her experience was when she was playing soccer. A good percentage of her teammates were Jewish. When they were playing, a couple of boys walked by her goalie and said to her, 'What's the difference between a pizza and a Jew?' The answer

to their so-called joke is 'A pizza doesn't scream when you put it in the oven,' referring to the Holocaust. This made me very disgusted."

Conte counselor Nurit Berman, a Jew who has lost family in the Holocaust, said she was overwhelmed by the offensiveness of the remark. It called to mind an anti-Semitic joke made in her company once. The joke-teller did not realize Berman was Jewish, she said, and the punchline left her without words. Looking back, she wishes she had said something.

That's precisely what Team Harmony Day and school groups like the Diversity Committee and UNITY encourage students to do — speak up. Each month, UNITY students from Conte and Drury meet to probe themes such as alcoholism, violence and racism.

Ritter, empowered by her participation in the Diversity Committee, said she has made progress with friends and family members, stressing she does not like to hear racial and ethnic jokes.

"My parents taught me everyone is human. Everyone has a heart," she said.

Ritter added she would never want to be the one to make others feel bad.

"I've never been the one to make jokes. I'm always the one to get the jokes. I know how it feels. I don't want to give it in return."

Chenail had similar sentiments, but both girls agreed it is sometimes difficult to address insensitive remarks.



North Adams students appear on stage of Fleet Center in Boston during Team Harmony Day.

Chenail said she is unsure how to handle the situation when her uncle makes off-color jokes about gays and lesbians. "I don't want to say anything to him because I'm afraid ... He's always joking ... if I say that, he would say something like that to me," she said.

But, Berman maintains, Chenail is off to a good start by recognizing what isn't acceptable.

"There's always been racism

and discrimination and prejudice. And here's another group of young folks who are taking on the fight," she noted. "It's too bad it has to be a fight, but here we have a whole generation."

As Chenail concluded her essay, the message Team Harmony sought to instill is "we are all human beings with different interests and to take pride not only in what we do and who we are, but in everyone else in the world."

The Sentinel

December 18, 1997

Diversity group

Twenty-five students from OCV attended Team Harmony IV at the Fleet Center in Boston, Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Members of the group have also attended workshops at UMass-Dartmouth, Bridgewater State College and Taunton High School throughout the year and have received many awards for promoting diversity awareness.

A future goal of the Diversity Group is to get its own web page on the Internet.

The Sentinel

December 18, 1997



Submitted photo

Belchertown High School students gather at The Fleet Center for a photo at the "Team Harmony" conference.

Team Harmony unites New England students

By Jonathan Menard -
B.H.S.

On Wednesday, December 9, students from over 600 different Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island high school and middle schools gathered together, under the roof of the Boston Fleet Center, to participate in bringing bigotry and prejudice to an end. A tradition which has united over 30,000 young people, one day a year, for the past four years. It is the only event in which all major New England sports teams; the Bruins, Celtics, Revolution, Red Sox, and Patriots; come together to sponsor jointly.

Team Harmony began as a vision between late Celtics great Reggie Lewis and Jon Jennings, White House fellow and former Celtics assistant coach. Their goal was to create an event which protested discrimination of all kinds and end the related tensions becoming commonplace in schools. After Lewis's trag-

ic death, Jennings joined forces with Leonard Zakim, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League, New England. Working together they created the Team Harmony event.

Now in its fourth year, Team Harmony has engaged the participation of famous athletes such as Drew Bledsoe, Rick Fox, and Dee Brown, musical legend Peter Wolf, as well as many other highly regarded athletes and media personalities.

The first three events were successful beyond expectation but Team Harmony Four was to outdo them all. This years guests included athletes Mo Vaughn, Pervis Ellison, Sam Gash, Sheryll Swoopes, Mike Burns, and Cam Neely, musical guests "Blessed Union of Souls", and even the cast of MTV's "The Real World". Each Guest speaker delivered his/her own personal message on the
b a t t l e
against in
society.

As if sports, musical, and television stars were not enough to spread the afternoon's message, the First Lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton, was also on hand. She sat down with a panel of selected students from various schools and talked with them one-on-one about their experiences and dealings with racism and prejudice. The First Lady even shared one of her own experiences with racism when asked to do so by a student reporter. It was a shocking yet common story of hate based solely upon appearance.

The final segment of the day was the awards ceremony. During this portion of the event, special guests present the Fleet Team Harmony Award to the five schools which have shown the most effort towards combating bigotry and promoting respect for all persons. This years recipients were M. Marcus Kiley Middle School, Springfield; Old Colony Regional Vocational High School, Rochester; Drury High School, North Adams; North Attleboro High School, North Attleboro; and Wakefield High School, Wakefield.

Team Harmony Four reached over 10,000 young minds at the Fleet Center that one day, with hopes that the effect will spread, slowly but surely, to millions of other youth. The message is like a pebble, that when dropped into a pond will reverberate across the nation, and if strong enough, across the world. IT was Robert Kennedy who once said, "Few people will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation." IT is up to us to create a society in which equality, justice, and respect for all colors, creeds, and abilities shines brilliantly.

The Sudbury Town Crier

December 18, 1997

Rallying against discrimination

Students join Team Harmony

By Bradd Sky Gross
CORRESPONDENT

On Tuesday, Dec. 9, a group of 28 students from the Ephraim Curtis Middle School and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School joined more than 26,000 students from hundreds of schools across New England and packed the FleetCenter in Boston for the Team Harmony IV event.

The Sudbury group was led by Betty Kornegay of Curtis.

Team Harmony has become an annual multimedia celebration and rally where students show their support in fighting discrimination. It was originally conceived of by the late Boston Celtics captain Reggie Lewis and Jon Jennings, formerly a Celtics assistant coach and now a White House Fellow.

Members of the professional teams in Boston, the cast of MTV's Real World, and the musical group The Blessed Union of Souls were among many other celebrities who spoke in support of the cause and entertained the crowd.

The highlight of the event, however, was the thorough and enlightening discussion between Hillary Rodham Clinton and selected students who had personal stories of discrimination that they recounted.



PHOTO BY KEN MCGAGH

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton poses for pictures with students participating in Team Harmony IV, a forum about prejudice that brought 10,000 Massachusetts teen-agers to the FleetCenter Dec. 9.

"When it comes to discrimination, the youth of America is more capable than the adults in leading the battle," Mrs. Clinton explained after hearing many stories of hardship.

"There is a lot of bad publicity in the media when it comes to the young, but I know that America's youth are the best group of young people in the whole world."

"I heard about Team Harmony so I wrote about it in my book *It Takes a Village*," Mrs. Clinton concluded, "I wanted to bring attention to a program where all of you are working to understand each other better, to exchange your stories, to see each other as human beings, and to make a difference in your schools and your communities, and I hope that more and more schools will do what you are doing."

In a private interview with about 80 student reporters, Sam Gash and Ted Johnson of the New England Patriots and Cam Neely of the Boston Bruins were asked tough questions.

"The Patriots football team is like a small community that all works together, so we don't see people differ-

ently," said Johnson, when asked if racial slurs were commonplace within his team.

"That's what I really like about football," teammate Gash concurred.

However, their answers differed when it came to the question of whether or not girls should be allowed to play alongside them on the Patriots.

"Girls' bodies are built differently than boys, and are more frail," said Gash, "I would not allow my daughter to play."

Johnson, however, had a different viewpoint: "If they can compete, by

all means let them in."

Cam Neely was asked what motivated him to lend his hand of support to the rally.

"I was shocked when I came to the USA about the racism here compared to Canada," Neely said. "Very little of it exists there."

On the return trip from the Fleet Center to Sudbury, students on the bus at one point broke out into a typical round of banter, including teasing of other students. One eighth-grade student shouted out, "Didn't you learn anything today?"

"Oh yeah," replied the seventh-grade name caller. "I guess you're right!"

The Sun Chronicle
December 18, 1997

Mansfield students hurt by bias charge

Pupils' group fights anti-Semitism label

BY RICK FOSTER
SUN CHRONICLE STAFF

MANSFIELD — Teenagers who attended a racial harmony forum keyed by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton felt hurt when a student called attention to an anti-Semitic incident at their school.

But the Mansfield High School students, members of a group aimed at combating bias, returned determined to make a difference in promoting racial and ethnic understanding among students.

"It was embarrassing," said Someca Hanler, one of several members of the Student Association for Equality who attended the Harmony IV conference last week

▼
**'It just seems like
we don't talk about
it very much.'**

Someca Hanler,
Mansfield student on racial
and ethnic differences

▲
at the Fleet Center.

She said a student from another school complained that "nothing was done" after anti-Jewish insults were hurled at the Sharon girls' soccer team during a game in Mansfield last October.

► **BIAS:** Students fight label

"It's a good thing we didn't have a (Mansfield) sign up," said association member Brian Widrow.

About 10,000 students attended the day-long conference.

School officials say they mounted a lengthy investigation of the incident, although they were unable to identify the perpetrators within a group of male spectators. The school administration also called in experts from two separate anti-bias agencies and plans to hold training for students.

Members of the multi-ethnic, multi-racial association say they're not blind to the existence of bias either in or out of school. They say they hope to fight prejudice by promoting understanding between those of varying ethnic and racial backgrounds.

Jamie Williams said high school students are planning to read to younger children and conduct other activities aimed at building respect for diversity.

"Right now, we're trying to get some ideas of what we can do," she said.

Students say the existence of prejudice in their hometown is real enough. Both Hanler and Williams, who are black, say they have had personal experiences involving bias and racial insensitivity.

Hanler said she thinks more candid discussion of ethnic and racial differences might help improve student relationships.

"It just seems like we don't talk about it very much," she said.

Students will get their chance to expand dialogue soon. Teacher Christine DiBuono, adviser to the association, said a group from Northeastern University will hold a special training session for association members, athletes and other student leaders next month. Two school assemblies are also planned.

Officials hope that once students are trained, they will serve as "peer mediators" and positive influences in promoting harmony at school.

The Wareham Courier
December 18, 1997



Staff photo/Ethan Thomas

Paying attention —Wareham Middle School student Mike Miranda listens to the comments of his fellow students at a meeting of the multicultural club following their trip to Boston.

Students meet racial issues head on

At Teen Harmony conference at the Fleet Center

By Ethan Thomas

Staff writer

Students in the multicultural club at Wareham Middle School made the trip to Boston to engage in some straight talk about racial issues in America.

Over 50 students from the club spent the day at the Fleet Center in Boston to hear First Lady Hillary Clinton and students from around the state talk about the issue.

The students who went to the conference shared their comments with teacher Sandra Bell, who runs the multicultural club.

"If it wasn't for the First Lady being there, I don't think the turnout would have been so large. It (the conference) should have gotten recognition for us because it's about us and what we feel," said student Jenaya Smith.

A comment made by WBA star Cheryl Swoopes stuck in the mind of student Hannah Gregoire.

"She said that the real question wasn't if she could play with the men in the NBA, but if any of them could play with her," Gregoire said.

"What I liked was that kids got up and told stories about other kids our age who've dealt with racism. They have real stories to back it up," said student Christina Peaslee.

Students Amie Thimas and Stefanie Santiago both said the dialogue about ethnicity and racism in Boston was good, but suggested that it needs to be opened up to all students, that this is something everyone should be talking about.

"The multicultural club shouldn't have been the only ones present. The whole school should have been there," Thimas said.

Bell, who is a seventh grade language arts and social studies teacher, said there are now close to 60 members in the multicultural club.

"The club has been growing every year, but this year it just doubled. The kids are wonderful and it is a place for them to come," Bell said.

And Bell urges students of all ethnic groups and races to join the club, because issues involving bigotry affect everyone.

"This is an open club. We don't



Staff photo/Ethan Thomas

All aboard —Damien Fernandes boards the bus headed for the Fleet Center in Boston for Teen Harmony IV, a conference about race that was attended by First Lady Hillary Clinton.

want people to have the perception that it is just a club for people of color," Bell said.

"I joined because I've made a

few new friends here," said student Jeff Agee.

"Plus you are the best teacher," he told Bell.

The Winchester Star
December 18, 1997

Winchester's Burstein honored for promoting racial harmony

BY ANDREA LINTERIS
STAFF WRITER

Her efforts to promote racial equality received recognition from keynote speaker Hillary Rodham Clinton. But that isn't her only goal. She also wants to inform the public about the inspirations and motivations of today's youth through quality writing.

Quite a wish for one person, but Winchester's Rachel Burstein, 15, thinks she can handle it. Burstein was one of nine editors to receive the 1997 Lewis/Jennings award for promoting racial equality last Thursday night at the Fleet Center.

"It was kind of surprising because being part of *The Voice* wasn't to fight bigotry or be diverse — the idea was to produce quality writing and put the youth perspective out there," said Burstein. "We [the editors] never thought of it as something that would unite people in regards to their skin color, culture or economic background. I think we all felt united by a common vision of what we wanted to do — but its nice people thought of it that way."

The Lewis/Jennings Award, sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of Boston, was created by former Boston Celtics Assistant Coach Jon Jennings as a tribute to his friendship with the late Reggie Lewis. The award honors youth from different racial, ethnic and/or religious backgrounds who work together to implement change or combat bigotry.

Burstein is the education editor

for *The Voice*, an on-line youth oriented magazine of the Youth Voice Collaborative. YVC is a media communication, advocacy and technology program for urban youth.

Hillary Rodham Clinton was the keynote speaker at the event which was attended by 10,000 middle and high school students throughout New England. Jon Jennings and Donna Lewis, Reggie Lewis' wife, presented the award to *The Voice* editors.

"I couldn't think of a better group," said Amy Manubay, the coordinator of Youth Voice Collaborative. "They are really united beyond this mission. I was really psyched they [Lewis/Jennings Awards] came to the same conclusion. They served their purpose well in promoting racial equality. Kids from different backgrounds can give a better impression of what already exists."

The Voice is composed of about 14 to 18 individuals ranging in age from 13 to 18 years old. They hope to educate adults on today's youth perspective as well as provide other young people the chance to voice their opinions.

Burstein learned about the magazine when she joined the Youth Voice Collaborative four years ago and joined the magazine when it started last year.

The YVC is mostly comprised of urban youth from different schools, neighborhoods and nationalities. Nationalities include African-American, Irish, Portuguese and different religions such as Catholicism and Jewish.

"It seemed like a great opportunity to gain experience reporting

on events and to form bonds with others of different cultures which I think is really important," said Burstein. "Winchester doesn't have much diversity."

Burstein is a sophomore at New Jewish High School in Waltham. In addition to *The Voice*, she plays squash, attends student government committees and is part of her school's Harvard Model Congress, a mock congress put on each year.

She enjoys allowing young people, as well as herself, the opportunity to educate the public on the thoughts and inspirations of young people. She helped plan and train reporters in the eighth grade and high school during the on-line magazine's first six months.

"Rachel is remarkable; she is an avid reader and always hungry for more information. She is an incredible writer but I think she will approach legendary status later in life," said Manubay.

Burstein's writing is influenced by poets such as Langston Hughes and Allen Ginsberg as well as some feminist writers such as Dorothy Parker and Gloria Steinem. Although she admires their writing, she does not see their characters as career role models.

She believes young people today are affected by disagreements surrounding issues ranging from human rights abuse in China to the greenhouse effect.

"The great thing about *The Voice* is we are so much closer to help obliterate it because we can inform people about it," said Burstein.

The Voice is located at www.yvc.org.

The Sunday Sun Chronicle

December 21, 1997

The quest for HARMONY

Area students give
views on statewide
conference, and the
issues of prejudice
and diversity



Their goal is to make a difference, abolish prejudice and promote diversity. Recently, area students from Attleboro's Coelho Middle School, North Attleboro, Mansfield, and King Philip high schools united along with 11,000 other students statewide. They gathered with hopes of achieving harmony.

Officially, the meeting was called the fourth annual Team Harmony Event. Unofficially it was a meeting of the minds.

The conference Dec. 9 at Boston's FleetCenter drew much attention. First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Red Sox first baseman Mo Vaughn were among the notables who spoke. Television stations covered the event. Newspapers splashed bold headlines, "11,000 students speak in harmony."

But the students who attended wish their message to be more than a news flash. Actually, they hope the reason why they met — prejudice — will become old news.

Now almost two weeks later, the event is over. But the students who attended the conference continue to try and spread the message through their actions and their words.

Recently, The Sun Chronicle asked students who attended the conference to share their sentiments about prejudice and diversity, and their experiences with both.

We also asked students in selected area art classes to portray their visions of prejudice and diversity.

Here are their own messages — in their own images and their own words:

Our goal against hatred is to rise above. The answer to stopping hatred . . . is love.

How do we know when it's time to make a change in our society? Is it when you can't eat in a restaurant, shop in the mall, or even walk into school without having some form of prejudice shown? To me, that's when it's time to do something. That's when we should take a minute and think about all the things that occur in everyday life that cause pain to someone else. That's when we should realize that hatred and prejudice do exist everywhere and it's closer than we think.

The people in today's society are so judgmental. It's a waste of time to judge someone because of the color of their skin or their religion. What's on the outside shouldn't matter. You should look at a person for what's on the inside like their personality, or even go deeper and look solely at their heart. It's too often that people get put into categories according to things that make you feel a certain way about them. It's not fair and it's not right.

I consider myself to be one of the luckiest people in the world. Not for reasons such as wealth or power but, for reasons that deal with racism. In all my 17 years of living I've never been directly involved with racism. Nothing has ever been said towards me that was hurtful or that made me feel inferior. Unfortunately not everyone can say that. I have been with and around people who have used racial slurs or tell racial jokes. But you'll notice that I never laugh and I'm always the first to speak up for what I feel isn't right.

If asked the question, "Why does racism occur and why hasn't it stopped?" I don't think anyone could answer that correctly. There is no right or wrong answer. I believe that racism occurs for several, but unnecessary reasons. I don't think that people know enough about other people, cultures, or religions so they assume things and make things up. The people in our world seem to

Tamica Jacobs, sophomore, North Attleboro High

Prejudice is everywhere whether we choose to notice it or not. Prejudiced people always decide to make fun of someone because of something that they couldn't possibly change. They might repudiate an overweight person or a black person or an Asian or white person just for being who they are.

Those people never think about the fact that you could most likely never find someone with the same skin, hair and eye color as the next person who comes along.

Diversity hurts when it is used in the wrong situation. The world needs to let unity ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black man and white man, Jews and gentiles, Protestants and Catholics will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "United at last! United at last, thank God Almighty we are united at last."

When we can all join together and sing those words the world will be a better place.

have trouble understanding things that are different from what they are used to or something that they have never experienced. I think lots of times people don't think before they speak. They'll say whatever will make them feel better. They don't realize that what they say is hurtful until they are put in someone else's shoes and experience the pain for themselves.

In closing, prejudice, hatred, racism and every other type of cruelty to others should be stopped. I believe that we are taking the first of many steps. As a member of SCAR, I feel that we are doing our part by reaching out to others, especially the younger children. If we educate children while they're still young, then hopefully the message will sink in and stick with them. If we teach them the difference between right and wrong and love and hate, then we'll have the beginning of something wonderful. We'll be able to turn the world around and the children of today will be growing up in a much more loving and accepting society. If every thing goes well then we'll not only be getting the message across to kids. The message will spread through teenagers and adults all over the world. If everyone works together, as a team, then this dream will someday come true and we'll be able to look back and say, "we made a difference."

Stacey Philibert, junior, North Attleboro High

The reason for hatred is unknown. The amount of it seems to have grown.

Many don't realize that hatred hurts so they continue to hate and it just gets worse.

People act out against others every day. That's why we need to show them the kinder way.

No two people are the same. And not one person should be ashamed.

Teaching to love is what we need. Any one person can take the lead.

Some people could be crying inside and all they need is a loving guide.

If we take the time and teach maybe our goal will be finally reached.

Crystal Ballou, senior, North Attleboro High

In our society today, it is a sad fact that we cannot look past the color of one's skin.

It shouldn't matter what the color of your skin is.

A fourth-grade teacher once told me that her students thought people of color have different organs and blood than white people.

I think it is good that we have SCAR in North Attleboro, because we are so sheltered. Once we go out to the "real world" we will have to deal with different cultures.

Kids are scared of what they don't know. So they may say things, but not realize the consequences of what they are saying.



HERB RYAN / THE SUN CHRONICLE

'Don't get trapped'

Coelho Middle School student Danny Turcott shows his painting "Don't Get Trapped by Ignorance." It was accepted into the Anti-Defamation League's "World of Difference" calendar.

Katie Fisher,
senior,
North Attleboro
High

"Our bodies are merely houses for our souls." When we pass houses on the street, we do not assume the people who live there are good or bad based on the color of their house. Why should it be different when dealing with real people instead of houses? We want our children to grow up in a society where they are not "judged by color of their skin but by the content of their character." What kind of world could it be if men and women were treated with complete equality? How nice it would be if blacks and whites could live in the same neighborhood and get along because of their decency and not fight because of their skin tone. It is never too late for this global dream to become a global reality.

We need to instill in everybody the idea that our bodies are like houses. The type of nails and wood used to build it do not make it superior or inferior to any other house. The company or contractor that built it do not make it superior or inferior to any other house. The color of paint applied to the house does not make it superior or inferior to any other house. Houses hold and protect our furniture, and our bodies hold and protect our souls.

We need to teach our children the value of "not judging a book by its cover." They need to learn how to look past skin color and appreciate their diversity in soul — not appearance. Children need to learn how to celebrate diversity and appreciate differences.

Color is but an expression of what lies behind it. Color on a canvas expresses the emotions of the painter behind the brush. The color of a person's skin expresses the greatness of the soul that lies under the surface. Children need to understand that people are like Oreo cookies — the best part is on the inside.

Bodies are like flower pots — they may not be all the same, but

they all hold something beautiful. People-to-people relations are like flowers — they can't grow without first breaking through the surface.

Katie Andreozzi,
sophomore,
King Philip
Regional High



Katie
Andreozzi

On Dec. 9 the FleetCenter was filled with over 10,000 students from all around Massachusetts. None were there to watch a Bruins or Celtics game, but all were there for the same purpose; to become a part of "Team Harmony" and help end racism and discrimination in our society. I was so impressed with how many kids could come together to help promote racial harmony and make our nation a better place. Everyone was there for the same purpose and it gave each one of us more hope for the future. However, the real inspiration came from the words spoken to us by First Lady Hillary Clinton, who was the "Team Harmony" guest speaker. Mrs. Clinton congratulated all the students attending the conference and made reference to the fact that what we are doing to change racial attitudes and break down barriers is some of the most important work being done in America. I believe that today's youth can show an acceptance for diversity that will set an example for the next generation. For me, the more that kids can accept each other, the more hands we can hold in the diverse circle of unity and harmony.

My classmates and I found the presentation very effective and we are confident that with the continuation of "Team Harmony," our nation's racial future will be in good hands.

Jamie Williams, junior,
Mansfield High School



Jamie
Williams

Hi, my name is Jamie Williams and I am 16 years old. I am a junior at Mansfield High School. I spent most of my life in Portsmouth, N.H. New Hampshire is very different from Mansfield. I have had numerous experiences with racism and discrimination since I have lived in Mansfield.

One of my first experiences was when I moved here my freshman year, and I had only been in school in Mansfield for one month. One day I was sitting in art class and I was looking out the window commenting on how pretty and white the snow looked outside, and this person made a racial remark to me and said, "Oh, yeah, I'm pretty sure if you were to jump in the snow, there would be trails of black patches!" After he said this to me I was so mortified and shocked that my mouth dropped down to the ground. Right then and there I realized from that moment on that I was different. I was a minority. I wish that I could go back in time because if I knew now what I didn't know then, I would have taken some action. Experiencing that made me think twice about what uneducated people don't know about racism, and coming from a Portsmouth school where all different types of people associated and accepted me for who I was and not what I looked like, really is a tremendous difference from countrified Mansfield, Mass.

On Dec. 9, I went to the FleetCenter for a Team Harmony convention. This is an event that takes place once a year at the Fleet Center, and 400 schools come together for the day and take a stand against prejudice and bigotry. Team Harmony really inspired me to really take a stand against this racism problem we have today and to really let people know that words hurt more than anything. I would like to help and educate people so that they can broaden their horizons, and open their eyes and see that just because we all look different doesn't mean we are not human or are not equal on the inside, because the reality is that we all may look different on the outside but on the inside everyone looks the same, and people need to accept that!



Mansfield High School sophomore Kim Souza created this untitled Harmony artwork.

Arielle Miles, Coelho Middle School

How I Can Make This School the Best Place on Earth

Our school is a good school but we can make it a better place by respecting ourselves, others and their belongings. How can we respect ourselves? We can respect ourselves by encouraging our hopes, not our fears. Think about the good things you can do, not what you can't do so well. We can respect others by helping them when they have difficulties, but not making fun of them. People have feelings and we need to respect those feelings. When you have free time, you may want to help others who are less fortunate

than you.

How can we respect people's belongings? We can respect people's belongings by not kicking or playing "monkey in the middle" with their bags. Handle other people's things as you would want your things handled.

Do your best and be your best.

Have a wonderful holiday with your loved ones. The best to you and your family and a happy, healthy New Year.

Brian DeRosa, Coelho Middle School

Sisters and Brothers

There are some days that we
should give.

Because respect is the way we
all should live.

There are some days that we
should help others.

Because in this world, we are
all sisters and brothers.

There are some days that we
should care.

Because we together, should all
share.

We should help our families and
friends.

We should love everyone, be-
cause love never ends.

Ashley Wilk, Cindy Samson, Cindy Podesta, Coelho Middle School

Our school has made combat-
ing prejudice a focus for this
school year. As the year began we
signed a pledge to be more accept-
ing of each others' differences. All
students signed badges to stand up
against prejudice and discrimina-
tion.

There is a lot of student art-
work displayed on peace, caring
and acceptance. Mrs. Crosby's and
Ms. Dora's eighth-grade team
made a quilt about this. Posters
against bigotry and prejudice
hang throughout school.

We have had "Random Act of
Kindness" weeks since last year.
Student poems and essays are
read, sometimes during these
times. A few are attached.

Even though these activities
occur students don't always treat
others as they want to be treated.
Some students don't pay attention
to what they say.

Their hurtful words continue to
support bigotry and prejudice. We
all need to be aware of how kids
treat other kids and raise the kind
acts that occur. If one bad thing is
said to a student in a day we all
suffer. At Team Harmony celebri-

Brian Froment, Coelho Middle School

If you want to be more caring.
You should start to do more
sharing.

It doesn't take very much.
To give someone a loving touch.



HERB RYAN

Stomping out

Coelho Middle School student Jessica Rainville shows her painting,
which was accepted for the Anti-Defamation League's "World of
Difference" calendar.

ties talked about racism they expe-
rienced. It is still here today. Kind-
ness needs to be practiced every
week — every day. Being put down
for who you are needs to stop and
we can only blame ourselves if it
doesn't. We really care that it
does.

Carly Pettingill, Coelho Middle School, Attleboro

A Random Act of Kindness

A random act of kindness, is
what
you should do,

Help someone out, when they are
feeling blue.

A random act of kindness, is
what

you should do,

Helping someone finish, with
what

they are not through.

A random act of kindness, is
what

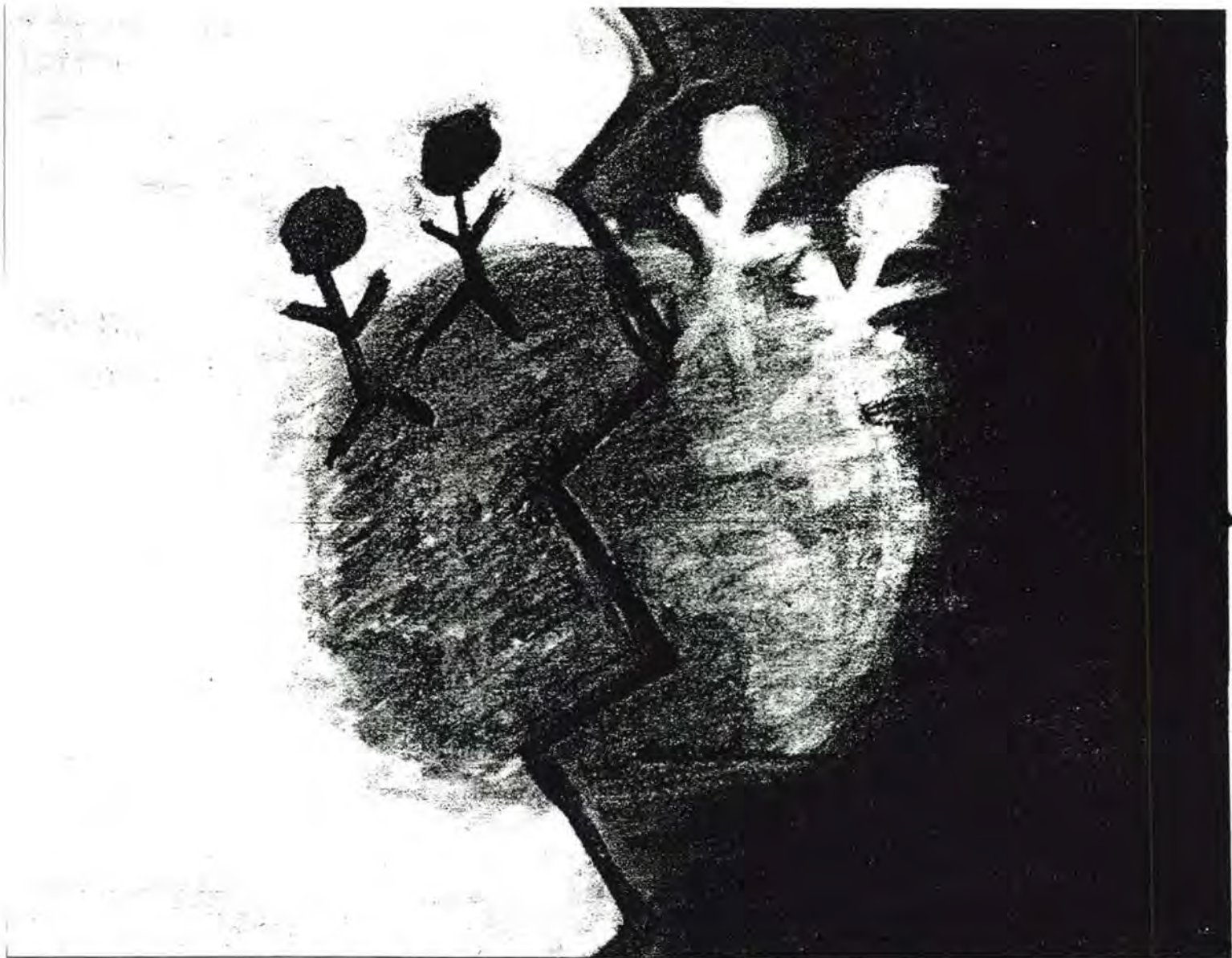
you should do,

Helping someone up, is a
friendly
act too.

A random act of kindness,
comes from

the heart,

Treating someone nice, is only a
part!



King Philip Regional High sophomore Jen Allen created this untitled work on prejudice and diversity.

The Braintree Forum

December 24, 1997

A Day of Difference

By Bill Dowd and
Michelle Keefe

On Tuesday, Dec. 9 over 600 schools and 10,000 students flooded into the Fleet Center for Team Harmony IV. Team Harmony is an event that was created to battle bigotry and discrimination. In the past, this event has been extremely successful in bringing students from all over New England together to learn about racism.

Many people of all races and cultures packed into the arena. There was an atmosphere of peace and diversity. We had gathered together to express our negative feelings and attitude toward prejudice. Many celebrities were on hand at the event to show their approval and to encourage students to continue combating bigotry.

The main speaker was undoubtedly The First Lady, Hillary Clinton. It was an honor that Team harmony IV was visited by the First Lady. She asked us all to reach out and help others realize the immorality of racism.

Other speakers included Jon Jennings, a former Celtic assistant coach who is now working in the White House; Cam Neely, a former Bruin star; Sam Gash and Ted Johnson of the New England Patriots; Sheryl Swoopes, an WNBA star; Mo Vaughn of the Boston Red Sox; and the cast of MTV's Real World Boston. The World of Difference Day impacted all the students that attended. Elizabeth O'Day, an eighth grade student at East Middle School, has at-

tended the program two years in a row. She feels, "The World of Difference Day was a great experience and has taught me a great deal about racism in the world. I thought that it was admirable that all the celebrities joined in to help teach kids about discrimination."

James O'Neil also an eight grader at East Middle School attended the event. He said, "I thought that it was educational and showed that people can accomplish their goals."

The co-adviser for East was Mrs. Kara Carney. We asked her how she felt about the event. She said, "A world of Difference Day was a huge success. I hope our students learned how important it is for our community and school to appreciate those who are different."

Team harmony IV was indeed a big success. Mayor Thomas Menino declared that Dec. 9 is officially Team Harmony Day.



CAREFUL LISTENER — First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton responds to questions posed by the young people who attended the day-long program. (Photographs by Kim White)

Students Harmonize At FleetCenter

By KIMBERLY WHITE

On December 9, 1997, Team Harmony IV rocked the FleetCenter advocating diversity and racial and religious harmony. It was a day for students from all over Massachusetts, and some Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire schools, to come together with a common goal in mind: diversity and harmony.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was the keynote speaker. Mrs. Clinton appeared on a panel with students speaking about how bigotry of some sort has affected their lives.

"I want to congratulate everyone here," commented the First Lady, in recognition of everyone who is making an effort to change the way people think about and act toward each other. "It doesn't

mean we have to like everyone," she noted on the situation, further stating that our opinions do not give people the right to treat others poorly because of their race or religious preference.

Mrs. Clinton expressed her support for Team Harmony and A World of Difference in her book, *It Takes A World*. She wrote, "An annual event in Boston called Team Harmony brings together middle and high school students and teachers together with local sports figures and business leaders to take a stand against prejudice and bigotry."

Along with the First Lady, there were many other guests who attended including various sports personalities. Mo Vaughn of the Boston Red Sox expressed his feelings on the day's topics,

stating, "We're all the same, no matter what color or where we come from." In addition to the sports figures at hand, cast members from MTV's *The Real World-Boston* made appearances. Also in attendance were the Blessed Union of Souls, who performed three of their hit singles.

Team Harmony IV Rocked The FleetCenter Advocating Diversity

The entire day overall was a huge success. All the students had a wonderful day and hope to participate again next year. Sophomore Mark Foley commented, "It was a good time, and very educational. I hope to go again next year."

The Groton Landmark

December 24, 1997

AHS students join Hilary Clinton for Team Harmony

BOSTON - 28 young students from Ayer High School set out to an adventure awaiting them at Team Harmony last Tuesday morning. As soon as they entered the Fleet Center, they could all tell that the day would unfold with laughter and uniting of students from all over New England, who each had their own culture and ethnicity.

The entire arena, lit up as First Lady Hilary Clinton was brought up on stage. Clinton sat on stage surrounded by children from different schools, who each told their experiences with bigotry, racial conflicts, and discrimination, while the First Lady told her views on the situations and how to make them better.

The Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle

December 24, 1997

Team Harmony

MONICA SCOTT
SOUND-OFF STAFF

On December 9, twenty-one students from Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School participated in the fourth annual Team Harmony conference. The program, which consisted of key note speaker First Lady Hilary Rodham Clinton, with rock groups, sports stars, politicians, and the Real World cast, was focused on teaching tolerance. With over 11,000 students from three states receiving this message, it was spread widely over New England.

The students from the Regional were primarily members of the Gay/Straight Alliance, C.A.R.E., or from Peer Educators. Jean Jones, the advisor for C.A.R.E. felt that the goal of the conference, "was to make kids more aware of discrimination and not just let it happen."

Students thought one of the most effective activities was the forum with Hilary Clinton. Peer Educator president, Jessica Meo, said, "I like how she conversed with the students through their questions." The first lady also answered questions from the audience and responded to a selection of student anecdotes about discrimination in their communities and schools. Jones also said that the stories kids heard motivated our stu-

dents to combat intolerance.

Although there was not much inter-scholastic interaction, senior Nick Quinby felt that, "it was a great way to bring many different people together and help them embrace their differences."

Junior Jeff Lafata enjoyed the recognition school groups received for what they were doing to overcome stereotypes. These high schools were awarded plaques for what they have done in their communities.

Another highlight of the day was when several sports stars gave their experiences with discrimination. Sheryl Swoops, a stellar WNBA player also answered several questions from the audience. Her response to the question, "How would you feel about playing with men in the NBA?" was, "How would the men of the NBA feel about playing the women in the WNBA." This light-hearted reply earned her the respect of many students and adults.

Although this was only the fourth Team Harmony conference, it ran extremely smoothly and all attending felt honored that Hilary Clinton was able to attend this event. Jones said that the success of an event like this was, "not to make people agree with each other, but to make people more tolerant of one another."

The Harvard Spirit

December 24, 1997

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The Holbrook Sun December 24, 1997

TEAM HARMONY IV

A group of Holbrook students attended Team Harmony IV at the Fleet Center with speaker First Lady Hillary Rodman-Clin-ton and others. Ryan Piotrowicz participated in a town meeting discussion about racism with the First Lady.

The next Jr/Sr High Parent Group meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. in Room 109.

Kathleen Mastrogiacomo has been selected to represent Holbrook Jr/Sr High School in the Toyota Community Scholars Program.

Joanna Yi has been chosen as the Holbrook High representative in the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Seminar (HOBY). HOBY is a program for sophomores to motivate and develop future leaders, preparing them for positions in their school and help them expand their talents. The mission of HOBY is to seek out, recognize and develop leadership potential commencing with high school sophomores.

The Pepperell Free Press

December 24, 1997

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The Public Spirit

December 24, 1997

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The Westwood Suburban Press
December 24, 1997

Quest for Unity

By RACHEL STODDARD
Staff Writer

The Fourth annual Team Harmony Event took place Tuesday, December 8, 1997 at the Fleet Center; many members of Unity from Westwood High who were fortunate enough to take part in this full day extravaganza felt it was well worth it. Youths from all over the state came to express their feelings about social issues such as racism and discrimination. Hillary Clinton listened to teens who shared their stories with her about problems these issues

present to teens. The day rose awareness, but its main goal was also to encourage those present to go back to their own communities and fight intolerance. Blessed Union of Souls as well as Boston's MTV's Real World were there to provide music and entertainment. As one person described, "It was fun and it was a time for people from all different backgrounds to come together and express their views. It was impressive to see how much spirit people had to stand up against racism and stop discrimination."

The Sandwich Broadside

December 25, 1997

Forestdale Student Attends Rally Against Racism

By Cindy Roy (with Christian Peterson)

Christian Peterson of Forestdale had the unique experience of participating in the recent Team Harmony IV at the FleetCenter in Boston as one of a select group of student reporters.

The Upper Cape Regional sophomore, who is studying environmental technology, was one of more than 10,000 middle and high school students representing public, private and parochial schools from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. A group of students from Upper Cape, who are involved in the school's Cultural Diversity Club, also attended this interactive rally against racism, hatred and discrimination.

"I was very surprised at the effect the people on the stage had on the audience," said Christian, explaining how he had a front row seat with the other reporters. "There were a lot of excited people screaming throughout the whole thing. And it was very surprising to see all the famous people come out to support something I had never heard of before. It was really powerful. I thought it was great."

Team Harmony is a "collaborative effort" of the Team Harmony Foundation, Anti-Defamation League of New England, Boston's professional sports teams, and community and business sponsors. It has gained national attention as a model for "inspiring and empowering high school students to deal with issues of discrimination." Team Harmony's interactive presentation, which strives to provide methods for students to learn valuable strategies for combating hatred in their school and community life, has been further honored by earning a spot on The White House's website as one of the top 10 programs in the country.

Christian, equipped with a tape recorder, brought home the proceedings of the day. He was positioned right alongside the large group of professional media people with their television and 35 mm cameras. More impressive, he said, was the appearance of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and the reaction of the audience.

"All I had ever heard about the President and the President's wife was all their scandals," he said. "I never heard anything, really, about what she did. When she was on stage, I realized she knew what she was talking about so I was a little more impressed with her. She shared a lot of personal information."



Christian Peterson and his dog, Tina.

Photo by Cindy Roy

"I wanted to bring attention to a program like this where all of you are working to understand each other better," said Mrs. Clinton, "exchanging your stories to see each other as human beings, and to make a difference in your schools and your communities. And I hope that more and more schools will do what you're doing."

The First Lady not only shared a personal story of

discrimination she experienced many years ago as a young girl at summer camp, but also served as somewhat of a sounding board for a panel of students who volunteered to share their own stories. They all joined her up on the stage.

"A lot of kids responded to her," said Christian of the First Lady. "They really liked what she was saying."

The situations presented to the First Lady had similar themes, he explained, and she addressed all of them, suggesting ways to achieve a resolution. The students also spoke of a shared frustration that when they looked for assistance from a parent or trusted adult, the problem was never resolved.

"She suggested you try to get the grown-up more involved," he continued. "But the problem really isn't something you can control. It's more something that you have to prevent. And I think that was the whole meaning of Team Harmony, to help prevent discrimination; to stop it before it even starts."

Other special guests ranged from Boston Red Sox MVP Mo Vaughn and WXKS deejay Billy Costa, to the cast of MTV's Real World Boston. All came together, presenting this unique multimedia event which combined entertainment, education, interactive dialogue and inspiration based on the concept of a team effort. There were countless speakers and even singing.

"They talked about the different ways kids are brought up," said Christian, "and they thought that parents could take a little more responsibility in teaching their kids not to hate something or somebody because they're different; to think of everyone as your brother or your sister."

Mr. Vaughn spoke about how much Team Harmony meant to him. His speech was followed by a tribute to Jackie Robinson "who paved the way for other black superstars," and he urged the young audience to "understand that, appreciate that."

"I do feel a little more sympathetic towards people who have to deal with it every day," said Christian, "and I think this is on the road to start helping all those people who have these problems. If more and more people get involved and it keeps building, then our schools will be better and students will be more tolerant of each other."

The Bourne Enterprise
December 26, 1997



TEAM HARMONY'S SPECIAL SPEAKER — First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton greets youth activist Shirley Mayo at the recent gathering at the FleetCenter, Boston.

The Malden Evening News

December 26, 1997

Immaculate Conception School participates in local events

The Immaculate Conception School recently participated in a number of local events, including a food drive, wreath decorating contest and attended the recent event to combat bigotry, Team Harmony at the Fleet Center.

Just prior to Thanksgiving, the students in all classes collected non-perishable food items for the poor. This was a project of the Student Council. Several boxes were filled and delivered to Bread of Life in Malden and Holy Family Parish in Dorchester.

On the day of the Malden Christmas Parade, the students participated in the wreath decorating contest and attained second place for the second year in a row. The wreath was decorated with many brightly colored origami peace doves. The wreath decorating was a project of the students in Grades 5-8 under the direction of Barbara Ikeda.

And recently, a group of eight graders attended the Team Harmony IV at the Fleet Center in Boston, along with 10,000 other students from 400 junior and high schools. The event was founded in 1994 to augment the Anti-Defamation League's national anti-bias program, A World of Difference. Among those speaking this year was First Lady, Hilary Rodham Clinton, as the keynote speaker.

The Hudson Sun

January 1, 1998

First Lady **Hilary Clinton** was the keynote speaker at the fourth annual Team Harmony rally held recently at the Fleet Center in Boston. Other celebrities included: **Mo Vaughn, Cam Neely, Sam Gash and Pervis Ellison** as well as father-son marathon team **Dick and Rick Hoyt**. The 27 Marlborough High School students, who were among 10,000 from throughout New England who attended, were as follows: **John Ruby, Lauren Rigney, Erin Buckley, Jerome Strange, Mary Martin, Meghan Guardiani, Joe Stupik, Jessica DeGrace, Meaghan Clark, Leanne Harrington, Heather Hicks, Nicholas Boschetto, Andrea Escobar, Christine Nawrocki, Louis Ng, Brandon Fisher, Al Knight, Bernadette Foley, Rebecca Foley, Lindsay Sharon, Amanda Aykanian, Lindsey Greulich, Julie Zomar, Chandra Willard, Nicole Kline, Bridget Navin and Michael Kiley.**

The Marlborough Enterprise
January 1, 1998

Assabet students attend
Team Harmony



Marlborough - Twenty-one students from Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School's Culture Club attended Team Harmony IV at the Fleet Center in Boston on December 9. Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke to students from throughout New England who gathered to celebrate diversity and tolerance. Pictured from left to right are: Joy Pilarte, Tania Calder, Karine Goncalves, Tracy Braga, Brenda Linares, Sonia Chaves.

The Medford Transcript and Citizen January 1, 1998

Team Harmony

On Dec. 9, Grade 8 students and their teachers were among 10,000 students from 400 Junior High and High Schools from MA, NH and RI, who attended Team Harmony IV at the Fleet Center in Boston. Team Harmony was founded in 1994 to augment the Anti-Defamation League's national anti-bias program, A World of Difference. Team Harmony seeks to combat bigotry by promoting the value of each individual by respecting diversity regardless of differences. The event is sponsored by the six major sports teams of New England, Fleet Bank and many other businesses and organizations.

First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton was the keynote speaker at the conference, inter-acting with student panelists who described their own experiences of prejudice. Mrs. Clinton also responded to questions from the audience and spoke of her own high school experiences of bias and of interaction with students of other races and cultures.

This multimedia event was a unique combination of entertainment, education and interactive dialogue. Among the presenters were Mo Vaughn, of the Boston Red Sox, former Boston Bruins player, Cam Neely; Sam Gash and Ted Johnson of the New England Patriots; Dee Brown of the Boston Celtics; Dick and Rick Hoyt, Boston Marathon winners.

Awards were presented to individuals and to five schools who have worked to combat prejudice and promote respect for all persons.

Progress in the fight against anti-Semitism

By Leonard Zakim
and Cherry Muse

Imagine a high school student being subjected to vile anti-Semitic remarks and jokes during the course of an athletic competition. Imagine the student ignoring this incident. Imagine the adult community ignoring this incident. This is a picture of the Hockomock League, prior to the winter of 1995, when a courageous group of students, school administrators and parents, working with the Anti-Defamation League, opened a league-wide dialogue about the issue of bigotry in school athletics.

Two years later, imagine the same situation. A girls junior varsity soccer player hears a disgusting anti-Semitic joke and other slurs while in goal for Sharon High School in a game against Mansfield High School. This time, much has changed.

- The student immediately reported what she heard on the field.

- The game official ("referee") followed the MIAA policy on taunting and stopped the game; he then expelled the spectators responsible for the jokes and slurs.

- The Mansfield principal, Edward Rosa, took responsibility for the actions of his students by contacting the Sharon principal, Susan Dukess.

- Working together, the two schools attempted to identify the Mansfield students responsible for the hateful behavior at the game; they went so far as to provide the Sharon High School students with Mansfield school yearbooks.

- Working with the Anti-Defamation League staff, the Mansfield High School administrative team has made confronting prejudice a school priority. Mansfield is conducting a needs assessment regarding respect for diversity, followed by assemblies and training for students.

- Sharon and Mansfield students, along with other students in the Hockomock League, have begun planning events to bring together students from different schools.

This second situation, which in fact happened this year, should make the people of Sharon and Mansfield extremely proud. Sharon should be proud that one of their high school students had the courage to speak up

and complain about the conduct of the Mansfield spectators. Mansfield should be proud that the high school administration has taken this incident so seriously. And both schools should be extremely proud that their athletic league has a game official who was willing to do the difficult and right thing and enforce MIAA standards on taunting.

While we all deplore the presence of bigotry in school athletics, no one has the power to stop haters and bigots from speaking their ugly words. What we do have is the power to say, "This is not acceptable; I will not put up with this." Two communities have made this an important statement.

We can only hope that the Mansfield students who uttered the hateful words at the JV soccer game will come forward. If they are not concerned about setting things right with Sharon, they should at least consider lifting the cloud of suspicion that lingers over all the Mansfield students who attended the JV soccer game on Oct. 27.

Massachusetts has seen an increase in hate crimes among students in the past year. The Anti-Defamation League has responded to this by developing the poster "You Can't Turn Your Face Away From Hate," which was sent to every school in Massachusetts. The message of the poster, that students need to act when they see something hateful, that they must not remain silent, was reaffirmed at the TEAM HARMONY event this month at the Fleet Center, where over 10,000 students pledged to stand up against bigotry.

Mansfield students who were at the Oct. 27 game and know the identities of the students involved should ask themselves why they are protecting these people. At the Anti-Defamation League, we take the Biblical injunction "Thou shall not stand idly by" very seriously. There is no such thing as an innocent bystander. Mansfield students who know who was responsible have an opportunity to stand up and speak out and help their school and community take another healing step away from the Hockomock League of two years ago.

Leonard Zakim is regional executive director of the Anti-Defamation League; Cherry Muse is ADL associate director and counsel.

The Beacon-Villager

January 8, 1998

Students attend Team Harmony

ACTON — Members of Acton Boxborough Regional High School's Asian Student Union, Common Ground, and ESL classes were among the 10,000 students who attended Team Harmony IV at the Fleet Center in Boston last month. Sponsored by all four of Boston's professional teams, the annual event started in 1994 as a program to fight bigotry and to promote tolerance and harmony.

Appearances were made by WNBA athlete Sheryl Swoopes, New England Patriots Sam Gash and Ted Johnson, Boston Celtic Dee Brown, Boston Red Sox Mo Vaughn and former Bruin Cam Neeley. Entertainers appearing included the cast of MTV's "The

Real World" Boston, and Blessid Union of Souls.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, who wrote about the successes of Team Harmony in her book "It Takes a Village," gave the keynote address.

Students from ABRHS attending the event with chaperones Nga Huyhn, Dianne Telicki and Lois Rosenfeld included Keya Banerjee, Julie Blazer, Amanda Bradley, Haemi Chun, Emily Curtis-Murphy, Bowei Du, James Hodge, Amy Hong, Yuan-Shan Hu, Kevin Park, Jiho Ru, Roopa Shah, Tahira Sharmeen, Erin Steiner, Anne Thompson, Svetlana Vinogradova, Melanie Weatherbee, Elizabeth Whang and Earl Yi.