

First lady makes Boca visit for Wexler

4-12-99
Boca News

By Jeff Sienke
STAFF WRITER

First lady Hillary Clinton will be in Boca Raton Tuesday.

She will be supporting the re-election efforts of Congressman Robert Wexler, D-Boca Raton, at a \$1,000 plate dinner at the Boca Raton Resort and Club. A crowd of 300 is expected to attend.

An aide of the Boca Raton representative said Wexler and Clinton will make another stop earlier in the afternoon, but it is still unclear when or where.

"They will be stopping at another public event," said Eric Johnson. "There are several different options, but the White House has not notified us yet as to which option will be the one."

In March, Wexler announced that he may run for the U.S. Senate seat vacated when Sen. Connie Mack announced plans to retire. But Wexler said he will wait until this summer to decide whether to seek the House or Senate seat.

Johnson said he believes the money raised on Tuesday could be transferred from Wexler's House campaign fund to a Senate fund if he decides to seek the higher office. If the money cannot be transferred, it would remain the Democratic campaign fund for the person who seeks the House seat.

While the focus Tuesday will be Wexler's re-election, Johnson expects Wexler to speak about current events at the dinner.

Recent national surveys show Clinton's popularity at an all-time high. However, Johnson said the first lady has always been popular in Florida.

"Mrs. Clinton is very popular in Florida," he said. "She is also very popular in Rep. Wexler's district. So this is a huge boost for the Congressman and one you don't get every day."



Clinton



Wexler

Hillary Clinton Urges Public to Support Foreign Aid

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Staff Writer

It was one of those Washington events where what was said was less arresting than who was saying it.

The message: Foreign aid is beneficial not just to the recipients but to the donors, and the United States should give more of it. The messenger: first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

She invited reporters to the Map Room of the official residence yesterday to hear her and a team of senior administration officials make a pitch for public support of U.S. assistance to developing countries and to the countries of the former Soviet Union struggling to make the transition to democracy and free markets.

The conversation, she said, was "aimed at the American public," which she said needs to be convinced that aid is a valuable tool for stabilizing troubled societies, addressing problems such as disease and overpopulation that threaten U.S. national security, and protecting the environment.

Sipping tea from an oversized CNN mug as she presided over the hour-long session, Clinton spoke more in philosophical terms than in specifics, stressing her personal commitment to maintaining and expanding the U.S. role in global affairs.

The meeting was the fourth this year in a series she said she plans to conduct on issues "that we believe to be important but don't have time to discuss at any depth." She said she will "continue to speak out" on the importance of partnerships between government and private industry, and between the United States and its allies, in addressing global prob-



HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

... she will "continue to speak out"

lems that could become security threats.

The percentage of the U.S. budget devoted to foreign assistance has declined steadily for years, and the United States ranks last among industrialized nations in the percentage of economic output devoted to aid.

But the aid budget appears to have bottomed out, and Congress seems likely to give President Clinton nearly all of the \$7.7 billion he sought for bilateral and multilateral development programs for fiscal 1998.

Hillary Clinton attributed that turnaround to a growing recognition in the Republican-controlled Congress of the value of assistance programs, many of which involve government purchase of goods manufactured in this country.

"I'm not sure as to the exact numbers," Hillary Clinton said, "but I was told by several people who are old hands in foreign affairs that a very

large proportion of the Congress as constituted after the 1994 election had never held a passport, had never traveled outside the United States.

"The numbers that were quoted to me were shockingly high," she said, without specifying them. "As people have become more familiar with what the United States has done for the past 50 years, and as people have traveled and had briefings and shaken hands with and talked with not only people representing the administration but business leaders here and abroad, there has been a real learning experience," she said.

Hillary Clinton acknowledged that she was expressing views that the administration has espoused from the beginning of her husband's first term, not offering anything new.

But she said three events made it appropriate to restate the argument yesterday: the recent celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Marshall Plan, the president's planned unveiling today of a trade and investment initiative for sub-Saharan Africa and the 500th humanitarian flight of "Operation Provide Hope," a joint State Department-Defense Department program to provide medical assistance—including entire hospitals—to the former Soviet Union.

Hillary Clinton, who visited Africa

earlier this year, said news media attention to African crises has obscured the fact that there are promising developments in many parts of the continent. Just as it would have been misleading in the 1980s for Europeans to say North America was in turmoil because of violence in Central America, she said, it is inaccurate today to depict all of Africa as mired in backwardness.

"There are bright spots in Africa," she said, just as "Cambodia and Singapore are not the same" in assessments of progress in Southeast Asia.

Asked about the apparent anomaly of promoting an increase in U.S. government aid activity while the administration is stressing the global importance of the free market, Hillary Clinton said her husband is always seeking the proper balance, "always looking for the third way, the common sense."

Much of Europe is going through similar search for the proper balance between government and private responsibility, she said, "and I think that's a very healthy position to be in. Because if you put all your eggs in the government basket, we know the results of that. If you put all your eggs in the free market basket, we know the inequalities can become severe and threaten democratic institutions."

Firs: lady set for Uster return



Hillary Clinton:
Return trip?

EXCLUSIVE

By Martina Purdy

US First Lady Hillary Clinton is poised to return to Northern Ireland next month.

While plans have not yet been finalised, sources suggest Mrs Clinton may be in Belfast around May 12, as a follow-up to her Vital Voices: Women in Democracy conference last autumn.

A government source said a visit by the First Lady was being discussed.

Monica McWilliams, of the Women's Coalition, confirmed a return visit by the First Lady was mentioned when she was in Washington for St Patrick's Day celebrations.

She said Mrs Clinton was expecting to meet Cherie Blair, wife of the Prime Minister, in London and wanted to extend her journey to Northern Ireland.

"She's coming back," said Mrs McWilliams.

"When we met with her in Washington we said it would be good for her to come back and it's been agreed

and it clearly shows the commitment she has."

A White House source said a visit was being considered.

Another US official said: "It's at a preliminary stage. It will probably be a while before it, and when, anything is finalised."

A return visit by Mrs Clinton would almost certainly draw considerable attention from the US media, amid speculation about the future of her marriage — and a possible interest in pursuing her own political career.

Meanwhile, Daphne Trimble, wife of First Minister David Trimble, is raising her profile as the UUP representative of the government's Victims Liaison Unit.

Mrs Trimble has met a delegation from Families Against Intimidation and Terror.

She said: "We had a very useful exchange of ideas and information on such matters as restorative justice, the plight of those exiled by the paramilitaries and the victims of paramilitary beatings and shootings."

EXCLUSIVE

By Noel McAdam

THE Irish government has admitted the decision not to release the IRA killers of Garda detective Jerry McCabe was a "political judgment", it was revealed today.

Minister for Justice John O'Donoghue said it was a case of avoiding putting the "public acceptability" of the Good Friday Agreement in jeopardy.

In a letter, obtained by the Belfast Telegraph, the Minister said the decision not to include the four men convicted of the killing in the

Minister admits McCabe ruling was 'political'

early release scheme was because of the need to ensure public support for the Agreement.

But the admission sparked a storm in Northern Ireland where more than half the paramilitary prisoners have now been released and the scheme is facing renewed pressure as the Stormont talks remain deadlocked.

The Alliance Party today said it was an "amazing admission" which revealed the "double-standards" of the Irish government.

Alliance president Phillip McGarry, who received the letter, said: "There is a

sense in which — the Irish government is saying 'the Agreement applies up here but not in the south — you have to bite the bullet on prisoner releases but we do not.'"

Anti-Agreement Ulster Unionist executive member David Brewster said: "It shows the Irish government are quite content to distinguish between dead RUC men and dead Garda officers."

In his letter, the Justice Minister said that during the talks which led to the Agreement, the Irish government accepted "the principle that

persons convicted of the murder of Gardai would be covered by the prisoner release arrangements of the Agreement."

"The government made it clear to the representatives of Sinn Féin that it was not prepared to include the particular case of those convicted in connection with the killing of Garda McCabe in the arrangements for prisoner releases."

"This was a political judgment made against the background of the need to ensure public support for the terms of the Agreement."

"It was not, in other words, a question of applying different standards in the case of persons convicted of the murder of Gardai generally, but a question, rather, of avoiding a situation which (as subsequent events have shown) could have put the public acceptability of the Agreement as a whole in jeopardy."

Mowlam's message

THE chances of the next generation in Northern Ireland growing up in a normal society depends on the politicians agreeing a way forward, according to the secretary of state.

Dr Mo Mowlam was speaking during a recent visit to Cranmore Integrated Primary in Belfast.

She said: "Northern Ireland has so much to offer the next generation, but it can only do so if there is a positive political environment."

Dunkin' into the Republic

DUNKIN' Donuts is to create 500 jobs in the Republic of Ireland.

Northern Ireland-based brothers Gary and Neil White, who hold the Dunkin' Donuts franchise in the Province, have been awarded the master franchise for the Republic. The pair plan to open 30 stores there with the first outlet opening in Dublin this year.

Dunkin' Donuts, a subsidiary of Allied Domecq Retailing, already operates 16 stores across the Province.

avoiding putting the public acceptability of the Good Friday Agreement in jeopardy.

The Minister conceded that the decision not to include the four men convicted of the killing in the early release scheme (agreed under the terms of the Agreement) was because of the need to ensure public support for the Agreement.

Since September 28, loyalist and republican prisoners, including 78 convicted murderers, have been released from Northern Ireland jails despite continuing paramilitary violence and the absence of any significant arms de-

commissioning. The scheme is facing renewed pressure with the peace process stalled on disarmament and the disclosure in a recent survey that many people only voted Yes in the referendum because they believed Tony Blair had pledged the releases would be accompanied by a surrender of arms by the IRA, UDA and UVF.

Mr McGarry said of the O'Donoghue letter: "There is a sense in which the Irish government is saying the Agreement applies up here but not in the south - you have to bite the bullet on prisoner releases, but we do not."

Mr Walker, MP for North Belfast, stormed: "The Irish government seems to be making a clear distinction between police victims of the IRA in Northern Ireland and in the Republic."

"It is appalling double standards. Families of police officers here have to watch as terrorists gloat and laugh as they are freed ... but not in the south."

In his letter, the Minister said that during the talks which led to the Agreement, the government accepted the principle that persons convicted of the murder of gardai would be covered by the

prisoner release arrangements of the Agreement.

"The government made it clear to Sinn Féin it was not prepared to include the case of those convicted in connection with the killing of Garda McCabe in the arrangements."

This was, he agreed a political judgment made against the background of the need to ensure public support for the terms of the Agreement.

He added: "It wasn't a question of applying different standards in the case of persons convicted of the murder of gardai generally,

but a question, rather, of avoiding a situation which (as subsequent events have shown) could have put public acceptability of the Agreement in jeopardy."

There have been 119 loyalists and 131 republicans (along with eight others) freed under the terms of the Agreement in the north. Another 75 are due to be freed in the next 16 months, with a similar number likely to be released in July 2000.

Victims groups have protested against the releases but to no avail despite citing the McCabe case.



Mitchell McLaughlin: the Good Friday Agreement has been seriously eroded.

US First Lady Hillary Clinton to visit NI next month in peace boost

by Joe Oliver

US First Lady Hillary Clinton is to return to Northern Ireland next month, it was confirmed yesterday.

Mrs Clinton is expected in Belfast on May 12 in a follow-up to her hugely successful Vital Voices: Women in Democracy conference last September.

The visit was confirmed by Women's Coalition leader Monica McWilliams who said the return visit was mentioned when she was in

Washington for the St Patrick's Day celebrations.

She said Mrs Clinton was expecting to meet British Prime Minister Tony Blair's wife Cherie in London and would then extend her journey to Northern Ireland.

"When we met with her in Washington we said it would be good for her to come back and it has been agreed," said Mrs McWilliams, a member of the new Assembly.

"It clearly shows her commitment to the project which she started in

Belfast last autumn." Mrs Clinton got a rapturous reception when her motorcade arrived in Belfast last September when she gave a polished 40-minute speech to 500 people at the Vital Voices conference.

She also boosted the peace push in the Province by saying that women on both sides of the community were sick of burying their husbands and sons.

A White House official would only say that the visit was at a preliminary stage.



Hillary Clinton: no stranger in Belfast

Labour Party chief Quinn tells IRA decommissioning is not surrender

Republicans have much to gain from making a gesture on ... the executive and other ...

long-running dispute can continue to hold the men without charge until today ... another development ...

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She doesn't bake many cookies, but first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has had plenty of practice playing hostess at the White House, such as in February, when she and President Clinton hosted Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings and his wife, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, for a state dinner. So now Mrs. Clinton is writing her third book about entertaining.

An entertaining idea

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is writing another book, this time detailing how she and President Clinton entertain guests at the White House.

The volume, *An Invitation to the White House*, will be published by Simon & Schuster in the fall.

Mrs. Clinton will discuss "the challenges and pleasures" of White House entertaining and showcase more than 20 events, from annual receptions, state dinners, private parties and Christmas gatherings. She'll work with two researchers and a senior editor.

The first lady's other books are *It Takes a Village*, about rearing children, and *Dear Socks, Dear Buddy: Kids' Letters to the First Pets*, about the Clintons' cat and dog.

As before, Mrs. Clinton will donate the proceeds of the new book to charity.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

HOT TIP? QUIRKY STORY? LIVELY TALE?

Call Carrie Rengers at 378-3892 or e-mail her at: carrie_rengers@adg.ardemgaz.com



AP Photo
First lady Hillary Clinton announced a trails enhancement program in Central Park yesterday.

Hillary's In NY State Of Mind

Reveals why Senate run appeals to her

By William Douglas
Washington Bureau

FIRST LADY Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday carefully balanced affairs of state with state politics, expressing her desire to visit refugees in Albania and Macedonia and professing her love for New York as she considers a possible run for the U.S. Senate.

During the first day of a campaign-style swing through New York, Clinton at turns declared "I love New York" moments after taking up international affairs at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, where she met with the heads of more than a dozen nonprofit foundations that are working to help refugees fleeing from Kosovo.

Speaking with reporters afterward, Clinton said she would like to go to Macedonia and Albania "as soon as I'm given the green light to go."

"I think it's very important for me to go eventually, but I want to go when my going does not interfere with the [relief] work and in any way displace resources from the important emergency needs that our people on the ground need to meet," she said.

When questions turned to her potential bid to fill the seat being vacated by retiring Democratic Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) next year, Clinton smiled and tried to demur.

"I'm still considering and exploring and very interested in doing so, but right now I'm focused on the situation in Kosovo, which I think needs the attention and concern of all of us, and I intend to be deeply involved in that," Clinton said.

But as reporters continued to press her on the Senate, the first lady - for the first time publicly - revealed some of the reasons why she would be interested in being an elected official from New York.

"A lot of the issues that I think will continue to be important issues to New Yorkers and Americans in the next century [are] ones that I've worked on for many years," she said.

"New York is truly a microcosm of America," Clinton

said. "Everything from our most dynamic cities to rural areas that produce crops."

The first lady turns her attention to Long Island today. She visits the Village Elementary School in Syosset then travels to Hofstra University, where she will deliver a speech on health care.

After the address, Clinton will receive an award for her work on health issues from the Long Island-based law firm of Meyer, Suozzi, English and Klein where Harold Ickes - the former White House deputy chief of staff who is helping Clinton in her Senate deliberations - is a partner.

The first lady also will address the Long Island Women's agenda, a nonprofit, nonpartisan group, before heading to New York University Law School in Manhattan, where she will present an award to South African Bishop Desmond Tutu. She ends the day at the United Jewish Appeal-Federation dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

Clinton insisted yesterday that her trip is not a test of the political waters for a possible Senate run.

But nearly everywhere she went, the talk of a Hillary Clinton 2000 Senate race was inescapable. At a Central Park event highlighting efforts to link hiking trails and create new trails nationwide, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Manhattan) said she hopes Clinton "hits a different kind of trail right here in New York State."

The first lady arrived in New York as a new poll released yesterday by Marist College's Institute for Public Opinion revealed declining support among voters for a Clinton Senate campaign.

Of the 512 registered voters surveyed, 52 percent said Clinton should not run for the Senate. That's up from 37 percent in Marist's February poll. The margin of error is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

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NEW YORK (AP) - Hillary Rodham Clinton for the first time explained why she's considering running for Senate in a state where she has never lived. But she refused to commit herself to becoming a candidate.

"I love New York to start with - I always have," she said Monday as she jam-packed eight events around Manhattan into a 14-hour day. "I am very interested in a lot of the issues I think will continue to be important for New York and America into the next century. New York is truly a microcosm of America."

She said she's always been excited by the diversity of New York, from its big cities to what she described as "rural areas that provide some of the crops you might be surprised are actually grown right here."

As for her potential candidacy for the Senate seat being vacated next year by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, she would say only: "I'm obviously still considering and exploring and am very interested."

Mrs. Clinton won't decide on a Senate run before July, said her adviser Harold Ickes.

Today Mrs. Clinton has three events on Long Island - an elementary school visit in Syosset, a speech on health care at Hofstra University and a Long Island Women's Agenda luncheon in Woodbury - followed by appearances at New York University Law School and at a United Jewish Appeal fund-raiser.

She returns to Washington on Wednesday but comes back to New York on Thursday with stops in Niagara Falls and again on Long Island.

Her itinerary is considered part of her work as first lady and is being paid for by U.S. taxpayers.

"This is not an exploratory trip," she said. "This is a trip filled with events and occasions, some of which I agreed to do months ago."

A new poll out Monday from Marist College's Institute for Public Opinion indicates that New Yorkers may be cooling to her. The telephone poll of 512 registered voters

showed her and the likely Republican candidate, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, in a dead heat. Half of those polled said Mrs. Clinton should not run.

In a poll just two months ago, Mrs. Clinton led Giuliani, 49 percent to 38 percent. Each poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

"No one said it was going to be a cakewalk," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., who attended an event with Mrs. Clinton on Monday in Central Park. "This is going to be a tough, tough race, but I think as people get to know her, she'll do better and better."

The park event highlighted an effort to link hiking trails around the country. Mrs. Clinton was introduced to the audience by U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-Manhattan, who said: "I want to wish her all the best as she hits a different kind of trail right here in New York state."

Later, at an event honoring NBC "Today" host Katie Couric, Ms. Couric thanked Mrs. Clinton for "taking time out from apartment hunting" in New York to appear.

At the same affair, humorist Nora Ephron alluded to New York's fashion obsession with the color black and promised Mrs. Clinton: "You can run, you can live here, and you will never have to wear a turquoise jacket again."

Mrs. Clinton started the day meeting with foundations about humanitarian aid for the Kosovar refugees. She said she intends to visit Albania and Macedonia.

She also appeared at events hosted by the Ukrainian Institute, the Jewish Child Care Association and Teachers College, where she gave a speech supporting public education and criticizing the use of taxpayer dollars to subsidize private school tuitions.

She ended the day at a fund-raiser for Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., who supported President Clinton during the impeachment.

"He ... defended with great vigor, intelligence and energy the Constitution when it was in the view of many Americans being misused during the battles in the Congress, the last Congress, that took place in the Judiciary (Committee) and on the floor of the House," she said.

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City Beat

Hil Tells Why She's Eying a Run for Senate

By FRANK LOMBARDI, OWEN MORITZ and JOEL SIEGEL
Daily News Staff Writers

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton hopscoched across the city yesterday on a campaign-like schedule packed with appearances, and spoke at length for the first time on why she's seriously flirting with running for Senate.

"Well, I love New York to start with; I always have," she said, when asked why she might seek the seat of retiring Democrat Daniel Moynihan.

She even used the collective pronoun "we" when talking about New Yorkers, adding, "I have always been very excited by the dynamism of the people here, and the real cutting-edge approach to a lot of what I consider to be important challenges that we face, and that's a real attraction."



Monsivais AP
**First Lady Hillary
Rodham Clinton**

As a brief news conference ended, a reporter asked when Clinton would decide on whether to run. She smiled, but did not answer.

With her breakneck schedule of eight appearances yesterday and five today, the visit had the style of a campaign swing, if not the substance.

Aides couldn't recall when she last crammed so many stops in one place, a pace partly designed to give her the feel of a campaign, even if the trip was largely taxpayer-funded.

"I guess any time we're up here, it's part of the [exploratory] process," said Marsha Berry, her press secretary. "She's thinking about this. I don't know when you turn it off and turn it on."

But most of yesterday's events involved the official side of First Ladydom, not the political, although Clinton appeared at various points before groups of teachers, Jews and Ukrainian-Americans.

At the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, after brainstorming with officials from blue-chip foundations on helping the Kosovar refugees, Clinton said she will visit refugees in Macedonia and Albania "as soon as I'm given the green light."

Hillary-for-Senate speculation flared at other stops, even as a new Marist Poll found that a majority of New Yorkers, 52.3%, say Clinton should not run for Moynihan's seat, up from 37% in February.

At the Matrix Awards for women in communications, "Today" show co-host Katie Couric thanked Clinton for taking "time out from apartment hunting here in New York to present this award."

At the Matrix Awards, Clinton exchanged handshakes and smiles with Donna Hanover, wife of Mayor Giuliani, who could be the Republicans' Senate nominee.

For his part, Giuliani signaled once again that he would raise Clinton's out-of-state residency if she runs.

"The whole carpetbagger issue . . . from my political ear . . . is a very big issue outside the City of New York," the mayor said.

[See our special on the Senate race](#)

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BC-HILLARY-PRO:KRT op-ed:R

Hillary can make it there! New Yorkers have always embraced outsiders as long as they reflect their political views

(EDITORS: The writer is addressing the question, ``Should Hillary Clinton run for the Senate while still in the White House?'')

(EDITORS: We suggest pairing this article with HILLARY-CON.)

(AT-RISK) (PHOTO)

(BIO of Mr. Kusnet at end)

By David Kusnet

(KRT)

WASHINGTON Too tough. A carpetbagger. Never held elective office. And trading in on a famous name.

Thirty-five years ago, these charges were hurled at Robert F. Kennedy's candidacy for the U.S. Senate from New York. Now, almost identical attacks are being made against Hillary Rodham Clinton. But, just like RFK, Mrs. Clinton could be a winning candidate and a great senator.

Calling Mrs. Clinton a stranger to New York misses the point. The Empire State is so diverse and its needs so demanding that the best way for its senators to represent their constituents is to speak out effectively on national and even international issues.

And the issues on which Mrs. Clinton has made her name improving public schools, expanding health care coverage and helping welfare recipients find jobs that pay a living wage just happen to be among the issues of greatest concern to New Yorkers.

Even her international priority insisting that ``women's rights are human rights'' has a special appeal to New Yorkers. It scores with feminists who value her high-profile advocacy, ethnics concerned with human rights abuses in their home countries, and blue-collar folks fearful of competition from economies where workers have no rights and slow wages.

When it comes to selecting senators, New Yorkers have more often turned to potential national figures, even if they were born elsewhere, than to more parochial politicians, who wouldn't play well on the national stage.

Had he survived the turbulence of 1968 but not become president, few doubt that Robert Kennedy could still be serving as senator.

Indeed, his seat was soon taken by a Connecticut Republican, James Buckley, whose supporters must have hoped he'd be as articulate a conservative spokesman as his brother, Bill.

And Buckley, in turn, was defeated by Daniel Patrick Moynihan a former assistant Labor Secretary, envoy to India, and U.N. Ambassador, who's Hells Kitchen boyhood had become a distant memory.

Far from outsiders, it's New York City mayors who have a hard time making it to the U.S. Senate.

New York voters rejected Robert F. Wagner Jr., whose father had been labor's champion in the U.S. Senate, and John V. Lindsay, who had been lionized as the leading voice for urban America.

That's because the rest of New York fears being shortchanged in favor of the city, and senators need different talents from executives. And no one is more the executive and less the legislator than New York City's curt, crusty mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, who figures to be Mrs. Clinton's Republican opponent.

But, if Rudy suffers from being identified with New York City, Hillary should not let herself be branded as a Manhattan liberal. Just as voters statewide are scared of New York City, voters in the city's ``outer boroughs'' resent Manhattan, and their aversion is shared by suburbanites and upstaters as well.

Indeed, the antagonism of Manhattan's affluent liberals endeared Robert Kennedy to his core constituencies of blue-collar, white ethnics and racial minorities.

Mrs. Clinton should take a leaf from Kennedy's book before Giuliani an RFK backer in his youth does.

In addition to reaching out well beyond Manhattan liberals, as she's already doing, she should embrace RFK's trademark blend of economic populism, racial healing and tolerant social conservatism. It's the politics President Clinton has espoused at his best moments, and it will be a winning formula for the first lady as well.

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ABOUT DAVID KUSNET

David Kusnet was chief speechwriter for President Clinton during the 1992 campaign and the first two years of the administration. He is the author of ``Speaking American: How the Democrats Can Win in the Nineties'' and a visiting fellow at the Economic Policy Institute. Readers may write him at the EPI, 1660 L Street NW, Suite 1200, Washington, D.C. 20036, or e-mail him at Dkusnet(at)epi.net.

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PHOTO of Mr. Kusnet available from KRT Photo Service.

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BC-HILLARY-CON:KRT op-ed:R

No more kid gloves: Hillary's Senate bid won't survive New York's brass-knuckles politics

(EDITORS: The writer is addressing the question, ``Should Hillary Clinton run for the Senate while still in the White House?'')

(EDITORS: We suggest pairing this article with HILLARY-PRO.)

(PHOTO) (AT-RISK)

(BIO of Ms. Ridenour at end)

By Amy Ridenour

(KRT)

WASHINGTON I hope Hillary Clinton doesn't run for Senate in New York. The Clinton Age of Scandal should end.

While Mrs. Clinton was not responsible for the president's misbehavior with Monica Lewinsky although she was dishonest when blaming the affair on a ``vast right-wing conspiracy'' her own hands are not clean.

Her law firm billing records vanished while under subpoena and then miraculously reappeared when convenient.

She was implicated in Travelgate's shameful attempt to frame a government employee for a crime he didn't commit.

She was involved in Filegate, when hundreds of FBI files on private citizens were pored over by Clinton operatives back in the Nixon era, Charles Colson went to jail for mishandling just one FBI file.

Her health care operation was fined for brazenly violating open government laws.

And Mrs. Clinton has never adequately explained how she managed to turn a 10,000 percent annual profit on cattle futures.

Some Democrats may think it is more important to win a Senate seat than to elect a candidate with good character. That's not only untrue, but a false choice.

If Mrs. Clinton does not run, Rep. Nita Lowey is expected to do so. Lowey probably has as much chance to win as Hillary Clinton does, if not more.

Though a loyal Democrat, Lowey is more moderate than Mrs. Clinton on welfare, crime and tax rates, and is more likely to appeal to swing voters. Lowey isn't known for ethical failings, and she's very good on TV. Lowey represents the New York suburbs, a critical swing area, while Mrs. Clinton has no geographical constituency. Republicans would be unified against Mrs. Clinton.

And Lowey has not announced support for Palestinian statehood, as has Mrs. Clinton, who recently reaffirmed her controversial position during a visit to Morocco.

Some say that Mrs. Clinton is a stronger candidate than Lowey because early polls showed Mrs. Clinton beating possible GOP nominee Mayor Rudy Guiliani by a 9-point margin. But polls now show a dead heat.

Famous frontrunners fall fast. Ask Geraldine Ferraro, who ran for Senate with a double-digit lead, yet lost the primary. Ed Koch started the 1982 New York gubernatorial race with a 17-point advantage and also lost.

Mrs. Clinton is also thought to be an effective candidate because a strong woman is said to appeal to women voters. Lowey trumps Mrs. Clinton here, as Lowey is not only a woman, but one who rose to prominence on her own merits.

In a race against Guiliani, Lowey would also benefit from the fact that New York Democrats enjoy a 3-2 registration edge over Republicans statewide.

Ed Koch has said a Clinton-Guiliani race would be ``so mean it would shock the country.'' He's probably right. The race would be a referendum on Mrs. Clinton's character and her politics, which are to the left of her husband's.

Mrs. Clinton couldn't respond to critics by acting above the fray and skipping press conferences, as she has been able to for more than six years as first lady.

Those who promote Mrs. Clinton as the best the Democratic Party has to offer New York are saying either that ethics don't matter or there aren't any

Democrats more ethical than Hillary Clinton is. Both statements are false.

Hillary Clinton isn't the first first lady to be encouraged to run for the Senate. Jackie Kennedy and Eleanor Roosevelt were, too. They chose not to trade their influence as former first ladies for the rough-and-tumble of electoral politics.

It's my guess that Mrs. Clinton eventually will make the same choice. Good!

X X X

ABOUT AMY RIDENOUR

Amy Ridenour is president of the National Center for Public Policy Research, a nonprofit, nonpartisan think-tank near Capitol Hill. Readers may write to her at NCPPR, 777 North Capitol NE, Suite 803, Washington, D.C. 20002 or e-mail her at aridenour(at)nationalcenter.org.

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PHOTO of Ms. Ridenour available from KRT Photo Service.

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**** filed by:KR-F(--) on 04/08/99 at 06:00EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 04/08/99 at 10:43EST ****

PM-NY--Mrs. Clinton New York,0380

Schenectady County Dems back Hillary Clinton for Senate

Eds: Moving on news and political circuits

By MARC HUMBERT= AP Political Writer=

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. (AP) She is not yet in the race, but Hillary Rodham Clinton has already been endorsed by Democratic leaders in Schenectady County for next year's U.S. Senate race, the party's local leader said today.

"Everybody seems to be pretty excited about trying to get Hillary into the race," Christopher Gardner, the party's county chairman, said.

Gardner said the county party's 30-member executive committee voted unanimously Wednesday night to back a Senate run by Mrs. Clinton. The party leader said the full county committee was expected to vote on the endorsement at its next meeting in June.

Gardner said he thought the executive committee's action was the first such endorsement in the state. He said the move demonstrated the first lady had strength among Democrats in traditionally more conservative upstate New York.

"I think she has very, very strong support upstate among Democratic committees," Gardner said.

"On issues that matter to working New Yorkers, Hillary Clinton would be a strong advocate," he added, specifically citing the first lady's attempts to overhaul the nation's health care system.

Mrs. Clinton is eyeing the Senate seat being vacated next year by Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan. On the Republican side, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is considering running for the Senate seat.

The potential matchup, Gardner said, was one reason New York Democrats should get behind Mrs. Clinton early.

"We think Hillary Clinton is a winner and to defeat somebody like Rudy Giuliani is going to require an extraordinarily strong candidate who can raise a lot of money and who has high name recognition," the Schenectady party leader said in an interview this morning with The Associated Press.

Gardner said he would be sending a letter to Mrs. Clinton informing her of the endorsement and "encouraging her to get into the race."

"This will be just another indication to her, we hope, that will put her over the edge and convince her to run for the U.S. Senate," Gardner told The Daily Gazette of Schenectady which first reported the endorsement in today's editions.

**** filed by:APE-(NY) on 04/08/99 at 10:38EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 04/08/99 at 10:44EST ****

BC-MN--Millennial Vikings,270

First lady announces millennium project on Vikings

AP Photo WX107

Eds: Also moving nationally

By CARL HARTMAN= Associated Press Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton announced a millennium museum exhibit Thursday on the Vikings, who may have been not only the first Europeans to see America, but also the first to create parliamentary government more than 1,000 years ago.

The exhibit called ``Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga,'' will open in Washington at the National Museum of Natural History on April 29, 2000, and make a two-year tour of the continent, including New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Chicago and Ottawa.

``Within Viking society, women had a good deal of freedom to engage in trade and to become active participants in the political lives of their communities,'' Mrs. Clinton said.

Iceland, the Viking explorers' homeland, set up a parliament called the Althing in the year 930. The Althing still makes Iceland's laws.

Mrs. Clinton also spoke of the Vikings' wide-ranging voyages that brought them not only to North America ``a land where the frost never came, and the grass hardly withered,'' said an early saga but also to what are now Turkey and Afghanistan.

``If you've ever visited Martha's Vineyard, you can see remnants of Viking exploration and settlement,'' said Mrs. Clinton, who has vacationed on that Massachusetts island with President Clinton.

Noting that the Vikings transmitted experiences and culture from one part of the world to the other, Mrs. Clinton said, ``In a way it (the Viking ship) was the Internet of the year 1000.''

**** filed by:APW-(MN) on 04/08/99 at 22:15EST ****
**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 04/09/99 at 08:14EST ****

AM-LA--Clinton's Visit, La Bjt, SHV, 550
Air Force base prepares for president's visit
cj4889, 4890Y

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. (AP) Preparations for President Bill Clinton's visit Monday to Barksdale Air Force Base continued with crews putting the finishing touches in and around Hoban Hall.

Clinton is expected to greet airmen who participated in the ongoing NATO mission in Kosovo and will visit with families who lost loved ones in the April 3 tornado.

The president was to arrive Monday morning aboard Air Force One along with Gen. Hugh Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Defense Secretary William Cohen and U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La.

During his brief stay, Clinton also is scheduled to address all Barksdale personnel before leaving around midday to return to Washington, D.C.

"We have a lot of people working throughout the weekend trying to prepare and get ready," said Sgt. Dan Elkins, a base spokesman. "Obviously, we are very happy that he's coming here and we would like to present our best image for him."

To make the Air Force base more attractive, fresh coats of paint and new shrubs were added Saturday. Secret Service agents oversaw the installation of additional telephone lines inside Hoban Hall to be used by the media and security personnel while carpenters completed minor touchups.

Outside Hoban Hall a remodeled hangar for large gatherings at Barksdale airmen hurriedly laid carpet on a platform from which Clinton will address the Barksdale community. In case of inclement weather, Clinton's speech will be moved inside, Elkins said.

"Some of the grounds improvements had already been planned for the April 25th Holiday in Dixie Air Show. Those have been accelerated a little bit for this visit," he said.

Also preparing for Clinton's arrival is 9-year-old Alex McCullough, who will sing the national anthem during the event.

"It's the greatest opportunity of my life," she said on Friday, the day she got the news.

Alex, who has performed for basketball and baseball teams and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, had received several letters from the White House indicating they would put her on the itinerary if an event came up, said her father, Tom McCullough.

"The White House approved this thing, and it floored us when they called," he said.

Alex's parents, brother and grandfathers have tickets for the event, which is closed to the public.

The president's security detail has contacted Bossier City Police and Louisiana State Police. But nobody's saying what role those agencies will play or how much manpower will be dedicated to Clinton's visit.

"It's a long, long, long tradition, a policy set in as hard a stone as you can imagine" that nobody talks about security precautions, said local U.S. Secret Service Special Agent Ron Lewis.

Lewis would not comment on what would be done if protesters show up outside Barksdale's gates.

Technical Sgt. Howard Smith, another base spokesman, had this diplomatic reply: "When people come and they express their opinions outside our gates, that is their right, supported by the Constitution of the United States."

Bossier City police spokesman Mike Halphen said he doesn't expect any problems with protesters who have the right to demonstrate as long as it's a lawful, peaceful assembly that doesn't block access to base operations, such as the commissary and base exchange.

AM-Commander Clinton, 2nd Ld-Writethru, a0541,810

Kosovo draws attention to Clinton as commander in chief

Eds: SUBS 15th graf, After canceling ..., to UPDATE with golf game Saturday

By KEVIN GALVIN= Associated Press Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) When military commanders wanted to bomb the Interior Ministry in Belgrade, some of President Clinton's advisers resisted: a hospital stood just 200 yards from the target.

There was fear that civilians might be hit. Some asked whether the ministry was an important enough target. But the discussion stopped when Clinton spoke.

His judgment: Benefits outweighed the potential cost. The strike was ordered, and NATO war planes reduced the ministry buildings to rubble on April 3.

Clinton's lack of military service and early clashes with the Pentagon have heightened scrutiny of his performance as commander in chief over the six years of his presidency.

As one of the most serious foreign policy challenges of his presidency unfolds, Clinton remains a politician who prefers to lead by consensus. But aides say experience has made him more comfortable with the military responsibilities of office.

Clinton recognized the question himself in the days leading up to the NATO airstrikes against the forces of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

"Now I think if the American people don't know anything else about me, they know that I don't like to use military force, and I do everything I can to avoid it," Clinton said in a speech to a union audience. "But if we have to do it, then that's part of the job, and I will do it."

Clinton has been conferring daily with his national security team and offering almost daily public pronouncements on the stakes in the Balkans.

Like Clinton, neither Secretary of State Madeleine Albright nor Defense Secretary William Cohen has military experience.

But Gen. Hugh Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other service chiefs are active participants in the meetings.

When NATO's generals asked for Apache attack helicopters and more stealth fighters, Clinton sent them. His frequent conversations with the leaders of other NATO countries, aides say, have helped solidify the alliance's commitment to the air war.

He has not overlooked the men and women in uniform who are carrying out NATO's mission. Clinton visited sailors and airmen and their families at Norfolk Naval Air Base in Virginia and he is traveling Monday to rally military personnel at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, from which B-52s take off for targets in Kosovo.

"He's the one in all the meetings that I've seen who's the most forceful and determined," NSC spokesman David Leavy said. "The strength of his conviction has been the common element, both internally and externally, in making a case for why what we're doing is the right thing."

Even as Clinton sells the American people on intervening in Kosovo, he has tried to stick to his normal schedule. Aides say the crisis has not halted work on domestic issues, although one said, "Kosovo has clearly been the first priority."

After canceling a fund-raising trip at the outset of the NATO campaign, Clinton has spent weekends at Camp David and played golf Saturday for the second time since the hostilities began.

Last week he endorsed a hate crimes bill, held a roundtable discussion about equal pay and traveled to Philadelphia to promote the "patients' bill of rights."

The administration has faced muted criticism of the Kosovo operation, despite the spreading humanitarian crisis caused by accelerated violence of Serb forces in Kosovo. That dynamic may change when Congress returns from recess Monday.

Clinton administration officials are wary of how the Republican-led

Congress will respond to the Kosovo operation and how that might affect public opinion.

There already has been some congressional second-guessing about the airstrikes, although opposition is not unified. Some lawmakers see the involvement of ground troops as ultimately unavoidable, but others question American involvement.

Clinton has invited the leaders of the House and Senate to the White House on Monday for a report on the campaign to check the efforts by Milosevic to clear Kosovo of its ethnic Albanian majority. A larger group of lawmakers is expected on Tuesday.

In addition to hearing from Clinton and members of his national security team, members will get detailed briefing books updating them on NATO activity and efforts to ease the spreading humanitarian crisis in the Balkans.

White House spokesman Jake Siewert said the administration hoped to press ``what America's national interests are in the conflict and why we needed to act'' as well as explain ``what the stakes are, why we've acted to preserve peace and punish atrocities.''

**** filed by:APE(--) on 04/10/99 at 15:53EST ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 04/11/99 at 15:27EST ****

bc-loop-airforce

(wap) (ATTN: National editors)

Los Alamos Fallout (Washn)

By Al Kamen= (c) 1999, The Washington Post=

WASHINGTON The Air Force is duly going about its business, dropping bombs on Yugoslavia, but it's looking increasingly unlikely that Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen 's pick for Air Force secretary, Charles B. Curtis , will be nominated any time soon.

Curtis, a highly regarded Washington lawyer, Boston University law school chum of Cohen's and former energy deputy secretary, was good to go, as they say in the military, until this nasty little business of alleged Chinese spying at the Department of Energy's Los Alamos nuclear facility came up.

Word was the Senate was going to use any nomination as a backdrop to blast the administration for lax security and such, even though the nuclear secrets appear to have first been purloined during the Reagan administration.

So the White House backed away. Acting Secretary F. Whitten Peters, the Air Force folks' favorite, would have been considered the leading candidate but for a little memo he wrote last year, which leaked to Congress, in which he implied falsely, the White House insists that politics somehow was being played on the issue of base closures.

The memo infuriated White House Chief of Staff John D. Podesta, and that appeared to doom any move up for Peters.

The buzz now is that Podesta, feeling the spirit of the Easter season, is dropping his objection to Peters, which could lead to his nomination and likely prompt confirmation, shortly after the Senate comes back from recess.

It probably won't hurt things that Peters on Thursday was invited to accompany President Clinton to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana on Monday to show support for the troops, Barksdale being the home of the B-52s flying to the Yugoslavian theater.

**** filed by:LAWP(--) on 04/10/99 at 02:42EST ****

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**** filed by:LAWP(--) on 04/10/99 at 02:42EST ****

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AM-OH--Special Education, Ohio Bjt,440

Ohio wonders where special education fits into new federal spending

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) President Clinton's proposed 2000 budget doesn't allocate enough federal funds to meet the needs of special education in Ohio, officials said.

``When expectations are put in place and we don't come (close) to meeting them, it makes it tough all over,'' John Herner, director of the Ohio Department of Education's division of special education, told The Columbus Dispatch for a story Sunday.

``Local schools are really struggling. The laws come from elsewhere but the bill goes to the local schools.''

Ohio schools spend at least \$1.6 billion per year on special education to help about 230,000 handicapped and disabled students.

State dollars account for about \$750 million per year, and local schools are estimated to spend at least as much, although precise figures for total district spending were not available, the newspaper said.

The federal government supplied \$120 million this year toward those programs, according to state education officials.

Clinton's budget offers a 0.1-percent hike in grants to states for handicapped and disabled public-school students. One lawmaker says it's not enough.

``School districts just can't exist with this huge ball and chain around their ankle,'' said U.S. Rep. Deborah Pryce, a Republican from Columbus.

``It's just typical of good intentions kind of gone awry.''

The 1975 Individuals with Disabilities Act mandated that public schools offer free and appropriate education to disabled students. Meeting the act's funding goal would cost the federal government an additional \$10.9 billion a year, the U.S. Department of Education said.

Pryce, the seventh-ranking House GOP leader charged with coordinating education legislation, estimates that Ohio is owed about \$384 million in federal special-education funding.

Paul Marshall, legislative liaison for the Ohio Department of Education, said many state and local educators would prefer a long-term commitment to special-education funding instead of a quick infusion of federal cash for hiring teachers that might evaporate in a few years.

Republicans said it's wrong for the federal government to take on new education responsibilities such as hiring teachers before it comes close to meeting a decades-old mandate for special education.

Republicans are trying to give states the ability to shift spending of other federal education money to special education.

In the Senate version of that bill, an amendment would allow states to move \$1.2 billion Clinton won last year for hiring teachers toward special education.

**** filed by:APW-(OH) on 04/11/99 at 13:40EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 04/11/99 at 18:45EST ****

BC-MI--Orthodox Easter, Mich Bjt,600

Serbian church celebrates Orthodox Easter, critical of Clinton

AP Photos XDT101-102

stf-jsdng

By JIM SUHR= Associated Press Writer=

DETROIT (AP) As warplanes pounded Serb targets an ocean away in Yugoslavia, a minister turned his Orthodox Easter sermon political Sunday with requests for protests over President Clinton's planned visit this week.

"President Clinton is coming here next Friday, and I think we all know what role he plays," the Rev. Radomir Obsenica told the St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral congregation in translating remarks made earlier in Serbian by the Rev. Zivan Urosev.

Faulting Clinton for "the suffering of our families in Yugoslavia," Obsenica urged worshippers to show Clinton "we don't like his policies" by protesting Friday in Dearborn during the president's stop in metropolitan Detroit.

"If we all come en masse, he may get the message. He may not, but we have to do this," Obsenica said. His first mention of Clinton drew a smattering of boos.

For some of the faithful at St. Lazarus, the continuing airstrikes Sunday cast a pall over the day that is the holiest on the calendar for millions of Orthodox Christians worldwide.

"Like everyone else, I'd like to see the bombarding stop and for everyone to figure out other ways in solving this," Dan Dimovski, 56, of Macomb County's Clinton Township said before Sunday's service.

"In today's age, the human being technologically has advanced so far that he has lost a love for each other. Most of this is what's going on in Yugoslavia, especially today."

He accused NATO of needlessly "destroying human beings," endangering his Belgrade relatives. He also has relatives who live near Kosovo's border with Macedonia.

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic had called for a holiday cease-fire in his campaign to crush Kosovo rebels. Western leaders dismissed the gesture as a sham, and NATO pressed ahead with airstrikes Sunday.

The Serbian Orthodox Church is part of the Orthodox Christian Church, a fellowship of 15 self-governing churches with an estimated 1.5 million members in the United States. The Orthodox Church of the East and the Roman Catholic Church split in the Great Schism in the year 1054.

The two groups today share basic tenets, but the Orthodox do not follow the pope. Eastern churches follow the Julian calendar, while Western ones use the Gregorian, explaining their differing dates for observances of Jesus Christ's resurrection.

By appearance, St. Lazarus' two-hour Easter service was traditional. Several worshippers toted Easter baskets, some stocked with ornately decorated eggs. Many girls wore Easter bonnets, bows and white dresses. In a foyer accommodating some of the overflow crowd, worshippers lit candles in silent prayer.

But there were signs of divide beyond the display of an American flag on one side of the altar, a Serbian one on the other.

"Even though I came from there, I'm an American citizen," Dimovski said. "If anyone attacks America, I'll support America. But I'm not for attacking sovereign countries."

He defended Milosevic as a protector of his land, "the same as America would defend its under attack."

Another worshiper disagreed, describing Milosevic as dictator who should step or be forced aside through peaceful Democratic means. He also criticized the Orthodox Easter bombings as "criminal, ungodly."

"The little people the children, the families are getting hurt," said the 70-year-old man, refusing to identify himself out of fear his anti-Milosevic remarks would bring reprisals.

``You're punishing him, but you're killing the Serbian people,'' he said.
``This must stop.''

**** filed by:APW-(MI) on 04/11/99 at 15:43EST ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 04/11/99 at 18:47EST ****

AM-OH--Storms, 4th Ld-Writethru,800

Tornado kills four, destroys hundreds of houses

Eds: UPDATES with identity of two victims; INSERTS 1 graf after 8th graf, The state to UPDATE with identities of two of the victims; picks up 9th graf pvs, At least ...

AP Photos

By JOHN NOLAN= Associated Press Writer=

CINCINNATI (AP) A tornado demolished about 200 houses in two suburbs before daybreak Friday, killing at least four people and leaving normally manicured yards littered with bricks, broken two-by-fours and tattered roofs.

Water spewed into the air from broken fire hydrants in suburban Montgomery and Blue Ash, where whole blocks of homes were ripped apart. Shopping center parking lots were strewn with broken glass, and sheet metal that had been siding was wrapped around utility poles. Scores of trees were flattened.

Lindsey Stiffler, 13, was asleep in her bedroom with the window open in Montgomery when she heard rain and hail and then a roaring noise. She looked out, saw the storm, and fled to the basement with her family.

When they emerged, the back portion of her neighbor's wooden house was split in two, with one side leaning over, she said. Elsewhere on her street, ``there were mattresses and curtains and everything sticking out of the windows,'' she said. ``Roofs were ripped off.''

Jamie McGill, 13, her friend from down the street, told of a similar experience: ``I could hear everything flying through the house, smashing around. I didn't realize what was going on until I got outside. There was glass on the ground. The carport was lying against the house.''

Two people were killed in a house, and two in separate car crashes before dawn.

One of the victims, Charles Smith, 40, of Miami Township in Clermont County, was thrown from his car when the wind flipped it over, Blue Ash Police Chief Mike Allen said. The same gust flipped a tractor-trailer, forcing authorities to close southbound lanes of Interstate 71.

The State Highway Patrol said Donald E. Lewis, 38, of Blanchester, was killed about the same time when his car was blown into a ditch along Interstate 275 north of Cincinnati.

Authorities would not confirm the names of the other two victims Friday night, but The Cincinnati Enquirer and The Cincinnati Post reported in their Saturday editions that the victims were Lee and Jacqueline Cook, who were thrown from their home into an embankment across the street. Rescue workers discovered the body of Lee Cook, 58, under a fallen pine tree. His wife, 52, was found about 30 feet away.

At least 42 people were treated at hospitals, most with bruises or cuts.

Ohio's Emergency Management Agency estimated 200 homes were destroyed in Cincinnati's northeastern suburbs alone and an additional 400 damaged. The utility Cinergy said about 200,000 customers lost power. Most service had been restored by the afternoon.

The storm also flipped motor homes and campers that convert to tents at the Dave Arbogast dealership in Tipp City, north of Dayton. ``We got about 10 tent campers in a nice, neat pile,'' said Ron West, a manager.

The tornado's winds were in the range of 158 to 206 mph and, at times, reached the next level on the scale of severity 207 to 260 mph, said John Center, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's regional office in Wilmington.

A developing storm system in the Midwest threatened to bring more thunderstorms to Ohio throughout the weekend, the weather service said.

Gov. Bob Taft said officials had no estimate of damage. He declared emergencies in Hamilton, Clinton and Warren counties and made state crews available to help clear city and county roads. Health department workers were offering tetanus shots to those exposed to flying glass and standing water, and distributing bottled water, spokesman Scott Milburn said.

The storm moved into Ohio from near Lawrenceburg, Ind., about 5 a.m., skipping downtown Cincinnati and heading northeast.

About 15 homes were damaged near Loveland, about 10 miles to the northeast, the Warren County Emergency Management Agency said. The storm also damaged houses and downed trees and power lines in Champaign County in west central Ohio.

"We saw homes where walls were torn down and chairs, tables and computers were sitting there untouched," Taft said. "It's a total rebuilding effort."

Jill Cole said her family could not return to their home in Montgomery.

"I think it's a bulldozer job," she said. "It's like a war zone."

Bruce Henry, deputy city manager in Blue Ash, said the residential population is about 13,500 but swells to more than 70,000 because of the influx of workers.

"Fortunately for us, the brunt of the storm did not hit our city ... I think we're fortunate that, if this storm had touched down several hours later, many more people would have been in our city," Henry said.

**** filed by:APW-(OH) on 04/09/99 at 22:31EST ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 04/11/99 at 18:52EST ****

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``We saw homes where walls were torn down and chairs, tables and computers were sitting there untouched,'' Taft said. ``It's a total rebuilding effort.''

Jill Cole said her family could not return to their home in Montgomery.

``I think it's a bulldozer job,'' she said. ``It's like a war zone.''

Bruce Henry, deputy city manager in Blue Ash, said the residential population is about 13,500 but swells to more than 70,000 because of the influx of workers.

``Fortunately for us, the brunt of the storm did not hit our city ... I think we're fortunate that, if this storm had touched down several hours later, many more people would have been in our city,'' Henry said.

**** filed by:APW-(OH) on 04/09/99 at 22:31EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 04/11/99 at 18:52EST ****

PM-OH--HMO Debate, Ohio Bjt,580

Ohioans at the core of partisan debate over health care

By KATHERINE RIZZO= Associated Press Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) Ohio lawmakers will be at the core of what's shaping up as one of this congressional session's top issues: regulating managed-care health plans.

President Clinton has declared the Democratic plan, called the patients' bill of rights, to be a top priority, and Ohio Democrats Sherrod Brown and Ted Strickland have been aggressively promoting it.

But Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, has been positioned at a choke point through which the legislation must pass, and he's no fan of the Democrats' approach.

The Democrats' bill would regulate managed care plans and give patients the right to sue and collect damages when treatment is withheld. It also guarantees access to clinical trials for cancer patients and would give patients in the middle of a treatment the ability to remain with a doctor for 90 days, even if that doctor is dropped from the managed-care network.

Strickland, appearing Friday at a Capitol Hill news conference before boarding a bus for Philadelphia and a presidential rally, said he had seen ``a groundswell for action on the patients' bill of rights.''

House Democrats were starting an electronic petition to gather names of Americans who want changes in the way the law governs health-care plans.

Strickland praised the Internet-based petition as expressing ``the collective view of the American people that it is time to rein in the abuses associated with managed care.''

At his rally in Elyria, Ohio, Brown projected the on-line petition onto a large screen at Lorain County Community College.

Brown helped write the legislation as part of his role as the top Democrat on a health subcommittee of the House Commerce Committee.

He said the bill was an answer to many complaints about patients being turned away from emergency rooms or denied services that were not approved by their health maintenance organizations.

``Too many HMOs have been denying needed services and are putting profits ahead of patients,''

Brown said. ``The patients' bill of rights creates needed protections for HMO patients and holds HMOs fully accountable to patients for its medical decision.''

But Boehner does not think the White House-endorsed bill is the best way to respond to the complaints of HMO customers. He heads a subcommittee on employer-employee relations that has been holding hearings on the need for managed care legislation.

Boehner's position is that making health care more accountable to patients was a good goal, as long as it didn't result in making insurance so costly that more Americans would have to do without coverage.

A Congressional Budget Office analysis of a previous version of the patients' bill of rights estimated that it would result in higher costs and as many as 2 million people losing their insurance, said Boehner aide David Schnittger.

Allowing disgruntled patients to sue their managed-care companies is a particular sticking point. ``You can't sue your way to better health care,''

Schnittger said.

Boehner issued a statement suggesting Democrats work with majority Republicans to build a bipartisan bill rather than engage in ``partisan podium pounding.''

``We want to work with our Democrat counterparts to expand access to care for all Americans, not to make coverage less affordable and accessible for those who already have it,''

Boehner said.

**** filed by:APW-(OH) on 04/09/99 at 23:06EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 04/11/99 at 18:53EST ****

AM-OH--Tornado Aftermath,190

National Guard to help tornado-ravaged communities

CINCINNATI (AP) The Ohio National Guard will provide relief for weary police departments in tornado-ravaged communities north of the city.

Members of the 324th Military Police Company from Middletown will help provide security for stricken neighborhoods, control traffic and offer other assistance.

The suburbs asked Gov. Bob Taft's office for National Guard help on Sunday, spokesman Scott Milburn said. There has been no decision on how many of the approximately 200 members of the Middletown unit will be called upon.

"Right now, it looks like they're going to basically (help) the local police, who are obviously in need of some relief. They've been going strong for the past few days," Milburn said.

The tornado killed four people two of them on highways, two of them in a house and damaged hundreds of buildings early Friday. Police have sealed off the neighborhoods and enforced curfews while volunteers and residents dig out.

Utility crews had restored power Sunday to all but about 1,500 buildings that were heavily damaged.

**** filed by:APW-(OH) on 04/11/99 at 18:28EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 04/11/99 at 18:55EST ****

AM-IL--Orthodox Easter, 1st Ld-Writethru,470
Orthodox Easter brings little joy for Serbian-Americans
EDS: ADDS photo numbers
AP Photos CX101-104
tabbstaffnzdab

By TRACY BOUTELLE= Associated Press Writer=

CHICAGO (AP) On the same day bombs shelled Serbian targets in Kosovo, tears fell in a small Orthodox Serbian church on Chicago's far South Side on Sunday as immigrants celebrated Orthodox Easter, their holiest day of the year.

"There's an incredible feeling of overwhelming sadness," said Julie Stamenkovich Falloon as she stood beside the Serbian Orthodox Church at Mirotocivi, which her family helped build.

"There isn't really any feeling of optimism. As we're going to church and praying, they're bombing," she said.

The Serbian men filed in the church to its right while the women stood on its left side. Everyone brought colored eggs to share and lit yellow candles for family members who have died.

The service, conducted in Old Church Slavonic, was somber.

Men and women wiped tears from their faces as they lit candles. Several people said they wake up in the middle of the night crying, and others mentioned they were not sleeping well.

Pan Timotic said his cousins in Yugoslavia have been drafted into the army and his aunt now sleeps in her basement for protection from the bombs.

It's "detrimental to think of this as a peacemaking mission when we're really just destroying lives," he said.

The joy of Orthodox Easter was lost on most everyone but the children.

They were dressed in their best suits and dresses. The younger children played in the nearby Serbian Hall and hunted eggs before joining their parents for the conclusion of the two-hour service.

Chicago the heart of the Serbian expatriate community in the United States is home to about 350,000 ethnic Serbs.

"American people are some of the greatest people on this earth, but American people don't understand what this war is about," said Momo Andric. "Kosovo is the cradle of our civilization."

Andric's lament was echoed by others who attended the Orthodox service. Many believe Americans don't understand the region's history and that news reports show only one side of the war.

"I know what you see on the television is horrible ... but there's a flip side that you don't see on the television," said Mike Srdanovic. "I'm not apologizing for anyone who's committed any war crimes there. They'll be prosecuted, and they should be."

Many of the men who gathered in the hall for tea said they wished Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic would sit down at the bargaining table with NATO.

"The Serbian people did not want Milosevic there. The west put him there ... and now we have to put up with him," said Srdanovic. "Everyone wishes the violence would end."

**** filed by:APW-(IL) on 04/11/99 at 18:15EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 04/11/99 at 18:55EST ****

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|BC-NC--Earns-BB&T,150||AP/ONEConvention√|ok|13:19|04/

BB&T reports 17.7 percent rise in earnings

WINSTON-SALEM (AP) BB&T Corp. today reported first quarter profit increased 17.7 percent over last year for a per share figure of 48 cents, excluding charges for acquiring MainStreet Financial Corp.

The merger with MainStreet of Martinsville, Va., cost \$10.4 million.

Including merger expenses, net income totaled \$138.4 million, a 14.9 percent increase compared to the \$120.4 million earned in the first quarter of 1998. Deducting merger costs, net income was 44 cents a share for the first three months of 1999 compared to 39 cents in the first quarter of 1998.

During the first quarter, BB&T announced plans to expand to Georgia, West Virginia and Kentucky, (clinton) —Mode(text)—Form(G) —

US-Kosovo-Taxes√|--|13:18|04/
|AP/ONEConvention√|ok|13:19|04/

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LA--Clinton-Louisiana√|LA|13:19|04/

Whitewater-McDougal√|--|13:27|04/

Daybook-Tue-WhiteHous√|DC|13:31|04/

LA--US-Kosovo-Taxes√|LA|13:36|04/

NY--MrsClinton-NewYor√|NY|13:44|04/

NY--MrsClinton-NewYor√|NY|13:45|04/

FL--FirstLady-Advisor√|FL|14:31|04/

LandRush-Box√|--|14:36|04/

LA--LandRush-Box√|LA|14:44|04/

LA--LandRush-Box√|LA|14:44|04/

Pulitzers-Journalism√|--|15:07|04/

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FL--FirstLadCraneFire√=

PA--PulitzerGA--CraneFire√=

US-KosovoPulitzers-Journalism√=

PA--NewsDigeGA--CraneFire√=

RI--SurgeonGaCraneFire√=

OK--AgPricesPA--Pulitzers-Pennsylv√=

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(NOTE: fixing typo in 20th graf)

(UPI Focus)

Clinton jokes at correspondents' dinner

WASHINGTON, March 18 (UPI) Joined by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, President Clinton began his springtime foray into world of annual journalist dinners, poking fun at White House and media handling of his year of scandal.

Attending the Radio and TV Correspondents' Dinner, the first couple first sat as organization hosts handed out awards to fellow reporters for coverage of the president's belatedly admitted sexual affair and resulting impeachment.

"This is not awkward," emcee Jim Mills of the Fox News Channel, one of the outlets most consistently critical of Clinton, said with a measure of embarrassment and sarcasm in turning from the awards ceremony to his introduction of the president.

"We would certainly understand, all of us in this room," Mills said, "why you would not want to be here in the same room with us tonight. But we are glad you're here, we are honored that you are with us, and we thank you for coming back."

Clinton immediately launched into his prepared series of jokes, declaring, "I want to thank you for your invitation to come have dinner with 2,000 members of the Washington press corps," and then adding: "If this isn't contrition, I don't know what is."

"I know you can't really laugh about this," he told the roomful of reporters. "I mean, the events of the last year have been quite serious. If the Senate vote had gone the other way, I wouldn't be here tonight. I demand a recount."

The president then proceeded through a comedy routine that involved a series of jokes at his own expense, finding humor in his tendencies to avoid questions, overstate his accomplishments and project an image of empathy.

The performance included an appearance by a man dressed in the costume of a Third World military leader, complete with epaulets and a large red sash. Entering to strains of "Hail to the Chief," the man was introduced by a deep-voiced off-stage announcer as "the prime minister of the United Republic of Carjackador," and he proceeded to speak in a mock foreign language.

"Your excellency, without my headphones, I have no idea what you just said," Clinton responded, employing an overdone imitation of his own trademark Southern twang. "But it sounded very much like words of praise. I want you to know they mean more to me than I could possibly express."

The dinner was part of a series of recent events aimed at repairing relations with the news media in the aftermath of the year-long Lewinsky scandal and investigation. Clinton had dinner twice last week in Central America with groups of reporters, agreed to have a news conference Friday at the White House, and planned Saturday to attend the annual Gridiron Club dinner.

The first lady is not planning to join her husband for the Gridiron dinner, as she will be traveling in Africa, but she plans in May to accompany him to the annual White House Correspondents' Dinner.

"I know it's been a long time since I had a press conference," Clinton said, reflecting back to reporters one of their most widespread complaints. "But I remember it well. All those questions that day about the nomination of Zoe Baird."

He also offered some of the standard answers to the questions he could be expected to receive, including, "No, I didn't watch it," "No, I haven't read it," and, "The longest peacetime expansion in history."

His speech also featured several cracks at television political commentators, accompanied by a video clip of a proposed new talk show called "Punditubbies" starring the children's puppet characters given recent prominence by conservative complaints that one encourages a homosexual lifestyle.

Clinton suggested other programs such as "MSNBC in Crisis" and "Totally Subpoenaed Videos." Real journalists, he taunted, should never

Traveling first class and in style

First lady politicks at public expense

I suspect that hard-working taxpayers would be appalled if they knew how much it has cost us to have Hillary Clinton as first lady.

The Clinton administration's penchant for secrecy and the many mazes erected by bureaucrats to make it difficult to find out how public money is spent in Washington virtually ensure that we'll never get a total for the cost of Mrs. Clinton's many trips, but Hillary has made other first ladies look like misers.

I would not be surprised if she has not outspent some presidents.

Hillary travels first class and in high style. And she travels and travels and travels, kissing babies and kissing up to world leaders in her self-assigned role as the country's goodwill ambassador.

My curiosity about the cost of having Hillary was stirred by a report in *The New York Times* which revealed that the White House is claiming that her most recent visit to New York was public business.

She did do a little public business, but there was a lot of political business in furtherance of her chances for success in a U.S. Senate race in New York.

If Hillary's on public business, you and I pay for the trip, no matter how political it may become behind the scenes. Wouldn't it be interesting to know how much time she allotted for public business and how much was spent advancing her as yet unofficial campaign?

During this week's visit to New York, Hillary tried to scotch rumors that she is losing interest in being a senator. For the last couple of weeks, the informed guessers

John R. Starr



had been predicting that she wouldn't make the race.

The polls may be discouraging her a bit. In a survey conducted by Marist College's Institute for Public Opinion, 52 percent of registered New York voters said Hillary should not run for the Senate. A February poll indicated that only 37 percent did not want her to run. Reversing the question, pollsters learned that 42 percent of voters want her to run. That's down from 56 percent in February.

Reporters are beginning to ask about her travels and about who's paying for them. Hillary promised to have her staff check more closely to make sure that political and personal travel are kept separate.

That's nice to hear, but the fact is, as long as she is an undeclared candidate, she's going to be able to find ways to stick the public for her New York trips. Any Washington official can find a dozen ways to do public business in New York on any given day.

Hillary isn't thinking small. On Monday, she said that as soon as plans can be worked out, she's going to travel to the Balkans to visit refugee camps. Any candidate would pay millions for that kind of high-profile exposure. Hillary is going to let taxpayers pay for it.

"I think it's very important for me to go to Kosovo eventually," she said. "I've been asked to go. I've expressed my very strong interest in going. As soon as I'm given the green light to go, I intend to go."

She won't be going to Kosovo, of course. She wouldn't be welcome there. Kosovo is still controlled by the Serbs, whose country is being bombed back into the 19th century by United States planes. She'll visit Macedonia and Albania where most of the refugees are.

I wish there were some way to poll the refugees to see whether they would rather see Hillary Clinton or a sack of flour and a side of bacon.

The war continues to go badly. NATO's projection that Yugoslavia would quickly fold was 20 feet off base. NATO commanders are now talking about another two to seven months of bombing. By that time, many Americans will be asking if two months isn't enough.

The commanders are asking for more planes and more money. There is a danger that almost all of America's deployable planes will be assigned to the Balkans. What happens if trouble breaks out elsewhere?

While he was dismantling America's military early in his term, Bill Clinton promised to keep a force capable of dealing with two trouble spots at once.

Seems as if one spot is giving him more trouble than he can deal with.

John R. Starr is the former managing editor of the *Democrat-Gazette*.

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City Beat

Clash of Principals — Rudy and Hillary

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD and JOEL SIEGEL
Daily News Staff Writers

The shadow competition between New York's two potential Senate candidates took a new turn yesterday as Mayor Giuliani and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton played principal in city public schools.

For weeks, the two have inhabited parallel political universes, laying the groundwork for what could be a campaign battle for the ages.

Yesterday, their paths had an intersection of sorts, as both spotlighted the battleground issue of education by participating in the annual Principal for a Day program.

The First Lady jumped to the defense of city schools, positioning herself squarely in opposition to Giuliani's call for the system to be "blown up" and apparently alluding to the mayor's ongoing strife with Chancellor Rudy Crew.

"Let's not scapegoat or point fingers at an entire system when there is within that system a lot of very good schools right now, and the seeds for a lot more if we are united to make that happen," the First Lady said.

She spent the entire school day at Virgil Grissom Junior High School in South Ozone Park, Queens, a melting pot of 2,000 seventh and eighth-graders.

The appearance began her third trip to the state in 11 days. She was to cap off the visit by speaking at a dinner of the state Democratic Party in Manhattan last night.

"I hope that I will have a chance to hear from a number of you about what's on your mind," she said over the school public-address system.

Giuliani made what appeared to be a last-minute decision to be the principal at Public School 123 in Bushwick, Brooklyn. One of his Board of Education representatives, Irene Impellizzeri, agreed two months ago to be the school's play principal, but she was told Wednesday that Giuliani wanted to

take the reins.

Cristyne Lategano, the mayor's spokeswoman, said he had planned for months to be a part of the program but decided only in recent days on the Brooklyn school.

The First Lady led a social studies class of 29 eighth-graders, asking for suggestions on how to prevent tragedies like last week's massacre at a Littleton, Colo., high school.

"I think how you treat each other, which starts in your heart, and your mind, is really important. You can pass all the laws in the world, and there is always somebody who could get around them," she said.

After the class, and after reporters were told to depart, she spoke to 70 senators — from the student government.

One of the senators asked about her potential campaign. "She said she was talking to people about it but hadn't made up her mind," said Principal Rhia Warren.

Giuliani encountered a similar political reminder. Student Amy Diaz, 11, announced to the mayor she wanted to be a lawyer and an actress. "I don't want to be a senator," she told him.

"Unlike you, I have a term limit," the mayor said with a smile.

Original Publication Date: 04/30/1999

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Activist groups advised to cooperate for grants

BY KIM MCGUIRE
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Community leaders at a conference sponsored by the Pulaski Enterprise Community Alliance Inc. on Thursday stressed the importance of working together to obtain grants.

The two-day conference, the first of its kind for the alliance, sought to unite community groups seeking funding with representatives from such sources as government, banks, foundations and private businesses.

By collaborating, neighborhood groups better their chances of obtaining funding to apply toward community and economic development initiatives, conference speakers said.

"You can be a smidgen better than the next group, but if they can bring more partners to the table, in the long run they're going to get the grant every time," said Charles Hathaway, chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Hathaway and Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed, president of Philander Smith College, spoke at the conference Thursday. Skip Rutherford, president of the William J. Clinton Foundation and Library, is to speak today.

The speakers praised the alliance for its efforts in revitalizing parts of the county since the group's inception in 1995.

That's when the organization was funded by a \$3 million Department

of Housing and Urban Development grant. The enterprise community alliance has allocated about \$2 million of the grant money for 23 projects.

Pulaski County Judge Buddy Villines said that even though the River Project (the Alltel Arena and Statehouse Convention Center) gets the most credit, the enterprise community represents the first time Little Rock, North Little Rock and the county really worked together.

"It was the first time people in these neighborhoods came together and said we've got common problems, and we can work together to come up with common solutions," he said.

Hathaway emphasized the importance of individuals, as well as educational institutions, participating in the community around them.

He said that last year about 1,000 UALR students participated in community project.

"It is not our intent that (students) be gofers," Hathaway said. "It is our intent that they apply their discipline knowledge to the best of their ability to your organization."

Like student volunteers, grant-giving institutions are vital to community empowerment, Hathaway said.

He advised community groups to have a clear idea about what they want to accomplish before applying for a grant.

Hints from Hillary

The first lady slipped in another sly suggestion the other night that she's eyeing a run for the Senate. Speaking at a private party in Washington, she made a big show of putting down her wine glass and saying, "The first rule of politics is: Never let yourself be photographed with a drink."

Later in the evening, her husband joked about his own political aspirations when he merrily lifted his glass and said, "I'm not running for office!"

The couple did their Burns-and-Allen routine at the Four Seasons' 60th birthday bash for Michael Berman.

The lobbyist has donated \$34,000 to Democratic campaigns and is said to be quietly advising Hillary on her Senate chances.

Meanwhile, all the talk about Hillary's possible run for office may have made at least one of her predecessors a little jealous.

Nancy Reagan ribbed Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., for urging Hillary to try for the Senate. "Charlie, come to think of it," she said, "you never asked me to run for anything."

Tribune Media Services contributed to this report.

Clinton sees himself living in New York

He links post-presidency plan, wife's quest

DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE PRESS SERVICES

President Clinton hinted Wednesday that after his presidency he will move to New York, where speculation abounds that his wife will seek the U.S. Senate seat.

Clinton tossed the kernel of news about his post-presidency residence into an hour-long TV interview with Dan Rather on the fledgling newsmagazine *60 Minutes II*.

In the president's first interview in 15 months, he was asked indirectly about moving to New York by Rather's question about the responsibilities of a husband of a United

States senator — an allusion to Hillary Rodham Clinton's rumored U.S. Senate bid.

"I can imagine that many voters in New York would wonder whether — even though she and I intended to move to New York after we left the White House, although I would also spend a lot of time at home in Arkansas — they would wonder, well, does this make sense for someone to be a United States senator," Clinton said.

While some have been certain that Clinton planned to come home to Arkansas when he leaves office, he had never, on record, announced his plans.

Speculation had ranged from Clinton taking a job working for Hollywood moguls in California to a move into a home on Lake Hamilton in Hot Springs.

When Clinton was elected in 1992, the question arose, accompanied by some promotion, as to whether Clinton would acquire a house or vacation retreat in Arkansas or elsewhere.

In 1992, Hot Spring's Presiden-

tial Search Committee, an arm of the chamber of commerce, went so far as to propose four possible retreat sites.

When Clinton visited the new home of friends and television producers Harry Thomason and Linda Bloodworth-Thomason in 1992, rumors floated that the oceanfront mansion was intended to serve as a Western White House.

While Clinton could still purchase a home in Arkansas, it may not be necessary if apartments are built in the proposed presidential library in Little Rock.



President Clinton

"I believe that they will have a place in New York and in Arkansas," said Skip Rutherford, president of the Clinton presidential library foundation. "I expect him to spend a tremendous amount of time here."

Clinton's post-presidential plans were overshadowed during the interview by questions about the war in Yugoslavia and about the impeachment scandal, which was just getting under way the last time he gave a one-on-one interview, to Jim Lehrer of *The NewsHour* on PBS, on Jan. 21, 1998.

Rather's interview was part of a new policy of openness toward the press by the administration, a White House press aide said Wednesday.

Rather interviewed Clinton for an hour at the White House on Wednesday afternoon, then prepared reports for the *CBS Evening News* at 6:30 p.m. and two segments for the hour-long, three-segment *60 Minutes II*, which was broadcast at 9 p.m. last night.

53RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The Buffalo News

April 20, 1999, Tuesday, CITY EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 968 words

HEADLINE: FIRST LADY FUELS SPECULATION ON N.Y. RUN

BYLINE: RON FOURNIER; Associated Press

DATELINE: NEW YORK

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton, edging closer to running for the U.S. Senate, opened a campaign-style swing Monday by declaring, "I love New York," as her fledgling political operation combed the state for potential campaign workers.

"I'm obviously still considering and exploring and am very interested," Mrs. Clinton said.

Yet she tried to minimize the political implications of the trip, which included talks about the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo and other traditional first lady fare. The White House called the trip an official function, thus U.S. taxpayers picked up the tab.

"This is not an exploratory trip. This is a trip filled with events and occasions, some of which I agreed to do months ago," Mrs. Clinton told reporters after urging private foundations to help ease the Kosovo refugee crisis.

Her aides, however, conceded the trip had political implications.

"I guess anytime we're up here, it's part of the (exploratory) process," said press secretary Marsha Berry. "She's thinking about this. I don't know when you turn it off and turn it on."

Friends and associates say Mrs. Clinton appears to be leaning toward a Senate bid, though some believe she will forgo the race at the last minute. Their assessments are based on clues from private conversations with her and the full-speed-ahead groundwork being laid by top political aide Harold Ickes. Ickes said Mrs. Clinton won't decide on a Senate run before July.

The former deputy White House chief of staff has begun compiling lists of campaign operatives and has secured commitments from some potential staff, said a source close

See Trip Page A5

Trip: Poll puts first lady, Giuliani in dead heat

Continued from Page A1
to Mrs. Clinton.

One longtime associate said Mrs. Clinton told him two weeks ago that she intended to run but would not finalize her decision until this summer.

Mrs. Clinton scheduled scores of New York stops Monday, today and Thursday.

She was to appear at three events today on Long Island -- an elementary-school visit in Syosset, a speech on health care at Hofstra University and a Long Island Women's Agenda luncheon in Woodbury -- followed by appearances at New York University Law School and at a United Jewish Appeal fund-raiser.

She returns to Washington Wednesday but comes back to New York Thursday with stops in Niagara Falls and again on Long Island.

Monday's unusually crowded schedule contained seven stops, including Columbia University's Teachers College, the Ukrainian Institute, the Jewish Child Care Association and a fund-raiser for Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y.

Teachers, Ukrainians and the Jewish community are important Democratic constituencies. Nadler, a House Judiciary Committee member, staunchly defended President Clinton during the impeachment process.

In her most political remarks of the day, Mrs. Clinton praised Nadler, saying, "He . . . defended with great vigor, intelligence and energy the Constitution when it was, in the view of many Americans, being misused during the battles in the Congress, the last Congress, that took place in the Judiciary (Committee) and on the floor of the House."

The trip brought Mrs. Clinton fresh evidence that a Senate race against probable Republican nominee Rudolph Giuliani would be difficult.

The latest poll from Marist College's Institute for Public Opinion showed the two in a dead heat, with half saying Mrs. Clinton should not run. The New York mayor has gained ground since a February Marist poll, which had Mrs. Clinton leading Giuliani, 49 percent to 38 percent.

"No one said it was going to be a cakewalk," said Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., who ousted Republican Sen. Alfonse M. D'Amato last November and has urged the first lady to run. "This is going to be a tough, tough race, but I think as people get to know her, she'll do better and better."

Lawyers inside and outside the White House are studying whether Mrs. Clinton should form an exploratory committee to raise money that would defray the costs of future trips. She said she would consider the move "if it becomes appropriate."

In a brief news conference, Mrs. Clinton explained for the first time why a Senate race interests her: "I love New York, to start with."

With gushing reverence, Mrs. Clinton called New York "a microcosm of America," with a "dynamic, diverse city" that would enable her to deal with

47TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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AP Online

April 20, 1999; Tuesday 13:39 Eastern Time

SECTION: National political

LENGTH: 487 words

HEADLINE: Mrs. Clinton Addresses Health Care

BYLINE: BETH J. HARPAZ

DATELINE: HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton made a new pitch for a variety of health care reforms today but acknowledged her failure in previous efforts to overhaul health insurance.

Referring to her ambitious and ultimately unsuccessful attempt in 1994 to fundamentally change health care, Mrs. Clinton said that she now comes "from the school of smaller steps."

Mrs. Clinton spoke on day two of her road trip to New York, where she is considering running for the U.S. Senate in 2000.

In a speech on health care reform at Hofstra University, the first lady expressed support for her husband's proposal to use part of the federal budget surplus to prop up Medicare.

She said she would support a patient's bill of rights so that people covered by HMOs can see specialists and get treatment as needed.

She said measures also must be taken to provide health care insurance to people frequently not covered currently: millions of children, young people working in their first jobs and people who are not yet old enough for Medicare.

She was honored at the university for her public service.

Earlier in the day, she visited the Village Elementary School in Syosset, examining African dwarf frogs and plant life with some third-graders.

She returns to Washington on Wednesday but comes back to New York on Thursday with Niagara Falls among her planned stops. Her itinerary is considered part of her work as first lady and is being paid for by U.S. taxpayers. The school visit, for example, had as its theme the promotion of excellence in education.

"This is not an exploratory trip," she said. "This is a trip filled with events and occasions, some of which I agreed to do months ago."

On Monday, when she crammed eight events around Manhattan into a 14-hour

AP Online, April 20, 1999

tour, she had a simple explanation for New Yorkers on why she's considering running for office in a state where she's never lived.

'I love New York to start with I always have,' Mrs. Clinton said.

As for her potential candidacy for the Senate seat being vacated next year by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, she would say only, 'I'm obviously still considering and exploring and am very interested.'

A new poll out Monday from Marist College's Institute for Public Opinion indicates that New Yorkers may be cooling to her. The telephone poll of 512 registered voters showed her and a likely Republican candidate, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, in a dead heat. Half of those polled said Mrs. Clinton should not run.

In a poll just two months ago, Mrs. Clinton led Giuliani by 49 percent to 38 percent. Each poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

'No one said it was going to be a cakewalk,' said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., who attended an event with Mrs. Clinton on Monday in Central Park. 'This is going to be a tough, tough race, but I think as people get to know her, she'll do better and better.'

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 20, 1999

40TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The Houston Chronicle

April 21, 1999, Wednesday 3 STAR EDITION

SECTION: A; Pg. 26

LENGTH: 256 words

HEADLINE: FINE LINE;

First lady should not campaign on taxpayers' nickel

SOURCE: Staff

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton is spending a lot of time in New York State these days, apparently testing the waters for a U.S. Senate run.

This week the first lady is making dozens of appearances, a few of them obviously political, from Niagara Falls to Long Island, accompanied by her White House entourage and Secret Service agents at a large cost.

Whether Clinton seeks the Democratic nomination to fill the seat currently held by retiring U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan is entirely up to her.

But she should not be campaigning for political office in New York at taxpayers' expense.

One of her appearances involved a fund-raising event at the World Trade Center for U.S. Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y. Nadler's campaign will pay part of Clinton's travel costs, according to a Clinton aide.

That's a start, but is it enough?

If she is a candidate, she should form a campaign committee, raise funds and pay the total costs for her New York campaigning. She should also consider reimbursing taxpayers for what she has already spent in the campaign mode.

She is said to be considering the idea. Surely, as a skilled politician, she recognizes the fine line she treads while she makes up her mind. Being married to President Clinton does not entitle her to a blank check for what appears to be very much like electioneering.

The first lady has adopted New York's motto: "I love New York."

Many people do. But American taxpayers from across the land should not be subsidizing in any way her run for a Senate seat from there.

The Houston Chronicle April 21, 1999, Wednesday

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: Editorial Opinion

LOAD-DATE: April 22, 1999

19TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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April 22, 1999, Thursday, AM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 431 words

HEADLINE: First lady to address school violence; attend party dinner

BYLINE: By SHANNON McCAFFREY, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton resumed her campaign-style barnstorming through New York on Thursday, planning a speech to the state's largest teachers' union on the timely topic of school violence.

And, in a change of plans that could signal a stepped-up interest in the New York Senate race, Mrs. Clinton will now attend a major state Democratic Party fund-raising dinner next week in New York City.

"Her schedule cleared up and now she's going," Mrs. Clinton's spokeswoman Marsha Berry said.

The dinner will be Mrs. Clinton's first major political event in New York since she announced in February that she was considering running for the Senate seat being vacated next year by Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan. The first lady is expected to make a decision on the 2000 race sometime this summer.

Word of Mrs. Clinton's change in plans came as she prepared to head for Niagara Falls and a speech to the politically powerful New York State United Teachers' annual convention.

Berry, said the first lady felt the need to talk about school violence in the wake of the deadly shooting Tuesday at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. that left 15 dead. Berry said the first lady was deeply troubled by the event.

Some 4,000 teachers were expected at the convention in the "Honeymoon Capital of the World." Attendance is always high at the convention but has received a boost due to Mrs. Clinton's appearance.

The Niagara Falls stop comes after a whirlwind of campaign-style appearances by the first lady on Monday and Tuesday in New York City and on Long Island, where she toured schools and parks and headlined fund raisers.

Mrs. Clinton comes to Niagara Falls as anti-abortion protesters continued a week-long vigil in nearby Buffalo. The clinic of slain abortion provider Dr. Barnett Slepian, fatally shot by a sniper at his suburban home last fall, was among those being picketed by protesters.

A handful of demonstrators were expected to travel to Niagara Falls to protest Mrs. Clinton's appearance. She supports abortion rights.

Mrs. Clinton's jam-packed schedule earlier this week seemed to breathe life into what had been sagging poll numbers. In a Quinnipiac College survey released Thursday, Mrs. Clinton was favored by 49 percent of voters questioned to 41 percent for New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, a potential Republican opponent.

On Wednesday, Giuliani was lavishly feted in Washington and endorsed by three prominent GOP senators, including Arizona's John McCain. Like Mrs. Clinton, Giuliani has not yet said whether he will run for the Senate seat.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 22, 1999

The Buffalo News, April 20, 1999

issues such as education and health care that are as important in New York as they are across the country.

Using the collective "we" in a way that could include the first lady herself, Mrs. Clinton said, "We have everything in New York that we have in America."

She also announced plans to travel to Albania and Macedonia "as soon as I'm given the green light" by humanitarian workers.

As for her career, Mrs. Clinton told several associates in recent days that she has concluded that serving in the Senate would be a good next step for her. When word first surfaced of her interest, Mrs. Clinton had told these same people she wasn't sure if she wanted to be in a Republican-controlled Senate.

The new question: Is she willing to risk losing? Though a senior adviser said Mrs. Clinton is not afraid of defeat, other associates say she tends to avoid taking risks.

Sandra Feldman, president of the American Federation of Teachers and a supporter of Mrs. Clinton in New York, suggested the first lady is inclined to run.

"I don't get a feeling that a final decision has been made yet, but I think she's very interested," Ms. Feldman said.

Mrs. Clinton was urged to run at every stop, including a Central Park event concerning hiking trails. "I want to wish her all the best as she hits a different kind of trail right here in New York State," said Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y.

GRAPHIC: Associated press First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, in New York for a trip largely designed to explore a potential Senate race, greets well-wishers after announcing the Millennium trails initiative at New York's Central Park boat house Monday.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 22, 1999

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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Newsday (New York, NY)

April 25, 1999, Sunday, ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: CURRENTS & BOOKS; Page B04

LENGTH: 1082 words

HEADLINE: SUNDAY FOCUS I / FIRST LADY'S SALVOS IN A VIRTUAL CAMPAIGN

BYLINE: Andrea Bernstein. Andrea Bernstein covers politics for the New York Observer and WNYC radio.

BODY:

CALL IT the virtual campaign. On the left, there's Hillary Rodham Clinton, traveling to New York on first lady business, of course, but just happening to hit every Democratic constituency from Syosset to Niagara Falls. On the right, there's New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, spending more time in Wyoming County than in Jackson Heights. But neither of them has "made up their minds" about running for U.S. Senate.

Clinton's out there raising money for Democrats, rubbing elbows with big-time party donors, spending her days with African Americans, Jews and women - especially women. Giuliani's political committee has a website called Hillaryno.com that raises money for Friends of Giuliani. At a speech at Hofstra University last week, Clinton apologized for the failures of her 1994 health care plan - one of the issues, polls show, that's uppermost on the minds of New Yorkers mulling support for a Clinton Senate candidacy. Addressing a negative like that early is a favorite tactic of political candidates. Giuliani pushed school vouchers at his budget address Thursday - that's an issue that likely plays better in Rochester than in Rosedale.

There's a new poll every week - Clinton's leading, Clinton and Giuliani are tied, Clinton's edging up again.

But - wink, wink, nudge, nudge - there's no Senate race. Got that? On the one hand, maybe that's good news. It seems like hardly yesterday that we were inundated with advertisements talking about Armenian earthquake victims and "too many lies - too long" in the D'Amato-Schumer race. Do we really need another nasty race, so soon? But there are problems with a virtual campaign. A traveling first lady gets perks no New York candidate for any office - from dog catcher to governor - could get away with. The Secret Service, for one. To cover a Clinton event, a reporter needs to show up hours early. The press schedule even refers to a "lock-down" time after which no reporter will be admitted for any reason. Kept behind ropes and barricades, the press corps laps up maybe 15 minutes of talk, then tries - usually to no avail - to get close enough to the first lady to shout a question or two. The big excitement last week came when she deigned to answer a series of five or six questions about her political plans. An unusually polite crowd of reporters asked her first about a meeting she'd held

Newsday (New York, NY), April 25, 1999

organizing aid for Kosovar Albanian refugees. When the inevitable question came about whether she'd made up her mind about a Senate run, she inexplicably giggled. Then, for the next 13 stops, it was distance as usual. No questions.

What's wrong with this picture? Plenty. Hillary Rodham Clinton wants to be our senator - maybe - but she's not a New Yorker. Don't we deserve some time to get to know her really, really well? Some people think we know her too well - and certainly we know more about her husband's sex life than we ever wanted to. We also know that she may or may not have been involved in some sort of unwholesome land deal in Arkansas. That she failed miserably at putting together a national health plan. That she believes in a vast right-wing conspiracy.

But on policy questions, she remains fuzzy and out of focus. Does she favor sending ground troops into Kosovo? That was one of the shouted questions she simply smiled at last week while exiting a 10th floor room at the United States Mission to the United Nations. Does she support campaign finance reform? What about the Second Avenue Subway? East Side Access for the LIRR? Which would she make a priority? Is she opposed to so-called partial-birth abortion? How about gay marriage? These are things we need to know about our U.S. senator - yet Clinton has no voting record, and the only time she ever strayed from a position of her husband's - on the question of a Palestinian state - she was quickly muzzled.

OK, so we learned a few things this week. The death penalty? She's for it.

School vouchers? Against 'em. The press corps, so reduced are we, gobbles up each of these bones like they were filet mignon. We have to. You learn so little from 80 feet away.

Clinton is taking a page from her husband's playbook - governing by controlling information. Events are staged, and reporters have little choice but to take what they're given, or get no news at all. Her likely opponent, Giuliani, is little better - his aides routinely answer as few substantive questions as possible, deny freedom of information requests, and fail to respond at all to reporters they consider unfriendly. In fact, his former deputy mayor, Randy Mastro, told a Columbia Journalism School forum earlier this year that Giuliani's model in press relations was Bill Clinton himself. There are real problems with all of this. For instance, had the public been more conversant with the make-up and the tactics of the NYPD Street Crime Unit, it might not have taken a tragedy to begin a public debate about whether this is the way New Yorkers want to fight crime.

Still, Giuliani is available, almost every day, to answer reporters' questions.

Neither Clinton can make the same claim. Both Giuliani and Hillary Clinton no doubt want the perks of a candidacy, such as positive press attention and donor enthusiasm, without the negatives, such as a constant stream of media scrutiny on questions ranging from campaign contributions to inconsistencies in past positions. And that's to say nothing, of course, about the barbs of an opponent.

For that reason, they'll both likely string out this interim period for as long as possible. OK, say Clinton does announce she's in by July - won't that be early enough? Won't the attention this race will get - for more than a year - allow us to learn all we need about Hillary Clinton's positions, not to mention

Newsday (New York, NY), April 25, 1999

Rudy Giuliani's? Maybe. Clinton will still be first lady, and the Secret Service won't go away. She'll be used to the kind of campaigning her husband does - huge events where the press is kept far, far at bay.

In California, where some tiny fraction of one percent of television news is devoted to political campaigns, candidates have the luxury of speaking directly to the voters through television advertisements, produced by pricey consultants, and hardly have to worry about the press at all. They say what they want, or they say nothing. If Giuliani and Clinton have their way, New Yorkers will be subject to the same fate. That's the advantage - for the candidates - of a virtual campaign.

GRAPHIC: 1) Photo - Andrea Bernstein. 2) Newsday Photo / Don Jacobsen - Hillary Clinton plays it coy at a New York school last week.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: April 25, 1999

3RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The Buffalo News

April 24, 1999, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. 14A

LENGTH: 771 words

HEADLINE: TOP DEMOCRATS BELIEVE MRS. CLINTON WANTS TO RUN

BYLINE: ROBERT J. MCCARTHY; News Political Reporter

BODY:

After Hillary Rodham Clinton made three days of campaign-style appearances and back room political discussions throughout New York this week, the state's top Democrats are convinced the first lady wants to run for the U.S. Senate next year.

Now, they say, she must figure out a way.

That means devising some path allowing her to fulfill her White House duties over the remainder of her husband's term, while devoting the necessary time to campaigning and raising the millions of dollars needed to finance a statewide contest.

After all the advice, counsel and opinion, her closest New York associates say it all boils down to a decision she must make in her own mind.

"I believe Hillary Clinton really wants to run and really believes she can win," Mayor Masiello said Friday after evaluating pros and cons with the first lady and others in Niagara Falls on Thursday. "But she's not there yet."

"It's clear to me she wants to do this; she's very, very attracted to the challenge," said state Democratic Chairwoman Judith Hope. "The question she asks herself is about finding a valid way to do it."

Mrs. Clinton, who in February acknowledged she is exploring the possibility of running for the seat to be vacated by the retiring Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan in 2000, has substantially ratcheted up her New York presence in recent days. That has raised speculation to a fever pitch, resulting in hordes of national press trailing her around the state and dozens of phone calls and meetings with New York's Democratic brain trust.

While "officially" performing White House duties at every stop, it's the spectacle of a sitting first lady campaigning for such a high-profile post that attracts the national press and sets political junkies drooling. And her recent itinerary puts no damper on that speculation, including:

* Two days of appearances throughout New York City and Long Island earlier in the week, followed by her Thursday speech before 3,000 teachers at the New York State United Teachers convention.

The Buffalo News, April 24, 1999

* A one-hour meeting in Niagara Falls late Thursday that included Masiello, Rep. John J. LaFalce, Deputy Assembly Speaker Arthur O. Eve, Erie County Democratic Chairman G. Steven Pigeon, as well as separate meetings with Niagara County officials.

* Her first openly political event -- a state Democratic Party dinner -set for Manhattan Thursday, plus another Buffalo visit, this one slated for May 7 in conjunction with a national series of labor round-tables on the economy sponsored by the AFL-CIO.

* A continuing lead in the polls over potential rival Rudolph W. Giuliani, the Republican mayor of New York. The latest Quinnipiac College poll released Thursday shows her leading Giuliani 49-42 percent.

LaFalce, a long time associate of President and Mrs. Clinton who traveled with the first lady to Niagara Falls on Thursday, said he truly believes he does not yet know what choice she will make. Like Ms. Hope and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver -- other confidantes in her decision-making process -he puts the chances at "50-50."

"She loves the idea of being part of the U.S. Senate and being an influence for good," he said. "But she's aware of the residency problem, and very concerned about being a representative for New York State while fulfilling the duties of the White House."

It is that concern, say those around her, posing the biggest obstacle to a Senate run. With talk of a trip to the Balkans in the near future, discussions about other ventures abroad, and the packed schedule surrounding her first lady duties -- her associates say the questions are valid ones. And they are complicated by the fact that nobody has ever faced such a unique dilemma before.

There are other downsides. Many point to the slings and arrows guaranteed to fly in such a high profile campaign. Others say the first lady must be willing to accept the pain of defeat, while still others indicate her position allows her to make contributions on her own terms.

And even her closest supporters worry about a "carpetbagger" image for a New York candidate who hails from Illinois and who spent most of her life in Arkansas, though many dismiss the issue's impact.

Pigeon, the Democratic chairman, says Mrs. Clinton's silent campaign has now entered a new phase. The "wow factor" of a first lady running for office is now beginning to wear off. He joins others in saying Mrs. Clinton should send some kind of signals soon -- most officials are saying by June.

In the meantime, Pigeon said, the "campaign" has entered its most critical phase as far as Mrs. Clinton is concerned.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 25, 1999

17TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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April 23, 1999, Friday, Final Edition

NAME: HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A23

LENGTH: 620 words

HEADLINE: First Lady Denounces 'Culture of Violence'

BYLINE: Michael Grunwald, Washington Post Staff Writer

DATELINE: NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y., April 22

BODY:

In an unusually forceful response to the Colorado school shooting, Hillary Rodham Clinton tonight called for stricter controls on guns and violent media images in a speech to the statewide teachers union, denouncing "the culture of violence that infects the lives of our children."

The first lady's speech to the politically influential New York State United Teachers had a bit of a campaign aura, and she has spent three days in New York just this week, but Clinton did not refer to her possible race for Senate. Instead, she unleashed a blizzard of proposals designed to prevent similar tragedies: more money for school counselors and social workers, tougher penalties for children who use guns and the adults whose guns fall into their hands, more resources for child care and after-school programs, an anti-violence hotline in every community, and a national debate about violence in the media.

Clinton began by cautioning against the urge to point fingers in the wake of the horrors in Littleton, but she then proceeded to do just that. Her rhetoric about guns and money was not particularly surprising, echoing as it did the themes in her best-selling book about child-rearing, "It Takes a Village." But Clinton also lashed out at violent images in the media, repeating themes of Republican presidential nominee Robert J. Dole's attack on Hollywood during the 1996 campaign. She was particularly tough on video games that "you win based on how many people you kill," describing them as military training for impressionable minds.

"We have to be willing to talk about the culture of violence that infects the lives of our children," she said. "The constant exposure to violence on TV, in the movies, on video games, in music -- there's much too much evidence that children get desensitized. . . . There's so much of it. We're awash in it."

The Washington Post, April 23, 1999

Clinton acknowledged that any crackdown on media violence would raise First Amendment issues, but she suggested that America needs far more than the "V-chips" that parents can use to screen out violent shows.

"We are going to have to do some serious thinking in this country about how we can take more control over what our children see and experience," she said. "We can no longer shut our eyes to the impact the media is having on all our children, and the potentially violent impact it is having on some of them."

In recent weeks, the yes-or-no speculation about Clinton's possible Senate race has been tilting toward yes; the state Democratic Party announced today that the first lady will attend its annual dinner on Thursday, and Clinton met with several local Democratic leaders before her speech. A statewide Quinnipiac College poll released today gave Clinton a 49 percent to 41 percent advantage in a race against New York Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, a slight increase over a few weeks ago, but her advisers say she has not made up her mind.

Still, Clinton took advantage of her friendly crowd tonight, winning applause with her emphasis on several traditional Democratic issues: support for teachers unions, opposition to school vouchers and increased resources for social services.

It is not clear how the killers in Colorado got their guns, but she also criticized the gun lobby, blaming the disaster at least in part on the wide availability of firearms in America.

"We need to stand up and say what needs to be said about guns and firearms," she said. "Why on earth would we permit any young person access to the firearms those two young men brought into that school?"

Hillary Rodham Clinton holds up a U.S. government booklet on safe schools as she addresses a New York teachers union last night in Niagara Falls.

GRAPHIC: PH,,AP/JIM MCKNIGHT

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 23, 1999

7TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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April 23, 1999, Friday, PM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 530 words

HEADLINE: Hillary plans star turn at Dem dinner; poll turns in her favor

BYLINE: By MARC HUMBERT, AP Political Writer

DATELINE: ALBANY, N.Y.

BODY:

Potential Senate candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton, in a turnabout certain to increase speculation that she intends to run, has decided to attend a major state Democratic Party fund-raising dinner next week.

Word of the schedule change came as an independent pollster said the first lady's event-packed foray into New York this week may have halted a slide in her poll numbers.

The New York City dinner will be the first major political event in the state for the first lady since she announced in February she was considering running for the Senate seat being vacated next year by Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

The Clinton camp has, in fact, been careful to keep her largely away from overtly political events in New York and focus instead on what can be presented as non-partisan attractions.

"She goes to a Democratic dinner like that, she may as well announce," one adviser, speaking on condition of anonymity, said last week when word was spreading from supporters that she wouldn't attend the party dinner.

Asked Thursday if the change in plans was a sign of increased interest in the Senate race, first lady spokeswoman Marsha Berry said Thursday that "whenever she goes to New York it gets a lot of attention and piques people's interest and I can certainly see why that happens."

State Democratic Chairwoman Judith Hope said it could be a mistake to read too much into the decision. Hope said it is part of the job of the first lady to help state parties raise money.

Nonetheless, Hope also said, "this is another sign of the first lady's commitment to winning the New York Senate race in 2000."

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

In fact, one top New York Democratic operative, who has long maintained that Mrs. Clinton would not run for the Senate seat, said Thursday that her decision to attend the party dinner "moves me a lot" toward believing she will run. The operative asked not to be identified.

Tickets to the Democratic dinner next Thursday cost \$ 150 each. There is also a \$ 1,000-a-person private reception. Proceeds go to the state party.

After numerous campaign-style stops in New York City and on Long Island on Monday and Tuesday, Mrs. Clinton headed for Niagara Falls on Thursday for a speech to a politically powerful teachers' union.

Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac College Polling Institute, said her travels seem to have breathed "new life" into her poll numbers.

The latest statewide Quinnipiac poll, released Thursday, had Mrs. Clinton favored by 49 percent of voters questioned to 41 percent for New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, a possible Republican opponent. Both are considering the race.

A Quinnipiac poll released Feb. 23, a week after the first lady first said she was considering the race, had Mrs. Clinton leading the mayor, 54 percent to 36 percent. A March 23 Quinnipiac poll showed her still leading Giuliani, but only by 50 percent to 39 percent. A follow-up poll from the Hamden, Conn.-based institute released a week ago, had Mrs. Clinton at 47 percent and Giuliani at 42 percent.

The latest telephone poll of 1,128 registered voters was conducted April 14-20 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 23, 1999

8TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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April 23, 1999, Friday, CITY EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 775 words

HEADLINE: FIRST LADY SOUNDS CALL FOR ACTION

BYLINE: ROBERT J. MCCARTHY; News Political Reporter

DATELINE: NIAGARA FALLS

BODY:

Casting aside for the moment her possible political aspirations, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton told the state's teachers meeting here Thursday that there is much good in American children despite this week's tragic events in Colorado and challenged them to join with government to enact safeguards against the kind of violence claiming dozens of young lives over the past two years.

"All you have to do is look at the people of Littleton to remind ourselves how fundamentally good our country is," she said, referring to the blood donors, clergy and volunteer counselors lining up to help a devastated community cope with the loss of students and a teacher.

"We can see even now that in the face of this terrible tragedy, people are not helpless or hopeless," she said.

Mrs. Clinton, addressing the state convention of the New York State United Teachers in the Niagara Falls Convention and Civic Center, said a "culture of violence" that glorifies death, as well as easy access to guns and explosives all combined this week to spell tragedy in Littleton, where two "outcasts" murdered fellow students and a teacher in a shooting spree.

She said Littleton has proved that no community is immune to such violence, and every aspect of society must now face up to the responsibility of doing everything possible to prevent future tragedies.

"I believe, as I said in my book, that it takes a village to raise a child," she said, "because all of us should take responsibility for raising our own children. Nothing can overtake parental responsibility, but children are influenced by all that goes on around them."

Mrs. Clinton, followed to Niagara Falls by a horde of national reporters paying close attention to her interest in succeeding Daniel Patrick Moynihan in the U.S. Senate next year, made no references to that possibility in her 40-minute address.

Instead she called on teachers, whose union presented her its Albert Shanker Memorial Award, to join with her and President Clinton in providing the

The Buffalo News, April 23, 1999

necessary resources for early-warning programs in schools to help identify problem students.

"Communities and school systems have to be more willing to provide support and resources (so) when the alarm bells go off in your heads you have somebody to turn to," she said. "I hope we can begin to focus on that."

Specifically, she suggested that there must be ways for students to make anonymous referrals so teachers can be aware of problems and that as many resources devoted to physical health should be devoted to mental health.

But she saved her strongest criticism for a culture fascinated with guns and the violence accompanying them, pointing out that too many mass killings in too many towns with names like Littleton and Springfield and Paducah prove that a problem exists.

"Why on earth do we permit any young person to have access to the kind of firearms these two young men brought into that school?" she said. "Some will argue against the need for senseless gun control, but we can see the results."

Since the enactment of the Brady Law during the Clinton administration, she said, 250,000 "felons, fugitives and stalkers" have been denied handguns.

Mrs. Clinton captivated her audience when she talked about the underlying causes of teens using guns to kill other teens. And she challenged teachers and all Americans to begin asking some fundamental questions.

"We have to be willing to talk about the culture of violence affecting the lives of our children," she said. "We can no longer argue that constant exposure to violence on television, in the movies, in video games and in music does not have an effect on the way children see themselves and others."

"We have to do some serious thinking in our country about how we can take more control over what our children see and experience."

Mrs. Clinton was greeted by several anti-abortion pickets outside the convention facility.

She met briefly with State Democratic Chairwoman Judith Hope and was expected to meet with regional political leaders such as County Executive Gorski, Mayor Masiello, Rep. John LaFalce and the Democratic chairmen from Erie and Niagara counties.

Ms. Hope, one of Mrs. Clinton's closest confidantes during this decision-making process, said she still believes there is a 50-50 chance that she will pursue a Senate candidacy.

"It's clear to me that she wants to do this, though that's not meant to say she will," Ms. Hope said. "She is driven by a deep commitment to public policy. She's a person who wants her life to make a difference. The question she's asking herself is if it is a valid way to do it."

GRAPHIC: Photos by MARK MULVILLE/Buffalo News; "We can no longer argue that constant exposure to violence on television, in the movies, in video games and in music does not have an effect." Hillary Rodham Clinton, speaking in Niagara

The Buffalo News, April 23, 1999

Falls.; First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton holds a Steuben apple presented to her by the New York State United Teachers as she shakes hands with union President Thomas Hobart Jr. at the podium Thursday evening. (S-Tier).

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 25, 1999

6TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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April 23, 1999, Friday, PM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 531 words

HEADLINE: First lady calls for attack on "culture of violence" in wake of school shooting

BYLINE: By SHANNON McCAFFREY, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.

BODY:

Calling for a war on the "culture of violence infecting the lives of our children" Hillary Rodham Clinton put the wraps on a swing through New York that has convinced some she is more serious than ever about running for the Senate.

In Thursday night's speech before the state's largest teachers' union, Mrs. Clinton said the nation must tighten its gun laws and provide more psychological support services for troubled youths.

"No school security system can keep society out of the school house door," Mrs. Clinton said to rousing applause from teachers waving small American flags at the Niagara Falls Convention Center. "We can no longer shut our eyes to the impact the media is having on all of our children and on the potentially violent impact it is having on some."

"We also need to stand up and say what needs to be said about guns and firearms and bombs," she said.

The first lady said she had planned to speak about strides in education, but altered her remarks after the massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. on Tuesday that left 15 dead.

She made no references to the state's Senate race she may enter, but her comments - sketching a broad plan to combat school violence - had the ring of a stump speech.

And she'll be back in the state she may call home in days. Mrs. Clinton will attend a major state Democratic Party fund-raising dinner next week in New York City, an invitation she had initially declined. Her change of plans could signal a stepped-up interest in the Senate race.

State Democratic Party Chairwoman Judith Hope said she was "thrilled" Mrs.

Clinton would be on hand.

"She loves New York," a beaming Hope said Thursday night.

The dinner will be Mrs. Clinton's first major political event in New York since she announced in February that she was considering running for the Senate seat being vacated next year by Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan. The first lady is expected to make a decision on the 2000 race sometime this summer.

Some 2,000 teachers attended the convention Thursday in the "Honeymoon Capital of the World." Attendance is always high at the convention but received a boost due to Mrs. Clinton's appearance. The union gave her an award named after union activist Albert Shanker.

The Niagara Falls stop came after a whirlwind of candidate-like appearances on Monday and Tuesday in New York City and on Long Island. There, she toured schools and parks and headlined fund raisers.

Mrs. Clinton arrived in Niagara Falls as anti-abortion protesters continued a week-long vigil in nearby Buffalo. The clinic of slain abortion provider Dr. Barnett Slepian, fatally shot by a sniper at his suburban home last fall, was among those being picketed.

Mrs. Clinton's appearances seemed to breathe life into her poll numbers. A Quinnipiac College survey released Thursday found Mrs. Clinton favored by 49 percent of voters to 41 percent for New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, a potential Republican opponent.

On Wednesday, Giuliani was endorsed by three prominent GOP senators in Washington, including Arizona's John McCain. Like Mrs. Clinton, Giuliani has not yet said whether he will run for the Senate seat.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 23, 1999



Photo by Karen Ballard/The Washington Times

Ali Eagen, 2, of Fairfax scurries across the South Lawn during the Easter Egg Roll. About 30,000 visitors were expected, some of them lining up before dawn to get tickets.

Clintons welcome thousands for annual Easter egg roll

REUTERS NEWS AGENCY

Thousands of children joined the annual White House Easter Egg Roll yesterday, using spoons to nudge colored eggs across the mansion's rain-soaked South Lawn in a 121-year-old tradition.

"On your mark, get ready, set, go!" President Clinton called out, then loudly blew a whistle and threw his head back and laughed as the children began scurrying across the lawn on a cool, breezy day.

Mr. Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton launched the event, with the president shaking hands enthusiastically with a volunteer dressed in a bunny costume complete with gold-rimmed glasses.

About 30,000 children and their families were expected at the Egg Roll, some of them lining up before dawn to get tickets at 7 a.m. to gain access to the South Lawn.

The centerpiece of the event is a contest for children ages 3 to 6 to roll hard-boiled eggs dyed pink, green and blue across the lawn with oversized spoons.

The White House chef dyes 7,200 eggs for that event and an additional 2,500 eggs are boiled for egg-decorating activities that are scattered across the South Lawn, still wet from heavy rains on Sunday night.

Some 25,000 wooden eggs are distributed at the event, each one decorated with a silhouette of the White House with children playing on the lawn and marked with the signatures of the president and first lady.

The Clintons sought to use the event to promote reading, and a host of officials and celebrities were on hand to read aloud to the children, including actress Jamie Lee Curtis and Attorney General Janet Reno.

Miss Curtis, who appeared movies such as "A Fish Called Wanda" and "True Lies," was to read aloud her own children's book, "Today I Feel Silly, and Other Moods That Make My Day." Miss Reno was to read from "Janet, Queen of the Bunny Planet."

Lucy Hayes, the wife of President Rutherford B. Hayes, brought the children to the White House after Congress banished them from the Capitol grounds in 1878 because of the nuisance.

The event has been held at the White House ever since except during World War I and World War II, when it was moved to the National Zoo and other sites in Washington.

Mr. Clinton made a brief reference to the conflict in Kosovo. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has been bombing Yugoslavia for 13 days in an effort to stop a Serbian offensive against ethnic Albanians in the southern province of Kosovo.

"In this season of peace for us, I know all of us will send our thoughts and prayers to our men and women in uniform in Kosovo and our prayers and best wishes to the many thousands of refugees that have been generated by that terrible conflict," Mr. Clinton said.

General
Clips |

Children Crowd White House Lawn for Annual Easter Egg Roll

From Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Alexander Hamilton was eager to compete in the Easter egg roll at the White House. When the whistle blew, the 3-year-old inched his egg forward with a plastic spoon. Then he froze in his tracks and frowned.

Adult-size bunnies scampering across the South Lawn, noisy children rolling eggs, dads with cameras, the Marine Band—it was all too overwhelming for the tyke from Round Hill, Va.

"I don't like that game," said Alexander, who stood at that moment closer to the White House than his famous namesake ever did.

Young Alexander defiantly crossed his arms and refused to budge his egg. His mother, Nora Hamilton, finished the job.

"Come on," she whispered. "Let's see what the bunnies look like."

Dads pushing strollers, moms wearing fuzzy pink bunny ears and children toting Easter baskets showed up Monday at the White House for the annual Easter egg roll. Standing on a stage decorated with brightly colored tulips, President Clinton and First

Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton greeted the crowd of an estimated 30,000 people.

The president urged families to pray for troops and refugees involved in the Balkan crisis. He also thanked volunteers and the White House staff for dyeing 7,200 eggs for the event.

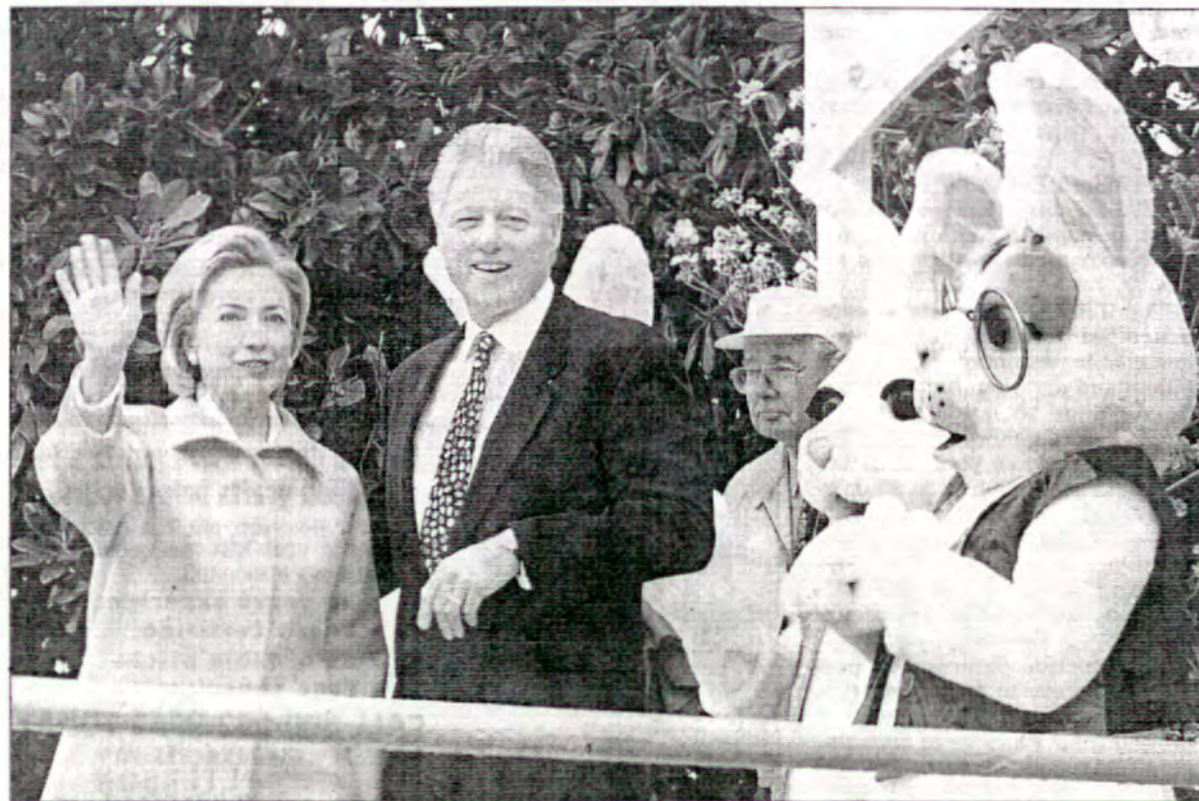
"That's more than we ask them to prepare for a state dinner," joked Clinton, who wore a navy tie decorated with Easter eggs.

Then, with children poised at starting lines, the president shouted, "On your mark, ready, set, go!"

The egg roll has been an American tradition since the mid-19th century. The celebration took place on the Capitol grounds until 1878, when it was moved to the White House by Lucy Hayes, wife of President Hayes.

Drizzle and a chilly breeze dampened the start of this year's event, but by noon, the sun had poked through, and skies were a picture-perfect blue.

Cameras and camcorders were everywhere. Children were photographed in front of the White House, stuffing their mouths with candy, dancing to music, rolling in the green grass and listening to stories.



President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton acknowledge the crowd at Monday's annual Easter egg roll at the White House. The Easter egg roll, begun in the mid-19th century on the Capitol grounds, has been held on the South Lawn of the White House since 1878.

Kids go eggs-static over the guest of honor



By Ron Edmonds, AP

Bunny hugs: An adult-sized Easter bunny greets visitors during the annual Easter egg roll on the White House grounds Monday. The president and first lady greeted participants on the South Lawn earlier.

Flying Eggs and Fun, Rolled Into One

Annual Easter Event Delights Thousands

By MICHAEL E. RUANE
Washington Post Staff Writer

The volunteer had just sounded the starting whistle when the hard-boiled egg being shoveled by Tanner Ellis, 10, went airborne, whizzing past the finish line and the head of Joy Henry.

Henry ducked, but bits of the egg—damaged at launch—sprayed her 4-year-old son, Donovan. The pink projectile continued its brief flight, soaring against a backdrop of green grass, blue sky and the columns of the south portico of the White House.

Henry, from Oxon Hill, wiped her son's face and laughed. "I haven't had a chance to go around," she said. "I'm watching out for flying eggs."

Seldom do the eggs actually "roll" at the annual White House Easter Egg Roll. But yesterday, after a night of showers had soaked the matted, coarse grass, rolling gave way to even more flinging than usual.

Yet the sodden turf seemed the only part of the regular Easter Monday fest that was affected by the weather. A dawn that greeted thousands of wet and shivering people waiting in line, some of whom had arrived just after midnight to get tickets, gave way by 10 a.m. to clear skies and warming sun.

Tens of thousands of children surged through the gates onto the sloping South Lawn of the White House to roll—or propel—eggs,



Emilia Halvorsen, 1, of Baltimore, left, and Megan Lee, 2, of McLean, display their baskets at the White House Easter Egg Roll.

listen to stories, take computer tours of the executive mansion, watch skits, draw, meet simulated former presidents, have their pictures taken, and get hollered at by their parents in various languages.

The lawn became a tapestry of tandem strollers, purple cherry

blossoms, untied sneakers, and dads on cellular phones. The air rang with the sound of beepers, banjos and military bands playing Sousa.

Folks had come from Pocatello, Idaho, and Poughkeepsie, N.Y., from Cary, N.C., and New Berlin, Wis., to roll and decorate the estimated

10,000 eggs boiled for the event.

Some had come for the first time; others were making an annual visit. Some, from nearby, came because the event was free and local; others because it was held on a hallowed piece

See EGGS, B4, Col. 1

Revelers at White House Egg Roll Join the Tapestry of Tradition

EGGS, From B1

of American real estate in a town the folks back home thought was like fantasyland.

Some had the world's dire events on their minds, as did President Clinton, who opened the festivities with a remembrance of those serving and suffering in Kosovo during "this season of peace."

But mostly, as the sun drove away the damp chill, it was a day for leaving the world's troubles outside the White House's black metal fence.

"We're from Idaho," said Tracy Ellis, who had brought her three children, Tanner, 10, Taylor, 11, and Talmage, 8, to Washington to see the famed egg roll. "We felt that it was important for the children to have the opportunity to share with their children someday."

"We wanted to be on the property. We feel it is a real honor to be here. With everything that's going on in the nation, and everything that's been going on, we are still really proud of what our country's done for us. We are proud of our government. ... We are proud to be who we are."

Plus, she said, Washington, to outsiders, is slightly unreal. "To us, it's almost so far away that it doesn't really happen. It isn't really a real place." Their snapshots, they said with a laugh, would prove they were actually here.

Yet even as the day unfolded to giant Easter bunnies and an eccentric work of lawn art that resembled a giant bird's nest and was titled the "Nest of Life," the world beyond Washington was not forgotten.

"It's tough out there," Isabel Klein, of Middletown, N.Y., said of the world, and of Kosovo in particular. She had come to the egg roll with her disabled daughter, Jenna, 13, and two friends.

"People are suffering. You come to events like this and you think, 'Wow.' You think about those people out there, not having anything to eat, being in colder weather than we have here, no adequate clothing, they were just thrown out of their homes. ... Here, enjoying the freedom that



With the matted, coarse grass soaked by showers, children did less rolling and a lot more flinging to get the eggs underway.

we have here and the goodness of clothing and food whenever we want it. That's an incredible contrast."

As the day went on, children frolicked, listened to stories and wrote thoughtful letters to the president in a "Dear Mr. President" tent. Vanessa Biyo, 10, of Silver Spring, wrote in turquoise marker of her

wishes for peace, love, and money for college.

Yet with all the organized games and costumed cartoon characters, the children who seemed to be having the most fun were the ones rolling down a slope in the lawn.

Gradually, the young, and their parents, began to fade. One weary little girl

screamed and buried her head in the corner of an exhibit. Another yelled, "Nooooo!" to her father's suggestion that they go see where the president lived.

But near the end of the afternoon, Jared Shelton Ables, 3, clad all in denim and clutching one pure white egg in each hand, was riding comfortably atop the shoulders



Volunteer Pearl Blacksin wears her bunny ears while helping with the White House Easter Egg Roll.

"It's tough out there.
People are suffering.
You come to events like
this and you think,
'Wow.'"

— Isabel Klein, of Middletown, N.Y.,
on the struggles in Kosovo

of his father, Shelton Fersner. Fersner, of Largo, was en route to the festival's egg-painting station.

"This is excellent," Fersner said, as he cautioned Jared not to bang the eggs together.

"This is a perfect day. Perfect. God has blessed this day."

PHOTOS BY RICK BOWMER—THE WASHINGTON POST

A Year of Pros For Poetry

PINSKY, From C1

Favorite Poem Project, which he started shortly after taking the post. The program's basic notion is simple: Invite people from all walks of life up on a stage to read any poem of their choosing (provided they didn't write it) and briefly say why they like it.

"The two original notions were, first, to recognize the considerable and vigorous life of poetry in the United States outside of any professional microcosm," says Pinsky, who teaches in the graduate creative writing program at Boston University. "The second notion was to affirm the physical nature of poetry—that it's not only an art of the mind and feelings, but also of the voice."

A third reason supplied itself after Pinsky had watched the first couple of events. "It turns out these are good for communities. You have very different kinds of people from the same town or city listening to one another respectfully, presenting things that they value and hearing what others value."

There have now been more than 100 Favorite Poem events around the country, although neither Pinsky nor anyone else knows the exact number. Interested parties figure out what to do from the Web site (www.favoritepoem.org) and then go ahead. "I've heard about ones that people never told us about beforehand, and that's great," the poet says.

The next big event will be at the

Library of Congress Wednesday night. David Gewanter, an assistant professor of English at Georgetown and a fellow at the library, did the inviting. He sent letters to about 60 people—members of Congress, the Supreme Court, District and White House officials. Then, to reach non-official Washington, he merely asked around.

"You'd be surprised how interested everyone was," Gewanter says. "We're establishing a dramatic occasion for people to become aware of a cultural fact of America, which is that people are carrying their favorite poems around inside of them."

He ended with about two dozen readers, including an anthropologist, a lawyer, a taxi driver, maverick doctor Patch Adams, Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton and, the war permitting, Secretary of Defense William Cohen. The poems they'll read include work by Whitman, T.S. Eliot, John Berryman and Anne Sexton, as well as "Casey at the Bat." The best-selling poet in the country at this moment, Jewel, didn't make the cut.

"I have to say I've been impressed by the kind of invisible attachment to poetry that breaks stereotypes," says Pinsky. "We're going to do an anthology, and in it poets like Elizabeth Bishop, Paul Celan, Wallace Stevens were picked by people with professions like U.S. Marine or salesman or chemist or barber."

Next April, 1,000 audio and 200 video recordings made at Favorite Poem events will be officially pre-

sented to the library to serve as a permanent snapshot of literary interest on the cusp of the millennium. At that time, the library will hold a major conference on "Poetry and the American People."

The position of laureate was originally called the consultant in poetry. The first was Joseph Auslander, who got an open-ended appointment in 1937 even though his poems were generally despised. Archibald MacLeish, for instance, wrote to Ezra Pound that "of him I know nothing good," and characterized his work in terms that can't be repeated in a newspaper. When MacLeish became Librarian of Congress in 1939, he made it his business to ease Auslander out.

Succeeding consultants were much better poets: Robert Penn Warren, Robert Lowell, Randall Jarrell, Elizabeth Bishop, Robert Frost. Most noted that the post was famously ill-defined. "You walk around so people can point to you and say, 'That's him,'" James Dickey, consultant from 1966 to '68, once said.

The position, which had its name changed to poet laureate by Congress in 1985, usually involved giving a reading and doing a lecture, selecting other poets to come read, perhaps answering letters from hopeful versifiers, and being available for consultation that Congress almost never sought.

In other words, the poet, who was selected by the Librarian of Congress, didn't have to do much, and



FILE PHOTO BY FRANK JOHNSTON—THE WASHINGTON POST

Robert Pinsky, speaking with students at Johnson Junior High in Southeast in April with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

most didn't. That began to change with Joseph Brodsky in 1991, accelerated with Rita Dove in 1993, and continued with Robert Hass in 1995. They traveled up and down the country, talking to schools and corporations, headlining readings and festivals. It proved tiring for most; Dove was briefly hospitalized twice for exhaustion during her tenure.

The three new consultants—by law there can be only one laureate—are designed to help ease the load a bit during the bicentennial and millennium festivities. "This is a way of not exhausting one person too much," says Dove, conceding that

what she will actually do is still a little unclear "but in a good way. We'll get there and see what comes at us."

The laureate position, which pays \$35,000 a year and includes the help of exactly one assistant, is privately funded. The special consultants will be paid \$20,000 each out of privately raised bicentennial funds.

Like his immediate predecessor, Pinsky is an activist laureate. Last week, for example, he started in Boston, went to Oklahoma City to visit a university class and then flew on to do the same thing at the

University of Toledo. Last weekend he was home again, but this morning he was scheduled to fly to Atlanta. He'll be here on Wednesday for the Favorite Poem evening, then will go to New York for another public evening the following night. Saturday he'll be in Mississippi, Sunday he flies to Cleveland. Is it worth it?

"When I'm waiting in line at the airport, perhaps not," he says. "But when I'm at these events and see how much people enjoy them, definitely."

APRIL 5, 1999

JET



◀ **'FIRST WOMEN'**

AWARD: Noted author Gwendolyn Brooks (r) accepts the "First Women" Award from first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton during the National First Ladies Library Award ceremony in Washington, D.C., as Mary Regula, founder and president of the Library observes. Brooks is the first female Black American Pulitzer Prize winner for poetry.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/KAREN E. SEGRAVE

icate details of the Hanger House took Molly Stanley many hours of careful attention when she painted its
ness on an egg to be displayed during the Easter season at the White House.

Young miniaturist's egg rolling to White House

BY PHYLLIS D. BRANDON
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

An egg hand-painted by Molly Stanley, 15, of Conway, will represent Arkansas in the display of eggs from all 50 states during the Easter season at the Clinton White House.

Stanley was chosen to paint this year's egg because she had won awards in an egg decorating competition sponsored by the Egg Council at the Arkansas State Fair.

The daughter of Cindy and Ron Stanley, Molly Stanley is a home-schooled student who began painting when she was 9 years old. She took lessons at Michael's in North Little Rock and from her father, who is also an artist.

She has painted various scenes on eggs from wildlife to the Old Mill in North Little Rock.

Stanley especially enjoys painting historical homes on eggs, like this one which features the Hanger House on Louisiana Street, built around 1889. "I love the detailing around the house and the obvious love and attention to details that went into the construction of this home," she said. "The heart-shaped entrance, called a moon gate arch, was what caught my attention and was the most fun to paint."

Each egg takes approximately 12 hours to paint and is usually done from several photographs she has taken.

Stanley's first national award was for an evening gown of black and fuchsia wool crepe with beading she entered in the Make It Yourself With Wool contest in Denver. She received a Pendleton College scholarship.

The A-List's No. 1 Political Partiers

How Beth and Ron Dozoretz Made Washington Their Very Own

By LLOYD GROVE
Washington Post Staff Writer

When mental health care tycoon Ronald Dozoretz asked his new wife if she wanted to attend the 1992 Democratic National Convention, her answer was brisk and unequivocal. "She said, 'No, I don't wanna go,'" he recalls.

"To be honest with you, I really wasn't too interested," Beth Dozoretz confirms. "I was completely apolitical. When we were first married, Ron would go to all these political functions, but I complained—because I didn't like going to political functions. They were boring."

But in the last six years, she has radically changed her tastes. Today she's the brand-new finance chairman of the Democratic National Committee—the first woman to hold the party's chief fund-raising post. It's an unpaid but arduous job in which she hopes to gather up a staggering \$170 million by November 2000. The 47-year-old Dozoretz, a former sportswear executive from New York's rough-and-tumble apparel industry, and her 63-year-old third husband, a non-practicing psychiatrist who owns a billion-dollar managed-care empire,

are at the very top of the political ziggurat.

If anyone doubted the Dozoretzes' rank, all questions were removed last November when President Clinton stood as godfather to their baby daughter, Melanne Rose, and participated with the first lady in an attention-getting ceremony—featuring a rabbi, an Indian swami and a Japanese nun—at their Wesley Heights mansion. The palatial Northwest Washington house was expensively remodeled after the Dozoretzes bought it for a reported \$4.25 million last year from Michael and Arianna Huffington. (They lease the adjoining property for their personal staff.)

By many accounts, including their own, the Dozoretzes have become trusted intimates of the Clintons—to say nothing of Vice President and Tipper Gore—trading dinner invitations and golf dates and spending quality time together on Martha's Vineyard and at Camp David.

"Beth has been a good friend and supporter of Bill's and mine for many years," Hillary Rodham Clinton said in a statement for this article. "She has demonstrated her commitment to the Democratic Party time and again by working tirelessly on behalf of Democratic candidates. I am so

See DOZORETZ, C2, Col. 1

Beth Dozoretz, the Friend Who Picks Up the Bill

DOZORETZ, From C1

pleased that the DNC is recognizing Beth by naming her the committee's finance chairman. I know she will do a fantastic job."

Depending on who's talking, the Dozoretzes' vertiginous climb of Mount Washington is either a case study of wealth, ambition and charm in the service of social summitry, or an exemplar of public-spirited idealism and elbow grease.

They moved here in 1993 from Norfolk, the headquarters of FHC (for First Hospital Corp.) Health Systems, a private company of which Ron owns 80 percent. It's the corporate umbrella for dozens of managed-care companies that employ 7,000 staffers in nearly every state and Puerto Rico—under lucrative government and commercial contracts to administer psychotherapy, drug rehabilitation and other "behavior care" for nearly 24 million clients.

Initially the Dozoretzes occupied a lavish Georgetown apartment overlooking the Potomac, perfect for glittering receptions. Beth soon established herself as one of the Democrats' premier fund-raisers, while Ron lent moral and financial support and served as a presidential appointee on the Kennedy Center's board of trustees. Meanwhile, they made friends with a host of influential people—everyone from Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo to the actress Glenn Close.

But "there wasn't this goal and this intention" to befriend the Clintons, Beth insists. "Maybe that is the reason we were able to strike up such a friendship with them, because it was very sincere and heartfelt from both my husband and myself to them," she says.

"It wasn't a plan. It wasn't a route to get to them. . . . We've spent, the four of us, a good amount of personal time together in a variety of places—all the places that you would expect. Ron and Hillary are very close. They adore each other. There's a real trust between them."

"We love Hillary and we just have a real warmth toward her," confirms Ron, who zips around in his very own \$17 million Citation X business jet, the world's fastest private aircraft, cruising at 600 mph. "It's just one of those things that evolved. . . . We've kept a very low profile and that's what we like to do. We've had them over for dinner quietly. It's a social friendship. We don't need anything. We don't want anything. We don't ask for anything."

He adds that the Clintons' travails and humiliations of the past year have only deepened their friendship with the first family. "I've been very, very worried about them, very caring about them," he says, sounding much like the psychotherapist he was until the 1980s. "We feel their anguish. I'm not into the right-and-wrong of it. We're very sensitive to their feelings. We have dinner with them and Chelsea. We know Chelsea. And we've tried to just be there for them—call up and say, 'Hi, how are you—we're here.'"

Ron Dozoretz, a former Navy doctor, has long been an ardent

activist, both as a Republican and a Democrat, and once staged an abortive candidacy for the U.S. Senate from Virginia. A supporter of Ronald Reagan (and, before Clinton's 1992 juggernaut, George Bush), he spent a weekend last September quail hunting in Texas with the former president's son Gov. George W. Bush.

"I never shot; I just walked and rode in the Jeep with him," says Dozoretz, who knows Bush through the Republican Governors Association, a group he finds it useful to help, given his wide business interests in GOP-led states. "I happened to stay in the same house with him, had dinner and breakfast with him and his wife. But I told him that Jews don't take up arms against quail." (Nor will Dozoretz support Bush for president; his allegiance, like his wife's, is to Gore.)

Dozoretz boasts among his more surprising friends his Tidewater neighbor Pat Robertson, founder of the Christian Coalition and the Christian Broadcasting Network. "Ron is an extraordinarily able businessman," Robertson gushes. "We differ on politics, but I consider him a good friend. . . . Beth is just an absolutely charming person, very beautiful, and I'm sure she's quite a popular hostess up there in Washington."

Beth—who appears less a hostess than a businesswoman, favoring understated dark pantsuits "off the rack and hopefully on sale," she says—dates her political passion to that grudging pilgrimage 6½ years ago to the convention at Madison Square Garden. She describes a near-religious epiphany over Hillary Clinton.

"On her way to the podium she had to walk by where I was sitting," Dozoretz recounts. "She was looking around, smiling, and I flattered myself to think that our eyes met. And I blurted something out like, 'I just think you're fabulous!' And I felt like she looked at me and said, 'Thank you!' with her big, beautiful smile."

"And that," she goes on, "was kind of it!"

The Envy of the Party

The breathtaking velocity with which the Dozoretzes have penetrated the courtier culture of the Clinton White House—the schmooze equivalent of a Citation X—has predictably raised eyebrows and aroused jealousy among some Democratic Party stalwarts, much of it aimed at Beth.

The envy quotient increased exponentially in September 1997 when a news wire photo of her grinning in a golf cart was published around the country. Dozoretz's chauffeur that day on Martha's Vineyard: the president of the United States.

"Beth came here to become just what she has become," says a major party fund-raiser who asked not to be named. Given her power and access, her critics naturally don't want to antagonize her.

"Starting from the very beginning, they were having dinners and soirees at their apartment in Washington Harbour," this fund-raiser says. "The whole program was geared to rising to the top. She had a staff from the very first day. I

mean, how many housewives have staffs? She played golf with the president, and she took golf lessons so she could play with him. Her husband obviously is very, very wealthy, and this is something they set out to accomplish. And obviously they have."

"That's just ugly," Dozoretz replies. "It's untrue and unkind, but I think it's to be expected." She notes that she comes "from a family of golfers" and enjoyed the game long before she met the president. "Maybe this comes up because a woman is getting some recognition. What's the old saying? If you work hard as a woman, you're a bitch. If you work hard as a man, I don't know what they say, but it's different."

"Politics is probably as tough a business as any, and the fund-raising side can be especially mean-spirited," says Ari Swiller, who was director of the DNC's large-contributor program when Dozoretz was co-chairman in 1994, soliciting in the \$25,000-to-\$100,000 range. "Everyone wants a piece of the pie, everyone wants the limelight, and people talk behind each other's backs."

Presidential confidant Terry McAuliffe, who headed up fund-raising for the DNC and later the Clinton reelection campaign, shows little patience for Dozoretz's second-guessers: "Everybody really ought to just stop this. She's worked hard. She was nothing but helpful to me when I was finance chair of the party. Beth has always been there, asking, 'How can I help?'"

Another friend, Kerry Kennedy Cuomo, daughter of the late Rob-



Clinton pals Ronald and Beth Dozoretz: Politics used to bore her, but now she's leading Democratic efforts to raise \$170 million by November 2000.

ert F. Kennedy and wife of the housing secretary, dismisses the notion that the Dozoretzes are typical Washington social climbers. "It would be so easy to paint that picture, but it would be such a shallow look at who these people are," she says. "I've been around a lot of social climbers in my life. I grew up in this family that was very attractive to people. So I think my radar is pretty sophisticated. Beth and Ron are definitely not in that group."

"The truth is, yes, they came to town knowing very few people and they became friends with a lot of people in various positions of power. But the reason they've been such a big hit is because they are really good friends and they genuinely care and they call you when you're in trouble." When her young daughter, Maria, badly burned herself and required 10 days of hospitalization last year, "it was a terrifying experience," Cuomo says. "But Beth came to the hospital every single day and she brought wonderful presents. She was really a comfort."

Party activist Patricia Duff says Dozoretz has stuck by her during her widely publicized divorce and custody battle with New York billionaire Ronald Perelman, who happens to be a major DNC donor.

"She's been a true-blue loyal friend, all through the difficulty, and not everybody has," Duff says. (Her 4-year-old daughter, Caleigh, often plays with the Dozoretzes' 4-year-old son, Joshua.) "She was actually the one who helped put Bob Torricelli and me together," she adds, referring to her current boyfriend, the New Jersey Demo-

cratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Torricelli, noting that he and Duff frequently dine and sometimes vacation with the Dozoretzes, says, "They are that rare combination of people who are intellectually stimulating and also fun—and in whom I have great personal trust."

Torricelli, who dated Bianca Jagger before the blondly stunning Duff, discusses Beth like a connoisseur. "It's not unusual for a beautiful woman of real intellect to have influence in Washington," he says. "What might make Beth Dozoretz different is that she has an intensity and persuasiveness. It's an unusual quality, and it comes from somewhere in her background."

The Marrying Kind

She grew up Beth Ellen Goldman in Worcester, Mass., the daughter of a dentist who, she recalls, never made the kind of money he deserved. "He was actually a researcher and world-renowned for his inventions," she says. "He invented a solution that when sprayed on decay would make it dissolve and separate from the tooth. That was his most famous invention, but he had, oh my God, many, many, many other inventions, and his specialty was root canal. He was a brilliant scientist, but not a very good businessman."

Worcester was safe, comfortable and dull. Beth worked at various jobs from the age of 14 on, and volunteered as a camp counselor at the Jewish Community Center. She thought she wanted a career as a teacher. So she attended a small college in Boston, got her degree in three years, and at 20, during her final year, married her high school sweetheart, Dick Schwartz.

He wanted to continue his own studies and get a master's degree in computer science, and then go to law school, so Beth Schwartz became the breadwinner. She did a little modeling and retailing of clothes before taking a job as a first-grade teacher. But she quickly discovered she was unsuited to the classroom, and returned to sales. She obviously had a talent for it.

A job at a contemporary sportswear company required her to travel weekly from Framingham, Mass., to New York's garment center. She soon was promoted to the key position of buyer. "Some people think you're a bum, and some people think you're terrific," she recalls the company president telling her before giving her the job. Her marriage gradually fell apart, but she flourished in the Darwinian atmosphere of the *shmatra* trade—the widely used Yiddish expression for the unforgiving and often terrifying business in which companies thrive or die on the brutal whims of fashion.

By age 31 she was president of Clyde's Sportswear, a company that made women's clothes for the office, and was earning well into six figures. An avowed workaholic, she had a brief and unhappy second marriage to an apparel executive.

"Beth was just driven to success. What she didn't know, she certainly worked hard to find out," says Irving Sandorf, the former owner

of Clyde's Sportswear, which went bankrupt several years ago. "She has a way of getting into you a little bit. She knows how to manipulate people. I don't know if you'd call them 'people skills.' It's more like 'I'll use you, you use me' skills. . . . I think Beth wants to be the next Pamela Harriman."

In 1988, after the man who was to be her third husband suffered a fatal heart attack, she left her career with a handsome bank account and took stock of her life. Ron Dozoretz first clapped eyes on Beth in an elegant Upper East Side apartment—the home of a relative—where he was hosting a fundraiser for Virginia gubernatorial candidate Doug Wilder. It was 1989, and she attended with her then-boyfriend Andrew Tisch, of the Loews and CBS Tisches.

"I was very taken with her," says Dozoretz, who was 53, a rich and eligible bachelor, long divorced from his first wife. The following February he learned that Beth had broken up with Tisch, and he invited her to a Valentine's Day dinner. Afterward he brought her to meet his two grown daughters. He knew he had met his future wife.

"That was it," Ron Dozoretz says, warming to his subject. "I was crazy about her then and I'm crazy about her now." They were married in September 1990. "I never turned back, and she's only gotten better. I go to sleep every night and give her kisses, and wake up and give her kisses in the middle of the night."

Not to be outdone in the mushy department, Beth Dozoretz says: "He is a wonderful man!"

Her Corner of the World

Today she operates out of a small room at party headquarters on Capitol Hill, in a corner of the DNC finance department. She makes scores of phone calls to the rich and politically connected while sitting at a dented table sheathed in fake veneer. The walls are scuffed.

"This," Beth Dozoretz says with a laugh, "is a much nicer office than I used to have in the garment center."

Having distinguished herself in the game of coaxing dollars out of people, starting out when Sen. Chuck Robb (D-Va.), a friend of her husband's, asked her in 1992 to help launch the Women's Leadership Forum for the Senate Democrats, she proposed herself for DNC finance chairman. In the end, she was the Clintons' personal choice for the unenviable task of keeping the Democratic Party afloat as the next presidential election looms.

"This job is more than I've ever dealt with, but, though it's very intense pressure, I feel good about where the money's going," she says. "I don't take it personally if somebody says no. I try to make a compelling reason for them to want to do it."

Certainly Dozoretz has her own compelling reasons for shouldering the burden: a devotion to Democratic programs and policies, a wish to see more women in office, a will to succeed. "And I meet really interesting people—very, very interesting people."

from Ladies' Home Journal.

more

APRIL 1999

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A LUST STORY





i am a camera

Great photographers—such as the ones we spotlight here—manage to capture that fleeting moment when an icon suddenly reveals her human essence and we see her as if for the first time.

more asked five celebrated male photographers to choose women they found fascinating through the eye of the lens—and away from the camera

HILLARY CLINTON, 1993

"You can see the intelligence in her eyes, the awareness. In this card game with Bill and Chelsea, she holds the hand like a professional, very evenly so she sees everything at once. She really holds all the cards."

—Harry Benson

An award-winner, he has photographed presidential couples from the Kennedys to the Clintons for Life, Vanity Fair and Paris Match

Yearlong Millennium Party Planned for D.C.

By LINDA WHEELER
Washington Post Staff Writer

Washington's business leaders plan to mark the end of the millennium in the capital with a yearlong celebration that will start July 4 and build to a huge New Year's Eve party on the Mall.

The Washington D.C. Millennium Alliance is working with the White House Millennium Council, an office set up by President

Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, to coordinate a series of millennium events before—and after—Dec. 31.

Alliance officials said yesterday that preliminary plans call for large, public celebrations on the Mall and on Pennsylvania Avenue NW but that neither they nor White House officials are ready to reveal how the city and the federal capital will ring in 2000.

Several alliance leaders said

yesterday that they are eager to announce the millennium events but have been asked by the White House to wait until the executive office has completed its plans. A Feb. 24 news conference, at which details of the yearlong activities and the New Year's Eve celebration were to be announced, was canceled at the request of the White House, according to Marie L. Tibor, vice president of the Washington DC

Convention and Visitors Association.

Tibor, whose group is a member of the alliance effort, said officials are waiting on word from the White House as to when they can make their joint announcement. She said they want the celebration to be seen as one big, coordinated event instead of separate local and federal activities.

See CELEBRATION, B7, Col. 5

Local, Federal Officials Team Up for Party Plans

CELEBRATION, From B1

And since the federal government would oversee any activity on the Mall, having the White House plans in order is crucial.

Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, director of the White House Millennium Council, said yesterday that she expects such an announcement within 10 days.

"The White House Millennium Council and the Smithsonian Institution are working together in special ways to mark the millennium on a grand scale and a national level," she said, noting that the planned celebration would include more than a New Year's Eve celebration.

Tibor and Seamus Houston, spokesman for the Downtown DC Business Improvement District, said they are eager to publicize the various millennium-related events so the public can start making plans to attend and participate.

"It's like trying to sell someone a car that they haven't seen," Houston said. "They may be real interested, but they won't commit until they see it."

The yearlong millennium celebration is being coordinated by 13 art, cultural, government and historical Washington entities, plus the White House. When the alliance and White House plans are announced, hotels and other tourist-dependent ventures can begin to make their plans.

Hotels, for example, won't know how to price their rooms until they know how large a crowd to expect, Tibor said. And celebrities, the key to attracting those crowds, can't be booked until the sponsors know they have an event that will generate the income to pay for the entertainment, Houston said.

Such a unified approach, among local organizations or between the District and federal government, is unusual in Washington. Traditionally, they conduct their own programs without regard to what others are doing.

Houston said the city's tourism industry has long depended on four

annual events—the Cherry Blossom Festival, the Fourth of July, the Taste of Washington and the National Christmas Tree—to bring business to town, with little else happening in between. This new approach will publicize a yearlong calendar of events, beginning July 4, so tourists and residents will know what there is to do in any given week of the year.

"We had never before developed anything that would cover a year," he said. "We just went from one spike to the next. The idea is to see this as a year of activity instead of four events."

Members of the alliance, who

"The idea is to see this as a year of activity instead of four events."

— Seamus Houston, spokesman,
Downtown DC Business Improvement District

will manage their own events but in coordination with the others, include the Corcoran Gallery, D.C. Arts Commission, D.C. Bicentennial District government, Washington Historical Society, Downtown DC Business Improvement District, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Kreeger Museum, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, Washington 2000 and Washington Performing Arts Society.

The alliance directors are four nonprofit organizations that have joined forces to "enhance the image, economy and culture of the nation's capital from 1999 through 2000," according to alliance literature. The director organizations are the Visitors Association, Downtown DC Business Improvement District, D.C. Committee to Promote Washington and Hotel Association of Washington D.C.



Power and Honor

Ghana's President Jerry Rawlings (extreme left) and First Lady, Nana Agyeman Rawlings (extreme right) flank U.S. President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary at a White House reception recently.

White House Parties On For St. Patrick's Day



President Clinton works the tent.

THEY say that the First Marriage is as chilly as temperatures in the North Pole these days, but you never would have known it last Wednesday night as the seemingly jovial Clintons kept their St. Patrick's Day tradition alive once again this year and opened the fabled doors of the White House to well over 1,000 Irish and Irish American guests for their annual holiday party. The guest list for the bash swelled to such an extent this year that a huge marquee was erected on the South Lawn to accommodate the overflow and stage the evening's stellar entertainment which centered around the awarding of the Presidential Medal of Freedom to former Senator George Mitchell.

The White House really puts on some show for their St. Patrick's gig — plenty of delicious Irish food dishes like corned beef and cabbage, colcannon, boxty and to-die-for desserts, and unfettered access for guests to all the historic rooms bar the family quarters — but there's no denying that a cloud hung over this year's festivities due to the brutal assassination of Catholic civil rights attorney Rosemary Nelson in the North only two days before, and the uncertainty that continues to hang over the "d" word — decommissioning. In fact, many of the Northern politicians who usually enjoy the party were instead huddled upstairs in the family quarters meeting with the President trying to devise some sort of compromise.

Between speeches and presentations the entertainment segment of the evening lasted for nearly two hours, but (mostly) every minute was a delight for the eyes and ears. Mrs. Clinton, who looked very well in a green velvet skirt suit, introduced Irish PM Bertie Ahern, accompanied as usual by his "partner" Celia Larkin, also decked out in a short green number for the occasion. Ahern thanked the Clintons for letting the Irish take over the White House for a night — "hopefully we'll leave it intact," he joked — and handed the mike to President Clinton, who received his customary standing ovation at any Irish event he attends.

The President kept his political remarks to a minimum and instead sang the praises of Senator Mitchell,

the chairman of the Irish peace talks and newest recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor that any civilian can receive. "I don't really know if this is going to mean anything to George anymore, he's gotten so many honors lately," the President said. "He can't walk two blocks down the street without someone throwing some sort of trophy at him — Irish American of the Year, Honorary Degree from Dublin's Trinity College... George Lucas offered to give him the force, but he said the force was already with him."

Mitchell appeared truly humbled by the honor, and garnered the biggest laugh (and applause) of the night when he kiddingly referred to the First Lady as "Senator Hillary." The former Senate Majority Leader was witty — "Just a few years ago I was about as Irish as a shish kabob," he joked about his adoptive Lebanese grandparents — and forthright, imploring all the political leaders to make good

though, and Claire showcased her musical talents in a piano duet with Phil Coulter. The audience couldn't help but be moved by her astounding courage and grace, and the Clintons were particularly taken by her performance.

Coulter and James Galway were on hand to perform a selection from their "Both Sides Now" concert; they were accompanied by Roma Downey, star of *Touched By An Angel*, and movie star Aidan Quinn, both of whom read selections of poetry. Drummers from Ireland and Northern Ireland added an especially lively feel to the festivities, but amazingly, a good number of the guests departed the marquee after the speeches and missed the music. It's not every day that an invitation from the White House arrives in the mail — perhaps these jaded souls should remember that the next time they prematurely head for the exits.

The guest list was, as usual, chock full



Irish PM Bertie Ahern and First Lady Hillary Clinton applaud Senator George Mitchell on receiving the Presidential Medal of Honor.

on the Good Friday Agreement, or else risk the wrath of history.

The real show-stopper of the night wasn't a politician or other famous face, but rather a lovely 15-year-old teenager from Northern Ireland named Claire Gallagher who was in the wrong place at the wrong time one unforgettable summer day last August in Omagh, and as a result she lost her sight. The bomb didn't take away her indefatigable spirit,

of politicians, mostly of the Democratic persuasion, except of course for the ubiquitous Congressman Peter King. President Clinton even joked that his pal King — one of the few GOP House legislators who voted against impeachment — insisted on bringing 15 family members to the hot-ticket party, but all "Page 2" could see was his wife Rosemary and daughter Erin. Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy was there, as was freshman rep Joe Crowley, Congressman Richard Neal and Senator Chris Dodd.

The celebrity contingent was headed this year by Downey, Quinn and Dylan McDermott, star of the hit show *The Practice*. We caught up with Downey after her performance, and a sweeter, more unaffected celebrity would be hard to find. "I'm coming out of a very rough year, but I'm feeling good now," she told us, referring to the breakup of her marriage to David Anspaugh. "It was worse because it was so public, but I said as little as possible for my daughter's sake." Reilly Marie will celebrate her third birthday in June.

Roma says Phil Coulter asked her to come to the White House to perform, an invite she happily accepted. "It's the Derry connection," said the pencil-skinny Roma, who looked fetching in a long green gown designed by Randolph Duke. "I go back to Derry once a year because all my family are still there, and I have property in Donegal."

Aidan Quinn was equally pleasant to talk to, and he's excited about the May U.S. opening of his family-made movie, *This Is My Father*. "It's doing amazingly well in Ireland and has grossed over \$1 million there," he said.

So all in all, another great St. Patrick's night to remember in Washington, and guests are already looking forward to next year's bash, President Clinton's last in office. No doubt he'll go out with a bang and make that one the biggest and best yet.



Irish hotelier John Fitzpatrick catches up with Roma Downey at the White House.

A Cause Unveiled

Hollywood Women Have Made the Plight of Afghan Women Their Own—Sight Unseen

By SHARON WAXMAN
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, March 29
Last August the compassionate, concerned, dedicated women of the Feminist Majority—a small group of activists based in Hollywood and Washington—were utterly miserable.

It had been eight months since Mavis Leno, wife of Jay and member of the board, had declared her intention to take on the cause of Afghan women. Eight months of letter-writing, of networking, of power-lunching, and she'd gotten plenty of sympathy but no real *action*.

The average American remained blissfully unaware that women half a world away were being repressed by the Taliban, the ultra-conservative Islamic group that had swept to power in 1996 and dragged the country back several centuries. The Taliban decreed that women were to be hidden beneath full-length shrouds in public and denied them education, freedom of movement and the opportunity to work. Women who resisted were beaten. Women suspected of offenses like adultery were stoned. To death.

"It was clear to me," says Mavis Leno, sitting in her West Hollywood headquarters, "that if women in the West didn't do something pretty spectacular, these women were lost." She is dark-haired and articulate,



FILE PHOTO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Four women wearing burqas make their way through the Afghan capital in a horse-drawn taxi.

with a vague resemblance, strangely, to her famous husband. She goes on, "It would be like the German and Polish Jews, like the peasants under Stalin. They'd be swallowed by history. And I didn't want that to happen while I was alive."

So Mavis and Jay Leno dug deep and handed over

\$100,000 to get the movement rolling.

And roll it has. In six months the Taliban's "war on women" has become the latest *cause célèbre* in Hollywood. Tibet is out. Afghanistan is in. The Lenos

See WOMEN, C8, Col. 1

The Stars Take On Afghanistan

WOMEN, From C1

hosted a briefing for insiders at their home. The media showed up in force at their news conference last October. Even President Clinton got on board. Ten days ago, he spent an hour talking with a Feminist Majority delegation about the plight of Afghan women. The latest twist is that Clinton pal and veteran TV producer Linda Bloodworth-Thomason produced a media event tonight at the Directors Guild that was the official coming-out of the Afghan women's cause.

It was a must-attend happening, gathering perhaps the largest number of celebrities for a single cause since the "We Are the World" campaign 14 years ago. Some 70 household names—everyone from Vince Gill to Marlo Thomas to Lionel Richie to Paula Abdul to Christine Lahti—were on the guest list. Richie sang an anthem he donated, "Love, Oh Love," and Naomi Judd and Gill also performed. Alfre Woodard, Gillian Anderson and Lily Tomlin were among the speakers.

At the Feminist Majority offices, the adrenaline rush from this rising momentum is unmistakable. Leno is charged, if somewhat weary. "For a human rights situation this is unusually simple," she says. "The Taliban are spectacularly villainous. They are so uneducated, they don't have the wit to disguise their villainy. That's a rarity. You can't write it off to culture or religion. It's so inhumane. So unacceptable. This is not a decent way to treat human beings."

Her colleague, national coordinator Kathy Spillar, nods in agreement. She repeats what other Feminist Majority board members have already noted: "There is no 'other side' to this issue."

But it turns out that there is another side to this issue.

There is no question that there has been severe persecution of women under the Taliban, the Sunni Muslim militia that controls 90 percent of the nation and is an offshoot of the rebels funded largely by the United States after the Soviet Union invaded in 1979. But the question of women's oppression in Afghanistan—like most problems in that troubled part of the world—is intensely complicated.

Several specialists on Afghanistan disputed some aspects of the picture painted by the Feminist Majority, notably about access to health care and education. They expressed concern that the Hollywood activists are distorting the reality of the current conditions, exaggerating abuses, and taking them out of a critical historical context.

Worse, some international relief officials fear that if the Feminist Majority's campaign is successful, it may end up harming those who most need help by encouraging donor nations to reduce their aid or cut it off completely.

"Those who are speaking out now are well-intentioned but they don't have the full story," says Andrew Wilder, director of the Afghan relief operation of Save the Children, in a phone interview from Pakistan. "It's misleading to the point where there's more and more of a movement from human rights groups and the Feminist Majority to say cut off all aid, which is a real misunderstanding of the situation and will only hurt the very groups these women want to help."

"This is a terrible snow job," says Judy Benjamin, head of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, who returned a couple of weeks ago from visiting Afghan refugee camps on the border with Pakistan. "It's amusing almost, but sad. With the Jay Leno connection they have struck it rich and gained Hollywood, but trust me, they're terribly misinformed."

In testimony before Congress earlier this month, Leno noted that the Taliban has "banned women from being treated by male doctors," and that "the few female doctors who are permitted to work are often harassed." During two days of interviews at the Feminist Majority offices, the impression left on a reporter is that health care is virtually unavailable to women in Afghanistan.

But Benjamin and Wikler and a U.N. official, who spoke on the condition that his name not be used, all confirm that there are segregated women's wards in many Afghan hospitals, and that the Taliban has rescinded restrictions on women's health care. A much larger problem, they note, is the lack of medicine throughout the country and medical personnel, particularly in rural areas.

Education for girls is formally banned by the Taliban. But nearly a dozen nongovernmental groups are conducting schooling for boys and girls, and home schooling is widespread in the capital of Kabul.

Where the abuses strike most viciously, it seems, is in cities like Kabul, which was increasingly Westernized, particularly under the Soviet occupation in the 1980s. Under the Soviets, women were free to work and pursue an educa-

tion, and many gained prominent roles during the civil war in the '80s and '90s as men were siphoned off to fight. For these women, the ban on employment and the deprivations of the *burqa*, the full-length shroud women are required to wear by the Taliban, are particularly demeaning.

But sweeping statements like those in the Feminist Majority's media advisory for tonight's event—"In Afghanistan today eleven and a half million women and girls are prisoners in their own homes"—are largely inaccurate, according to those familiar with the country.

Says Zalmay Khalilzad, a Reagan administration expert on Afghanistan now at the Rand Corp., "In the rural areas, what the Taliban is seeking to impose is not very different than what the norm has been."

Leila Helms, a Westernized, Afghan-born woman who is pro-Taliban, has just returned from a two-week tour of Afghanistan where she says she filmed six hours of interviews with women in five provinces. The *burqa*, she said, is not widespread in the countryside, and she met many women moving freely about, without male relatives as chaperons.

Says Helms: "I met 150 women. I asked every one if they were beaten or knew someone who had been. ... There was one woman who'd been beaten once on her shoulders two years ago because her face was showing and she was talking to a man she didn't know. Every single

other one hadn't been beaten, and did not know someone who had been beaten."

These prickly issues aside, the reason why Helms—a secular, pro-abortion American—favors the Taliban is because for six years she witnessed the country's devastation when she and her husband worked in Afghan refugee camps at the Pakistani border from 1988 to 1994. For Helms, the admittedly repressive Taliban at least brought peace to the country, and Hollywood's sudden concern for Afghan women angers her.

She explodes: "Where were they when all these women were being raped, when women were being killed because they were not following the Muslim Brotherhood," the faction that ruled Afghanistan after the expulsion of Soviet troops. "Where were they before the war when women didn't have rights? Where were they throughout the war when women were rotting in the refugee camps?"

She continues: "For nearly 20 years in Afghanistan there has been no law, no order. We lost almost 2 million people to the Russians. The women don't want to be saved by the Feminist Majority. Finally they have peace, and people in America find religion on the issue of women in Afghanistan?"

Lastly, there is Abdel Hakim Mujahed, the Taliban's representative in the United States, who calls the entire campaign "negative propaganda made against us intentionally," which is true enough. He says:

"There is no doubt that we cannot make our society like American society, but I can tell you that the situation existing there is far more better than what it was."



Back at the Feminist Majority, there is some softening of the line when confronted with these points of view. President Eleanor Smeal agrees that the Taliban's repression is unevenly enforced but denies that her group has exaggerated the abuses.

"One of the biggest frustrations is you cannot get the exact same fact from any one person. It's very complicated—you have to listen very closely," she says. "We don't have to exaggerate this. If only one-tenth of this is happening—we're not trying to exaggerate, we're trying to say what people have told us, and to go with eyewitness accounts."

Smeal also emphasizes that the campaign is not designed to squeeze humanitarian aid to the country, which goes directly to relief agencies and does not pass through the Taliban. Rather, she wants pressure on the government to lift quotas for refugees and to restrict support for economic and agricultural programs in Afghanistan.

She urges, "The big picture is what we've got to keep in mind. We're trying to call attention to horrific conditions."

See WOMEN, C9, Col. 1



BY SHABUR HUSSAIN NAIM—REUTERS

With her son propped in her arms, a woman navigates the streets of Kabul wearing the full veil, or burqa, as required by the Taliban militia.

Hollywood's Newest Cause

WOMEN, From C8

So how did this come to be Hollywood's new cause of the day? Why not "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo? Or mutilation in Sierra Leone? Or slavery in Mauritania?

Mavis Leno got involved with Afghanistan the way things usually happen in Hollywood—through a tight network of acquaintances. The longtime feminist heard about the Feminist Majority from group co-founder Peg Yorkin, who sat next to her at a lunch for the New Yorker's "Women's Issue" in 1997. Then she found out that she lived across the street from another board member, Lorraine Sheinberg, wife of producer Sidney Sheinberg.

"I realized—Oh, this is everything I want, a small group, a short line from recognizing an issue to taking action," recalls Leno, who had been looking for a charitable outlet.

The group was already involved in protesting conditions in Afghanistan when, at the January board meeting last year, Leno—who up to now has not been a public personality—offered to lend her name and abilities.

Recalls Smeal, "I said, 'Are you willing to do this? This will change things.' She said, 'We can't abandon those women. We've got to try everything.'"

But for the first eight months or so of her involvement, Leno "came close to popping a blood vessel," she says. "I couldn't get anything

rolling." Unocal, part of a huge oil consortium that was considering investing in Afghanistan, pulled out of its pipeline project; that was good. But apart from that, she recalls, "Nothing. Zip. No interest. No nothing." She testified in Congress before a foreign appropriations subcommittee; one media outlet, Afghan radio, showed up. Stories would air on shows like "20/20," and there would be no bounce. "No one could get anyone to raise the visibility of this one-eighth of an inch," she says.

Finally Leno decided that the economics of the movement had to change. She and her husband decided to use the proceeds from Jay's pay-per-view wrestling match with Hulk Hogan to fund the campaign.

Says the late-night host: "At some point you have to do something good with your life. God didn't seem particularly impressed with my collection of cars and motorcycles, he's not an enthusiast when it comes to material possessions. So I figured that at some point you have to do something good, especially in terms of what you make."

Armed with the seed money, the Feminist Majority completely revamped its strategy. It adopted a symbol, put together political action mailers. It set up a toll-free number. It held a press conference that was scheduled—serendipitously—a day after the United States had attacked Islamic militant Osama bin Laden's alleged terrorist

bases in Afghanistan; the media showed up this time.

Bloodworth-Thomason and Leno have focused the campaign with a vengeance. They now have a symbol—a piece of blue mesh that is the peephole for the Afghan shroud—a logo and a name, "gender apartheid."

Bloodworth-Thomason brought a burqa with her to the White House when she visited the Clintons at Thanksgiving. The president, Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea all were "astounded by the oppressiveness of the garment," she reports.

Then the activists decided to "go bigger," as they put it, deciding to put together a major media event, to gather as many celebrities as possible to raise the profile of their campaign.

For three months Leno, Bloodworth-Thomason and others have been working the phones, and the huge response is in itself a lesson in the no-degree-of-separation world of Hollywood. Lorraine Sheinberg called Gillian Anderson, Candice Bergen, Lily Tomlin and Marlo Thomas, among others. Yorkin called Janet Leigh, Mary Tyler Moore, Julie Andrews. Yorkin's daughter writes for "Chicago Hope"—hence Christine Lahti.

Mavis Leno ran into music producer David Foster who got hold of Vince Gill. Another friend knew Lionel Richie and got him to donate a song to tonight's event. Cybill Shepherd heard from a friend. Bloodworth-Thomason's assistant

called Naomi, Wynonna and Ashley Judd's assistant and arranged for them to attend.

"At the beginning we thought, 'If we get two or three celebrities on board'—and I don't even know what happened. All of a sudden it just blew up," Leno says.

Another unexpected windfall: Leno called Abigail Van Buren to participate. Dear Abby couldn't make it but suggested Leno write a letter to her column. It has yielded some 30,000 phone calls so far. Leno went on "Larry King Live," and recently was a guest on her husband's "Tonight" show.

For the Feminist Majority, this must be the beginning of the road to success. Says Yorkin: "When Hollywood got interested in apartheid in South Africa, that was the beginning of the end. We want the same thing here."

Is the lack of women's rights in Afghanistan the most pressing human rights abuse in the world? "It is an urgent situation," affirms Sheila Dauer, director of the women's human rights program for Amnesty International. "The event they're holding is very important. I would congratulate all the celebrities taking part in this Afghan action."

But others say the dismal situation in Afghanistan is tied just as closely to the economic devastation brought on by 20 years of savagery. Says Benjamin, "Definitely women in Afghanistan are suffering tremendous abuses, their human rights are not being respected. But you need to put this in the context of what's happened to the country in the past two decades. Much of the grief and poverty is a result of

conflict and war, not a result of the Taliban. There is suffering and poverty, but in most of Afghanistan people will say the Taliban have brought peace and security."

This very notion makes some Afghan women, in touch with the Feminist Majority, desperate. "Everything you hear is true, is real," pleads Zieba Shorish-Shamley, the Afghan-born director of the Women's Alliance for Peace and Freedom in Afghanistan. "I think some of these international organizations are minimizing the atrocities

being committed because they want to continue to work, pay their mortgage, send their children to school. These people are beginning to minimize in order to please the Taliban, so they are able to work."

But Jay Leno has the final say on this matter: "They're shining a light on the problem. If this all turns out to be wrong, if it's a huge mistake—and there seems to be an awful lot of proof in the other direction—nobody did anything for the wrong reasons."

AACAP Members in the News

NYU Child Study Center Opens

New York University's Child Study Center opened its new 20,000 square foot facility on November 12, 1998. U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. Donna Shalala, Congressman Charles Rangel, and New York Board of Education Chancellor Rudolph E. Crew were among those on hand to address the audience that had gathered to observe the opening. AACAP member and NYU Child Study Center Director **Harold S. Koplewicz, M.D.**, commenting on the opening of the Center, said "NYU is investing in the nation's children through the Child Study Center; we believe that if it is good for children, it is good for America . . . we live in a time when scientific knowledge of the brain is growing at an unprecedented rate . . . our goal is to apply that knowledge in earnest." Dr. Koplewicz is Professor, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Vice Chairman, Department of Psychiatry at NYU School of Medicine.



Participating in the opening of the NYU Child Study Center, from left to right, Alice Tisch, Executive Board Member, Harold Koplewicz, M.D., Director, Ann Tennenbaum, Executive Board Member, and AACAP's Executive Director, Virginia Q. Anthony.



At a December benefit dinner sponsored by the NYU Child Study Center, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was presented with the First Annual Child Advocacy Award of the NYU Child Study Center. She was honored for her "lifetime commitment to providing mental health programs for children and families and for bringing children's mental health to the forefront of the nation's agenda."

stressful environment, only the second twin may develop the disease."

Wiesel remains optimistic about the future. "We are in such a wonderful period in brain research and some of it has crept into child and adolescent psychiatry. But we are still only at the beginning. The clinician and the basic scientist need one another, but you need open minds on both sides. The genetic component in the development of the brain, for instance, all of this is sort of the base on which, although not directly relevant to the daily practice of child psychiatry, is very relevant in terms of stimulating one's thinking about the problems of child psychiatry. It is a time for optimism!"

Wiesel concluded, "If I were a young scientist starting my career today, I think I would become a molecular geneticist to do studies like these on genes linked to schizophrenia. But again, these genetic studies should not blind one to the complex environmental factors that will also be involved in the development of various psychiatric syndromes. The operations of the brain result from a balance between inputs from heredity and environment—nature and nurture—and this balance should also be reflected in research into the biological basis of behavior."

As we learn more, we will have to maintain a careful balance. It likely will turn out that some disease states we child

and adolescent psychiatrists diagnose and treat will be pure products of faulty nature, of genes with 100% penetrance. Others may be caused entirely by disastrous nurture. But the vast majority of those human conditions will result from some complex, and complicated, interaction between the two. We owe Torsten Wiesel a debt of gratitude for making society in general, and we child and adolescent psychiatrists, more fully aware of that. ♦

Dr. Rosenfeld is in private practice in New York, NY and Greenwich, CT and is the author of numerous books on sexual abuse, psychotherapy, sexual development, child rearing, and foster care.

Biography

A P R I L

ACHIEVERS

The 25 Most Powerful Women in America

They're the women who help shape our lives, our leisure, our beliefs, and our businesses. They bring us the news and make the news, inspire us and enrich us, create laws and policy, and educate us about everything from French cuisine to the ravages of AIDS. *Biography Magazine* presents its choices for the 25 most powerful women in America. **BY JANET CAWLEY**

POLITICAL POWERHOUSES



HILLARY CLINTON

First Lady

She's been the embodiment of grace under pressure: dignified, strong, and resilient. Whatever her private anguish about President Clinton's infidelity and impeachment hearings, Hillary Clinton has not only coped but maintained a composure that seems incapable of cracking. And as First Lady, she has kept up a grueling public schedule despite all the scrutiny, focusing on issues important to her, such as children's welfare.

Not that she's abdicated the seat of power. For months it was Hillary Clinton who framed the national debate on her husband's predicament after announcing on the *Today* show that he was the victim of a "vast right-wing conspiracy" determined to end his presidency. Even after learning the truth about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, she remained, in the words of her office, "committed to her marriage" and also to the Democratic Party. She campaigned hard last fall for Democratic candidates, hitting nine states in the last week, and won credit for the party's unexpectedly strong electoral showing.

That kind of single-minded focus was forged early back in Park Ridge, Illinois, where Clinton was raised (she was voted "most likely to succeed" in her senior year of high school). After attending Wellesley College and Yale Law School, she wed fellow student William Jefferson Clinton in 1975 and gave birth to daughter Chelsea in 1980.

As wife of the Arkansas governor, Clinton became the most activist First Lady the state had ever seen—a pattern she carried straight into the White House, redefining the role. Whatever happens to her husband, Hillary Clinton, at 51, remains a new model First Lady—and perhaps one with a future political career of her own.

► Tipper Gore says she's a big admirer of Hillary Rodham Clinton but would be a different kind of first lady. The vice president's wife said she dispenses advice when asked, most often at home or other quiet times such as hikes with her husband, and she would not be a fixture in the Oval Office offering policy advice. "I've never done it that way," she told The Associated Press Saturday.



AP

Gore: Advises during quiet times

Tipper Gore sees a quiet role as First Lady

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- (AP) -- Tipper Gore is a big admirer of Hillary Rodham Clinton, but says she would be a different kind of First Lady should Vice President Al Gore capture the White House. Mrs. Clinton is a key advisor to her husband; Mrs. Gore dispenses her advice when asked, most often at home or during a walk. Would she be a fixture in the Oval Office, offering policy advice?

"I've never done it that way," she said.

While Mrs. Clinton has one daughter who is away at college, Mrs. Gore notes that she has four children (one still at home), a grandchild due in June and two elderly parents in the Washington, D.C., area.

"There's a difference when you have four children to keep up with and all of their activities," she said. "With four children and aging parents, I find that I only spend so much time on issues that I care about, and I spend a lot of time on keeping the family together."

Mrs. Gore is most active in mental health care and fighting homelessness and poverty.

She is reluctant to compare or contrast her style with that of Mrs. Clinton, noting that her husband has only opened a presidential exploratory committee and is not officially a candidate.

Mrs. Gore, 50, said she is a friend and admirer of Mrs. Clinton, a fellow baby boomer who is one year older. But she has her own style: "Anyone who finds herself in the role of First Lady reflects her individuality and who she is as a person."

Their differences and similarities are certain to be scrutinized as the second lady becomes more visible during the 2000 presidential campaign.

She has appeared recently in New Hampshire and Iowa and she substituted for Clinton this weekend when he canceled his scheduled appearance at the California Democratic Party convention due to the U.S.-led airstrikes in Kosovo.

Both women are crowd-pleasers on the stump. Mrs. Gore has neither the polish nor the edge of Mrs. Clinton, but her disarming, just-folks demeanor charmed delegates Saturday.

When her TelePrompTer didn't immediately flash her speech, she cracked a joke, and by the time the laughter died down, the speech was ready to go.

She then whipped up Democratic activists with a speech in which she took credit on behalf of the Clinton administration for the economic boom of the 1990s. She warned that Republicans are bent on using the budget surplus for a tax cut that would require cutting federal education and nutrition programs.

"The other party's agenda is based on ideas from 1822," she said.
END



"Most adults who can't read well were never read to as children," says educator Nancye Gaj (leading a Motherhead class in Raleigh, N.C.).

Page Turners

By focusing on children's books, Nancye Gaj's literacy program helps teach parents to read to their kids

At first, it sounds like a typical book-club meeting. In a community room of a Raleigh, N.C., apartment complex, nine parents and grandparents, aged 29 to 71, discuss the motivation of a character in a book. "Over the course of the story, did her

goal change?" asks the group's leader, Deborah Williams. "It wavered," one woman says eagerly.

But they're not talking about Elizabeth Bennet or Emma Bovary. They're referring to the hero of the children's book *Mirandy and Brother Wind*. The members read passages

aloud, hesitating, sounding out each word. "Mah-RY-ah?" falters one, trying to pronounce a character's name. Assistant teacher Sway Archible gently corrects her.

Welcome to Motherhead, a non-profit organization that uses children's books to improve adult reading skills. The parents attend the weekly meetings, explains Motherhead founder Nancye Gaj, because of their "powerful motivation" to read to their children. "There are all the learn-to-read-better campaigns, but what if a person doesn't want to learn to read better?" asks Gaj, 49. "Well, maybe they don't, but every-

body wants to be a better parent."

Since Gaj launched Motherhead in 1987, modeled on a class she taught in a women's prison, it has sprouted in 18 states. In partnership with schools, community colleges and social agencies, Motherhead now serves some 25,000 "learners" a year. In awarding her a National Humanities Medal last November, President Clinton said, "Gaj has unleashed the power of family reading in schools and homes all across America."

At Motherhead classes, teachers or volunteers read along with the parents. Using a method called story sharing, instructors then discuss the book and how parents can have similar talks with their kids. The program "has changed my life," says Beatriz Herbert, 45, a Raleigh resident and mother of Alberto, 10. "We read together in a new way. We're bonded in a way we weren't before."

The technique has its critics. At first, Gaj's literacy colleagues "scoffed at the idea," she says. "They thought it was just wrong to use children's books with adults, that it was demeaning. But it made every bit of sense." Cheryl Dickson, president of the Minnesota Humanities Commission (whose state has 600 Motherhead sites), calls Gaj a "genius," adding, "The beauty of Motherhead is that it works in all settings—



President Clinton (with Hillary and Gaj) calls her "a true revolutionary of literacy."

schools, home daycare, libraries."

Gaj herself is a bookworm from way back. At 5, she read so loudly that her father, Raymond Brown, a Baptist minister, and mother, Caralie, a homemaker, feared she would disturb their Louisville, Ky., neighbors. The family later moved to Raleigh, where Gaj met her spouse, Steven, a graphic artist; their son Carter is 15.

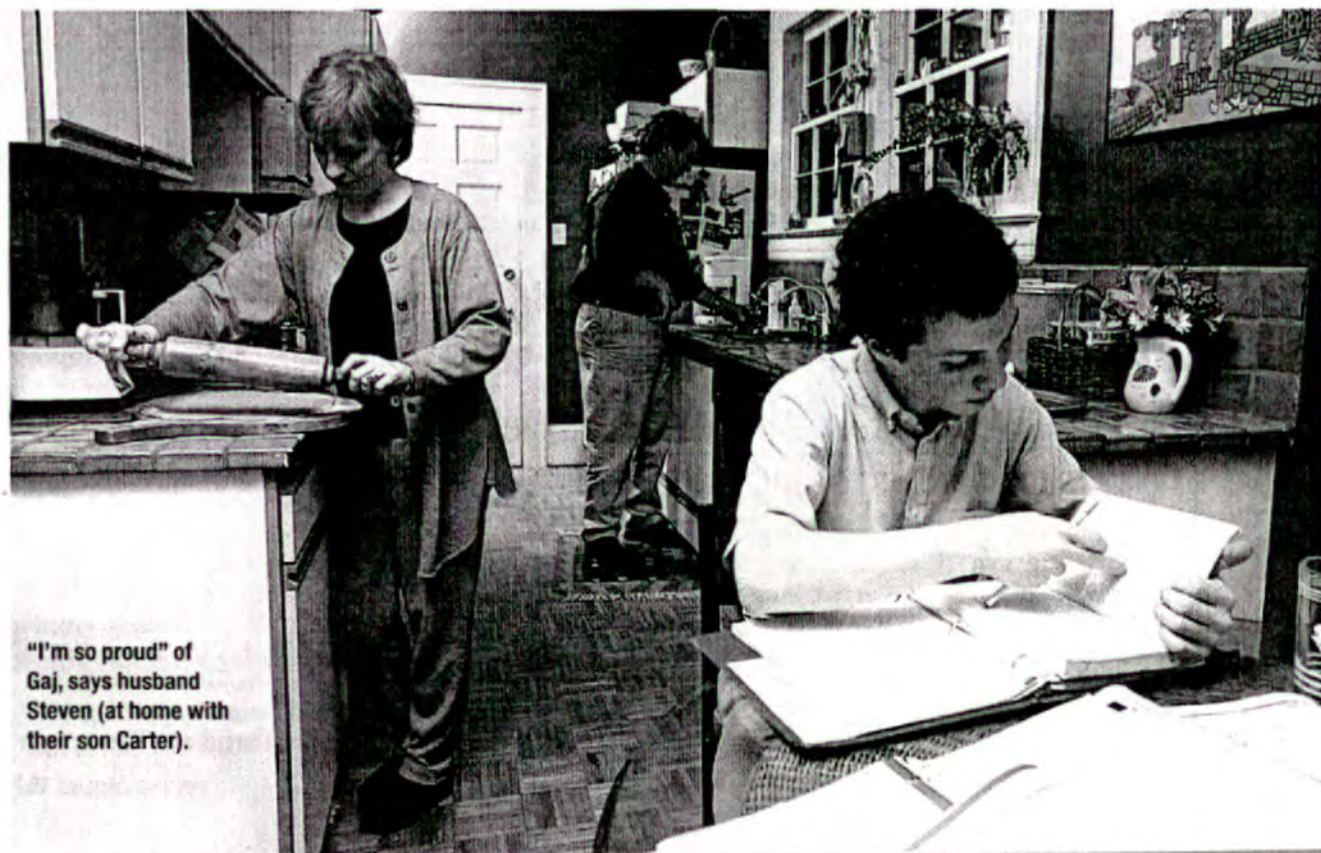
Gaj, who has a graduate degree in reading education from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, taught remedial reading at a high school and then at a community college. While nearly all Ameri-

cans can read and write basic words, she says, she found that many "are not literate enough for the demands of a highly technological and print-driven society." Eager to start a program that used parent-child bonds to improve literacy, "I couldn't get anyone inside the educational system to respond to my idea," she says.

With some trepidation, she quit her job in 1987 to found Motherhead, using \$60,000 from a federal grant as seed money. "Nancye sees people as having tremendous potential and sees literacy skills as developing that potential," explains husband Steven. "Her mission is to balance things out for people who haven't had the chances we've had."

These days, when Gaj isn't overseeing her 22-employee organization and checking on the progress of her "learners," she relaxes in her 1940s cottage-style Raleigh home and attends concerts with her music-loving husband. She's optimistic that she will soon reach her goal of expanding Motherhead to every state in the country. "After all," says Gaj, "who would have thought I would be accepting an award from the President? Who knows what's next?"

- Sophronia Scott Gregory
- Gail Wescott and Amy Laughinghouse in Raleigh



"I'm so proud" of Gaj, says husband Steven (at home with their son Carter).

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 3/28/99

Whitewater players have similar recollections

BY ANDREW A. GREEN
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

James McDougal's recollections in his posthumous book *Arkansas Mischief* don't directly contradict Hillary Rodham Clinton's 1998 grand jury testimony about the Whitewater land deal — even though he did call the first lady a "liar."

Independent counsel Kenneth Starr's deputies played about a half-hour of Hillary Clinton's testimony in court during their prosecution of Susan McDougal, James McDougal's ex-wife, on charges of criminal contempt of court and obstruction of justice.

Hillary Clinton rarely offered

more than a simple "yes," "no" or some form of "I don't know" to prosecutors during her April 25, 1998, testimony, taken at the White House in lieu of an appearance before a grand jury sitting in Little Rock.

Mostly the first lady said she was unfamiliar with what hap-

Sep **FIRST LADY**, Page 6A

First lady

• Continued from Page 1A

pened in the Whitewater deal and was unable to comment on details of loans taken out in the names of various Whitewater figures — including the president.

Her assertion that she wasn't involved in the day-to-day operations of the Whitewater Development Corp. conforms to James McDougal's recollection that neither she nor Bill Clinton was interested in the business' operations. The McDougals and the Clintons bought the Whitewater land in Marion County in 1978 as an investment, with the idea that the McDougals would manage improving the land and selling it in parcels for vacation homes.

James McDougal wrote in *Arkansas Mischief*, published not long after his March 1998 death, that Hillary Clinton was interested in why the partnership wasn't making money in the years after it was founded but that she didn't pay attention to the details.

McDougal also said frequently that he didn't want to burden the Clintons with the details of the corporation and its attempts to retire debt, so on a number of occasions he

paid the debt service himself, often taking out new loans to pay off old ones. He described some instances when he took out loans in Bill Clinton's name but didn't discuss the details with the then-governor.

"Other than putting up some money for the down payment on the property, the Clintons had shown no interest in our project," McDougal wrote. "They had never even bothered to drive up to Marion County to look at it."

In her testimony, Hillary Clinton said she and her husband were partners in the deal and liable for its debts, but the McDougals ran the company.

"We were liable on the notes of the underlying obligation. But we had no involvement in the running of the business and didn't know anything about what went on, on a day-to-day basis," the first lady said.

Hillary Clinton went on to deny knowledge or recollection of a number of Whitewater-related loans and documents and said she never "spent any significant time at all looking at" the corporation's records.

In his book, James McDougal complained that Hillary Clinton demanded that the McDougals hand over all of the Whitewater records in 1987 and in 1991. Both times, he said

she wanted to clear up the records before her husband's campaigns, first for governor, then for president. Later, James McDougal said Hillary Clinton was slow to return the records to him, particularly canceled checks and bank statements.

But he never speculated about whether Hillary Clinton looked over the records, and he never reported a conversation with her about them. In fact, he said the last time he saw her was August 1984.

One of the more intriguing moments in Hillary Clinton's testimony is her denial that she, Bill Clinton, James McDougal and Susan McDougal were social friends.

James McDougal said in the book that the Clintons were among the few guests at the McDougals' 1976 wedding, and the Whitewater partnership was formed at a friendly dinner at a Little Rock restaurant. The McDougals attended the Clintons' engagement party and the couples saw each other socially over the years, James McDougal wrote.

But by the end of his book, James McDougal reported increasing frustration with the first lady.

"I would go to bat for Bill, but not Hillary," he wrote. "She had been high-handed with me and discourteous with Susan."

First lady sits with authors to discuss inspiring books

BY BOB GARY JR.
CHATTANOOGA TIMES/
CHATTANOOGA FREE PRESS

CLINTON, Tenn. — Maybe Roger Rosenblatt knows something others don't.

As he introduced first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on Friday afternoon here at the former Alex Haley farm, the noted author and columnist called her "my friend and fellow New Yorker."

The audience of about 300 assembled for the opening panel discussion of a three-day Children's Defense Fund conference exploded with laughter before giving the first lady a standing ovation.

The quip was in reference to the first lady's contemplation of a 2000 run for the New York seat in the U.S. Senate being vacated by retiring Democrat Daniel P. Moynihan.

"Thank you — I think — Roger," the first lady said.

The first lady was the star attraction as the Children's Defense Fund symposium on *Children, Race and Poverty* got under way. A longtime friend of the Children's Defense Fund, the first lady signed on as an intern more than 20 years ago and eventually chaired its board.

The first lady was on a panel that included author Gordon Conway, president of the Rockefeller Foundation, and Rita Dove, a former U.S. poet laureate. The subject was *Books That Changed and Inspired Our Lives*.

The first lady reminisced that as a child she became well acquainted with the public library in suburban Chicago, visiting almost every summer day. In terms of the reading she did, her early teen years were the most influential of her life, she recalled.

"The youth minister at my United Methodist church believed that in order to have a faith that would withstand challenges from the outside world, you had to be exposed to the outside world," she said. "That meant taking in arts, music and prose from outside your own life."

She said she was really able to investigate what her faith meant by delving into the words in the Bible. "I know it's (the Bible) always the safe answer when you're asked what book has influenced you the most," she said. "But for me, it really is the answer. It's a constant source of challenge."

The first lady also cited Michael Harrington's *The Other America*.

"He wrote about people who were really poor," she said. "That hadn't been part of my life. But as I read that book, it actually became real — part of my life experience."

The first lady flew into Knoxville on Friday, then was brought the last 20 miles up Interstate 75 north in a motorcade. Upon her arrival at the farm, she was warmly embraced by her friend, fund president Marian Wright Edelman.

Shortly after her arrival, Hillary Clinton snipped a ribbon to symbolically open the Langston Hughes Library that was fashioned by architect Maya Lin from the lone unfinished barn on the farm at the time of Haley's death. The library includes a reading room named for author John Hope Franklin and poet Maya Angelou and a sitting area bearing the name of civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks.

Accompanied by Lin, Edelman and Barnes & Noble Booksellers Chairman Len Riggio — who with his wife, Louise, funded the structure — the first lady briefly toured the small library.

"An exquisite piece of work," Edelman commented on the library.



Hillary Rodham Clinton

Following the panel discussion, the first lady departed for Knoxville where she boarded her return flight to Washington.

The formal dedication of the Hughes Library took place later Friday evening, an event that set the stage for more panel sessions today and Sunday morning.

Participants include Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, former United Nations Ambassador and Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young and Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif. Also on hand will be Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, a former defense fund board chairman.

Others attending included authors Toni Morrison, Joyce Carol Oates and Dorothy Allison.

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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March 20, 1999, Saturday, AM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 564 words

HEADLINE: Hillary Clinton touts value of reading

BYLINE: DUNCAN MANSFIELD

DATELINE: NORRIS, Tenn.

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton said Friday that the riches of reading helped open her eyes to the world of poverty.

The first lady told about 300 people at a symposium on children, poverty and literacy sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund that when she was growing up, she thought she was receiving a "full-life experience living my very comfortable suburban life outside Chicago."

Then a youth minister at her Methodist church introduced the teen-ager to the poetry of e.e. cummings and T.S. Eliot, modern art and the inner-city of Chicago where she and her classmates worked with black and Hispanic youths.

The youth minister believed "strongly that if you were to have a faith that would withstand the test of challenges in the outside world, then you needed to be exposed to that outside world," Mrs. Clinton said.

Now, when people in public life are asked what is the most meaningful book in their life "the safe answer always is the Bible," the first lady noted to her audience of scholars, writers and policymakers.

"For me it really is the answer that I would give because it is a constant source of challenge," she said. "There is so much to be learned and unlearned."

But the book that influenced her the most at that critical time was "The Other America" by the late political theorist and social activist Michael Harrington. The book examined the problems of massive poverty in the midst of affluence and technological advance in the 1960s.

"All of a sudden the other American that Michael Harrington talks about began to seem not just something that existed in the pages of a book, but something that was actually real. And slowly but steadily it became a part of my life experience, not just my reading experience."

Mrs. Clinton first came to the Children's Defense Fund as an intern. She later was staff attorney and finally board chairman of the advocacy organization.

On Friday, she helped dedicate a library at the fund's retreat at the former farm of the late "Roots" author Alex Haley, which the CDF bought after his death in 1994.

The library is a cantilevered barn revamped by Vietnam Memorial architect Maya Lin with donations from Barnes & Noble Chairman Leonard Riggio, a fund board member.

Others attending the weekend conference included authors Joyce Carol Oates and Toni Morrison, poets Rita Dove and Maya Angelou, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, Labor Secretary Alexis Herman and home and garden personality Martha Stewart.

"I hope that out of this weekend comes a renewed commitment to the whole idea of reading and books," Mrs. Clinton said. "But more than that, to the kind of emphasis on using reading to expand our horizons and sensitize us and encourage us to band together to solve some of these (social) problems."

"Because after all, I can eat an elephant - and that is not a partisan remark - if I can take small bites. We can do more on the issues of poverty and race and illiteracy, if we take small bites. And that could be something as small as reading to a child."

CDF President Marian Wright Edelman agreed, saying the focus of the symposium is keyed to helping young people.

"We are really trying to take children to the next level and make the whole country and every network understand that we've got to invest as much in our children's school readiness as we do in military readiness," she said.

Charge against Mrs. Clinton was proposed

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. -- Kenneth Starr's main deputy testified Thursday that at one point in the Whitewater investigation he drafted a proposed indictment of Hillary Rodham Clinton and showed it to others in the independent counsel's office.

Called as the lead-off defense witness in Susan McDougal's trial, W. Hickman Ewing Jr. also testified that he "had problems" with some of President Clinton's and Mrs. Clinton's statements to investigators in April 1995.

Ewing said he drafted the indictment against the First Lady sometime after September 1996; he was not more specific. He said it was not unusual for a federal prosecutor to draft an indictment whether or not a charge is ever brought.

As a prosecutor, he said, "You're always thinking about . . . what possible crime could it be."

Ewing said he showed the draft to "a couple of people in the office."

Asked by McDougal's attorney, Mark Geragos, whether he had ever referred to the Clintons as "liars," Ewing said, "I don't know if I used the L-word or not. But I certainly expressed internally that I had problems with some of their answers."

Ewing questioned some of Mrs. Clinton's testimony in the Starr investigation: "I don't know if she was telling the truth or not."

In the April 1995 interviews, Mrs. Clinton was questioned under oath about the work that her law firm had done for James and Susan McDougal's savings and loan, Madison Guaranty.

"She was in conflict with interviews we had already done with several people in the Rose Law Firm," Ewing said.

Ewing also referred to a statement by President Clinton that he did not remember whether he had asked James McDougal to engage Mrs. Clinton to do legal work for Madison Guaranty. During his presidential campaign, Clinton had said no, he never made that request to McDougal.

Mrs. Clinton became a focal point for Starr's investigation in January 1996 because of the still-unexplained reappearance of her law firm billing records on a table inside the White House. The records, which had vanished after the 1992 presidential campaign, outlined her work in Little Rock for the McDougals' failing savings and loan in 1985 and '86.

Attacking the tactics of Starr's office is key to the defense strategy.

Geragos contends that Susan McDougal refused to answer grand jury questions because she felt prosecutors were pressuring her to give false testimony against the Clintons.

Geragos also says prosecutors withheld information from the grand jurors who indicted McDougal that would have decreased the credibility of other witnesses, including McDougal's former husband, James.

She is charged with criminal contempt and obstruction of justice.

The prosecution rested its case after seven days ending Thursday morning with testimony from an Arkansas banker, Ron Proctor, who dealt with the original loan for the Whitewater land development.

END

March 19, 1999

NAACP Begins Year-Long 90th Birthday Party

The NAACP—America's oldest and largest civil rights organization—is celebrating 90 years of activism in 1999. It officially kicked off its year-long birthday party at its Annual Board Meeting in Washington, DC, on February 20. The evening before, President Clinton honored the NAACP at a reception held in the magnificent National Museum of Women in the Arts. Surrounded by President/CEO Kweisi Mfume (left) and Board Chairman Julian



Photo: White House Photo Office

Bond, the president told the star-studded audience that the nation owes a debt of gratitude for what the NAACP has done for America. But he also warned against resting

on laurels, sounding a note of caution: "You know that this is not a time to take a break, it is a time to thank God for our prosperity and our opportunities and make the best use of them. The sun is shining and we need to make hay. We need to work while the sun is shining. And to do what I would like to do in these last two years of my presidency, just like the last six, we need the help of every one of your 2,200 branches. We need to forge new coalitions across the lines of race and class and religion. We need to close America's opportunity gaps.

... I know that as long as there are Native American reservations, where young American citizens live in communities where the diabetes rate is two and three and four times the national average; as long as there are neighborhoods where kids really don't have a chance to get a world-class education; as long as there are places where nobody's taking care of the pollution, so the health rates are not what they ought to be; as long as there is anyplace where anybody can't live out their dreams, the NAACP will have work to do. And America will have new ground to break. And together, there is no better cause for our energies and our lives."

VISITORS FROM 18 AFRICAN COUNTRIES MEET WITH FIRST LADY

African participants in a U.S. Information Agency (USIA) International Visitor program, *Women and the Law*, met earlier this month with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at the White House. The Project is designed to familiarize participants with the American system of justice and the evolution of women's rights in the United States.

Participating were female magistrates, judges, lawyers, and law professors from 18 sub-Saharan African countries. During the course of their three-week program, participants will examine such issues as preventing domestic violence, alternative dispute resolution, combating sexual harassment, protecting children's rights, legal education for women, and the impact of the women's vote. These issues will be

examined from national, state, and local perspectives, providing exposure to a range of political and cultural viewpoints.

Each year USIA's International Visitor (IV) Program brings approximately 5,000 people to the United States for three- to four-week visits to meet and confer with professional counterparts and to experience firsthand the United States and its institutions. The visitors—both established and promising figures in government, politics, the media, education, labor, science, and the arts—are selected by American embassies. The *Women and the Law* program began in early March in Washington, DC, and will continue in Jacksonville, FL; Houston and El Paso, TX; Cleveland, OH; and Boston, MA.

Testimony: Indictment of first lady drafted in '96

ERICA WERNER

Independent counsel Kenneth Starr's prosecutors had an indictment of first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton drafted by September 1996, Starr's top Little Rock deputy testified in federal court Thursday.

Called by Susan McDougal's lawyers as a witness in her criminal contempt and obstruction of justice trial, W. Hickman Ewing Jr. also said he told colleagues he thought President Clinton and his wife weren't telling the truth about aspects of their Arkansas business dealings.

"I don't know if I used the 'L' word or not," Ewing said. "But I certainly expressed internally that I had a problem with some of the answers we got from the president and the first lady."

At various points throughout the wide-ranging Whitewater investigation, Mrs. Clinton's indictment was said to be imminent. But Ewing's testimony was the first proof, and the news sent rows of reporters scurrying out into the hallway to flip open their cellular telephones and call their editors.

The revelation, which emerged during aggressive questioning by McDougal's lawyer Mark Geragos, scored a point for the defense. It fit McDougal's claim that she refused to answer questions before a Whitewater grand jury because Starr's prosecutors were only interested in dirt on the Clintons and would charge her with perjury if she didn't give them some.

Those refusals, in September 1996 and April 1998, landed McDougal in U.S. District Judge George Howard Jr.'s courtroom, where Geragos began Thursday to present her defense. Ewing was her first witness.

The position of Starr's team is that McDougal had no legal choice but to testify, since she had immunity and a federal judge had ordered her to answer questions.

Since the trial began March 8, Ewing, who is not directly involved in presenting the prosecution's case, has been the one to oblige reporters with statements during court recesses.

But because he spent all Thursday afternoon on the witness stand and did not want to field questions about his own testimony, associate independent counsel Mark Barrett smiled for the cameras after court.

Questioned about the draft indictment, Barrett said, "We're concerned about that because it is coming out in the context of a criminal trial. Mrs. Clinton, of course, is not the defendant in this case, and we have a problem seeing the relevance as to Susan McDougal."

The Clintons' personal lawyer, David E. Kendall, faxed reporters a two-sentence statement: "The [Office of the Independent Counsel] leaked this information a long time ago. The mere fact that this prosecutor's office drafted a frivolous indictment three years ago has no significance whatsoever, except as a possible violation of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995."

Ewing also testified Thursday that over dinner with Starr staff members one evening he graded the Clintons for their performances in July 1995 depositions. The president got about a C and the first lady about an F, Ewing said, as jurors listened more attentively than they have to any previous witness.

Ewing said Mrs. Clinton's dismal showing came after she said "I don't recall" about 50 times during her deposition. The questions she responded to were "not on Arkansas topics," he said.

It wasn't unusual for his office to draft indictments never shown to a grand jury, Ewing said. Mrs. Clinton's was prepared by September 1996, the same year the long-sought billing records from her years as an attorney at the Rose Law Firm in Little Rock mysteriously appeared atop a file cabinet in the White House, stirring heated speculation about where they came from and what they said.

The records showed that Mrs. Clinton worked on the failed land development McDougal's late ex-husband, James, was trying to use to prop up his failed savings and loan, Madison Guaranty. The first lady had never revealed that fact.

Ewing's revelations put Mrs. Clinton center stage for the second time during Susan McDougal's trial even as the first lady publicly considers a run for the U.S. Senate from New York. On Tuesday, portions of a previously secret taped deposition she gave in the White House last April were shown in court.

Geragos also tried to use Ewing's testimony to show Starr's

prosecutors weren't interested in whether cooperating witnesses told the truth, as long as their testimony implicated the Clintons.

Geragos grilled the deputy independent counsel at length about James McDougal and about former Pulaski County Municipal Judge David Hale, both of whom provided information to Starr's investigators that Starr's team has admitted to taking with a grain of salt.

Outside court, Geragos said all this proved his point about Starr's deputies: "They had a culprit; they were looking for a crime."

But cross-examining his boss, Barrett emphasized that if Starr's investigators welcomed testimony from questionable sources, it was because they wanted to collect all the input they could to reach an informed conclusion.

His final question to Ewing: If McDougal provided exculpatory information about the president, would you be glad to hear it?

"Yes," Ewing replied.

Court resumes again Monday. Geragos wouldn't say Thursday when he plans to put McDougal on the stand -- only that she's "on the horizon."

The Camden native has already served 18 months in prison for civil contempt after her first refusal to testify, plus 3 1/2 months for four 1996 fraud convictions.

Testimony was scheduled Thursday from Little Rock attorney Richard Holiman, who represents Walter Kaye, the Whitewater grand jury witness and Clinton contributor who recommended Monica Lewinsky for her job as a White House intern. Kaye also contributed money to a legal defense fund for Susan McDougal.

Holiman's clients also include Sarah Hawkins, a Little Rock woman who rose to a top administrative position at Madison Guaranty.

Hawkins was going to testify on the McDougals' behalf in their 1996 trial, but Holiman advised her not to after learning Starr's office wouldn't grant her immunity. Holiman said then that Hawkins feared the power of Starr's office.

Holiman was at the federal courts building Thursday, but there was not time for him to take the stand.

END

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March 19, 1999, Friday, AM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 400 words

HEADLINE: Hillary Clinton joins scholars at conference

BYLINE: DUNCAN MANSFIELD

DATELINE: NORRIS, Tenn.

BODY:

There is no time to waste in preparing youngsters for the future, the head of the Children's Defense Fund said Friday.

The advocacy group is bringing together more than 300 authors, historians and policymakers this weekend to discuss how the arts and scholarship can improve children's lives today and tomorrow.

The guest list includes first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, a former CDF board chairman; authors Joyce Carol Oates and Toni Morrison; U.S. poet laureate Rita Dove and poet Maya Angelou.

Also invited were Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala; Labor Secretary Alexis Herman; National Urban League president Hugh Price and home and garden personality Martha Stewart.

"We are really trying to take children to the next level and make the whole country and every network understand that we've got to invest as much in our children's school readiness as we do in military readiness," said Marian Wright Edelman, CDF head.

Social security for the elderly is important, "but we've got to provide the same kind of security for children in the early years of their lives," she said.

"We all know that any child that can't read and write and compute these days is going to die socially and economically," Edelman said. "So this weekend is about urgency.

"It's about saying, 'Let's get our priorities straight,' because if we don't invest in our children, America really is not going to be a first-rate power in the new century."

The CDF has organized the event at the retreat it has established at the former farm of the late "Roots" author Alex Haley, about 20 miles north of Knoxville.

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

A new library designed by Vietnam Memorial architect Maya Lin was christened at the site Friday. Created from an old cantilevered-barn, it is the last unfinished building on the Haley property.

The defense fund uses the 127-acre Haley farm, bought after the author's death in 1994, as a training institute for a variety of programs, including a Freedom School tutoring and nurturing project for poor children.

"Our policy papers and our long reports are wonderful," Edelman said. "But we need poets and artists and other folks to carry the message to the popular culture ... to put children at the top of the nation's agenda."

Edelman said the mission goes beyond thinking up new programs. "We've got the models," she said. "The question is how do we spread those everywhere."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 19, 1999

The Associated Press

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March 19, 1999, Friday, PM cycle

SECTION: Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 171 words

HEADLINE: First lady announces initiatives to encourage reading

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Along with its Happy Meals, McDonald's will serve up information on why parents should read to their children.

About 13 million booklets that "explain to parents the importance of nourishing their children's minds as well as their bodies" will be attached to the meals starting in October, Hillary Rodham Clinton said as she announced the campaign Thursday.

"This is a great way to reach out to families who run in for a fast-food meal and, like all the rest of us, are trying to get from one place to the next," the first lady told members of the Association of American Publishers at the group's annual meeting.

McDonald's will work with the AAP and the Education Department on the effort.

The AAP also will sponsor a "Get Caught Reading" campaign to help spark interest among people ages 18 to 34, whom the first lady called a "critical age group because it includes, obviously, the parents of very many young children."

The campaign will feature posters in major bookstores and various print advertisements.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 19, 1999

Starr aide: Indictment of first lady was readied

By Tom Squitieri
USA TODAY

One of Ken Starr's top deputies confirmed publicly Thursday that he drafted a proposed indictment of Hillary Rodham Clinton in 1996 and that it was reviewed by other prosecutors in the independent counsel's office.

Starr deputy Hickman Ewing, called as a defense witness in Susan McDougal's contempt trial in Little Rock, said he "had problems" with some statements President Clinton and the first lady made to investigators in 1995.

"She was in conflict with interviews we had already done with several people in the Rose Law Firm," Ewing testified Thursday. "I don't know if she was telling the truth or not."

Ewing said he drafted the proposed indictment sometime after September 1996. Starr never sought a grand-jury indictment, primarily because he did not have an overwhelming case against her, people with knowledge of his probe have said.

Although USA TODAY and other news organizations have reported that Starr's office drafted prosecution memos, Ewing's testimony was the first public acknowledgment that it took concrete steps toward what would have been the first indictment of a first lady.

Ewing's testimony came as Clinton is weighing a possible race for the U.S. Senate from New York.

"(Starr's office) illegally leaked this information a long time ago," David Kendall, Hillary Clinton's lawyer, said Thursday. "The mere fact that this prosecutor's office drafted a frivolous indictment three years ago has no significance whatsoever, except as a possible violation of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995."

Clinton is referred to numerous times in an indictment of Webster Hubbell, the former No. 3 Justice Department official. She is listed as a possible prosecution witness in that trial, scheduled to begin in June in Washington.

On Thursday, federal District Judge James Robertson dismissed the charge that Hubbell made false statements to conceal his and Clinton's work on Castle Grande, a fraudulent Arkansas land development. Nine counts remain.



By Jim Yates, AP

Ewing: Deputy independent counsel says he 'had problems' with the truthfulness of some of Hillary Rodham Clinton's answers to his questions.

Starr's office investigated Clinton for alleged obstruction of justice in connection with law firm records related to Castle Grande, making false statements before the Whitewater grand jury, conspiring to cover up sham land sales and her role in the firing of White House travel office employees.

She has denied any wrongdoing.

Whitewater prosecutors originally questioned Clinton under oath in April 1995 about the work her law firm had done for James and Susan McDougal's savings and loan, Madison Guaranty.

Susan McDougal is on trial for refusing to answer questions about the Clintons before the Whitewater grand jury last April. She was convicted of Whitewater-related felonies in May 1996 in connection with a \$300,000 federal loan she obtained illegally.

McDougal's lawyer, Mark Geragos, called Ewing to the stand as part of his effort to show that Starr's office is out to get the Clintons.

Asked Thursday whether he had ever referred to the Clintons as "liars," Ewing told Geragos, "I don't know if I used the L-word or not. But I certainly expressed internally that I had problems with some of their answers."

Ewing said that at dinner one evening with other Starr staffers, he graded the president and first lady on their responses to questioning by Whitewater investigators.

"I said, the president about a 'C' and Mrs. Clinton about an 'F,'" Ewing testified.

Contributing: The Associated Press

entertainment ETC.

BAD SPELL: When Hillary Clinton did an on-line chat on Tuesday night, she didn't type in her own answers. Good thing, because the replies under the name of TheFirstLdy were riddled with typos. In the first 15 minutes, there were at least 10. When Mrs. Clinton made a reference to Arkansas and it

came up "Arkansaw" the chat host immediately clarified to the audience that TheFirstLdy was not responsible for the keyboard strokes. That was a barnesandnoble.com staffer.

SIGHTING: Michael Jackson at a Rexall Drugs in Los Angeles, 11 p.m. Sunday, in sunglasses and a surgical mask. With him: his son Prince, 2, and two bodyguards. Jackson was checking out the makeup.

Mrs. Clinton's visit with teachers to coincide with abortion protest

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. - Hillary Rodham Clinton, eyeing a possible run for the U.S. Senate, plans to cozy up to New York's politically powerful teachers during a visit next month to the "Honeymoon Capital of the World," according to officials.

The April 22 appearance before about 3,000 delegates to the New York State United Teachers union annual convention in Niagara Falls would come in the middle of a major anti-abortion protest planned for nearby Buffalo. Mrs. Clinton and the president are strong supporters of abortion rights. One organizer of the anti-abortion protest said the first lady should expect demonstrators to greet her.

"Her office has confirmed that she is coming," NYSUT spokeswoman Linda Rosenblatt said Wednesday.

There was no immediate comment from the first lady's office.

Rosenblatt said that while at NYSUT's annual convention, Mrs. Clinton will be presented with the union's "Albert Shanker Distinguished Service Award."

The 420,000-member NYSUT is the state's largest teachers' union and has heavy political clout in New York.

Rosenblatt said that while "NYSUT has a great deal of respect for her," it was too soon for the union to be discussing whether it would back a Senate candidacy by Mrs. Clinton.

It would mark Mrs. Clinton's first visit to upstate New York since she announced last month that she was considering the Senate race. She did make a two-day foray into New York City earlier this month to much media hoopla.

Party officials said Mrs. Clinton may also return to New York City on April 19 to attend a fund raiser for U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler, one of her husband's biggest defenders during his impeachment trial.

Previous NYSUT conventions have attracted such political luminaries as Elizabeth Dole, Vice President Al Gore and Sen. Edward Kennedy. Then-Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton spoke to the convention in 1990.

Mrs. Clinton is eyeing the New York Senate seat being vacated next year by Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan. On the Republican side, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is considering the race.

Should the first lady's visit to the NYSUT convention come off as scheduled, it would fall on the fifth day of an eight-day "Operation Save America" protest in Buffalo.

Organizers hope the event will reunite participants from the "Spring of Life" protests staged in Buffalo in 1992. During that event, about 1,000 abortion protesters targeted clinics and doctors offices during a two-week period. More than 600 people were arrested.

The Rev. Bob Behn, executive director of Last Call Ministries in Buffalo and one of the organizers of this year's protest, said Wednesday that he wasn't aware of Mrs. Clinton's planned visit.

"I'm sure she knows about our plans and she's coming to shore up the pro-choice movement," Behn said.

Behn said some of the hundreds of demonstrators expected in Buffalo would probably protest the first lady's visit.

"I expect some people would be there, but whether we all go, I don't know," he said.

In addition to discussing her possible Senate candidacy with top New York Democrats invited to the White House, Mrs. Clinton has in recent days been reaching out to Democratic county chairmen from across New York.

"We talked a lot about Erie County and the things that need to be jump-started," Erie County Chairman Steven Pigeon told The Buffalo News about his two recent conversations with the first lady.

"I did come away from the conversation thinking she wants to run, based on her sincerity, depth of knowledge, the fact that I got the call at all," Onondaga County Chairman Steven Paquette told the Syracuse Post-Standard.

Advisers to Mrs. Clinton have said she probably won't make a decision about the Senate race until June or July, at the earliest.
END