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001. report	re: Press coverage of First Lady Hillary Rodam Clinton [partial] (1 page)	10/08/1999	P3/b(3)
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In Poland, First Lady Backs Free-Market Reform Despite the Pain for Some

By Peter Finn
Washington Post Foreign Service
Wednesday, October 6, 1999; Page A26

WARSAW, Oct. 5—Marking 10 years of often-painful transition in post-Communist Europe, Hillary Rodham Clinton said today there was no alternative to continued democratic and free-market reforms in Central and Eastern Europe, but she acknowledged that change has been painful for some segments of society that pine for a return to the old order.

"Senior citizens are asking what good are free markets when our hard-earned pensions are worthless," said Clinton, speaking here at a regional conference sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the German Marshall Fund of the United States. "Workers are asking what good is democracy when the closure of our factories has left us without jobs and the skills to gain new opportunities." But, she added, "I know people have not lost faith or given up. They understand that reform is the answer to all of these problems."

Clinton, who is planning a bid for the U.S. Senate from New York next year, is visiting Poland, Slovakia and Italy before traveling to Iceland to deliver a speech on women and democracy. White House officials said the trip had nothing to do with domestic politics or the cultivation of ethnic constituencies in New York.

"She'll be continuing her work as an ambassador of the United States," White House press secretary Joe Lockhart said in Washington. He said the trip focuses on "democracy in Europe, and the many programs that she's worked so hard on," including women's rights and economic empowerment.

In Warsaw, Clinton met with a group of female entrepreneurs at a textile factory and opened a new Jewish school that is funded by the U.S. philanthropist Ronald Lauder. At the school, Clinton said, the children who sang "Shalom" to her were a testament to the revival of Jewish life in Poland, which saw much of its pre-World War II Jewish population of 3 million people exterminated in the Holocaust. There are now about 20,000 Jews living in Poland.

She also met with Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek.

The first lady's trip comes as Buzek's Solidarity-led government is at the lowest levels in the polls of any postcommunist government, with

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24 percent support. The government has been criticized for allegedly botching the introduction of ambitious reforms this year, particularly in education and health care.

Without mentioning the troubles of the Solidarity government, Clinton said that the experience of the United States shows that nation-building is a slow, multigeneration process. "We have been striving to perfect democracy for 223 years," she said. "It took us more than 10 years to draft our constitution, almost 90 years to rid our nation of slavery, almost 150 years to give American women the right to vote, and even longer to ensure that all of our citizens are equal under the law."

Clinton compared the travails of the emerging democracies with the biblical flight of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. "Oftentimes, at moments of great change, it is tempting to turn back," she said. "When Moses came down with the 10 Commandments, he was met by people who said this is too hard. . . . Let's go back to slavery." But, she said, "The path of reform may be long and it may be rocky and the goals may not be reached in the next decade or even the decade after that, but it is still worth the journey."

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A graphic with the text '1960S: THE SEQUEL' in a large, bold, serif font. The background is a light, textured grey.

A graphic featuring a stylized sunburst or spiral design in shades of green and black. To its right, the text 'Decisions made today affect our lives in the next millennium.' is written in a serif font. At the bottom, a small line of text reads 'A WashingtonPost.com SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION'.

"LA NAZIONE" - Florence Supplement - 10/8/99 - front page

a giornata fiorentina di Hillary Clinton raccontata dalla cronista de La Nazione che l'ha seguita passo passo

A tu per tu con la First Lady

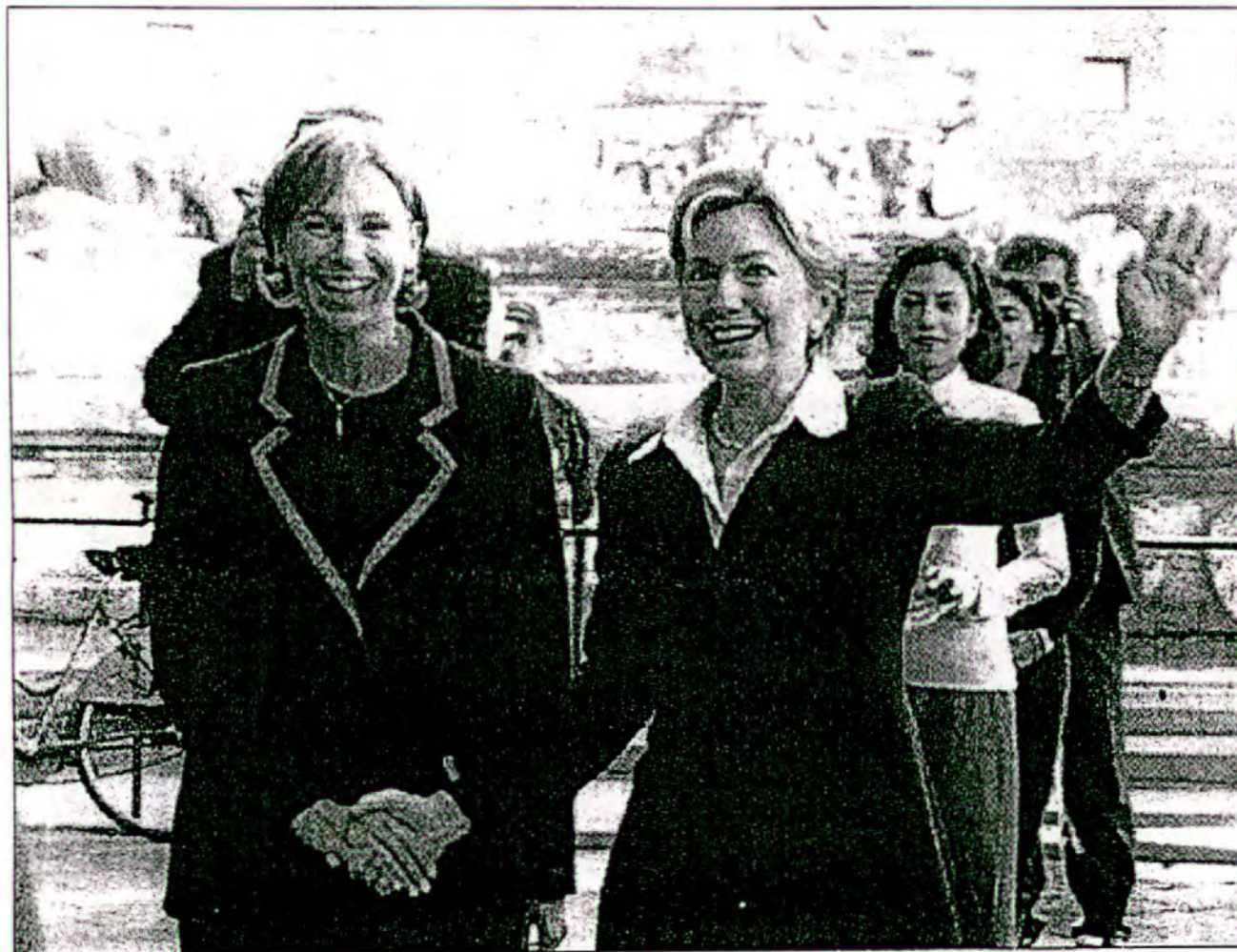
Giornata densa di appuntamenti per Hillary Clinton. Dopo l'intervento al convegno internazionale sui beni culturali ha pranzato, ospite di Donatella Dini, nella villa di San Martino alla Palma. Nel pomeriggio tour de force artistico con visita all'Antiquariato, alla mostra di Michelangelo, al Palazzo Vecchio e agli Uffizi.

CINI A PAGINA 3

Tiratori scelti e Intelligence per Hillary

Una valigia abbandonata fa scattare l'allarme bomba

ANTICO A PAGINA 3



Il ministro Melandri e Hillary Clinton in piazza Signoria prima di entrare in Palazzo Vecchio

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

per amore dell'arte

La signora Clinton, dopo il pranzo a casa Dini, ha visitato la Mostra dell'Antiquariato, quella su Michelangelo e gli Uffizi. Sempre sorridente, ha stretto centinaia di mani

L'ultima tappa al museo Salvatore Ferragamo dove ha ascoltato la storia di famiglia. Dalla partenza del capostipite alla volta degli Usa al successo, fino alla naturalizzazione americana. Oggi per la First Lady una mattinata di riposo prima di incontrare la "sua" comunità al consolato

di Letizia Cini

Chi si aspettava una primadonna, per di più american style, è rimasto deluso. Hillary è riuscita a spazzare Firenze con la sua semplicità, con le sue domande pertinenti, con quel sorriso misurato e "vero" capace di renderla squisitamente a portata di mano. Sbrigati in fretta gli impegni ufficiali (è arrivata alla Fortezza da Basso in perfetto orario per il suo intervento, durato poco meno di mezz'ora), la first lady si è concessa una giornata tutta fiorentina all'insegna del sole e dei capolavori: campagna, arte, antiquariato e altissimo artigianato, tutto il meglio di Firenze è stato messo a disposizione della signora in corsa nelle elezioni dello Stato di New York. «Sì — ha confermato Hillary Rodham Clinton — tornerò in novembre per accompagnare mio marito e ho intenzione di concedermi più tempo per visitare questa splendida città, ma anche la Toscana, una terra che adoro».

La sua voglia di toscana è stata, almeno in parte, soddisfatta a Villa Torrigiani, sulle colline di Scandicci, dove la signora Donatella Dini, moglie del ministro degli Esteri, in un momento di pausa le ha fatto visitare le cantine in cui aleggia l'acre odore del mosto. Un pranzo per poche elette, organizzato dalla signora Donatella a cui hanno partecipato solo donne che contano, e non solo per il cognome che portano o per l'uomo che hanno sposato: accanto a Donatella Dini, Marlene Fresco, Letizia Moratti, Annalù Corsini, Wanda Ferragamo, Marisa Monti Riffeser,

Susanna Agnelli. E ancora Melanee Verveer, Marsha Berry, raggiunte con un'oretta di ritardo anche dal ministro alla Cultura Giovanna Melandri giunta in auto con Bona Frescobaldi. «E' stata un'occasione ricchissima, un pranzo amichevole durante il quale abbiamo parlato di cultura e sorvolato, solo qualche cenno, sulla politica», confida Donatella Dini, in tubino albicocca e rifiniture castagna. «Ho conosciuto la signora Clinton durante il vertice del G7, nel '96, e in seguito abbiamo avuto diverse occasioni per rivederci — riprende Donatella Dini —. Sono estremamente soddisfatta che abbia colto l'occasione del Convegno per venire a Firenze, un appuntamento veramente importante per la città. Un'esperienza positiva, dunque, sotto tutti i punti di vista, non solo per la visita di Hillary Clinton. Quello che più mi colpisce in lei è la sua volontà il suo l'impegno nel cercare di migliorare il mondo in cui viviamo, con un'attenzione particolare per i bambini e per le donne». «E' un orgoglio rapportarsi a una donna come lei — conclude Donatella Dini — una persona impegnata nel sociale e in politica, una professionista nel suo lavoro. Tutti meriti che le devono essere riconosciuti, a prescindere dal marito...».

Insomma le signore avevano molte cose da dirsi e, quello che doveva essere un pranzo frugale, si è così protratto fino alle 15.40. Fra i saluti festosi della gente di San Martino alla Palma che aspettava il lungo corteo che scortava la limousine nera lungo strada, la moglie



dell'uomo più potente della terra è arrivata a Palazzo Corsini, sull'omonimo lungarno, ricevuta da Susanna Agnelli e Annalù Corsini che l'avevano preceduta, per visitare la Biennale dell'Antiquariato: accompagnata da Livia Corsini Branca la signora Clinton si è soffermata ad ammirare alcuni gioielli e i capolavori della collezione Corsini. Poi via, fino a piazza della Signoria dove l'aspettavano Giovanna Melandri, il sindaco Leonardo Do-

menici, soprintendenti fiorentini e Cristina Acidini, con cui ha visitato la mostra *Gioventù di Michelangelo*, che l'ha lasciata estasiata: «Tornerò con mio marito», ha assicurato incamminandosi verso la Galleria degli Uffizi, dove l'attendeva la direttrice, Anna Maria Petrioli Tofani. Dopo tanta cultura, è stata la volta di un altro museo (ma di scarpe, articolo che ha confessato di adorare), di un'altra grande famiglia: Palazzo Ferò-

ni, dove Wanda, Giovanna e Ferruccio Ferragamo hanno fatto gli onori di casa, raccontandole per filo e per segno la straordinaria storia del capostipite, Salvatore, dalla partenza con la valigia di cartone per cercare fortuna negli Stati Uniti, fino all'incontro con Hollywood, lo star system fino alla naturalizzazione americana. Lei, carina e incuriosita, ha ascoltato tutti, ha guardato ogni bacheca, chiedendo chiarimenti e indicazioni, un po' provata nel suo tailleur pantalon grigio ferro illuminato da una camicetta verde acqua. Po-chissimo trucco, le mani leggermente maschiline con le unghie corte, come tutte le donne che hanno bisogno di praticità, ha accettato di buon grado una stretta di mano dallo staff Ferragamo, un bacio alla signora Wanda prima di rientrare all'Excelsior e, perché no, anche alla cronista che era riuscita, silenziosamente, ad arrivare fin lì. Guancia a guancia con la First Lady. Nelle foto: in alto, Hillary Clinton fra Donatella Dini e Ugo oggi, a sinistra e, a destra, Giorgia Corsini. Sotto nell'atelier di Ferragamo

La NAZIONE - Florence Supplement
10/8/99 page 3 (A)

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

«Teste di cuoio» e intelligence per la sicurezza Falso allarme bomba vicino al consolato Usa

di Alessandro Antico

Dicono che per lei sia stato predisposto un piano di sicurezza identico a quello che fu organizzato per la visita del presidente francese Chirac. Né più, né meno. Per la first lady a stelle e strisce — tutta sorrisi, tailleur e propaganda in vista delle prossime elezioni al Senato degli Stati Uniti d'America — su Firenze si sono puntati di nuovo occhi e mirini. Giusto, giustissimo, sacrosanto: con che faccia si sarebbe data una giustificazione (ammesso che si fosse trovata...) al pur minimo incidente di percorso a Hillary Clinton?

E' bastata una borsa abbandonata accanto a un cassonetto per i rifiuti all'angolo fra Corso Italia e via Garibaldi, proprio di fianco al consolato Usa, a far sudare freddo tutti fra le 17 e le 18,30. La polizia ha fatto chiudere le strade per consentire agli artificieri di effettuare la bonifica: nella borsa non c'erano bombe, ma solo indumenti.

La questura aveva studiato un piano di sicurezza in grande stile, ma discreto. «Correct», il concetto non fa una grinza. Insomma, Hillary è Hillary. Se non altro perché ha un marito ancora molto influente sulle vicende mondiali. E allora via libera ai servizi di sicurezza sincronizzati al secondo, alle guardie del corpo che sono qui da un mese (qualcuno sotto le mentite spoglie di giornalista o di uomo d'affari dell'Arkansas), ai nostri tiratori scelti piazzati in tutte le postazioni strategiche possibili e immaginabili, alle scorte. L'ordinanza è stata curata personalmente dal questore Antonio Ruggiero e dai funzionari dell'ufficio di Gabinetto. Hillary Clinton, che ha viaggiato sulla limousine blindata, aveva sempre al fianco un agente della sua scorta perso-



Chiuso Corso Italia per una valigia sospetta che era stata lasciata vicino a un cassonetto

nale. Dalla Casa Bianca se ne è portati per l'esattezza ventiquattro, più sei dei servizi di intelligence che sono rimasti per così dire dietro le quinte, e che da oggi stenderanno un'accurata relazione su Firenze in vista della visita che Clinton e la moglie faranno il mese prossimo. Una sessantina in tutto le persone che facevano parte del corteo, più due tir di bagagli.

Ma gli americani, che d'ailleurs, non hanno fatto certamente tutto da soli. Grandi e potenti sì, ma anche gli specialisti italiani non possono considerarsi da meno. L'incolumità della first lady a Firenze è stata garantita infatti anche

da un contingente del Nocs, il Nucleo operativo centrale di sicurezza, le «teste di cuoio» addestrate ad ogni tipo d'intervento ad altissimo rischio. Furono loro, tanto per cenno storico, a liberare il generale Dozier rapito dalle Brigate Rosse.

La limousine di Hillary Clinton per le vie di Firenze ha sempre avuto doppia scorta: un'auto blindata con tre uomini del Nocs davanti e una dietro con altri tre. Gli agenti speciali non erano in divisa, cioè non in tuta scura e passamontagna, ma rigorosamente in borghese per mantenere un briciolo di discrezione. Oltre a loro, però, è stato schierato anche un pugno di tiratori scelti nelle zone nevralgiche del passaggio del corteo, tipo le aree della Fortezza da Basso e di Borgo Ognissanti. Previsti naturalmente anche contingenti di riserva, sia della polizia che dei carabinieri, per far fronte ad eventuali variazioni di programma lungo il percorso, oltre alle immane-patuglie della Digos.

Addestramento necessario che fino a quando il titolo è: Colos del Ministero

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"La NAZIONE" - National Section

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trenta ore fiorentine della «first lady» che punta al seggio di New York. Cena a casa Dini: tavolo per dodici signore vip

Hillary, party elettorale per sole donne

di Maurizio Naldini

ENZE — Prove tecniche campagna elettorale. Hillary Clinton, ormai molto più che una *first lady*, in una corsa contro Rudolph Giuliani per il posto da sindaco a New York, si è spesa 30 ore a Firenze. E alla conferenza su «Cultura e sviluppo», ha preso la parola criticando «un certo modo di intendere la globalizzazione», che ci riduce a un mondo «usa e getta» e ci fa «clienti prima che cittadini». Hillary Clinton, che sono cari alla vecchiaia, almeno da vent'anni, lo faceva con così grande entusiasmo da meritare un'attenzione. Poi ha fatto due proposte operative.

La prima: «A Palermo e Napoli i bambini hanno adottato un monumento. E' un'iniziativa che si può allargare al mondo». La seconda: «Moltiplichiamo le banche della cultura che ho già visto in Mali. Le famiglie ricevono denaro se portano oggetti storici al museo invece che venderli ai turisti». E' poco, è molto? Di certo Hillary ha parlato in modo convincente, ventinove minuti tondi tondi, sbirciando solamente una «scaletta» nascosta dal leggio. E non ha mai rinunciato al sorriso. Conclusa la parte ufficiale, su una limousine nera ha raggiunto la villa del ministro Dini, a San Martino alla Palma. Per lei, la moglie del ministro degli Esteri, signora Donatella, aveva organizzato

un tavolo per dodici donne. Che erano Susanna Agnelli e Letizia Moratti, Giovanna Melandri e Bona Frescobaldi, Annalù Corsini, Mariene Fresco, Marisa Monti Riffeser, Wanda Ferragamo, Melanee Verveer e Marsha Berry. Ovvero politica e cultura, editoria, moda e finanza. Le signore hanno mangiato raviolini ai funghi, anatra alle olive, zucchine e carote lesse, frutti di bosco. Hillary ha preferito le verdure e la frutta. Poi ha parlato della sua campagna elettorale: «Perché a New York — ha detto chiaro e tondo — contano tre grandi comunità. Quella irlandese, quella ebraica, ma soprattutto quella vostra, la comunità italiana». Al termine del pranzo, una visita alle cantine di casa Dini.

Dove un cantastorie fiorentino, Riccardo Marasco, ha intonato antiche canzoni su strumenti altrettanto antichi. Poteva bastare, per farsi benvolere dagli italiani che hanno ascoltato in America? Macché. Hillary ha voluto visitare anche la biennale dell'antiquariato, che si svolge a Palazzo Corsini. Accolta dalle padrone di casa, le principesse Annalù e Giorgia. Ha provato un anello di Cartier, un bracciale del 1820 con diamanti a testa di elefante. Ha visitato la collezione privata della famiglia Corsini dove spiccano i Lippi, i Caravaggio, i Raffaello. Poi ancora in Palazzo Vecchio, accolta dal ministro Melandri, per vedere la mostra su Michelangelo giovane e gli Uffizi. Il tutto in

due ore o poco più, mentre al consolato Usa, sui Lungarni, scattava l'allarme bomba. Era, in realtà, una valigia di lenzuola sporche, ma ce n'era abbastanza perché le 30 guardie del corpo di Hillary entrassero in fibrillazione. Ultima visita al palazzo-negozio di Wanda Ferragamo e finalmente, prima di tornare al suo albergo sui Lungarni, il commiato dalla principessa Corsini: «Tornerò a novembre con mio marito» ha detto Hillary. E la principessa fiorentina: «Non ci sono problemi, siamo qui». Già, sempre nella stessa città, sempre negli stessi palazzi. Più o meno da un paio di secoli prima di Colombo. Nella foto: Hillary Clinton saluta la folla, accanto a lei il ministro Giovanna Melandri



October 8, 1999

(Translated as written)

Media Reactions: Local Press

From La Nazione, 10/8/99

La Nazione published two articles on the First Lady's visit to Florence: one in the national section and one on the local pages.

Headlines:

"Hillary, Electoral Party for Women Only"

"Face-to-Face with the First Lady"

"Hillary, a Tour-de-force for the Sake of Art"

"Swat Teams and Intelligence for Security. False bomb Alarm Next to the USA Consulate"

"The thirty hour Florentine stay of the First Lady who is running for a Senate seat in New York. Dinner at the Dinis' house: a table set for twelve VIP ladies" writes Maurizio Naldini in the national section of La Nazione. "...Hillary Rodham Clinton, now something more than just the First Lady and running for the Senate in New York against Rudolph Giuliani, had a thirty-hour stop in Florence. Here, at the Conference on 'Culture and Development' she spoke against 'globalization', that creates a 'throw-away world', making us 'consumer more than citizens.' Hillary Clinton was echoing topics that have been popular in Europe for the last twenty years, but she was so enthusiastic that she managed to draw additional attention. She made two suggestions. The first: 'in Naples and Palermo children have adopted a monument. This initiative can be transplanted to the whole world'. The second: 'let us increase the number of "Culture Banks" like the one I saw in Mali. The families there receive money if they lend historical objects to the museum instead of selling them to tourists.' ... Hillary spoke in a convincing way, for 29 minutes taking a look, from time to time, at a schedule hidden under the podium. And she never gave up her smile. When the official visit was concluded, she arrived at Minister Dini's villa, in San Martino alla Palma, in her black limousine. In her honor, the Minister of Foreign Affairs wife had set a table for twelve women. They were Susanna Agnelli and Letizia Moratti, Giovanna Melandri and Bona Frescobaldi, Annalù Corsini, Marlene Fresco, Marina Monti Riffeser, Wanda Ferragamo, Melanee Verveer and Marsha Berry. Politics and culture, press, fashion and finance. (the dinner menu was reported in its entirety). Hillary had vegetables and fruit. She spoke of her electoral campaign: 'In New York - she said - 'what counts are three important communities: the Irish, the Jewish and, even more, yours - the Italian community' ... Hillary paid a visit to the Biennale of Antiques at Palazzo Corsini. She tried on a Cartier ring and an 1820 bracelet with diamonds in the shape of elephants' heads. She visited the private collection of the Corsini family, which includes paintings by Lippi, Caravaggio, Raffaello. Then she was welcomed at Palazzo Vecchio by

Minister Melandri, visiting an exhibit on the young Michelangelo and then she visited the Uffizzi Gallery. The whole tour took two hours or a little more. Meanwhile, at the American Consulate on the Lungarno a bomb threat was in full swing. It turned out to be a suitcase full of dirty bedclothes, but still enough to make Hillary's thirty body guards nervous. Finally, a visit to Wanda Ferragamo's palace-boutique. Then, before heading for the hotel on Lungarno, she parted from Countess Corsini: 'I will be back in November with my husband' Hillary said. And the Countess replied: 'No problem, we are here.' Same city, same palaces. As it has always been even before Columbus."

Letizia Cini, who dogged the First Lady's footsteps, writes in the local section of *La Nazione*: "Those who expected a VIP style, were disappointed. Hillary caught Florence off-guard with her simple style, her good questions, her smile, sober and true that makes her so friendly. Having gotten away from the official events in a hurry (she was at Fortezza da Basso perfectly on time to deliver her speech, which lasted less than thirty minutes) the First Lady devoted the sunny Florentine day to works of art: the countryside, antiques and high quality handicraft - all the best was placed at the disposal of the lady who is running for the Senate in New York. 'Yes,' confirmed Hillary Rodham Clinton, 'I will be back in November with my husband and will reserve more time to visit not only this beautiful city, but also Tuscany, a region I adore.' Her desire for Tuscan things was satisfied in part, at least, at Villa Torregiani, in the hills of Scandicci, where Donatella Dini, the Minister of Foreign Affairs' wife, during a break, guided her on a tour of the wine cellars where the air has a musty smell. The lunch arranged by Donatella Dini included a few selected guests, women whose importance does not depend only on their husbands' names. (The list of guests is reported in its entirety). 'It was a valuable occasion, a friendly lunch during which we talked of culture and left out, except for a few sentences, politics,' recounts Donatella Dini, wearing an apricot and chestnut sheath. 'I met Mrs Clinton during the 1996 G-7 and since then we have seen each other many times,' resumes Donatella Dini. 'I am very happy that she has seized the opportunity of the Conference, an important event for the city, to come to Florence. A valuable experience, then, not only due to Hillary Clinton's visit. What strikes me most is her will, her commitment to the improvement of the world we are living in, paying special attention to women and children.' Donatella Dini concluded: 'The opportunity to establish a relationship with her, a person committed to social and political issues, is something to be proud of. Her merits are widely known, regardless of her husband...' The ladies had many things to talk about and a lunch, that should have been frugal, lasted until 15:40. Greeted by the people of San Martino alla Palma, waiting along the road for the motorcade escorting the black limousine, the wife of the most powerful man in the world arrived at Palazzo Corsini, welcomed there by Susanna Agnelli and Annalù Corsini, to visit the Biennale dell'Antiquariato: escorted by Livia Corsini Branca Mrs. Clinton admired jewels and the works of art of the Corsini collection. Then she

headed for Piazza Signoria where Giovanna Melandri, Mayor Leonardo Dominici, Florentine superintendents and Cristina Acidini, were waiting for her to visit the exhibit 'Michelangelo's Youth' which aroused her enthusiasm: 'I will be back with my husband,' she assured walking towards the Uffizi Gallery, awaited there by the director, Anna Maria Petrioli Tofani.

Then ... a new museum (of shoes, which she said she adores) and another important family: Palazzo Feroni, where Wanda, Giovanna and Ferruccio Ferragamo entertained her with the extraordinary story of the founder, Salvatore, from his departure for the US with a cardboard suitcase, to Hollywood, the star system and his naturalization as a U.S. citizen. Mrs Clinton, nice - and curious - listened to everyone, looked at every showcase and asked for explanations and information, although she seemed a bit tired in her grey pantsuit and water green shirt. Wearing light make-up, her manly hands with short clipped fingernails, like those of women who are practical, she shook hands with the Ferragamo staff and kissed Wanda before going back to the Excelsior. And, why not, also this journalist who quietly managed to get there too. Cheek to cheek with the First Lady."

Hillary fa «scoppiaie» Firenze

arme per una valigetta al consolato Usa. Bloccati tre sospetti alla Fortezza



Allarme bomba nella giornata fiorentina di Hillary Clinton. Il ritrovamento alle 5 e 30 del pomeriggio di una valigia abbandonata accanto a un cassonetto per rifiuti vicino al consolato statunitense ha infatti suscitato il panico nei servizi di sicurezza. Sul posto sono subito intervenuti gli artificieri della polizia che hanno utilizzato una micro carica per aprire la valigia rivelandone l'innocuo contenuto: solo stracci. Corso Italia, dove si affaccia il consolato, è stata chiusa al traffico così come le strade di accesso alla via. Due edifici sono inoltre stati evacuati sinché l'allarme non è rientrato. In precedenza, alla Fortezza, la Digos ha fermato tre persone sospette che volevano avvicinarsi alla First Lady.

La visita della First Lady è stata ieri densa di appuntamenti, alcuni dei quali non previsti dal protocollo. Dopo l'intervento in mattinata al convegno «Cultura e sviluppo sostenibile», la signora Clinton ha pranzato a Villa Dini per poi fare tappa a Palazzo Corsini, a Palazzo Vecchio e anche al negozio Ferragamo.

Ma i «fuori programma» hanno creato nervosismo tra i G-men che scortavano Hillary e che hanno, tra l'altro, spintonato accidentalmente il Ministro ai Beni Culturali Melandri.

SERVIZI A PAGINA 5

“12 GIORNALE”
Florence Supplement
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llarme bomba, paura per lady Clinton

sa sospetta, evacuati due edifici. La Melandri si becca uno spintone da un body-guard

A CECCHI

llarme bomba ha oscurato la giornata di Hillary Rodham Clinton. Il ritrovamento alle 5 e 30 del pomeriggio di una valigia abbandonata accanto a un cassonetto per rifiuti vicino al palazzo statunitense ha infatti suscitato panico nei servizi di sicurezza.

Dare l'allarme è stata una guardia italiana in servizio di vigilanza proprio al consolato Usa. Sul posto sono accorsi gli artificieri della polizia che hanno utilizzato una micro carica per aprire la valigia rivelandone l'innocuo contenuto: stracci. Il ritrovamento di persone ha comunque provocato, oltre alla paura, molti disagi.

Il palazzo, dove si affaccia il consolato, è stato chiuso al traffico così come le

*la polizia era già
in messa in allerta
persone
ate in questura*

di accesso alla via. Due edifici sono inoltre stati evacuati fino a quando è rientrato l'allarme.

A gli uomini della polizia di stato, ordinati dal questore di Firenze Antonio Ruggero, nocs e tiratori scelti erano stati messi in stato di allerta qualche prima quando alcuni agenti della polizia avevano fermato e portato in questura tre sospetti: un maniaco religioso, che si professava scienziato atomico, un imprudente che si era avvicinato alla signora Clinton tenendo in tasca perché voleva consegnare una lettera per il marito. Una volta identificati, e giudicati innocui, gli uomini sono poi stati rilasciati.

creare comunque un certo nervosismo tra gli addetti alla sorveglianza è stata la scelta della First Lady di non atten-

ersi nel pomeriggio a un ferreo protocollo. Nella mattinata la signora Clinton ha infatti seguito il regolare programma della visita fiorentina intervenendo al convegno su «Cultura e sviluppo sostenibile» organizzato a Firenze dal Ministero degli Esteri, dalla Banca Mondiale e dall'Unesco.

In un intervento fortemente incentrato sulla difesa della individualità culturale la First Lady ha affermato: «La globalizzazione minaccia tradizione e cultura». «Dobbiamo imparare a rispettare le diversità» ha poi osservato la Clinton sostenendo la necessità di responsabilizzare i giovani nella salvaguardia della cultura.

Ma dopo il pranzo a Villa Dini il protocollo della First Lady è stato improntato alla «spontaneità». Creando così un certo nervosismo nei nerboruti G-men al suo seguito. Dopo la breve tappa a Palazzo Corsini, dove ha visto la quadreria privata della famiglia e la Mostra dell'antiquariato, e la visita alle opere del giovane Michelangelo esposte alla Sala d'arme di Palazzo Vecchio, Hillary ha spazionato tutti, scorta compresa, entrando nella Galleria degli Uffizi.

Poi, la First Lady ha optato per una tappa più «frivola» dirottando tutti verso il negozio Ferragamo dove ad attenderla c'erano Wanda e le figlie.

A fare le spese di tutti questi imprevisti sono stati alcuni giornalisti, spintonati senza troppi complimenti, e nientemeno che il Ministro ai Beni Culturali Giovanna Melandri sospinta da un body guard troppo zelante. Tanto che la polizia italiana ha invitato i colleghi d'oltreoceano a essere meno rudi. Per non menzionare i fiorentini che hanno subito i pesanti ingorghi provocati dall'improvvisa chiusura di Lungarno Aacciacoli, Corsini e Vespucci.

Il traffico è stato comunque ieri estremamente intenso. E, per una giornata tutta particolare sotto i riflettori, gli automobilisti fiorentini hanno pagato forti ritardi e lunghe permanenze in macchia.

LA GIORNATA

E Firenze si è fermata per far passare Hillary

ALESSANDRO GIANNOTTI

Non è passato inosservato, anche al fiorentino più disattento, il «passaggio» di Hillary Clinton da Firenze. Dopo il suo arrivo all'aeroporto di Pisa, la prima serata della first lady, ieri l'altro, era iniziata con un incontro a Palazzo Vivarelli Colonna, in un quartiere di Santa Croce presidiato dalle forze dell'ordine, dove ha incontrato il sindaco Leonardo Domenici - che l'ha omaggiata con due dagherrotipi dei fratelli Alinari - e il prefetto di Firenze, Achille Serra. Più tardi, la signora Clinton si è recata a Fiesole dove ha partecipato a un pranzo a villa Medici, ospite di Anna Marchi Mazzini, preceduto da un drink privato con la padrona di casa e i suoi figli, Giuseppe, Donata e Claudia accompagnata dal marito Paolo Martinelli. La cena è stata servita su un tavolo con tovaglia giallo oro, arricchita da un centro tavola di garofani e roselline del giardino e da tante candele, ed è stata accompagnata dalla musica di un quintetto d'archi. La first lady era seduta al centro del tavolo con accanto James Wolfensohn, presidente della World Bank, il console Hilarión Martínez, l'ambasciatore americano a Roma, Thomas Foglietta; ancora Passacantando, un rappresentante della World Bank, la marchesa Cristina Pucci di Barsento con sua figlia Laudomia accompagnata dal marito Alessandro, il ministro della cultura, Giovanna Melandri, il



Il saluto di Hillary Clinton

monsignore della Chiesa di Sant'Egidio. Una cena leggera di quattro portate, tipicamente toscane, tra cui una specie di tagliata con mele, tutto cucinato da Jeff Thickman, un cuoco americano che vive a Firenze. Accanto ai discorsi ufficiali come quello dedicato all'appoggio dell'Italia alle iniziative della World Bank all'estero, ve ne sono stati di più frivoli. La serata che si è svolta in maniera molto vivace con una Hillary Clinton che ha dato, però, l'idea di aver

già «spelluzzicato» qualcosa in aereo. In un'altra sala, veniva contemporaneamente servita la cena allo staff americano. Tutto si è concluso intorno alle 23,30.

Rientrata all'hotel Excelsior, Hillary Clinton ha lavorato fino a tarda notte per preparare il discorso che ha pronunciato ieri mattina alla Fortezza da Basso. Alle 13 è ripartita in direzione di villa Torrigiani, a San Martino alla Palma, ospite di Donatella Zingone Dini, moglie del ministro degli

esteri, dove l'aspettavano, per una colazione per sole donne - allietata da un Riccardo Marasco vestito da menestrello - la marchesa Bona Frescobaldi, Letizia Moratti, Susanna Agnelli, la principessa Annalù Corsini, Wanda Ferragamo, il ministro Giovanna Melandri, Maria Luisa Riffeser Monti, Cecilia Scognamiglio. Un salto in albergo, intorno alle 15. eppoi alle 16, la Clinton è uscita per una visita privata nella Galleria di Palazzo Corsini, sull'omonimo lungarno, ha fatto una «puntatina» alla Mostra dell'antiquariato dove ha provato un orologio interessandosi molto ai gioielli esposti. Verso le 17 si è recata in Palazzo Vecchio dove, accompagnata dal sindaco di Firenze e da ministro Giovanna Melandri, ha ammirato la mostra «La giovinezza di Michelangelo» eppoi, una breve visita nella Galleria degli Uffizi. Uscendo, ha salutato i tantissimi turisti che si erano fermati incuriositi dal grande spiegamento di forze e di guardie del corpo. Il pomeriggio della first lady è continuato con shopping nelle vie del centro - alle 18,30 era nella boutique di Ferragamo - e un tè da Rivoire. A cena è rimasta nella sua camera d'albergo. Questa mattina, alle 12, prima di ripartire per l'aeroporto di Pisa, da dove decollerà alla volta dell'Islanda la first lady si fermerà per un caffè al consolato americano. Nell'occasione il console generale, Hilarión Martínez, potrà presentarsi tutto lo staff diplomatico.

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PRESS COVERAGE OF FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FIRENZE, ITALIA

October 8, 1999

IL GIORNALE, influential rightist daily: three separate articles

1) Headlines: (front page Tuscan section): "Hillary Discovers Firenze"
Subhead: "Alarm At A Suitcase Found At The American Consulate. Three Suspects Held At The Fortezza"

"A bomb alarm during Hillary Clinton's Florentine day. The discovery of an abandoned suitcase at 5:30 p.m. yesterday afternoon near a trash bin next to the American Consulate caused panic among the Secret Service. The bomb squad arrived immediately and, using a small amount of explosives, opened the suitcase to find innocuous contents – only some rags. Corso Italia – over which the Consulate faces – was closed to all traffic, as was the access pedestrian area. Two buildings were evacuated. At the Fortezza, Italian Secret Service stopped three people who wanted to approach the First Lady.

The visit of the First Lady yesterday was full of appointments, some of which were not foreseen by the Protocol Office. After her appearance at the Conference in the morning – "Culture and Sustainable Development" – Mrs. Clinton had lunch at Villa Dini, and afterwards made stops at Palazzo Corsini, Palazzo Vecchio and even the store, Ferragamo.

But the 'outside-the-program' stops made the G-men who escorted Hillary very nervous. They even, accidentally, pushed away Minister of Culture Melandri."

2) Headlines: (Inside Page – note that the first few paragraphs are a virtual repeat of the article on the first page) "Bomb Alarm – Fear For Lady Clinton"

Subhead 1: "Suspicious Bag, Two Buildings Evacuated. Mrs. Melandri Pushed By A Bodyguard"

Subhead 2: "But The Police Were Already Put On Alert. Three People Brought To The Police Station"

"A bomb alarm darkened Hillary Rodham Clinton's Florentine day. The discovery at 5:30 p.m. of an abandoned suitcase next to a trash bin near the American Consulate caused the Secret Service to panic.

Continued: *Il Giornale*, October 8, 1999:

The alarm was sounded by a guard who was posted directly in front of the American Consulate. The bomb squad arrived immediately and used a very small amount of explosives to open the bag and revealed the innocent contents – rags.

The American Consulate faces on Corso Italia, which was closed to traffic, as was the pedestrian access. Two buildings were also evacuated until the 'all-clear' sounded.

But the State Police, coordinated by Florence's Chief of Police, Antonio Ruggero, the anti-bomb squad and shooters were already on alert because several hours earlier several officers of the Italian Secret Service had stopped three suspects at the Fortezza and brought them in for questioning. They included a religious fanatic, one who professed to be an atomic scientist and someone who was imprudent enough, hands in pockets, to get too close to Mrs. Clinton because he wanted her to deliver a letter to her husband. Once identified and adjudged to be innocent, the men were allowed to leave.

Besides the above, a certain nervousness was generated among the Secret Service because it was the First Lady's choice yesterday afternoon to not follow strict protocol. In the morning, Mrs. Clinton had, in fact, followed the regular program of the Florentine visit, attending the Conference on "Culture and Sustainable Development," organized in Florence by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the World Bank and UNESCO.

In a speech strongly concentrating on the defense of individual cultures, the First Lady affirmed: 'Globalization threatens tradition and culture. We should learn to respect diversity,' she later observed, supporting the necessity of making young people responsible for safeguarding their cultures.

But after her lunch at Villa Dini, the First Lady's protocol was fashioned on 'spontaneity' – therefore, creating real nervousness among the strong G-men who follow her. After a brief stop at Palazzo Corsini, where she saw the private art collection of the family and the antiques show and a visit to the works of the young Michaelangelo, exhibited at the Palazzo Vecchio, Hillary amazed everyone, including her escorts, by visiting the Uffizi Gallery.

Afterwards, the First Lady opted for a more 'frivolous' stop, taking a detour, everyone in tow, toward the Ferragamo store where she was attended by Wanda and her daughter.

Going along on all these unexpected stops were several journalists kept away without much graciousness (by the Secret Service) – including no less than Minister of Culture, Giovanna Melandri, who was pushed by an over-

zealous bodyguard. They were so overzealous, in fact, that the Italian police cautioned them to be less rude. Not to mention the Florentines who immediately were inconvenienced by the heavy traffic jams occasioned by the unforeseen closure of the Lungarno Acciaiuoli, Corsini and Vespucci streets.

The traffic was extremely intense yesterday and, for a day, the Florentine drivers paid heavily with long waits in their cars."

3) Headlines: "And Firenze Stopped To Let Hillary Go By"

"The 'passegiata' of Hillary Clinton did not go by unobserved – not even by the most unobservant Florentine. After her arrival at the Pisa Airport, the first evening of the First Lady was initiated with a meeting at the Palazzo Vivarelli Colonna, in a neighborhood of Santa Croce, where she met Mayor Leonardo Domenici – who honored her with two daguerrotypes of the Alinari brothers – and the Prefect of Florence, Achille Serra. Later, Mrs. Clinton went to Fiesole where she dined with her hostess Anna Marchi Mazzini, preceded by a private drink with the mistress of the house and her children, Giuseppe, Donata and Claudia, who was accompanied by her husband Paolo Martinelli. The dinner was served at a table with a golden tablecloth, enriched by a centerpiece of carnations and little roses from the garden, as well as by many candles. A quintet orchestra accompanied the dinner. The First Lady was seated at the center of the table with James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank, by her side, along with the American Consul General, Hilarion Martinez and the American Ambassador, Thomas Foglietta. Also present were Mr. Passacantando, a representative of the World Bank, Marchessa Cristina Pucci of Barsento with her daughter Laudomia, accompanied by her husband Alessandro, the Minister of Culture, Giovanna Melandri and the Monsignore of the Church of Sant'Egidio. It was a light dinner of four courses, typically Tuscan, including a special type of tagliata pasta with apples, all prepared by Jeff Thickman, an American chef who lives in Florence. Along with the official topics discussed, including those dedicated to the support of Italy initiated by the World Bank, there were also more frivolous themes. The evening progressed in a very vivacious way with a Hillary Clinton who gave the idea, however, that she had already eaten something on the plane. In another room, the American staff was served their dinner. Everything was over by 11:30 p.m.

Re-entering the Hotel Excelsior, Hillary Clinton worked until late at night preparing the speech that she gave yesterday morning at the Fortezza da Basso. (After the speech) at 1:00 p.m., she left in the direction of Villa Torrigiani in San Martino alla Palma, a guest of Donatella Zingone Dini, wife of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, where a number of female-only guests awaited her for lunch. They were treated to songs by Renaissance-style by Minstrel Riccardo Marasco. Guests included Bona Frescobaldi, Letizia

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Continued, *Il Giornale*, October 8, 1999

Moratti, Susanna Agnelli, Princess Annalu Corsini, Wanda Ferragamo, Minister of Culture Giovanna Melandri, Maria Luisa Rifesser Monti and Cecilia Scognamiglio. A quick stop at her hotel around 3:00 p.m., and then, at 4:00 p.m., Mrs. Clinton exited for a private visit at the Gallery of Palazzo Corsini, along the Lungarno. She made a short stop at the antiques show there, where she tried on a watch and seemed to be very interested in the jewelry displays. About 5:00 p.m., she went to the Palazzo Vecchio where, accompanied by the Mayor of Florence and Minister Giovanna Melandri, she admired the exhibition of 'The Young Michaelangelo'. Later she made a brief visit to the Uffizi Gallery. Exiting, she waved to the many tourists who had stopped in curiosity at the great show of force and bodyguards. The First Lady's afternoon continued with shopping in the Centro – at 6:30 p.m. she was at Ferragamo – and tea at the Rivoire. She remained in her hotel for dinner. This morning, before leaving for the airport in Pisa, where she will take off for Iceland, the First Lady will stop for coffee at the American Consulate. On that occasion, the Consul General, Hilarion Martinez, will introduce her to the diplomatic staff."

(b)(3)

[001]

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La first lady



Hillary e Melandri alla mostra su Michelangelo

Ma solo poche ammesse alla sua presenza

Hillary conquista le signore vip

di ILARIA CIUTI

E' RIMASTA folgorata dal giovane Michelangelo, e ha ascoltato le canzoni di Riccardo Marasco tutto vestito da '400. Ha mangiato un diluvio di anatre - con vino Ruffino e Fontodi a casa di Anna Marchi Mazzini mercoledì a cena e all'uva alle olive ieri a colazione da Donatella Dini - e ha parlato col sindaco del ticket per i turisti. Ha trovato la Biennale dell'Anti-quariato fin troppo piena.

CONTINUA A PAGINA 11

Allarme bomba e tanti malumori

di CLAUDIA FUSANI

ARRIVA Hillary: applausi, feste, lustro. E qualche arrabbiato. Perché la piccola, grande first lady americana, ha più volte, durante la giornata, congelato traffico e passanti con il suo corteo di limousine e fuori strada pieni di body guard, occhiali scuri e auricolari, che hanno presidiato ogni suo minimo spostamento. Il colmo del disagio è stato verso le cinque e mezzo del pomeriggio quando personale del consolato americano ha dato l'allarme per una valigia sospetta.

CONTINUA A PAGINA 11

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

segue dalla prima di cronaca ■ Allarme bomba...

LA signora Clinton era in quel momento ben distante, fra Palazzo Vecchio e gli Uffizi. Ma tutto l'apparato della security, questura compresa, è andato in tilt per quasi un'ora finché gli artificieri hanno fatto esplodere una valigia di giacche e lenzuola.

L'allarme era stato dato da un vigilante del consolato americano che, molto zelante in questi giorni di visita ufficiale, si è insospettito per una valigia blu appoggiata all'esterno di un cassonetto dei rifiuti in Corso Italia a pochi passi dal teatro Comunale. Molto probabilmente una valigia dimenticata. Ma ieri non era possibile correre rischi. Così è stato bloccato Corso Italia, il lungarno, evacuato il consolato e i due palazzi più vicini. Per un'ora, finché gli artificieri della polizia hanno fatto esplodere una valigia di stracci. Al boato secco dell'esplosione una giovane impiegata del consolato si è messa a piangere: pensava che quella valigia fosse davvero

una bomba.

Fortezza da Basso, hotel Excelsior, San Martino alla Palma, poi di nuovo hotel, palazzo Corsini, palazzo vecchio, Uffizi, Ferragamo: ad ogni spostamento di Hillary, anche di pochi metri, il secret service americano, responsabile della scorta del presidente e della famiglia, aveva ordinato il blocco totale del traffico ordinario per far passare il corteo di oltre dieci mezzi. In una città come Firenze, strade piccole e molto trafficate, questo ha significato non pochi disagi. Ma le disposizioni degli ospiti americani sono state tassative e non c'è stato margine di trattativa per il servizio di sicurezza italiano che pure ha messo a disposizione per tre giorni Digos e reparti speciali dei Nocs e del Gis. Anzi: il programma della first lady è stato sempre tenuto segreto fino all'ultimo secondo anche ai funzionari della questura. Questione di privacy e di sicurezza.

CLAUDIA FUSANI

segue dalla prima di cronaca ■ Le signore vip...

Ha fatto amicizia con poche ma pregiate signore che non la considereranno mai più la moglie di Bill, ma «una delle donne più intelligenti e piacevoli che abbiamo mai incontrato». E' volata così la due giorni di Hillary Clinton, arrivata a Firenze mercoledì per intervenire, ieri, al convegno internazionale sulla cultura alla Fortezza, e in partenza oggi da Pisa.

L'inflessibile security americana e l'altrettanto inflessibile voglia di privacy della first lady hanno fatto impazzire anche il bel mondo cittadino. Agitazione soprattutto tra le signore. Le moltissime escluse dai programmi e le poche incluse e magari costrette ad aspettare per ore. Nessuna però ha perso il piglio. «A Firenze non mancano le persone cui dare il benvenuto», hanno detto le escluse. Le altre si sono profuse in conversazione ma senza tanti fronzoli.

A novembre forse tornerà con mio marito - ha detto Hillary a Livia Corsini-Branca che le aveva fatto da guida insieme a Bona

Frescobaldi dentro la Biennale e la Quadreggia di palazzo Corsini. «Noi siamo qui», ha tranquillamente risposto la contessa. E le Ferragamo, Wanda, Giovanna e Fulvia, hanno atteso senza fare una piega - prima in piedi nell'atrio di palazzo Spini Feroni e poi con Donatella Dini sui divani del negozio - per tre ore e passa che si presentasse la signora che era andata prima alla mostra di Michelangelo e agli Uffizi. La signora Wanda, che poi ha mostrato a un entusiasta Hillary il museo delle scarpe di Salvatore, si è consolata parlando della doppia porzione di buonissimi ravioli alla selezionata colazione di Donatella Dini che, di fiorentine, aveva invitato solo lei, Bona Frescobaldi, Annalu' Corsini Sanminiatiellie Marlene Fresco, l'americana moglie del presidente Fiat, naturalizzata fiesolana. Insieme al ministro Melandri, una rispolverata Susanna Agnelli, Letizia Moratti, Maria Luisa Riffeser, e due signore della Casa Bianca.

ILARIA CIUTI

o discorso la difesa
radizioni culturali:
uardate i nostri
ani: tutti uguali”

LAUDIA RICONDA

che è tutto finito, che il
ripartito per il mondo,
il convegno internazio-
a cultura nello sviluppo
le si è concluso e i mille
sono tornati nei loro
esso sembra ci sia stata
Solo Hillary, qui dentro
ezza da Basso. Solo mrs
Hillary con le sue dure
lla globalizzazione: «E’
ile vernice sull’identità
he può creare molti pro-
ntra in conflitto con i te-
mondo, può minacciare
zioni culturali, creare
itori e non cittadini. Ba-
dare i nostri giovani, so-
iguali: portano le stesse
angiano gli stessi ham-
a loro fantasia è anima-
stessi personaggi televi-
lary che riconosce l’ar-
dei paesi ricchi che cre-
e aiutare un paese stra-
via di sviluppo sia im-



Hillary Clinton ha chiuso il convegno della Banca Mondiale

“La globalizzazione porta all’appiattimento culturale”

Hillary Clinton
durante la
visita alla
Biennale dell’
Antiquariato.
La first lady
Usa era
intervenuta
poco prima al
convegno
organizzato
dalla Banca
Mondiale

porre il proprio tipo di cultura e
di economia, costruire strade
asfaltate in mezzo al niente, stra-
de che la gente del posto non usa,
non sa che farsene, che non le ha
mai chieste, quelle strade, solo
che non è mai riuscito a dirlo per-
ché nessuno li ha mai voluti
ascoltare, Hillary che dice di
prendere esempio dal Mali che

ha creato una banca della cultu-
ra e adesso le popolazioni dei vil-
laggi anziché vendere gli oggetti
antichi ai turisti, possono darli in
esposizione ai musei e in cambio
ricevere soldi per comprare lese-
menti e coltivare i campi.

Ci si ricorderà soprattutto di
Hillary, per la semplicità e la
profondità del suo intervento,

ventisette minuti serrati e appas-
sionati. E magari perché le paro-
le di una first lady americana pe-
sano di più di quelle di un dele-
gato del Pakistan. Ma il conve-
gno fiorentino, organizzato dal-
la Banca Mondiale, dall’Unesco
e dal ministero degli esteri italia-
no, è stato molto di più: è stato il
tentativo di mettere insieme
mondi diversi, quello della cultu-
ra e dell’economia e della finan-
za, per capire quanto possano la-
vorare insieme, stringere un pat-
to di alleanza e trovare strategie
di interventi. Perché la cultura
diventi motore di crescita econo-
mica e di sviluppo sociale, come
ha ricordato Giovanna Melan-
dri, ministro della cultura, che
ha concluso il convegno enun-
ciando un decalogo che scandi-
sca l’agenda internazionale in
materia di interventi in campo
culturale. Un convegno, da cui
uscirà un documento dell’Une-

sco ancora in fase di elaborazio-
ne, che ha visto per quattro gior-
ni i rappresentanti di tutto il
mondo confrontarsi fra di loro,
quaranta ministri della cultura
faccia a faccia con operatori del-
la finanza, delle fondazioni, del-
le banche. E non è un caso che
per parlare di cultura a così alto
livello sia stata scelta come sede
proprio Firenze. Una città che al
delegato della Jamaica ha fatto
dire: «La bellezza di Firenze non
è solo nei suoi monumenti e nel-
le sue statue, ma in quello che
queste opere rappresentano: il
progetto di città e di bellezza che
le persone che le hanno create
avevano in mente e ci hanno la-
sciato in eredità. E’ questa la le-
zione di Firenze su cui dovrem-
mo riflettere, noi che viviamo in
una società dove tutto è congela-
to, dove non siamo più capaci di
pensare con la prospettiva e la
grandezza dei vostri antenati».

“La REPUBBLICA” - Florence Supplement
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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

...pa italiana del suo tour elettorale. Panico di un'ora per una valigia sospetta

Hillary, visita con brivido all'arme bomba a Firenze a First Lady: "Così conquisterò il Senato"

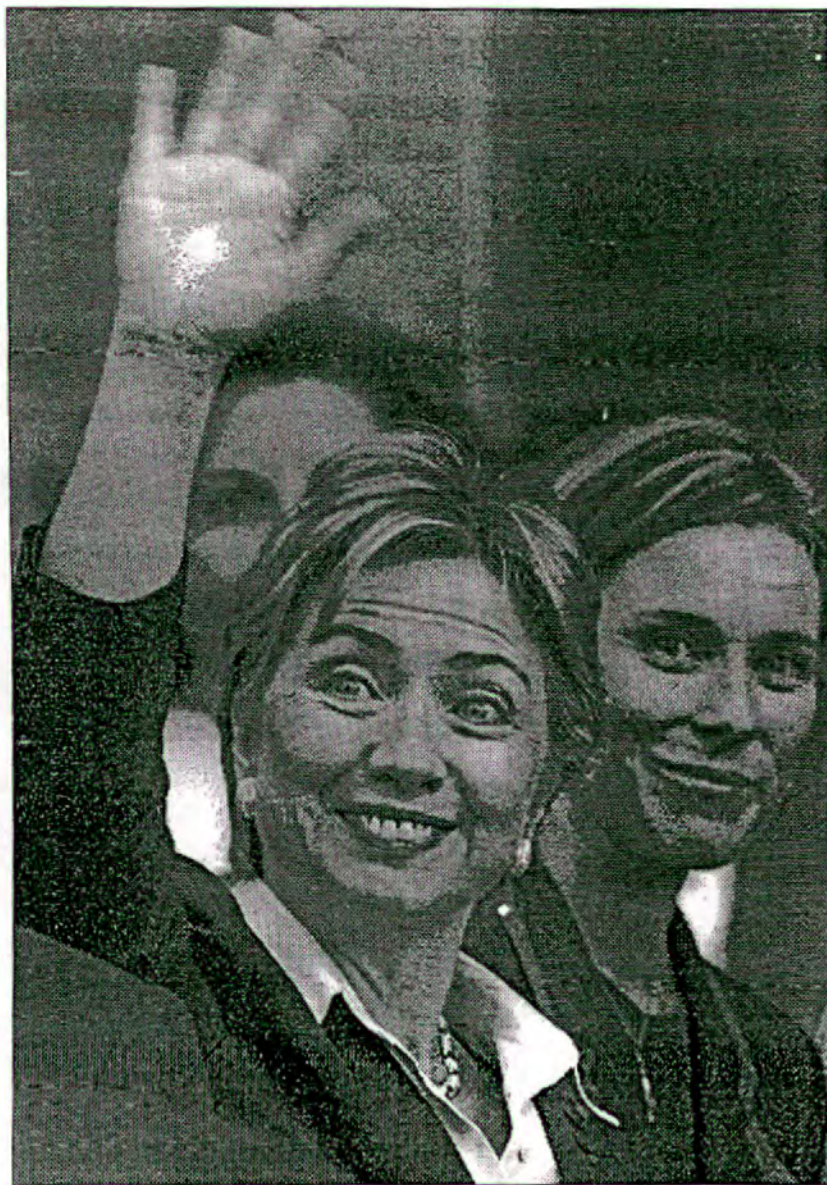
di LAURA LAURENZI

NZE — Si scaglia contro la globalizzazione, annuncia la sua agenda per conquistare un seggio al Senato, parla di spot e parolacce, schierandosi contro le campagne elettorali fatte in tivvù. Come agisce non certo come la moglie di un capo di Stato in Europa, bensì con la grinta e il piglio di un leader politico a tutto tondo. La First Lady è stata intensa e carica di signorile eleganza quella di Hillary Clinton ieri a Firenze, con tanto di allarme bomba, rapidamente rientrato, mentre il bagno di folla pomeridiana. Somiglia molto a un viaggiatore questo suo tour automobilistico, questa campagna in Europa dai ritmi frenetici: quattro giorni la first lady visiterà quattro paesi: Polonia, Slovacchia, l'Italia, oggi l'Islanda. La nuova era di Hillary comincia con un look. È in perfetta tenuta da donna in carriera: austero tailleur, pantaloni grigio asfalto, scarpe piatte, camicia maschile e chiari, trucco appena accennato. Appare in forma, dimagrita, scesa finalmente a quota 65 chili, fresca di lifting, con i capelli neri e sportivi nel nuovo «taglio casuale» quello che la W.



La moglie di Clinton contro la globalizzazione: "È una vernice che copre l'identità umana e riduce la cultura"

Giornata da turista, poi pranzo a casa Dini per dodici "power women" tra menestrelli e stornelli d'epoca



Hillary Clinton con il ministro Giovanna Melandri. A sinistra, con Donatella Dini

La moglie di Clinton contro la globalizzazione: "E' una vernice che copre l'identità umana e riduce la cultura"

Giornata da turista, poi pranzo a casa Dini per dodici "power women" tra menestrelli e stornelli d'epoca



Hillary Clinton con il ministro Giovanna Melandri. A sinistra, con Donatella Dini

ro del mondo».

Molti applausi; la first lady stringe con forza decine e decine di mani, distribuisce sorrisi e incoraggiamenti. Poi la sua limousine, una lunghissima Cadillac nera targata Washington DC, la conduce con la scorta di una ventina di auto nella casa di campagna dei Dini, la rinascimentale Villa Torrigiani, sopra Scandicci, in piena zona Mostro di Firenze. Nella lussuosa dimora l'attendo- no una decina di *power women* fra

cui Letizia Moratti, Susanna Agnelli, Marlene Fresco, Marisa Riffeser, Vanda Ferragamo, Annalù Corsini, Bona Frescobaldi, e naturalmente Donatella Dini. Il ministro Giovanna Melandri è l'ultima ad arrivare. Pranzo per dodici ladies un po' folcloristico, con un menestrello in panni quattrocenteschi che suona stornelli d'epoca, ma i discorsi attorno al tavolo elegantemente imbandito sono seri, di stringente attualità.

Parlando della sua corsa per il

Senato, Hillary dice che deve «espugnare tre i: i come comunità italiana, come comunità irlandese, come comunità israelita, chi ottiene il consenso di queste tre comunità vince le elezioni». Quanto alle campagne elettorali fatte a colpi di spot, la signora Clinton si dissocia: «Non fatel' errore che abbiamo fatto noi negli Stati Uniti. La politica con troppi spot in tivù disaffeziona la gente, la allontana. E poi è troppo costosa, così va a finire che possono

permettersela soltanto i ricchi».

Pomeriggio culturale, con visita alla quadreria di Palazzo Corsini, e lunga sosta alla Biennale di Antiquariato. La first lady cerca mobili d'epoca per la sua nuova casa post-presidenziale, ma l'occhio le cade su una vetrinetta di gioielli antichi: su un orologio Cartier degli anni Venti con quadrante di smeraldo, su un bracciale decò tempestato di brillanti, su un anello con due diamanti blu cabochon che si prova e

si riprova entusiasta. Poi va a Palazzo Vecchio, dove nella Sala d'Arme proprio ieri si inaugurava la grande mostra sul primo Michelangelo. Ammira il Fanciullo Arciere, il San Petronio, la Madonna di Manchester, chiede, ascolta, si informa. Passando da una porticina interna, cambiando programma e spiazzando la scorta, entra agli Uffizi, che rimangono aperti al pubblico, con grappoli di turisti che le si assiepano attorno.

Proprio in quei momenti — sono le cinque e mezzo — una guardia giurata trova una valigia sospesa accanto a un cassonetto a 50 metri dal consolato Usa. Allarme bomba, sirene, security in fibrillazione. Corso Italia e le strade adiacenti vengono chiuse al traffico. Grande agitazione per un'ora, fino a quando gli artificieri non fanno saltare la valigia con una carica esplosiva: dentro ci sono solo vestiti vecchi. Del tutto ignara, Hillary continua il suo tour fiorentino. Va anche da Ferragamo, in boutique e al museo storico, dove scortata dalla signora Dini ammira le scarpe di Audrey Hepburn, Gregory Peck, Ava Gardner.

"La REPUBBLICA"

National Section

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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

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Page 1 – Florence section

PHOTO HEADLINE: The First Lady

PHOTO CAPTION: Hillary and Melandri at the Michelangelo exhibition

HEADLINE: Hillary conquers the VIPs

By Ilaria Ciuti

She was struck by the young Michelangelo, and she listened to the songs of Riccardo Marasco, who was dressed in 15th century costume. She ate a flood of duck – with Ruffino and Fontodi wines at Wednesday's dinner in the home of Anna Marchi Mazzini and grapes and olives yesterday at Donatella Dini's lunch. And she talked with the mayor about tickets for tourists. She found the Antiquities Biennale much too crowded. Continued Page 2

HEADLINE: A bomb warning and so much bad feeling

Hillary arrives: applause, parties, elegance. And someone upset. Because the petite, grand First Lady of the United States, more than once during the day, halted traffic and passersby with her motorcade composed of her limousine and vans full of bodyguards with their dark glasses and earpieces, who presided over her every movement. The peak of the chaos came around 5:30 in the afternoon when personnel from the American consulate issued an alarm because of a suspicious suitcase.

Continued Page 2

Page 2

(Continued from Page One) * The VIPs ...

She made friends with a few, but privileged, people who no longer consider her the wife of Bill, but "one of the most intelligent and pleasant women we have ever met". And so the two days of Hillary Clinton, who arrived in Florence Wednesday to speak yesterday at an international congress at the Fortezza about culture and who leaves today from Pisa, have flown by.

The inflexible American security and, in addition, the First Lady's inflexible desire for privacy drove even the elite crazy. Above all, agitation among these ladies. The many excluded from the program, and those few included but unfortunately forced to wait for hours. Nonetheless, no one lost her cool. "In Florence, we aren't lacking people to make her welcome," said the excluded. The other were profuse in conversation but not so complimentary.

"Perhaps I'll return in November with my husband," Hillary said to Livia Corsini Branca, who acted as tour guide together with Bona Frescobaldi at the Biennale and at the art gallery in the Palazzo Corsini. "We will be here," the Contessa replied serenely. And the Ferragamos, Wanda, Giovanna and Fulvia, waited without moving – first standing in the atrium of the Palazzo Spini Feroni and then with Donatella Dini on the sofas in the store – for more than three hours they waited for the woman who went first to the Michelangelo exhibit and to the Uffizi to show up. Wanda, who then showed Salvatore's shoe museum to an enthusiastic Hillary, consoled herself speaking of the double portion of wonderful ravioli at the exclusive lunch hosted by Donatella Dini, who, among Florentines, had invited only her (Wanda), Bona Frescobaldi, Annalu' Corsini Sanminiatielli and Marlene Fresco, the American wife of the president of FIAT, a naturalized Florentine. Together with Minister Melandri, Susanna Agnelli, Letizia Moratti, Maria Luisa Riffeser, and two women from the White House.

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Page 8 (World News section)

PHOTO (caption): Hillary Clinton with Minister Giovanna Melandri. On the left, with Donatella Dini.

Headline: Italian stop of her campaign tour. An hour of panic over a suspicious suitcase
Headline: Hillary, a visit with a chill; a bomb warning in Florence
Headline: The First Lady: "That's how I'll win the Senate race"

FLORENCE – She attacks globalization, she announces her strategy for winning a Senate seat, she speaks about ads and equal time, agreeing with those who oppose election campaigns carried out on television. She moves and acts not like a chief of state's wife on a visit, but with the firmness and strength of a complete political leader. A intense and meaningful day in Florence, with a bomb threat, quickly resolved, and with large crowds in the afternoon. It greatly resembles a campaign trip, this frenetic self-promotional tour of Europe. In four days, the First Lady visited four countries: Poland, Slovakia, Italy yesterday, and today, on to Iceland.

The new Hillary era begins with her look. She's the perfect career woman: an austere pantsuit in dark gray, flat shoes, a masculine shirt, light green, and light make-up. She's in great shape, has lost weight, finally got down to 65 kilos, fresh from her face lift, with a short, sporty "campaign haircut", which the Washington Post, in comments about the numerous metamorphoses of the First Lady, ironically dubbed the "vote-for-me cut". Her presentation yesterday morning at Fortezza da Basso at the large international conference organized by Farnesina (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), the World Bank and UNESCO, titled "Culture Counts", is a strong rebuke of the massification of taste and cultural references: "Globalization is a thin veneer on human identity, and can create many problems," the First Lady warns. "Our youth is all the same, they eat the same hamburgers, wear the same T-shirts, and their fantasy is inspired by the same television characters. One spends a lot for products that we think represent culture. In a disposable world, globalization competes with our cultural treasures."

To begin, she offers two proposals to affirm desires of peoples to see their own individuality assured in the face of mass culture: institute a Culture Bank like the one in Mali, and export the formula "Let's Adopt a Monument" that gives children responsibility "because they are the world's future."

Applause; the First Lady shakes hands with many people, distributes smiles and encouragement. Then her limousine, a long black Cadillac with Washington, D.C., plates, together with a motorcade of about twenty vehicles, drives her to Dini's country house, the Renaissance Villa Torrigini, above Scandicci, in the middle of the haunts of the Florence Monster. In the elegant home were waiting ten "power women", including Letizia Moratti, Susanna Agnelli, Marlene Fresco, Marisa Riffeser, Wanda Ferragamo, Annalu' Corsini, Bona Frescobaldi and, naturally, Donatella Dini. Minister Giovanni Melandri is the last to arrive. A somewhat folkloric lunch for the twelve ladies, with a minstrel in 15th century costume who plays songs of that era. But the talk around the table, which is elegantly appointed, is serious and very timely.

Speaking of her Senate race, Hillary says that she must "win over three groups: the Italian community, the Irish community, and the Jewish community. Whoever gets the consensus of these three communities wins the election." As far as television campaign advertising, Mrs. Clinton disagrees and says, "Don't make the same mistake we made in the United States. Campaigns with too much advertising drives people away. It also costs a lot, which means that only rich people can afford it."

A cultural afternoon, with a visit to the Palazzo Corsini gallery and a long stop at the Antiquities Biennale. The First Lady is looking for period furniture for her post-presidential home. But her eyes go to a small antique jewelry case, to a 1920s Cartier clock with an emerald frame, to an art deco bracelet full of diamonds, to a ring with two blue diamond cabachons which she tries on and tries on again, enthusiastically. Then she goes to Palazzo Vecchio, where yesterday, in the Arms Room, a great exhibit of early works of Michelangelo opened. She admires Fanciullo Arciero, San Petronio, Manchester' Madonna. She asks, she listens, she learns. Leaving through a small interior door, changing the schedule, she goes to the Uffizi, which is still open to the public, full of tourists who gather around her.

In those very moments – it is about 5:30 – a security guard finds a suitcase near a garbage can 50 meters away from the American consulate. A bomb warning, sirens, and security has a fit. Corso Italia and the nearby streets are closed to traffic. Great agitation for an hour, until the bomb squad blows up the suitcase. Inside are only old clothes. Ignorant of everything, Hillary continues her tour of

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Headline: Hillary Clinton closed the World Bank Congress
Headline: "Globalization levels the cultural playing field"

Photo caption: Hillary Clinton, during a visit to the Antiquities Biennale. The First Lady spoke earlier at the conference organized by the World Bank.

In her speech she defends cultural traditions: "Look at our youth: they're all the same"

Now that everything is over, now that the world can start all over again, now that the international conference on culture and sustainable development has ended and the thousands of delegates have gone home, now it seems that only she was here. Only Hillary, here inside the Fortezza da Basso. Only Mrs. Clinton. Hillary with her strong words about globalization: "It's a thin veneer on human identity that can create many problems. It is in conflict with the world's treasures, it can threaten the cultural traditions, create consumers rather than citizens. Just look at our youth – they're all the same. They wear the same T-shirts, they eat the same hamburgers, and their fantasy is inspired by the same television characters." Hillary acknowledges the arrogance of rich countries that believe that helping a developing country means imposing their type of culture and economy, building roads in the middle of nowhere, roads that the local citizens don't use and don't know what to do with. They were never asked if they needed them, and they never had a chance to tell anyone because no one ever listened. Hillary says to take Mali as an example; it created a Culture Bank and now the residents of villages, instead of selling artifacts to tourists as souvenirs, give them to museums to be displayed. In return, they receive money to buy seeds to plant their fields.

One will remember Hillary above all for her simplicity and the depth of her speech. Twenty-seven passionate minutes without pause. And perhaps the words of an American First Lady are more influential than those of a delegate from Pakistan. But the Florence conference, organized by the World Bank, by UNESCO, and by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was much more than this: it was an attempt to bring together different worlds – those of culture, economy and finance, in order to understand how they can work together, form alliances and find strategies to become involved. So that culture becomes an engine for growth for economic and social development. Italian Minister of Culture Giovanna Melandri, who concluded the conference, offered an international agenda checklist for involvement in the area of culture. A conference from which UNESCO will issue a document, still in the works, that during the past four days representatives from all over the world have studied and discussed. Forty ministers of culture, face to face with the financial officers from foundations and from banks. It's not by chance that Florence was selected as the site for such high-level talks about culture. A city that made the Jamaican delegate say, "The beauty of Florence is not only its monuments and statutes, but rather what these works represent. The project of city and beauty that the people who had them in mind, created them and left as their legacy. This is what Florence teaches us, something on which to reflect for those of us live in societies that are stalled, where we are incapable of thinking with the perspective and grandeur of your ancestors."

Continued from Page 1 * Bomb warning ...

At that moment, Mrs. Clinton was far away, between the Palazzo Vecchio and the Uffizi. The entire security apparatus, city police included, went full-tilt for almost an hour until the bomb squad exploded a suitcase full of jackets and sheets.

The warning was issued by some guards at the American Consulate who, very zealous during these days of the official visit, found suspicious a blue suitcase leaning against a garbage can on Corso Italia, a few steps from the city theater. Very likely a forgotten suitcase. But yesterday it was not possible to take a chance. So Corso Italia was blocked, as was the riverfront street; the consulate and the two neighboring buildings were evacuated. For an hour, until the police bomb squad blew up the suitcase full of rags. At the loud noise of the explosion, a young employee of the consulate began to cry: she thought that the suitcase really was a bomb.

Fortezza da Basso, the Excelsior Hotel, San Martino alla Palma, again to the hotel, Palazzo Corsini, Palazzo Vecchio, Uffizi, Ferragamo: at each Hillary movement, even for a few meters, the American Secret Service, responsible for the protection of the president and his family, ordered the total blockade of normal traffic in order for the motorcade to pass an additional ten vehicles. In a city like Florence, with its narrow streets and heavy traffic, this meant not a small amount of inconvenience. But the attitude of the American guests has been unswerving and there has not been any maneuvering room for the Italian security service; Digos and special forces of the police and the carabinieri (military police) have put themselves at the disposal of the Americans for three days. Instead the First Lady's schedule has always been kept secret until the last second, even from city police officials. Questions of privacy and security.

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Florence. She goes to Ferragamo and to the museum, where, escorted by Mrs. Dina, she admires the shoes of Audrey Hepburn, Gregory Peck, Ava Gardner.

(b)(3)

[002]

Malanne Verwee
Press

U.S. first lady in Italy, urges 'cultural literacy'

By CANDICE HUGHES

FLORENCE (AP) — First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, on a visit to Italy last week, urged more support for museums and cultural institutions in the developing world.

Mrs. Clinton, speaking at a conference on culture and economic development, warned that development projects risk failure unless they "reflect the lives and traditions of the people they serve."

Italy was the third stop on a four-nation tour that takes Mrs. Clinton to Iceland on Friday to give a speech on women and democracy. The 25-minute speech in Florence was her only public appearance in Italy.

"I see the desire of so many to try and assert their identity against the mass culture fueled by globalization," she said during the speech. "We must bring a new cultural literacy and cultural respect to all our development strategies."

During her trip, the first

lady has refrained from commenting on U.S. political issues. Mrs. Clinton, a likely candidate for a U.S. Senate seat from New York, also visited Slovakia and Poland, where she spoke at another development conference.

The White House says the trip is not linked to domestic politics, and in this supreme city of art, Mrs. Clinton passed up what might have been a golden opportunity to comment on artistic expression — a subject in which her potential opponent, New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, is now deeply embroiled.

Giuliani has criticized the Brooklyn Museum of Art and cut off city funding over an exhibition he deems sacrilegious, in part because it includes a painting of the Virgin Mary embellished with elephant dung.

Mrs. Clinton confined her remarks here to the rather drier realms of development policy.

From Il Giornale, 10/6/99:

Headline: "Hillary Clinton's Travels To Florence Are About To Begin"

"Due to arrive this afternoon in Pisa, America's First Lady might be coming with her daughter to two social events," writes Alessandro Giannotti in Il Giornale. "The reason for the American First Lady's visit to Florence is the speech she will deliver on Thursday morning, when she will speak (on the same program with) Italian Minister of Culture Giovanna Melandri who will close the conference organized by the World Bank, UNESCO and by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on "Financing, resources and economics of culture in sustainable development". The First Lady will be involved in two major social events. The first at Villa Medici, in Fiesole, hosted by Anna Marchi Mazzini, this evening at 8:15, where Hillary Clinton will be escorted by James Wolfensohn, the president of the World Bank ... Tomorrow Donatella Zincone, Minister of Foreign Affairs Lamberto Dini's wife, will host a breakfast at her villa in San Martino alla Palma... an opportunity to introduce the First Lady to the important women of Florence. On November 20 Bill Clinton himself will be in Florence for the conference on the so-called "Third Way" on politics, social issues and economics.

October 6, 1999

(Translated as written)

Media Reactions: Local Press

The local press is interested mostly in the agenda and the social events the First Lady will be involved in during her stay in Florence.

Headline:

"Everyone Is Crazy For Hillary. The First Lady in Florence for "Culture Counts"
(La Nazione)

Letizia Cini, in her article in La Nazione headlined: "Hillary: Guess where she is going to dine?", writes: "All are keeping quiet about the Florentine stay of Hillary. Many know, or they make you believe they do. There are...many sources, too many in fact, so it is hard to find real information...One thing is certain: the First Lady will speak tomorrow morning, after Giovanna Melandri (*Minister of Culture*), on the closing day of the international conference, "Culture Counts: Financing, resources and economics of culture in sustainable development" organized by the Italian government and the World Bank with UNESCO ...The First Lady will land at Pisa airport at 6:30 p.m. with 10 people and, so it seems, her daughter Chelsea... The American Ambassador Thomas Foglietta will meet her at the airport. Anna Marchi Mazzini will take care of Mrs. Clinton's first Florentine dinner at Villa Medici ... "Lady USA will have dinner with a few select friends and with World Bank President James Wolfensohn."

PM-Slovakia-Mrs Clinton, 1st Ld-Writethru, a0550,0391

U.S. first lady to praise democratic efforts in Slovakia

Eds: LEADS with six new grafs to UPDATE with Mrs. Clinton's comments after talking with the premier; picks up 3rd graf pvs: 'On the first..'

By MELISSA EDDY= Associated Press Writer=

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP) In her second visit to Slovakia, Hillary Rodham Clinton today praised the democratic changes she said have taken place in this small central European nation and reiterated U.S. support.

Speaking after a meeting with Premier Mikulas Dzurinda, Mrs. Clinton encouraged his government to work on behalf of Slovakia's minorities, a clear reference to the 600,000 ethnic Hungarians in the southeastern part of the country.

Dzurinda and President Rudolf Schuster are credited with having brought Slovakia closer to Europe, following five years of authoritarian rule by Dzurinda's predecessor, Vladimir Meciar.

'Many of you know the contribution Slovak Americans have made to the United States ... and the role all citizens play in building a strong future,' the first lady said.

She also praised the completion of a bridge across the Danube River linking Slovakia and Hungary a statement, she said, that the country wants to be connected to Europe.

'I know very well (that) the spirit and character of the Slovak people will demonstrate absolutely that Slovakia is ready to take its rightful place in Europe,' she added.

During Mrs. Clinton's initial visit to Slovakia three years ago, she met only with pro-democracy groups, who were struggling against Meciar's regime.

During this trip, she plans to applaud the groups' efforts and to work in bringing about the changes that have made the former communist nation a leading candidate for European Union membership.

On Tuesday, Mrs. Clinton visited Poland, where she met with President Aleksander Kwasniewski and focused on women's rights and economic development in Eastern Europe.

She met with female entrepreneurs at a textile factory, where she lauded Poland for leading the way in economic reforms among the nations of the former Soviet bloc since the collapse of communist rule 10 years ago.

After Slovakia, Mrs. Clinton continues to Italy and Iceland, where she will take part in a conference on women and democracy.

**** filed by:APE(--) on 10/06/99 at 10:59EDT ****

**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 10/06/99 at 12:16EDT ****

Melanne Verveer

2 hrs 11.11
Poland clips

SOURCE: Poznan Wprost in Polish 17 Oct 99 page 116

TEXT:

[Commentary by Tomasz Lis: "Visiting with You"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Senate Speaker Alicja Grzeskowiak, who has been fighting to win favor with Warsaw, must have been dying of envy when she saw this. Warsaw was being conquered by a person who was not even a Senate speaker, not even a senator or a candidate for a senator. She was a candidate for a candidate for a senator -- but she came from the New York State. Hillary Clinton arrived, and did not even have the time to see, but she conquered. She had Warsaw and the entire Poland at her feet. Senator Grzeskowiak, sensing what was cooking, had gone to New York City a few days before Hillary Clinton's visit. The senator marched in the first row in the Pulaski parade together with the person who may defeat Hillary a year from now -- the Republican mayor of the city Rudolph Giuliani.

Humiliated by vocalist Houston, Poland needed confirmation that we belong there and that others are reckoning with us. The U.S. first lady sensed this grass-roots demand and responded to it. In return she got what she came for -- photographs from Poland. Of course, the time of our president, prime minister, and foreign affairs minister is precious, but Mrs. Clinton's visit was an exceptional opportunity to specify its value fairly precisely. The 30 minutes with the president, 32 minutes with Minister Geremek, and 35 minutes with Prime Minister Buzek was converted into a piece of good press in the West. The world heard Hillary Clinton's words about difficult reforms which were yielding results. The moment was appropriate because a few days earlier the world saw a report by the New York Times correspondent about Lepper and attempts to call Poland's successes of the last decade into question. I totally disagree with those who say, outraged, that Poland was used as an element of Mrs. Clinton's election campaign. It was exploited just as much as our visitor was. For 97 minutes with the most important people in Poland we had gotten the least expensive portion of good publicity since the time General Wilecki was fired as chief of the General Staff (at that time it was evidence to prove that Poland was not a banana republic in which generals tell civilians what they are supposed to do).

Of course, the successful photo-for-photo deal does not change the fact that reports on the visit, which failed to notice why Mrs. Clinton had come to Poland, were truly hilarious. American journalists did not have the slightest doubts about that, and when the American first lady was talking about the growing number of automobiles and restaurants in Warsaw, in Washington they were grilling the White House spokesman. No, it is no election campaign, he said. What was he supposed to say, after all? Of course, it is not a campaign. It is a coincidence that Mrs. Clinton is visiting the Warsaw Jewish school founded by Ronald Lauder, a hugely important person in the World Jewish Congress and

probably her election sponsor. It is a coincidence that she is visiting the country in which thousands of New York Poles were born. It is a coincidence that, when she leaves Poland for Slovakia, she will visit the tomb of a famous rabbi and a Jewish nursing home. It is a coincidence that from there she will go to Italy and that she is already planning to visit Ireland and Israel (Italy, Israel, Ireland -- these three "I" are the greatest political power in New York). Hillary Clinton is running for the senate in New York and is right about that. But why is she seeking applause in Warsaw? However, it is not Warsaw that is at issue here. Warsaw is bowing -- the most famous woman of the world has shared with us a handful of her golden thoughts about transition, globalization, cultural heritage, problems of women and children, art, etc. I understand that, if a person tried to please the Big Brother, out of a habit he will do the same to the Big Sister. The difference is, the Big Sister does not care too much about that. The Italians, who received Mrs. Clinton after Poles and Slovaks, at least acted rationally. They realized that this was a campaign against Giuliani, who comes from Italy, and focused mainly on Hillary's coiffure. The coiffure was the work of a French woman, a Ms. Goetz, one of the six personal hairdressers of the woman who is interested exclusively in the fate of those who are in need the most.

Let the Americans worry about assessing whether, as the White House spokesman says, Mrs. Clinton is acting as a U.S. ambassador and so her trip can be paid for by American taxpayers, or she is acting as her own ambassador, for which she should pay herself. Or, perhaps, she is acting as both a U.S. ambassador and the ambassador of her candidacy, in which case the costs should be split. As for ourselves, we can stop the worshipping and just conclude with satisfaction that, just like Mrs. Clinton, we got what we wanted -- a pat on the shoulder from a person whose words carry a lot of weight today and probably will not matter at all 13 months from now. This seems to be the inevitable end to the phenomenon called the Americans' tiredness of the Clintons, which the U.S. president speaks about quite frankly.

Hillary Clinton likened Poland's transition from communism to the Jewish flight from Egypt through the Red Sea. She is right about the sea bit. By saying that "there are always people who want to return to Egypt" Mrs. Clinton proved that she was familiar with the results of the most recent polls presenting the ratings of Polish political parties. How much different those ratings could be if there were at least one politician on our right who knew as much about politics as the New York state candidate for a senator does.

[Description of source: Wprost -- Leading centrist political magazine]

ESQUIRE 10/99

She has a sexy mouth, I think. That slight palatial overbite—it gets to me. She seems expert at marshaling her mouth's resources, at inspiring its ingenuity. She can fold her lips into an origami of fleeting smiles. Her basic smile is sort of chipmunky and schoolmarmish, but sometimes, when she is pouncing on the possibility of

YOU'LL NEVER LOOK AT HILLARY CLINTON THE SAME WAY AGAIN

an *idea*, her lips extend their reach into her cheeks and carve out a wolfish, carnal line, as though nothing could please her more than her own hunger. Her mouth is enigmatic in its capacity for adjustment—it seems both the origin and repository of her secrets. Sure, when she is under duress, it can appear small, pinched, grudging,

harsh, unforgiving, and grimly determined—nippy—but when she is at ease, free to discuss, you know, the *issues* . . . well, then her mouth becomes the very instrument of her freedom, and her laugh rings the bell of her throat. Her laugh is the sexiest thing about her, in fact; it packs a lewd wallop because it seems

mouth
laugh

By Tom Junod

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Why do we see Hillary

to take her by surprise. There's a wickedness about her laugh, in its offhand suggestion that she is willing to be entertained, to be pleased. It's quick and sudden, an unabashed, throaty gargle, and it seems to put dazzle in her eyes from below, like footlights.

She has pretty eyes, I think. They're direct, almost imperiously so, but not cold. They seem shy—shy beneath their veneer of command. They are almond shaped, slightly catty, set high in the broad planes of her face, above the shadowed triangles of her mighty cheekbones. When she is tired, her eyes are the first to show it, to betray the accumulation of everything she has gone through, to reveal the surplus of her makeup. She wears plenty of makeup. Her skin is lined and slightly worn and depends on light from other sources—from her eyes, from her smile, even from the hounding incandescence of television. Like her husband, she knows how to look good when she's tired. She

enough to escape her longing, and now like a woman of incipient bloom. I imagine it would be easy to make her blush. I imagine her easily courted and easily seduced by a certain stripe of practiced seducer, and if you were to ask—as all men eventually do, when the subject is Hillary Rodham Clinton—that terrible question, "Would you ... ?" I would have to say, yes, I would.

Sure I would. Of course I would. Hell yes, I would.

I would do it.

I would vote for Hillary Clinton in a New York minute.

I was flying to upstate New York to see Hillary Clinton when I heard the Hillary joke. I had a window seat. I was reading a magazine article about her when the man next to me leaned in to



The most salient and interesting fact about Hillary is that so many men absolutely hate her and that their hatred is not so much political as it is sexual. Under the guise of political discontent, men say things about Hillary they would never say about other women.

owns things that sparkle in the harshest illumination—her ear rings, her wedding ring. Of course, her hair is bright and fixed, but sometimes a tendril of it will come loose and fall into her face and she will seem open to the intrigue of dishevelment. Of course, the tilt of her chin is proud, and her posture impeccable. She shows very little skin other than her throat and hands, but her throat is clean and delicate and alive, and her hands are small and vivid, organs of attack and exclamation and instruction and delight. She is not a large woman; she is on the short side, and sparse in the shoulders and the chest. She looks up at most of the men she meets. She wears expensive pantsuits, drapery around her legs, and flat shoes. She projects an aura of power but not of invincibility, and the men who surround her often seem inspired to protect her, or at least to offer her escort. She still looks like the smartest girl at the dance, waiting, the girl not smart enough to escape her vulnerability nor ambitious

my ear and in a loud, plain whisper said, "What's the Hillary Clinton X-File special?"

I put the magazine in my lap. "Gee," I said. "I give up. What is it?"

"Two small breasts, two large thighs, and two left wings."

I looked at the man. He was sitting in the middle seat and was representative of every man who has ever sat next to me in the middle seat for as long as I've been flying. He had a hearty anonymity. He was friendly to me but fatalistic—cheerfully hostile—in regard to everything else, particularly politics and the mass media. He was too big for his seat and ate his allotted bag of snack mix with a kind of puzzled, proprietary disappointment. He was an engineer in his early fifties with an imposing

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JAMES LEVINSKY/STARR

belly, thick forearms, reddish hands, squarish fingers, graying hair combed to the side, and a well-kept, graying beard. He was wearing aviator-style eyeglasses, a golf shirt, blue jeans, and white sneakers. He had a laptop. When I told him, with a craven and guilty chuckle, what I thought of his joke—"That's cold, man"—he shrugged, as if in noncommittal apology, and then said confidentially, "I'll bet you she has bigger balls than Bill."

I tried to return my attention to the article about Hillary but couldn't. It was a long article, full of facts about Whitewater and cattle futures and Travelgate and health care, but now it seemed incomplete, as any article would that did not address what is to me the most salient and interesting and inexplicable fact about Hillary Clinton—the fact that so many men absolutely hate her and that their hatred is less political than it is sexual. Indeed, if George Bush was said to remind women of their first husbands, Hillary reminds men of . . . well, it's hard to say, exactly, for to ask men to contemplate the question of Hillary Clinton is to open oneself to an entire subterranean world of men, an underground encounter group where the gripes are various and specific and churlish and childish and reflexive and pality and endless. Under the guise of political discontent, men say things about Hillary Clinton that they would never say about other women, much less their wives, although if truth be told, what she seems to embody is nothing more and nothing less than their own resentment that they didn't marry a woman with better legs and bigger tits. For instance: I once asked a man whether he could ever bring himself to cast a vote for Hillary Clinton, only to hear him say, "Are you kidding? Not with that ass." Since then, I have heard so many variations of this stock answer—from "She has thick ankles" to "She couldn't satisfy Bill, so how's she gonna satisfy me?"—that I've come to realize that instead of asking, "Would you vote for Hillary Clinton?" I may as well be asking, "Would you do Hillary Clinton?" Indeed, in reference to our First Lady, the two questions are practically one and the same. To say that you wouldn't vote for Hillary Clinton is not only to exercise political choice but to maintain the only sense of superiority—sexual superiority—that she allows. She turns men priggish, Hillary does; she turns them into prudes, always forced to say what they won't do or what they wouldn't, and if by that turn she doesn't quite become an object of desire, she becomes at the very least a test of desire and, as such, the most interesting sexual persona of our time. Not to mention the most polarizing political wife since Marie Antoinette. Yes, that's right: Accused of abnegating her proper sexual role in return for power, she has gained the ability to get under men's sexual skins in a way no actress or supermodel ever could, and stands as the incarnation of every unresolved and irreconcilable feeling a certain kind of man has about his wife and about feminism and about marriage and about the entire question of sexual fidelity and about women in general. Indeed, so potent a totem has she become that some men—the man in the middle seat, for example—refuse even to grant that she's a woman. And when she runs for the Senate, she will have to confront men who answer the question "Would you vote for her?" with a vehemence only she can inspire:

"Hey, man: Not with your liver."

She looked virginal on the day she lost her political virginity—the day she and Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan made the chaste march down a country road arm in arm, in order to send the signal to New York and all the world that if she wanted his job, he accepted her ambition. Don't take my word for it; the metaphor of Hillary's maidenhead was suggested by one of

Moynihan's neighbors, who gains authority simply by being one of the very few people who watched the spectacle without the added inducement of an editor assigning her to be there. This was July 7, 1999. This was the day Hillary Clinton was to inaugurate her "listening tour" of New York State and thereby—by deed if not by word—announce her designs on the Senate seat that Moynihan was vacating. A tribe of two hundred reporters gathered on Moynihan's eight-hundred-acre farm, debouching from three air-conditioned tour buses and queuing themselves around the bleachers set up for the occasion on a field of trampled grass and clover. The neighbors invited themselves and were proud to do so. They trickled in and established themselves on the outskirts of Secret Service perimeters, the skeptics standing with crossed arms, the supporters spreading blankets and taking pictures of those taking pictures. "We're just neighbors," they kept on saying when the reporters got claustrophobic under the benign dissolve of the blue sky and went in search of local color. "We know Pat, and we're here for him. He's ours. 'Course, it's not very often that someone like the First Lady comes to Pindars Corners, so there's that, too."

Pindars Corners—God, as the name of the crossroads where Moynihan tilled his earth, it was downright Capraesque, and the neighbors liked saying it as much as the reporters liked writing it. There was Joe, for instance. Joe was a guy. Joe was originally from Lindenhurst, Long Island. Joe wore a ribbed tank top and black shorts. Joe kept his arms crossed. For Joe, it was all subtext. He had done some work for Mrs. Moynihan around the farm, and now, under his breath, working the words between his teeth the way he would work a toothpick, he said, "I don't think Mrs. Moynihan likes this. I don't think she likes this at all. In fact, I know she doesn't. Why? You know: Hillary. The Clintons. This means he's coming. You get her, you get him. That's just the way it is. First Jennifer Flowers, then Paula Jones and Monica. Who's next—my mother?" It was an effectively compressed formulation of Hillary's political and sexual standing—that is, as political hussy and sexual doorman who in order to fulfill her ambitions first had to depend on her husband's sexual allure and now had to countenance his plunder. The complaint against her had always been that she had risen to power without the necessary check of electoral accountability and so communicated sexual threat without the compensation of sexual radiance—that she had never made herself available in the way her husband had. On this day, however, all that was about to change, for through the circuit of the media she was presenting herself to the voting public for the first time, and, upon hearing Joe's complaint, a neighbor sitting on a blanket made the nature of the transformation clear: "Nonsense," she said. "Hillary's here because she wants to help. She's here because she likes people. Just like her husband. She's not even really a politician." A grave pause. "Well, I guess that changes today," she said. "I guess today Hillary loses her virginity. . . ."

And so she did. There was an assignation. Moynihan met her in a historic little white schoolhouse he had converted into his study. It was said that he wrote his books there. He was waiting for her, out of sight, when the reporters arrived, and later, when Hillary pulled up in a secured minivan, he stepped outside and opened the screen door for her. He was a gentleman, and she a lady. They stayed inside the schoolhouse for about twenty minutes, then emerged into a sylvan scene tainted only by the inescapable apparatus of its political purpose—the big white satellite trucks, the serried ranks of black cameras, the clicking, whirring, humping, gripping throng. Reporters were kept behind a rope, and to the First Lady and her escort

had to advance upon them, fifty yards or so down a dusty, unpaved road. They took their time, as though unaware of what they were there for. They even dawdled, Moynihan pointing into the woods, Hillary nodding, forcing her gaze to follow the path of his finger, like a coed still obliged to be interested in her date. She was wearing a dark-blue pantsuit that flowed around her body as she walked. He—with his courteously stooped shoulders, his tinctured face, his flaxen white hair turning a blue mirror to the arc-light sky—was wearing khakis and a light-blue shirt, buttoned-down and oxford-clothed. Ever gallant, he hooked his arm into hers, and suddenly, as he aquired her, she looked . . . well, she'd never looked better in her life, if you want to know the truth; she looked innocent but eager; she looked ripe, ready—free. In the company of her husband, she often displays the classic appearance of a wronged wife—stiff, defensive, wary to the touch, with a poignantly brave set of the jaw signaling external surrender and internal defiance. But now, on the arm of New York's retiring senior senator, she looked young and restored, despite the dark circles attending her eyes. Hell, they both looked young, even wisful, and when Moynihan ended his introductory speech to the press by saying, "I hope she will go all the way," he might have been a nice Harvard boy voicing his secret desires for the nice, studious, slightly mousy Wellesley girl he'd come to fancy.

Does Hillary go all the way? Speculation has been offered, in numerous articles and psychobiographies, that she was in fact a virgin when she met her husband at dear old Yale, that she has gone all the way with him and with him only. Now she stood without him in front of a pack of reporters and—Moynihan's courtly presence notwithstanding—she stood very much alone, conspicuously alone, as she announced her determination to listen to New Yorkers before she spoke to them; in effect, to turn herself into a New Yorker by first turning herself into a blank slate. The announcement lasted just a few minutes; then she took questions. She seemed extraordinarily brave at this moment—brave and a little foolhardy, for she was clearly in the process of remaking herself, as a citizen and as a woman and as a politician and as a wife, and yet she had to know that her purity in that regard would remain intact only as long as reporters refrained from mentioning him or from otherwise reminding her that even now her fate was tied to his expansive sense of sexual prerogative. As might be expected, they did not refrain for long: three or four questions, max. Then, after she had dispensed with reporters challenging her right to call herself a New Yorker, her knowledge of Canadian trade agreements, and her success at hocking cattle futures—yes, that old chestnut—she heard a woman from the crowd's parting middle ask if she, Hillary Clinton, had somehow profited from her husband's dalliance with that woman, Miss Lewinsky . . . if she expected to receive "the sympathy vote" . . . if, in effect, she expected to become a United States senator because she expected voters to pity her.

It has been said—heck, it was said, in the next morning's news stories—that the First Lady did not answer the question, that she somehow failed to respond. This is not precisely true. She responded, all right. She just responded like a First Lady—like a wife—rather than like a politician. She glazed over. She paused for a second, as though she had been interrupted by a plane buzzing overhead, and then she forced an expression of brisk, woffler-klatch cheerfulness upon her face. She has a sexy voice, a pliable and professional voice, clarion and piping, verging toward the range of alto, but now she rightened its timbre and, as though she were running not for the Senate but rather for junior-high class president, used it to express a wish for a

neutered sort of popularity: "I'm looking forward," she said, "to meeting with New Yorkers. . . . They'll have a lot to tell me about what they think about me." It was a sad answer, a Sally Field-ish answer, but it was altogether more human than most writers and commentators gave her credit for—more human, certainly, than the question itself, although it must be said that the question itself was entirely legitimate, even necessary. It's not as though her husband's affair with Miss Lewinsky is somehow tangential to Hillary's political fortunes, after all. No, it is absolutely central, because it is through the magic of sexual humiliation that she was somehow transformed from the woman the Republicans ran so successfully against in 1992—the woman who did her best to disappear in '95, '96, and '97—into the most admired woman in the country, the steadfast captain of what passes for "family values" in the Clinton White House. For all the speculation concerning her reasons for running for the Senate—for all the "Is-it-hunger-for-power-or-thirst-for-revenge?" psychodrama brained about by political reporters—one thing stands clear: She would not be running at all if it were not for Monica Lewinsky. In this country, Hillary Clinton could not be running for the Senate, or at least running with a realistic chance of winning, had she not been sufficiently humiliated, or chastened, or feminized, or desexualized, or, as some would have it, emasculated, to satisfy the public craving that this woman be put through some kind of trial. Are questions about Monica Lewinsky legitimate and necessary, then, because they will help us gather some kind of evidence, because they will help us know what transpired between the President and the First Lady in the calamitous and—for her—redemptive year of 1998? No: They are legitimate and necessary precisely because we will never know what happened between them, and she will never tell. She is the Mona Lisa of long-suffering wives, and unless we find a new way to read her—unless we ask her questions that allow us to read her in a sexual light that doesn't belong to her husband—we will find ourselves unable to read her at all.

The guy sitting behind me was tired. Over three days, we had traveled with Hillary from Pladara Corners to Oneonta, from Oneonta to Cooperstown, from Cooperstown to Udena, from Udena to Rome. At each stop, there was a bit of scheduled political theater called, with Orwellian flair, a "listening event"; at each stop, we had listened to—and watched—Hillary listen. Boy, could she listen. She was an indefatigable listener, insatiable. She listened first to panels of selected guests, then to general audiences, and it must be said that she was Clintonesque: No story was too trivial, no nugget of wonkery too arcane, no concern too parochial for Hillary to make eye contact with the speaker, nod her head in a pattern of three-chort, two-long, say, "That's very interesting," scribble some notes in a notepad, and then evince not only determined empathy but also a desire for more—more stories, more wonkery, more parochial concerns. Neither the bus travel nor the listening was what exhausted the guy behind me, however; no, what tired him out was not knowing. He was a White House correspondent for Time magazine. He had been covering the Clintons for quite a while, and now, well, he was Hillaryfied. He was Clintonized. He couldn't seem to get over his—and everyone else's—lack of clarity when it came to the Clintons. Hillary in particular. He said that last year, while it was all happening—when Hillary attacked the "right-wing conspiracy" in January and her husband admitted his deceit in August—the editorial staff at Time was split into two schools of thought: one insisting that Hillary had known all along about Monica even as she was out defend-

ing her husband as victim of entrenched and implacable enemies; the other trusting that he had deceived her as he had deceived everyone else. The schism did not bother the correspondent, however, nearly as much as the fact that in support of its argument each side had amassed what seemed to be equally reliable bodies of evidence. "Each side had sources," he said, almost abjectly, still unable to accept that the truth of the matter seemed out of reach and that the split was not resolved by fact but rather reconciled by belief, as though Hillary were some kind of religious figure.

And there you have it, or them—the two Hillaries. The one a good wife wronged; the other . . . the other almost unimaginable, not so much Machiavellian as Borgian, a monster of cynicism and cold compromise, blondless and, yes, sexless, ca-

putative run for the Senate, and the possibility of power.

As for the other Hillary, Hillary the Good—I think I might have seen her in New York, early on, maybe in Oneonta. She was listening. She was nodding. She was writing stuff in her notepad. The harsh television light softened in her eyes and bounced around like the bounding light on a swimming pool. I had assumed that I would have to choose blindly between the Good Hillary and the Bad—that I wouldn't have enough to go on; that in the end my choice would boil down to a question of belief or, rather, some kind of existential decision, a flinging of oneself into the abyss where the truth once was. This is not quite how it happened. I had to make a choice, all right, but it came simply, a function of instinct and feel, when I thought I recognized a woman up there in the hot lights. She was not the saintly victim proposed by her adherents—but then, the mistake of her

The microphone was not working. Finally, someone on her staff scooted up and adjusted it on the lapel of her pantsuit. "Is that okay?" Hillary said. It was—her voice was now amplified. "Well," she said as she crossed and recrossed her legs. "I've been waiting for someone to turn me on."



pable of just about anything her accusers can conjure. They are completely different women,

yet not much separates them, really, except for some eight or nine months' worth of knowledge and the fact that one goes all the way and the other doesn't. That's what it all comes down to, doesn't it? The Bad Hillary is not only politically ruthless, she's sexually unavailable—or, worse, sexually withholding. She is the Hillary who, along with Lady Macbeth, prays to be made less of a woman so she can murder what's necessary for a man's work; who, along with Lady M., begs the spirits to "unsex me here / And fill me from the crown to the sole topful / Of direst cruelty! . . . Come to my woman's breasts / And take my milk for gall, you murdering ministers." She's the Hillary who, in the words of a lot of men I talked to in upstate New York, "made her deal" and now was getting "paid off" with this, her

adherents has always been to unsex her as eagerly as her enemies do, so that love of Hillary winds up wan and chaste and hatred of Hillary turns out dark and sexual and jealous and potent. The Hillary I saw was not unsexed—she was resexed, by the words in her own mouth. She was conducting one of her panel discussions. She was speaking, instead of listening, but nobody could hear her because of a problem with her microphone. At least, the television men couldn't hear her, and they made themselves known. They had primacy, so they started yelling at her. Finally, someone on her staff scooted up and adjusted the microphone on the lapel of her flowy blue pantsuit. "Is that okay?" Hillary said. It was okay—her voice was now amplified into its deep elation call. "Well," she said as she crossed and recrossed her legs, "I've been waiting for someone to turn me on." Her timing was perfect, and she got a big laugh, because suddenly the First Lady was . . . saucy. [continued on page 174]

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HILLARY CLINTON

[continued from page 119] One could imagine her talking dirty—heck, she was talking dirty, sort of—and a few minutes later, when one of the women on the panel started saying "Bill" this and "Bill" that, she pulled herself up short and, with her hand over her heart, apologized to Hillary for being so informal, for using her husband's first name. Hillary reached out, placed her hand over the woman's wrist, and said with an amused, intimate chuckle, "That's all right. I know who you're talking about."

It is a strange experience, traveling with the Good Hillary, because when one comes upon the hatred inspired by the Bad Hillary, it seems to come without sufficient cause or antecedent. It's just there, waiting for the bus in clusters and lines and slanted little pockets, shrieking and frothing, men and women with rattling signs and assassins' mouths. They were part of the listening tour; they traveled with it, from depressed upstate river town to depressed upstate river town, and so when Hillary was listening, say, to senior citizens inside a senior center in the heavily gutted city of Utica, she also had to listen to people chanting forcefully from outside, *Go home Hillary! Go home Hillary! Go home Hillary!* They had the place surrounded, these folks, back door to front, spilling down the steps of an old red-brick Catholic church across the street. Some of their signs were pretty good—HILLARY

LISTEN TO THIS: GO HOME and EVIT!—although of course there were the yellow banners emblazoned with pictures of mangled fetuses and the words HILLARY'S CHOICE, as though Hillary's ambition stood in affront to the womb itself. Outside the senior center in Utica, one woman spat and said, "She's not my kind of people. She only has one child. I have three and raised them myself. She's never even owned a house." Another man said, "How can she expect to run a state when she can't even run a marriage?" Although it must be added that his friend interrupted and said, softly and almost chivalrously, "Hey, now, that's not her fault."

I didn't get it—how personal the opposition, how punitive, how... mean. I didn't get it then, and I don't get it even now, for to contemplate Hillary Clinton is to see a woman who is at least as much a virtuocrat as William Bennett. I mean, isn't she the kind of wife men are supposed to want? Didn't she support her guy? Didn't she forgive him even while acting as an enabler of his, um, corruptive brand of sexuality? Haven't she rescued his political career on at least three occasions, always at great cost to herself? Sure, conspiracies might say she had to save him, for power and payoff, but one might also argue that she had more power than anyone in the world last year—she, and as it turned out she alone, had the power to bring down the President of the United States—and she did not exercise it. Even in the

HILLARY CLINTON

act of running for the Senate she may be announcing her intention to stay with her husband—for surely it would be too much for anyone to undertake a historic political campaign while at the same time undertaking a historic divorce.

It is indeed because of the probity of her personal example that her political opponents have found it necessary to condemn holding her in sexual suspicion and sexual contempt. Even her liberalism has nothing to do with license; rather, it has everything to do with trusting the government as the organ and instrument and very incarnation of her own virtue. She is a liberal fundamentalist. Although girded with her own fatal love of making policy, her policies are so normative that they are almost Protestant, and stop after stop on her listening tour found her looking mildly back to the days when government itself was held in high and uncomplicated regard—when rather than in the presumption of private sin, government found its incarnation in the sugar cubes handed out in public-school gymnasiums in the war against polio. She has a taste for government, because for her government has a taste, and it tastes . . . sweet. "Well, I've actually enjoyed my time in the White House," she said on the first day of the tour, and sure enough, on the last day, when she traveled all the way from Utica to Rome to Syracuse to Albany, she wore around her neck the presidential seal, its avenging eagle interposed between golden globes of chimney costume jewelry. The seal itself was a cheap-looking thing of stamped gold, but since it allowed her to make one thing perfectly clear—the fact that by running for the Senate she was not out to repudiate the Clinton legacy but to extend it—she wore it as innocently as a sophomore wearing her boyfriend's ring and as brazenly as a biker chick sporting her ride's name in Slogroed tattoo.

I have said that the best Hillary Clinton ever looked in her life was the day she presented herself to the press on the arm of Daniel Patrick Moynihan. I was wrong. The best she ever looked in her life was the last night of the listening tour, at a fundraiser in Albany, on the arm of a man named Jerry Jennings. Jerry Jennings is the mayor of Albany. He is a big, beefy man, shiny on the stump, publicly effulgent, with a thick head of wavy silver hair. In other words: just her type. Everyone has a type, sexually, and if it is certain that the President failed to marry his type when he married Hillary—his type leaning toward wide, enveloping mouths and brazen, blow-jobby hands of teeth—it is just as certain that Hillary succeeded in marrying her type when she married the President. Of course, what ensued was both tragedy and comedy in equal measure: tragedy for him in that he will always be perceived as comic; comedy for her in that she will always be perceived as tragic and hence will get the last laugh. She gets to be heroic in a way that will

make him look like a clown; she gets to be historic in a way that will mock him throughout history. As the woman who personifies this country's unresolved sexual tensions, she gets to try to resolve them. As a matter of fact, it may be said that while Hillary Clinton runs for the Senate and wins, and she runs for president and wins, this country will always be in her thrall, and if one wants to calculate how consequential are her current political ambitions, one need only imagine the mad focus of feeling that will attend her Senate campaign come, say, late October 2000 and the insanity that will accompany her presidential campaign come, say, October 2008. The tragedy of the Clintons' marital "arrangement" is that it doomed them both to their own kinds of humiliation—hers sexual, his political—and yet because her humiliation forced her to seek a new beginning even as he spoke to him of his end, Hillary Clinton will wind up being more meaningful than Bill Clinton ever was. The President of the United States of America? He will become nothing more and nothing less than Hillary's escort. As she remained at his side, he will remain at hers, as her gilded gigolo, as her sexual foil, as her type, the man who makes her respond, the way she responded in Albany to Jerry Jennings.

Jerry Jennings, yes: You should have seen her with him. The fundraiser was for a congressman named Michael McNulty, but it was Jennings's show once Hillary came onstage. He introduced her. He testified for her. He wooed her, this slightly tow-dry Romeo with the tanning-booth tan. She was tired, talked-out, slightly crushed looking around her exhausted eyes, but when Jennings started extolling her, she looked instantly restored, at once shy and gratified, with a deepened color and a flushed radiance—she had that glow. She clutched her hands in front of her bodice, and, once or twice, as she actually bent at the waist to accommodate her laughter and scolding, she looked sort of like Donna Reed at the end of *It's a Wonderful Life*—the kind of woman actually turned on by the spectacle of goodwill. Jennings escorted her off the stage, and about an hour later, they turned up again on another stage, out-doors, where a local theater was staging a performance of *Gypsy* under the stars. Hillary was supposed to speak at intermission, but the stars disappeared behind a pulpy skin of clouds, and by the time she reached the microphone, the sky was pouring rain. She spoke anyway, pluckily, and as quickly as she could, with Jennings giving her his coat and shielding her with his umbrella. They both got spattered, then Jennings got soaked; he stood very close to her, in his wet white dress shirt, and, by God, she looked thrilled. Would he leave? Would Jerry Jennings have, um, voted for her that night? Sure he would have. Of course he would have. Hell, yes, he would have. She was a woman, after all, and she looked lovely in the rain. 14

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How Taxes Subsidize the Clinton-Giuliani Senate Race

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By ADAM NAGOURNEY

As Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani began taking questions at his daily news conference the other morning, Sunny Mindel, the City Hall press secretary, quietly passed a reporter a slip of paper suggesting a subject to raise. On the paper was a news article, but it had nothing to do with Giuliani or his administration. It was about upstate broadcast editors' complaints about Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign for the Senate.

In July, at a public library in Bath, N.Y., a young aide traveling with Mrs. Clinton on her "listening tour" stood before a group of voters waiting for the First Lady to arrive. "I am Kevin, from White House advance," he announced to a stir of excitement, as he proceeded to prepare the crowd for Mrs. Clinton's arrival.

In the first instance, Ms. Mindel failed to coax the reporter into asking a campaign question. And the aide with Mrs. Clinton, Kevin Parker, later said that he had exaggerated his credentials: while he worked on White House advance teams, he volunteered his time for the First Lady that day.

But the two incidents illustrated, in a visible way, a striking similarity between Giuliani's and Mrs. Clinton's exploratory campaigns for Senate. Both are, to various degrees, being subsidized by the resources and stature of the governments with which they are associated.

Interviews with aides to both likely candidates suggest a common motivation for this: to save money.

Faced with an extraordinarily long campaign, Giuliani and Mrs.

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Clinton are delaying the hiring of a campaign staff for as long as possible, conserving resources for what is expected to be a tremendously expensive television advertising campaign next year.

While there is a long history of the use of official resources by officeholders to aid in their re-election, the emerging race for Senator from New York is different, because Giuliani and Mrs. Clinton are not incumbents trying to stay in office. Instead, they are drawing on the resources of City Hall and the White House to pursue new jobs, and pushing their campaigns into what other politicians and lawyers say is an ethically murky area.

Aides to Giuliani and Mrs. Clinton say they have been scrupulous in following Federal, state and city laws that might apply to their situation. "There is no campaign as of now," said Bruce J. Teitelbaum, the director of Giuliani's political action committee. "Only an exploratory committee. So for the time being, we're doing just fine with the staff we have. Should there be any changes, we'll make the appropriate adjustments."

Howard Wolfson, Mrs. Clinton's campaign press secretary, that the First Lady's exploratory committee complies "fully and completely with the law."

"There is a clear separation between the campaign and the White House," Wolfson said.

"Campaign functions are handled by campaign staff."

But the lines appear fuzzier than the aides suggest. To different degrees, their campaigns have the advantage of Federal and New York City laws and regulations that ethics experts have long described as pockmarked and full of loopholes.

"There are going to be issues here," said Gene Russianoff, the senior lawyer for the New York Public Interest Research Group, a civic advocacy organization. Russianoff said that he had seen nothing that had struck him as crossing the line, but he added, "It's certainly fair game as a political issue."

Federal campaign contribution laws do not count the work of government employees who might arguably be helping out a candidate as in-kind contributions, said Trevor Potter, a Washington lawyer and former chairman of the Federal Election Commission.

Similarly, the City Charter and the rules set down by the city's Conflicts of Interest Board prohibit the use of city resources for noncity purposes, but offer a fairly broad definition of what is considered legitimate public business. Press secretaries are exempt, said Mark Davies, the executive director of the board.

In ways that are sometimes obvious but often not, the result of this ambiguity can be seen played out almost daily in the two campaigns.

On Monday, Giuliani ordered two city agencies to conduct a city-financed study on what has surfaced as an early issue in the

Senate race: a proposed increase in the minimum wage, which Mrs. Clinton has supported, and which Giuliani said he would support if a study proved it would not hurt New York's economy. In most full-bore campaigns, a study of this sort might be done by a campaign's issues department, providing the candidate with the statistics and arguments to back a position.

Giuliani has yet to hire any issues advisers, and the study is being done by the city's Human Resources Administration and the Economic Development Administration.

Davies, while declining to comment on this specific case, said that past examples in which elected officials had been accused of using their own staff to deal with a campaign issue that was arguably germane to their office had been judged as falling within the city's ethics regulations. "If it's within the elected officials' jurisdiction, that's just the power of the incumbency," Davies said.

For her part, the First Lady's daily campaign strategy conference call of top advisers typically includes Ann Lewis, the White House communications director. The First Lady also regularly turns to Sidney Blumenthal, another White House aide, for campaign advice.

Federal ethics law prohibits the use of government resources for nongovernmental functions. "The problem would come if she were using White House staff for what was clearly campaign purposes, and the government was paying for it," Potter said.

But Mrs. Clinton's campaign aides said that kind of business is conducted outside normal work hours, and thus does not fall under the purview of Federal ethics regulations.

Travel costs are also ambiguous. Giuliani is typically accompanied on his campaign trips by Ms. Mindel and his chief of staff, Anthony V. Carbonetti.

Teitelbaum said the travel costs of some of those trips are covered by the State Republican Party. But, he said, when Giuliani went to California to deliver a speech at the Reagan Library, in which he paid tribute to the former President and appeared to lay out some of the ideological framework of his campaign for Senate, that was considered part of his mayoral responsibilities, and was financed by City Hall.

Mrs. Clinton travels with a personal aide, who is her liaison to the White House and Secret Service. She is also typically accompanied by an official White House photographer, whose travel and salary are paid for by the White House.

"We are not using those pictures," Wolfson said. "Those pictures are taken for archival purposes. That is for documenting history."

The extent to which this is going on is difficult to measure precisely, given the often unclear distinctions between government work and campaign work. Campaign finance reports, which will give an accounting of what the committees are paying for, will not

be filed until January.

Mrs. Clinton appears to have set up a more extensive paid campaign organization than Giuliani has. The First Lady has 12 people on a full-time staff.

Giuliani has four, Teitelbaum said.

Thus, one reason Ms. Mindel, who is paid \$120,000 a year as City Hall press secretary, tried to offer a reporter a question is that the Mayor, unlike Mrs. Clinton, has yet to hire a campaign spokesman.

Two weeks ago, when Mrs. Clinton gave a speech attacking Republican policies without mentioning Giuliani by name, it was Ms. Mindel who offered a response, attacking the First Lady for not living in New York.

Ms. Mindel said she was merely responding to reporters' needs. "I find it somewhat ironic that you would ask me that," Ms. Mindel said. "I responded to questions that came to me."

But in other, similar cases involving officeholders during a campaign, press secretaries have gone to considerable lengths to avoid a public role in the campaign.

"I pretty much stayed out of it," said Cristyne F. Lategano, who was Giuliani's communications director during his 1997 mayoral bid.

"If it were a campaign-related issue, such as how much money did you raise, I would obviously steer clear of that. That's why we had a campaign office."

Mrs. Clinton hired Wolfson as her exploratory committee spokesman in June.

Mrs. Clinton's White House press secretary, Marsha Berry, has declined to answer questions about Giuliani. But Mrs. Clinton has received political support from the other wing of the White House.

Joe Lockhart, the President's spokesman, recently mocked Giuliani for staging a trip to Arkansas.

Parker's advance work, on the other hand, offered a glimpse at a less obvious way in which White House connections help Mrs. Clinton.

Since the campaign has yet to hire people to plan logistics for daily events, Wolfson said, it has relied on volunteers, many of whom, like Parker, also work on contract as advance workers for the White House.

As a result, Mrs. Clinton is enjoying the voluntary services of people at the top of their profession.

Question:
Where can you get accurate health care information?Top NewsSportsLotteriesInternationalNationalWashingtonBusinessWall StreetEntertainmentHealth/ScienceRegional**Hillary Clinton files "statement of candidacy"**

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - Hillary Rodham Clinton has filed a "statement of candidacy" with federal election officials, but a spokesman said that is only a technical change, not a formal declaration that she is running.

Nonetheless, the filing announced Thursday was the latest evidence the first lady plans to go ahead with her candidacy for the seat being vacated next year by fellow Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan. The race is expected to pit her against New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Howard Wolfson said the filing by Mrs. Clinton with the Federal Election Commission would allow her to raise \$2,000 from each individual donors instead of the maximum \$1,000 she has been raising through her Senate exploratory committee.

"We are just doing what Giuliani has been doing," Wolfson, the spokesman for Mrs. Clinton's political committee, said.

Giuliani has been collecting up to \$2,000 from individual donors since he filed candidacy papers with the FEC in April, the first lady's aide said.

Wolfson said the change would allow Mrs. Clinton to raise more money, faster. Some in the Giuliani camp speculated the change might indicate the Clinton team was having trouble raising money.

While the Clinton camp has refused to say how much money it has raised, Wolfson said fund raising was going "very well." The first lady's campaign finance team has set a goal of raising \$25 million for the race.

As of the end of July, the Giuliani camp had raised just under \$3 million. His aides have said they expect to raise between \$15 million and \$20 million for the Senate race.

Neither Mrs. Clinton, who is on a week-long trip to Europe, nor Giuliani has formally declared their candidacies yet.

Told about Mrs. Clinton's move, Giuliani campaign chief Bruce Teitelbaum said, "It's symbolic of her campaign that she would take such a significant step while on foreign soil. Not only is she not in New York, she's not even in

America. This further underscores her lack of connection to New York."

The first lady, who has never lived or worked in New York, mailed her statement to the FEC on Oct. 3, just before leaving for Europe, Wolfson said.

Meanwhile, a statewide poll reported Thursday that Giuliani has been hurt by his battle with the Brooklyn Museum of Art, causing the gap between him and Mrs. Clinton to narrow.

But the mayor's standing improved among the state's largest voting group, white Catholics, in the wake of the museum flap, according to the poll.

The poll, from Marist College's Institute for Public Opinion, found the New York City mayor favored by 46 percent of voters while 42 percent backed Mrs. Clinton, a statistical deadheat based on the poll's margin of error. A Marist poll out last month had Giuliani leading the first lady, 49 percent to 40 percent.

The latest poll found the mayor's unfavorable rating among New York voters had climbed to 39 percent, the same level as the first lady's. In last month's poll, the mayor's unfavorable rating was at 30 percent while Mrs. Clinton's was at 40 percent.

Thirty percent of those polled this time around said their opinion of Giuliani has gotten worse since the flap over the Brooklyn museum's controversial exhibit began. Twenty-one percent said their opinion of the mayor had improved.

The show includes a black Virgin Mary surrounded by naked body parts and featuring dried elephant dung. The mayor has said he wants to cut off city funding for the museum because of the exhibit. Mrs. Clinton has said that while she disapproves of the exhibit, she would not strip the museum's funding.

Fifty-nine percent of voters statewide said Mrs. Clinton's position was closer to their own while 33 percent said their opinion was closer to the mayor's stance.

The poll did show Giuliani's standing among white Catholics had improved since the museum flap erupted. In last month's poll, white Catholics favored Giuliani over Mrs. Clinton, 57 percent to 34 percent. In the latest poll, Giuliani topped Mrs. Clinton, 60 percent to 29 percent. White Catholics traditionally make up 40 percent to 45 percent of the vote in statewide elections.

The telephone poll of 702 registered voters was conducted Sunday and Monday. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

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NEWS

BILL GIVES HILL A BOOST WITH LABOR

By GREGG BIRNBAUM

President Clinton yesterday cozied up to New York's most powerful union leaders, giving a lift to the first lady's campaign for the U.S. Senate.

When the president mentioned Hillary Rodham Clinton in a speech to more than 1,000 rowdy Teamsters at the New York Hilton, the crowd broke into applause.

Clinton quickly ad-libbed, "We need that response, in New York especially."

Before the Teamster dinner, Clinton was the star attraction at a fund-raiser hosted by Local 1199, which represents 155,000 city health-care workers.

Introducing Clinton, Local 1199 boss Dennis Rivera practically endorsed Mrs. Clinton for the Senate.

He praised Sens. Chuck Schumer and Daniel Patrick Moynihan and then said: "In a little over a year, we hope to be represented by another vigorous advocate for New York. And yes, she's also a Democrat."

The fund-raiser took in \$500,000 for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, and some of that money will go to Mrs. Clinton's campaign.

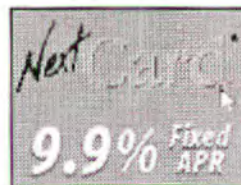
Her top political aide, Harold Ickes, was among the small crowd of about 50 supporters.

While the president was in New York working on her behalf, the first lady was traveling on White House business in Europe.

Before leaving for New York, President Clinton jumped into the race for the White House, scoffing at Republican presidential



BILL CLINTON:
Addressing Teamsters
yesterday.
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PAST ISSUES

**INTERACTIVE
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House, scoffing at Republican presidential hopeful George W. Bush's high-profile efforts to distance himself from the GOP's right wing.

Clinton poked fun at Bush's inter-party spat with congressional Republicans and painted the Texas governor as a card-carrying member of the right.

The president charged that the GOP front-runner has "stuck with" House Republicans in their drive to kill the HMO patients' bill of rights, stymie gun-control measures, and drastically cut taxes.

Bush has drawn the ire of Republicans in Congress by joining Democrats in slamming the GOP plan to revamp a tax credit for the working poor.

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Beyond the City

Hillary & Rudy Now Real Candidates

By **JOEL SIEGEL**
Daily News Senior Political Correspondent

They are still "exploring" campaigns for the U.S. Senate, but technically speaking, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Mayor Giuliani are now full-fledged candidates.

Clinton's spokesman said yesterday that she has filed an official statement of candidacy with the Federal Election Commission.

A Giuliani spokesman confirmed the mayor filed an identical declaration earlier this year.

By filing such a document, someone eying a Senate race can raise up to \$2,000 from each individual donor. That's double the \$1,000 maximum Clinton was able to raise through her Senate exploratory committee.

Clinton and Giuliani maintain that they still have not made final decisions about entering the race, although both are expected to do so.

Spokesman Howard Wolfson said Clinton's Senate exploratory committee filed the statement of candidacy to accelerate and simplify its fund-raising, which he said was going "very well."

Clinton got a boost from Teamsters Union President James Hoffa when he paused in the middle of a speech before 1,200 union leaders last night and said, "Hey, I got an idea. Why don't we all get together and elect Hillary Clinton senator from New York?" The remark drew a standing ovation from the dais and loud applause from the packed room.

Giuliani and the Teamsters have a history. It was Giuliani as a federal prosecutor who filed the civil racketeering lawsuit against the union in 1988, and the Teamsters have been under federal supervision since.

And the Clinton camp stepped up its demand on Giuliani to take a stand on legislation opposed by the Republican

leadership in Congress giving patients the right to sue their health maintenance organizations.

"Why won't Rudy Giuliani tell the people of New York where he stands?" Wolfson said.

Giuliani said he was not going to respond to a question posed by Wolfson.

With Tom Robbins

Original Publication Date: 10/08/1999

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TIMES
UNIONBy **LARA JAKES**, Capitol bureau
First published: Friday, October 8, 1999

First Lady to address health care association

Albany -- Hospitals group has been critical of the White House's Medicare policy, which Clinton supports

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will face a potentially hostile audience next week in the Capital Region when she speaks at an annual meeting of the Healthcare Association of New York State.

The trade association, which represents more than 500 non-profit and public hospitals statewide, has been highly critical of the Clinton administration for approving the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

Specifically, the legislation cut Medicare payments to New Yorkers by \$4.7 billion over the next five years, said HANYS President Daniel Sisto. Several of New York's ranking congressional Democrats -- including retiring U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who endorsed Clinton's run for his seat should she want it -- has since been working to make sure the state's hospitals survive in the face of the cuts.

Clinton will be the keynote speaker at HANYS's conference next Thursday at the Sagamore resort in Bolton Landing. She has been in the region three times since July -- most recently two weeks ago -- and, so far, has been warmly received.

"We've had our problems with the White House, frankly," HANYS spokeswoman Jeannie Cross said Thursday. "There's basically a train wreck with health care. This is not what a Democratic administration should be doing..."

Clinton has said she would protect hospitals from "unfair cuts" although she continues to support the White House's Medicare measure. Asked to explain the apparent disparity Thursday, campaign spokesman Howard Wolfson simply said:

"She is going to do her best that New York hospitals are not harmed. That's how she feels now and that's

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how she would feel as a senator."

Because Clinton was the key White House lobbyist on Capitol Hill during the 1994 health care reform initiatives, which failed, it comes as no surprise to political observers that she should make the issue a pivotal matter in her still-unannounced Senate campaign. For the second day in a row, her staff lashed out at New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani on Thursday for sidestepping questions on whether he would support a patient's right to sue health maintenance organizations.

Giuliani is the likely Republican candidate in the Senate race, but also has not yet committed to running. His political adviser, Bruce Teitelbaum, could not be reached for comment Thursday.

"Why won't Rudy Giuliani tell the people of New York where he stands?" Wolfson said. "What is he afraid of?"

Clinton supports the right-to-sue legislation, which passed the congressional House on Thursday evening by a bipartisan vote of 275-151.

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City Beat

Art Flap Heads to Court

City Hall's crusade to shutter the explosive "Sensation" exhibit lands today in federal court, where Mayor Giuliani stands accused of trying to smother artistic freedom at the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

Last-minute court filings by each side depict the show as either a gross misuse of public dollars or the victim of a discriminatory, dictatorial mayor.

"The city has no obligation to fund any museum, but if it does, it cannot direct a museum to choose one artist's views over another," City Council Speaker Peter Vallone (D-Queens) and Public Advocate Mark Green argued.

The museum asks the court to force the city to resume its \$500,000-a-month funding and end its attempt to evict the museum. An affidavit filed by Deputy Mayor Joseph Lhota accused the museum of violating its lease by exhibiting the sexually graphic show, which includes a dung-decorated painting of the Virgin Mary.

A memo filed by city lawyers argues, "The First Amendment is not a sledgehammer to bludgeon taxpayers into paying for art displays that express religious intolerance."

Michael R. Blood

Original Publication Date: 10/08/1999

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Poll: Senate race tightens; Giuliani hurt by museum flap

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - Rudolph Giuliani has been hurt by his battle with the Brooklyn Museum of Art, narrowing the gap between him and potential Senate rival Hillary Rodham Clinton, according to a poll released Thursday.

But the New York City mayor's standing improved among the state's largest voting group, white Catholics, in the wake of the museum showdown, according to the poll.

The poll from Marist College's Institute for Public Opinion found the mayor favored by 46 percent of the state's voters while 42 percent backed Mrs. Clinton, a statistical dead heat based on the poll's margin of error of 4 percentage points. Other polls have also shown them about even.

A Marist poll last month had Giuliani, a Republican, leading the Democratic first lady, 49 percent to 40 percent.

Also Thursday, Mrs. Clinton's aides said she had filed a "statement of candidacy" with the Federal Election Commission, another signal she intends to run for the seat being vacated by Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Howard Wolfson, a spokesman for her political committee, said the filing was not a formal declaration of candidacy, but simply a technical change allowing her to raise \$2,000 from individual donors instead of the maximum \$1,000 she has been raising.

Giuliani has been operating under an FEC statement of candidacy since April, Wolfson said.

The new poll found the mayor's unfavorable rating among New York voters had climbed to 39 percent, the same level as the first lady's. In last month's poll, the mayor's unfavorable rating was at 30 percent while Mrs. Clinton's was at 40 percent.

Thirty percent of those polled this time around said their opinion of Giuliani has gotten worse since the flap over the Brooklyn museum's exhibit "Sensation" began. Twenty-one percent said their opinion of the mayor had improved because of the way he handled the situation.

The show includes a black Virgin Mary surrounded by

naked body parts and dried elephant dung. The mayor has said he wants to cut off city funding for the museum because of the exhibit, which he called "sick."

Mrs. Clinton has said that while she disapproves of the exhibit, she would not strip the museum's funding.

White Catholics traditionally make up 40 percent to 45 percent of the vote in statewide elections, and Giuliani - himself a white Catholic - saw his standing among that group improve.

In last month's poll, white Catholics favored Giuliani over Mrs. Clinton, 57 percent to 34 percent. In the latest poll, Giuliani topped Mrs. Clinton, 60 percent to 29 percent.

Mrs. Clinton continued to have the edge among women, 46 percent to 41 percent, while Giuliani was tops among men, 52 percent to 37 percent.

The telephone poll of 702 registered voters was conducted Sunday and Monday.

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DRUDGE REPORT

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HILLARY'S 'RAINBOW TOUR' CONTINUES: ON TO REYKJAVIK!

Friday, it's on to Reykjavik!

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton continues her new international tour that has already taken her to Poland, Slovakia and Italy this week.

When Hillary lands in at the Keflavik Airport in Reykjavik, Iceland on Friday, it will bring the number of countries Hillary has visited to 74, during 25 solo trips abroad since her husband took office in 1993, at an estimated cost of more than 100 million dollars to U.S. taxpayers!

Hillary staffer jokingly call the First Lady's travels "The Rainbow Tour," a reference to political trips taken by Argentinean First Lady Eva Peron.

"Culture counts!" the first lady declared to a World Bank sponsored conference in Florence, Italy on Thursday.

"We must remind children of their heritage and teach them to respect culture... You can see how young people today look so similar, wearing the same brand name tee-shirts, drinking the same brand name drinks."

There is "an urgency to nurture culture in a throwaway world," Hillary said.

The escalating costs of protecting the First Lady and her staff while they are abroad has pushed the price tag of the trips through the millions.

One State Department source estimates that the total cost to U.S. taxpayers for this week's trip will reach \$3 to \$7 million.

The White House refuses to reveal exact costs, citing security concerns.

The DRUDGE REPORT has obtained the first lady's itinerary for Friday in Reykjavik:

Friday, October 8

4:40 p.m. Arrival at Keflavik Airport

Reykjavik, Iceland

6:10 p.m. Courtesy Call with President Grimsson

Presidential Residence

Reykjavik, Iceland

8:15 p.m. Dinner hosted by Prime Minister Oddson

Perlan Restaurant

Perlan Veitingahusoskjuhlid 101

Reykjavik, Iceland

Saturday, October 9

Editor's Note: This schedule is subject to change. In case of inclement weather, the First Lady will not be able to travel to the Westmann Islands.

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9:45 a.m. Visit to the GLOBE Program at Lava Field

Westmann Islands, Iceland

1:40 p.m. Visit to Viking Ship - Photo-op

Viking Ship dock

Reykjavik, Iceland

3:40 p.m. Visit to Thingvellir/ Press Statement at Prime Minister's Summer Residence

Reykjavik, Iceland

Sunday, October 10

11:15 a.m. Vital Voices Conference on Women and Democracy at the Dawn of the New Millennium

City Theater-Lestabrat 3

Reykjavik, Iceland

Editor's Note: In the afternoon, the First Lady will depart Reykjavik and travel to Washington, D.C. The departure and arrival are closed press.

* * * * *

The first lady will spend the weekend at the White House resting.

Filed by Matt Drudge
Reports are moved when circumstances warrant
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October 21, 1999

First Lady Serves to Renowned Chef

[A.P. INDEXES](#) | [TOP STORIES](#) | [NEWS](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [BUSINESS](#) | [TECHNOLOGY](#) | [ENTERTAINMENT](#)**Filed at 4:24 p.m. EDT****By The Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) -- First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton won praise for courage Thursday after serving lunch to celebrated chef Julia Child, one of four women honored at the White House for advancing women's causes.

On the menu: chicken with pesto, potato and goat cheese puree, autumn greens with artichokes and pumpkin mousse.

"Hillary, it takes a lot of guts to serve lunch to Julia Child," joked Labor Secretary Alexis Herman.

Honored for "shattering glass ceilings" were Herman, Child, University of Pennsylvania President Judith Rodin and Ann Fudge, Kraft Foods executive vice president. Child was the first person to have a televised cooking show and to win an Emmy Award for her culinary expertise.

"It is exciting for me as I travel around to meet young girls who are no longer in any way limited by what they see as visions for their own lives and potential," thanks to women like the honorees, Mrs. Clinton told guests in the White House State Dining Room.

But the country still has "work to be done" to ensure equal pay for women, access to affordable child care and health care, Mrs. Clinton said.

The Sara Lee Foundation will make a \$50,000 donation in each honoree's name to the nonprofit organization of her choice.

Past winners include poet Maya Angelou, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and Martin Luther King's widow, Coretta Scott King.

Though lunch had yet to be served, Child said she was "very much

impressed" by the White House.

"Bon appetit," John Bryan, chief executive officer of Sara Lee, told the guests, borrowing Child's trademark line.

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America's Millennium News Clips



September 1999 – February 2000

Hushed Millennial Party Goes On

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Here's the ultimate trivia quiz stumper: What do \$1 million worth of donated seeds, Gaithersburg, Mars and a stretch of old rail bed through Washington have in common?

They're all part of the nation's official millennial observance, which, yes, is *still* going on and seems to include a little bit of everything these days. Gaithersburg is one of 424 Millennium Communities across the land. The red planet is the focus of the Mars Millennium Project for chil-

dren. The rail bed is among 50 Millennium Legacy Trails for hiker-bikers young and old.

And those seeds? If the plug-a-plant idea dubbed Millennium Green takes off, by summer they'll be sprouting in backyard and schoolyard gardens in every state.

Although many Americans probably figured that they were done with the M-word after the New Year's Eve ball drops and fireworks, the celebration continues until 2001. So does the White House Millennium Council, the small umbrella organization that essentially has been in business since 1997, creating or coordinating the national activities for what President Clinton has called "this historic time."

Asking what the effort has accomplished so far—or what the lasting impact will be—is no trivia question. The council's programs, often publicized through the prominence of first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, have tried to span culture, history, science and community. More than \$140 million in federal and private funds already have been pledged for the larger initiatives, though a total cost may

never be calculated.

To some critics, the country's investment has bought nothing truly significant, nothing to match a project like England's Millennium Dome, for example. That immense structure, built for \$1.2 billion on the banks of the Thames River in Greenwich, will showcase educational exhibits.

"The wealthiest, most powerful nation on Earth will leave little permanent behind to mark the moment," author James Reston Jr. fumed in an Outlook article in The Washington Post in October.

Others say the country's more modest and diffuse tack will prove itself in the end. The British may have heaved one huge boulder into the pond, compared with the numerous smaller pebbles the United States has tossed. Since New Year's Eve, the Millennium Dome has been beset by controversy, plummeting attendance and cash-flow problems.

"We just took a really different approach," said Ellen McCulloch Lovell, executive director of the Millennium Council. More grassroots, she explained, and more democratic. "It may make [the celebration's sweep] a little more difficult to grasp, but it's a lot more American in spirit."

She points to projects such as Save America's Treasures. With two congressional appropriations and intensive private solicitations, it has raised \$100 million to help rescue, at last count, 454 deteriorating or endangered historic sites, relics and documents, including the Mesa Verde cliff dwellings in Colorado, the Thomas Edison Invention Factory in New Jersey and the Apollo Space Program Artifacts at the National Air and Space Museum.

"I'm really proud that in ... 50 years, we'll look around and see all these treasures that have been saved," McCulloch Lovell said.

Nearly five dozen of them are in Maryland, the District and Virginia, including the Hanover Tavern north of Richmond. Its historical claim dates to when Patrick Henry's in-laws owned the property in the 1760s and he argued key legal cases in the courthouse across the street.

"This is kind of a validation," said Joseph Kyle of the Hanover Tavern Foundation, which in December received a \$30,000 millennium grant to catalogue the building's age and the changes made in three centuries. "We're thrilled that we've been listed."

Indeed, at the local level, there's significant support for those pebbles and the ripples they've already made—regardless of whether money has flowed from them.

"It's speeding up the process," D.C. Parks and Recreation planning officer Ted Pochter said of the Millennium Legacy honorific bestowed on the seven-mile Metropolitan Branch Trail, which ultimately will connect Union Station with Silver Spring. The White House recognition included no direct funds but has helped prod negotiations on trail sections. There is no target date for completion, but "the expectations are high to build this," Pochter said.

Similar enthusiasm exists in Gaithersburg, which applied early to be an official Millennium Community. A citizens panel, assembled to suggest ideas that would earn the designation, came up with proposals such as a millennium garden and millennium museum. The museum will open Feb. 16 in Lake Forest Mall, with hundreds of items donated by local residents.

"Any time the White House endorses something, it's just kind of a feather in your cap," said city spokeswoman Suzanne Ross.

Other millennial ventures, involving a jumble of federal agencies, civic groups and foundations, have hit home on several fronts. More than 123,000 Mars Millennium Project kits were distributed or downloaded from the Internet last year to schoolchildren designing a livable Martian community circa 2030. Millennium Green aims to get 250 million trees and 1 million gardens planted across the country during 2000, and the America the Beautiful Fund is supplying the starter seeds.

Still, little of the millennium commemoration has permeated the national consciousness, according to Todd Gitlin, a professor of culture, journalism and sociology at New York University. Even with Hillary Rodham Clinton as its most forceful advocate, the program as a whole didn't catch on with the media, he said, so there was "no way [for it] to break through the static."

Clinton's spokeswoman insists the first lady is no less committed to seeing the millennium programs through this year, despite her Senate campaign in New York. "This stuff is so tied in her mind to civil society," Lissa Muscatine said. "She will continue to participate and oversee some things and remain as involved as much as she can."

There will be more historic treasures named, and in June, 2,000 Community Millennium Trails will be announced. The White House also will host several more Millennium Evenings, which in the past have featured such prominent figures as historian Bernard Bailyn, Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel and jazz musician Wynton Marsalis.

And, McCulloch-Lovell delights, "We still have people coming to us with ideas!"

Jet

January 31, 2000

SECTION: COVER STORY; Pg. 61

LENGTH: 651 words

HEADLINE: Kicks Off The Millennium With New Album 'Willennium'

BODY:

Will Smith always knows how to let the good times roll when it comes to making music. The famed rapper-actor also knows how to keep a crowd moving on the dance floor as he recently ushered in the new millennium with his second solo album, Willennium.

The project's kick-off song, the millennium party anthem Will 2K, was an instant smash when it hit the airwaves. The tune, which features the soulful sound of K-Ci, celebrates the coming of 2000 and the hype that centered around ringing in the new millennium.

Willennium also includes the popular songs Wild Wild West, taken from the soundtrack of the movie by the same name in which Smith starred, and So Fresh, featuring rap veterans Biz Markie and Slick Rick.

And, in addition to a hodgepodge of songs with guest performers that range from Lil' Kim to Eve to his former "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" TV co-star Tatyana Ali, the album also includes a spoken word from his actress wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, on the song Afro Angel.

A true rap pioneer who's won notoriety for more than a decade while staying true to witty, good-humored rhymes, Smith believes that the album is his best thus far.

"Historically, rap music has been a genre of disposable artists and one-hit summers. From one summer to the next, there's no telling who's gonna be out here," he explained. "I feel blessed at this point in my career to still be getting better. Willennium is unequivocally the best work of my career."

Willennium is the follow-up album to his debut solo album Big Willie Style. The multiplatinum album produced the top-selling tunes Men In Black, Gettin' Jiggy Wit It, Just The Two Of Us and Miami. Men In Black, the title track taken from the soundtrack of the movie by the same name in which he starred, and Gettin' Jiggy Wit It both earned him Grammy Awards.

Ringing in the millennium with a new album wasn't the only way the handsome performer celebrated 2000's inception.

He also hosted one of the top end-of-the-century bashes of the year, America's Millennium, a national millennium block party that was the official entertainment of the White House. Held on the Washington Mall, the

much-talked-about gala was co-produced by music mogul Quincy Jones and filmmaker George Stevens Jr.

As he always does with his music, Smith had the crowd rocking, including President Bill Clinton, as he performed Will 2K, where he urged Clinton during the celebration to join in and "Raise the roof, Bill."

With an explosive acting career that boasts such blockbuster films as Independence Day, Men In Black and Enemy Of The State, Smith has the best of both worlds as a hot actor and top rapper.

He also manages to find time to be a husband and doting father to two sons, Trey and Jaden.

Though the superstar entertainer has inarguably won the hearts of the masses as an actor and as a rapper thanks to his firm stand to promote lyric-friendly rhymes without profanity, the 30-year-old performer has often been criticized by his rap counterparts for being too fluffy and not hard-core enough.

"You can be more aggressive without being profane," Smith pointed out to Billboard. "I could easily write an album full of profane records. But that's way too easy. I challenge profane rappers to do what I do -- write an album full of non-profane records."

But, the handsome multi-Grammy Award-winning rapper hasn't let people's opinions pressure him into wanting to stray from doing songs that center around fun, family and fame.

"Rap music has always been a music that's about records; it's never been about musicians," he added to Billboard. "Being a rapper is about who you are, who you've been, and how you've grown up. The records are completely about yourself."

It's a new millennium and you can surely bet that Smith plans to keep it real by making music the Big Willie way.

GRAPHIC: Picture 1, Rap Star Will Smith is ringing in the millennium with a hot new album Willennium; Picture 2, Not just a popular rapper, Smith also is an accomplished actor and family man. He attended the premiere of the film in which he starred last year, Wild Wild West, along with his wife, actress Jada Pinkett Smith, their toddler son, Jaden, his son, Trey, and his nephew, Kyle; Picture 3, Smith recently celebrated the millennium as host of the White House gala America's Millennium. Joined by his wife, and famed husband-wife actors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, the versatile performer enjoys festivities at the big event in Washington. Priscilla Clarke; Picture 4, The fun-loving entertainer has earned crossover appeal with his lyric-friendly raps which have earned him numerous accolades. Last year he won a Grammy Award for the song Gettin' Jiggy Wit It; Picture 5, "Willennium is unequivocally the best work of my career," boasts Smith, whose single W2K has become a party anthem of the millennium.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 1, 2000

Hillary's Senate run gets a holiday boost

Big donors attend Washington gala

By Barbara J. Saffir
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Staying in Washington for the holidays did not keep first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton from her New York Senate race.

During a star-studded White House dinner on New Year's Eve, Mrs. Clinton invited two of her key supporters to share her head table: Dennis Rivera, chapter president of a union with 300,000 members in New York, and Bernard Schwartz, a wealthy Democratic donor who heads the New York-based Loral Space and Communications Ltd.

Newly released campaign finance reports show that Mr. Schwartz and his wife, Irene, donated \$40,000 to a special fund-raising account created to help Mrs. Clinton beat New York Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani.

Although Mrs. Clinton will not file her first report with the Federal Election Commission until Jan. 31, records recently filed by her donors indicate that Mr.

Rivera's Service Employees International Union contributed \$10,000 to her campaign.

The FEC reports and other new information also show:

- At least seven of her donors attended the White House New Year's party.

- Many more contributors may have attended that and 10 other holiday parties, but Mrs. Clinton's office only identified 288 of the "thousands and thousands" of the guests at one event.

- One of Mrs. Clinton's joint fund-raising committees raised nearly \$1.2 million as of Nov. 30.

- A contributor to that committee works for Refco, the trading firm involved in Mrs. Clinton's controversial 1978 cattle futures deal that turned her \$1,000 investment into \$100,000 in 10 months.

- Many donors won't be identified until committees file their bi-annual 1999 FEC reports on Jan. 31 and their 2000 reports in August.

see DONORS, page A4

Washington Times
January 15, 2000

FROM PAGE ONE

DONORS

From page A1

• Other notable guests included the Clintons' longtime friend and fund-raiser, Terry McAuliffe, and Walter Kaye, the Democratic donor whose clout helped get Monica Lewinsky her internship.

Several other guests were recently named the Democratic Party's 50 wealthiest donors. They made tax-deductible contributions to a foundation for "America's Millennium," the White House-sponsored public extravaganza on the Mall that was held in conjunction with the private party.

"Big gifts like that are rarely given with only one thought in mind," said Larry Makinson of the campaign finance watchdog group the Center for Responsive Politics. "If you give to a foundation that's also connected with a politician, there's an extra bonus there because the politician will be grateful to you for doing it. And that can come in very handy years later if there's a particular issue where that politician could be helpful to you."

While the intertwined web of donations may not be uncommon in presidential politics, he said it could cause political fallout for Mrs. Clinton if it reminds "people

about the systematic way in which President Clinton used the White House to raise funds for his presidential campaign."

The first-time candidate is using the same fund-raiser for her Senate race, Mr. McAuliffe, who helped her husband craft the much-criticized practice of inviting big donors to sleep in the Lincoln Bedroom.

Niranjan Shah, one of Mrs. Clinton's donors and a former guest at a White House coffee, once told the Voice of America that the Indian community he represents tries "to influence the U.S. foreign policy." He said its lobbying helped defeat a bill that would have cut off aid to India — the same type of legislation Mrs. Clinton would vote on as a senator.

The Chicago-based company Mr. Shah heads, Globetrotters International Inc., donated \$3,000 to "New York Senate 2000," a joint fund-raising committee of Mrs. Clinton's campaign and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. Another one of his companies, Globetrotters Engineering Corp., made a generous tax-deductible donation to "America's Millennium."

Mr. Shah did not return calls but a fund-raiser for the festivities said the contribution may have been in the \$100,000 to \$250,000 range. Mrs. Clinton's office, the National

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

White House Millennium Party guests known to have donated to Hillary Clinton's Senate campaign committees:

Name	Company	Donation
Bernard Schwartz	Loral Space and Communications	\$20,000
Agnes Gund	New York's Museum of Modern Art	20,000
Dennis Rivera	Service Employees International Union	10,000
Liz Robbins	Liz Robbins Associates	5,000
Pretina and Niranjan Shah	Globetrotters International	3,000
Vinod Gupta	INFOusa	1,000
Total known to date		\$29,000

Notes: Mr. Gupta said he may have donated more. Mr. Rivera is president of SEIU's Health and Human Services Employees Union 1199 chapter in New York City. Ms. Gund's financial assistant, Patricia Lazak, represented her. Sources: Federal Election Commission reports, interviews, White House guest list

The Washington Times

Park Service foundation, which received the \$15 million in donations, and other top officials connected to the event all declined to disclose a complete list of the donations.

A \$1 million sponsor of the gala, Vinod Gupta, said he also donated the "maximum" legal amount he could to Mrs. Clinton's Senate campaign.

Mr. Gupta, founder of INFOusa, a company that sells computerized mailing lists, said he thinks he donated \$1,000 but that it may have been \$2,000. He also said he plans to hold a fund-raiser for Mrs. Clin-

ton.

Individuals can give a candidate's own committee \$1,000 for the primary election and another \$1,000 for the general election. But the two joint fund-raising committees set up for Mrs. Clinton's race can collect unlimited "soft money" from corporations. Soft money — the unlimited donations parties can receive for so-called "party-building" activities — has already paid for TV ads featuring Mrs. Clinton.

"New York Democratic Victory 2000," a joint fund-raising committee of Mrs. Clinton's committee

and the Democratic National Committee, will not file its first report until Jan. 31.

Mr. Gupta sat at President Clinton's table at the New Year's gala, where they dined on truffle-marinated rack of lamb, beluga caviar, lobster and foie gras. They were joined by Mr. McAuliffe, Elizabeth Taylor, Sophia Loren, and several others.

Also seated with Mr. Clinton was Walter Shorenstein, who was just named in a new book, "The Buying of the President 2000," as one of the Democratic Party's top 50 "soft money" patrons. Daniel Abraham, who made a \$1 million tax-deductible donation for the year-2000 extravaganza and heads the Florida-based Slim-Fast Foods and the New York-based Thompson Medical Co., was also at the president's table.

Mr. Abraham made Mother Jones magazine's list as one of the country's top 10 political donors. Active on behalf of Israeli causes, he could help Mrs. Clinton win over the important Jewish vote in New York.

Mrs. Clinton headed her own table at the gala. She sat with Mr. Rivera and Mr. Schwartz, whose foundation helped sponsor the event, along with actors Robert De Niro and Lynda Carter.

One of the guests who also contributed to Mrs. Clinton's joint

committee was Washingtonian Liz Robbins, who donated \$5,000. Agnes Gund, president of New York's Museum of Modern Art, donated \$20,000 to the committee and was also a major sponsor — a "vice chair" — of the year-2000 extravaganza. Her financial assistant, Patricia Lazak, represented her at the White House soiree.

Walter Kaye, whose \$330,000 in donations to the Democratic Party helped Monica Lewinsky gain a White House internship, also attended. His name does not appear on campaign finance reports filed to date and he did not return calls.

Although Mrs. Clinton named virtually all of the 288-plus guests at the New Year's dinner, she declined through her spokesman to disclose the names of the roughly 700 additional partygoers who mingled with celebrities and other luminaries at the White House disco-type party later that night.

Florida businessman Paul McCarthy moved to Washington for six months to direct the public and private festivities that made up the "America's Millennium" celebration. The group was formed by the White House Millennium Council, a cultural history project Mrs. Clinton has directed since she and President Clinton created it.

— Researchers John Sopko and Jae Dell Smith contributed to this report.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2000



FILE PHOTO BY BOB D'AMICO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The Clintons attended the nation's New Year's Eve party on the Mall, which unlike the city's party on Constitution Avenue has come under criticism.

District's Y2K Party Turns \$40K Surplus

Organizers Report a Bug-Free Festival

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Washington's two-day New Year's festival, a homegrown affair along Constitution Avenue NW that was planned in just five months, came off with nary a hitch and cleared about \$40,000, according to its organizers.

The District's "Main Street Millennium," overcoming skeptics who doubted the city could throw a successful party, drew a crowd estimated at more than 300,000 people Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Organizers also made good on their pledge that no public dollars would be spent, raising \$465,000 in sponsorships and about \$310,000 in food, drink and souvenir sales.

"This was the best of D.C.," said Sandy McCall, executive director of Millennium Washington, an effort that will continue through 2000 to commemorate the city's 200th anniversary as the nation's capital. There were no altercations, no public drunkenness, "not even one incident of a police officer going up and saying, 'Hey, buddy, calm it down,'" McCall said.

And the Jan. 2 cleanup went so smoothly that workers were able to reopen Constitution Avenue several hours ahead of schedule, city officials said.

For 20 hours of celebration, the festival filled four blocks of that prominent thoroughfare with a sweeping melange of music, food and people. On one stage alone one afternoon, Celtic song followed salsa rhythms followed doo-wop beat. It was intensely up close and local, in part because of performers like Mary Jefferson, who began her blues career on U Street almost six decades ago.

"Nearly all of Washington, D.C., turned out," the Washington Afro American applauded in an article last weekend. The newspaper, often critical of Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D), offered him a grudging compliment, saying the festival "may have been one of the few events the mayor has sponsored that turned out to be a success, and one where the residents of the city finally got to see him in rare form."

The universal praise for the District's millennial welcome was in sharp contrast to assessments of the New Year's Eve celebrity show at the Lincoln Memorial, which was faulted by some in-the-crowd critics as a television event catering mainly to the White House and its VIP guests. There were complaints about long lines to get onto the memorial grounds, long waits between acts to accommodate commercials, and a midnight fireworks display that, while spectacular, was too brief, with many in the audience not aware that more fireworks would be going off at 1 a.m.

For the city celebration, several firms initially submitted proposals that would have cost well over \$3 million. A few bills remain to be paid, but McCall expects the bottom line to be about \$734,000, nearly half of which went for tents, generators and signs.

How to spend the leftover \$40,000 is under discussion. One option is to use it to kick off a non-profit city parks conservancy to help fund youth recreation programs.

An announcement likely will be made next month when the mayor unveils the city's "legacy year" program of events and exhibits to mark its bicentennial. A high-powered committee headed by James V. Kimsey, a founder and chairman emeritus of America Online Inc., has raised nearly \$500,000 so far in support of those activities.

Relaxing in his office this week, surrounded by the leftover pamphlets, McCall said several things helped the small contingent of city employees, consultants and volunteers pull off a successful party. Attendance likely was boosted by the cancellation of two other downtown New Year's Eve galas. Mother Nature cooperated, too, offering the crowd springlike temperatures.

But McCall never worried about the weather.

"When you go through as many ups and downs as we did to pull this off in five months, with as few resources as we had except for the goodwill of people, I had no doubt we'd have good weather," he said.

2000

AROUND THE WORLD

Washington, U.S.A.

The public spectacle of fireworks shooting up the Washington Monument inspired oohs and aahs. And the President threw a lavish black-tie bash for 300 special guests, including Muhammad Ali, with a menu that evoked its own oohs—Beluga caviar, lobster, foie gras and oyster velouté. Before the midnight fireworks, Clinton addressed the nation. The 21st century, he said, “will require us to share—with our fellow Americans and, increasingly, with our fellow citizens of the world—the economic benefits of globalization.”

AP; CHRIS USHER FOR TIME



Time, Jan. 10, 2000



June, Jan. 10, 2000

2 of 2

Newsweek

Y2A-OK!

JANUARY 10, 2000 NEWSWEEK 7

1 of 3



Washington, D.C.



A Capital Show: With an assist from scaffolding in place for a \$10 million restoration project, the 555-foot-tall Washington Monument glowed like a giant sparkler, gleaming in the Reflecting Pool and across the skyline.

ROBERT ORLOFF—LAWSON AGENCY



TALKING IT OVER

My Own 'Prayer For The New Millennium'

On Jan. 2, my husband and I were honored to participate in services at the Washington National Cathedral. Many presidents and their families have worshiped in the magnificent Gothic structure that sits on the highest point in Washington. But until that Sunday, no president had ever taken an active role in a service.

Bill and I were asked first to read the "Prayers of the People"—a responsive litany of prayers and thanksgiving. Then, the president offered his own "Prayer for the New Millennium."

That weekend marked an extraordinary event in human history, as the world ushered in not just a new year, but a new century and a new millennium. Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, billions of people were able to share in the excitement and spectacle of celebrations around the world.

With so much attention focused on the countdown to midnight, it could have been easy to forget the true meaning of the millennium. A Christian concept marking the birth of Jesus 2,000 years ago, the turning of the millennium year offers us an opportunity not only to reflect on the past, but more importantly, a new chance to do better in the future.

God is offering America a new chance as well, for in the new millennium, the world will look to our country for leadership in meeting our common challenges. If we take this opportunity to extend our prosperity to those who have been left behind, then, perhaps, the global economy will bring a better life to the 1.4 billion people who live on less than \$1 a day. If we provide our children with a world-class education, then, perhaps, every child in the world will have a chance for a good education as well. And, if we can build one America, making our diversity our greatest strength, then, perhaps, other nations will see the advantage of working to overcome their own ethnic and religious tensions.

Bill's Jan. 2 "Prayer for the New Millennium" asked God for the strength and wisdom to meet these challenges. As we take our first steps in the new millennium, I'd like to offer this prayer to you as well: "Dear Lord, as we awaken to this second morning of a new millennium, help us to remember that all we are and all we do begins with you, for whom a thousand years are but as yesterday when it is passed, and as a watch in the night.



BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

"So we begin this jubilee year in humility, with profound thanks for the divine light first revealed 2,000 years ago that has brought us now to this sacred place today. Each in our own way, we thank you for the blessings of this life. For me and my family, I give you thanks for good health, good fortune, and the opportunity to serve the American people.

"We thank you for the amazing grace you have shown in getting us through and beyond our individual and collective sins and trials.

Through the darkest hours of the 20th century, the shameful trauma of racial oppression, the pain and sacrifice of war, the fear and deprivation of depression, when all

we could do was walk by faith, it was your guiding light that saw us through.

"We thank you for the promise of the new century, and ask your guidance and grace in helping us to make the most of it; to free our children of hunger, neglect and war; to ease the burdens of the less fortunate; to strengthen the bonds of family; to preserve and protect our earthly home; to use new advances in science and technology to lift all the human family and draw us all closer together.

"Finally, we thank you for the rich and wonderful diversity of human life with which you have graced this planet, and ask you to give us the strength and wisdom to give up our fear, distrust and hatred of those who are different. Teach us instead to learn from each other, and celebrate our differences, secure in the knowledge that we are all your children.

"Our Constitution tells us you created us all equal. Jesus told us to love our neighbors as ourselves. The Koran says we must do unto all men as you wished to have done to you, and reject for others what you would reject for yourself. The Talmud instructs us, should anyone turn aside the right of the stranger, it is as though he were to turn aside the right of the most high God.

"By your grace, we have survived in spite of our blindness to this, your truth. Help us now to accept, at long last, the enduring truth that the most important fact of life is not wealth, or power, or beauty, or scientific advance, but our kinship as brothers and sisters, and our oneness as children of God.

"This, Holy Father, is our prayer for the new millennium. Amen."

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's column is distributed by Creators Syndicate, Inc.

ARIANNA HUFFINGTON

We are a week into the new millennium, and there is a definite feeling of anti-climax. The best anyone can say is nothing horrible happened — no terrorist attacks, no Y2K meltdown — and that the fireworks were fabulous. But this was the beginning — at least the symbolic beginning — of the third millennium, and even among those who were not looking for “a new heaven and a new Earth,” a new messiah or the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, there was a sense of expectancy surrounding the start of Anno Domini 2000. After all, this was an event less of the calendar than of the imagination. No wonder we feel let down.

Technically, it was superb. The transglobal wiring really worked, but the substance didn't rise any higher than comparing the fireworks in Sydney to the fireworks in Paris. And as for the message from the leader of the Free World, it was flatter than week-old champagne. There was no challenge issued, no call to action, not even a phrase to carry with us as a memento a little less ephemeral than the confetti and Kenny G's rendition of “Auld Lang Syne.”

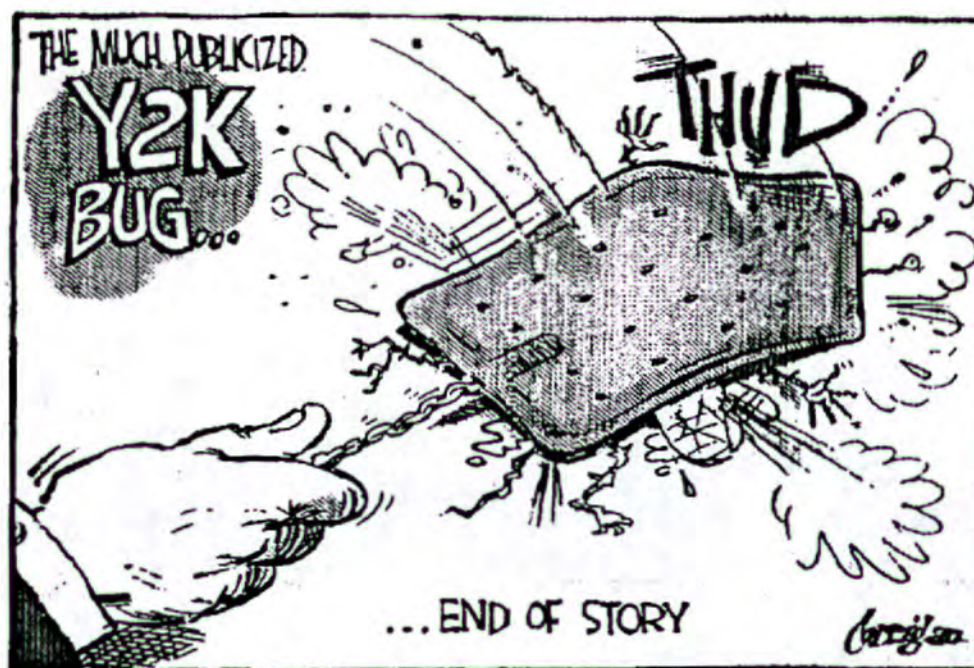
“The sun will always rise on America,” said President Clinton just after Tom Jones belted out “It's Not Unusual.” “Our children are ready. So, again, the torch is passed — to a new century of young Americans.” It sounded more like Dick Clark's Rockin' Eve than an epoch-inaugurating speech.

It was truly a squandered moment — an opportunity that won't come again for another thousand years. What made this sense of “what might have been” even more poignant was my turn-of-the-millennium experience with Habi-

Nailing down the arrival of a new era

tat for Humanity in Hilton Head, S.C. The local Habitat, with the help of the Renaissance Weekend (a four-day forum-filled retreat founded in 1981 by Linda and Phil Lader, who is now U.S. ambassador to Britain), had decided to ring in the New Year by building a house in 3.5 days for Sheila Singleton, a single mother of three daughters who also is helping raise her granddaughter.

So before dawn on Jan. 1, 2000, a few hundred of us who had helped with the building got on buses and arrived at 89 Gum Tree Rd. to dedicate Sheila's new home. Still standing beside it was her old house, awaiting demolition. The day before, Sheila, along with Millard and Linda Fuller, who founded Habitat for Humanity, had taken me inside the ramshackle place Sheila has called home for the past 30 years. The ceiling was caving in, the electrical wiring faulty, the foundation infested with termites. And the smell of mold and mildew was everywhere. When I asked Sheila what was the hardest thing about living there, she didn't hesitate: “The cold. Sometimes at night we'd have to bring our mattresses into the kitchen and put them by



the stove in order to be able to sleep.”

Yet Sheila Singleton was not included in any government statistics that quantify our social problems: She was not homeless; she was not on welfare; she was not unemployed (she works at a child care center); she was not below the poverty line. A family of five living in Third World squalor is apparently no reason to put a damper on the celebration of our economic good times.

For Habitat, eliminating such conditions is more than a New Year's resolution. Its 21st Century Challenge Program works with communities to set a date no more than 20 years out to eliminate substandard housing. “The vision,” Millard Fuller told me, “is not to build for a few lucky families. We

are not ‘Lottery for Humanity.’ Our goal is that everyone should have at least a simple, decent place to live. But we build relationships — not just houses. That's what breaks the cycle of poverty.”

This was hammered home during the sunrise dedication — a giddy mix of the sublime and the comic. “Don't you love my driveway?” enthused one Renaissance participant who had spent the previous day shoveling gravel. I, meanwhile, was offering guided tours of “my” state-of-the-art tool shed. But the underlying mood was crystallized by Tony Campolo — minister, anti-poverty crusader and presidential spiritual adviser — in an emotional barn-raising speech. “Visions and dreams,” he said, “energize people. Where there are no visions and dreams, the people

shall perish.”

If that is indeed the case, most of us must be ready for life support. At the White House black-tie dinner preceding “America's Millennium Gala Event” (a Quincy Jones production), the president toasted the first lady: “No one has done more to infuse this milestone with national purpose.” But that is precisely what was missing from all the hoopla — a national purpose. It was, instead, provided by Habitat.

Think how many more millions could have been inspired and engaged if Habi-

tat's 21st Century Challenge had been the millennial message issued from the Lincoln Memorial. People would still be talking about it, and better yet acting on it, instead of scratching their heads and wondering: Is that all there is? Is that what all the buildup was about — Tom Jones, cool fireworks and warmed-over homilies? The alternative — starting the new century by giving a family a new start, being part of something bigger than oneself — may not have been as spectacular as the fireworks that lit up the sky across the country, but the memory of the glow on Sheila's face will last a lot longer.

Arianna Huffington is a nationally syndicated columnist.

Washington Times
January 9, 2000

An all-star A-list glitters, shivers and dances the night away as the Clintons go all-out to welcome new year.

BY JANE FULLERTON
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton rang in the new year with a star-studded "millennial bash" at the White House featuring a black-tie dinner and all-night dancing.

While the White House tends to throw a good party, this one was all-out — A-list guests such as Elizabeth Taylor, Sophia Loren, Jack Nicholson and Robert De Niro dined on a five-star menu that included caviar, lobster, oysters and lamb before heading to the Lincoln Memorial for a three-hour entertainment extravaganza that culminated in midnight fireworks. And then it was back to the White House for dancing into the wee hours, followed by New Year's Day breakfast.

For the Clintons, dinner came after a full-day of events to welcome the new year. With his toast, the president set the tone for the evening — historic and reflective, but not so much as to dampen the party mood.

"Tonight, we rise to the mountaintop of a new millennium," Clinton told the 320 dinner guests. "Behind us we see a great expanse of American experience, and before us, vast frontiers of possibility still to be explored."

For the dinner heralding the so-called millennium, the Clintons invited "renowned American innovators and creators" from the fields of art and history, science and technology, and sports and entertainment.

That meant the evening was heavy on star-power: boxer Muhammad Ali; Olympian Carl Lewis; actors Julie Harris and Mary Tyler Moore; playwrights Neil Simon, Edward Albee and August Wilson; violinist Itzhak Perlman; musicians Dave Brubeck, Bobby McFerrin, and Doh McLean; opera divas Jessye

Norman and Kathleen Battle; and historian Arthur Schlesinger.

While many Americans chose to spend New Year's Eve at home, these guests were in the mood to celebrate.

"It's a huge honor. I'm thrilled," said actress Elizabeth Taylor, resplendent in burgundy velvet and diamonds, as she arrived so late she missed the president's toast. "I can't think of anyplace else I'd rather be."

Nicholson agreed: "It's the beginning of a new year, a wonderful new year, and a new century."

So why mark the occasion at the White House?

"This is America here," Nicholson replied, flashing his trademark grin.

For Loren, wearing a low-cut Armani gown accented with diamonds and rubies, the evening was an opportunity to reflect on history and the American liberation of her native Italy in World War II. "I come here for this evening with great, great emotion," she said catching her breath. "See — I'm getting already very emotional about it."

Historian John Hope Franklin, who earlier in the day had contributed a copy of the 14th Amendment to a time capsule filled with 20th-century artifacts, was looking to the future. "I have a regret that we have not yet achieved full equality and a hope that in the next century we will achieve it," he said.

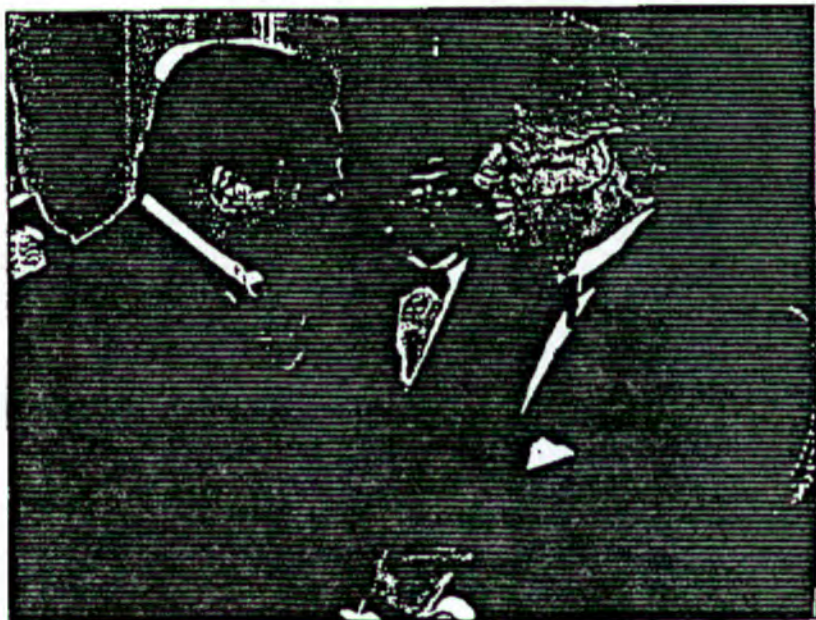
PAST AND PRESENT

The air of history was palpable as guests arrived and headed to a pre-dinner reception under a tent in the sculpture garden that bears the name of Jacqueline Kennedy.

Lynda Bird Johnson Robb, daughter of Lyndon Johnson and wife of Virginia Sen. Charles Robb, contributed to that feeling by donning a red and black velvet smoking jacket that had belonged to her father.

Schlesinger, the noted writer who served as a senior aide to John F. Kennedy, seemed ready to cast the century to the history books. When asked whether he had a "millennium message," he replied succinctly: "I'm glad it's over."

Arkansas was represented at the dinner by Janice Griffin, a Hope native and Washington lobbyist, and Mary Mel French, the



Associated Press

Muhammad Ali is greeted by President Clinton.

State Department's chief of protocol.

In addition, deputy White House counsel Bruce Lindsey, the presidential confidante and former Little Rock lawyer, came with Cheryl Mills, the former White House lawyer who captured the spotlight with her defense of the president during the Senate impeachment trial.

ABSENT BUT INVOLVED

Among those not on hand for the dinner were another pair of Arkansans playing key roles in monitoring events as the calendar flipped from 1999 to 2000 — James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Rodney Slater, secretary of Transportation, both of whom were invited to join the White House festivities.

Witt, who spent the day and night keeping an eye on the national computer-glitch situation from FEMA's operations center just a few blocks from the festivities on the National Mall, declined the offer. With the "Y2K bug" essentially eradicated, he and his wife, Lea Ellen, wanted to take in the fireworks from the roof of FEMA's headquarters, but security issues prevented that. So they had to settle for watching the festivities on television.

Slater, who spent most of his time monitoring the nation's airlines from the Federal Aviation Administration command center in

suburban Virginia, missed the White House dinner. His wife, Cassandra, arrived without her husband just before the president offered his toast. But Slater was able to make it over for some of the festivities at the Lincoln Memorial as well as the party at the White House afterward.

What was billed as the "White House Millennium Dinner" followed the format of a State Dinner, with the president and first lady, joined by their daughter, Chelsea, greeting their visitors in a formal receiving line. The first lady opted for a black satin gown with rhinestone buttons and a rhinestone choker, while the first daughter wore a midnight blue satin gown.

The Clintons were joined by so many guests that the meal had to be served in both the State Dining Room and the East Room, where the shimmering tables were set with gleaming white china and decorated with silver bowls overflowing with white flowers. Another 100 family members of the guests — many of whom arrived to greet the new year with their children — dined in a heated tent in the Rose Garden.

The president presided over the East Room, where he was seated between actresses Taylor and Loren. The first lady's table was in the State Dining Room, where she sat between De Niro and Washington Mayor Anthony Williams. Chelsea Clinton began in the East

Room at her father's table, but wound up with family and friends dining in the Rose Garden.

If this celebration called for a "once-in-a-millennium" meal, the White House did not disappoint. The guests began with beluga caviar, lobster, foie gras and oyster veloute — and that was just the appetizer. They then moved on to truffle-marinated rack of lamb accompanied by roasted artichoke and pepper ragout with a crispy garlic polenta. After a salad course, they ended with a dessert billed simply as "chocolate and champagne delight."

With diners at either end of the White House and in the Rose Garden, the president had to offer his toast three times.

And Clinton toasted three things: the guests who "contributed so indelibly to the narrative of this American century," his wife who "inspired us all to welcome the new millennium by honoring our past and imagining our future," and, finally, "a thousand years of history."

"By far, my most solemn prayer for this new millennium is that we will find, somehow, the strength and wisdom in our hearts to keep growing together — first, as one America, and then as one people on this ever-smaller planet we all call home," he said.

After dinner, the guests bundled up against the chilly winter evening — the White House provided goody bags with seat cushions, hats and gloves — and shuttled to the Lincoln Memorial, where they sat up front for the three-hour, \$12 million, nationally televised gala produced by Quincy Jones and George Stevens Jr. The evening featured entertainment by the likes of Will Smith, Tom Jones, Kenny Rogers, Trisha Yearwood, Kathy Mattea, Don McLean and Luther Vandross.

As midnight approached, the crowd viewed the premier of Steven Spielberg's 18-minute film, *The Unfinished Journey*, which offered a photo montage of the nation's 20th-century history to date.

Then, with only about five minutes left in the expiring year, Clinton urged Americans to "embrace our shared humanity and our common destiny" in the next.

"We celebrate the future, imagining an even more remarkable 21st century," he said on the marble steps of the Lincoln Memorial. "As we marvel at the changes of the last hundred years, we dream of what



Associated Press

President Clinton gives his daughter, Chelsea, a New Year's kiss.

changes the next hundred and the next thousand will bring."

With that, five children standing at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial lighted a fuse that ran the length of the Reflecting Pool to spark the fireworks that illuminated the Washington Monument at the stroke of midnight.

After the gala concluded, the Clintons returned to the White House to host a private party for some 1,000 guests that featured former Supreme Mary Wilson providing the dance music in the East Room. The party lasted until 5 a.m. and included a New Year's Day breakfast.

INDEFATIGABLE EXECUTIVE

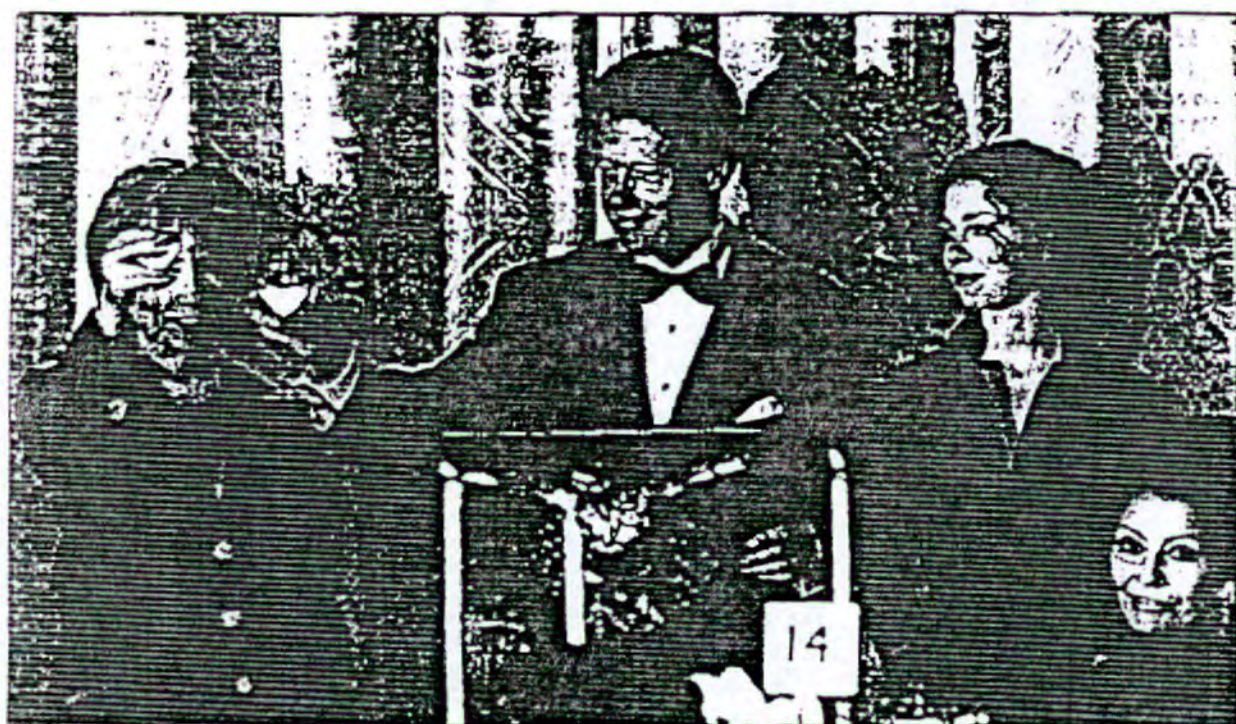
Despite the late night, the Clintons were up early New Year's Day to give a televised version of the president's weekly radio address. Hillary Clinton joined her husband and called on Americans to lead by example in making the world a better place for all its inhabitants.

"In the new millennium, the world will be looking to America for leadership in meeting our great common challenges," she said.

The Clintons wrapped up the New Year's weekend in a more solemn manner the next morning by attending the first Sunday services of 2000 at the National Cathedral.

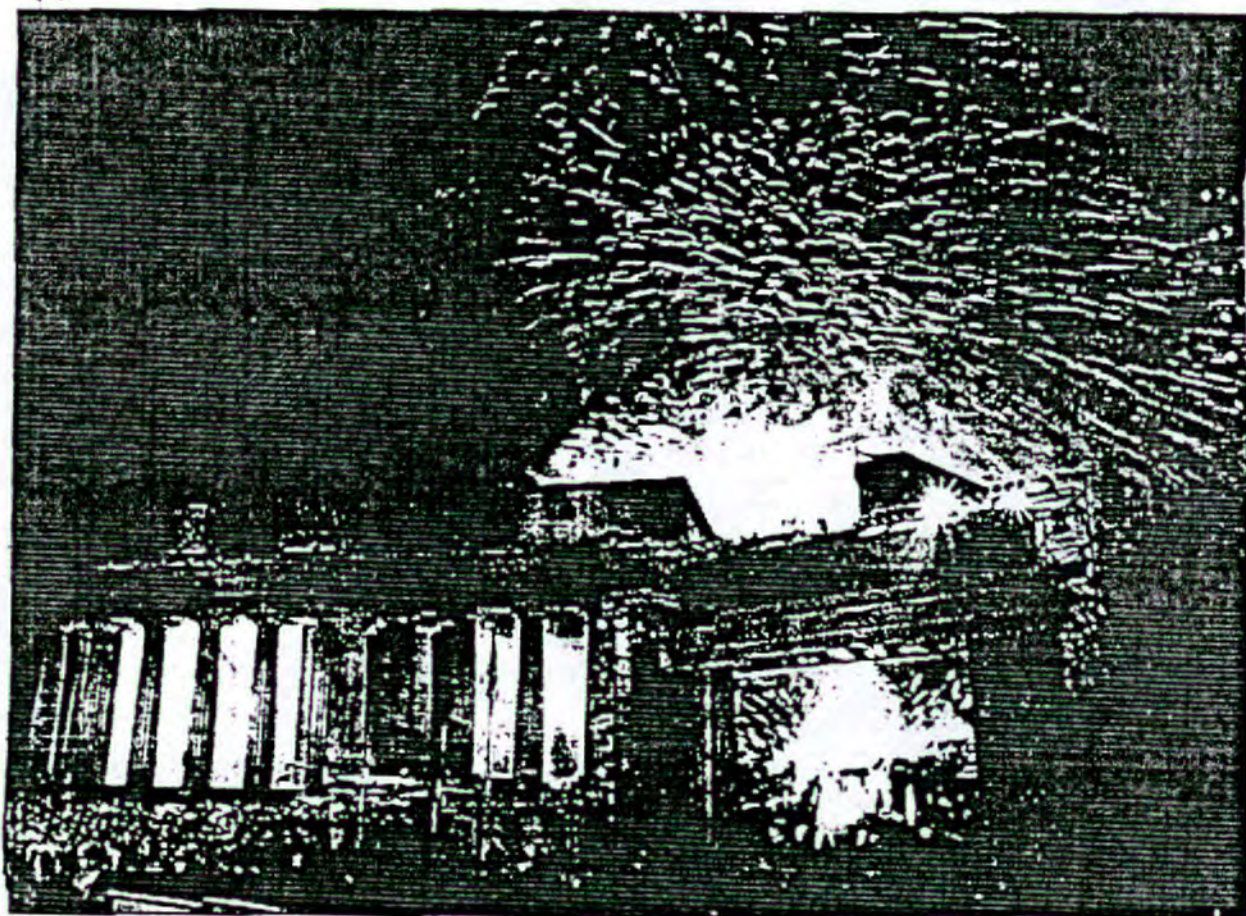
"We thank you for the promise of the new century," he said in leading a prayer at the service, "and ask your guidance and grace in helping us to make the most of it."

Ultimate eve at



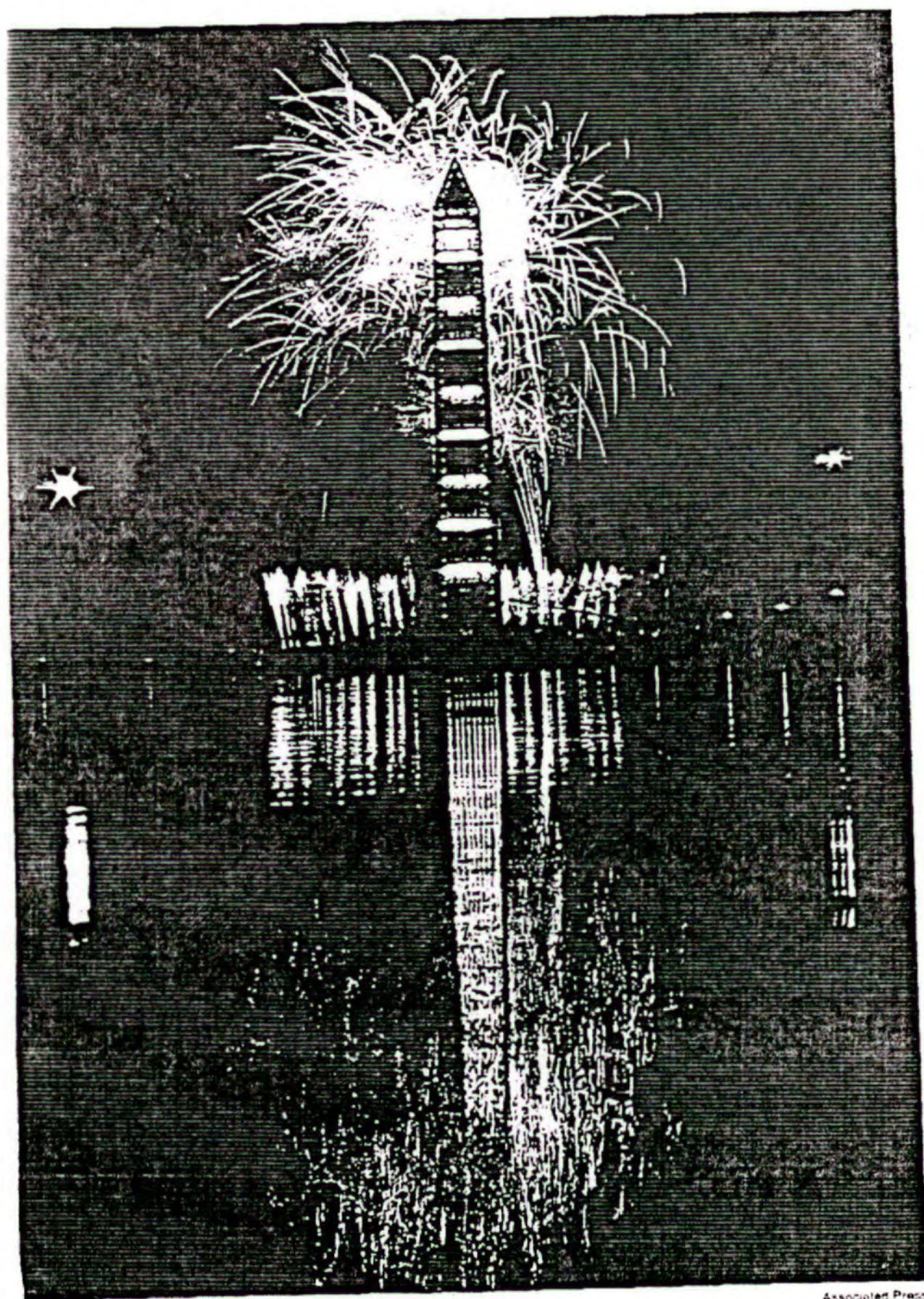
Associated Press

President Clinton with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, toast the new year in the East Room of the White House. Sophia Loren is seated on the right.



Associated Press

the first house



Associated Press

Fireworks illuminate the Washington Monument

JOYCE PURNICK/Metro Matters

London and Paris Dazzled As New York Dropped Ball

BEFORE we forget New Year's Eve and let our appallingly short attention spans wander to the next distraction, a moment of reflection on New Year's Eve.

Paris gave us the sight of a breathtaking Eiffel Tower, encircled in ascending spirals of fireworks. Britain offered fireworks sweeping over the Thames and a new Millennium Dome in Greenwich. Red Square turned ethereal, with fireworks and snowflakes falling on St. Basil's Cathedral. Sydney was aglow and so was Beijing, even though the Chinese new year is next month.

New York? A pretty ball descended a tower in Times Square, illuminating an ad for Discover, the credit card. Fireworks were hard to see, scattered pyrotechnics around town were nice.

Yes, it was fun and orderly in Times Square. The 24-hour street show was impressive, the N.Y.P.D. did great, people behaved. The ball (made by Waterford) was a new improved model and the electronic glitz of a renewed 42nd Street area provided a glittering backdrop.

But let's face it: for a world-class city we didn't measure up. Anybody who saw those stunning global productions has to admit that. Washington's was O.K., with its lasers and fired-up Washington Monument, but it was so packed with celebrities that it seemed like a cliché—a political cliché thanks to President Clinton's platitudes.

Washington is a capital city, like London and Paris, but New York is New York, so back to the ball and Times Square. Why so unmillennial?

The main reason was money. Except for Sydney's fireworks, paid for by corporate sponsors, celebrations in the other great cities were government-financed. The City of Paris spent about \$550,000 to create that magical Eiffel Tower, and the Ministry of Culture invested \$11 million for those Ferris wheels on the Champs-Élysées. The fireworks on the Thames (spectacular even without the promised flames) cost \$8 million, and the permanent Millennium Dome \$1.2 billion. Most of the money came from lottery profits, appropriated by the government.

Times Square got no government money at all (unless you count the cost of police, fire and other city services). The celebration cost less than \$5 million, contributed by Con Ed, Discover, Waterford, Korb, the

Doubletree Hotel and the Times Square Business Improvement District. Timothy's donated thousands of cups of coffee.

The very idea of asking the federal government for money never even came up, said Brendan Sexton, president of the Times Square B.I.D. In fact, Washington chose to compete with New York. In any case, "We do a different kind of event," Mr. Sexton explained. "Don't get me wrong; we could have used more money, but the crowd is the event here."

O.K., then why not stage something grand elsewhere in New York City? We've done it before. The shimmering Brooklyn Bridge Centennial celebration in 1983, for instance. "This should have been the occasion to do something grand and permanent for the city," said Senator Charles E. Schumer. "If Americans had the same attitude toward New York City, regarding it as a jewel as the French do toward Paris and the English do toward London, we could do these things, and we should."

JEWEL is not exactly the word the average American would use to describe the city. It is a place most love to hate, or at least distrust. And that showed on Dec. 31. Even now, despite our celebrated Wall Street-driven renaissance, crime-fighting mayor, kinder, safer streets and Seinfeld legacy, New York remains alien territory to many in the country.

Ask John Rucker. Look at the presidential candidates who never mention New York unless they rush through to raise funds or are fighting to get themselves on our well-guarded ballots. Consider also how we are perpetually shortchanged by Washington, getting back fewer federal dollars than we contribute in taxes.

It took a mighty struggle just to prevent Congress from cutting operating subsidies to mass transit last year, recalls Mr. Schumer. No New Yorker could even dream of getting fancy subway extensions of the kind bestowed on Paris and London last year by their national governments.

Those projects "were done with purpose of having them stay global cities," said Robert Paaswell of the University Transportation Research Center, at City College. "They know their position in the world."

So does New York. It's the rest of America that hasn't figured it out yet.

January 5, 2000, Wednesday Final

SECTION: News Pg. 6

LENGTH: 603 words

HEADLINE: Clinton contributors joined in millennium party
Those who financed festivities were invited to private gala with president

BYLINE: TOM HAMBURGER

SOURCE: McClatchy News Service

DATELINE: Washington

BODY:

The National Mall in Washington rivaled Times Square as the place for network television cameras to be New Year's Eve, thanks to an entertainment spectacular created with \$16 million in private donations.

The made-for-television event was made possible by a list of contributors that reads in part like the roster of Democratic National Committee supporters. The first couple dominated key parts of the televised spectacular.

In exchange for financing the event, many contributors were invited to ringside seats at the extravaganza. Afterward, they and a thousand other guests danced with the Clintons, members of the cabinet and the other luminaries at a White House party closed to the media.

"It seems crass and inappropriate," said Charles Lewis of the Washington-based Center for Public Integrity, a watchdog group. "Americans don't begrudge the president and first lady for wanting to make the millennium celebration a significant event, but most people don't like the idea that it might be used for political purposes."

Not only did the event showcase the Clintons, but it also rewarded longtime contributors with what Lewis called "one of the ultimate perks," being included in an exclusive White House millennial celebration.

To be sure, some of those listed as sponsors are non-partisan organizations, or contribute to both parties. But fund raising for the event was led by Terry McAuliffe, a real estate and banking baron who gained national attention as finance chair of the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign in 1996. The controversial use of the Lincoln Bedroom as a perk for donors grew out of a memo he wrote the president during that campaign.

After the election, McAuliffe helped raise money for the inaugural celebration. He then turned to raising money for the president's legal defense fund, presidential library and, more recently, Hillary Rodham Clinton's Senate campaign.

Hillary Clinton's office was in charge of the New Year's celebration, dubbed "America's Millennium." And once again the Clintons called on McAuliffe.

"From the beginning, it was decided that this event should be funded by private contributions," said Toby Graff, deputy press secretary to Hillary Clinton. "There was no quid pro quo. The guest list at all events was balanced, including friends, family and supporters." Financial backers, she said, were publicly acknowledged in the widely distributed program.

She said that two prominent Republicans, House Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois and Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi, were also on the committee for America's Millennium. Neither was on the guest list, however, and they could not be reached for comment.

Many of those who gave were treated to one of the most opulent evenings Washington has ever seen. The big contributors, such as real estate investor Walter Shorenstein or Teligent Vice President Laurence Harris, joined luminaries from the worlds of sports, entertainment and the arts at a private White House dinner.

The guests, mingling with the likes of actress Sophia Loren, boxer Muhammad Ali and jazz musician Dave Brubeck, dined on Beluga caviar, lobster and rack of lamb before heading to the Mall, where they had front-row seats at a two-hour show emceed by actor Will Smith.

At midnight, the guests watched an initial burst of fireworks before returning to the White House with 1,000 other guests, many of them contributors as well. A second fireworks display at 1 a.m. was visible from the White House lawn and kicked off a second round of partying from which the media were

January 4, 2000, Tuesday ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: VIEWPOINTS; Page A30

LENGTH: 730 words

HEADLINE: FIRST LADY TURNS NEW YEAR INTO ORWELL'S '1984'

BYLINE: James P. Pinkerton. James P. Pinkerton's e-mail address is pinkertofix.netcom.com.

BODY:

IN HIS NOVEL "1984," George Orwell wrote the formula for would-be thought dictators: "Who controls the past controls the future." By that reckoning, Steven Spielberg's new movie, "The Unfinished Journey," which premiered Friday night as part of "America's Millennium Gala," ranks as a minor classic of neo-Orwellianism.

Just as Orwell's "Ministry of Truth" propagandized on behalf of Big Brother, so Spielberg's 18-minute film was yoked to the political ambitions of Big Sister-Hillary Rodham Clinton. And American history was indeed double-thinked by the Washington-Hollywood axis.

To be sure, the Spielberg film and the entire extravaganza -three hours of pop-rock music interspersed with long, loving shots of the first family hugging and nuzzling each other -were televised on only one network: the faithfully Clintonophilic CBS. So one can't accuse the Clintons of being media-monopolizers.

But one can accuse Hillary Rodham Clinton of cooking up a pseudo-event on public property, having it scripted by loyal Democratic operatives such as Bob Shrum, and paying for it with \$ 16 million in fat-cat funding shaken loose by first friend Terry McAuliffe, all to advance her own ego gratification and political ambition.

Emcee Will Smith opened the show with these words: "We're all here because one person had an idea. Let's give a warm round of applause to the architect of America's Millennium, our first lady, Hillary Clinton." (Note to Will: If you ever want to see the inside of the Lincoln Bedroom, remember the "Rodham" next time.) But, if first lady Nancy Davis Reagan had ever had such an idea for an event, she would have been run out of D.C. faster than Katherine Graham could say "Unfair!" The gala's performers danced and pranced on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, facing the Mall, but they were invisible to ordinary people on the grass beside the Reflecting Pool because huge bleachers and camera stands

had been set up in front of them. That's right: At this "people's" event, only VIPs and pressies could see the show directly; mere taxpayers had to crane their necks toward jumbotrons.

That the Clintons love the lifestyle of the rich and famous is not new; what is new is their effort to shape American history to their own advantage. Enter Spielberg and "The Unfinished Journey"; this film will surely turn up in libraries, museums and schools, subtly shaping perceptions of the future by bending the past.

All one really needed to know about Spielberg's "Journey" came in the first few seconds as the image of Abraham Lincoln morphed into Bill Clinton, who recited the words from the 16th president's "with malice toward none" second inaugural address.

Then comes the rest of the film, seemingly a history of America in the 20th Century, done in rapid-fire style, set to John Williams' score.

Yet Spielberg the cineaste gets the better of Spielberg the chronicler; the World War I snippet in his movie features French, not American, soldiers. If only the Tennessee-born Sgt. Alvin York had thought to bring a camera crew as he won his Congressional Medal of Honor! The film makes time for Spielberg's own "Jurassic Park" dinosaurs, but has no time for U.S. war heroes such as Audie Murphy, George Patton or the Marines planting the flag atop Mt. Suribachi.

Spielberg does delight in American technical and scientific exuberance, from rolling assembly lines to towering skycrapers to rocketing space ships. But a larger share of the film is dedicated to leftward social and political change.

Yet, even here, the historical value of "Journey" is marred by an ahistorical skew toward liberal Democratic icons.

Legendary labor leaders such as Samuel Gompers, John L. Lewis and Walter Reuther have all disappeared down Spielberg's memory hole, replaced by a Clinton-baby boomer cavalcade of stars, including Martin Luther King, John F.

Kennedy, Malcolm X, Cesar Chavez, Gloria Steinem, Barbara Jordan, Harvey Milk-even Madeleine Albright.

In one of her many appearances Friday night, Hillary Rodham Clinton quoted Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was first elected from New York, get it? But, after reciting FDR's "four freedoms" -freedom of speech and religion, plus freedom from want and fear -she neglected to mention the freedom that's really needed right now: freedom from being propagandized by one's own government.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: January 5, 2000

In a Millennial Prayer, President Gives Thanks

By CARYLE MURPHY
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Clinton offered a "prayer for the new millennium" on behalf of the nation during services yesterday at Washington National Cathedral, giving thanks "for the promise of the new century" and asking divine guidance "in helping us to make the most of it."

Clinton was accompanied by his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who also read parts of "Prayers of the People," the communal petitions offered at each worship service. Nearly 900 people, including six Cabinet members, filled the cathedral, which was decorated with boughs of pine and red poinsettias.

The Clintons had attended funerals and Christmas Eve services at the imposing, hilltop cathedral in Northwest Washington, seat of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. But yesterday was the first time any president had taken an active part in services there, cathedral spokesman Bob Beckett said.

"It's important and appropriate for us to have the president at the first Eucharist of the millennium, and we feel his presence fulfills a symbolic role that the cathedral fills as a house for prayer for all people," Becker said. Clinton is a

Baptist but often attends services at a United Methodist church.

The 11 a.m. Eucharist service opened with Clinton and his wife joining the procession of clergy and choristers, all singing "The First Noel," down the cathedral's main aisle.

Clinton, dressed in a black suit, and his wife, attired in a wide-striped, blue and purple suit, sat in the left front pew beside Mary Ellen Baxter, wife of the cathedral's dean, the Very Rev. Nathan D. Baxter.

Baxter sermonized on religious tolerance. "If there is anything we have learned in the years since the birth of Christ, it is that there is no world peace without peace among the religions," he said.

"We must expand the sense of who is in God's family beyond our own religious identities," Baxter added. "We must grow beyond any bigotry or arrogance that keeps us from loving and respecting others as God would have us to do."

After the sermon, Clinton and his wife were escorted to a wooden lectern on the left of the sanctuary behind the altar where they alternated reading the communal prayer petitions written by cathedral staff.

The final petition was Clinton's own, which echoed the millennial themes preached in religious services around the nation yesterday. It said in part:

"Dear Lord, as we awaken to this second morning of a new millennium, help us to remember that all we are and all we do begins with you, for whom a thousand years are but as yesterday when it is passed, and as a watch in the night.



BY SUEAN BRIDLE — THE WASHINGTON POST

After reading prayers, the Clintons are escorted from the lectern at Washington National Cathedral by its dean, the Rev. Nathan D. Baxter, right, and vergers Stephen Lott.

"So we begin this jubilee year in humility. . . . For me and my family, I give you thanks for good health, good fortune, and the opportunity to serve the American people.

"We thank you for the amazing grace you have shown in getting us through and beyond our individual and collective sins and trials. Through the darkest hours of the 20th century, the shameful trauma of racial oppression, the pain and sacrifice of war, the fear and deprivation of depression, when all we could do was walk by faith, it was your guiding light that saw us through. . . .

"Finally, we thank you for the rich and wonderful diversity of human life with which you have graced this planet, and ask you to give us the strength and wisdom to give up our fear, distrust and hatred of those who are dif-

ferent. . . .

"Help us now to accept at long last the enduring truth that the most important fact of life is not wealth, or power, or beauty, or scientific advance, but our kinship as brothers and sisters, and our oneness as children of God. This, Holy Father, is our prayer for the new millennium."

Clinton and his wife then shook hands with clergy around the altar and with a few members of the congregation seated in the right front pew. Both received communion following the Eucharist prayer offered by the Rev. Canon Frank M. Harron II.

"It was beautiful and heartfelt," Kimberly Collinsworth, 33, of Los Angeles, said of the president's prayer. "And it meant a lot to me, to give us hope and peace and that we should love one another and help each other out."

ENTERTAINMENT

2000, and one great night of concerts



D.C. is monumental

WASHINGTON — Will Smith and a few dozen other stars brought in the new millennium Friday by turning the Lincoln Memorial into the scene of the capital's biggest party.

Smith, who hosted the \$13 million America's Millennium Gala, got jiggy with a troupe of dancers on his bouncy *Will2K*, pushing his palms to the open sky and chanting to President Clinton, "Raise the roof, Bill."

The estimated 300,000 people who thronged the Mall enjoyed mini-sets from some of music's biggest stars.

Leading up to midnight, it was the past century in song — jazz, rock 'n' roll, pop, folk, country, opera and hip-hop — that was celebrated in the Quincy Jones- and George Stevens Jr.-produced spectacle.

Some of the night's unusual combinations worked — Trisha Yearwood and Brian McKnight crooning *Abraham, Martin and John*, or Kathy Mattea, Luther Vandross and violinist Michel Bell doing *People Get Ready*. Others, such as R&B star Usher and Kris Kristofferson struggling with *The Weight*, did not.

Stars like Tom Jones (*It's Not Unusual*), Kenny Rogers (*The Gambler*), Foreigner's Lou Gramm and Mick Jones (*I Want to Know What Love Is*) and Don McLean (*American Pie*) had the chance to do their signature tunes in front of a once-in-a-lifetime crowd.

The most stirring sounds came from divas Jessye Norman and Kathleen Battle, singing on the site of African-American opera star Marian Anderson's 1939 Easter Sunday concert, which followed the Daughters of the American Revolution's refusal to allow her to perform at Washington's Constitution Hall.

After midnight, most of the crowd began drifting off, but those who stayed for another hour saw most of the night's cast return to sing *America, the Beautiful* before U2's Bono performed and the cast of *Stomp* put a percussive stamp on the evening.



A toast: Faith Hill welcomes the new year with front-row fans in Nashville.



In performance: Elton John, above, was in Las Vegas. Will Smith, at left, took the stage at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The nation celebrates a new century in concert

By Ken Barnes
USA TODAY

Sweet harmony from Miami to the Mall, 6D

While most Americans witnessed the dawn of the millennium from their couches, those willing to forsake their cocoons (and most of the contents of their wallets) celebrated in style at concert venues across the USA.

Arenas were sometimes less than full, but the audiences occupying the seats experienced marathon musical retrospectives with spectacular stage sets and special effects galore.

Music lovers ventured to locations ranging from the Florida Everglades (where quirky rockers Phish staged a massive concert) to San Rafael, Calif. (where Bonnie Raitt headlined).

An estimated 2 million people packed New York's Times Square area to watch festivities, musical and otherwise.

Also on display:

► In Las Vegas, fans who paid up to \$2,500 a ticket saw Barbra Streisand recap her storied career in what may be her last U.S. concerts.

► Country devotees witnessed the reunion of The Judds in Phoenix and the union of two fans (via a midconcert marriage proposal) at Tim McGraw and Faith Hill's Nashville show.

► Boomers celebrated L.A.-style with local icons The Eagles, partied in Miami with hometown heroine Gloria Estefan and entered a New York state of mind with Long Island's Billy Joel.

► High rollers and hipsters saw private shows by Elton John, Tina Turner and Celine Dion in Vegas and by Sting and a glittery MTV lineup in New York.

► An estimated 300,000 thronged the National Mall in Washington to watch the fireworks and hear a galaxy of stars spanning a wide musical range — Will Smith, Kathleen Battle, Don McLean, John Fogerty, Trisha Yearwood, Luther Vandross, Tom Jones, Jessye Norman, Brian McKnight and more.

► Fans in Las Vegas watched Bette Midler combine the traditional and the satirical as only she can in a show that featured both *Auld Lang Syne* and impressionists mocking Cher, Michael Jackson, Rod Stewart and even Streisand.

Inside today's Life section, a team of USA TODAY reporters recounts the sites, sights and sounds of some of the weekend's hottest millennial concerts.



BJ Productions

A rare appearance: Barbra Streisand's Las Vegas concerts were big hits.

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USA
TODAY

Life

MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2000

ENTERTAINMENT

TV sends 1900s out with a bang

Global absence of malice made it a grand party

TV NEWS & VIEWS

By Robert Bianco

Well, that had to be the most uneventful 24 hours of "event TV" ever. And wasn't it wonderful?

No terrorist attacks, no power failures, no airplane or computer crashes. Instead, New Year's Eve offered a day of celebratory TV — an immensely entertaining lesson in comparative cultures laced with music, dance and fireworks.

It was a grand party, and there was no better host than ABC, led by a relaxed, appealingly avuncular and emotional Peter Jennings. He even kept his dignity when a string from his suit became a prop in David Blaine's magic act, and that was no easy trick.

Though cable's 24-hour newscasts all offered coverage, Jennings and ABC best captured the shifting mood of the day. At first, as he waited to see whether problems would arise, Jennings exuded caution and a bit of uncertainty. As Australian drag star Dame Edna told him, it was as if we

were all having "terrible problems summoning up the right emotions" for the millennial shift.

But as the day progressed without disaster, you could almost hear Jennings lead a communal sigh of relief. By the time Cokie Roberts launched into a silly but spirited debate with Barbara Walters and Charles Gibson over the respective merits of Italy, France and Great Britain, it was clear ABC had let its guard down and was ready to celebrate.

The other broadcast networks came to the party late and never caught up. CBS misjudged the spirit of the occasion, opening with a David Letterman special designed to prove he's too smart for the millennium. (Letterman has precisely one note, ironic distance, and this was not the night for it.) While CBS' slate improved with its broadcast of Washington, D.C.'s *America's Millennium*, the network was too tied to one city to convey the global nature of the event.

Worse still was NBC, which seemed more interested in promoting Jay Leno than in covering the worldwide countdown. The nadir, however, was Tom Brokaw's fawning



A magical night: Peter Jennings, left, with David Blaine; David Letterman, above right, with Rudy Giuliani

interview with tiresome self-proclaimed Washington society queen Sally Quinn, who prattled on about the social ambitions of the Georgetown party crowd.

There were, of course, plenty of other TV choices. CNN was steady and newsy, but its correspondents can't match ABC's for star power, and its regularly scheduled shows were a drag on the proceedings — particularly *TalkBack Live's* Webcam chat with author Arthur C. Clarke. Internet interviews may be the technology of the future, but they're unwatchable in the present.

PBS ran the most complete foot-

age of international artistic performances but undercut them with a steady stream of somnolent narration. MSNBC was often annoyingly chipper, particularly in those painful hours when Jodi Applegate anchored from London with all the decorum of a tipsy sorority girl. Fox News Channel was too tied to New York and to tabloid fluff like *Page Six* and its imaginary gossip of the future — though to its credit, it was the only network to have a translator ready for the pope's address from Rome.

Still, by the time midnight approached, most viewers were probably in such a good mood, even the

and the Parthenon

► The Eiffel Tower seeming to explode in Paris, easily capturing the world's prize for Best in Show.

► London's Big Ben signaling what was claimed to be the world's largest fireworks show. It was something, all right — though if we were the ones who had spent a billion dollars on a huge dome, fireworks and Vegas dancers in skimpy clothes, we'd be hearing about our ostentatious bad taste for the rest of the century.

► The incredible countdown at the Washington Monument, America's only real monumental challenge to Paris and the only event ABC undercovered.

► A befuddled Barbara Walters getting so lost in a card trick with Blaine, he had to tell her to drop out.

And there was so much more, as we saw the ways the world has been Westernized (they sang *Auld Lang Syne* in Thailand, which doesn't hit the new year on its calendar until April) and the ways it hasn't. "We've looked at the world with such a sense of awe today," Jennings said — and we had fun, too.

Not a bad way to spend a New Year's Eve.

shots of Barry Manilow trying to dance were endearing. Some other moments to remember:

► The pyrotechnics at Australia's Sydney Harbor, though I would have advised them to drop the smiley face from the bridge.

► Cokie Roberts ending her interview with her mother, Lindy Boggs (ambassador to the Holy See), with "Thank you, Mommy. Happy new year."

► The light shows at the Pyramids

White House shimmers with celebrity guests

By Ann Geracimos
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Movers and shakers from the fields of art, sports, entertainment and business were among more than 350 guests at last night's White House millennium dinner.

Even with Elizabeth Taylor stalled somewhere in traffic before the start of the evening, the Hollywood celebrity quotient was easily filled by the likes of Sophia Loren, Jack Nicholson, Mary Tyler Moore, Robert De Niro and Martin Scorsese.

The dinner was billed as a tribute to American creators and innovators. But the more obvious majority was the number of private company representatives on the list, at least one of whom conceded that the million dollars his company contributed to the weekend celebration was well spent.

Some guests were known to be invited to contribute as much as \$100,000 to take part in the festivi-

ties.

Representing the world of sports were Carl Lewis, Muhammad Ali and Bill Russell. The arts were represented in part by architect Michael Graves; Maya Lin, designer of the Vietnam War memorial; poet Rita Dove; playwright Edward Albee; actors Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis; and jazz musician Dave Brubeck, among others.

And why was Mr. Nicholson here, rather than in Hollywood? "This is America, honey. America is here," the actor said.

Perhaps the real story of the night had to do with who wasn't present, given the draw of the White House and importance of the evening.

In addition to the regular holiday decorations, the mansion was transformed into a white and silver fantasy land, with glass tree sculptures by artist Dale Chihuly on show in the Grand Foyer.

The menu included caviar, lobster and rack of lamb.

"Our country is probably in the best condition it has ever been and also has the most responsibilities it has ever had. And I think we can meet them."

— Sen. Patrick J. Leahy

President Clinton gave the toasts — generally optimistic homages to the future — in the three dining areas (East Room, State Dining Room and a tent set up in

the Rose Garden for family members of honored guests). First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea Clinton were at his side, both in black gowns.

Sen. Patrick J. Leahy, Vermont Democrat, attended with his daughter, Alicia. He was celebrating the fact that "our country is probably in the best condition it has ever been and also has the most responsibilities it has ever had," Mr. Leahy said. "And I think we can meet them."

"A century ago, blacks couldn't come to dinner here," the Rev. Jesse Jackson said upon entering the gala.

Humor wasn't entirely absent, however. Asked by reporters to name the greatest invention of the century, Miss Moore responded: "The blow dryer."

Sen. John B. Breaux, Louisiana Democrat, was more conventional in his reply: "The jet engine. It has brought the world closer together."

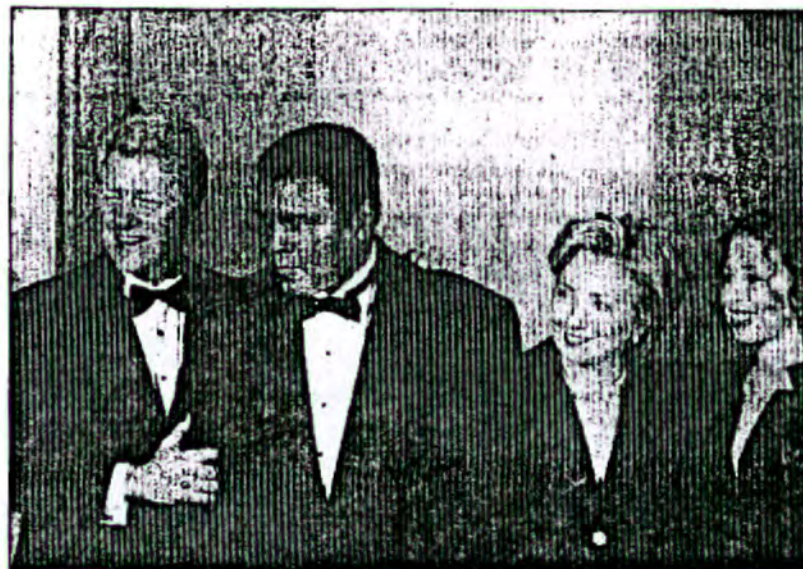


Photo by Astrid Flecken/The Washington Times

President and Mrs. Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, greet Muhammad Ali at the White House Millennium Dinner yesterday.

Several hundred more guests were invited to attend a post-gala party at the White House, in addition to the earlier crowd.

Singer Mary Wilson was the entertainer at what was being billed as a breakfast feast scheduled to last until 6 a.m.

Washington Times
January 3, 2000

Party lines:

The Washington Times

people, places and politics

Revelers welcome year in extravagant fashion

If clothing choices worn by guests to the White House millennium dinner are any indication of trends to come, then more men will be wearing more colorful hats and more women will be in strapless dresses with shawls.

Fabrics were luscious. Jewels were eye-catching, especially when seen atop a generous bosom. Designer dresses garnered the most attention — as usual.

In other words, extravagance may well be the theme of next century's fashions.

The economy booms on as mere mortals continue to ape celebrity attire.

Jack Nicholson arrived at the White House East Wing entrance dapper and smiling, as did **Will Smith**, the titular host for the late-night gala. Mr. Nicholson had on a black fedora above his signature bad-boy grin. Mr. Smith a porkpie.

Even better, Mr. Smith was wearing a sparkling coral-colored vest made to order for the occasion by Donatella Versace to match the knockout clinging chiffon number worn by his wife, **Jada Pinkett Smith**. The couple proudly paraded before the press as they hurried into the pre-dinner reception being held under a tent in the sculpture garden.

Next to draw gasps of surprise and admiration was the low-cut black Armani gown chosen by **Sophia Loren** to show off her diamond and ruby necklace from Van Cleef & Arpels. (Whether borrowed for the occasion or a gift from admirers, she didn't say.) **Elizabeth Taylor** showed up later in shimmering burgundy velvet with a feather shoulder wrap in a lighter shade, escorted by photographer **Firooz Zahedi**, nephew of former Iranian ambassador to the United States **Ardeshtir Zahedi**, with whom Miss Taylor was linked romantically in the 1970s. President Clinton, no fool he, chose Miss Loren and Miss Taylor to be his tablemates at dinner along with Mr. Nicholson. (Hillary Rodham Clinton sat beside District Mayor **Anthony Williams**, with a national labor union official **Dennis Rivera** at the same table.) Conversation was "very strong," Mr. Nicholson reported later in typical wise-guy manner.

Perhaps mindful of unexpected benign weather conditions, singer **Kathleen Battle** and many other women had on equally colorful strapless taffeta or satin gowns under furs and stoles. Miss Battle's was a light pink, worn under an enveloping cape of quilted white satin. Actress **Lara Flynn**

Boyle of TV's "The Practice," who was Mr. Nicholson's date, looked alarmingly thin in her strapless pink creation worn without cover. **Mary Tyler Moore** chose a jewel-encrusted baby blue gown with tiny sleeves. **Lynda Johnson Robb** was a standout as well in a red and black brocade smoking jacket that she said had once belonged to her father, the late Lyndon B. Johnson.

Singer **Mary Wilson**, entertainer for the early-morning post-gala White House party, hit all the right notes in her brilliant sweeping red satin gown and sequin-trimmed Coke bottle purse. She was both elegant and sassy at once.

It certainly wasn't an occasion to be modest or mercenary. Bring on the glad rags. Internet entrepreneur **Vinton Cerf**, senior vice president for Internet architecture and technology at MCI WorldCom, said he had looked forward to the evening if only because of the opportunity to wear the top hat given him along with an honorary doctorate from the University of Lurea in Sweden. "I've been waiting for more than a year," he said. "I'm celebrating the 21st century infrastructure. It is all going to immerse us in a sea of connectedness."

With 360 guests, to be joined later by some 500 others frolicking in two dining rooms and two out-sized tents, closeness and connectedness were certainly the evening's themes. No wonder a former White House communications official **Don Baer** suggested jokingly that the best invention of the last century

was "roll-on deodorant — it made us all more social."

— Ann Geraci

Sen. Patrick J. Leahy and his daughter, Alicia Leahy, arrive for the Millennium Dinner (below) hosted by President and Mrs. Clinton. Singer Mary Wilson, an original member of the Supremes, chats with the assembled press (below right) in a heated tent on the White House grounds.



Photos by Astrid Rieken/The Washington Times

Smithsonian honors past, reflects on future

Thousands attend New Year's events

By Ellen Sorokin
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

An estimated 10,000 people crowded the museums of the Smithsonian Institution this weekend to honor the country's past and reflect on its future during the America's Millennium on the Mall celebration.

Area residents, tourists and political leaders — including President Clinton, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea — began celebrating the new year Friday morning, when the Smithsonian kicked off its free programs, which focused on passing traditions — from music and cooking to scientific knowledge — from one generation to another.

The unseasonably warm weather helped contribute to the success of the Mall events as temperatures yesterday reached 68 degrees, nearly beating the record high of 71 degrees set in 1876.

Legendary blues musician B.B. King concluded the three-day event last night by performing his signature "The Thrill is Gone" on the electric guitar he calls Lucille, before a crowd of 565 fans at the Baird Auditorium at the National Museum of Natural History.

"We wanted to offer a moment of a little more quiet reflection on the millennium, on the new century," said Richard Kurin, director of folk life and cultural heritage at the Smithsonian and organizer of the weekend events.

"It's really about bringing people from all backgrounds together and building a bridge from the past to the future," Mr. Kurin explained.

The events took place at the National Museum of Natural History, National Museum of American History and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Each museum hosted a different menu



Photo by Michael Connor/The Washington Times

Freestyle Union, a rap group that promotes positive images, performs yesterday as part of the Smithsonian's year-2000 celebrations.

of programs, which included "Future Visions," "American Voices" and "Story Circle."

Among the events were: "Technologies of the Millennium," "Searching for Extraterrestrial Life," "40 Years of Sports Photography," "Blues Music Past and Future," and "A Heritage of Pictures and Words." Each program was about an hour long.

The Clintons on Friday attended the session called "Bluegrass: America's Roots Music," which featured a conversation with musician Ricky Skaggs, who has been hailed by music critics as a "Master of Bluegrass."

The National Air and Space Museum also welcomed 2000 by hosting the Mars Millennium Project, a nationwide contest to design a

village settlement on Mars. All participants received a Mars Millennium poster.

"The celebration has been pretty successful," said Vicki Moeser, a Smithsonian spokeswoman. "We've seen a lot of people who had a lot of enthusiasm come to the museums to participate in the programs over the weekend. It's been a wonderful weekend."

The visitors, who continued to file into the museums along Constitution and Independence avenues at 4 p.m. yesterday, agreed.

"It's been very impressive," said Doris Sprull, a D.C. mother who brought her 9-year-old son, Malik, to the programs this weekend. "There was a wide variety of pro-

see MALL, page C2

MALL

From page C1

grams people of all ages could be interested in. I had a good time."

So did Malik, a student at Shepherd Elementary School, who on Saturday enjoyed seeing award-winning actors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee read vignettes about the lives of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, scholar W.E.B. Du Bois, poet Langston Hughes and educator Booker T. Washington.

Tourists also got a chance to take part in the activities even though tickets were required to attend the events. All 12,000 tickets were distributed by Dec. 10.

Mr. Kurin said organizers expected that about 25 percent of the ticket holders would not show up for the activities. That gave tourists like Tammy and Wayne Cuslik, of Cleveland, a chance to enjoy the programs.

"We got lucky," Mrs. Cuslik said. "What better way to spend the first weekend of the new year and the new century than being in the nation's capital and taking in all that the city has to offer."



Photo by Michael Connor/The Washington Times

Cherokee storyteller Gayle Ross tells tales inspired by her grandmother at the Museum of American History.

Clintons offer preview of

BY SUSAN ROTH
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — A Twinkie, a cell phone and a copy of the *Log Cabin Democrat* newspaper from Conway, Ark., may be in a time capsule unveiled by the president and first lady Friday.

President and Hillary Clinton presented a prototype of the capsule, which resembles a large trunk bearing an American flag design, at the opening ceremony of national New Year's celebrations in downtown Washington.

The prototype will go on display at the Smithsonian's Museum of American History. The actual capsule will be filled in the coming months with artifacts representing America as the century ends. It will be sealed in a year

and stored in the National Archives, to be opened in a century.

"Almost three years ago, when the White House Millennium Council began planning a celebration for the National Mall, we decided that an important way to capture this moment in time would be by filling a national time capsule," the first lady told a crowd of 1,500 people gathered under a cloudless sky between the National Museum of American History and the National Museum of Natural History.

"We invited the thinkers and builders and creators of this century — all the past recipients of our nation's highest honors in the arts and humanities, in science and technology, in citizenship and leadership, as

well as builders and creators of the future, the students who are taught by the state teachers of the year across America. We asked them all to help us fill this time capsule, and their responses have been overwhelming," Mrs. Clinton said.

Three of the suggestions alone — a transistor, a piece of the Berlin Wall and Louis Armstrong's trumpet — could tell the story of the 20th century, she said. The transistor started the information age, Armstrong's instrument heralded the rise of jazz and American music around the world, and the parcel of the Berlin Wall "announced the triumph of democracy over dictatorship," the first lady said.

Some of the other items submitted include a World War II helmet, singer Ray Charles' sunglasses, a

century time capsule

piece of Corning Ware and many photos — of the earth from space, of the liberation of a Nazi concentration camp, of fast-food restaurants and of convenience stores.

A group of those thinkers and builders and students who submitted ideas joined the president and first lady onstage to offer proposals for what to include in the capsule.

John Hope Franklin, Duke University history professor emeritus, suggested a copy of the Constitution's 14th Amendment of 1868, which granted citizenship and equal legal protection to all people born in the United States.

Dr. Maurice Hilleman, a pioneer in immunology, contributed a transparent Lucite block containing eight vials of 20th century vaccines that have "prevented illness, disability

and death and changed the face of the world."

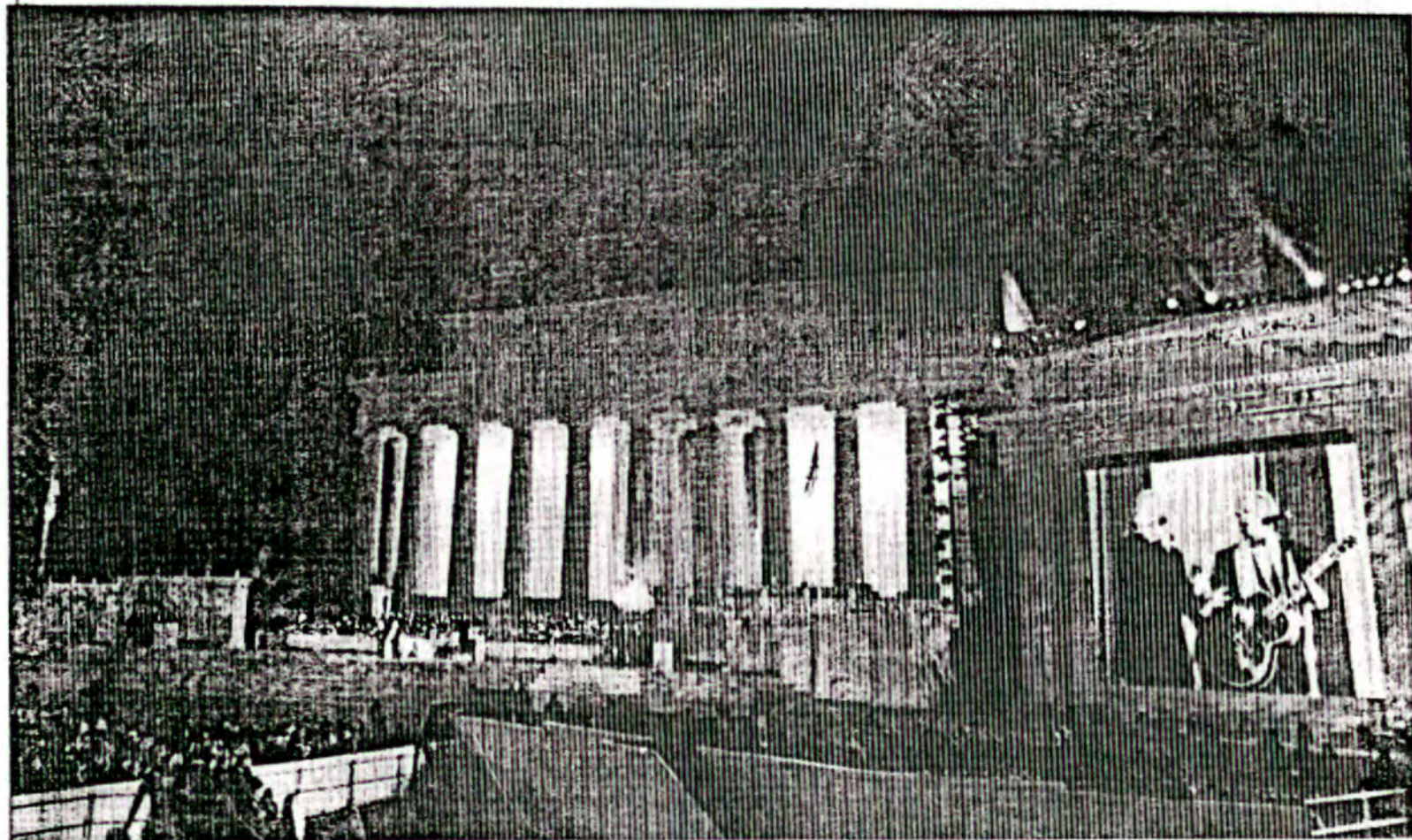
Retired Army Gen. Colin Powell, who received a rousing ovation, offered a set of GI dog tags to honor the "millions of Americans who have been willing to go in harm's way."

And Washington sixth-grader Eric Timmons expressed the hope of "stopping violence so that we can live in peace."

The time capsule will be made of three metals: steel for the Industrial Age, copper for the Information Age and titanium for the age to come, Mrs. Clinton said.

The flag design symbolizes "our optimistic country that is always in motion, always moving forward, always pushing back the frontiers of technology and progress, of tolerance and justice," she said.

January 1, 2000



Memorial millennium: Most of the crowd that thronged to the Mall got to see the performers—such as Kenny Rogers and Don McLean—only on video screens.

A Grand Night of Eclectic Performances



BY LARRY DOWNING—REUTERS

Wild, wild Will: Will Smith hams it up during the opening of the millennium celebration.

Performance

On the Mall And Beyond, A Night of Epoch, And Odd, Proportions

By MEGAN ROSENFELD AND TERESA WILTZ
Washington Post Staff Writers

As the century drew to a close last night, pictures from the "American Century" flashed across big screens set up near the Lincoln Memorial—anxious immigrants, scared soldiers, tap-dancing entertainers, construction workers, celebrities and other examples of American iconography. Compiled by director Steven Spielberg, the 20-minute film titled "The Unfinished Journey" tried to capture the country's agony as well as its glory, with the live grace note of an unknown elderly couple exchanging a kiss at the close of their turn as narrators.

However bombastic the film may seem to partygoers in the year 3000, it led up dramatically to a speech by President Clinton and the eagerly awaited fireworks display that climaxed the "America's Millennium" gala, a three-hour smorgasbord of entertainment that drew thousands to the Mall to celebrate the New Year. Indeed, all across town, America's music sounded—from gospel to folk, Vegas to Broadway, opera, jazz and rap—as hundreds of performers brought in the new

See PERFORMANCE, C7, Col. 1

century in song.

The Mall gala often seemed designed more for television (on CBS) than for those who were actually present, as only the 3,000 ticket-holders in the bleachers near the Lincoln Memorial could actually see the stage. The masses thronged around the Reflecting Pool could see the performers only on big screens, which at times—as when Will Smith's "Millennium" video was playing—meant that audience members stood in line to see television.

Nonetheless, it was probably the first time Abraham Lincoln got to watch a "Soul Train" line. As 30 dancers leapt around a stage built for the event, his marble eminence looked on.

Smith also got President Clinton to pump his fist in a "Raise the Roof" dance moment. "Yo, bro," he called to the commander in chief.

Thousands of folks hoping to get a glimpse of Smith or Trisha Yearwood found themselves light-years away from the headliners, waiting for at least an hour to get through security checkpoints. "I don't mind," said Patrice Hafeman of Frederick, Md. "I'd rather feel safe."

Others were not so sanguine. "They should at least tell us what's going on," said Eldred Deklerk, a police trainer from Cape Town, South Africa. "Some people are giving up and going home." By 11 p.m., the crowd was pushing down the hurricane fence to get in, according to television reports.

At least they didn't have to listen to commercials, as the cocooners at home did. And even the elite ticket-holders found themselves waiting in line, trying to get up the stairs to their seats as performers were trying to get down.

Across town, the superb mezzo-soprano of Washington's own Denyce Graves soared into the far reaches of the National City Christian Church before an audience of 700. Wearing a stunning coat-dress of white and gold brocade and accompanied by pianist Brian Zeger, she sang a versatile mix of classical arias, jazz and spirituals. Combined with her now-earthly, now-velvet tone, her luminous stage presence and gracious song introductions clearly transported her audience, who seemed to respond to her every note.

Her most striking numbers were an aria from Handel's opera "Amadigi di Gaula," which she performed with spectacular ornamentation, and her signature tune, Camille Saint-Saens' "Mon Coeur s'Ouvre à ta Voix" ("My Heart Opens at Thy Voice"), which brought wild applause.

In Landover, there was a big party at the Jericho City of Praise—in the name of Jesus—with laser lights, a live band and bellowing gospel singers. And just across the Beltway, at US Airways Arena, Ebenezer AME Church drew more than 10,000 people to its "Holy Ghost Praise Party." The old basketball floor trembled as people rocked in their seats and sang an old song titled "Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus."

On the Mall, the lineup at the millennium gala was eclectic, to say the least, too often saddled with a tired variety-show feeling. The combination of pop heartthrob Usher, looking uncomfortable in a tuxedo, with aging folkie Kris Kristofferson for a rendition of "The Weight" was the oddest of several odd pairings during the evening. To add to the made-for-TV feeling, the announcer broke into a powerful rendition of "I'll Take You There" by BeBe Winans and Patti Austin with an inappropriate "Only on CBS!"

During lulls in the show—and there were many—Smith hammed it up in front of the bleachers to the delight of the ticket-holding crowd. Inexplicably, producer Quincy Jones failed to use Smith much beyond the opening and the closing, a mistake considering how adept the actor is at impromptu crowd-pleasing.

Not far from the mall, Billy Taylor presided in the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater as the first century of jazz gave way to the third millennium. The sold-



British star Tom Jones croons "It's Not Unusual" at the Lincoln Memorial.

National Public Radio, initially found Taylor leading a septet composed of the evening's special guests, including tenor saxophonist Stanley Turrentine, vibist Stefan Harris, guitarist Russell Malone and trumpeter Terence Blanchard. The band opened with "At la Carousell," an upbeat charmer brightened by dashing solos from Taylor and Harris, tempered by the soulful attack of Turrentine and Malone and brilliantly illuminated by Blanchard's brassy fireworks.

"Soul Sister," another Taylor composition, featured the pianist's trio alone on-stage, conjuring a relaxed, after-hours groove punctuated by bassist Chip Jackson's inventive and invigorating handiwork. Drummer Winard Harper, a new member of Taylor's trio, then used sticks, mallets, rattlers and bells to create a festive symphony of percussion on Taylor's engaging Latin jazz piece "Tito." The band leader's open suite for piano followed. And though the trio arrangement was pared down to the elegant essentials, the piece nevertheless managed to encapsulate much of the history of jazz piano with great verve and finesse.

Following the second set, the entire audience was invited to don party garb (provided to each ticket-holder) and welcome in the new year at a bash in the grand foyer.

Over at the Kennedy Center's Concert Hall, some men wore suits, some wore tuxedos. One man standing outside the lobby was in a tuxedo with sneakers—prepared for all eventualities.

The National Symphony Orchestra's New Year's Eve concert was equal parts Old World music making and New World slapstick. While grand divas Kathleen Battle and Jessye Norman were down on the Mall, NSO Music Director Leonard Slatkin chose to spend the evening with family and friends—his wife, the soprano Linda Hohenfeld and old chums from his salad days, pianists Jeffrey Siegel and Joseph Kalichstein.

Plus several thousand listeners and a passel of journalists. This was a very weird concert, weird and wonderful. Unlike the usual New Year's Eve concerts around the world that model themselves on the famous Vienna New Year's Day event—dour Viennese soberly listening to champagne music from the dead Strausses—Slatkin gave it a local twist.

The maestro, who marked the millennium by conducting the New Year's Eve concert for the first time since he arrived at the NSO, announced from the stage that he would have none of the usual waltzes: too European, too not-American. But he began with music of France. Why? Because he wanted to.

The centerpiece of the program was Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals," a collection of light character sketches devoted to a baker's dozen of nature's wild creatures (this is the suite for which the universally beloved "The Swan" was composed). Slatkin dropped the Ogden Nash poems that have become attached to the various movements and substituted new verses by 14 prominent journalists from The Washington Post, ABC News and The Weekly Standard. It was a one-time event, he promised. The texts, kept under wraps until the event itself, stole the orchestra's thunder. But that was the point.

Post Publisher Donald E. Graham stayed above the fray, reminding the audience of nobler things. ABC's John Cochran, who read verses for absentee versifiers, contributed his own, a philosophical query about the relative ego size of journalists and conductors. The Post's Henry Allen, who had the "Cuckoo" movement, chose a poetical allusion—"In Xanadu did Cuckoo Kahn, a stately pleasure nest decree..." And his colleague Tony Kornheiser mockingly went for the jugular with a discussion of local fossils (he began with Sens. Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond, and ended with himself).

Slatkin, always a masterful program-

mer, arranged the evening as if to say "Relax, the modern orchestra has been bug-free for 300 years." He played soothing music—Faure's "Pavane"—and music that looked back to this century's forgotten technological marvels—Leroy Anderson's "The Typewriter" and "The Syncopated Clock." He played the typewriter himself—"The hardest thing I've had to do in four years." Hohenfeld sang songs by Jerome Kern, and Siegel and Kalichstein were the pianists in the Saint-Saens.

But no audience will leave without the New Year's hit of all time, the Strauss "Radetzky" March. They applauded until Slatkin gave it to them, as an encore. They clapped in time, as audiences have for decades, a small nod to tradition before heading out into the brisk night to greet a new century.

No one would mistake the Black Cat on 14th Street NW for the Kennedy Center, but the post-punk club glittered last night, with strands of tiny white lights hung from the ceiling and the bar. The entertainment was equally grunge-free. Peaches O'Dell and Her Black Cat Orchestra, a 10-piece combo that specializes in songs originally recorded by the likes of Frank Sinatra and the Andrews Sisters.

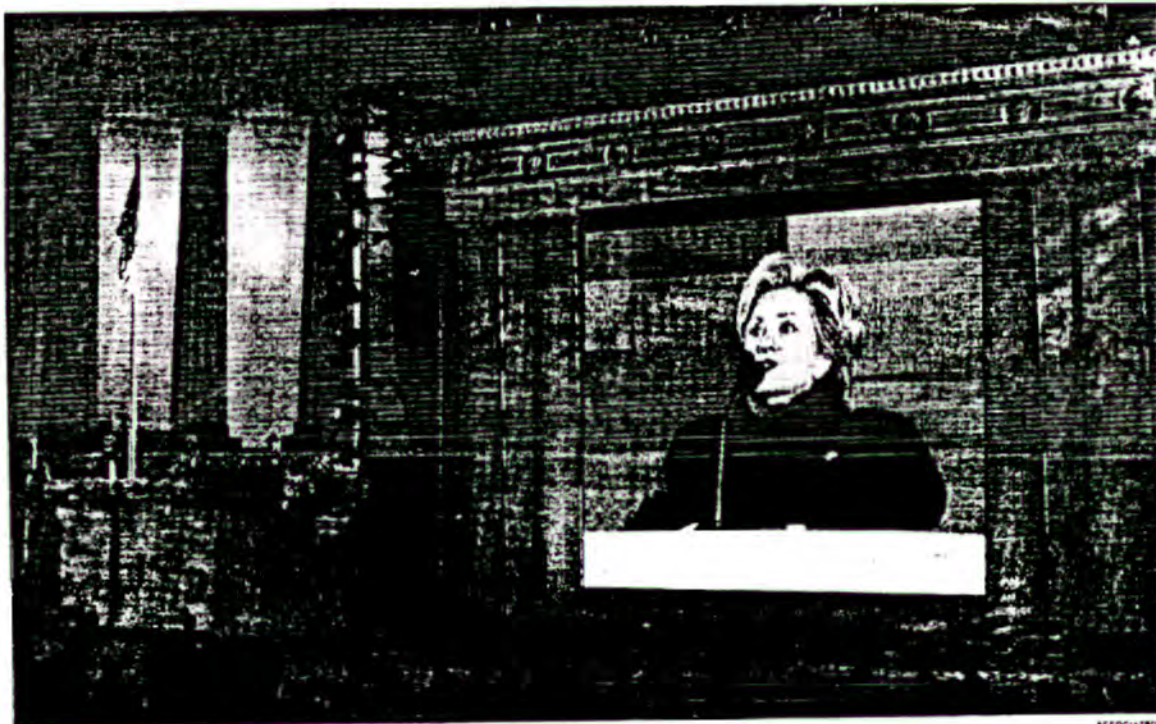
Fewer than 50 patrons were in attendance when the orchestra began playing shortly after 10 p.m., but the dance floor was nearly full an hour later, a credible turnout for a club that reaches capacity when a hot alternative-rock band draws 500 fans. While the first couple to dance was dressed as if for a Fred Astaire movie, others wore the club's customary black-on-black uniform.

O'Dell promised to return in a "tackler" outfit as her group finished its first set and yielded to the Hidden Persuaders, a minimalist trio that performs such lounge standards as "Moon River" and "The Look of Love."

At midnight, after the stunning flash that lit of the Washington Monument, the Mall gala continued along its gun-bo-like way. Following the inevitable "Fanfare for the Common Man" and children's choir leading "America the Beautiful," a panoply of notables came out to read quotes from other notables. They included a surprise visit from Elizabeth Taylor (dark-haired again), and people like Edward James Olmos quoting Ronald Reagan and Atallah Shabazz quoting Cesar Chavez.

Will Smith was seen leaving around then, carrying a child and accompanying his wife. The show wasn't over—it was scheduled to continue with the cast of Stomp and Irish singer Bono, plus a lot more fireworks—but for many, the night was over and the new century was underway.

Cecelia Porter, Philip Kennicott, Mik Joyce, Hamil R. Harris, Mark Jenkins and Sari Horwitz contributed to this report.



Sparks Were Flying Before Fireworks

Concern for Washington Monument Initially Jeopardized Pyrotechnics Program

By MICHAEL E. RUANE
Washington Post Staff Writer

The idea seemed brilliant.

Washington's millennial celebration on the national Mall would of course need fireworks. But there were fireworks on the Mall every July. How could these be made memorable? What would elevate this show above all others?

The millennium gala's co-producer, George Stevens Jr., found the answer towering right in front of him: 555 feet of shimmering stone, caged for the moment in repair scaffolding: the Washington Monument.

It was perfect.

Might a 10-second fireworks countdown, or count up, be created to safely ascend the hallowed structure right before midnight? Absolutely, replied his fireworks contractor, the Long Island pyrotechnics firm of Fireworks by Grucci.

But when the idea was posed to the National Park Service, the monument's steward, the answer was a grade-A, government-inspected "No way."

The "Midnight Moment"—in which 1999's final seconds were ticked off by fireworks ascending the monument's scaffolding in 50-foot increments—almost didn't happen.

It grew out of Stevens's suggestion, and then survived a delicate, months-long waltz involving the advocates of showmanship, pyrotechnic art and historic dignity that ended just days ago.

It weathered the Park Service's initial no, evolved into a program in which three sides of the structure would be illuminated, then was almost canceled after a congressman called it a "desecration" and the Park Service got cold feet on Tuesday.

In the end, pyrotechnics were ignited only on the west side of the monument, where a \$60,000, 500-foot sheet of fireproof protective plastic had been hung between the stone and the scaffolding.

The fireworks company, which dates to

19th-century Italy, had 26 pyrotechnists working for 15 days to string 135 miles of wire and set up scores of Fiberglas firing "guns" and hundreds of fireworks.

More than 700 cigar-size "waterfalls," for example, lashed to the monument scaffolding three feet apart, were used on the countdown—leaving the structure fully illuminated for about 20 seconds.

Three hundred other small fireworks, arranged in a line of 100 stands in the Mall's Reflecting Pool, made up a simulated fuse preceding the countdown.

They were followed by a two-minute barrage of more than 90 aerial fireworks shot from flatbed tractor-trailers east of the monument, ground-level 40-millimeter roman candles fired north and south of the monument, and the ignition of red strobe lights framing the monument.

A 50-foot-tall structure facing the Lincoln Memorial flashed the number "2000" at midnight. The display at the monument lasted two or three minutes.

A second, six-minute aerial fireworks display was fired from two barges in the Potomac River behind the Lincoln Memorial to cap the festivities about 1 a.m.

The family-run Grucci company, which has also done fireworks for five presidential inaugurations and the centennials of the Statue of Liberty and the Brooklyn Bridge, began planning the show in September in the face of the Park Service's opposition.

"They said no," recalled M. Philip Butler, the Grucci producer for the show. "Then they said, 'What part of no don't you understand?' ... It was tough."

Phil Grucci, a vice president of the company and the grandson of its American founder, added: "The first few responses were no, until we had an opportunity to really explain and present our case."

"Roman candles and fireworks spewing out of the top of it, I'm sure, was the first vision of the people that we proposed it to," he said.

In an interview last month at company headquarters in the pine barrens of central Long Island, Grucci stressed that they planned to work with "the utmost dignity to the structure."

"It's very important for us not to turn it into a roman candle," he said. "It's very important to the nation that we present this with the highest degree of dignity."

The government finally gave the green light for the countdown just three weeks ago. Initially, the plan was for the monument to be "wrapped" in curtains of fireworks on the west, north and south sides.

Grucci technicians traveled to Washington and quickly wired the monument scaffolding on the three sides with hundreds of the modest "waterfall" devices.

The waterfalls were connected with hundreds of yards of pink "shock tube," a lightning-fast fuse made of thin plastic filled with powdered explosive. Shock tube can carry a spark 6,800 feet per second.

Then, on Dec. 17, Rep. Ralph Regula (R-Ohio), chairman of the House subcommittee on interior and related agencies, wrote a letter of protest to the White House. Regula pointed out that the scaffolding was part of a multimillion-dollar effort to refurbish the monument's exterior stone work, which might be damaged or soiled by the display.

In addition, he wrote, such a fireworks display would be a "desecration" of "one of the most important symbols of the nation's capital, a monument to the father of our country, and a symbol of our patriotism and Democracy."

At the White House, a millennium gala coordinator said all precautions had been taken and no problems were anticipated. Grucci said the waterfalls were too small to be harmful.

But the National Park Service was still worried.

On Monday, the Park Service test fired one of the waterfalls at the monument, and didn't like the results. The agency "became con-



BY JAMES A. PARCELL — THE WASHINGTON POST
David Ellis, 13, visiting from Indiana, wears his year 2000 hat at the Mall celebration.

cerned that there might be some slight soot, or something, which would require the cleaning of the whole monument," said Stevens, the legendary producer of the Kennedy Center honors, said in an interview Wednesday.

A solution had to be found, or the countdown might have to go.

The program was saved by plastic. "The solution was to erect a polyurethane sheet over the whole west side of the monument," Stevens said, "500 feet."

In addition, the producers agreed to ignite the waterfalls only on the monument's protected west side and to forgo the unprotected north and south sides.

"We all wished to take every precaution to make certain that it was totally safe," Stevens said, and to exert "the last full measure of devotion to the monument to our founding father."

For the Gruccis, "It's an honor for our family," Phil Grucci said. "This is one of the major benchmarks of our careers, if you will, in the pyrotechnics and the fireworks industry."

"Having the opportunity to do the America's millennium, certainly it's a moment that when you sit down and you speak to your children and grandchildren, as the years go on, this is one that's going to be one of the highlights."

Washington Post
January 1, 2000

Washington Times
January 1, 2000

Revelers make Mall hum with no trouble in sight

Security produces long lines for entry

By Jabeen Bhatti
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A manmade "sunrise" this morning lit up the National Mall as tens of thousands of revelers welcomed the year 2000 in a glitzy celebration bursting with celebrities, costumes, music and foods from around the world.

The Lincoln Memorial was the focal point of the White House's three-hour "America's Millennium: A Celebration for the Nation" — a \$12 million Hollywood-produced extravaganza of lights and sounds.

Just before midnight, President Clinton, in his New Year's address, encouraged all Americans to "celebrate the future."

"When memories outweigh our dreams, we become old. It is the

destiny of America to remain forever young. We Americans must not fear change. Instead, let us welcome it, embrace it and create it," the president told the throng moments before fireworks illuminated the balmy winter sky.

Five children representing different ethnic groups ignited a fuse running the length of the Reflecting Pool from the Lincoln Memorial to the Washington Monument, which lit up section by section as 2000 arrived. Then a bank of lights lifted by 175-foot cranes created a "sunrise" for the new millennium.

"If the story of the 20th century is the triumph of freedom, then let the 21st century be the triumph of freedom wisely used," said Mr.

see MALL, page A5

MALL

From page A1

Clinton, flanked by the 19-foot statue of Abraham Lincoln.

Actor-rapper Will Smith, wearing a zoot suit, kicked off the festivities with a song-and-dance performance that energized the crowd, which enjoyed the outdoor gala in the unseasonably warm air with little apparent concern for terrorist threats.

Other celebrities quickly followed, including actor Sam Waterston and singers Tom Jones, Kenny Rogers, Trisha Yearwood, Brian McKnight and John Fogerty.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton welcomed the crowd and evoked memories of the 1963 civil rights march on Washington that ended at the Lincoln Memorial: "Here we have come again as individuals with our children in hand and by the hundreds of thousands to witness and strive for what is best in our country and ourselves."

Filmmaker Steven Spielberg debuted his 18-minute film montage, "The Unfinished Journey," saluting America's role in the past century, accompanied by an orchestral score by John Williams.

The film, narrated in part by Mr. Clinton, actress Ruby Dee and poet Maya Angelou, was projected onto large screens near the memorial, while Mr. Williams conducted a symphony orchestra.

D.C. police had fenced off the Mall for extra security and allowed revelers to enter the area only through a few sites monitored by

metal detectors. Lines waiting to get onto the Mall last night stretched for blocks.

At 9:45 p.m., Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey saw the crowd and stopped his cruiser at 19th Street and Constitution Avenue.

Patrick Shamburg of Herndon walked up and asked, "Are you the chief of police? I can't believe you invited us down here and won't let us in."

Chief Ramsey replied: "I agree with you." He then asked Park Police to move the folks along — and offered help.

Soon after, a busload of D.C. officers arrived to confront lines that stretched for eight blocks.

Mr. Shamburg said he and his friends had waited in a line that didn't move for two hours.

"We just got tired of it and are going home to watch on television," he said.

By 10:20 p.m., police dropped the barriers and allowed partygoers to enter the Mall without security checks. The revelers swelled the area until it was a standing-room-only event.

Police reported that a man was killed in the 5300 block of Fifth Street NW about 9:15 p.m.; otherwise, there were only a few arrests for minor infractions. Few celebrants ignored the police ban on bringing alcoholic beverages to the event.

The rest of Washington was a virtual ghost town. Police officers, waiting for the Mall crowds to disperse, stood on street corners with no cars or pedestrians in sight.

Throughout the District's "Main



Photo by Sean Dougherty/The Washington Times

Debbie and Johannes Williams of Silver Spring celebrate along with 500,000 of their closest friends on the Mall just after midnight.

Street Millennium" celebration during the day, the sounds of salsa music merged with the thrum of rap and the smooth strains of the blues all along the Mall, where

celebrants rocked to the city's varied beats.

"This is really cool," said David Giampocar, of Arlington. "I don't know when again you are going to



Photo by J.M. Eddins Jr./The Washington Times

Will Smith was master of ceremonies for the festivities, which many Mall visitors had trouble getting near, thanks to tight security.

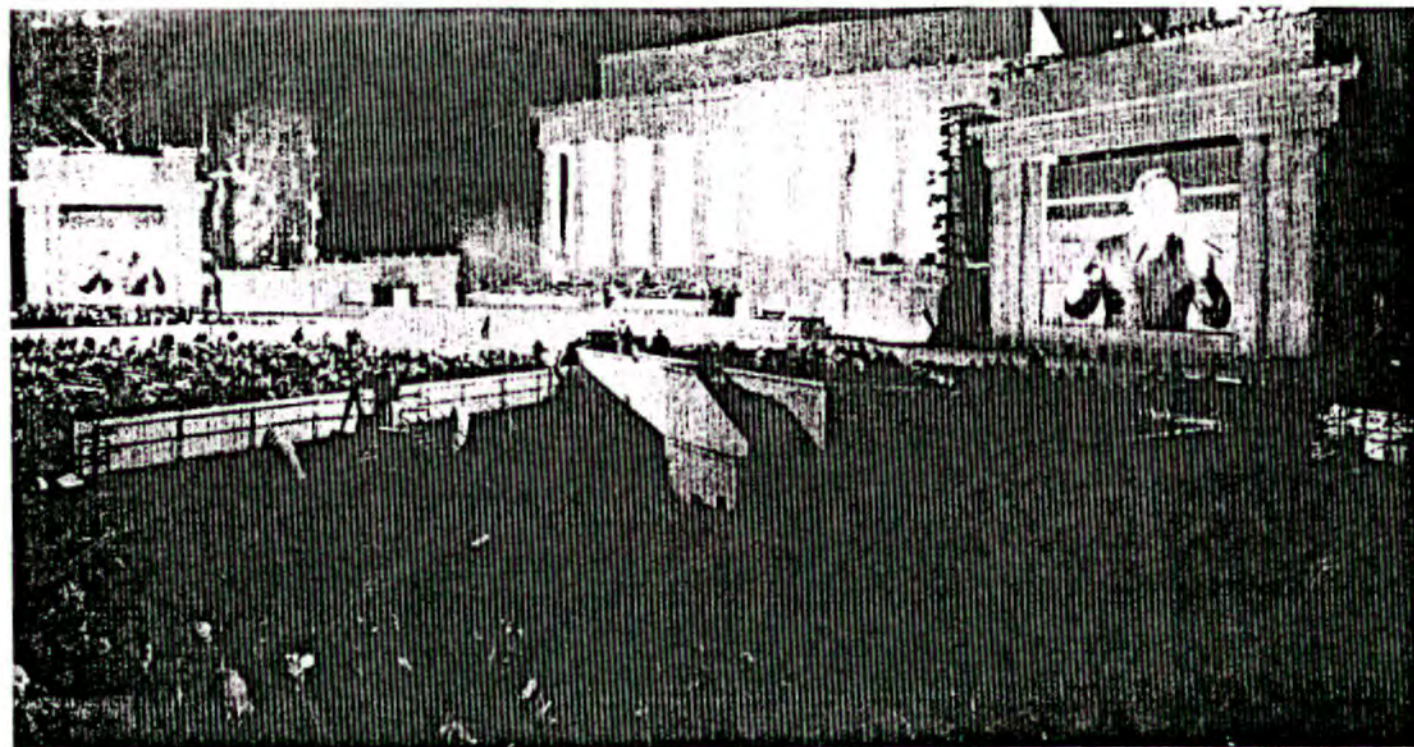


Photo by J.M. Eddins Jr./The Washington Times

Tom Jones performs his hit "It's Not Unusual" with the Lincoln Memorial as a backdrop at the beginning of last night's Mall celebration.

see this much of Constitution Avenue closed in celebration."

Scores of residents and visitors strolled Constitution Avenue, stopping in large, white, heated tents to sing, dance and be lured to food stands by the smells of barbecue and jerk chicken.

On the main stage at 12th Street NW, a big screen flashed scenes of New Year's celebrations around the world. Drums rumbled, bells clanged and dancers moved to African rhythms.

Celebrants offered differing views about the coming millennium.

"I hope for good things for the world, that things change for the better," said Patrice Dayes, 16, of the District. "I also hope the new year brings better job, education and health opportunities for us."

"I don't think that any magic is going to happen just because we are changing a century," said Marc Stecker, of Manassas. "I am just looking to blame anything I can on the millennium."

Terrorist threats didn't keep these parties away. Most interviewed said they believed the

warnings were overstated.

"I'm not worried," Steven Hietpas said. "You can't stop living or experiencing out of fear. What's going to happen is going to happen. This celebration is a once-in-a-lifetime chance."

Earlier yesterday, the Clintons and Mayor Anthony A. Williams started the District's year-2000 celebration by showing off the National Millennium Time Capsule, to be opened in the next century.

Hundreds of the nation's most celebrated inventors, entertainers and industrial leaders contributed items to the time capsule, which will be housed at the National Archives.

Around 1:30 p.m., the World Children's Choir performed songs of peace from around the globe to more than 300 from the city's international community.

The Clintons and Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright joined the celebration, held in the light and airy atrium of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center to salute children around the globe.

Austin American-Statesman

January 1, 2000, Saturday

SECTION: Special -- AAS 2000; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 215 words

HEADLINE: WASHINGTON, D.C.: Ideal weather draws thousands to National Mall

BYLINE: Scott Montgomery

BODY:

Mild temperatures and a string of flawless midnight New Year's rollovers around the globe enticed tens of thousands to the National Mall for a fireworks spectacular ignited by President Clinton to welcome 2000.

Throngs of people streamed in by nightfall to find grassy seats on the heavily-secured Mall. They choked into long, thick lines through a handful of security checkpoints where revelers submitted to searches. At one point, crowds on 17th Street pushed through barriers and rushed past police.

Clinton, the first president to bring in a new century since William McKinley, stowed 20th century artifacts into a time capsule, including Army dog tags and a library card.

For his final speech of the century, Clinton quoted Abraham Lincoln: "Let us pledge that the new millennium will bring, in the words of the Great Emancipator, 'a new birth of freedom.' "

At midnight, white fireworks cascaded up the 555-foot Washington Monument, sparked by a fuse that ran along the reflecting pool from the Lincoln Memorial.

At the Lincoln Memorial, actor and musician Will Smith hosted the three-hour America's Millennium Gala for Clinton and other dignitaries. The show was broadcast on giant-screen televisions on the Mall.

-- Scott Montgomery, Cox News Service/AP

LOAD-DATE: January 7, 2000

Chicago Tribune

January 1, 2000 Saturday, MILLENNIAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 5; ZONE: C

LENGTH: 962 words

HEADLINE: CHICAGO QUIETLY BIDS 1999 GOODBYE . . . WHILE AN EXUBERANT WORLD
GREETES 2000;
A BASH HEARD ROUND THE WORLD

BYLINE: By Lisa Anderson, Tribune Staff Writer.; Tribune correspondents Michael Lev in Tokyo; Liz Sly in Beijing; Colin McMahon in Moscow; Paul Salopek in Johannesburg; Hugh Dellios in Jerusalem; Tom Hundley in Rome; Ray Moseley in London; Paul de la Garza in Mexico City; Laurie Goering in Rio de Janeiro; Stevenson Swanson, Julie Deardorff and Pat Cole in New York; Michael Kilian and Naftali Bendavid in Washington; V. Dion Haynes in Seattle; and Vincent J. Schodolski and Gary Dretzka in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

BODY:

A chance to celebrate like this comes only once every 1,000 years, and Americans made the most of it.

In New York's Times Square, ablaze with the lights of television cameras and lowering electronic billboards, some 2 million people cheered as a sparkling Waterford crystal ball dropped at the stroke of midnight and some 4,000 pounds of confetti rained onto the square.

Under the watchful eyes of 8,000 police officers, merrymakers donned shiny Mylar hats and waved balloons within a 75-square-block "frozen zone," where manhole covers and mailboxes had been soldered shut for security.

Gazing up at the glittering millennial ball, August Diarrassouba, 28, of Ivory Coast, was still wondering why so many people would gather outside for hours just to watch a ball fall from a skyscraper. "No one knows why," said the mystified Diarrassouba, after quizzing some of those jammed in around him.

"It's like a new beginning," said another New York reveler, Marilyn Shure, 50, a nurse from Atlanta. "It's like watching the odometer change in the car," she added, clearly struggling for a suitable metaphor.

"They canceled everything in Seattle, so we're glad to be here," said Todd Lucas, 26, a commercial fisherman from Washington state. Seattle may have had the grimmest New Year's Eve celebration on the planet, shutting down its festivities at 6 p.m. because of security concerns.

In the other Washington, the nation's capital, the final countdown was punctuated by a rising cascade of lights that worked its way up the Washington Monument, moving one stage higher with each final second of 1999. Fireworks exploded from the top of the familiar obelisk in a spectacular finale.

An appearance by President Clinton capped a three-hour extravaganza on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial dubbed America's Millennium Gala by the White House. Hosted by actor-singer Will Smith, it featured a dazzling array of artists, from Bobby McFerrin to Kris Kristofferson.

On the Pacific Coast in Los Angeles, the famous "HOLLYWOOD" sign in the hills above Tinseltown was illuminated for the first time in decades. In Pasadena, where preparations for the annual Tournament of Roses Parade went on throughout the night, Disney's new film, "Fantasia 2000," premiered, accompanied by a midnight display of fireworks timed to live classical music from the movie.

New York may host the most famous New Year's Eve party in the U.S., but the nation's official "It" party unfolded at the White House, where Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton welcomed a glittering list of America's best, brightest and most glamorous.

Figures as illustrious as DNA discoverer and Nobel laureate James Watson, as creative as poet Rita Dove, as high-flying as septuagenarian astronaut Sen. John Glenn and as stupendous as film legend Sophia Loren dined on caviar and lobster.

"To be invited to the White House," said Loren, "my mind went back like a flash to the war, when the Americans invaded Italy and liberated us. I came here this evening with great, great emotion."

While all the major European capitals glowed on New Year's Eve, London staged the most expensive celebration in Europe. In what Prime Minister Tony Blair called "the greatest show on Earth in the year 2000," the city unveiled a 443-foot-high Ferris wheel, called the London Eye, along the Thames, as well as a \$1.25 billion Millennium Dome entertainment complex, the largest structure of its kind in the world.

The new year arrived in balmy Rio de Janeiro to a samba beat, as nearly 3 million Brazilians packed the city's famed Copacabana neighborhood for what was billed as the world's largest party.

In Rome, tens of thousands of shivering celebrators from countless countries packed into St. Peter's Square, the spiritual epicenter of millenium festivities, to receive the pope's New Year's blessing at midnight.

The even more ancient city of Jerusalem was solemn and subdued as midnight arrived. Fear of terrorism and a heavy police presence weren't the only factors that kept partying to a minimum. Many parties were canceled in Jerusalem, where the chief rabbi forbade public celebrations because of the sabbath.

Standing on the Mt. of Olives, gazing at the illuminated Dome of the Rock, Perniooe Rohadneier, 26, of Copenhagen said it was all very beautiful, but "we're a bit disappointed. The old city wall didn't cave in, and the messiah didn't come. But it's OK because we had run out of film, anyway."

At midnight in Moscow a heavy snow fell like sparkling confetti on crowds gathered to watch the fireworks blazing over the Kremlin and St. Basil's Cathedral in Red Square.

Russia is struggling, but optimism reigned. "It's the Russian mentality," said Svetlana Vorobetz, 35. "Things can be really bad, but one still hopes."

For the first time in its 5,000-year history, China witnessed mass celebrations of a Western new year. Chinese usually mark the traditional lunar new year in February.

In Tokyo, thousands of people filled the streets around Zozoji Temple, one of the largest temples and a traditional site to ring in the new year.

At midnight, with the crowd counting down the seconds, the bells began to ring--108 times to rid man of all the sins and evils Buddhism ascribes to him.

As for the close of the 20th century, American historian Arthur Schlesinger, celebrating at the White House dinner, may have had the final word: "I'm glad it's over."

January 1, 2000, Saturday SPECIAL REPORT

SECTION: Wrapper JANUARY 1 2000 Pg. 6

LENGTH: 568 words

HEADLINE: Entertainers warm up party in Washington

BYLINE: FRANK A. AUKOOPER

SOURCE: Journal Sentinel staff

DATELINE: Washington

BODY:

Fortified against terrorism with the possibly pesky Y2K bug hovering in the background, the nation's capital welcomed the new millennium with all the warmth and spectacle it could muster.

President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton played leading roles in the public celebrations Friday and early today, while thousands of government workers stood guard in virtually every federal agency and department to monitor systems against Y2K gremlins.

The climax of the day's public events was a "millennium gala" at the Lincoln Memorial, featuring nationally televised performances by an array of entertainers and a special 18-minute film by director Steven Spielberg and composer John Williams.

As 1999 passed into 2000, Clinton touched off a fuse that sent sparks flying across the Reflecting Pool and up the scaffold-surrounded Washington Monument for a countdown to the New Year.

"As the calendar carries us ever forward from our nation's birth, let us pledge that each year we will be closer to this, our founding principle," Clinton said. "Let us pledge that the new millennium will bring, in the words of the Great Emancipator, 'A new birth of freedom.' "

The program included Muhammad Ali, Bill Russell, Robert Duvall and Diane Keaton. At an earlier White House dinner were Robert De Niro, Jack Nicholson, Lara Flynn Boyle, Sophia Loren and Carlo Ponti.

The gala at the National Mall drew thousands of revelers on what was, even for Washington, a balmy winter respite. Of necessity, the celebration was sober as well as enthusiastic. The U.S. Park Police banned all alcoholic beverages on the Mall.

In the "America's Millennium" official program, the sponsors conceded that the U.S. Naval Observatory had stated unequivocally that the third millennium starts not in 2000, but on Jan. 1, 2001.

"Even so," it said, "most Americans and much of the world will focus on the flip of the calendar from '99 to '00. . . . Greeting a new millennium is a once-in-a-thousand years experience. . . . Let's make the celebration last!"

At an opening ceremony sandwiched between two federal buildings just off the Mall -- a location chosen for maximum security -- the Clintons showed off the prototype of a time capsule that will contain artifacts of American life in the waning days of the 20th century. It will be stored at the National Archives and opened 100 years from now.

Symbolic deposits into the capsule were made by, among others, historian John Hope Franklin and retired Gen. Colin Powell.

Powell, who received a standing ovation from more than 1,000 people gathered for the opening ceremony, brought a set of military dog tags, inscribed "the American GI." Franklin's contribution was a copy of 1868's 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed Americans equal protection of the laws.

Clinton said there was no better time than the new millennium to start a new chapter of progress and possibilities for everyone, "no better time to be a truly good neighbor to the people of the world who share this smaller and smaller planet."

After the opening ceremony, the Clintons moved to the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, which was given over to performances and works of art by children from around the world.

The Clintons also hosted a dinner at the White House before traveling to the Lincoln Memorial for the \$12 million gala.

January 1, 2000, Saturday ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: NEWS; Page H11

LENGTH: 419 words

HEADLINE: HELLO 2000! / WELCOMING 2000, FROM THE CAPITAL

BYLINE: By James Toedtman. WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF

DATELINE: Washington

BODY:

Washington-Surrounded by Hollywood celebrities and children from around the world, President Bill Clinton confidently led the nation's capital into a new century yesterday.

The president, taking his cue from the song "Rising Like the Sun," performed by a special children's choir, ad-libbed for a cheering crowd of about 4,000: "Their voices are living proof that the light may be fading on the 20th Century, but the sun is still shining on America." From the sidewalks of the city, to the expansive atrium of the Reagan International Trade Center, to a lavish White House dinner, and finally to a planned midnight entertainment and fireworks spectacular on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, the nation's host in chief balanced a tribute to past accomplishments with anticipation for the next century.

"This is a unique moment in our calendar-but it is also a unique moment for our country," he said, opening the city's weekend festivities. "Our social fabric is on the mend. We're moving forward on America's remarkable journey toward a more united nation, a more just society and a more perfect union." First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who over the past two years has directed preparations for the celebration, presented a steel, copper and titanium time capsule that will be displayed at the Smithsonian Institution over the next year, then closed and stored at the National Archives for a century.

Yesterday, retired Gen. Colin Powell presented a military dog tag in the name of "The American GI" and John Hope Franklin, who had chaired the White House Commission on Race, placed a copy of the 14th Amendment guaranteeing equal protection under the law to all Americans, in the capsule.

As Clinton spoke, the new year had already arrived in Asia without significant incident or disruption. As the hours passed without incident, the mood relaxed and confidence rose and the Clintons prepared for a boisterous celebration.

For the public, the highlight would occur around midnight, when Clinton was to join the entertainment extravaganza in front of the Lincoln Memorial featuring a film by Stephen Spielberg and music composed by John Williams. Just before midnight, Clinton planned to welcome the new year with a tribute to Lincoln.

"We Americans do not fear change. We welcome it. We embrace it. We create it.

Yet on this night, I am struck not only by what has changed, but by what endures: our freedom, our faith, our ceaseless pilgrimage toward the ideals of our fathers."

GRAPHIC: AP Photo - A CHORUS OF HELLOS. President Bill Clinton greets members of the New Millennium Chorus yesterday during the opening ceremony of the "America's Millennium" celebration.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: January 1, 2000

METRO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1999

F
Obituaries
Weather

Parties for All, at Home or on Mall

Fireworks to Dazzle, Delight

Pyrotechnics Prepared for Monument

By MICHAEL E. RUANE
Washington Post Staff Writer

It should be way better than the ball.

The last 10 seconds to 2000 will be counted down, or rather up, tonight in a spectacular pyrotechnic display of light that will ascend the Washington Monument, fracture the midnight sky and be visible for miles.

A simulated "fuse," consisting of a line of 100 separate fireworks positions suspended three feet above the Reflecting Pool, will be ignited by President Clinton and a group of children from the floor of the Lincoln Memorial—the focus of the evening's entertainment gala—and signal the start of the monument countdown.

Then, using hundreds of cigar-sized pyrotechnics lashed to the monument's scaffolding, Fireworks by Grucci, the venerable Long Island fireworks firm, will sheath the 555-foot monument step-by-step in ten 50-foot segments of glittering white light. At the climax of Washington's "Midnight Moment," the monument will be almost fully illuminated for 20 seconds.

Next will come a barrage of aerial fireworks shot from three flatbed tractor-trailers east of the monument; the ignition of banks of ground-level 40-millimeter Roman candles north and south of the monument; and the firing of scores of red strobe lights framing the obelisk.

See FIREWORKS, B8, Col. 1



BY ROBERT A. REIDER — THE WASHINGTON POST

Pyrotechnists Bob Citko, left, and Matt Carrara load Grucci fireworks.

1 of 2

Fri., Dec. 31, 1999

Washington
Post

2 of 2

Fireworks Producer Predicts the Mall Will Beat 'the Ball'

FIREWORKS, From B1

In addition, a 50-foot-tall structure bearing the number "2000" and facing the Lincoln Memorial will be switched on at midnight and will then flash on and off.

The Midnight Moment will be brief, lasting about two or three minutes, but "inspiring," said George Stevens Jr., the co-producer of the America's Millennium extravaganza.

As for New York's legendary ball—"The ball's going to be blown away," said M. Philip Butler, the Grucci producer for the Washington show. "I won't hype it beyond the obvious."

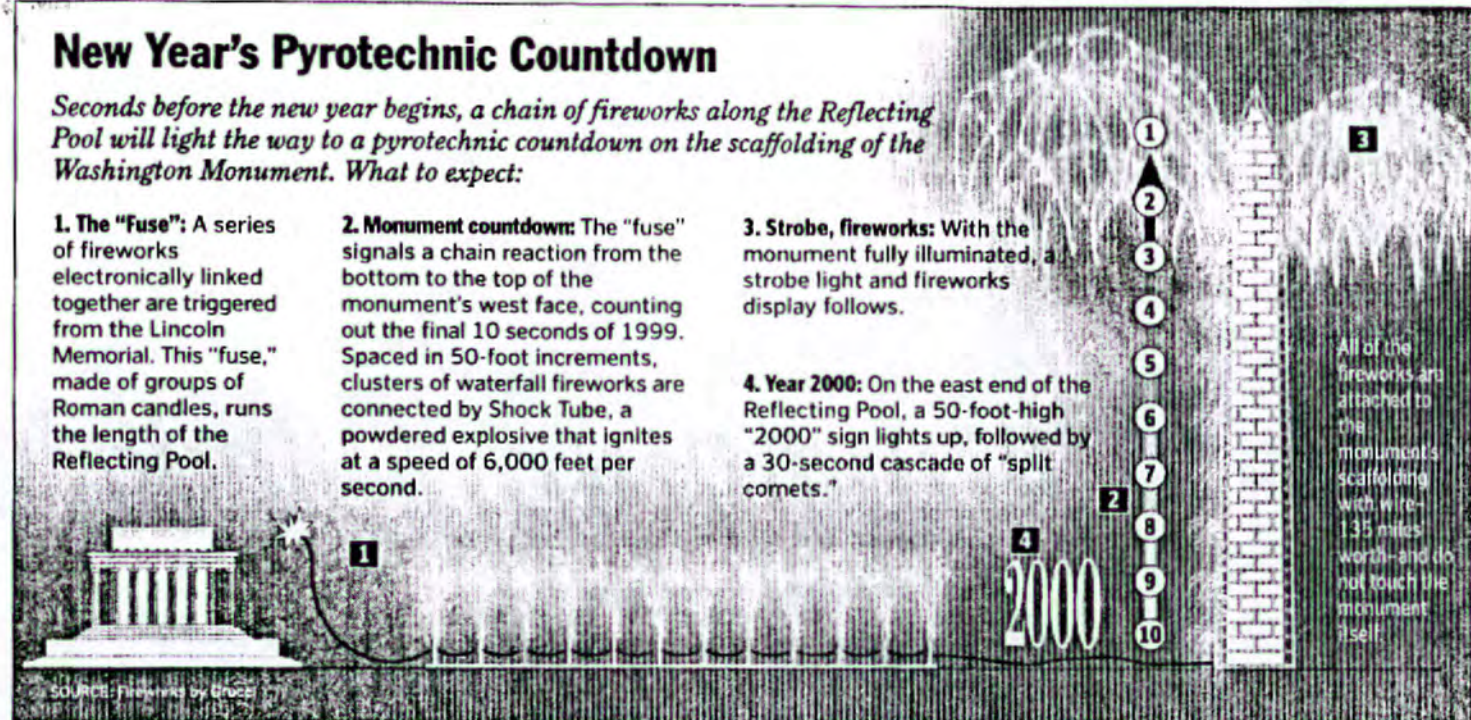
A second six-minute aerial fireworks display over the Lincoln Memorial is scheduled to follow 50 minutes of post-midnight entertainment, capping the evening's festivities about 1 a.m.

That display will be launched from special barges that will be anchored in the Potomac River just west of the Lincoln Memorial.

The best place to see the whole show will be the Mall, which is expected to be ground zero for tens of thousands of revelers assembled to party and welcome the next 10 centuries.

But the countdown should be visible from any locale where the monument can be glimpsed.

"It's going to have some overlap, and it's going to be visible



from all sides," Butler said of the pyrotechnic display. "It has a lot of wander to it."

Some prime viewing spots beyond the Mall are expected to be Meridian Hill Park at 16th and W streets in Northwest Washington; the Jefferson Memorial; the U.S. Capitol; Hains Point; and West Potomac Park. Good vantage points across the Potomac River will probably be near the Iwo Jima Memorial or Lady Bird Johnson Park.

Many local roads will be

closed on both sides of the river, though, and access to many viewing spots may be only via Metro or on foot.

The monument countdown is a stroke of sheer coincidence, fireworks producers have said. Had the scaffolding—which was erected as part of a \$5 million exterior stonework restoration project—not been in place, such a show would not have been possible.

Stevens is generally credited with coming up with the idea of

an illuminated monument "count up," though he said this week, "Victory has many fathers."

Even with the scaffolding, there have been complaints that fireworks on the monument are potentially dangerous and damaging to the national treasure.

White House and Grucci officials say all precautions have been taken, and Stevens said Wednesday that a giant sheet of plastic has been erected on the Monument's west face, behind

the scaffolding, to protect the stone from soot.

The Grucci company, which helped put on the fireworks displays at the centennials of the Statue of Liberty and the Brooklyn Bridge, won't say exactly how much the show, which is being funded by private donations, is costing.

It's in the "high six figures," Butler said, and is believed to be the most expensive fireworks show being staged for the millennium.

Style

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1999



George Stevens Jr. and Quincy Jones scope out their New Year's Eve production. "Sometimes you want to see how big you can dream. And this is big," Jones says.

BY LUCIAN PERKINS—THE WASHINGTON POST

**The
Millennium
Celebration
On the Mall?
Quincy Jones
Is Glad
You Asked.**

By TERESA WILTZ
Washington Post Staff Writer

You don't hold a conversation with this man as much as you surf it, riding a stream of turbocharged consciousness. Ask a question, and hang on:

"This thing is about the joviality, and embracing and reaching out to each other and celebration. People crack me up when they talk about next year. I mean, 1997-1998, *that's* 'next year'; 1999-2000, that's not next year, that's the beginning of the next *thousand* years. I don't know how anyone can be cynical about that. Because that's pretty heavy stuff. Not many people

ever get to cross that line into the next thousand years, really. Not even into a new *century*. It's more than that. A person that for instance would become a hundred years old New Year's Eve night has seen *three* centuries. . . . That's awesome, just awesome. . . . It's a big deal to me, crossing over."

Ever the musician, Quincy Jones takes one phrase in the conversation—in the above instance, why he chose Will Smith to host the White House's millennium gala—and riffs on it, stretching it out, turning it upside down, returning to the original motif and then chasing it away, until the notes tumble every which way just like a bebop blitz blar-

See JONES, C5, Col. 3

Riffing With Quincy

JONES, From C1

ing from Bird's hot.

In other words, Quincy Delight Jones Jr. is a motemouth.

But then he's got a lot to talk about. This is a man who's spent his life amassing a major musical portfolio, working in his award-winning, nearly 50-year career with everyone from Michael Jackson to Sarah Vaughan to Count Basie and Frank Sinatra.

And along the way he's seen it all: The gangster life in Al Capone's Chicago. Lying his mother to mental illness. Dining on baked "rats and frijoles" as a hungry kid growing up in Chicago, and then Seattle. Playing polkas with a very young Ray Charles, and then taking on jazz with Charlie Parker, Miles Davis and Lionel Hampton. Watching Billie Holiday self-destruct. Suffering through the failed marriages. Surviving to brain aneurysms that have left him with a metal plate in his head, holding things together. Surviving a nervous breakdown and a couple of near-death experiences and coming through the other side, convinced that life is... "Awesome! Just awesome."

These days, he can't seem to contain that much experience in the narrow confines of a recording studio. In fact, he hasn't released a CD of original recordings since "Q's Jook Joint": '95. Instead he's turned his attention to large-scale endeavors, from overseeing a multimedia company to founding Vibe magazine to producing the Oscars and Clinton's inaugural fete to his last effort, co-producing the White House's New Year's Eve celebration, "America's Millennium."

"It's going to be a smoking night," Jones says. "Almost anything we can conceive, we can achieve. Sometime you want to see how big you can dream. And this is big."

But big is what he does. At heart he's a conductor who relishes pulling together the disparate components of a symphony, smoothing over the discordant notes until they're all on key. Doing his bidding.

"You have to like the people you're working with enough to dig and probe," he says. "Then you have to create the environment so that they have no choice but to give it up. You hit that button. The emotion station."

Most of the time he chooses to ignore "no." As Michael Jackson once attested, "I told him that I had something but I didn't want to play it for him. And so he forced me to drive to my house, he forced me to get the engineer and do the song. I was there singing my heart out to this song, and when it was over, he just loved it. He said, 'That was just the song that we were looking for. It was 'Beat It.'"

There's the image of Quincy, the cool Q, the young Q, the Q seen in black-and-white, clutching his horn to his chest as a cigarette dangles from his lips, a haze of smoke misting over his pretty-boy face.

Back in the day, he was a devotee of healthful living, sweaty sessions of Bikram yoga and sushi. But never mind all that. Right now, what he'd really like is some ham hocks and salami.

Greasy food. Really bad-for-you food.

Because, hey, when you've got a show to pull out of thin air, you've gotta have sustenance.

"Where can I get some soul food around here? I've been feeling like I'm homeless."

The week of the show, Jones is on the phone in his makeshift office just outside the Lincoln Memorial, where the New Year's Eve gala will take place. He's talking to South Africa, trying to nail down Nelson Mandela for the show. No need for him to fly in, but how about wishing the United States "Happy New Millennium" via satellite?

Mandela's people promise to get back to him. He hangs up, and the fax machine spits out pages upon pages of the score from his hip-hop hybrid hit, "Stomp!"

"This is great," Jones says. "This is just great. I'm so excited."

In the show, he explains, the song will introduce the drum-dance ensemble Stomp!, which he says was named after his song.

It's another example of things coming full circle, a notion that he likes.

Four days until showtime and he's still looking for some local rappers to fill out the hip-hop quotient and he really can't tell you just what Robert De Niro and Kris Kristofferson are going to do, but Q is playing it cool.

He doesn't believe in the "paralysis of analysis," preferring instead the rush of deadlines, that gun-to-the-head feeling that forces you to "write from your belly button."

Which means sleep gets short shrift. Fine by him. If you're sleeping, he says, the muses will pass you by, on down the street to someone more receptive to their charms.

His is the classic case of the workaholic artist, living the life of a man so absorbed in the process of creation that he doesn't look up until his lovers have moved on and his children are grown.

"I substituted my need for a mother with music," Jones says. "If I had a great family, I'd probably be a sad musician."

To that end, he's spent much of his romantic life hooking up with a succession of glamorous blondes, including actresses Peggy Lipton and Nastassja Kinski. The relationships, which resulted in seven children ranging in age from forty-something to 7, inevitably broke up, casualties of his career. This time around he's spending his time with Lisette Derouaux, an ebony-haired, olive-skinned publicist of Zairean-Belgian-Portuguese descent.

They met four years ago at the Montreux Jazz Festival.

First we were friends, Derouaux says.

"Then we became better friends," Jones says, beaming like a man who just won the lottery.

Derouaux is wise beyond her years, Jones says, "28 going on 50."

And then there the other Q, the cuddly Q, the Q who is poised on the edge of a new century: the 66-year-old grandfather who's given to wearing sued bucks, gabardine slacks and a preppy V-neck sweater, a tiny gold hoop in his right ear the only betrayal of his hipster roots. The once-sleek belly has expanded into a gentle paunch, pads of soft hooded eyes. Time change things. Time changes him.

She dotes and she coos, plying him with a concoction of echinacea and Snapple for his cold, urging him to eat the smoked-salmon sandwich that she's brought just for him. He stubs his finger; she picks it up and kisses it.

Quincy soaks up the love, melting into mellow mush. And for a little while, the motemouth is... still.

George Stevens's Latest Honor

The Production Of a Millennium

By TERESA WILTZ

Washington Post Staff Writer

For just a minute, the clock is pushed back, and there's no such thing as this impending millennium, no such thing as deadlines and divas and no-it-can't-wait faxes.

The construction scaffolding that obliterates the Lincoln Memorial fades into the background, and George Stevens Jr. is no longer a harried co-producer of the Y2K gala to end all Y2K galas. Instead, he's morphed into the lord of the country manor, out for a stroll with his faithful companion, Samantha, an English springer spaniel.

You can almost see the mist drifting off the moors.

Except that there's this security guard who's frantically waving his arms. He's waving his arms and he's yelling.

At Stevens.

The waving arms are accompanied by a question:

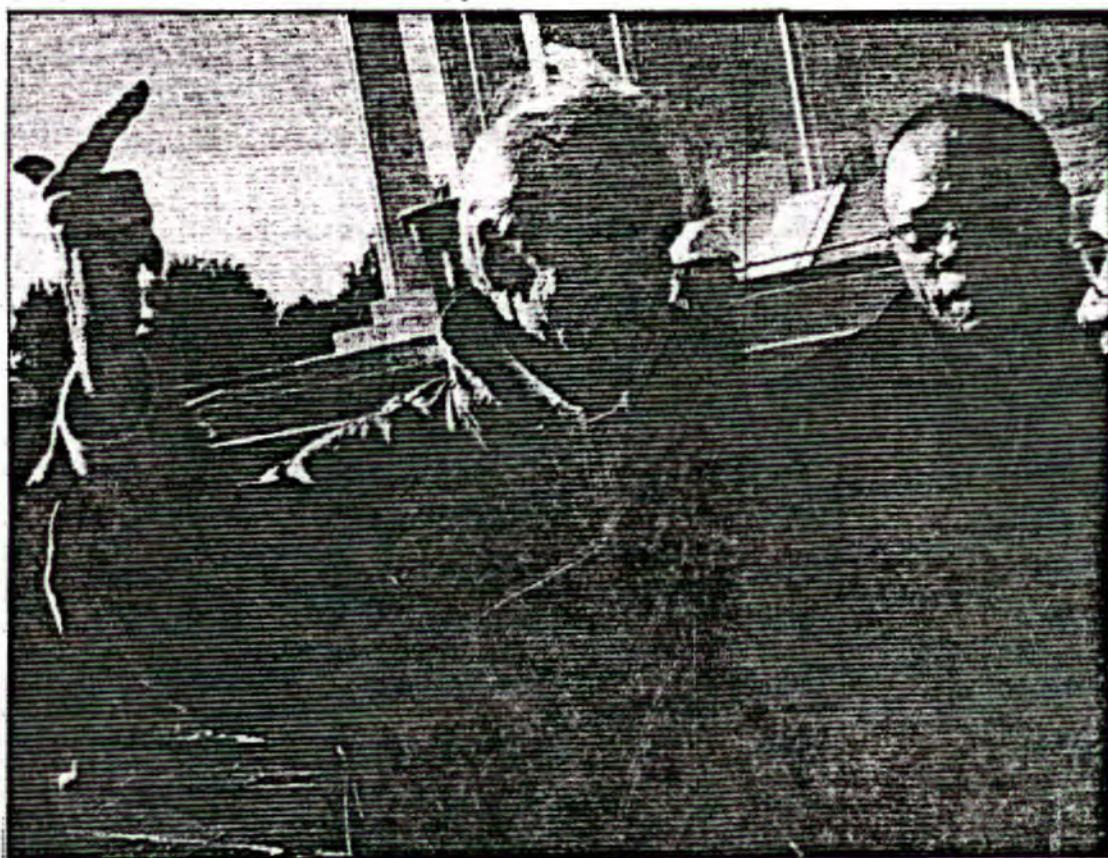
"Who are you?"

So Stevens tells him—like, hey, he's the guy running this thing—and suddenly the guard is all apologies and just-doing-my-job.

"I don't have too much pull here," Stevens tells a visitor. And grins.

His grin is the satisfied smile of a man who knows he's got juice—especially when it comes to the White House's New Year's Eve shindig, "America's Millennium," to be held tonight at the Lincoln Memorial. Never mind the windowless office in an obscure corner of the Kennedy Center, where every year he heads up the Kennedy Center Honors. Never mind that at an outdoor news conference for "America's Millennium," all the gaping tourists trekking through the Mall were trying to get next to Stevens's far more famous co-producers—Steven Spielberg and Quincy Jones.

Never mind that he's George Stevens Jr., and not the Sr. who's known for directing such classic flicks as "Giant," "Shane" and "A Place in the Sun." He's a Hollywood native who's been in this business for a very long time, writing, directing and producing films and TV shows. At 67, he's also a naturalized Washingtonian who's been in and around the business of politics a long time as well. And he's got the pictures in his office to prove both connections: There he is, hanging out on the set of "Giant" with Liz Taylor



George Stevens, with co-producer Quincy Jones: "Someone told me once, 'You're a historian.' It colors what I do."

after his writing-directing-producing turn with the TV miniseries "Separate but Equal." Then there are the photos of the Clintons and the Kennedys. And more photos of Bobby Kennedy. (Stevens's wife, Liz, serves as trustee of the Robert F. Kennedy Foundation and worked on President Clinton's 1992 campaign.)

He started out working with his dad on "A Place in the Sun," "Giant," "The Diary of Anne Frank" and "The Greatest Story Ever Told." At 30, he was tapped to run the U.S. Information Agency's motion picture division, where he oversaw the production and distribution of 300 documentaries each year. Later, he helped create the American Film Institute, where he served as director for more than 12 years.

George Stevens Jr. is nothing if not connected.

Those connections hold him in good stead each year when he puts together the Kennedy Center Honors. (The Honors earned him an Emmy, although critics have accused the show of pandering to the lowest common denominator: TV, rather than art.) And those connections helped him pull in luminaries like Warren Beatty and John Huston for a valentine of a documentary about his father's life that he wrote, directed and produced: "George Stevens: A Filmmaker's Journey."

"A lot of what I do comes from me being a writer," Stevens says. "Someone told me once, 'You're a historian.' It colors what I do."

Indeed, the idea of making history inspired him to get involved in "America's Millennium." In fact, this whole millennium celebration thing came about when Stevens sat next to Hillary Rodham Clinton at some event a few years back. He turned to the first lady and asked, "What are you doing New Year's Eve?"

He couldn't resist the challenge of putting on a pull-out-all-the-stops production on the most hallowed night of the century.

"The phrase that stuck was to do something 'entertaining and ennobling,'" Stevens says. "You realize it's an extraordinary moment, going from one century to the next. ... One would have to be cynical not to have feelings about our democracy on this night."

Stevens's buddy Quincy Jones (Stevens calls him "Q") came on board, as did Spielberg. And as they planned for the event, Stevens and Jones rode around Washington, imagining what could be. They stopped at the Mall, and stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and said, "Why not?"

These are, after all, men who know how to orchestrate grand moments. And they figured that ringing in the New Millennium under the watchful gaze of Abraham Lincoln would be the granddaddy of all grand moments.

To that end, there will be footage of Marian Anderson singing in her famous Lincoln Memorial concert, followed by a performance by two present-day African American divas, Jessye Norman and Kathleen Battle. An 18-minute film by Spielberg chronicling the highlights of the century, accompanied by a John Williams score. Marching bands upon marching bands. Dancers boogying with Will Smith, the evening's host. A parade of celebrities: Robert De Niro. Diane Keaton. Kris Kristofferson. Usher. Luther Vandross. John Fogerty. Trisha Yearwood. Tom Jones. Kenny Rogers. Bono. Muhammad Ali.

Suggest that the evening is geared more toward boomers than the younger set, and Stevens bristles.

"Will Smith?" he says, throwing out names as evidence of Gen-X credentials. "Usher? I'm not at home playing Usher records. But I know he's going to be terrific and add something to the show."

Grab him in an interview, and he's got his back up, wary and defensive. But then he gets going

bration and this great country of ours and, well, he gets all misty-eyed.

He's a seemingly unassuming man whose office passes out a 41-page bio to the press. He's a behind-the-scenes man who's made a career of supporting the arts more than creating them. Not that he sees things that way.

"Creating is what I enjoy, whether it's creating the Film Institute, which is a lot like making a movie, or when I was in the government creating nearly hundreds of films that I'm actually still very proud of. Your question leads me into an immodest description of myself. There's the Kennedy Center Honors, where I'm figuring out what's going to be on the stage."

"My real satisfaction is creating things that engage people. And if they're good enough, they'll be around for people to see. My appetite has never been to be a personality."

He points to his horoscope—he's an Aries—hanging on the wall:

"Circumstances turn in your favor. Be selective. Imprint style. Take initiative; let others know you mean business when you say, 'I deserve the very best and nothing less.'"

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1999

Security, Computers Readied for Real Test

By SUSAN LEVINE
and DAVID MONTGOMERY
Washington Post Staff Writers

From the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to the aisles of a Burtonsville grocery store and the emergency operations headquarters in Fairfax County, dress rehearsals for both celebration and disaster filled the final hours of preparation yesterday for the most anticipated New Year's Eve of this or any millennium.

Government agencies and private companies alike tested computer programs yet again to make sure their systems recognize the new calendar's double-nought as 2000—averting, they hope, any Y2K crashes that could wreak

havoc on power, telephones and other aspects of modern life.

Shoppers stocked up, nonetheless, just to be safe. Some local grocery stores and gas stations reported higher than usual business but assured customers that their inventories are not depleted.

Performers from Don McLean to Kathy Mattea rehearsed their numbers on the massive outdoor stage that the Lincoln Memorial has become, a scene of organized chaos of musicians, set-builders, cables, cameras and squealing microphones that tonight will jell into a kaleidoscopic extravaganza of sound and light.

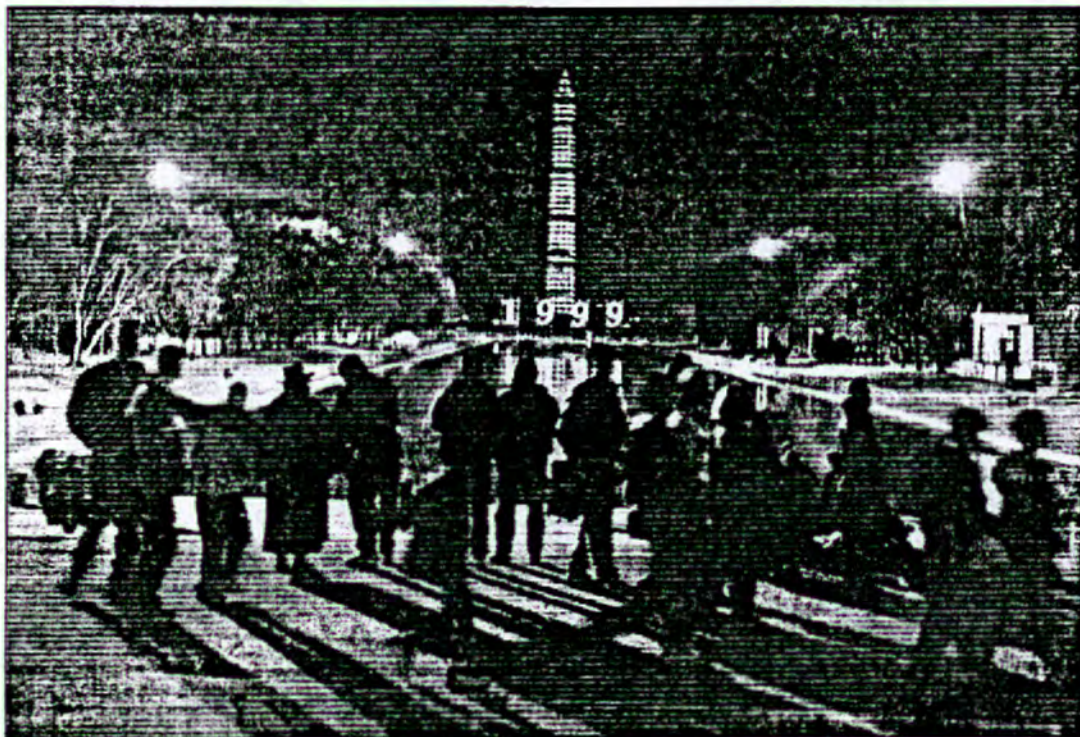
"Ladies and gentlemen, your host for America's Millennium, Will Smith!" the announcer prac-

ticed repeatedly yesterday, despite the actor-singer's afternoon absence.

And police forces, already on heightened alert because of security concerns, reviewed their preparations for the tens of thousands of people expected on the Mall and the major crowds likely to be lured to numerous other public celebrations across the Washington region. District officials even have a new mobile command center, equipped with infrared camera, generators and satellite phones, capable of responding to such catastrophes as riots or terrorist attacks.

"We are definitely taking a lot

See CELEBRATION, A21, Col. 1



BY TRACY A. WOODWARD—THE WASHINGTON POST

Visitors at the Lincoln Memorial last evening look toward the east end of the Reflecting Pool, where the illuminated "1999" will change to "2000" tonight as fireworks ascend and light the Washington Monument.

Singers, Systems Awaiting Tonight's Tests

CELEBRATION, From A1

of precautions," said Sgt. Rob MacLean of the U.S. Park Police, which will deploy hundreds of officers for the Lincoln Memorial extravaganza. State Department alerts in recent weeks have warned about possible terrorist threats both abroad and at home, but MacLean stressed, "We do not have any specific threats for this event or any monument."

An equal show of D.C. police force will be evident at the city's two-day block party along Constitution Avenue NW, and some of those officers were kept busy yesterday responding to three separate bomb alarms. All were false.

The first occurred about 6:40 a.m. when bomb-sniffing dogs doing a routine check of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center signaled the possible presence of explosive chemicals. At 3:30 p.m., police searched the Adams National Bank branch at Union Station because of a letter saying a bomb had been placed there. Half an hour later, a report of a suspicious package at Chevy Chase Pavilion forced evacuation of that shopping center and the nearby Mazza Gallerie, as well as closing several blocks of Wisconsin Avenue during rush hour.

"These fake threats are something that we, unfortunately, know we are going to have to spend a lot of time looking into over the next few days," said Officer Kenny Bryson, a police spokesman. "We don't want to alarm people, but we have to look into each one."

For the most part, though, the penultimate countdown focused on the future.

"Everything we have done is ready," said Quentin Banks, spokesman for the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. "We are just waiting for the time to come upon us."

At the state's emergency operations center in Reistertown, representatives from more than 30 federal, state and nonprofit agencies drilled once more with software designed to track any possible problem. Still, the day was one of relative leisure. Even Y2K information hot lines were quieter than usual.

Some restless county leaders hit the streets, however. Howard County Executive James N. Robey (D), a former police chief, toured public buildings and emergency centers in a spot inspection of county preparedness. Montgomery County officials deployed portable stop signs in case of power malfunctions.

At the Burtonsville Giant, Noble and Denise Jolley lay in supplies. "I think there are only going to be sporadic problems, but you never know," she said, glancing at the five gallons of water and 24 rolls of toilet paper in their cart. "With five teens in my house, you can't take a lot of chances."

Those worries aside, this is a New Year's Eve fraught with complications—the most contentious of which is the mathematical reality that, zeroes or not, 2000 is one year shy of a new millennium.

But few have paid attention to that distinction, and hotels and special events have promoted it to the hilt, with prices to match. Since Thanksgiving, numerous celebrations have been scaled back or scrapped, including, this week, a huge affair at MCI Center and a turn-of-the-century masquerade ball that was to have been part of the Maryland city of Frederick's ringing-in. According to a USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll released yesterday, nearly three-fourths of Americans still had no special plans for tonight.

With some, blame procrastination. In the Washington area, numerous businesses that specialize in catering, limousines and baby-

sitters found themselves besieged this week for last-minute assistance.

At White House Nannies Inc. of Bethesda, the calls in the last few days became increasingly urgent, according to Mary K. Lyddane, director of temporary services.

"It's been pretty busy," Lyddane said between efforts to aid several hotels in locating sitters for their guests. "We've been able to place some sitters, but we're still working on getting help for other families."

One nanny was able to negotiate a lucrative deal with a couple who plan to celebrate the New Year by staying out all night. For a flat fee of \$600, she will arrive at their home this afternoon to feed her charges dinner. She then will spend the night, get up with the children and feed them breakfast.

Other families have planned a celebration to include young and old alike. Edwin Jesiolowski, a Haddonfield, N.J., architect, should be arriving in Washington this afternoon with 19 relatives and friends, including eight children, all pumped about the fantastical fireworks finale promised on the Mall at midnight.

"My wife is a fireworks nut," he said earlier this week, explaining why he had called Fireworks by Grucci, the Long Island pyrotechnics company doing the show, to determine the premier place to be Dec. 31.

"They said, 'If you want the best of the best that we've ever done, go to Washington.'" So, he recounted, "I told my wife, 'We're going to Washington.'"

Some of what Jesiolowski and crew will get, well before the clock strikes 12, was on display yesterday afternoon, to the delight of an impromptu audience of hundreds who strained to see celebrity performers during an extended rehearsal.

Capt. Tom Walczyk, a dentist with the Navy, strolled over from his nearby office—and will return tonight.

"This is the essence of America," he said. "To be able to touch and see this... It's got all the lights, the actors, the music, the volume. It epitomizes gung-ho America."

Jennifer Schonberger, 16, a junior at West Springfield High, felt a little disappointed that she couldn't get closer to the stars on stage. But just approaching ground zero of millennial hubbub made the trip worthwhile for her and her mother, Farideh.

Not that the Schonbergers will be grooving on the Mall tonight. They have a party scheduled with friends.

Program organizers say they are expecting 100,000 revelers, though since this New Year's gala is a first, they have no real way of estimating the turnout. Four large screens are in place on the west and south sides of the Reflecting Pool, which is how the real-people crowd will see most of the action. A sizable contingent of VIPs, including the president and first family, will enjoy up-close seats and bleachers.

The public must enter the area through four gates on Constitution Avenue, Independence Avenue and 17th Street, and anyone is subject to a search by Park Police. Security measures will force closure of the Last Firebase, a camouflage-painted kiosk near the foot of the Lincoln Memorial where veterans sell souvenirs and keep hope alive for comrades missing in action. Their vigil has continued nonstop since 1986, but tonight, per U.S. Secret Service orders, they'll shut from 9 p.m. until the president departs.

As yesterday's dry run of the nearly \$13 million spectacle proved, the croonings of Tom Jones, Kathleen Battle's soaring

New Year's Performances

The "America's Millennium Gala" at the Lincoln Memorial tonight features nearly 500 singers, musicians and dancers. The tentative lineup and schedule of the three-hour show includes:

9:58 p.m. National Anthem, Bobby McFerrin.

10:01 p.m. Opening, Will Smith.

10:18 p.m. Tom Jones, Kenny Rogers, Foreigner, Don McLean.

10:23 p.m. Welcome, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

10:27 p.m. Trisha Yearwood and Brian McKnight.

10:33 p.m. Avery Brooks.

10:40 p.m. Kathy Mattea, Luther Vandross, Mark O'Connor, Kris Kristofferson, Usher, BeBe Winans, Patti Austin.

10:45 p.m. Jack Nicholson, John Fogerty, Vernon Reid, Slash, Nathan East, Greg Pillinganes, Kenny Aronoff, Edgar Winter.

11:01 p.m. Kathleen Battle, Jessye Norman, the Symphonic Choir, Bobby McFerrin.

11:12 p.m. Mary Tyler Moore, Brian Stokes Mitchell, the Savion Glover Tappers, Michel Bell, Renee Fleming.

Tom Wopat, BeBe Neuwirth, Priscilla Lopez, cast and dancers from "Chicago."

11:31 p.m. "The Unfinished Journey" by Steven Spielberg, music by John Williams, readings by Ruby Dee, Ossie Davis, Sam Waterston, Nathan and Evelyn Hoffman, Rita Dove, Robert Pinsky, Edward James Olmos.

11:59 p.m. "Millennium Address" by President Clinton.

Midnight Fireworks and music.

12:02 a.m. U.S. Army Herald Trumpets, Symphonic Choir, World Children's Choir, Brian McKnight, Luther Vandross, Trisha Yearwood, Kathleen Battle, Renee Fleming, Jessye Norman, the Garrett Gospel Choir.

12:16 a.m. Bono and Daniel Lanois.

12:35 a.m. Broadway cast of "Stomp."

12:52 a.m. Fireworks finale and song medley.

high C's, the clashing chords of "Also Sprach Zarathustra" and the percussive parade of the Broadway show "Stomp" will carry nearly to the Washington Monument.

"This is the place to be if you're going to be anywhere," Jones told reporters. Asked if this was how he had envisioned the century's end, the 59-year-old veteran entertainer cracked, "It's good just to be here, to still be alive at this point."

Minutes later, Kris Kristofferson laughed off the notion that anyone

should be worried about security during the evening. "I have concerns about breathing," said the singer-songwriter, 63. "I'm an old man. I have concerns about being hit by a car. I don't live in fear of terrorists."

Staff writers Rajiv Chandrasekaran, Stephen G. Fehr, Raja Mishra, Tracey Reeves, Michael D. Shear, Emily Wax and Scott Wilson contributed to this report.

Here's your guide to celebrating New Year's on the Mall. On these four pages we tell you about events, how to get around and suggest places to eat and other diversions in the area. Turn this page for a detailed map of the Mall.

—By Larry Fox

America's Millennium

The main event Friday is the celebration at the Lincoln Memorial. Actor Will Smith will host the three-hour nationally televised show on CBS, which starts at 10 p.m. on Friday, New Year's Eve. The entertainment will actually begin an hour earlier, at 9 p.m., with concerts by military bands. Joining Smith will be Jesse Norman and fellow opera diva Kathleen Battle; actors Robert Duvall, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Sam Waterston and Diane Keaton; Luke Cresswell and the company of "Stomp"; singers Trisha Yearwood, Boyz n the B, Luther Vandross, Usher, Tom Jones, Don McLean, Kathy Mattea, Bobby McFerrin, Kenny Rogers and BeBe Winans; and numerous other celebrities. Poet laureate Robert Pinsky, poet Rita Dove and author Maya Angelou will read original poems.

At 11:30, a live orchestra will premiere a score by Academy Award-winning composer John Williams as a Steven Spielberg film, "The Unfinished Journey," is shown on four giant screens—one in front of the Lincoln Memorial and three on one side of the Reflecting Pool. Just before midnight, President Clinton, speaking from the Lincoln Memorial, will address the nation on television. And at midnight, there will be a high-powered fireworks show, with pyrotechnic cascades ascending the Washington Monument. After the fireworks, there will be more entertainment for 50 minutes and then a five-minute fireworks finale fired from barges anchored in the Potomac behind the Lincoln Memorial.

For more information, call 888/294-2100 or visit the Web site: www.si.edu/americasmillennium.

The area of the Mall from 17th Street west to the Lincoln Memorial, between Constitution and Independence avenues, will be fenced off. Public access will be through four entrances only: 17th Street at the Rainbow Pool (two entrances), Constitution Avenue at 18th Street NW and Independence Avenue at the D.C. War Memorial entrance, just west of the Katz Bridge. These entrances will open at 6 p.m. Alcohol will not be permitted on the Mall. The Washington Monument grounds will be closed to the public, though the sidewalks will remain



From top, clockwise:
Trisha Yearwood, Will Smith, Maya Angelou and Robert Duvall.

At the Smithsonian

Free family programs, concerts, performances and demonstrations are featured in the Smithsonian Institution's "America's Millennium on the Mall." Friday through Sunday from 11:30 to 5 in these museums: The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the National Museum of American History and the National Museum of Natural History.

Tickets to these free events have already been given away. Unclaimed seats will be given to standbys 15 minutes before each event. Halls will be cleared after each event. For more information, call 202/357-2700 (TDD: 202/357-1729).

The schedule of events:

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Baird Auditorium, 10th Street and Constitution Avenue NW (Metro: Federal Triangle, Smithsonian).

Friday

11:30 A.M. — NBA Hall of Fame player Bill Russell and Washington Mystics players Chamique Holdaway and Nikki McCray will discuss "Basketball: We Come to Play."
1 P.M. — Music star Ricky Skaggs discusses and demonstrates "Bluegrass: America's Roots Music."
2:30 P.M. — Scholar Clay Jenkinson, activist Julian Bond and Richard West, director of the National Museum of the American Indian, discuss the "Paradox of Thomas Jefferson."

plays a women's rights advocate in "Sunflower: The Life and Loves of Elizabeth Cady Stanton."

Saturday

11:30 A.M. — Dog-sledder Dave Monson discusses the Iditarod race.
1 P.M. — Historian Philip Barlow stars as the jurist in "Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes: A Clear & Present Danger." Assistant Attorney General Bill Lann Lee and attorney Wesley Williams Jr. join the discussion.
2:30 P.M. — Actor Edward James Olmos examines the history of Latino Americans in "Americanos."
4 P.M. — Authors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee enact vignettes from American history in "Making History."

Sunday

NOON — Sports photographer Walter Ioann on "Capturing the Moment: 40 Years of Sports Photography."
2 P.M. — Noel Pugach, a history professor at the University of New Mexico, on "Henry Truman: Good Horse Sense, Decency & Ours."
4 P.M. — King and National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman Bill Ferris discuss "Blues: Past & Future."

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Garmichael Auditorium, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW (Metro: Federal Triangle, Smithsonian).

Friday

NOON — Sweet Honey in the Rock founder Bernice Johnson Reagan sings and discusses songs of the civil rights movement in "I Remember, I Believe."
1:30 P.M. — Author/illustrator David Wiesniewski on "Words & Pictures."
3 P.M. — Children's author/illustrator Yumi Hoo on "A Heritage in Pictures & Words."

Saturday

11:30 A.M. — Children's song leader Ella Jenkins on "The Future Is Our Children."
2 P.M. — National Book Award

2:30 P.M. — Author Gayle Ross on "Rabbit Meets Coyote: Trickster Tales."
4 P.M. — Author/storyteller Jose Grijeno on "Cuentos & Songs From Northern New Mexico."

Sunday

NOON — Jazz workshop by the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra Quintet.
1:30 P.M. — Storyteller Marc Spiegel on "Fantasy for the Universal Child."
3 P.M. — The Freestyle Union presents "SLAM! Poetry for Young People."

HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN

Ring Auditorium, Seventh Street and Independence Avenue SW (Metro: L'Enfant Plaza).

Friday

NOON — Physicist Neil Gershenfeld and other scholars from MIT discuss "Glimpsing the Future: Technologies for the Millennium."
1:15 P.M. — Christopher Chyba, Seth Shostak, Kent Cullers and Dan Werthimer, from the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute, discuss "Searching for Extraterrestrial Life in the New Millennium."
2:30 P.M. — Computer entrepreneur/MIT professor Ray Kurzweil discusses "The Age of Spiritual Machines."
3:45 P.M. — Officials of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention discuss "Are Humans Endangered?"

Saturday

NOON — Author/sports writer John Feinstein talks about "Can Sports Be Mended in the New Millennium?"
1:15 P.M. — Physicists Neil Gershenfeld and Philip Morrison, 8-year-old David Dalrymple, 16-year-old Hillary McQuaid and MIT doctoral candidate Yael Maguire discuss "What's in Your Future?"
2:30 P.M. — Chefs Martin Yan, Verlanee Grosvenor and Raji Jalepalli discuss "The Future of American Taste."
4:30 P.M. — U.S. Poet Laureate

Sunday

NOON — "The Future of Planet Earth," with James Baker, administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Charles G. Groer, director of the U.S. Geological Survey.
1:15 P.M. — Writer Virginia Postrel on "The Open Future: Progress Without a Plan."
2:30 P.M. — "The Future of Democracy," with Jeanne Kirkpatrick, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.
3:45 P.M. — "The Prospect of Peace," by Richard N. Solomon, president of the U.S. Institute of Peace.

NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW (Metro: L'Enfant Plaza). Children will be invited to participate in the Mars Millennium Project, a contest to design a village settlement on Mars. The activities run from 11 to 3 Friday and Saturday. All take place in the Space Hall.

Friday

12:15 — Living and working in space, by shuttle astronaut Roger Crouch.
1 — Exploring Mars, by Donna Shirley, former manager of the Mars Pathfinder program.
2 — Visiting Mr. by shuttle astronaut Wendy Lawrence.
3 — Becoming a space engineer, by Donna Shirley.
4 — Visiting Mr. by Wendy Lawrence.

Saturday

11 — Exploring Mars, by Donna Shirley.

The District Of Columbia Celebration

The District of Columbia's "Main Street Millennium" festival is Friday from 10 a.m. to midnight and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., along Constitution Avenue NW, between Ninth and 14th streets.

The festival will feature huge tents with interactive exhibits showcasing Washington and five stages of entertainment. Partygoers can buy tickets for the food and drink that will be served at four heated pavilions throughout the festival area. Eight tickets will cost \$5. Food and drink items will require differing numbers of tickets. For more information, call 202/727-8449 or visit the Web site: www.2000dc.com.

Here is the schedule (subject to change):

Friday

Millennium Stage

On 12th Street just north of Constitution Avenue:
10 A.M. — Marine Band concert
11 — Opening ceremony, with the president and Hillary Clinton, Mayor Anthony Williams.
1:30 — Okeyema Asante with Plunkie (African percussion)
3 — Brother Ah World Music Ensemble
4:15 — Nap Turner Sextet (blues)
5:30 — Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun (rock)



"Galapagos," a 3-D IMAX film, is at the National Museum of Natural History.

Other Things To Do

So you've decided to head downtown (along with unpteen of your closest friends) to partake in "America's Millennium on the Mall" and the "Main Street Millennium."

But what to do if you can't get in to see Ricky Shaggs, or if you just need to kill time between Pookie Hudson and Robert Pinsky? Fortunately, you're in museum country, where plenty of great alternatives to millennial madness beckon.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY — 10th Street and Constitution Avenue NW (Metro: Federal Triangle). "Galapagos," the stunning 3-D IMAX film in the Samuel C. Johnson Theater, is its own sound-and-light show. While at the museum, you might also check out the new, permanent African Voices Hall or the special exhibition "Ain't: Spirit of a Northern People." The museum is open daily from 10 to 5:30. "Galapagos" screens daily at 10:15, 1, 2 and 4:40. Tickets are \$6.50, \$5.50 for children 2 through 17 and for seniors 55 and older. Admission to the museum is free. 202/357-2700 (TDD: 357-1729).

HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN — Independence Avenue and Seventh Street SW (Metro: L'Enfant Plaza). There's a lot of new stuff, including the large—and largely lovely—"Regarding Beauty" survey of contemporary art and an exhibit of watercolor miniatures by Pakistan-born painter Shahzad Sikander. Outside are two newly installed sculptures by the majestic Mark di Suvero and the mercenary Jeff Koons. The Hirshhorn is open 10 to 5 daily. Free. 202/357-2700 (TDD: 357-1729).

ARTHUR M. SACKLER GALLERY — 950 Independence Ave. SW (Metro: Smithsonian). This gallery has mounted three small but worthy shows around the theme of Orientalism: Antoine Sevruguin's photos of Iran from the late 1870s to the 1930s; Janine Al-Ani's contemporary photographic meditation on the subject of the veil and a calligraphic sampler from antiquity to today. Without ever leaving the building, you can also scurry underground to the nearby NATIONAL MUSEUM OF

AFRICAN ART (1030 Independence Ave. SW), where an exhibition on Ghanaian kente cloth will be up through Sunday. Both are open 10 to 5:30 daily. Free. 202/357-2700 (TDD: 357-1729). **NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART** — The Gallery is at Fourth Street and Constitution Avenue NW, and the ice skating rink is at Seventh and Constitution (Metro: Archives/Naval Memorial). The gallery will be open Friday from 10 to 5 and Sunday from 11 to 5, but it closes New Year's Day. Its new Sculpture Garden for Shading Rink, normally open 10 to 10 on Fridays and Saturdays, will close at 5 on Friday and won't reopen until Sunday from 11 to 10. Inside the museum are some great special exhibits on Johannes Vermeer's "The Art of Painting," Chinese archaeology, the Parisian photographs of Brassai and favorite works from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon. Free. 202/737-4215 (TDD: 202/842-6176). **CONGRESSIONAL GALLERY OF ART** — 500 17th St. NW (Metro: Farragut West). The Corcoran has eight special exhibitions, the best of which are Annie Leibovitz's photographs of famous, infamous and infamous women; sculptor Tara Donovan's lush installation made from four tons of nylon fiber; and a large survey of art from the collections of America's historically black colleges and universities. The Corcoran is open 10 to 5 Friday and Sunday; it's closed Saturday, New Year's Day. Admission is by suggested donation of \$3: \$1 for seniors and students; \$5 for family groups. 202/639-1700.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES — Constitution Avenue between Seventh and Ninth streets NW (Metro: Archives/Naval Memorial). The original, signed Emancipation Proclamation will be on view through Sunday. Open 10 to 5:30 daily. Free. 202/7501-5000. **OLD PATENT OFFICE BUILDING** — Eighth Street between G and F streets NW (Metro: Gallery Place/Chinatown). This building, home to two museums, is getting ready to shut down for three years of renovation. You can still catch **NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY** exhibits on Ernest Hemingway, the caricatures of Edward Sorel, the photographs of Henri Carlier-Bresson and the daguerotypes of Augustus Washington. Under the same roof, the **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART** features the watercolors of Edward Hopper and a small taste of paintings and sculptures from the Sara Roby Foundation collection. Both museums open 10 to 5:30 daily. Free. 202/357-2700 (TDD: 357-1729).

—Michael O'Sullivan

Places to Eat

While several of the museums on the Mall have cafeterias, including the National Gallery of Art and the Air and Space, Natural History and American History museums, they are likely to be packed during the festivities.

The pavilions at the District's "Main Street Millennium" celebration on Constitution Avenue between 10th and 14th streets NW will feature food by area restaurants from 11 to midnight Friday and 11 to 6 Saturday. And the sidewalk concessionaires will be around. For those who'd like something more substantial, here are some restaurants in the vicinity that will be open over the weekend.

AMERICA — In Union Station at 50 Massachusetts Ave. NE (Metro: Union Station). 202/682-9555. Open Friday 11:30 to 4, Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. on. Casual menu of sandwiches, entrees and "regional specialties." **AMERICAN GRILL** — In L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza SW (Metro: L'Enfant Plaza). 202/484-1000. Open daily from 6:30 on. Nice, broad family fare. **AUSTIN GRILL** — 750 E St. NW (Metro: Gallery Place/Chinatown). 202/393-3776. Open Friday 11 to 3, Saturday and Sunday from 11 on. Good Tex-Mex food, excellent chips and salsa, funky atmosphere, great music.

B. SMITH'S — In Union Station at 50 Massachusetts Ave. NE (Metro: Union Station). 202/289-6188. Opens Friday at 5, Saturday at noon and Sunday at 11:30. Updated southern fare with both soul and snarts.

BENTON'S — 801 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Archives/Naval Memorial). 202/638-2140. Open Friday 11:30 to 8, closed Saturday, open Sunday 11:30 to 9. Modern-Italian yuppie magnet.

BB — In Hotel George, 15 E St. NW (Metro: Union Station). 202/661-2700. Open Friday, fixed-price only after 5:30; Saturday 11:30 to 4:30; Sunday from 11:30 on. Classic French bistro fare in large parlors and upscale atmosphere.

CAFE ATLANTICO — 405 Eighth St. NW (Metro: Archives/Naval Memorial). 202/593-0612. Friday, fixed-price dinner only after 5; Saturday and Sunday after 5. Quirky and satisfying Mediterranean fare.

CAPITAL GRILL — 601 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Archives/Naval Memorial). 202/737-8200. Open Friday 11:30 to 3, drive-in eatery M, S, and 11 only. Saturday and Sunday from 5 on. Expensive-accoutrements steakhouses with opportunities for celebrity sightings.

CHRISTOPHER MARK'S — 1301 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Federal Triangle). 202/628-6038. Open Friday and Saturday from 11:30. Sunday 11 to 4. Upscale surf 'n' turf eatery.

CORNER BAKERY — In the National Plaza Building at 14th and F streets NW (Metro: Metro Center). 202/462-9700. Open Friday 9 to 5, Saturday 10 to 4, Sunday 10 to 3. Gourmet salads and sandwiches.

LES BULES — 1201 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Federal Triangle). 202/347-6848. Open daily from 11:30. French-American steakhouses with the atmosphere of a French cafe.

HARD ROCK CAFE — 999 E St. NW (Metro: Gallery Place/Chinatown). 202/737-7625. Open Friday lunch only 11 to 3, Saturday

and Sunday from 11 on. Hamburgers, barbecue, nachos.

NATIONAL PLACE — 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Metro Center). Food court open Friday noon to 5, closed Saturday, open Sunday noon to 5.

OCCIDENTAL GRILL — In the Willard Hotel at 15th and Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Metro Center). 202/783-1475. Open Friday for fixed-price only at 5, seatings at 7:30 and 10. Saturday at 5 and Sunday from noon on. Modern-eclectic American fare with casual in-crowd atmosphere and good views.

OLD EBBETT GRILL — 675 15th St. NW (Metro: Metro Center). 202/347-4801. Open Friday 7 to 5, Saturday and Sunday from 9:30 on. Tavern fare made modern. American signature chili and oyster bar.

OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING — 12th Street and Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Federal Triangle). Food court open Friday 10 to 5, closed Saturday, open Sunday noon to 6.

PLANNING BUREAU — In the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center at 13th and Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Federal Triangle). 202/842-9800. Caffe opens Friday at 11:30, dining room opens Saturday at 5, Sunday at noon.

MOD-CALIFORNIA — From pizzas to rotisserie chickens.

PLANET HOLLYWOOD — 1101 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Federal Triangle). 202/783-7827. Open Friday and Saturday from 11 to 7, Sunday from 11 to 10:30. Pub-plus fare.

THE PRESSURE — 12th and Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Federal Triangle). 202/628-8443. Open Friday at noon, Saturday and Sunday from 11 on. Familiar family franchise with reliable and fairly varied fare.

UNION STATION — 50 Massachusetts Ave. NW (Metro: Union Station). Food court open Friday 10 to 6, closed Saturday, open Sunday noon to 6.

— Eve Zibart

Fun for the Whole Family

The Mall is home to many adventures, including that just for you and your children might enjoy. One of our attractions is the Washington Monument — it's not open to the public this millennial weekend. Admission to the Smithsonian museums is free. For more information, call 202/637-1700 (TDD: 202/637-1729) or the members office below.

NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM — Sixth Street and Independence Avenue SW (Metro: L'Enfant Plaza). This museum tells the story of flight and space exploration through exhibits, interactive displays, computer kiosks, multimedia shows and replicas. Displays are more than 360 important aircraft, about 300 rockets and space vehicles and hundreds of other aeronautical items. Movies in the Samuel P. Langley IMAX Theater are "To Fly" daily at 10:10, 12:20, 2:30 and 4:40; "Cosmic Voyage," daily at 10:45, 12:55, 3:05 and 5:15; "Mission to Mars,"

daily at 11:30, 1:40 and 3:50; "Weather," daily at 6; "The Blue Sky Scavenger Hunt," Friday-Sunday at 4:45. IMAX movies: \$5.50, \$4.25 seniors and children 2 through 17; Call 202/637-1566 for the About Explorer Program, interactive programs on astronomy and space offered every 40 minutes from 11 to 5. Admission is \$3.75. The museum also has a restaurant and cafe. Call 202/357-1666.

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM — 10th Street and Constitution Avenue NW (Metro: Federal Triangle). This may have it all for children: dinosaurs, fossils and bugs. Start in the Rotunda, where an African bush elephant dominates the area. Displays, including a 40-foot model of a pharaoh with a 40-foot wingspan and an 80-foot display of the star of the 1996 Annapolis Book Fair, are in the first floor. Displays in the second floor include the Hope Diamond, said to be cursed, is the star of the 1996 Annapolis Book Fair. Displays in the third floor include the Hope Diamond, said to be cursed, is the star of the 1996 Annapolis Book Fair. Displays in the third floor include the Hope Diamond, said to be cursed, is the star of the 1996 Annapolis Book Fair.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY — 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW (Metro: Federal Triangle).

Smithsonian). The museum explores the rich diversity of American history, offering interactive exhibits that will draw children. In the Hands-On History Room, visitors can send a telegraph message and pedal a bicycle. In the Hands-On Science Center, supervisors can measure radioactive hot spots, explore magnetism and measure distances with a laser. Major exhibits include the Star-Spangled Banner, steam locomotives, military history and Chinese vases by first ladies. The museum has a restaurant.

THE GARDEN — On the Mall just north of the Arts and Industries Building, 900 Jefferson Dr. SW (Metro: Smithsonian). This seasonal garden is open 10 to 6 weekdays, 10 to 5 weekends.

OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING — 12th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW (Metro: Federal Triangle). Take the elevator to the tower for a grand view of the capital city. Open 10 to 5 Friday, closed Saturday and open noon to 5 Sunday.

WHITE HOUSE — 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: McPherson Square). The White House will be open to visitors on Saturday, New Year's Day, from noon to 2. No tickets are required. The line will begin at the southeast gate of the White House. East Executive Avenue and E Street NW. All in line by 2 will be admitted.

202/208-1631.

from page 27

8:30 — Ben Andrews Trio
10 — Joe Stanley/Big Four Combo (swing/R&B)
11 — Joe Stanley/Big Four Combo

Southwest Stage

On Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th streets:
12:15 — Bob Smith as Benjamin Barneker
1:15 — Los de la Mount Pleasant (salsa)
2:30 — Ivan Cuesta y sus Valientes Autenticos (Latin/Colombian)
4 — Cecily Patterson as Sojourner Truth
5 — Umoja String Quartet
6:30 — United House of Prayer Brass Band
8 — Djimo Kouyate & Mamusa African

11 — Charles Sayles Quartet (electronic harmonica)

Southeast Stage

On Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th streets:
12 — Chinese entertainers
1 — Shir Delite (klezmer)
2:30 — Don Nunley Trio (sax)
4 — Los de la Mount Pleasant
9:05 — Cecily Patterson as Sojourner Truth
1:15 — Bob Smith as Benjamin Barneker
6:30 — Rising Sun (reggae)
8 — Movement (poetry)
9:30 — Charles Sayles Quartet
11 — Kenny Reed Quartet (trumpet)

Northwest Stage

12:30 — Don Nunley Trio
2:15 — Shir Delite
3:30 — Danny Doyle (Irish)
5 — Okeyerema Asante with Plunkie
6:30 — Umoja String Quartet
8 — Broto Roy & Gangs
9:30 — Kenny Reed Quartet
11 — Mary Jefferson

Northeast Stage

On Constitution Avenue between 10th and 12th streets:
12:30 — United House of Prayer Brass Band
2 — Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun
3:30 — Bob Smith as Benjamin Barneker
4 — Jean Claude Toran (poet)
5 — Kenny Doyle
6:30 — Brother Ah

Saturday

Millennium Stage

11 — Pookie Hudson & the Sparrows
12:30 — Don Rouse Spasm Band
2 — Sonny Til's Legendary Orioles
2:30 — John Cephas & Phil Wiggins
5 — Kater Betts Trio

Southwest Stage

11 — Sonny Til's Legendary Orioles
12:30 — Blues Work Trio
2 — Cephas & Wiggins
3:30 — John Jackson
5 — Rising Sun

Southeast Stage

11 — Lauren Lewis portrays a slave girl
12:30 — Amityah Hymen portrays an Indian girl
1:15 — Poet Jean Claude Toran
2 — Pookie Hudson & the Sparrows

2:15 — Don Sheehy's Mariachi Amigos
3:45 — Sunny Sumter Quartet
5 — Movement (poetry and music)

Northwest Stage

11 — Blues Work Trio
12:30 — John Jackson
2 — Kater Betts Trio
3:30 — Curtis Pope & the Midnight Movers
5 — Sunny Sumter quartet

Northeast Stage

11 — Bob Smith as Benjamin Barneker
12 — Lauren Lewis portrays a slave girl
12:30 — Amityah Hymen portrays an Indian girl
1:15 — Poet Jean Claude Toran
2 — Pookie Hudson & the Sparrows

Weekend's Best

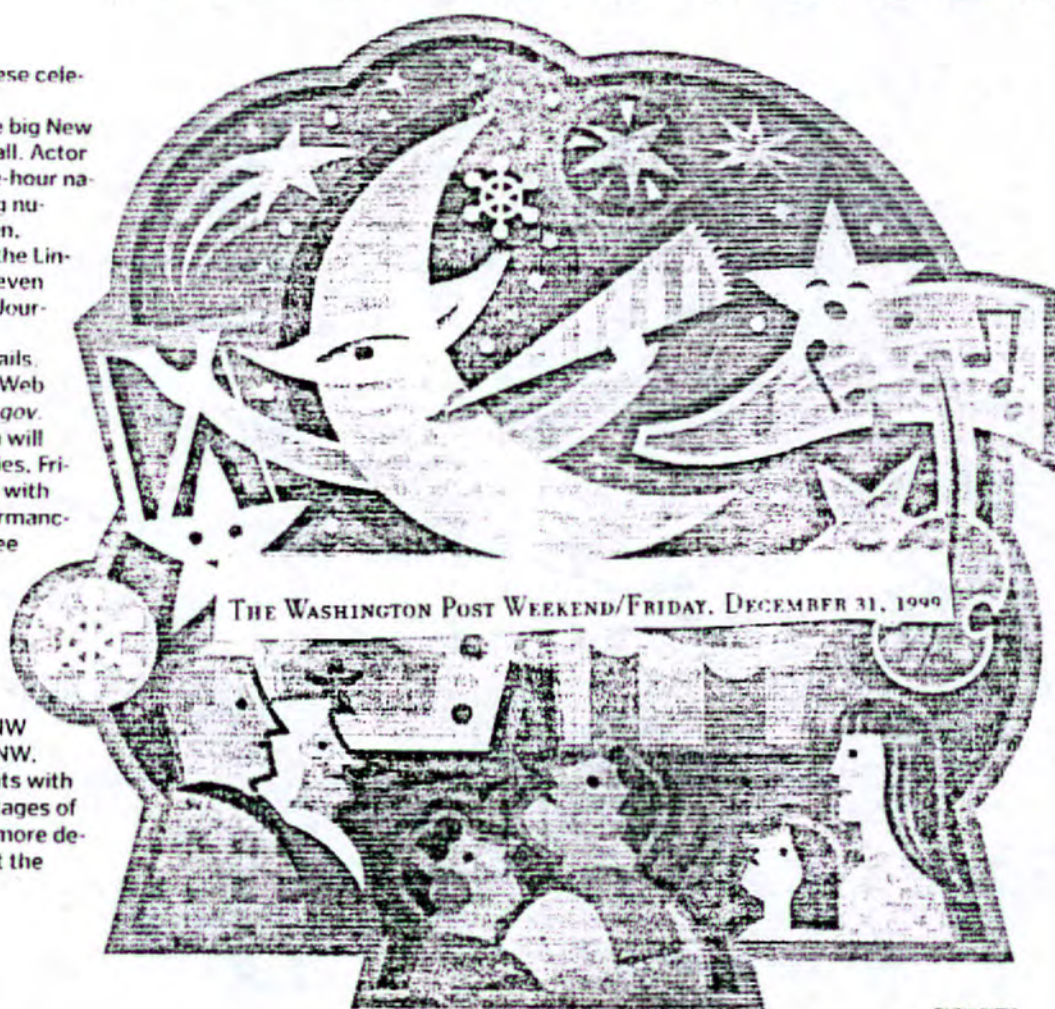
Millennium Mania

The millennium arrives, with these celebrations in Washington:

■ **America's Millennium** is the big New Year's Eve celebration on the Mall. Actor Will Smith will host a free, three-hour nationally televised show featuring numerous stars of stage and screen, starting Friday at 10 p.m. from the Lincoln Memorial, followed by a Steven Spielberg film, "The Unfinished Journey," and a midnight fireworks show. See Page 27 for more details. Call 888/294-2100 or visit the Web site: www.americasmillennium.gov.

■ **The Smithsonian Institution** will host three days of indoor activities, Friday through Sunday 11:30 to 5, with dozens of discussions and performances about a variety of subjects. See Page 27 for more details. Call 202/357-2700 (TDD: 202/357-1729).

■ **The District of Columbia** will hold a festival Friday from 10 to midnight and Saturday 11 to 6 along Constitution Avenue NW between 10th and 14th streets NW. The festival will feature huge tents with exhibits and activities and five stages of entertainment. See Page 27 for more details. Call 202/727-8449 or visit the Web site: www.2000dc.com.



BY KEAN TUTTLE

Unprecedented security at nation's capital for gala

Organizers expect about 500,000 at the \$12 million fest. Officials are closing streets and bridges and beefing up law enforcement.

By Laurence McQuillan
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — President Clinton has been dreaming of ushering in 2000 with a celebration like none other in the storied history of Washington, where party planners always try to outdo their predecessors.

It looks like his dream will come true.

Never before has there been an extravaganza with such glamour, glitter and fireworks. Never before have government officials shut down bridges, closed so many streets and called out the National Guard to do it.

The "America's Millennium" celebration is being tempered by concerns about potential terrorism and possible Y2K glitches. Officials are happy to make grand predictions about the next 1,000 years but are less certain about this weekend. "We're trying to strike a balance between taking the right precautionary measures and letting people know the information we have and not creating an unnecessary fear," Deputy White House press secretary Jake Siewert said.

"We obviously wouldn't have invited people to the Mall unless we were intent upon making it safe," he said.

Gala security

Organizers predict that about 500,000 revelers will turn out for a \$12 million New Year's Eve celebration set at the Lincoln Memorial. It features an array of big name performers and a special 18-minute Steven Spielberg film. The event is funded by private and corporate donations.

USATODAY.com

USATODAY.com covers the world as it moves into the 21st century. Coverage begins with the first New Year's celebrations (5 a.m. ET Friday) and includes:

- ▶ Worldwide photo coverage
- ▶ Interactive map tracking the dawn of 2000
- ▶ Conversations with cybercafes around the globe
- ▶ Exclusive reports from the USA and abroad
- ▶ Live cybercasts from big-city celebrations

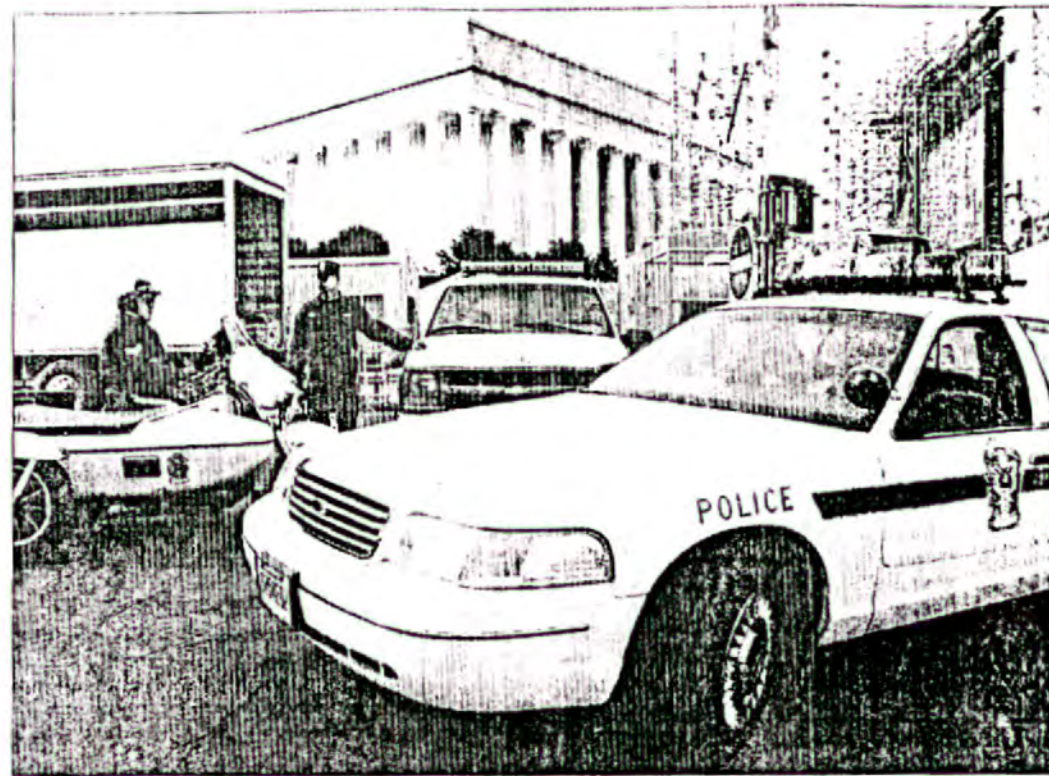
The program, which will be aired live by CBS, includes a dramatic fireworks display that planners say will out sparkle anything ever done in Washington, a city that takes its July 4th festivities seriously.

So how do you protect half a million people on a night that prompted cities such as Seattle to call off plans for galas because of security worries?

You put the District of Columbia's 3,500 police officers on extended shifts, and then ask the Defense Department and the city's National Guard for additional help.

Law enforcement officers will direct traffic at about 150 street intersections. Large sections of major arteries in the city's downtown will be shut down, as will the Memorial and Theodore Roosevelt bridges and the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

Snow fences have been set up in the area between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument to help control and monitor the crowd.



By Doug Mills. AP

Outside the Lincoln Memorial: U.S. Park Police officers keep watch near the memorial Thursday in Washington. The District of Columbia's 3,500 police officers also are on extended shifts.

Officers of the U.S. Park Police will be stationed at each of the four entrances to the viewing area to inspect packages and look for suspicious behavior, officials said.

'Midnight moment'

About 50 stars and 450 singers, dancers and musicians will participate in the extravaganza produced by Quincy Jones and George Stevens Jr. The list of entertainers includes such stars as Will Smith, who hosts the event, Tom Jones and Diane Keaton.

Clinton, who will host a private gala at the White House earlier in the evening, plans to read some passages from the works of Abraham Lincoln during remarks just before the stroke of midnight.

Organizers say the "midnight moment" will feature fireworks

and sound-and-light displays centered on the 555-foot-tall Washington Monument.

Worries about possible violence surfaced Thursday when police briefly closed the city's second-largest federal government office complex and a road just four blocks from the White House because of a security scare. Police converged on the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center after a government bomb-sniffing dog on routine patrol reacted to what could have been explosive material, a police spokesman said. The police bomb squad found no explosives there.

This afternoon, the president and the first lady will participate in a celebration of children around the world at the building, which is the largest U.S. government office structure after the Pentagon.

Producer Stevens and Ellen Lovell, director of the White House Millennium Council, dismissed thoughts that their grand plans will fall victim to concerns generated by terrorists. "It's never crossed our minds to cancel this. We are prepared," Lovell said.

Special, and safe

Gazing at the preparations at the Lincoln Memorial, Stevens agreed: "I have a feeling the space we're on will be the safest place anywhere in the United States. People should enjoy the night and live it and consider it as a night of celebration."

"There's lots to be said about staying at home near the fireplace," the producer said, "but for those who come here, they will see something special that they will remember for the rest of their lives."

D.C. set to celebrate — in style

Spielberg's film,
Clinton's speech
featured on Mall

Washington Times
Friday, Dec. 31, 1999

1 of 2

By Patrick Butters
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Clinton will light a fuse at the Lincoln Memorial just before midnight tonight, setting fireworks — and America's celebration of the year 2000 — in motion.

It is the climactic moment to "America's Millennium: A Celebration for the Nation." Children also will light fuses to spark beads of light dancing over the Reflecting Pool to the Washington Monument. The scaffolded, 555-foot obelisk will then light up in sections, timed with Mall revelers counting down the seconds to midnight.

Finally, the piece de resistance: The Ferris wheel next to the Lincoln Memorial, which has been lording over passing traffic on Henry Bacon Drive, will rise 175 feet into the air. Powered by three massive cranes, the fat hunks of metal will ignite a circle of beams. More than 500 stage lights will form a sun to blaze in the new year.

This caps a privately funded but very public \$12 million pyrotechnic blast that will ring in 2000. Not surprisingly, Steven Spielberg, Quincy Jones and George Stevens Jr. all have a hand in the production.

The celebratory spectacle extends from the Lincoln Memorial to other sites around the city.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, and eight other clerics will lead services at the Washington National Cathedral. Thousands will gather at the U.S. Naval Observatory for the time-ball drop and time-cannon blast. (The observatory, however, is sticking with its insistence that the millennium officially begins on Jan. 1, 2001.)

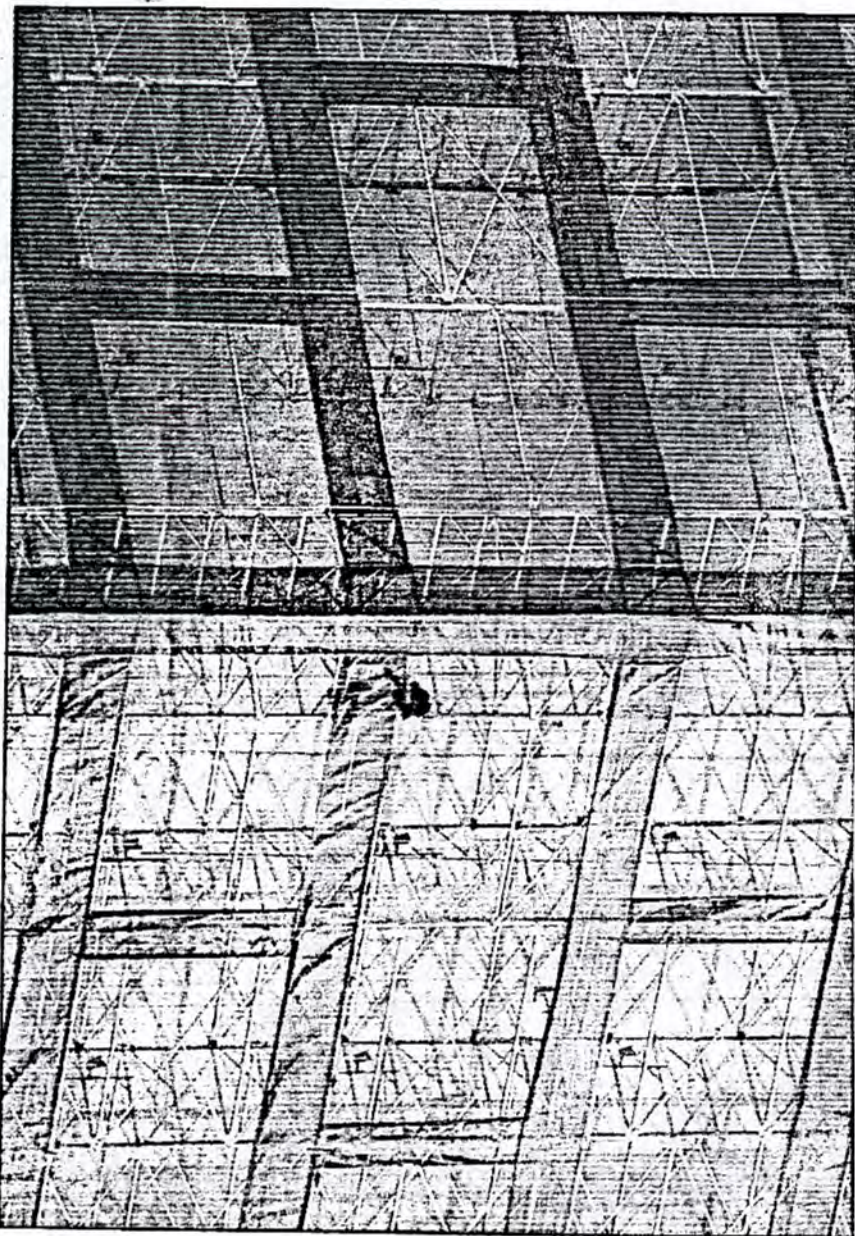
"We expect two to three thousand people," says spokesman Geoff Chester, who added that all public tickets have been snapped up. "Anybody who didn't get a ticket can't get in."

The mega-bash "National Millennium 2000" at the Grand Hyatt features four party "levels" with

see MALL, page A10

Finishing touches: A worker does his part in getting the Washington Monument ready for tonight's Mall extravaganza. "America's Millennium: A Celebration for the Nation" will feature a film by Steven Spielberg.

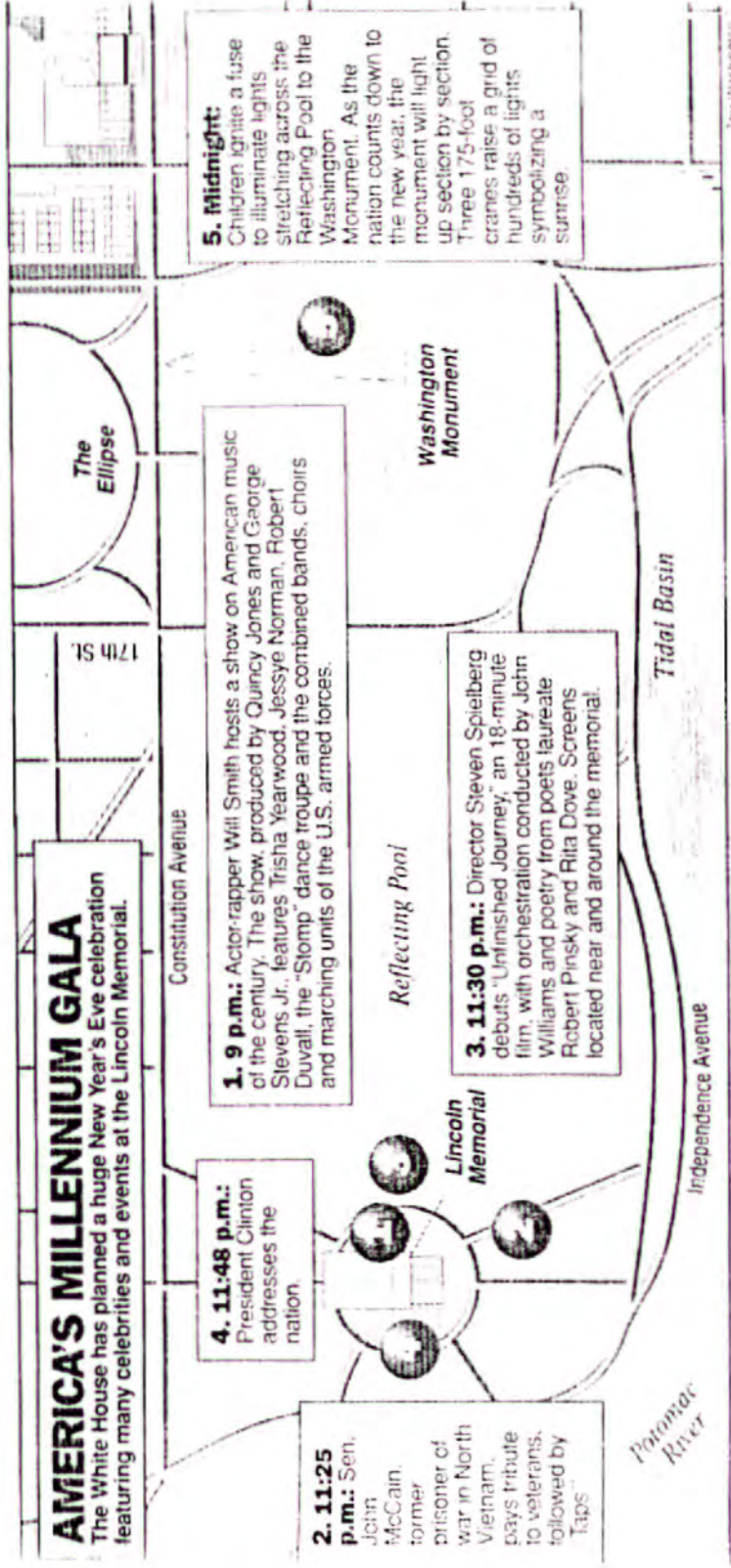
Photo by Sean Dougherty/The Washington Times



FROM PAGE ONE

AMERICA'S MILLENNIUM GALA

The White House has planned a huge New Year's Eve celebration featuring many celebrities and events at the Lincoln Memorial.



2 of 2

MALL

From page A1

performances by Marvelous 3, 2 Skinnee J's and Emmet Swimming.

"Washington will sell out today," said Jennifer Fonts of Lindy Promotions, which has also organized parties in Baltimore and Atlanta. "Baltimore's selling rapidly and Atlanta's skyrocketed. There's absolutely no way we are canceling any of our events."

This comes on the heels of cancellations of three major D.C. events. Yesterday, a New Year's Eve gala at the MCI Center featuring Third Eye Blind was scrubbed. Earlier, fetes at Georgetown Park — which had merged into the MCI party — and the Ronald Reagan Building — with a charity show starring the Who's Roger Daltrey — also fizzled due to lackluster sales.

Daylight will still see the Smithsonian Institution holding more than three dozen programs spread out over three days. "America's Millennium on the Mall" touches on the U.S. experience in four tourist hot spots: "American Voices," Natural History; "Story Circle," American History; "Future Visions," Hirshhorn Museum; and "Launch 2000," Air and Space.

Terrorist fears — including Seattle's cancellation of its festivities — haven't shaken the film di-

rector, musician and producer behind the New Year's Eve "America's Millennium" gala on the Mall.

"I have a feeling that the space we're on, on Friday night is going to be the safest place in the United States," said Mr. Stevens in a press conference Tuesday at the base of the Lincoln Memorial.

"We have to feed into fear or love at one point," Mr. Jones added. "We refuse to feed into fear."

The District will have 3,500 police patrolling the city, buttressed by the FBI and 300 members of the National Guard. Although there will be no metal detectors on the Mall, bags and packages will be screened. Alcohol is not permitted at the event.

The public gala, which begins at 9 p.m., is hosted by movie star/rapper Will Smith. Others appearing include actors Jack Nicholson, Sam Waterston, Robert Duvall and Diane Keaton, former Sen. John Glenn, presidential candidate and Sen. John McCain, ex-Boston Celtics center and Hall of Famer Bill Russell, ex-boxer Muhammad Ali, children's author/illustrator/puppeteer David Wisniewski, gospel singer Bebe Winans, pop singers Bono, Tom Jones and Don McLean, opera singer Kathleen Battle, country singers Kenny Rogers, Kathy Mattea and Trisha Yearwood, "Ragtime" star Brian Stokes Mitchell, and the cast from Broadway's 25-member "Stomp."

At 11:30 p.m., Mr. Spielberg tops the show by presenting his 18-

minute film, "Unfinished Journey," which will be shown on three screens near and around the Reflecting Pool. On Tuesday, Mr. Spielberg called it a "kind of musical and poetic celebration of why we are all here today, what were the shoulders we stood on to achieve this moment in time and in history."

The film includes poems by U.S. poet laureate Robert Pinsky, previous laureate Rita Dove and author-poet Maya Angelou. Mr. Clinton will read from Abraham Lincoln. John Williams conducts his own orchestration. Then Mr. Clinton addresses the expected crowd of 100,000 as well as a nationally televised audience.

The huge stage at the base of the Lincoln is ribboned with 250 miles of cable, which workers were still threading through trees yesterday morning. The president, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and thousands of his closest pals will sit on heated risers, buffered from the crowd.

"Are you looking forward to this great mess on the Mall?" asked actress Elizabeth Perry from her New York home. "What they're talking about on TV — in Washington, New York and Seattle — is scary stuff."

Her one-woman show, "Sunflower, the Life and Loves of Elizabeth Cady Stanton," plays at 4 p.m. today at the National Museum of Natural History. It's part of the three-day "America's Millennium

on the Mall" program. Born in 1815, Stanton delivered the "Declaration of Sentiments" at the first Woman's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y. It led to the eventual women's suffrage amendment to the Constitution 70 years later. Miss Perry's show was featured at the 150th anniversary. She also performed it for New York Gov. George E. Pataki's Economic Summit for Young Women.

"I wanted to show a woman with love in her heart for humanity," said Miss Perry. "There is a view of [some women as being as] outspoken as battleaxes. That's not my view or my experience. And I'm glad when men come to my place and bring their sons, because Elizabeth loved her husband and her sons."

Over at the State Theatre in Falls Church, rangy blues guitarist Tom Principato will be cutting loose when the clock strikes 12. The local guitar hero said he just bought a European gypsy guitar and is experimenting with world music.

Southern rockers Little Feat and local folkies Seldom Scene will headline Montgomery County's fifth-annual, nonalcoholic First Night celebration. For the first time, it will be held at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg instead of downtown Silver Spring. Fireworks will go off at 6 p.m.

• This article is based in part on wire service reports.

PAUL GREENBERG

White House jubilee

Talk about a New Year's Eve bash: The Clintons are planning one that perfectly captures the spirit of this new gilded age. It sounds boffo: There'll be celebs galore, deep thoughts ever so attractively packaged, and fireworks right up the Washington Monument.

The first couple will be having 320 people in for dinner. The guests will have to be split between the State Dining Room and East Room, with a hundred more in a heated tent outside, not counting the additional 500 to 600 who are invited for a post-midnight dance before breakfast.

I feel full just reading about it. Between dinner and breakfast, there'll be a three-hour show outside. (Have no fear: The goody bags for the guests feature scarves, seat cushions and hand warmers; heated air will be piped in under the seats.)

Not even the shah of Iran ever put on a bash this splendid. Everything's been provided except that indefinable quality that Mr. Jefferson called republican simplicity. It won't do for this, an imperial age.

The president himself is to ignite

a long fuse that goes from the Lincoln Memorial across the Reflecting Pool before it sends a cascade of fireworks all the way up the Washington Monument. Hot ziggedy. It's hard to sum up the spirit of this whole enterprise in any single word. Rome, maybe.

"This will be no ordinary party for no ordinary time," to quote the first lady. "This is a tremendous opportunity to really unite the nation." And indeed the size of the guest list does approach the U.S. Census.

Actually, it all sounds like an ordinary party in ordinary times, only with elephantiasis. For the outsized arrangements are enough to make ordinary wretched excess seem modest.

Why is it that the Clintons' national celebrations tend to turn into celebrations of themselves, or at least of their — and this time the awful word is appropriate — lifestyle?

Because the Clintons R Us, circa

1992-00. Because they're the very image of the strangely spiritless spirit of the age. Because they could have stepped out of, or into, the pages of *Vanity Fair*, or the advertisements in the *New Yorker*, or the interchangeable Arts and Style sections of the *New York Times* at any time during this directionless decade.

How do they do it? How do the Clintons manage to capture us at any given, passing time? It's not just the emphasis on PR, the habitual spin for the sake of spin or the 24-hour war room. It's not even the inevitable next election coming up, this one in New York.

No, it's something more: It's the Clintons' perfect, conscious contemporaneity. They're the spirit of the Nineties to the hollowed-out core. They're completely Now. There is no room in their omnipresent for any thoughts of past greatness or future destiny, except perhaps for rhetorical purposes. And it is this freedom

from past and future that eliminates any need for moral consistency.

Some concern has been expressed about the effect of these fireworks on the Washington Monument, but the only thing really to be feared is that, at the stroke of midnight, the familiar handwriting will appear on the walls: Mene mene tekel upharsin. But HRC knows that, should she be weighed in the balance, she will not be found wanting if she can just keep her thumb on the scales. Perception is reality.

Hillary Clinton says it's a great opportunity to unite the nation. (The way she's united New York?) But the Clintons are never so polarizing as when they are intent on uniting us. How can that be? Maybe it's their perfectly fabricated authenticity. The '90s have had much the same effect, stirring the same vague dissatisfactions — and sparking sudden outbursts of temper. What was it that poor, embarrassed David Brinkley, thinking his mike was off, said after the president's victory speech in '96? "We all look forward with great pleasure to four years of wonderful, inspiring

speeches, full of wit, poetry, music, love and affection, plus more . . . nonsense."

At the time, David Brinkley was only at the halfway point of the Clinton administration, and he'd already lost it. His extemporaneous analysis had to be one of the great unrehearsed and unrehearsable moments in the history of American television, though you are not likely to see it mentioned in any of the endless turn-of-the-century retrospectives this weekend. True art seldom is.

Speaking of "wonderful, inspiring speeches, full of wit, poetry, music, love and affection, plus more . . . nonsense," don't you wish you could spend New Year's at the White House? You could hobnob with Elizabeth (Cleopatra) Taylor, a legend in her own time and several others, and Arthur Schlesinger Jr., noted polemicist and son of the great historian. You could hear a poem by Maya Angelou, and not one but two toasts by Bill Clinton — plus still another of his speeches.

Maybe if David Brinkley were seated across the table offering his

comments sotto voce, all this might be fun. Then again, as Bill Faulkner commented on declining an invite to the White House, it's a fur piece to go for supper.

It was John F. Kennedy who greeted a gathering of Nobel Prize winners at the White House (the one Mr. Faulkner couldn't make) by saying they represented the greatest collection of intellect under that roof since Thomas Jefferson dined there alone. This little gathering New Year's Eve represents the greatest collection of showmanship under that roof since Teddy Roosevelt dined there alone, if he ever did.

Looking over the extent of the guest list and the Olympic nature of the partying, it's all enough to make one yearn for a quiet New Year's evening curled up in front of the fireplace with a book and somebody you love. Make that an old book. Maybe one of Mr. Faulkner's. Not for nothing does the Constitution itself extol domestic tranquility.

Paul Greenberg is a nationally syndicated columnist.

EDITORIALS



Hey, what a party

New Year's at the White House



TALK ABOUT a New Year's Eve bash: The Clintons are planning one that perfectly captures the spirit of this new gilded age. It sounds boffo: There'll be celebs galore, deep thoughts ever so attractively packaged, and fireworks right up the Washington Monument.

First Couple will be having 320 people in for dinner. The guests will have to be split between the State Dining Room and East Room, with a hundred more in a heated tent outside, not counting the additional 500 to 600 who are invited for a post-midnight dance before breakfast.

We feel full just reading about it. Between dinner and breakfast, there'll be a three-hour show outside. (Have no fear. The goody bags for the guests feature scarves, seat cushions and hand warmers; heated air will be piped in under the seats.)

Not even the shah of Iran ever put on a bash this splendidiferous. Everything's been provided except the indefinable quality that Mr. Jefferson called republican simplicity. It won't do for this, an imperial age.

The president himself is to ignite a long fuse that goes from the Lincoln Memorial across the Reflecting Pool before it sends a cascade of fireworks all the way up the Washington Monument. Hot ziggedy. It's hard to sum up the spirit of this whole enterprise in any single word. Rome, maybe.

"THIS WILL be no ordinary party for no ordinary time," to quote the First Lady. "This is a tremendous opportunity to really unite the nation." And indeed the size of the guest list does approach the U.S. Census.

Actually, it all sounds like an ordinary party in ordinary times, only with elephantiasis. For the outsized arrangements are enough to make ordinary wretched excess seem modest.

Why is it that the Clintons' national celebrations tend to turn into celebrations of themselves, or at least of their—and this time the awful word is appropriate—lifestyle?

Because the Clintons R Us, circa 1992-00. Because they're the very image of the strangely spiritless spirit of the age. Because they could have stepped out of, or into, the pages of *Vanity Fair*, or the advertisements in *The New Yorker*, or the interchangeable Arts and Style sections of the *New York Times* at any time during this directionless decade.

How do they do it? How do the Clintons manage to capture us at any given, passing time? It's not just the emphasis on PR, the habitual spin for the sake of spin, or the 24-hour war room. It's not even the inevitable next election coming up, this one in New York.

No, it's something more: It's the Clintons' perfect, conscious contemporaneity. They're the spirit of the Nineties to the hollowed-out core. They're completely Now. There is no room in their omni-present for any thoughts of past greatness or future destiny, except perhaps for rhetorical purposes. And it is this freedom from past and future that eliminates the need for moral consistency.

By now the country's First Lady has moved quaimlessly through more conflicting roles than a Hollywood bit player. The activist who denounced the 1980s as a Decade of Greed was making a quiet killing in cattle futures at the same time. The socially conscious candidate who's running for the Senate in New York is also the impresario of this Belshazzar's Feast at the White House.

Some concern has been expressed about the effect of these fireworks on the Washington Monument, but the only thing really to be feared is that, at the stroke of midnight, the familiar handwriting will appear on the walls: *Mene mene tekel upharsin*. But HRC knows that, should she be weighed in the balance, she will not be found wanting if she can just keep her thumb on the scales. Perception



is reality.

When people speak of First Couple's sense of history, if they do, they must be referring to last week. The Clintons glide along the surface of history; they don't make it. Or bear it. Their sympathies, like their animosities, are remarkably weightless. They are the picture of cool.

Word has it William Jefferson Clinton himself is to recite Honest Abe's lines in this New Year's Eve pageant. Whoever writes these scripts has a natural talent for irony. For some irrepressible reason, we can't help but think of that costume party in *The Manchurian Candidate*, complete with Red Queen and Abe Lincoln in stovepipe hat and fake beard.

HILLARY CLINTON says this party is an opportunity to unite the nation. (The way she's united New York?) But the Clintons are never so polarizing as when they are intent on uniting us. How can that be? Maybe it's their perfectly fabricated authenticity. The Nineties have had much the same effect, stirring the same vague dissatisfactions—and sparking sudden outbursts of temper. What was it that poor, embarrassed David Brinkley, thinking his mike was off, said after the president's victory speech in '96? "We all look forward with great pleasure to four years of wonderful, inspiring speeches, full of wit, poetry, music, love and affection, plus more goddam nonsense."

Still not finished, Mr. Brinkley added that this president "has not a creative bone in his body. Therefore, he's a bore, and will always be a bore." Oh, dear. The commentator's unintentionally public thoughts were all the more embarrassing for being so widely shared by any Americans still sentient four years into the Age of Clinton. But it's one thing to notice such things, quite another to say them out loud. Why belabor the obvious?

At the time, David Brinkley was only at the halfway point of the Clinton administration, and he'd already lost it. His extemporaneous analysis had to be one of the great, unrehearsed and unrehearsable moments in the history of American television, though you are not likely to see it mentioned in any of the endless turn-of-the-century retrospectives this weekend. True art seldom is.

SPEAKING OF "wonderful, inspiring speeches, full of wit, poetry, music, love and affection, plus more goddam nonsense," don't you wish you could spend New Year's at the White House? You could hobnob with Elizabeth (Cleopatra) Taylor, a legend in her own time and several others, and Arthur Schlesinger Jr., noted polemicist and son of the great historian. You could hear a poem by Maya Angelou, and not one but two toasts by Bill Clinton—plus still another of his speeches.

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The Denver Post

December 31, 1999 Friday 2D EDITION

SECTION: E; Pg. E-01

LENGTH: 343 words

HEADLINE: Pyrotechnics to top gala on D.C.'s Mall

BYLINE: Denver Post Wire Services,

BODY:

WASHINGTON - The plan is to end the year with a bang, not a whimper.

A crowd of more than 100,000 is expected to gather at the base of the Lincoln Memorial on New Year's Eve for the celebration of 'America's Millennium,' a \$ 10 million extravaganza on the Mall.

President Clinton is scheduled to speak a few minutes before midnight, after a 19-minute Steven Spielberg paean to America called 'The Unfinished Journey' accompanied by an original score by film composer John Williams.

In keeping with the patriotic theme, the host will be Will Smith, the actor who saved America from aliens bent on annihilation in 'Independence Day,' backed up by 30 dancers.

Opera divas Jessye Norman and Kathleen Battle will be there to raise the brow of the event.

The show's co-producers are director George Stevens and composer Quincy Jones.

While the producers have devoted thousands of hours to planning the entertainment and the speeches, the event may be remembered most for the fireworks.

A half-minute before midnight, a burning fuse will travel the length of the reflecting pool, ending at the base of the Washington Monument.

As the final seconds of the 1900s tick away, the monument will be transformed into a giant Roman candle, sheathed in cascading pyrotechnic light.

At the stroke of midnight, the sky behind the obelisk will turn golden with fireworks, symbolizing, Stevens said, 'something about aspiration and the future.'

The idea of the whole program, Stevens said, is to celebrate the American experiment in popular government - and to have a little fun along the way.

'Despite all the persiflage and hype and expense,' he said, 'our hope is to somehow capture a little of the wonder of democracy on the swamp that George Washington chose as our capital and designed into a city, between the monuments to Lincoln and Washington with the Capitol in the background.'

'In this cynical age,' he concluded, 'it makes your heart beat a little faster.'

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Knight Ridder/Chuck Kennedy Workers assemble scaffolding at the end of the Reflecting Pool at the site of the Millennium Celebration on the Mall in Washington.

LOAD-DATE: December 31, 1999

December 31, 1999, Friday

SECTION: Main News Pg.12

LENGTH: 594 words

HEADLINE: Security is tight in Washington

SOURCE: USA Today

BODY:

for tonight's unprecedented gala

By LAURENCE McQUILLAN

USA Today

Washington, D.C. - President Clinton has been dreaming of ushering in 2000 with a celebration like none other in the storied history of Washington, where party planners always try to outdo their predecessors. It looks like his dream will come true.

Never before has there been an extravaganza with such glamour and fireworks. Never before have government officials shut down bridges, closed so many streets and called out the National Guard to do it.

The "America's Millennium" celebration is being tempered by concerns about potential terrorism and possible Y2K glitches. Officials are happy to make grand predictions about the next 1,000 years but are less certain about this weekend.

"We're trying to strike a balance between taking the right precautionary measures and letting people know the information we have and not creating an unnecessary fear," Deputy White House press secretary Jake Siewert said. "We obviously wouldn't have invited people to the mall unless we were intent upon making it safe," he said.

Organizers predict about 500,000 revelers will turn out for a \$ 12 million New Year's Eve celebration at the Lincoln Memorial. It features an array of big-name performers and a special 18-minute Steven Spielberg film. The event is funded by private and corporate donations.

The program, to be shown live on CBS, includes a dramatic fireworks display that planners say will out-sparkle anything ever done in Washington, a city that takes its Fourth of July festivities seriously.

So how do you protect half a million people on a night that prompted cities such as Seattle to cancel galas because of security worries?

You put the District of Columbia's 3,500 police officers on extended shifts and then ask the Defense Department and the city's National Guard for additional help.

Law enforcement officers will direct traffic at about 150 street intersections. Large sections of major arteries downtown will be shut down, as will the Memorial and Theodore Roosevelt bridges and the adjacent sections of the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

Snow fences have been set up between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument to help control and monitor the crowd. Officers of the U. S. Park Police will be stationed at each of the four entrances to the viewing area to inspect packages and look for suspicious behavior, officials said.

About 50 stars and 450 singers, dancers and musicians will participate in the extravaganza produced by Quincy Jones and George Stevens Jr. The list of entertainers includes host Will Smith, Tom Jones and Diane Keaton.

Clinton, who will have a private gala at the White House earlier in the evening, plans to read some passages from the works of Abraham Lincoln during remarks just before the stroke of midnight.

Organizers say the "midnight moment" will feature fireworks and sound-and-light displays centered on the 555-foot-tall monument.

Worries about possible violence surfaced Thursday when police briefly closed the city's second-largest federal government office complex and a road just four blocks from the White House because of a security scare. Police converged on the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center after a bomb-sniffing dog on routine patrol reacted to what could have been explosive material, a police spokesman said. The police bomb squad found no explosives there.

This afternoon, the president and first lady will participate in a celebration of children.

United Press International

December 31, 1999, Friday

SECTION: GENERAL NEWS

LENGTH: 508 words

HEADLINE: Yearlong celebration

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Dec. 31

BODY:

Yearlong celebration- President Clinton opened America's millennium celebration New Year's Eve Friday by saying it was not just "a kick off" but a whole yearlong of events throughout the coming year. He deferred mainly to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton who has been planning the celebration for the past two years and set the tone with the motto: "Honor the past and imagine the future." Several activities were planned, including a star-studded, black tie dinner at the White House, and a three-hour gala at the Lincoln Memorial. A highlight of the program under blue skies and a bright warm sun on the Mall was the first lady's announcement of the items to go into the refrigerator-sized national time capsule, including: Louie Armstrong's trumpet, a piece of the Berlin Wall and a transistor that launched the information age. Retired Gen. Colin Powell contributed dog tags from the wars American soldiers fought, The time capsule, to be stored in the National Archives, will be opened in 100 years. "This is more than a unique moment for our calendar; it is also a unique moment for our country," Clinton told the outdoor crowd.

"Our economy is strong, our social fabric is on the mend. We are moving forward on America's remarkable journey of creating a more unified nation, a more just society, a more perfect union," he added. In introducing his wife, Clinton said: "Now, it is my privilege to present the person who has done more than anyone else in America to help us appreciate and properly celebrate the dawn of the new millennium. Ladies and gentlemen, the first lady of the United States." "Almost three years ago, when the White House Millennium Council began planning a celebration for the National Mall built around our theme, 'To Honor the Past and Imagine the Future,'" the president said, "we decided that an important way to capture this moment in time would be by filling a national time capsule -- filled not only with the symbols and achievements of the century just past, but with our hopes and dreams for the next." The first lady said thinkers and builders and creators of this century were invited to contribute to the time capsule, including "all the past recipients of our nation's highest honors in the arts and humanities, in science and technology, in citizenship and leadership -- as well as the thinkers and builders and creators of the future" and students from across the country. "We asked them all to help us fill this time capsule, and their responses have been overwhelming," she said. Teachers and students nominated computers, while scientists nominated the transistors that made them possible, the first lady revealed. She said Bruce Penniman's English class in Amherst, Massachusetts, sent a highlighted copy of Ralph Ellison's "The Invisible Man," while novelist Philip Roth recommended works by William Faulkner and Saul Bellow. June Moore's second grade class in Laramie, Wyoming, selected the sport of baseball, while playwright August Wilson suggested a recording by Bessie Smith. -- --

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 1, 2000

[The Washington Post]

MIETRO

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1999

Making Music for the Millennium



BY ROBERT A. REIDER — THE WASHINGTON POST

Performers from the cast of the New York musical "Stomp" rehearse at the Lincoln Memorial for their New Year's Eve performance in "America's Millennium Gala." A list of events, including times and acts, is available at www.americasmillennium.gov.

Time Capsule Contents

The nation's millennium time capsule—which won't be opened until 2100—will contain items like these: a Hostess Twinkie, **Ray Charles's** sunglasses, a chunk of the Berlin Wall, a cell phone, a World War II helmet and a student-made collage featuring pictures of Pokemon cartoon characters, **Fidel Castro** and a box of Lean Cuisine. **President Clinton** and **Hillary**

Rodham Clinton, who hatched the idea of the capsule to symbolize America at the century's end, will officially unveil its contents at a ceremony tomorrow. A prototype will then go on display at the National Museum of American History, and the actual capsule—a 4-by-6-by-2-foot chest—will be built in the spring and then stored in the National Archives.

Washington Post

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1999

Daily News (New York)

December 29, 1999, Wednesday SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 6 MILLENNIUM COUNTDOWN

LENGTH: 254 words

HEADLINE: MILLENNIUM SPECTACULAR SET FOR D.C.

BYLINE: By KENNETH R. BAZINET DAILY NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU

BODY:

WASHINGTON - The most spectacular New Year's celebration may not be in Times Square, but on the National Mall, where President Clinton and 500,000 others will celebrate - guarded by a thick cordon of police.

"America's Millennium Gala at the Lincoln Memorial" will be a star-studded extravaganza that CBS will air live from 10 p.m. Friday to 1 a.m. Saturday.

Unlike Seattle, where fears of a terrorist attack shut down that city's millennium celebration, the show will go on in the nation's capital, with the President and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in attendance.

"We refuse to feed into the fear," said co-producer Quincy Jones.

Clinton will later play host to a couple of black-tie White House parties, although he may have his sleeve tugged in mid-waltz if any serious Y2K problems flare up.

The highlight of the Washington bash will occur at midnight, when Clinton lights a fuse that will run down the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, over the Reflecting Pool and shoot up the Washington Monument to ignite a massive fireworks display.

Before partygoers get a chance to see the fireworks or listen to entertainers - ranging from U2's Bono to Las Vegas crooner Tom Jones to opera diva Jessye Norman - they will have to pass through one of four security checkpoints.

Much of the mall will be fenced in and lined with personnel from the FBI, Washington police, U.S. Park Police, Capitol police and Secret Service agents, among others. Bomb-sniffing dogs will search coolers, backpacks and purses.

LOAD-DATE: December 29, 1999

Gannett News Service

December 29, 1999, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: Pg. ARC

LENGTH: 755 words

HEADLINE: New Year's Eve splash on the Mall promises star-studded memories

BYLINE: STEVE DIMEGLIO; Gannett News Service

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- When midnight tolls on Friday, the Washington Monument will become a giant sparkler. Thirty minutes before, the Lincoln Memorial will be a giant movie screen for Academy Award-winning director Steve Spielberg's tribute to the nation as some 500,000 celebrants will hear the strains of composer John Williams' latest original score.

And before the evening is over here -- sometime around 1 a.m. Eastern -- about 50 stars and almost 450 singers, dancers and musicians will have appeared during the three-hour New Year's Eve extravaganza at the National Mall co-produced by Quincy Jones and George Stevens Jr.

"You will see almost everything you could imagine," Jones said.

Americans not on the Mall can view it on CBS, which has the exclusive broadcast rights to what is being billed as "America's Millennium Gala." The show starts at 10 p.m. Eastern.

Tuesday, a contingent of workers raced to complete the giant outdoor stage featuring jumbo movie screens and thousands of lights at the base of the Lincoln Memorial that will be the centerpiece of the gala. Beyond the Reflecting Pool at the Washington Monument, a similar group of workers worked feverishly on final details of a pyrotechnic outburst that is set to explode at midnight.

And in the middle of the frenzy that is transforming the mall into one of the world's largest sound and stage theaters, Spielberg rushed to finish his latest cinematic wonder, an effort that has consumed a hefty block of his time since June. But he isn't being pressed to meet the deadline of a major motion picture studio. Instead, he's busy wrapping up a movie for the president of the United States.

Called "The Unfinished Journey," Spielberg has collaborated

with Williams to develop a 20-minute concert of original music, poetry and images highlighting the 20th century.

"We've put together a musical and gaudy celebration of why we are all here today, and what were the shoulders we stood on to achieve this moment in time," Spielberg, whose credits include "Schindler's List," "Saving Private Ryan," and "E.T.," said about his movie.

"It's just a thank you to the past and a present for the future, and this is the most symbolic setting to bring in the next 1,000 years and salute the last 100."

Slated for an 11:33 p.m. showing, the movie features five acts - immigration and the building of America; the various wars the country fought; sports and show business personalities; the Civil Rights and Women's Rights movements; and flight and technology.

President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will host 3,000 stars, diplomats, congressional leaders and friends for the millennium gala. Among the celebrities invited to an elegant White House dinner and the festivities on the Mall are Muhammad Ali, Elizabeth Taylor, Don McLean, Robert De Niro, Robert Duvall, Bono, Diane Keaton and Jack Nicholson.

Clinton will make a brief speech. The gala's emcee is actor Will Smith.

The high-profile, celebrity-studded party will also include performances by Tom Jones, Trisha Yearwood, Kenny Rodgers, The Supremes and the 25-member company of "Stomp," along with a 100-piece orchestra and the combined bands, choirs and marching units of the U.S. Armed Forces. Everything from jazz to rock 'n' roll to country and western will be played.

"The music runs the full gamut," Jones said.

The celebration culminates at midnight with a high-tech, sound and light display. Clinton will light a special fuse at the Lincoln Memorial that will race down the middle of the Reflecting Pool and ignite a pyrotechnic explosion that will feature two separate bursts of fireworks. Cascades of fireworks will turn the 555-foot Washington Monument into a giant sparkler.

Stevens and Ellen Lovell, director of the White House Millennium Council, said the show would go on rain, shine or snow - and despite concerns over possible terrorist acts that led to the cancellation of Seattle's millennium party.

"It's never crossed our minds to cancel this. We are prepared," Lovell said.

"I have a feeling the space we're on will be the safest place anywhere in the United States," Stevens said. "People should enjoy the night and live it and consider it as a night of celebration."

"There's lots to be said about staying at home near the fireplace, but for those who come here, they will see something special that they will remember for the rest of their lives."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 30, 1999

METRO

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1999

B

Obituaries
Weather

5

New Year's Financing A 'Success'

*Nearly \$15 Million Raised
In 3-Month Money Sprint*

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

The New Year's Eve extravaganza that will rock the Lincoln Memorial is being financed with nearly \$15 million from about 40 companies, foundations and individuals, the event's main money man said yesterday.

The total includes more than \$3.2 million that CBS television paid to broadcast the Friday night show live, which means the network will not be cutting away to the traditional ball-drop at Times Square in New York.

"It's been a huge success," fund-raiser Terence R. McAuliffe declared gleefully, having helped to raise what White House organizers expect they will need to host the weekend of celebration. "There's been a huge outpouring of people... on very short notice."

The nail-biting, three-month time line to pull in the money was "very late," McAuliffe said, especially because many corporate and philanthropic budgets had been committed for the year. It also complicated planning for the show, which is costing nearly \$13 million, and for the Smithsonian Institution's three days of programs, demonstrations and exhibits.

Holiday Street Closings

Some sections of streets in the District will be closed, starting today. A map showing the closings appears on Page B5.

See FUNDS, B5, Col. 4



Dave and Vickie Spencer, visiting Washington from Newport News, Va., huddle for warmth near the Lincoln Memorial, which is closed to the public during the preparations for the New Year's Eve extravaganza.

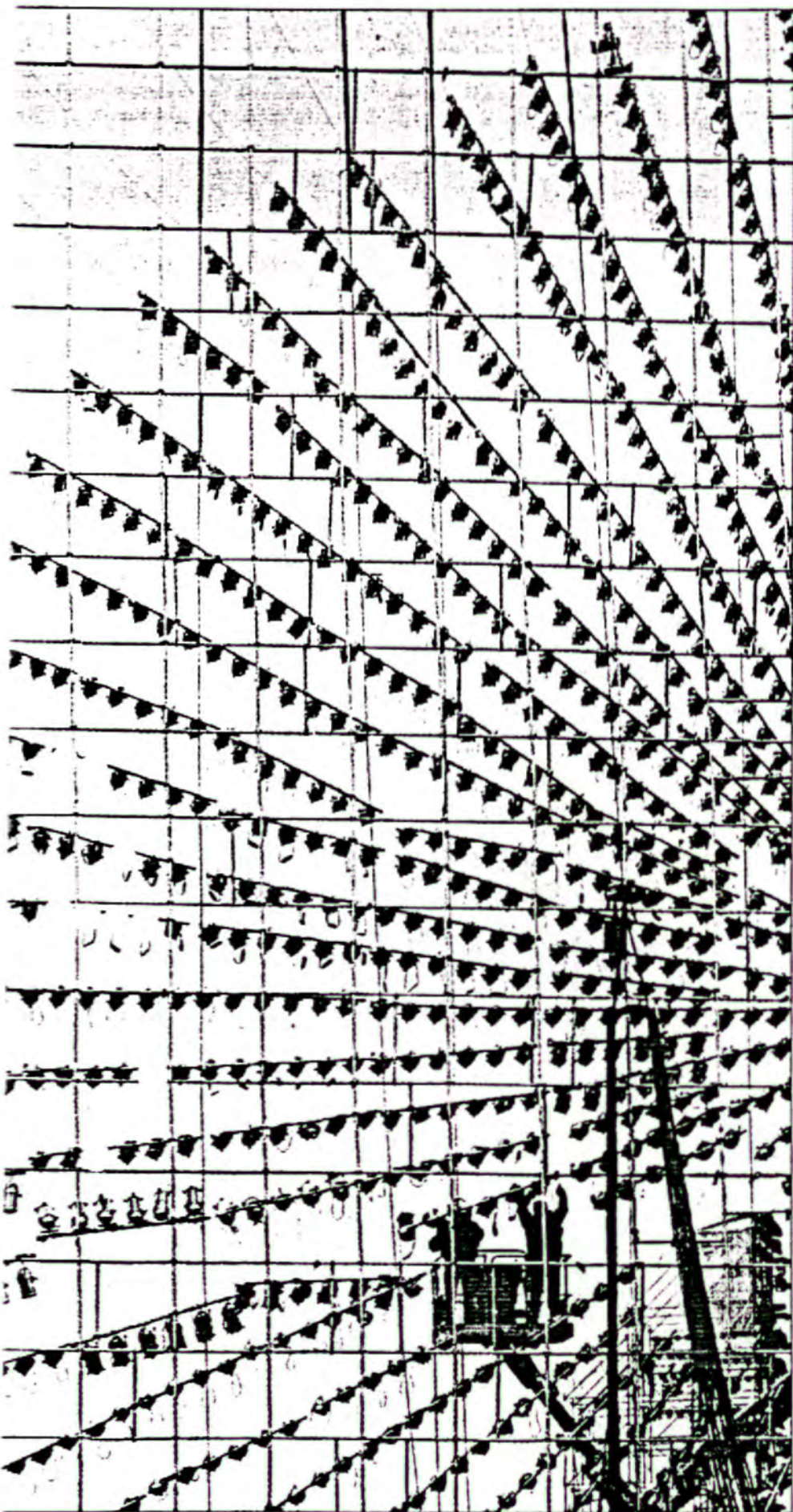
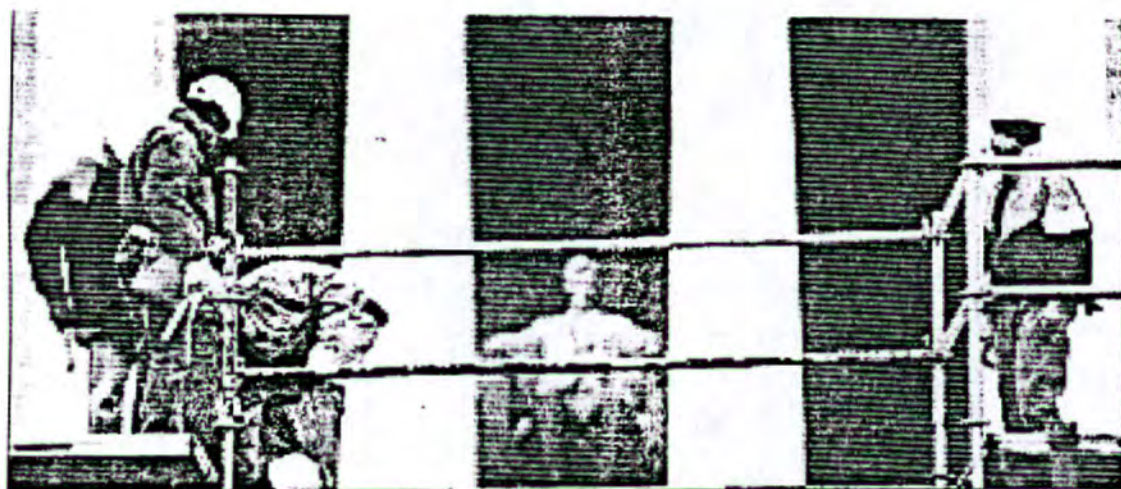


PHOTO BY BILL O'LEARY — THE WASHINGTON POST

vents to a huge grid of lights at the Lincoln Memorial in preparation for the millennium gala Friday.



BY BILL O'LEARY—THE WASHINGTON POST

Workers erect scaffolding as part of the process of transforming the Lincoln Memorial into a giant outdoor stage.

Donations to Fund New Year's Show

FUNDS, From B1

But by mid-December, he and finance co-chairman David Jones knew they would meet their goal and surpass it by a healthy million. It didn't hurt that they pitched the fund-raising as a way to help the entire nation celebrate the millennium—or that other major events elsewhere folded for lack of interest and support.

Three companies contributed at least \$1 million, and the names of Slim-Fast Foods Co., of West Palm Beach, Fla., Cisco Systems Inc., of San Jose, and InfoUSA.com, of Omaha, probably will be displayed prominently at the memorial Friday night.

Three other companies gave \$500,000 to \$1 million, according to sources involved in the planning. On that short list are Discovery Communications Inc., of Bethesda, Lockheed Martin Corp., of Bethesda, and Tommy Hilfiger Corp., of New York.

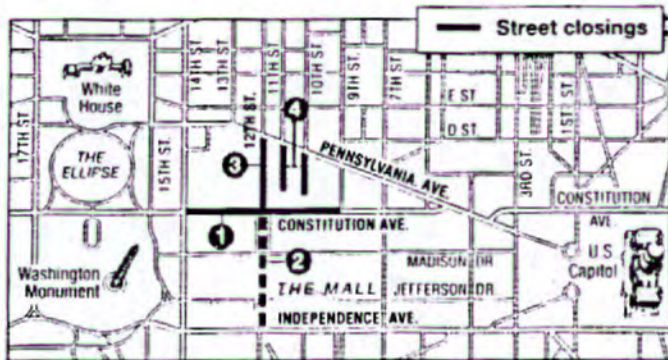
Programs to be distributed Friday, starting at an 11 a.m. opening ceremony with President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton, will list the dozens of others who donated at least \$100,000—including Synergics Energy Development, of Annapolis; the Kovler Foundation of Washington; James Kimsey, chairman emeritus of America Online Inc.; America Online, of Dulles; Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac; Jonathan Ledecy, co-owner of the Washington Capitals; and Larry Harris, general counsel for Teligent Inc. of Vienna.

By then, the memorial's transformation into giant outdoor stage will be complete. And before the final bows at 1 a.m. New Year's Day, some 50 stars will have paraded before the audience, joined by almost 450 singers, dancers and musicians in the three-hour production.

Road Closings

A number of street closings will be in effect for this weekend, but some streets are closing sections as early as today. Below are the street closings for the District up to Friday. A more complete guide to street closings, including Friday and Saturday closings, will appear later in the week.

- 1. Today (starting at 7 p.m.)**
Constitution Avenue between 9th and 14th until 11 p.m. Jan. 2.
- 2. Tomorrow (starting at 1 p.m.)** 12th Street Tunnel northbound
- 3. Tomorrow (starting at 1 p.m.)** 12th Street between Independence and Pennsylvania; both reopen at 11 p.m. Jan. 2.
- 4. Thursday (starting at 12:01 p.m.)**
Tenth and 11th streets, NW, between Constitution and Pennsylvania avenues, until 7 a.m. Jan. 2.



THE WASHINGTON POST

The show will be topped by two separate bursts of fireworks that one organizer estimates are costing \$500,000 to \$1 million.

The front steps of the memorial were a hectic, scaffolded scene yesterday as hundreds of workers in hard hats continued construction of the wide stage floor and elevated VIP seating. To the right and left stand the massive light towers that will spotlight performers, and two huge cranes hold a metal-framed sun

that will provide one of the program's most illuminating surprises.

Tourists and gawkers stopped and pointed, and those who followed Lincoln's gaze toward the Washington Monument could see the line of fireworks stanchions down the middle of the Reflecting Pool.

Just seconds before midnight Friday, President Clinton will light the fuse that will race down the pool and ignite a pyrotechnic razzmatazz at the monument.

Stars, pyrotechnics to shine brightly as

BY JANE FULLERTON
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — Leave it to the Clinton White House to celebrate the advent of 2000 with a Hollywood flourish set against the backdrop of American history.

That's the plan for New Year's Eve as President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton are set to lead a full day of festivities to mark the beginning of 2000 by

unveiling a time capsule, hosting a White House dinner and attending a three-hour extravaganza at the Lincoln Memorial, culminating in a midnight fireworks show at the Washington Monument.

It's all part of a three-day celebration of "America's Millennium" in the nation's capital that combines big-name entertainment with deep-thought seminars in a spectacle that organizers hope will

fulfill their theme to "honor the past — imagine the future."

"This will be no ordinary party for no ordinary time," Mrs. Clinton said recently in announcing the events. "This is a tremendous opportunity to really unite our nation."

Indeed, it will be no ordinary party for the approximately 320 people invited to ring in the new year by dining at the White House

White House welcomes 2000

— and that's the short list. Another 100 family members of those guests also have been invited, but they'll be dining in a heated tent in the Rose Garden. And yet another 500 to 600 guests will join the White House party for post-midnight dancing.

While White House dinners always include an assortment of big names from the worlds of entertainment, business, government

and academia, this one looks to really pull out all the stops.

"These people are innovators and creators, from the fields of art and history to sports and entertainment, who have greatly contributed to our American culture and heritage," said Toby Graff, a spokesman for the first lady's office.

The illustrious list includes
See PARTY, Page 9A

Party

• Continued from Page 1A

such cultural icons as boxer Muhammad Ali and actress Elizabeth Taylor. Also on the guest list are actors Robert DeNiro, Jack Nicholson and Mary Tyler Moore; playwright Neil Simon; violinist Itzhak Perlman; opera divas Jessye Norman and Kathleen Battle; and historian Arthur Schlesinger.

The millennium dinner will follow the format of a state dinner, with the president and first lady greeting their visitors in a formal receiving line. But so many guests will be present that the meal will be served in both the State Dining Room and the East Room, an arrangement that will require the president to offer two toasts.

After dinner, the Clintons and their guests will head to the Lincoln Memorial for a three-hour gala produced by Quincy Jones and George Stevens Jr. That site was chosen because of its significance, having been the site of such historic events as Marian Anderson's 1939 concert after being denied access to Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech. It was also here that Clinton celebrated his 1993 inauguration.

"This time, the entertainment is scheduled to include actor and singer Will Smith, who will serve as master of ceremonies, along with actors Robert Duvall, Sam Waterston, Diane Keaton and Kathy Mattea; singers Bobby McFerrin, Kenny Rogers, Luther Vandross, Trisha Yearwood, BeBe Winans and Don McLean; Broadway star Brian Stokes Mitchell; producer Luke Cresswell and his 25-member company of the Broadway production *Stomp*, as well as the combined bands, choirs and marching units of the U.S. Armed Forces. The show will be broadcast nationally by CBS.

Here's the catch: While the invitation to join the Clintons may be hot, it's a good bet the weather will be cold.

So what, precisely, should one wear to a black-tie dinner at the White House that includes a three-hour after-dinner show held outdoors in the middle of a notoriously fickle Washington winter?

Silk long johns.

At least that's what White House aides are recommending to their dinner guests. And it's good advice for the rest of the 3,000 invited

guests — the White House diners, along with various diplomats, members of Congress and local elected officials — who'll also be sitting outside for the show, scheduled to begin at 10 p.m. Washington time and last until 1 a.m.

The event is also open to the public, but organizers won't predict how many people will turn out.

Despite the tricky fashion logistics, White House aides and event organizers are confident the invited guests are up to the challenge. And they'll be receiving goody bags with "warming items" — as one aide described them — such as scarves, seat cushions and hand-warmers.

In addition, warm air will be piped under the seats, and heated hospitality centers will be located along the Mall.

While the White House is making arrangements for any guests who don't want to endure the open-air show, most seem to be game for the millennial event.

"I don't think anyone's had a problem so far," said one White House aide.

In the final half-hour of 1999, those willing to sit it out will hear from the president as he makes remarks and will watch the premiere of an 18-minute film, *The Unfinished Journey*, produced by Steven Spielberg.

The film will feature "original music, poetry and images, evoking the highlights and spirit of the last century," according to organizers. Poets Robert Pinsky, Rita Dove and Maya Angelou are contributing original works, while conductor John Williams is composing an original score.

The event will build toward a "midnight moment" fireworks spectacle that organizers say will "mark the time we pass into the new century and new millennium."

But not everyone, even the organizers, agrees with that interpretation of the timing.

On its Web site, the White House Millennium Council, which is coordinating the events, acknowledges that, technically speaking, "the next millennium is not officially reached until January 1, 2001."

That's why the White House is actually celebrating a "millennium year" to accommodate both the partiers and the purists.

Nevertheless, come Friday the show must go on, because, as the council's Web site points out: "Much of the world is planning to celebrate on December 31, 1999, when the calendar flips to the year

2000."

That Web site, which includes details on the festivities, is at:

www.americasmillennium.gov

The pyrotechnic spectacle will be started by the president, who, in the moments before midnight, will light a long fuse at the Lincoln Memorial that will travel the length of the Reflecting Pool to ignite the fireworks at the Washington Monument. At 11:59:50 EST, a countdown of 10 firework cascades will start, ascending the monument to ultimately illuminate the entire obelisk at midnight.

That will be followed by the lighting of a 50-foot-high illuminated "2000" in front of the monument.

Stevens, one of the event's producers, has characterized the display as "a once-in-a-lifetime sight."

Part of the reason it's once-in-a-lifetime is that organizers had to secure a change in the regulations regarding use of the monument to pull off this spectacle. It seems the National Park Service was a bit concerned about the use of pyrotechnics so close to the monument, which has just undergone a \$10 million cleaning.

The idea even elicited a letter of opposition from Rep. Ralph Regula, R-Ohio, who chairs a subcommittee overseeing the Interior Department, which oversees the park service. Regula objected to fireworks being attached to the scaffolding that now covers the 555-foot monument.

"A fireworks display attached to the monument is a desecration of the values inherent in our designation of such monuments," Regula wrote in a letter to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

But organizers and White House aides insist steps are being taken to protect the monument. They point out the fireworks are not the large, exploding kind, but "sparkler things, like you set off as a kid," which will be attached to the scaffolding rather than the monument itself.

After the midnight display, the entertainment will continue for about an hour. It will conclude with a fireworks finale originating from barges anchored in the Potomac River behind the Lincoln Memorial, similar to the setup used for July Fourth festivities.

In the wee hours of the morning, the Clintons and their guests, now totaling about 1,000 people, will make their way back to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue for dancing followed by another meal: breakfast.

December 27, 1999, Monday

SECTION: News; Pg. A1

LENGTH: 567 words

HEADLINE: Fireworks cascade to welcome Y2K in Washington

BYLINE: Jeff Nesmith

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- Champagne, music, a fireworks display -- and a touch of anxiety -- will set the tone of the "America's Millennium" celebration on the Washington Mall on New Year's Eve.

The White House office of the first lady, which is coordinating the plans, was predicting last week that 100,000 people would show up for the festivities.

That's quite a drop from the 600,000 originally expected.

The difference is likely the result of continuous cautions from President Clinton and other officials for Americans to be "vigilant" about possible terrorist acts during the holiday season.

A 37-foot-long mobile command center has been stationed on the Mall for use by police, fire and other emergency officials -- another reminder of the vague but real concern about Y2K terrorism.

If all goes well, a daylong celebration will climax with a pyrotechnic extravaganza described by its producer as a once-in-a-millennium cascade of brilliant white "stars" raining down from the 555-foot Washington Monument.

From the Lincoln Memorial several hundred yards away, Clinton will light a fuse 20 seconds before midnight to set off the finale. It will take 10 seconds for the fuse to burn its way to the base of the Washington Monument, currently surrounded by an elaborate scaffold because of refurbishing work.

Then, starting at 11:59:50, 10 successive bursts of brilliant white stars will rain down the sides of the monument, each 55 feet above the one before it.

Finally, beginning at precisely midnight, the entire monument will be covered with "a stunningly beautiful waterfall" of white pyrotechnics, said Philip Butler, who is producing the show for Fireworks by Grucci, a venerable Long Island company.

For a period of 20 seconds, all 10 segments of the fireworks display will burn simultaneously. Then, beginning again at the bottom, they will start shutting down.

An "America's Millennium Gala" show preceding the fireworks will be televised by CBS.

But the millennium events are to take up most of the day, beginning at 11 a.m. with performances on the Mall by youth choirs, the U.S. Marine Corps Band and other performers. The president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will unveil a "National Millennium Time Capsule," containing artifacts representing America at the end of the 20th century, at the 11 a.m. event.

Beer, wine and champagne will be sold at the Mall celebration, but alcohol consumption will be monitored with a wristband accounting system and limited to a four-block area east of the Washington Monument.

The Clintons will host a dinner for 1,000 invited guests at the White House. A select 320 guests, including Muhammad Ali and Elizabeth Taylor, will sit down with the first couple in the White House. The rest -- members of Congress and others -- will dine in a heated tent in the Rose Garden.

After dinner, the Clintons and 500 of their guests will go to the Lincoln Memorial for a splashy "America's Millennium Gala," hosted by actor-rapper Will Smith.

In the last half-hour of the year, large projection screens erected beside the Lincoln Memorial will show an 18-minute movie, "The Unfinished Journey," by Steven Spielberg.

The president will speak briefly, then light the fuse.

You may contact Jeff Nesmith at atjeffn@coxnews.com.

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

December 26, 1999, Sunday, Home Edition

SECTION: Reader; Pg. 3E

LENGTH: 833 words

HEADLINE: Mall madness: D.C. gala ready to ring

BYLINE: Jeff Nesmith, Staff

SOURCE: AJC

DATELINE: Washington

BODY:

Champagne, music, a spectacular fireworks display --- and a touch of anxiety --- will set the tone of the "America's Millennium" celebration on the Washington Mall on New Year's Eve.

The White House office of the first lady, which is coordinating plans for ringing in the first year that starts with a "2" --- the next millennium won't actually start until Jan. 1, 2001 --- predicted last week that 100,000 people would show up for the festivities.

That's quite a drop from the 600,000 originally expected.

The difference is likely the result of cautions from President Clinton and other officials for Americans to be "vigilant" about possible terrorist acts during the holiday season.

In addition to the customary "lost kids" tent, a new 37-foot-long mobile command center has been stationed on the Mall for use by police, fire and other emergency officials --- another reminder of the vague but real concern of Y2K terrorism.

If all goes well, a daylong celebration will climax with a pyrotechnic extravaganza described by its producer as a once-in-a-millennium cascade of brilliant white "stars" raining down from the 555-foot Washington Monument.

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Finally, beginning at precisely midnight, the entire monument will be covered with "a stunningly beautiful waterfall" of white pyrotechnics, said Philip Butler, who is producing the show for Fireworks by Grucci, a venerable Long Island, N.Y., company.

For 20 seconds, all 10 segments of the fireworks display will burn simultaneously. Then, beginning again at the bottom, they will start shutting down.

"The monument is a national icon which is held in great reverence," Butler said last week, "and we could never use it as a fireworks stage, except for the scaffolding being there.

"Through a lot of effort on everybody's part, including the National Park Service, we worked out a way to use the scaffolds and not the monument itself for our spectacular. This will never be done again --- unless maybe in the year 3000."

"America's Millennium Gala," a TV show, will be televised by CBS preceding the fireworks.

But the millennium events are to take up most of the day, beginning at 11 a. m. with performances on the Mall by youth choirs, the U.S. Marine Corps Band and other performers.

The president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will unveil the "National Millennium Time Capsule," containing artifacts representing America at the end of the 20th century, at the 11 a.m. event.

Four Smithsonian Mall museums --- the National Air and Space Museum, the National Museum of Natural History, the Hirshhorn Museum and the National Museum of American History --- will operate at their normal hours, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., throughout the New Year's weekend, Dec. 31 through Jan. 2.

In addition, auditoriums in the Hirshhorn and the museums of American history and national history will present a continuous series of 33 hourlong lectures on subjects ranging from bluegrass music to the future of sports in America.

Tickets are free, but have all been given out on a first-come, first-served basis, a Smithsonian spokesperson said.

Beer, wine and champagne will be sold at the Mall celebration, but alcohol consumption will be monitored with a wristband accounting system and limited to a four-block area east of the Washington Monument.

Streets immediately around the Mall will be closed, and city officials have urged those attending the celebration to use the subway system. Subways will operate until 3 a.m. and buses until 4 a.m.

The Clintons will host a dinner for 1,000 invited guests at the White House. A select 320, including former boxing champ Muhammad Ali and actress Elizabeth Taylor, will sit down with the first couple in the White House. The rest, members of Congress and others, will dine in a heated tent in the Rose Garden.

After dinner, the Clintons and 500 guests will go to the Lincoln Memorial for the splashy "America's Millennium Gala," hosted by actor-rapper Will Smith.

The gala will include entertainment by Robert Duvall, Diane Keaton, Kathy Mattea, Bobby McFerrin, Don McLean, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Kenny Rogers, Luther Vandross, Tricia Yearwood, Sam Waterston, BeBe Winans and Luke Cresswell, accompanied by the 25-member company of the Broadway production "Stomp."

In the last half-hour of the year, large projection screens erected beside the Lincoln Memorial will show an 18-minute movie, "The Unfinished Journey" by Steven Spielberg.

The president will speak briefly, then light the fuse.

GRAPHIC: Photo
Actress Elizabeth Taylor
Photo
Former boxing champ Muhammad Ali

LOAD-DATE: December 26, 1999

December 26, 1999, METRO FINAL

SECTION: TRAVEL; Pg. J6

LENGTH: 1076 words

HEADLINE: CELEBRATIONS AMERICAN STYLE

BYLINE: Bee Staff and News Services

BODY:

Washington, D.C.: There will be lots of flag-waving in the nation's capital, which is throwing a three-day America's Millennium party on the National Mall. New Year's Eve events will feature a stirring show at the Lincoln Memorial, hosted by the Clintons. Stars of the entertainment world, including Quincy Jones and The Supremes, are slated to perform, along with a 100-piece orchestra and the combined bands, choirs and marching units of the U.S. Armed Forces. An 18-minute Steven Spielberg film about the highlights of the 20th century will be shown for the first time. The celebration culminates at midnight with a high-tech sound-and-light display. Meanwhile, the four Smithsonian museums are staging special exhibits and performances Dec. 31-Jan. 2. All are free. For more information: (202) 789-7000 or (800) 294-2100. On the Web: www.washington.org; www.americasmillennium/.

New York: More than 1 million people are expected for what's supposed to be the biggest Times Square New Year's Eve party ever. There's even a new ball that will drop at midnight -- a 6-foot-diameter, 1,070-pound ball covered with 504 Waterford crystal triangles and illuminated by 600 multicolored light bulbs and nearly 100 strobe lights and mirrors. Whew!

The party begins at 7 a.m. with the arrival of the year 2000 in the South Pacific. For the next 24 hours, six gigantic Panasonic Astrovision video screens set up around the square will broadcast live images of the people and cultures of each of the world's time zones. At midnight, the ball drop will be accompanied by a light show, fireworks, puppets, waves of confetti and thousands of balloons. Can't stand crowds? For high rollers there's a party with entertainment by Sting, Aretha Franklin, Enrique Iglasias and Andrea Bocelli. For more information: (800) 692-84-748 NYC-VISIT, or www.celebration2000.com.

Las Vegas: Barbra Streisand's show at the MGM Grand is getting all the press, but there are plenty of other things going on. For classic rock fans, there's the Fremont Street Experience, a trippy light show and rock concert starring REO Speedwagon, Guess Who and Starship. Bette Midler plays the Mandalay Resort and Casino; Pat Benatar is at the Las Vegas Hilton; Rod Stewart is at the Rio Hotel; Hall and Oates are at Caesar's Palace; and Elton John and Tina Turner play the Thomas Mack Arena on Dec. 30. For a complete lineup: millenniumvegas.com or (702) 892-7575.

Chicago: The Windy City is throwing a 2,000-Minute Party, dubbed Dance 'til the Dawn of the New Millennium, at which a dance step commissioned for the occasion, the Milly, will be introduced. At Navy Pier on Lake Michigan, a clock posted on the 150-foot Ferris wheel will count down the seconds until midnight, when the sky over the lake will light up with fireworks and lasers. For more information: (312) 742-2001 or www.chicago2001.org.

New Orleans: The passing of 1999 will be mourned in New Orleans as the Big Easy ushers out the old year with an old-fashioned jazz funeral. Beginning at 10 a.m. on New Year's Eve, a Mass of resurrection (formerly known as a requiem Mass) will be held at St. Augustine Catholic Church. A traditional jazz funeral follows: a full funeral cortege, with dirges playing and a horse-drawn casket, will progress from the church to the gates of the St. Louis No. 1 Cemetery. There, a gate-side ceremony in which "the body is cut loose" will officially put the 1900s to rest. Participants then will march and dance through the French Quarter, symbolizing the good years ahead. For more information: (504) 565-8104.

Anchorage, Alaska: The streets of Anchorage will blaze with light when the city welcomes the new millennium. Lighting one candle from another, residents will march in a parade through the city. The Night of Light also will feature a giant lighted arch leading into a downtown area filled with such displays as an outdoor garden of lights that will seem to turn the night sky into day. For more information: (907) 274-3531 or www.anchorage.net.

Lubec, Maine: The small town of Lubec, Maine, will usher in the new year with fireworks at dawn rather than midnight. Lubec, the easternmost point in the continental United States, is taking advantage of its distinction: Residents and visitors can park cars at the water's edge and face east to see one of North America's first sunrises of 2000. For more information: www.nemaine.com/lubecmillennium.

Louisville, Ky.: It sounds like science fiction: At the stroke of midnight, a "phototonic transmitter" (giant laser), will power up and launch the official Millennium Message of Louisville into deep space. Driven by a massive array of YAG lasers, a collection of humanity's thoughts on the new millennium - sent to the city via e-mail from around the world - will be digitized and beamed into the night sky. For more information: (888) 568-4784.

Philadelphia: More than 2,000 Rockys - identical in gray sweats and navy knit caps - will storm up the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum like the hero of the 1976 Sylvester Stallone movie. The running of the Rockys, at 7 a.m. New Year's Eve, kicks off 24 Events in 24 Hours, a citywide celebration. For more information: (215) 686-2000 or millennium.philadelphia.org.

Key West, Fla.: Key West never drops the ball when celebrating the new year. The Florida city just drops everything else. Thousands will flock to Sloppy Joe's Bar to watch the annual dropping of the conch shell to welcome 2000. The Atlantic Shores Resort invites celebrants to watch as an "alien" is dropped into the resort's swimming pool at the stroke of midnight. If those celebrations are a little too tame, revelers can head over to upper Duval Street, where they can count down as a red, 6-foot-long, high-heeled shoe lowers Sushi, a drag queen, from the balcony of the Bourbon Street Pub/New Orleans House. For more information: (800) 527-8539 or www.fl-keys.com.

Seattle: The party of the century in this neck of the woods takes place at Seattle Center, a 72-acre urban park downtown. The Seattle Millennium Festival, Dec. 26-Jan. 1, is a free family event featuring cultural music and dancing, light shows, a performance by Cirque Eos, a sculptural fire ceremony, art and food vendors and street performers. The celebration peaks at midnight with the launch of thousands of fireworks from the Space Needle.

For more information: (206) 615-0345 or www.seattlecenter.com/millennium.

GRAPHIC: The Queen Mary, a ship turned hotel in Long Beach, is among dozens of California hotels planning New Year's Eve celebrations. The Queen has the advantage of offering front-rail views of the fireworks at midnight.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 27, 1999

M1

Obituaries
Federal Diary
Weather

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

A map put out yesterday by White House organizers shows that public viewing areas for "America's Millennium Gala" will

Four huge video screens will be near the stage and along the south-

And anyway, by midnight, the best seats in the open-air house will be those facing in the other direction. When the aerial pyrotechnics

In several key ways, the Dec. 31 production will differ significantly from its most frequent comparison, the annual Fourth of July show at the Mall's Sylvan Theatre. That owes in part to the demands of the site: The Lincoln Memorial drops away sharply from its top steps, pushing the public back farther.

In addition, given increasingly dire alerts this week about possible terrorist attacks in the United States over the holidays, the gala's organizers have scrutinized their plans. But there apparently has

See GALA, B4, Col. 1

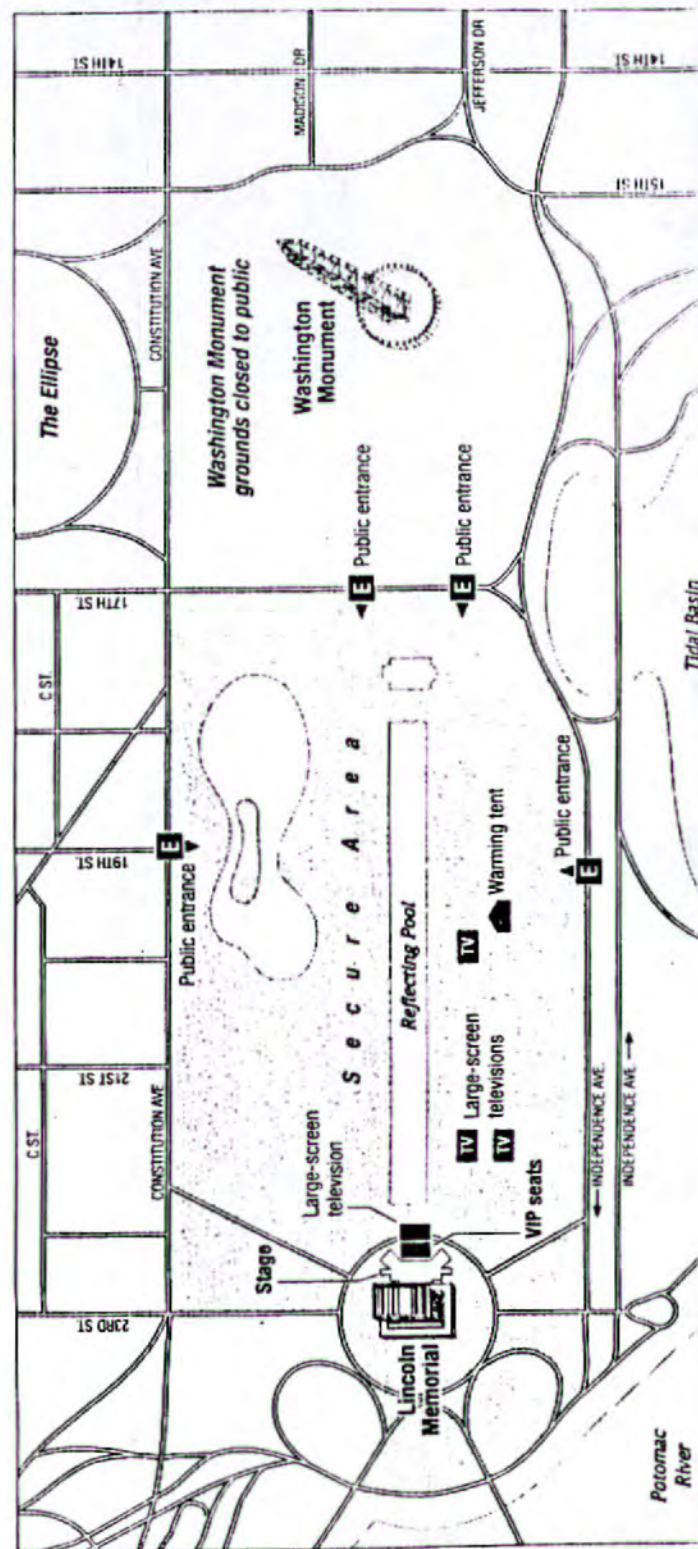
GALA. *From B l*

U.S. Park Police will be out in force, as will the Secret Service because of the presence of President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton. Metal detectors will be posi-

People who come—braving low temperatures that typically hover just below freezing on Dec. 31—will have to pass through one of four secured entrances off Constitution Avenue, Independence Avenue or 17th Street. Nearly all of the area immediately around the Lincoln Memorial will be off-limits to

Now comes the last-minute fine-

"Quincy and I are exhilarated," Stevens said. "We were just out on the stage, looking at the Washington Monument reflected in the Reflecting Pool. . . . It's the best canvas two struggling producers could ask for."



IN THE LOOP

Al Kamen

For George: a Chair, a Wreath and the Works

The planned New Year's Eve millennium fireworks extravaganza, featuring fireworks cascades down the sides of the Washington Monument, is almost certain to be, as event co-producer **George Stevens Jr.** says, "a once-in-a-lifetime sight."

That's because the scheme had to overcome a federal rule against hanging things from the monument and some strong objections from the National Park Service. NPS, after a meeting about two weeks ago between Stevens and NPS chief **Robert Stanton**, nixed the idea of using the Founding Father's monument as a giant launch pad.

NPS officials said a long-standing regulation—enacted to keep the monument off-limits to anti-war, abortion and other demonstrators—barred hanging explosives from the monument.

The Park Service apparently was concerned that pyrotechnics can be a bit dirty and it had just spent more than \$10 million to clean the monument. Also, the Park Service is renting that scaffolding by the day and was hoping to take it down by the end of the year or thereabouts, but this will delay that and the reopening of the monument. And then there was the question of creating a precedent for getting an exemption to the regulation—not for some important political issue with free speech implications or even for some patriotic event—but for a New Year's Eve bash.

But this will never do, the millennium planners protested. Their exceptionally fine plan would have **President Clinton** light some kind of fuse at the Lincoln Memorial that would go down along the reflecting pool and then over to and up the monument to start the cascades and other explosions. This would be huge, extraordinary—millennial!

So, not to be deterred, the millennium planning folks went to the White House to see if they could roll the Park Service. The story gets a bit murky here. Naturally, there were suspicions of political string-pulling, what with **Steven Spielberg** and other big contributors involved, but White House folks say their lawyers simply referred the planners' lawyers to the Department of Interior. No indication of any call from Clinton to Interior Secretary **Bruce Babbitt**, said an Interior Department spokesman, only questions

from the planners on "how to make this happen."

And guess what? Department lawyers scammed down Wednesday—that would be the 200th anniversary of **George Washington's** death—to file a rule revision in the Federal Register to allow the fireworks.

A key point favoring the move is that the rule against using the "restricted zone" around the monument had an "exception" for the "official annual commemorative Washington birthday celebration," according to the filing.

Of course, that "exception" only allows chairs to be set up near the monument and a wreath to be placed inside the monument at the foot of Washington's statue.

Chairs, fireworks. Hey, one exception's as good as another.

Francis, Airborne Till His Wings Get Clipped

Highflying National Transportation Safety Board vice chairman **Robert T. Francis** may be spending more time on the ground next year. His five-year term expires at the end of the month, though he may stay on for a couple of weeks.

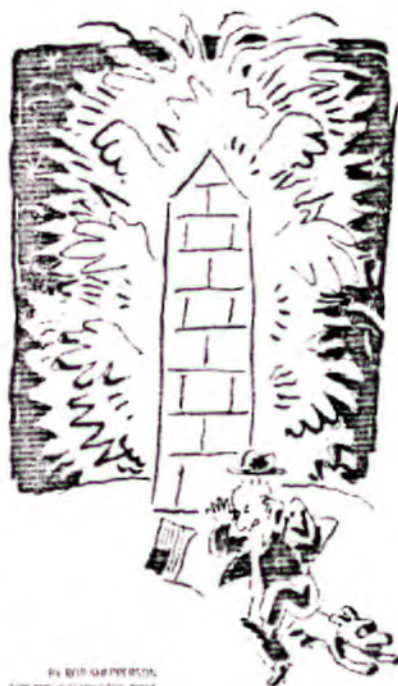
Francis, who hasn't been talking much to colleagues since he learned he was not being renominated—he ruffled feathers by skipping holiday and goodbye parties for senior officials—is

reported to have circumnavigated the globe at least three times to carry out his NTSB duties.

And there was still one more trip to go. This was a 10-day jaunt last month to Paris, Brussels and Toulouse on his way to a speech in Morocco. NTSB paid only \$2,366.18 and the Moroccan government picked up the rest.

NEC and NEC

The National Economic Council is gearing up: **Gigi Georges**, director of government relations for the American Federation of Teachers, is to be National Economic Council chief **Gene Sperling's** overall right-hand policy person on several big issues, including China and the World Trade Organization. Also, California lawyer **David Tseng**, who worked at the Labor Department in this administration and went home to be chief assistant treasurer of San Francisco, returns to be NEC staff director. And, history professor **Sean Dobson**, who worked at the Holocaust museum, is advising on communications and strategy.



Smithsonian Sets Final New Year's Party Plan

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Smithsonian Institution's party planners yesterday issued the final word on their New Year's weekend headliners: The king will be coming, the queen won't.

Legendary bluesman B.B. King will appear the afternoon of Jan. 2 as part of the Smithsonian's "America's Millennium on the Mall" festivities, although not in an outdoor concert as organizers announced prematurely in September. Instead, King will play and talk about the evolution of his music in the far more intimate setting of the National Museum of Natural History's 565-seat Baird Auditorium.

Intimacy has its drawbacks, however. Tickets for New Year's weekend programs became available only on Monday, and those for King already are gone—although Smithsonian officials were not allowed even to utter the initials B.B. publicly until today because of contractual obligations related to the musician's concert last night at

Constitution Hall.

The Smithsonian had hoped for a similar millennial "conversation" with the queen of soul, Aretha Franklin, who agreed months ago to perform Jan. 2 on the Mall. But when budget constraints forced organizers to move the program to three museum auditoriums, Franklin's promoters nixed her participation. The changed venue also led to the cancellation of rock-and-roller Chuck Berry's Jan. 1 show.

"We're disappointed, of course," said Richard Kurin, director of the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife Programs and Cultural Studies and the man in charge of the weekend's exhibits, readings and lectures. "Because we've changed the nature of the event... we feel we cannot do inside a museum what they'd like to do."

Although Franklin and Berry were among the biggest names in the initial lineup, Kurin is taking their loss in stride. More than 50 people—from actor Edward James Olmos and civil rights activist and scholar Julian Bond to scientists at

the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute—are part of the eclectic discussions and performances the Smithsonian will offer Dec. 31-Jan. 2.

About 12,000 people will be able to attend the nearly three dozen events in the auditoriums at the National Museum of Natural History, the National Museum of American History and the Hirshhorn Museum. About 5,000 tickets—which are free but required for admission—already have been requested through the Smithsonian's number (202-786-9115 or 202-633-9467 TTY).

"My only sorrow is we don't have places to accommodate larger audiences," Kurin said. Already, tickets also are gone for the Dec. 31 discussion with Neil Gershenfeld of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on future technologies.

One small consolation is that all sessions will be taped for dissemination through cyberspace Webcasts. The schedule, including plans for the outdoor gala that will begin at 10 p.m. New Year's Eve at the Lincoln Memorial, is on the Internet at

www.americasmillennium.gov.

The Smithsonian's program schedule and ticket information also are listed today in the Weekend section of The Post.

Details for the District's "Main Street Millennium" on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 are still being fine-tuned, though city officials said yesterday that a complete schedule soon will be posted on the Internet at www.2000dc.com. The centerpiece of the free D.C. festival, which will stretch four blocks of Constitution Avenue NW, will be the "Millennium Washington Stage" at 12th Street. Music will begin at 11:30 a.m. on New Year's Eve with the Latin band Ivan Cuesta y sus Vallenatos Autenticos, and Big Joe & the Joe Stanley Quartet will swing from 10 p.m. to nearly midnight.

Organizers said yesterday that about two dozen food vendors will offer Jamaican, Indian, Asian and other cuisines in heated pavilions that will spotlight each of the city's quadrants. The city is charging each vendor a \$1,000 upfront fee and will receive 15 percent of sales.

PARTY CLASHERS

Next November, Hillary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani will trade political punches in a battle to win a New York Senate seat. But first, these Capitol Hill hopefuls square off to determine whose New Year's Eve wingding will be wilder.

	VENUE	PICKING UP THE TAB	FINGER FOOD	WARM-FUZZY FACTOR	RAZZLE-DAZZLE	GRAND FINALE
 HILLARY	 Washington, D.C.: The Mall, site of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.	Private donors fingered by Terry McAuliffe, the Dems' super shake-down man. 	 A free food fair running along Constitution Avenue.	An 18-minute Steven Spielberg film "expressing the highlights of the twentieth century." 	 Will Smith, hosting a concert featuring Aretha Franklin, Chuck Berry, and B.B. King.	Top-secret Midnight Moment sound-and-light display. 
 RUDY	 New York City: Times Square, site of MTV's "I Wanna Be a V.I.P." contest.	The Discover Card, Waterford Crystal, and Korbel champagne. 	 52 pretzels and soft drinks on most corners.	Live big-screen broadcasts of millennium celebrations from cities around the globe. 	 24 separate acts set to go off as each time zone welcomes the new millennium.	The ever-popular Ball Drop, followed by an even more impressive subway exodus. 
AND THE WINNER IS...	Rudy Giant digital tickers allow nizzoner to send real-time behavioral edicts to the gathered throngs.	Rudy The first lady may wish she saved the \$12.5 million spent on her shindig for the Senate race.	Hillary Though this White House wife will never be mistaken for Martha Stewart, you can't beat free grub.	Hillary Spielberg knows schmaltz. The centennial roundup trumps the 2000 remix of "We Are the World."	Rudy This Broadway epic pleases key voting blocs by displaying their cultures on the Great White Way.	Hillary Partygoers do like tradition, but they love a surprise.

George magazine
Dec / Jan 2000

HOW WILL THEY SPEND NEW YEAR'S?

BILL AND HILLARY CLINTON

The First Couple will mix with the people at ceremonies along the National Mall in Washington. Then they will attend a show produced by Quincy Jones that will showcase music by John Williams, a 17-min. film by Steven Spielberg and the marching units of the U.S. Armed Forces. Aretha Franklin and Will Smith are among the celebrities who will join the festivities



DONALD TRUMP

The man who would be President is throwing a party at the Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla. Gladys Knight will perform



EVANDER HOLYFIELD

The former champ will be praying at the World Changers Church in Georgia. Service starts at 10 p.m.



RICKY MARTIN

He's leaving La Vida Loca to spend the evening with his family in Puerto Rico



KIRSTIE ALLEY

The Veronica's Closet star will be in Paris with her boyfriend when the clock winds down



RICHARD SIMMONS

"It will be a spotty one for me," says TV's frenetically cheery fitness guru. "It will be me and my Dalmatians listening to Broadway tunes. And, yes, they will be wearing millennium party hats." Maybe he can see if Dave Letterman is doing anything



JOHN MCCAIN
The Republican presidential hopeful will spend New Year's with his family at a cabin in Cottonwood, Ariz.



“I will be spending New Year's at home in Los Angeles with my kids and husband ... just the four of us, something very simple.”

—PAMELA ANDERSON LEE



millennium,” says Imtiaz Muqbil, executive editor of Travel Impact Newswire. In London there's a prospect of empty seats greeting the Queen and the Prime Minister as they open the much vaunted Millennium Dome on New Year's Eve, while all six suites in the New York City Palace's \$25,000 “Splurge of the Century” are yours for the taking.

There are economic reasons for some of these millennial disappointments. Predictions of widespread, money's-no-object revels were just that—predictions, of an event that hasn't occurred since the airplane was invented, the Crusades gave way to package tours and Dick Clark was soldered together in a top-secret government warehouse. So proprietors aimed for the stratosphere and whiffed. Hotels super-sized their room rates; tour operators assessed \$1,000 cancellation fees; property owners in New York City and Miami put up their pads for sublet at five-figure rates (few takers, so far); British star chef Marco Pierre White tried and failed to auction off private parties at his restaurants at Sotheby's in London. Even in this boom time, the millennium is, like Yogi Berra's fabled night spot, so crowded nobody goes there.

New Year's Eve, of course, is known for disappointment, freighted with the pressure to be the wildest night of the year but often ending in ennui, regret and beer stains. Is this one simply shaping up to be a letdown on a millennial scale? Not necessarily. Party planners and business people predict that customers will start filling hotels, parties and restaurants in the next few weeks—especially if prices drop enough.

BUT MORE IMPORTANT, AN UNDERBOOKED New Year's is a letdown only by a fairly consumerist measure, one that assumes you can divine enthusiasm and millennial spirit in terms of buzz and box office, units moved and luxury suites occupied. People are not so much dismissing the event as trying to determine how to mark it in a way that's meaningful to them. So a lot of people are making low-key, local plans, like neighbors and single dads Bruce Rave and

Charlie O'Dowd of Albuquerque, N.M., who are planning a minimalist block party. “We'll set up a tent with a kerosene heater for the old people and probably me too,” says Rave, 45. There will be meat cooking on propane grills—no electricity at this Y2K-themed party—and plenty of soccer, football, basketball and Hula Hoops. “Kids and adults playing together in the street—a family day,” says O'Dowd, 48. “We had this type of party constantly when I was growing up, and I want it to be memorable, you know, turn of the century and family and community.”

That's a heavy burden for one little weenie roast. But across the country and the world, people are finding as many reasons to stay in this New Year's Eve as to go out. Most boil down to one thing: other people. With no basis in nature, the passage of a thousand years is a man-made phenomenon, and so are its attendant worries. The question of how you mark this millennium is partly a question of faith—not reli-

Approximately how much will you spend on this New Year's?

32% \$1 to \$50

29% \$51 to \$300

8% Over \$300

18% Nothing

13% Not sure

METRO

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1999

White House Plans Starry, Starry Night

*Celebrities to Pack Washington
For New Year's Weekend Events*

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

White House organizers finally raised the curtain yesterday on New Year's weekend festivities on the Mall, revealing a cast of performers and speakers including actor Robert Duvall, singer Jessye Norman, basketball great Bill Russell and children's author David Wisniewski.

Although the Smithsonian Institution will host three days of indoor activities—dozens of discussions about subjects both esoteric and everyday—the brightest spotlight will be on the Lincoln Memorial and the nationally televised New Year's Eve show that actor Will Smith will host starting at 10 p.m.

Joining Smith will be country singer Trisha Yearwood, Norman and fellow opera diva Kathleen Battle, Duvall and actors Sam Waterston and Diane Keaton. Also appearing will be gospel singer Bebe Winans, the New York cast of the musical hit "Stomp," Brian Stokes Mitchell, former star of Broadway's "Ragtime," and numerous other celebrities that organizers, intent on the element of surprise, declined yesterday to identify.

But they promised that the three-hour spectacle, the creation of musician Quincy Jones and producer-director George Stevens Jr., will live up to its advance billing and offer a thoughtful melange of 20th-century America.

"It's meant to be moving and uplifting rather than just a musical show," said Paul McCarthy, executive director of America's Millennium, the entity coordinating all Mall events that weekend. The Lincoln Memorial has stood witness to key moments in history, he noted: "The setting where we're doing this puts us at a high standard."

As midnight approaches, a live orchestra will premiere a score by award-winning composer John Williams as images of the American century—tableaux chosen by movie maker Steven Spielberg—play on giant screens on three sides of the Reflecting Pool. New works by U.S. poet laureate Rob-



Scheduled to participate in millennial events, from top: actor Will Smith, actress Diane Keaton, singer Jessye Norman and actor Robert Duvall.

Starry, Starry Night Planned as Part of New Year's Weekend

MILLENNIUM, From B1

ert Pinsky, his predecessor Rita Dove and poet-writer Maya Angelou will accompany the orchestral-film arrangement.

From Dec. 31 to Jan. 2, the Smithsonian's diverse lectures and demonstrations will focus on a trio of themes—"Future Visions" at the Hirshhorn Museum, "American Voices" at the Museum of Natural History, and "Story Circle" at the Museum of American History.

At the natural history museum, the lineup will include musician Ricky Skaggs, who will play and talk about that distinctly American art form of bluegrass, and Susan Butcher, who will recount her repeated championship runs on the Alaskan Iditarod.

At the Hirshhorn, a panel of chefs will prognosticate on the future of American taste, and scientists such as MIT's Neil Gershenfeld will discuss science, technologies, future explorations and extraterrestrial intelligence.

At the American history museum, Sweet Honey in the Rock founder Bernice Johnson Reagon and music legend Ella Jenkins will wax mellifluous, while authors and storytellers for children and adults alike will read aloud.

In addition, an interactive exhibit at the Air and Space Museum will offer visitors a chance to participate in "Launch 2000," a nationwide project challenging students to design the first village settlement on Mars, circa 2030.

Officials estimate that 12,000 people will attend Smithsonian activities, which

have been moved inside because of budgetary constraints. A complete schedule, with the times of all lectures and exhibits, will be available in early December. Previously announced appearances by rock-n-roller Chuck Berry and soul queen Aretha Franklin still are being negotiated.

Also yesterday, organizers of the District's two-day festival along Constitution Avenue NW announced more performers who will help the city ring in the New Year. They include master percussionist Okyerema Asante, the Midnight Movers reggae band, the Keter Betts Quintet and the BET Urban Nation Hip Hop choir.

The president and first lady will celebrate New Year's Eve with a White House "Creators Dinner" to honor some of the country's most prominent figures in sports, arts and sciences. Playwrights Edward Albee, August Wilson, Arthur Miller and Neil Simon will be among them, as well as musicians Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zuckerman, and Marilyn Horne; and dancers Edward Villella and Arthur Mitchell. Artist Robert Rauschenberg, architect Maya Lin, Olympian Carl Lewis and Internet co-founder Vinod Cerf will attend, too.

After dinner, a motorcade will take the Clintons and their guests to the Lincoln Memorial, where they will join a Mall crowd that—depending on the weather—could number 100,000 people, organizers said.

And then, at 10 p.m., come sleet or snow, the show will go on.

Mall's Millennium Bash

Smithsonian's Event Scaled Back, Moved Indoors

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Smithsonian Institution is moving its New Year's millennium celebration indoors and scaling back the scope of the three-day event, a signal that fund-raising has not kept pace with the more ambitious party plans announced earlier by the White House.

Officials say that the Smithsonian ac-

tivities, featuring prominent figures and programs in the arts, sciences and culture, will be just as stimulating and fun and that the New Year's Eve concert at the Lincoln Memorial and midnight fireworks will go on as scheduled.

Still, bringing the daytime events inside definitely will alter the character of the "Millennium on the Mall," which had been advertised as a panoply of "pavilions and museums stretching along the

Mall from the U.S. Capitol to the Washington Monument."

With just six weeks to go—and deadlines looming even sooner on contracts for performers and equipment—budget issues forced the decision, said Richard Kurin, the Smithsonian's director of the Center for Folklife Programs and Cultural Studies. A major weekend program costs about \$1 million, he noted, whereas the price tag can be three times that

much for an outdoor event at which tents, generators, public amenities and security must be arranged.

Some programs and panel discussions may be combined because of space constraints. The plus, however, is that the indoor setting will be "a bit more intimate and a bit more focused." Also, Kurin noted, "it makes it warmer."

See SMITHSONIAN, B4, Col. 1

Smithsonian Event Moved Inside

SMITHSONIAN, From B1

For now, the Smithsonian plans to use its Museum of American History, Museum of Natural History and the Hirshhorn Museum for an array of performances, demonstrations and talks Dec. 31 through Jan. 2. Baird Auditorium in the Natural History Museum holds fewer than 600 people, while Carmichael and Ring auditoriums at the two other sites have only 270 seats each.

The move parallels a decision last month by D.C. officials to downsize the festival they're planning along a four-block section of Constitution Avenue; instead of three days, their "Main Street Millennium" will take place Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Together, the changes suggest that fund-raising targets for these mega-events were too ambitious or that the work to bring in the bucks started too late. Money concerns have greatly complicated planning—from putting down deposits on tents to confirming guest performers to concerns about losing deposits if venues change or are canceled.

"It takes a large effort that got started pretty late and that's running up against lots of other things," said one official involved with the national celebration.

"We've hustled like hell" to organize the District's festival, said mayoral assistant Sandy McCall. He said \$800,000 is in hand or pledged for an event he expects to cost under \$1 million. In addition, the D.C. financial control board has approved a \$175,000 float loan from the Washington Convention Center Authority to use for millennium-themed programs through 2000.

But McCall concedes the lost opportunity: "If we'd started a year ago..."

Kurin declined Tuesday to say how much money he has received from America's Millennium, the entity coordinating all Mall events among three federal groups.

Its chief fund-raiser, Terry McAuliffe, the same lead money man for the Clinton presidential library, to name just one project, said he couldn't answer any questions about expenditures. He declined to specify how much of his \$10 million target he's met but emphasized that, in the end, the fund-raising will do "exactly what we said we

were going to do."

At a news conference with Hillary Rodham Clinton in late September, organizers pegged their budget at \$12.5 million. America's Millennium executive director, Paul McCarthy, indicated this week that television rights cover the rest of the funding. CBS purchased the rights to broadcast the star-spangled New Year's Eve show, which is being produced by composer-musician Quincy Jones and filmmaker George Stevens Jr. Neither the producers nor the network will say how much CBS paid.

"You have to work it incrementally, and it all comes together in the end," McCarthy said, voicing confidence in McAuliffe's ability to deliver the money. "Any privately funded program is a challenge."

McCarthy supports bringing the Smithsonian events indoors. "Not having to deal with the weather... probably will be a good thing," he said. "I think it's going to come together excellently."

Additional details of the New Year's Eve weekend program may be announced next week, organizers said, letting the general public know who is performing—as well as when and where. Some of the stars in the audience VIP section Dec. 31 may attract just as much attention: McAuliffe said Muhammad Ali, Robert DeNiro and Martin Scorsese have accepted invitations to be the Clintons' guests that night.

Although the District hopes to spend most of 2000 commemorating its bicentennial as the nation's capital, McCall said, the money raised so far will pay for the two-day New Year's festival on Constitution Avenue between 10th and 14th streets NW.

Most of that funding is coming from sponsorship commitments, he said. Pledges from five individuals and corporations make up a quarter of the \$800,000, including one contribution of \$100,000. Except for District Cablevision and America Online, which are sponsoring media and technology tents, McCall wouldn't identify contributors.

The reluctance of city and White House organizers to release more specific budget numbers and the names of sponsors and other contributors contrasts with the approach of Maryland 2000, the organization marking the millennial year in that state. The group has

posted a sponsorship list on its Web site and, a spokeswoman said, raised about \$850,000 of its \$1 million goal.

Staff writer Angela Paik contributed to this report.

Washington Post
11/19/1999



BY FRANK JOHNSTON—THE WASHINGTON POST

Vinod Gupta is the lone individual donor identified by organizers of Mall festivities.

Businessman Is One in a Million With Mega-Gift

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Washington's millennium celebrations could use a few more folks like Vinod Gupta.

The Omaha businessman is the only donor to the New Year's festivities fund who has been identified by officials organizing the White House-promoted events on the Mall. His seven-figure contribution was announced very publicly—at a September news conference with Hillary Rodham Clinton. Since then, those federal officials and also the District officials putting together a separate city-sponsored party on Constitution Av-

enue NW have declined to name any other individuals who are helping to pay for the three days of celebration.

Which leaves Gupta, and his \$1 million check, alone in the spotlight.

"I've been blessed with a lot of good fortune," he said, as if that alone might explain why he decided to help stage the White House show in such generous fashion. He'd called the first lady's chief fund-raiser, Terry McAuliffe, to ask how he could assist, and was told money would be nice. "I figured, a million dollars is a million dollars, but what the hell."

Gupta is no stranger to fund-raisers. He's given much and often to Demo-

cratic candidates and causes during the last eight years, including U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey (Neb.), Bill Clinton, Al Gore, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and the Democratic National Committee. In 1997, public-interest groups accused him of buying his way into the running for the consular general post in Bermuda. The job went to someone else.

The 53-year-old Gupta is a philanthropist of some note in Nebraska, where he founded the company now called InfoUSA Inc., and in his native India, where his parents still live. His village of

See MILLION, B4, Col. 1

For Millennium Celebration, Donor Stands Alone in Spotlight

MILLION, From B1

Rampur Manhyaran, about 100 miles north of New Delhi, had no electricity, roads, toilets or phones when he was growing up. He left in 1967—with \$58 in his pocket, according to his biography—to attend graduate school at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

The village still doesn't have reliable electricity, but it soon will open a technical trade school for women with another \$1 million gift by Gupta. He's given twice that much to the Indian Institutes of Technology, where he received an

undergraduate engineering degree, as well as \$2.5 million to the University of Nebraska.

InfoUSA, which markets business and consumer databases, today is a \$300 million firm with some 2,000 employees, and Gupta owns houses in Omaha, Colorado, California and Hawaii. Come Dec. 31, though, he'll be on the Mall. His donation should guarantee him a choice seat for the glitzy evening show and fireworks at the Lincoln Memorial.

"I would have loved a quiet New Year's Eve," he said. "But this is definitely worth it."

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HEADLINE: NATION'S CAPITAL PROMISES 'BIG BASH' TO GREET NEW YEAR;
WILL SMITH, ARETHA FRANKLIN AND CHUCK BERRY ARE SOME OF THE STARS WHO HAVE;
COMMITTED TO PERFORMING AT 'AMERICA'S MILLENNIUM: A CELEBRATION FOR THE;
NATION.'

BYLINE: BY BOB DART COX NEWS SERVICE

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Promising 'no ordinary party' for 'no ordinary time,' first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton invited America to a Y2K bash in the nation's capital.

'Music of our century will be rocking and rolling, swinging and soaring through the air,' said Hillary Clinton in announcing details of a three-day event called 'America's Millennium: A Celebration for the Nation.'

On New Year's Eve, actor and rapper Will Smith will host a show at the Lincoln Memorial that will be televised live on CBS, beginning at 10 p.m. The program will include an 18-minute film highlighting the 20th century that will be produced by Steven Spielberg. Half an hour before midnight, the movie titled 'The Unfinished Journey' will premiere on giant outdoor screens as an orchestra plays an original score by composer John Williams.

Organizers of 'America's Millennium' said in a statement that 'great stars of the entertainment world will perform' but would only confirm appearances by Aretha Franklin, Chuck Berry and Mickey Hart (former drummer of the Grateful Dead). Producer George Stevens Jr. conceded that many top entertainers have long been booked for millennium appearances - Barbra Streisand, for example - but he predicted plenty of celebrity power at the Washington event.

The show will be 'extravagantly entertaining,' Stevens vowed. He said the show will be an 'expression of what this country is all about.'

Stevens, the producer of the movie 'The Thin Red Line' and the creator of the television events 'The Kennedy Center Honors' and 'Christmas in Washington,' will co-produce 'America's Millennium Gala' with composer and musician Quincy Jones.

Organizers said President Clinton and the first lady will attend the Lincoln Memorial affair. The televised event in Washington will rival the traditional Times Square New Year's Eve celebration in New York.

Hillary Clinton, Stevens and District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams announced the millennium plans recently at the Old Executive Office Building, next door to the White House. They said \$ 12.5 million has been budgeted for the national events, with funding coming from private donations and the sale of TV rights. The celebration will begin on New Year's Eve of 1999 and last through Jan. 2, 2000.

In addition to the national celebration, Williams said the District will sponsor a 'Main Street Millennium' block party along Constitution on Dec. 31. Despite fears that the Y2K bug might render some computers useless, the mayor vowed that 'lights won't go out' and 'all systems are going to work.' He urged tourists to book hotel rooms early.

Hillary Clinton said 'America's Millennium' will include the unveiling of a national time capsule that will 'show future generations how we lived and what we valued most in our time.' At the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, located near the White House, giant screens will show millennium celebrations and events from around the world.

The arrival of the new millennium will be heralded by a 'Midnight Moment' of fireworks and a laser light display between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument.

LOAD-DATE: November 17, 1999

METRO

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Millennium Celebration For the City

Constitution Ave. Block Party to Star D.C. Food and Music

SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Sandy McCall is looking for a few more stilt people. So, some wandering minstrels and magicians, a corps of jitterbuggers, another theater troupe or two. And finally Thomas Paine.

They're all needed for "Main Street Millennium," the New Year's celebration the District will put on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. The family-friendly festival, details of which are released over the weekend, will be held along Constitution Avenue NW and is intended to showcase some of the best sights and sounds of the city at the local—meaning real people—level.

The extended block party will include two major performance stages, community exhibits focusing on the past and the future, and a "town hall" wall on which participants will post their hopes for Washington in the 21st century.

"This is a work in progress, but we have a very definite vision for these blocks," said McCall, a special assistant to Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D) and the man charged with pulling everything together.

The 20-hour food-and-music festival is the city's counterpart to the three-day spectacle the White House and Smithsonian Institution are hosting on the Mall at weekend. Although the District is a declared partner in that event, officials in the Marion Barry administration had announced that the District would throw its own affair, too—in part to kick off a year of celebrating Washington's bicentennial as the nation's capital.

Unfortunately, no one got around to any real planning or fund-raising until summer.

District Party Strives for 'Simplicity'

MILLENNIUM, From B1

And in any case, it would have been hard to compete with Will Smith and Steven Spielberg and the other, still unannounced, Hollywood celebs who will play the Lincoln Memorial as the final hours of 1999 count down.

Instead, a nine-person crew of mayoral staff members and contract consultants has opted for a more modest program offering entertainment and education, introspection and prognostication, neighborhood pride and unscripted fun.

"There's so much hype around the millennium now," McCall said. "We want simplicity."

For a cost of "less than \$1 million," which organizers say will be paid for mostly through private donations, the simplicity will stretch from 10th to 14th streets NW. The big stages will be at both ends and will feature rhythm and blues, swing, jazz, gospel and even a mariachi band. Already confirmed are Nap "Don't Forget the Blues" Turner and Mary Jefferson and the Orioles, names that helped put Washington on the musical map during the '50s and '60s.

Seven heated tents, ranging from 4,000 to 10,000 square feet, will house exhibits and food booths. Through photos and archival documents, four of these pavilions will highlight the communities that make up each quadrant of the city, their history and development—which could be, organizers point out, the first time some city residents

get a true-to-life glimpse of other city neighborhoods. Another tent will present technology, another multimedia.

The food at the city festival may be the biggest draw for those who otherwise might only attend the Mall extravaganza, according to McCall, who talks of the "synergy" local planners are trying to achieve with White House and Smithsonian coordinators. "People are going to go back and forth to the Mall," he predicted.

At several spots along Constitution, "speakers corners" will be available for anyone wanting to step onto a platform and hold forth in public discourse à la London's Hyde Park. Wandering through the crowd will be the likes of patriot Paine, suffragist Susan B. Anthony and abolitionist Frederick Douglass, folks who will focus on reminding their audience of the rights and liberties for which other Americans have fought and died.

At least that's the idea, and organizers—who will not disclose how much has been raised in contributions—seem fairly confident that will be the case in 60 more days. They say about two-thirds of the musical acts are booked, nearly half of the historical reenactors secured and all the tents, generators and other necessary infrastructure under contract.

Still, acrobats continue to be sought, and performers who do their thing on stilts apparently are in short supply. McCall gave his business card to a saxophone player he chanced upon outside Union Station on Friday morning and

asked him to call (202-727-8449). He's still waiting but hopeful.

The District's planners are not the only ones trying to book performers at this late date. Last week, a spokeswoman for the White House said additional details of the Mall celebration, including the nationally televised show that actor Will Smith will help host New Year's Eve, might not be released until late this month.

What that means for the scope of that gala is unclear. Definitely, the District's event will be a scaled-down party. Initial proposals were for a three-day festival that would have cost several times the current projected budget. In August, the city broke off negotiations with a prospective organizer. Last month, worried over possible complications because D.C. appropriations had stalled on Capitol Hill, the millennium staff decided the city would largely go it alone.

They moved forward because, as McCall put it, "This is what grown-up cities do. They celebrate incredibly rare experiences.... We are determined to be a grown-up city."

The first invitations have been printed. "Main Street Millennium," they read. "Friday, December 31st, 1999: 11 a.m. to 12 midnight. Saturday, January 1st, 2000: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.... Admission is free."

Blues singer Turner, who considers Washington his adopted home, expects the plans to work out fine and make for two fabulous days. "I'm honored to do it," he said Saturday. "It will be a good mechanism for pulling people together."

Big Night

Revelers and recluses alike contemplate New Year's Eve 1999. **By Jessica Kerwin**

In case you didn't know, New Year's Eve is going to be a big deal. Some people got a jump on the reservations crunch and made theirs as far as two decades in advance, but if you're not one of them you'll be surprised to find what is still available—for a price. Of course, if a table at the Four Seasons restaurant in New York is what you're after, talk to Len Riggio, ceo at Barnes & Noble. He hired it out long ago. All three levels of Seattle's Space Needle were rented back in 1992, and La Tour d'Argent, the two-star restaurant in Paris known for its touristy crowd and beautiful views, has been fully booked for over four years. Even Adele's of Hollywood, a costume shop in Los Angeles, has been receiving requests for space-age and Renaissance get-ups for over a year. But if you want to go to Babbo on the big night you can have the whole place to yourself, for around \$100,000.

The pressure is on, and itinerary envy is running rampant. "I'm thinking of becoming a psychotherapist," says Simon Doonan, as he toys with the idea of setting up his practice in the front window of Barneys New York, where he is creative director. "There are so many people who are going to have breakdowns because they're expecting so much." Doonan plans to celebrate the occasion peacefully at his house on Shelter Island, "waiting for the whole thing to pass like a horrible gust of sulfurous wind."

"Fabulous moments in history just happen," he adds. "They're not attached to a date."

But that logic alone won't discourage those who thrill to the idea of ringing in the new year first. Laure de Gramont, a literary scout in Paris, will travel to architect David Berridge's party in Auckland. "I've already sent 24 bottles of Laurent-Perrier Champagne in advance," she says, and because of the time difference, Gramont's even thinking of fitting in a second celebration that night in Los Angeles. "Quite grand, No?"

Steep prices haven't fazed enthusiastic travelers in the least. At New Zealand's plush Huka Lodge in the remote town of Taupo, the going rate for a three-night holiday stay (continued on page 216)

Big Night

(continued from page 212) climbed to \$11,750 before it sold out in mid-summer.

Nearby Sydney is a popular destination for Hollywood's celebrants. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman will be sailing its harbor with a crowd of friends. *American Beauty* director Sam Mendes is going Aussie, as is John Leguizamo. "Yeah, baby," says the actor. "I'll be the first one to see the New Year."

Of course the millennium—the perfect excuse for a trip to the tropics—has rockers and socialites alike seeking warmer climes. Mick Jagger has charted a course for Mustique and will set sail with all six of his children, while Jackie de Ravenel will spend the holiday "en famille," in the Bahamas at Lyford Cay. Expect Bali to be packed with those who require a little spirituality with their sun.

Egypt is also big on mystical appeal. That's where members of the Millennium Society, who raise money for an international scholarship program, will throw their black-tie gala, riding to the foot of the Great Pyramid of Cheops. The event has been in the works since 1979.

But just as many have planned excursions to exotic locales that are, well, a little more mainstream. Socialite Nancy Hammond will hit a party in Cuernavaca, Mexico, while Tori Spelling Hawaii with her brother. "It's such a spiritual and beautiful place," says Spelling. "It seems like the right place to ring in a new century."

It's a popular notion. While the Lodge at Koele and the Mena House in Lanai—where Bill Gates staged his lavish wedding—each have a handful of rooms available, the bulk of their accommodations snapped up in 1994 when a couple from New Jersey decided to spend the holiday there with 198 guests.

Some claim, however, to be leaving their plans to fate—they're just holding out. "I just know all the things I'm not doing," says CAA superagent Bryan Lourd. "I know I'm late—but these things take time to come together."

Rupert Everett foresees a night playing bartender wherever he ends up in the U.S. "I'll be making myself a vim 'n' vodka," he says. "It's impossible to go anywhere because everything has been booked, years—in advance."

China Chow—homebound? "I don't know," sighs the actress. "I know some people who are going to Hawaii, and so many friends are going to New Zealand. But maybe I'll just end up at home."

Indecision will hold back some of society's most dedicated travelers, but others hesitate to travel because of the risk that the world's

"Fabulous moments in history just happen," says Doonan.

Simon Doonan: Seeking shelter on Shelter Island

Above: Seattle's Space Needle. Right: Sydney-bound Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise. Below: The celebrated cuisine at Babbo in New York.



The Mena House Oberoi

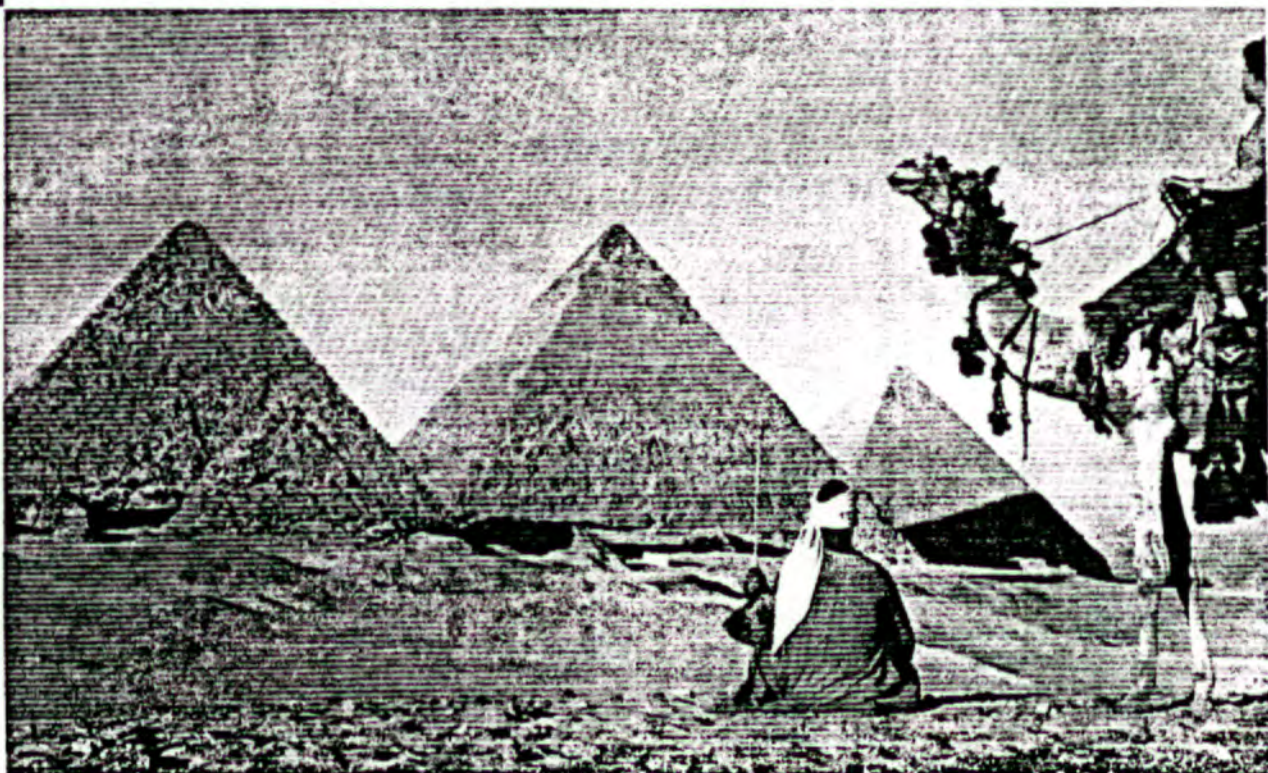
Big Tip

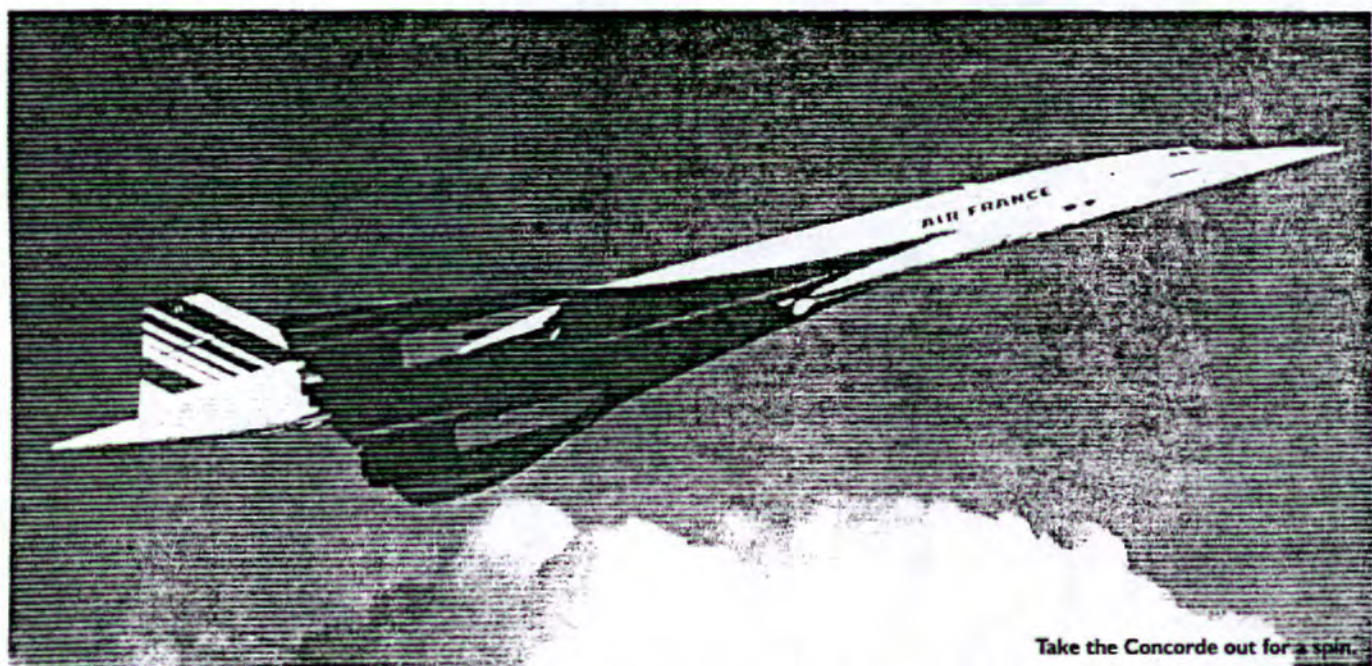
The best place to watch the unveiling of Cheops' restored golden peak during festivities at the base of the pyramids in Giza, Cairo, is from the terrace of the luxe Mena House Oberoi's gilded Churchill Suite. Too bad it's been booked since 1988.

The Huka Lodge, Taupo, New Zealand



Right: Revelers will ride to the pyramids on camelback for gala festivities there on New Year's Eve.





Take the Concorde out for a spin.



could suddenly go on the fritz. Beauty queen Gale Hayman, who regularly spends New Year's with her husband, Bill Haseltine, in Europe or India, has decided to stay Stateside, taking a house in Southampton instead. "We're bringing our cook from New York," Hayman reports, "and we're celebrating with friends. This year we didn't want to take a chance."

New York socialite Nina Griscom will also celebrate American style, in Palm Beach with her husband and daughter and a group of friends that includes Vera Wang and Arthur Becker. "I do have

my flight reservation, which is something," she boasts.

New mother Aerin Lauder Zinterhofer, of the cosmetics dynasty, has made plans to be in Palm Beach as well, but flight reservations are the least of her concerns. "I'll get excited about the New Year as long as I have a babysitter," she says.

Enticing travelers to remain in the U.S. has led its top resorts to come up with some outrageous and



The Taj Mahal

Entertainment runs hot and cold: At left, the view on Hawaii's island of Lanai, or on the slope with Delaney Snowboarding Camp, below.



Big Flight

A stop at the Taj is on Intrav's route for a privately chartered Concorde tour of the world. For \$75,000 participants will spend 18 days traveling at twice the speed of sound and landing in some of the season's hot spots, including Honolulu, Sydney, Hong Kong, Delhi, the pyramids of Egypt and Kenya.

ingenious package deals to suit every reveler's whim. Casa Palmero in Pebble Beach is offering use of the entire 24-room estate for a three-night stay spanning the holiday and will include tee times for 24 players on the area's famous golf courses. For the \$200,000 asking price, they'll throw in spa treatments and a multi-course dinner for 48. Meanwhile, the Bernardus Lodge in Carmel Valley, where rooms are running \$5,000 to \$6,000, will ply guests with wine from their vineyard and many, many more to taste, as well as Kiehl's products, down comforters and fireplaces in the suites.

If you're in the mood for something a little louder, another solution: Spring for concert tickets. Sean "Puffy" Combs has rented out the Miami Arena for the night, and it can seat up to 16,500, while Barbra Streisand's concert for 10,000 at the MGM Hotel in Las Vegas has nearly sold out with tickets running as high as \$2,500. Patti Smith will rock New York's Bowery Ballroom.

But if you've got *really* adventurous friends, Kevin Delaney, of Delaney Snowboarding, will train the lot in the techniques that made him the International Snowboard Federation's overall world champion. Meet Delaney on one of his favorite mountains, Copper Mountain in Colorado or Mammoth in California, for a three-day course, or he'll send a staffer to a mountain near you.

"I'd like to tell you that I'm going to be in New Zealand and then I'll Concorde to London for a second millennium celebration and then on to New York for a third—what a night that would be," muses Kevin Spacey. "But I'll probably just stay in New York." He won't be alone. Over 1.5 million people are expected to pack Times Square and another billion people worldwide are expected to watch them on TV.

"I'll get excited about the new year as long as I have a babysitter," says Zinterhofer.

Aerin Zinterhofer: Off to Palm Beach.



Big Night

The view from the Presidential Suite at New York's Four Seasons Hotel, and Times Square, a rendezvous point for 1.5 million, at right.

"Spending the night quietly makes the most sense," says Bening.

Annette Bening: Keeping it simple

doors of the main palace will also swing open for a separate party for 1,600 guests, who will pay \$2,500 a head, and are encouraged to dress like French royalty for the occasion.

For something a little less regal, four million glittering and feather-bedecked people are expected to take to the streets of Rio de Janeiro and the beaches at Ipanema and Copacabana, swinging the city into full Carnivale mode.

The Savoy, one of London's grandest hotels, will celebrate with a different kind of decadence. The first reservation inquiries came in the 1970s for its party, which will boast free-flowing Château Mouton Rothschild and Château d'Yquem in rare vintages.

Sofia Coppola, who has just had a wine named after her by her father's Niebaum-Coppola winery in the Napa Valley, will go right to the source. "Most likely I'll be up at the winery," she says, "where there's lots of wine and pasta." The real party, in Coppola's imagination, will be wherever Prince is, she suspects.

Marcia Kilgore, creator of New York's popular Bliss Spa, is planning her own soirée at a new apartment overlooking the East River in the hip DUMBO waterfront district of Brooklyn. She's hoping that guests can watch the fireworks from there and toast each other with Dom Perignon. Kilgore, whose business was recently bought by LVMH, may have an easier time putting her hands on the the luxury giant's top-tiered champagne than others.

For those with a taste for the finest but who lack corporate connections, Christie's is hosting a series of auctions in the months leading up to the big event, not only for prime champagnes, but ports, Madeiras

A fantastic view of it all is the least of the amenities offered by New York's Four Seasons Hotel in its Presidential Suite package, up for auction to benefit the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. The starting bid is \$75,000 for a five-night stay, which includes the use of a limo and a dinner for eight prepared by a private chef and served in the suite's dining room. Not to be outdone, the Ritz-Carlton in San Francisco is offering up use of a chauffeured Jaguar, 24-hour butler, daily massage and vineyard tours, during a three-night stay in the Presidential Suite for \$100,000.

In Paris, however, you can party like the Sun King—that's what Greek billionaire Tino Goulandris will be doing. He's rented the Petit Trianon at Versailles for his party, but the



Left: Part of the package at Casa Palermo in Pebble Beach. Below left: John Leguizamo.

Big Ball

The climax of the New Year's Eve celebrations in Times Square will come when the new ball, designed by Waterford Crystal, drops down its 77-foot flagpole at midnight. Waterford describes the ball—which has already been unveiled, toasted and toured around town—as a geodesic sphere that is six feet in diameter and made of more than 500 pieces of crystal arranged into seven-point stars, to represent the seven continents.





"I'd love to tell you that I'm going to be in New Zealand," says Spacey. "I'll probably just stay in New York."

Kevin Spacey: Hometown boy

\$1,000, and belly dancers who are usually \$250 are asking \$1,000 an hour.

"All the tents are gone, all the generators are gone, all the bands are gone," he concludes, "but if you want to get ripped off, you can still have a party."

Betsy Bloomingdale will avoid the catering conundrum altogether and hit the kitchen. "I'm going to be at home for the millennium with all my family," she says. "We always have champagne, caviar and chili. It's homemade, from a family recipe."

According to Alyse Sobel, another Los Angeles event planner, creating a homey atmosphere is a priority among her clients. "No one's doing black tie," she reports. "They want to create an atmosphere that's low-key, and they want their guests to be comfortable." Another trend is to find ways to include children at parties that are traditionally for adults only. Sobel has created a separate decor and entertainment for the adults and for children at a private party for 150 in a Hollywood home.

Andre Balazs, owner of the Mercer Hotel in New York and the Chateau Marmont in Los Angeles, is also taking a low-key approach to the holiday. "My theory is that everyone wants to go home and get away from it all," he says. "We're deliberately not doing anything." Balazs plans a true getaway and will see the new millennium from a beach far away, he says.

For some, however, there's no place like home. Bill Blass for one will be tucked away at his country house with his dog Barnaby when the clock strikes midnight. "I shy away from big parties," Annette Bening concurs. "Spending that night quietly with my family makes the most sense. Simple and quiet."

In Washington, D.C., Hillary Clinton and Sally Quinn will play dueling hostess at the two biggest parties in town. Hillary is planning a major bash with a star-studded cast of performers on the Mall, to be followed by supper at the White House and more reveling in a heated tent on the South lawn where guests will be invited to party down until 6 a.m.

Quinn, who took a break from her annual New Year's Eve party

and cigars. Some bottles of 1900 vintage Bordeaux will go for an estimated \$4,000 to \$6,000, according to Christie's Edward Brooks, while a rare limited-edition humidor of Opus X cigars from the Dominican Republic might pull in an estimated \$20,000. With regard to his own cellar selections, "I'm going to be making some impetuous choices," Brooks says.

Not so for Jacqueline de Ribes, who has been known to dance the night away in Paris. "I've never been a New Year's Eve party girl," she insists. "I hate all the noise, and this year will be more cozy than ever—a fireplace ambience, not torrents of champagne."

That means more bubbly for the hordes of caterers and event planners scrambling for the stuff. It's almost as hard as find as a waitstaff, a valet parking company or a band.

As if those challenges weren't enough, Jeffrey Best, an event planner in Los Angeles, had to come up with five and a half tons of sand and 20 belly dancers to work a Moroccan-themed gala in Orange County as well. "Waiters who usually charge \$25 an hour are charging \$125 with an eight-hour minimum," he says. "Snake charmers who are usually charge \$300 are

Big Deal



Marriott's Desert Springs Resort and Spa has come up with the simplest way to entertain everyone. Rent out the entire 400-acre resort, its two golf courses, 25 tennis courts, five swimming pools and 13 restaurants for a two-night stay and they'll throw in unlimited spa treatments, a lobster dinner, party with three live bands and champagne brunch for all your guests. They'll even pick you up in a private jet, all for only \$1,999,999.

Big Night

last year, says she decided to revive the tradition after getting a slew of SOS phone calls from desperate friends. "I wasn't going to do it," she admits. "I didn't want to get into competition with everyone's grand millennium plans. But then about three months ago, everyone started calling saying, 'We don't want to rent an island, charter a yacht or lease a castle. We just want to stay home.'"

Quinn's regular guests include British Ambassador Christopher Meyer and his wife, Catherine, Andrea Mitchell, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. "If people have lots of fabulous plans, that's great," says Quinn. "I don't believe in the millennium anyway."

And she won't be bothered if journalist friends like Mitchell, who has been put on standby to work New Year's Eve, have to drop out at the last minute "because of the potential of a major meltdown."

To work or not to work is the question facing many whose company and services the elite count on. "All my friends are going to Bali," says salon owner Laurent D., "but I'm booked like crazy, and I just bought a loft in New York, so I'll be working."

Besides coordinating the Metropolitan Opera's annual party for the night, Bill Tansey, one of New York's premier party planners, is setting up a private dinner in a tower overlooking Manhattan and pressing his clients to make their decisions regarding entertainment. "After June 15 the prices doubled," Tansey says, though those rates were high to begin with. "There's a prominent family who called in the spring and said they wanted to do something big for the millennium," he says, "but in the end they just couldn't afford it—and these are people you would assume could entertain in any way they chose."

"It depends on how badly they want it," Tansey concludes. "Some have a mission and a bank account; others are content to spend a quiet night with friends." Tansey counts himself in the second camp, although New Year's Eve will find him, too, working.

Master of French cuisine Alain Ducasse, who has received thousands of calls for reservations at his eponymous three-star Paris restaurant, has decided to close his doors for the night—at least in Paris. His Louis XV in Monte Carlo (also boasting three-stars) will be open, and Ducasse himself will be in the kitchen.

Despite the fact that neither the menu nor the prices has been set, the dining room has been booked for nearly a year. New Year's Eve will also find Los Angeles celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck working away. "I'm going to be working as always," he says, "but hopefully I'll be drinking champagne, and then having wild sex."

Richard Branson, owner of Virgin Atlantic Airways, will kick back in the Virgin Islands, and has decided to ground all the company's flights for the night to give his employees time off as well. The doors of Chez Panisse, Alice Waters' famous Berkeley, California, restaurant, will also remain shut for the night, but Waters will fête her customers for the whole week prior with a menu re-creating the cuisine of Paris circa 1900.

Throwing millennium parties before the actual millennium, in fact, has become a huge trend. Hot London florist Stephen Woodhams said he's hardly had any requests for big bashes on New Year's Eve. Instead, many of his clients are holding their big parties as early as October. "I'm going to several myself," Woodhams reports. "No one can decide what they're going to do on New Year's Eve. I think there are just going to be all these sad people roaming the streets wondering what parties they can go to."

Maybe they'll get tired of wandering and check in to the Four Seasons Hotel in London. The hotel has created the ultimate millennium-free zone: a suite complete with a pre-1950s style menu, pre-Fifties black and white movies available—and total soundproofing. ●



Big Bubbles

For a classic look on the big night, stick to D.P. Other champagne bottles are going in for designer makeovers: Jean Paul Gaultier has laced up Piper-Heidsieck's \$100 bottle in red vinyl, at right, and the house of Christian Dior has teamed up with Champagne Pommery to create a silver isothermal magnum-sized backpack for transportation of its bottle. Veuve Clicquot has gotten in on the act, giving bottles of the 1990 vintage La Grand Dame champagne a slick treatment: Each is packed in a Lucite case with Louis Vuitton leather handles.



The Bernardus Lodge's vineyard in Carmel Valley

Big Night

Mick Jagger:
Setting sail for
Mustique



Marcia Kilgore:
Putting on a
party



Sydney will pull
out all the stops.



Above: Puffy's
party palace the
Miami Arena,
and the host,
at right.



San Francisco's
Ritz-Carlton
Hotel



Sofia Coppola: Get
them to a winery.



Washington D.C.: Site
of the showdown



"I'll be making
myself a vim
'n' vodka,"
says Everett.
"Everything's
been booked
months in
advance."

Rupert Everett: Home—alone?

Woman's Day
Nov. 1999

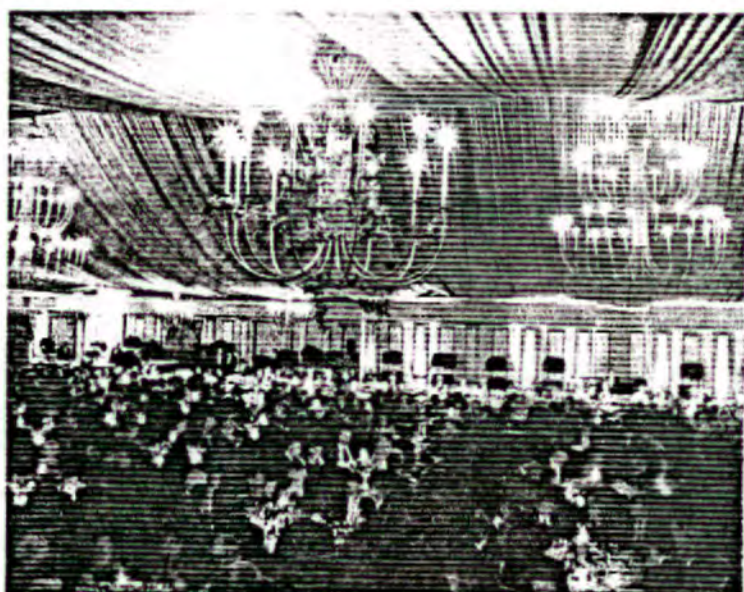
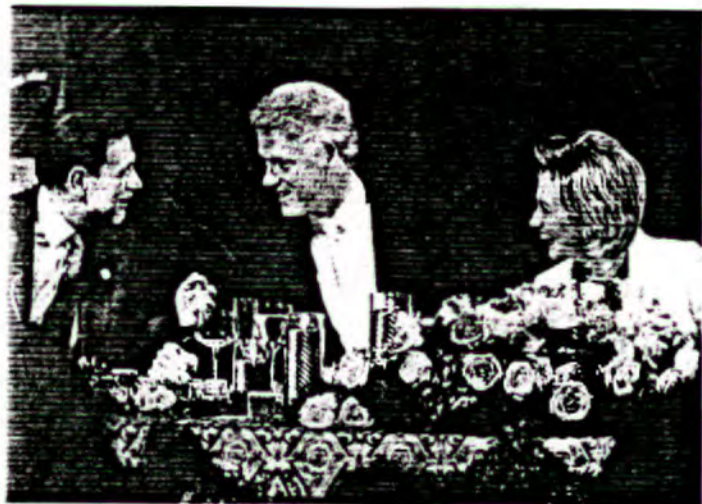


Capricia Penavic Marshall

WHITE HOUSE SOCIAL SECRETARY



Capricia Penavic Marshall has been the White House Social Secretary since the fall of 1997. She oversees every event inside the White House and on its grounds. **Above:** Marshall and the First Lady. **Above right:** NATO Commemorative Dinner held in April. **Left:** Marshall with President and Mrs. Clinton. **Below:** The First Couple and NATO Secretary General Dr. Javier Solana.



Are there any notable events that you are planning for the holidays, specifically the millennium?

Mrs. Clinton feels it is important that the nation's capital celebrate the changing of time with a national celebration. It will be a joint effort between the White House, the Smithsonian, the National Park Service and a host of other institutions. On New Year's Eve, everyone will gather on the Mall, then move into the streets of Washington, D.C., where there will be rows upon rows of food vendors. Then there will be a parade back to the Mall with an extravaganza featuring a variety of acts, as well as a film about our country. After the countdown, there will be laser lights and fireworks. The whole thing will be very grand and spectacular, but it will also be safe and friendly. Most New Year's Eve parties are about adults. This will focus on the family.

What is a typical day at work like?

There isn't a typical day of work here in the social office! I can get a call at 11 P.M. that the President will need something planned for 8 A.M. the next day. I try to get into the office by 7 or 7:15 A.M. Often, we have events occurring simultaneously. Mrs. Clinton may have an event in the East Room, while the President is in the Rose Garden. Sometimes events are within two hours of one another. Sometimes I don't leave until 12 at night.

What advice would you give someone who is planning a party of his or her own?

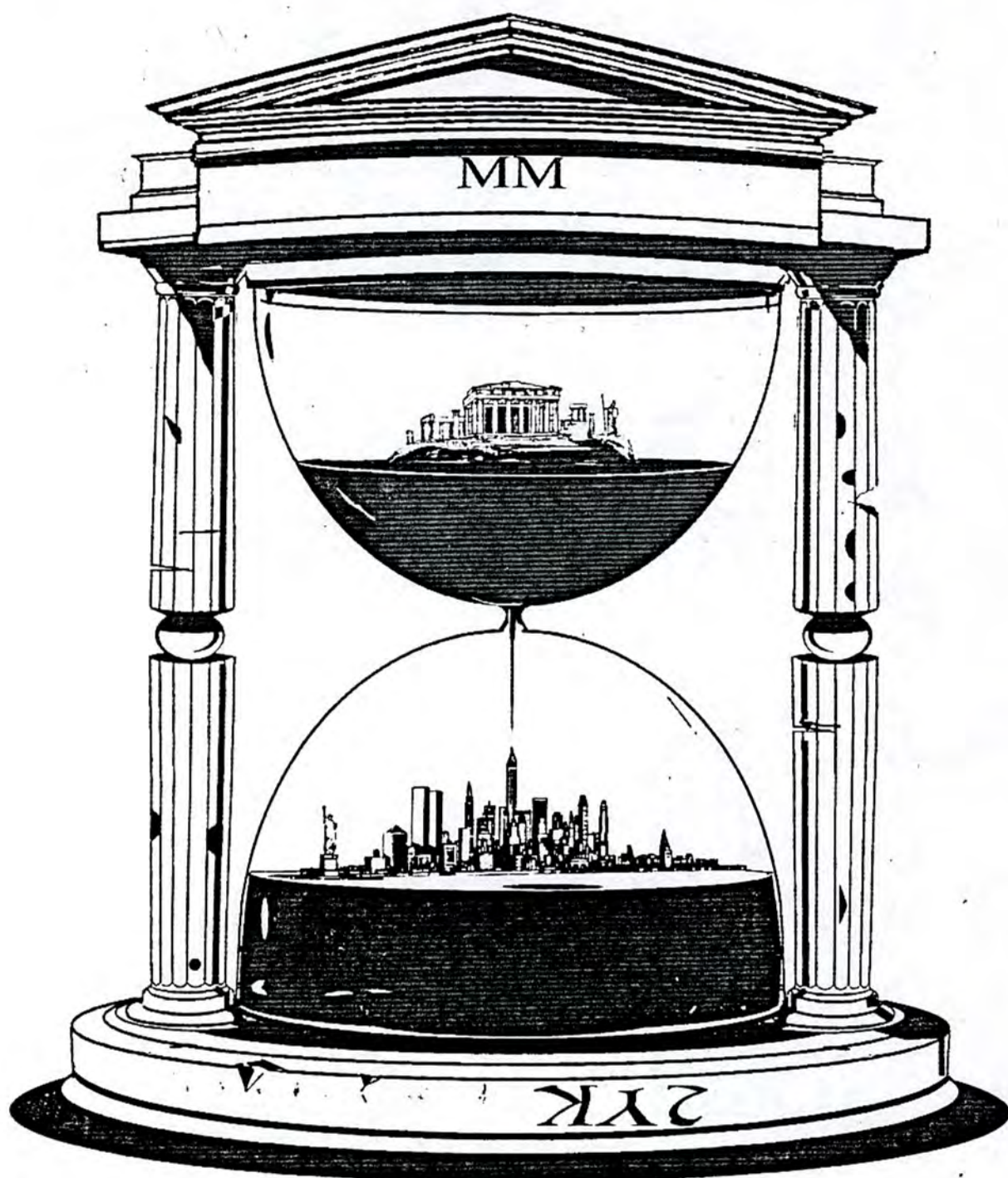
The greatest lesson I ever learned from Mrs. Clinton is to keep it simple. You want your guests to feel comfortable. If they feel relaxed, they will enjoy the event. If your party is simple yet elegant, people will enjoy it more.

—Amanda Rock

OUTLOOK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1999

The Moment?



BY ISTVAN BANYAI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

We've Already Missed It.

By JAMES RESTON JR.

It is abundantly clear that this country has already missed out on the glorious opportunity that was the Millennium. In the endless blather about Y2K, in the correctly or incorrectly spelled commercialization of the word, in the trivial topic of whether the new age begins in 2000 or 2001, in the worry about champagne supplies and the focus on the big bashes in Times Square and on the Mall, there will be no meaningful millennial experience for the American people. The failure of imagination is total and across the board: from the political leadership to the scholars, from the priests to the media. Look abroad if you want something for the mind or the soul or the heart. Go to England or Rome or Israel or even Canada.

The turning of a millennium should be a time of grand reckoning. Symbolic dates call for symbolic acts, and these dates and acts can acquire real, concrete meaning if they are used as an excuse—and an opportuni-

ty—for innovative thinking. What better reason than the passing of 1,000 years in the calendar will we ever have for grand dreams about the future and for a solemn reevaluation of the past? Coming to terms with the past can position a society for the future; it frees the imagination and allows us to dream.

This millennial season should have been the time for American artists and visionaries, builders and thinkers to take center stage, but there has been no effort to mobilize them. As a result, the wealthiest, most powerful nation on Earth will leave little permanent behind to mark the moment. American politicians speak as if the millennium were a decaffeinated Bicentennial, with cheap renamings of existing projects as "millennial." To official Washington this seems to be a time yet again to boast about American political institutions. Talk about Old Glory and the Declaration of Independence is safe and palatable, even if it really has nothing to do with a 1,000-year block of time.

Potentially, the millennium is the greatest teaching moment of our

The Need for Markers to Greet the Dawn

MILLENNIUM, From B1

philosophers, the poets and the priests who might guide and inspire us? We have a president whose personal disgrace and corruption so degraded the level of polite conversation in America that he can scarcely be expected to transport the nation through a glorious and uplifting moment of history. We have no minister of culture or influential endowments for the arts and humanities to fill Clinton's vacuum; and Hillary Clinton, who was supposed to be in charge of America's millennium and launched the White House Millennium Council to "encourage a wide variety of projects and events that celebrate our historical and cultural legacy," is now preoccupied with sewers in Schenectady, N.Y.

A steely-eyed look at the last 1,000 years of American history, as a whole, might have been part of our millennial experience. Look at what a "divine" institution is doing. The Roman Catholic Church is engaged in a process it calls historical purification as part of its solemn celebration. For its spiritual well-being at this jubilee year, and to position itself for the Third Millennium, the Church has intentionally revisited the darkest episodes of its past: the cases of Galileo, Jan Hus and Joan of Arc as well as its sorry record of acquiescence in the antisemitism during World War II.

Couldn't this country use a touch of historical purification itself? Would it be so difficult for America to confront its own dark side, slavery and the genocide of the American Indian, and to find some mechanism, at the year 2000, to absorb those scourges once and for all into our national consciousness? Perhaps a Japanese-style apology is not the American way, but, with a little will and imagination, some form of consequential recognition and acknowledgment could be found.

Several weeks ago, we had a good example of an acknowledgment that can lead to renewal and resolution: the groundbreaking for a museum on the Mall devoted to the American Indian. This may in fact be the most important single millennial act of this year, since, after all, 600 of the past 1,000 years in America belong to Native Americans. But no one thought to tie the event to the millennium, and the Clinton administration has made no effort to include Native American in its celebration activities. A museum to the American Indian on the Mall honors the victims and recognizes with admiration and respect the richness of the native culture and the diversity of the peoples who were destroyed. That is an opportunity to teach, and to lay to rest long-standing animosities.

To view our history and world history through a 1,000-year lens forces the mind toward new and original pathways. But precious little scholarship on the millennium has emerged from the American academic community. The books that have been published on the millennium are, for the most part, few and lightweight. With the exception of U.S. News's special edition in August about the year 1000, the news magazines and four major television networks have focused on the century rather than the millennium, since their craft is photo-driven.

Even the Christian clergy seems oddly unwilling to draw attention to its own holy text, since the anxieties about an apocalypse and an end time are embedded in



What Is Going On?

The White House Millennium Council was created with the theme "Honor the Past—Imagine the Future." Highlights of its projects follow:

The president and first lady have begun hosting **Millennium Evenings** at the White House—a series of lectures and cultural events with scholars and artists that are accessible to the public via cybercast over the Internet and broadcast via satellite.

In coordination with the Department of Transportation, the council plans to recognize more than 2,000 existing and new **Millennial Trails**, supporting the development of trails through new federal and state funding, and private partnerships.

As one of its **International Millennial Events**, the council is encouraging the creation of sister-city relationships with communities overseas.

With its **Save America's Treasures** project, the council plans to stimulate private efforts to preserve our national heritage and history. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is providing leadership by inviting individuals, foundations and corporations to participate.

The council has created **Millennium for Kids** Web sites, including an "Inside the White House" newsletter, an EPA Explorers' Club and FEMA for Kids.

—compiled by Outlook

Source: The Millennium Council Web site at www.whitehouse.gov/initiatives/millennium/index.shtml

the last book of the New Testament. Certainly, the church has its own debate about when Christ was born—and hence when to mark the 2,000th anniversary of that event. But the widespread recognition of this year offers an opportunity right now that the church is largely missing. The Book of Revelation is often seen as

an embarrassment, or worse, as a provocation. The Eastern Orthodox Church does not even read Revelation from the pulpit, because the book is open to such diverse interpretation. In the Catholic Church, the book is part of the three-year liturgical cycle of Sunday readings—and that third year does not fall in the year 2000.

Revelation's hopeful passages in Chapter 21, which promise that "a New Jerusalem will come down from God . . . and God shall wipe away all tears . . ." may occasionally be evoked in the next few months. But how about the lore of Gog and Magog, the Antichrist and the False Prophet, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, the Seven Seals, the Mark of the Beast, 666 or the Whore of Babylon? It is as if American clergymen hesitate to address these wild allegories, because they fear more incarnations of David Koresh or Heaven's Gate. The fascinating parables of the Book of Revelation, it appears, will be left largely to the novelists.

With no guides and mentors here, we have to look elsewhere. Great Britain leads the way in preparations for the millennium. In 1992, that nation established a commission of its best minds to define what the millennium was, how Britain should mark the occasion, how its millennial activities might be paid for. Britain has treated the coming of the year 2000 as an occasion to spruce up the whole nation. By tapping the proceeds of its national lottery, it is offering every little village an opportunity to refurbish a local theater or park or historical site and make that refurbishment a millennium contribution. Prime Minister Tony Blair has already given a millennial lecture at Oxford University. The Millennium Dome, bigger than our Georgia Dome in Atlanta and devoted solely to education, is nearly complete at Greenwich. A millennium seed bank has been established to gather the seeds of the world into a single place to demonstrate the biodiversity of the world at this magical time. The Royal Mail has issued a series of millennium stamps that commemorate the inventors, the explorers, the entertainers, the workers and the scientists of British history. And Britain talks comfortably about giving its people a "millennium experience."

What is the United States doing? No buildings. No stamps. No presidential lecture at Harvard. No innovative or visionary ideas. America in the *fin de siècle* of the 1890s did far better with a century's end than we're doing with the end of the millennium. Then there was an explosion of plays, art, music and books, including Edward Bellamy's smash success, "Looking Backward." There was the monumental glory of Chicago's 1893 World's Fair and the spirit of inventiveness characterized by Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell.

Perhaps it's not too late. The precious little dispute over whether the new millennium actually begins this coming January or the January of 2001 may house an opportunity. It gives us another 15 months to do something worthwhile.

Here are a few eleventh-hour suggestions.

The United States is the only major Western country without a cabinet-level minister of culture or national heritage. Only in the South of William Faulkner and Thomas Wolfe are Americans secure in talking about their literature and their regional identity. Other regions of the country have as rich a literary and artistic tradition; they just don't know how to talk about it. In

the new millennium, if this country is to stand for anything more than its wealth and democratic ideal, Americans need to become comfortable with the word "culture."

The millennium could be viewed as a kind of bar mitzvah or confirmation for a youthful nation that must blossom into a mature civilization in the next millennium. In the 1960s, France showed what could be done for the creative life of a nation when a figure of great artistic stature, Andre Malraux, became its minister of culture. An American figure with Malraux's stature and Malraux's mandate could teach all sections of the country how to do that and could teach his or her own president how better to promote American culture, without it sounding undemocratic. William Styron or Arthur Miller or Reynolds Price or Eudora Welty come to mind as candidates for the job.

We can forget about President Clinton as our coxswain for this boat ride, but Congress could play a role. In the year 2000, it might hold the occasional historical debate and thus fulfill its calling as an educational as well as a political body. This is the time to revisit America's Founding Myth, for instance. In 1892, Congress designated Oct. 12 as Columbus Day since Columbus "discovered" America, and in 1968 it decreed that Columbus Day be a federal holiday. But Columbus did not discover America; he discovered a few Caribbean islands, and then set about to enslave the native population. Consequently, Columbus Day, now freighted with embarrassment and misinformation, has become a sop to the Italian-American community, and is the least widely observed federal holiday we have.

It has been established, through carbon dating, that a far earlier European presence in North America came with the Viking explorer Leif Ericsson in the year 1000 A.D. Canada has created a national park at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland to commemorate the site of the first Viking settlement. And it is widely accepted that the third Viking voyage was led by a woman, Godrid Thorbjarnardottir, the wife of Leif's younger brother, who for a time lived on the island of Manhattan and gave birth to the first known European-American child.

Congress has acknowledged Ericsson's claim; it should now debate a resolution to broaden and invigorate the current federal holiday as Discoverers Day. Ericsson and other explorers of the Americas, Ponce de Leon, Hernando de Soto, John Smith, Francisco Vazquez de Coronado, John Wesley Powell, Merriwell Lewis and William Clark, the Polynesians who settled Hawaii, Sacagawea and, perhaps, Thorbjarnardottir herself, should take their places alongside Columbus in a wider celebration of exploration and the pioneering American spirit. And the official holiday should embrace the present-day explorers, the astronauts and astronomers, who are giving us a vastly expanded concept of humankind's place in the universe and cosmos. NASA should name a space shuttle mission after Ericsson next year to draw attention to the shift.

It is time to stop the silly talk and to have a real national conversation about the meaning of the millennium for America. In this fleeting moment, the past and future are majestically and magically intertwined. It should not be allowed to slip past us in a champagne fog or in the daze of a temperamental computer screen.

Millennium, Schmillennium

Demand Low for Highest-Priced New Year's Bashes

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Three nights at the St. Regis Washington, with airfare and posh lodging for 12, limousine service, in-room massages, a cooking class, symphony tickets and a seven-course dinner—\$110,000. Two nights in the Pentagon City Ritz-Carlton's presidential suite, with his-and-her 18-karat gold watches, a chauffeured Jaguar, daily salon service and the obligatory seven-course dinner and ballroom extravaganza—\$100,000.

The run of the entire 40-room Tabard Inn near Dupont Circle, with a private party and the feast and live bands to go with it—\$50,000. An "Evening of a Lifetime" at the Kennedy Center, where rooftop patrons dine and dance and receive "special commemorative gifts." Only \$2,000 a person.

Looking for the bash to end all bashes this New Year's Eve? Apparently not.

With rare exceptions, the most lavish, over-the-top enticements to greet the new millennium in style are going begging across Washington and its suburbs. Only 74 days before the epochal night, the priciest promotions have few



BY MICHAEL ROBINSON-CHAVEZ—THE WASHINGTON POST

The oenophile's New Year's Eve dream dinner at Sam and Harry's will cost \$19,999.99 for four. takers, and rooms and restaurants remain widely available—to the disappointment of their marketers.

The bids "just weren't as great as we thought they would be," conceded Jeremiah Cohen, co-owner of the Tabard Inn, which has opted to throw a more typical New Year's Eve dinner

See PARTIES, A8, Col. 1

PARTIES, From A1

celebration since the rental bids it received came in well below the \$50,000 minimum.

Rather than folks splurging with abandon—the common prediction a few months ago—they're being more careful. "Ultimately," Cohen said, "a lot of people would rather spend that money on their kid's college education or a longer vacation."

Donna Desormeaux, spokeswoman for the D.C. Convention and Visitors Bureau, sees a more fundamental problem with such offerings as a \$12,000 spa celebration for 40 in Bethesda or a \$75,000 Potomac River cruise (sans food).

"The average Joe doesn't have this kind of money," she said.

The convention-size New Year's Eve events, with thousands of tickets, began serious advertising just this month. And those at the big-name hotels and restaurants insist they'll toast a full house when bubbly starts flowing. Potential revelers are merely shopping around, they explain, or just beginning to focus on what they really want to do that night.

"People are making their plans real slow," said Katherine Kerley, who helps handle publicity for the St. Regis Washington, the Westin Grand and the Westin Fairfax. As of last week, the Westin Fairfax had sold just three of its \$1,299 "Y2K" packages and not one of its \$1,599 "Sweet '99" packages.

Now that the White House has begun releasing details of its three-day celebration on the Mall, Kerley and others think reservations will pick up. But Kerley does worry that expectations about this New Year's—"The Last Great Party of

the Millennium" reads one typical promo—are almost counterproductive.

"There's so much pressure to do something awesome, you just don't do anything at all," she said.

Strange times indeed, and sociologist Bronislaw Misztal predicts they one day will be analyzed, not at all favorably, for the extreme marketing frenzy and commercial hype. "All of this is profoundly irrational," declared the Catholic University professor, who studies social movements and the political and moral effects of rapid change.

To Misztal, it is scant consolation that no one has yet shelled out 100 grand for the Ritz-Carlton package, because some couples are paying \$3,000 to spend New Year's at the Hay-Adams Hotel across from the White House, or more than \$2,800 for dinner and a single night's lodging at the Inn at Little Washington near Warrenton.

Come January, he said, "there will be lots of consumer counseling."

A few soirees already are being modified. The Kennedy Center several days ago "refocused" its New Year's Eve plans. Instead of \$2,000 a person, partygoers will pay \$250 to \$350 each to dine on the terrace and then repair to the grand foyer for dancing. Tickets to any performances are, of course, extra.

Millennium or not, survey after survey has forecast a definite public apathy. A poll this summer by Blockbuster said 45 percent of those questioned intended to be home on New Year's Eve. The Travel Industry Association took a head count and found that more than 60 percent of Americans had

no plans to leave town for the holiday. A third poll, released last week by the light-bulb company in charge of that big ball that drops in Times Square, noted that 43 percent of Americans would rather stay home and watch television on Dec. 31.

"I'm not going anywhere," professor Misztal said emphatically.

Even Desormeaux, of the convention bureau, confessed: "Personally, I'm no big New Year's Eve person. . . . I plan to be home or with friends."

No one doubts, however, that intense celebrations will occur, whether it's the two women hosting 60 guests aboard the double-decked Miss Christin riverboat for \$7,000, or the black-tie merrymakers assembled in three ballrooms at the Willard Inter-Continental Hotel.

"If you look at everything that's included, our price is very, very reasonable," a Willard spokeswoman said of packages that run \$2,000 or more a couple, depending on such

details as whether the glass is full of Dom Perignon or Moët & Chandon.

The entire MCI Center is slated to become a "Millennial City," with more than 11,000 party-maniacs paying \$199 to \$349 apiece to dance, eat and drink on concourse after concourse after concourse. With enough bands to launch a new record label, indoor fireworks and a time-zone-by-time-zone countdown to midnight, organizer Mike Harrigan at Shack Events is confident all tickets will go—though only a few hundred have been purchased since

sales started Oct. 1.

Several blocks south, the more high-minded and high-priced "Party With a Purpose" will take over the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. The purpose: to raise \$1 million for 10 Washington area charities, from the Capital Children's Museum to the Congressional Award Foundation. And the party: for \$500 or \$2,000, the majority of which is tax deductible, nearly 3,500 hoped-for guests will dine on international cuisines and watch headliner Rog-

er Daltrey—yes, The Who's Daltrey—lead a classical orchestra, rock band and gospel choir that all perform under the name British Rock Symphony.

Giles Beeker, the trade center vice president, knows he has competition and bemoans all the "over-commercialized" hype. Yet he can't help but offer some of his own. "One of the best events in the world that night," he calls his production.

Not every bank-account-draining affair is still advertising, how-

ever. A New Year's Eve dinner for four at Sam and Harry's will set patrons back \$19,999.99, yet the downtown restaurant already has credit cards holding three reservations.

It will be worth every penny, promises Bill Wernick, the restaurant's vice president, with a magnum of Pol Roger Couvé 2000 champagne and bottles of wines of such quality that superlatives do not do them justice. "The finest white burgundy ever produced," he exulted. "The most wonderful

Sauterne you can find." Cognac of a 1900 vintage.

"It's all about the wines," Wernick said, but rest assured that for this equivalent of a house down payment, folks will eat well, too. For nearly four hours, they will feast on Beluga caviar, Scottish smoked salmon, Swedish sea scallops, Maine lobster.

Wernick began this ultimate oenophile's search 18 months ago and expects the dinner will be great fun. Said he of the evening's prospects, "I'm a little bit in awe."

THE RELIABLE SOURCE

By Lloyd Grove

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1999

Arm-Twisting To the Millennium

Will Smith may have clout in Hollywood, but he got a sharp lesson in power Washington-style this week when his people sent the wrong signals about his participation in "America's Millennium," the White House-sponsored New Year's celebration on the Mall. Two weeks ago, White House organizers announced that Smith would serve as an emcee during the three-day mega-party produced by Quincy Jones and George Stevens Jr. But on Wednesday, when The Post's Susan Levine phoned the movie star's L.A. office, his manager, James Lassiter, wasn't thrilled. "Will was never confirmed as host," Lassiter insisted, while another of Smith's Hollywood reps—who didn't want to be identified—suggested that the White House had jumped the gun. Organizers were "a little overly ambitious," the rep claimed.

That's when the interesting part began. When Levine phoned around to get to the bottom of this ambivalence, the staff of event chairwoman Hillary Rodham Clinton was caught by



FILE PHOTO/RYAN O'LEARY—THE WASHINGTON POST

Will he or won't he? Smith, not quite confirmed for New Year's.

surprise. "It's the first I've heard" that Smith was not nailed down, said spokeswoman **Toby Graff**. Producer Jones's publicist sounded equally flummoxed.

We shudder to think what forces were brought to bear on whom in the ensuing seven hours. All we know is that **Marsha Berry**, the first lady's communications director, phoned Levine around 8 p.m. to let her know that Lassiter would soon be calling. "Will is genuinely enthusiastic about being there," Smith's manager gushed. "I'm sure Will is going to do anything Quincy wants him to do."

Washington Afro-American

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HEADLINE: Will Smith and Quincy Jones stars of White House millennium party

BODY:

Will Smith and Quincy Jones stars of White House millennium party

Washington, D.C. - A family-oriented celebration of the new millennium will be the focus of three days of activities on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. "America's Millennium" is free to the public and will begin on Dec. 31, 1999 and continue through Jan. 2, 2000. The celebration, which will highlight all that is best about America, is a cooperative effort of the White House Millennium Council, the National Park Service, the Smithsonian Institute and the National Park Foundation.

On Friday, Dec. 31, the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the U.S. Capitol will frame the celebration that will ring out the old millennium, and ring in the new.

President Clinton and the First Lady have asked Quincy Jones and George Stevens, Jr. to produce a spectacular "America's Millennium Gala."

Concluding with a "Midnight Moment;" Steven Spielberg to produce a short film with a score by John Williams for the occasion; and the Smithsonian Institution to organize "Millennium on Mall: Traditions and Tomorrow," a three-day festival for families and children, all with the help of the National Park Service.

The White House Millennium Council charged by the President and the First Lady with leading the nation in a celebration to "Honor the Past - Imagine the Future," drives the activities of "America's Millennium." These events will unify the goals of the Council, which are to educate, inspire and reflect on the creative spirit of America.

"America's Millennium Gala" produced by Quincy Jones and George Stevens Jr. will present a stirring show that will build toward an unforgettable "Midnight Moment" to mark the time when we pass the new century and new millennium. This will be the nation's commemoration of this milestone in human history. Stars in the arts and entertainment world will perform with an orchestra, along with the combined bands, choruses and marching units of the U.S. Armed Forces who will perform outside, in front of the Lincoln Memorial, as celebrants watch from the side of the Reflecting Pool. The entertainment will center on great American music of the century, choreographed to summarize in song and memory the noble achievements of our country.

A twenty-minute film, "American Spirit," by Steven Spielberg, will depict the highlights of the 20th century. John Williams is composing an original score that will be conducted live with the orchestra as the film is projected on huge outdoor screens. Inspired by Aaron Copeland's "Lincoln Portrait," the Spielberg film will have its world premiere at the Lincoln Memorial.

The "Midnight Moment" will light up the sky as our nation salutes the new century. Stars of the gala, choruses and celebrants on the Mall, will raise their voices in a rousing sing-a-long in the first hour of the new millennium. Over the course of the three days, the Smithsonian Institution will present, "Millennium on the Mall: Traditions and Tomorrows," with literature, entertainment, sports, sciences and technology.

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A Little Too Eager on That 2000 Gig

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Only Tuesday, the White House Millennium Council and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton announced who will help Washington and the nation ring in New Year 2000: Will Smith! Aretha Franklin! Chuck Berry! B.B. King!

But yesterday, while not quite singing the blues, organizers were acknowledging an unfortunate—and they hope momentary—mistake. The King of Blues, it turns out, is not yet confirmed for the "America's Millennium" spectacular being planned for the Mall. They want him, and he may be willing, but there's no ink on a contract.

The mixup over King began at Tuesday's news conference, when for the first time in months organizers provided details on the three-day celebration weekend. The trouble was, they weren't specific enough. Because most of the discussion was about the plans for Dec. 31—a show to be hosted by Smith, a made-for-the-millennium movie by Steven Spielberg, a techno-glitz light display at the stroke of midnight—it seemed that performers such as Berry were set to appear that day, too.

They're not. Mr. Rock-and-Roll is

to be on the Mall the afternoon of Jan. 1. The Queen of Soul, who's playing the Jacob Javits Center in New York on New Year's Eve, will not show until Jan. 2. As for King, he has engagements in the Memphis area Dec. 31 and New Year's Day and could arrive in Washington, if and when the glitch is straightened out, only on Jan. 2.

"It was the worst kind of mistake," said Richard Kurin, director of the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife Programs and Cultural Studies, who's heading the planning for the many exhibits, concerts, lectures and demonstrations the Smithsonian intends to put on for those three days. He missed the news conference Tuesday because he was out of town, but much of his day yesterday was spent trying to resolve problems.

Paul McCarthy, executive director of the entity that is trying to coordinate everything among the White House, Smithsonian, National Park Service and National Park Foundation, also was trying to regain lost ground. He lamented that the very thing organizers wanted to avoid—confusion over details—happened.

"We'd prefer to come out with a comprehensive list of all the entertainers and the time slots they're



FILE PHOTO

B.B. King has not been confirmed for "America's Millennium" on the Mall.

in," he said.

Not surprisingly, much is up in the air because the budget for the free weekend celebration is still so uncertain. The bills will be picked up by private donations, and organizers said this week that they have raised about half of their \$12.5 million target. That amount will cover only the events on the Mall, however, not a companion festival on Constitution Avenue that is a cooperative effort with the city.

"What we're trying to do is plan for different levels of programs,"

Kurin said. "If we don't get that kind of money, we'll scale back."

On the music stage on the Mall—the major draw—Kurin wants Franklin, Berry, former Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart and other unannounced performers to do more than play. What if, he mused, they talked about what has influenced them in their music, and how soul or rock might change in the 21st century?

"It would be *tres* cool," Kurin said.

But with barely 90 days to go, time is growing short for booking other acts and contracting with vendors. The Smithsonian has received less than \$1 million through the White House Millennium Council, Kurin said. Despite that, he's hopeful that all three days will be strong draws. "We're negotiating. What can I say?"

The first lady's press office, which is now handling inquiries on the event, said no timetable exists for releasing more information on the celebration. Filmmaker George Stevens Jr. and musician Quincy Jones are producing the Dec. 31 show at the Lincoln Memorial.

And as Stevens said Tuesday, "It's always a great mistake to tell people what you're going to do three months in advance."

Will Smith To Ring In New Year On Mall

Multimillion-Dollar Events Announced

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Actor Will Smith will host Washington's ultimate party of '99, the multimillion-dollar New Year's Eve celebration on the Mall for which a who's who of rock, soul and blues music will sing backup, organizers announced yesterday.

"Just imagine for a moment," first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton began at a news conference that provided few new specifics of the free, morning-to-midnight event but much lyrical description of its atmosphere and purpose—"the music of our century rocking and rolling, swinging and soaring."

Some of those tunes will be belted out by Chuck Berry, Aretha Franklin, and B.B. King, who will perform during festivities that will stretch down the Mall and also for several blocks along Constitution Avenue.

Come evening, the spotlight will shift to the Lincoln Memorial, where Smith will lead a show to be produced by musician Quincy Jones and filmmaker George Stevens Jr. And in the century's final hour, as composer John Williams conducts an original orchestral score, an 18-minute movie by Steven Spielberg will highlight major events of the last 100 years before a high-tech sound and light display punctuates the first minute of 2000.

"It will be in the sky and it will be inspiring," Stevens said yesterday.

"America's Millennium," as the family-friendly extravaganza is billed, is being organized by the

See NEW YEAR'S, A17, Col. 1

New Year's Lineup of Performers Announced

NEW YEAR'S, From A1

White House Millennium Council, Smithsonian Institution, National Park Service and National Park Foundation. The city of Washington, which will mark its bicentennial as the nation's capital in 2000, is a partner in the planning.

The initial projection is for a turnout of 600,000 people. Only two gatherings on the Mall have been bigger: President Lyndon B. Johnson's 1965 inauguration and the 1976 bicentennial fireworks.

Already, the price tag has grown to \$12.5 million from early estimates of \$10 million. The total includes the lectures, demonstrations and performances that the Smithsonian will present from Dec. 31 through Jan. 2, but does not account for the city's companion block party along Constitution Avenue—a "Main Street Millennium" expected to resemble a winter carnival of minstrels, magicians, acrobats and food tents between 10th and 14th streets NW. The city has not yet hired a contractor to run its portion.

The entire celebration will be privately funded, organizers reiterated yesterday, saying that with 95 cents to go, half of the \$12.5 million has been raised. Democratic Party fund-raising magnate Terry McAuliffe, who recently offered \$1.3 million from his own accounts to guarantee a New York house mortgage for the first lady and President Clinton, is leading the money effort.

Despite some private concerns that the ambitious and time-pressed plans may exceed funds—the Smithsonian, for instance, has yet to receive a budget for its role—organizers were enthusiastic yesterday. One of the guests they introduced was their first million-dollar contributor, Omaha business executive Vinod Gupta. No other individual or corporate donors were identified, nor was any cost breakdown discussed.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to unite our nation, to capture an extraordinary moment in American and human history," said Hillary Clinton, who was joined at the news conference by Stevens and D.C. Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D).

With congressional representatives and local residents participating, the weekend's opening ceremony will take place near the Capitol as a time capsule is sealed with the reflections of national leaders in varied fields. Throughout the day on Dec. 31, Clinton said, the Smithsonian will offer a "digital time capsule" to which visitors can add their thoughts and wishes for future generations.

Producer Stevens, the man behind the annual Kennedy Center honors program and founder of the American Film Institute, gave no timetable for releasing a full schedule of performers. For the moment, the publicity boasts of bands, choirs and military marching units. Stevens acknowledged that many celebrities were booked long ago but said it was not too late to get commitments from others.

"It's a historic opportunity. You can perform in Las Vegas any night of the year," he laughed.

One lure would be the likely worldwide audience. Organizers said CBS will broadcast live from 10 p.m. through midnight, and arrangements to carry the show around the globe are pending. Spielberg's movie, "The Unfinished Journey," will be shown on two giant digital screens to be positioned on either side of the Lincoln Memorial.

Although the Mall will return to normal Jan. 3, the city's bicentennial commemoration will just be starting. James V. Kimsey, chairman emeritus of America Online, is leading the steering committee of city and regional leaders that will plan a year of programs and festivities and raise the private funds to pay for them.

Mayor Williams's special assistant, Sandy McCall, said the calendar of downtown and neighborhood events will not be publicized until January. Kimsey's committee members, however, will be announced by early November.

"When [others] see this new board," McCall predicted, "they'll see there's been an immense vote of confidence in this new mayor and the renaissance of this city."

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HEADLINE: Washington will host a millennium bash Gala won't be the same 'Auld Lang Syne'

BYLINE: Susan Page

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- That glittering ball dropping from Times Square on New Year's Eve?

It's got competition.

This year, "America's Millennium" will be marked on the National Mall with a "spectacular high-tech sound and light display" between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, Hillary Rodham Clinton announced Tuesday. The outdoor gala will include an 18-minute film by director Steven Spielberg of the highlights of the 20th century -- that averages out to just under 11 seconds per year -- with an original score by John Williams. Plus an evening of as-yet-unspecified entertainment hosted by actor Will Smith.

And a "Midnight Moment."

"It will not be something dropping from the air," says producer George Stevens Jr. "It will be something lighting up the sky."

The entire affair will be broadcast on CBS, which bought the rights for an undisclosed amount. It's part of three days of celebration including the unveiling of a National Time Capsule and performances over the weekend by Aretha Franklin, B.B. King, Chuck Berry and scientists from Massachusetts Institute of Technology labs.

Stevens denied reports that most Hollywood headliners already are spoken for on New Year's Eve, although officials acknowledge they are still trying to line up first-tier acts.

The estimated price tag: \$12.5 million, raised by fund-raiser Terry McAuliffe, who is also offering a \$1.3 million guarantee for the first family's new mortgage in Chappaqua, N.Y. About half of the celebration funds are in hand or promised.

Speaking of New York, Hillary Clinton didn't seem eager to field questions about why she plans to spend New Year's Eve in Washington if she's set on becoming a New Yorker for her expected Senate run next year. After posing with a model of the Mall, she left before reporters could ask about the possible political implications. Aides said she had to hurry to New York.

Not to worry, says former New York mayor Ed Koch. "There won't be any New Yorkers in Times Square," he said. "They'll be tourists."

Where will the natives be?

"Home," he says. "Watching TV."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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New Year's fete gets top talent

By Donna De Marco
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Will Smith, Aretha Franklin and Chuck Berry are scheduled to be among the headliners at this year's New Year's Eve party in Washington, the White House and millennium celebration officials announced yesterday.

America's Millennium, the group coordinating the party, hopes to finalize plans by mid-November, said Executive Director Paul McCarthy.

He also said the group, a cooperative effort among the White House, the Smithsonian, the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation, has secured half of the \$12.5 million in private funds needed to stage the three-day extravaganza.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will host the opening ceremony, where a national time capsule with artifacts representing how the nation lived will be revealed, at noon on Dec. 31.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to really unite our nation, to capture an extraordinary moment in American and human history," Mrs. Clinton said in announcing plans for the party yesterday.

Mr. Smith will be the master of ceremonies for the "America's Millennium Gala" — a three-hour New Year's Eve show produced by musician Quincy Jones and television and movie director George Stevens Jr.

The gala will take place at the Lincoln Memorial and be broadcast live on CBS beginning at 10 p.m. The producers are still lining up other performers for the event.

Director Steven Spielberg will present an 18-minute motion picture highlighting the 20th century at the Lincoln Memorial and on CBS beginning at 11:30 p.m.

The film, titled "The Unfinished Journey," with music by composer John Williams, will be shown on

two digital screens on either side of the Lincoln Memorial.

Also planned is a high-tech sound and light display between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. Mr. Stevens declined to give details.

"I think that's going to be something that will reveal itself at midnight," Mr. Stevens said. "But it will be in the sky and it will be inspiring."

He said the Lincoln Memorial was selected as the stage for the New Year's Eve event in part because of its historical significance — it was where black opera singer Marian Anderson performed when the Daughters of the American Revolution barred her from singing in Constitution Hall in 1939 and where Martin Luther King gave his "I have a dream" speech in 1963.

The Smithsonian will present an array of exhibitions at its "Millennium on the Mall" event that will run Dec. 31 to Jan. 2. Highlights are expected to include performances from Miss Franklin, Mr. Berry and former Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart.

"Millennium on the Mall" will also include other family oriented performances, lectures and demonstrations covering the worlds of music, art, literature, sports, science and technology. Children's book author Virginia Hamilton, song leader Ella Jenkins and other literary and scientific experts are scheduled to appear.

D.C. Mayor Anthony A. Williams also announced yesterday that the city will host a block party called Main Stream Millennium along Constitution Avenue on Dec. 31. That party will feature local and regional entertainment and food.

Officials said the number of people expected at the celebration could range from 100,000 to 1 million partyers.

■ This article is based in part on wire service reports.

AMERICA'S MILLENNIUM

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton announced plans yesterday for the America's Millennium celebration to usher in 2000:

Where: The Mall, from the Lincoln Memorial to the Capitol

Headliners: Will Smith, Aretha Franklin, Chuck Berry

Cost: \$12.5 million

Producers: George Stevens Jr., Quincy Jones

Highlights: "The Unfinished Journey," an 18-minute motion picture by director Steven Spielberg at 11:30 p.m.; high-tech display of sound, light and fireworks at midnight

By BRIAN BLUMQUIST, Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday sparked a New Year's Eve feud, saying she'll skip the Big Apple's party to be the queen of the millennium celebration in Washington.

The wannabe New York senator urged all Americans to join her for the D.C. gala, which will feature actor-rapper Will Smith as the host, singer Aretha Franklin, and the world premiere of a new film by Steven Spielberg, "The Unfinished Journey."

"That is what we will be doing this New Year's Eve," Mrs. Clinton said yesterday. "This will be no ordinary party."

Mrs. Clinton's campaign spokesman, Howard Wolfson, denied the Washington celebration was aiming to steal New York's thunder as the biggest party night of the year.

"I think there's more than enough room for two New Year's celebrations," Wolfson said.

But in the past, the nation's eyes — and the networks' cameras — have focused on the New York event, and now there's evidence that the star power and political-historical dimension of the D.C. party is diverting attention from the Times Square countdown.

CBS has agreed to televise the Washington party from 10 p.m. until its early-morning conclusion, planners of the D.C. gala said yesterday.

While the New York celebration will have its traditional ball drop — but this time with a Waterford Crystal ball — in Times Square, Washington's party will have a spectacular light and sound show (although planners won't give details).

Mayor Giuliani is set to push the button for the ball-drop in New York, along with a soon-to-be-named star or hero, according to planners with the Times Square Business Improvement District.

Produced by Quincy Jones and filmmaker George Stevens Jr., the millennium gala in Washington will take place in front of the Lincoln Memorial on The Mall.

Controversial Democratic fund-raiser Terry McAuliffe is helping Mrs. Clinton raise the \$12 million to pay for the gala. McAuliffe accompanied Mrs. Clinton yesterday at a Washington event to promote the party.

McAuliffe recently offered to plunk down \$1.35 million in collateral to help the Clintons buy their dream

She'll ring in the new century at D.C. gala

house in Chappaqua, although sources said the Clintons want to restructure the deal so that they can buy the house without their financial angel.

McAuliffe — the power behind the infamous White House coffees — also helped raise money for the Clintons' legal defense fund, President Clinton's 1996 re-election, the Democratic National Committee, Clinton's presidential library and Mrs. Clinton's campaign in New York.

Another key player is Spielberg, who has given big bucks to the Democratic Party and twice lent his Hamptons mansion to the Clintons — most recently when Hillary Clinton was out there raising campaign cash.

One highlight of the D.C. gala will be Spielberg's 18-minute movie, "The Unfinished Journey," which he's making with documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, historians Stephen Ambrose and Henry Louis Gates, and Oscar-winning composer John Williams.

The other is the high-tech sound and light display that will take place at midnight between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

Washington usually is a low-key town on New Year's Eve compared to New York, but Berry said, "This is a special celebration."

"The music of our century rocking and rolling, swinging and soaring through the night air ... I extend an invitation to all Americans," said Mrs. Clinton, who heads the White House millennium efforts.

HILLARY'S AWAY FOR OUR Y2K

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Mayor
Giuliani



Hillary
Clinton

Millennium rivalry

New York

Traditional ball drop, but this time with new, 6-foot wide Waterford Crystal ball, in Times Square.



Washington

Spectacular light and sound show on the National Mall from the Lincoln Memorial to the Washington Monument; the midnight marker is a mystery.

Mayor Giuliani.

Special Political Host

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Unclear who will be the star or hero at Giuliani's side to push the button to drop the ball.

Star Host

Actor and rapper Will Smith.

International. There will be celebrations each hour for people living around the world in different time zones, and each celebration will take on the theme of the place entering the new year. Expect to see a puppet of a 22-foot-long elephant in Times Square when the New Year arrives on the Indian subcontinent at 3 p.m. EST.

Tone of the celebration



Educational. Scientists and artists from the 20th century will be featured. A time capsule will be filled with artifacts and letters from children.

Elaborate puppets, including a Chinese dragon the size of a city bus, will perform to the changing themes.

Visual



The premiere of Steven Spielberg's (left) new 18-minute film, "The Unfinished Journey," about America and the 20th century.

Indigenous music; more than 400 dancers, actors, musicians and puppeteers from New York and around the world.

Entertainment



Aretha Franklin, Chuck Berry (with Clinton left), former Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart.