



Photo by Thomas A. Ferrara

Bob Goldfarb, left, president of the Chamber of Commerce, Berke, Carol Teplin, mayoral assistant; and Rosegarten on speaker-phone call with first lady.

Great Neck Plaza, Millennium Center

By Charlie Zehren

STAFF WRITER

Moments in time are well noted at Great Neck Plaza, where faded photographs and memorabilia fill Village Hall, marking a lush history stretching back to the 1600s when settlers first dubbed this stretch of land on Nassau

County's North Shore as Mad Nan's Neck.

Now this community — which Gold Coast novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald later described as the "fresh green breast of America" — is gaining notice for its plan to

time, were invited to listen to Clinton. But memos from the White House to the officials ruled out reporters asking the first lady questions.

Great Neck Plaza embarked down the road to the millennium last summer when Alison Berke, 34, a Thomaston native and Web site design com-

pany president, took up the challenge of planning a yearlong series of events to mark the arrival of another thousand years as set by the Gregorian calendar.

Rallying the leaders of the Gold Coast peninsula's other eight villages with the cry of "we are tired of dinner dances," Rosegarten embraced the project with what may be described as millennialistic fervor. Then in January Berke submitted an e-mail application to the White House, which selected Great Neck Plaza among 65 applicants based on the quality of the proposal. White House officials described the millennium program as non-partisan and non-competitive.

The Chamber of Commerce is mobilized. The Park District is on board. Property owners are joining supporters of the Great Neck Arts Center in the planning. www.shopinggreatneck.com, complete with a countdown clock, is fired up.

Long Island's land of "Old Money" is now awash in Great Neck "Millennium Money" — \$10 raffle tickets rewarding winners with a \$2,000 shopping spree at local shops.

Residents are collecting and assembling Roaring '20s memorabilia marking Great Neck's days as home to the likes of Fitzgerald, burlesque star Fanny Brice, Broadway producer George M. Cohan, comedians W.C. Fields and Groucho Marx and singer Eddie Cantor.

Rosegarten and Berke agree that it's not worth planning New Year's Eve events at the village, given that many residents will be on vacation or heading to Times Square.

Instead, Berke is organizing events, including an Arts and Cultural Affairs week, throughout 2000.



celebrate the passing of perhaps the single most significant sweep of the second hand in the modern age — the millennium.

In a conference call from the White House yesterday, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton announced the designation of Great Neck Plaza as among the first nine Millennium Communities in the nation.

With the honor comes the right to use the White House Millennium logo and Web site to promote events before, during and after the arrival of the new age this New Year's Eve. No federal money is involved. But in wider terms, according to Great Neck Plaza Mayor Robert Rosegarten, the award puts residents on notice to pause and reflect on their past and future.

"We are surrounded by little pieces of what we are," Rosegarten said, sweeping his hand toward artifacts in a lobby display case. "The millennium allows us to consider who we will become."

Rosegarten and other village officials hunkered down around a speaker phone and listened as the first lady, who heads President Bill Clinton's millennial celebration planning, made the announcement. She then engaged in exchanges with Rosegarten and officials representing eight other communities throughout the nation, emphasizing the theme of the White House Millennium Council: "Honor the Past — Imagine the Future."

U.S. journalists, whose names were given to the White House ahead of

The Washington Post

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1999

Style

Inside

4 *Smithsonian validates the Vikings*

Exhibit on Vikings To Help Mark Millennium

By JACQUELINE TRESCOTT
Washington Post Staff Writer

Sometimes in searching for a way to sum up 1,000 years of history, you have to go back to the beginning. Thus, the Smithsonian Institution yesterday made its first official notice of any millennium observation by unveiling plans for a sprawling exhibition about the arrival of the Vikings in North America in A.D. 1000.

The show, which will open next April at the National Museum of Natural History, is a cooperative venture of the Smithsonian, the White House Millennium Council, the Nordic Council of Ministers for Cultural Affairs and the Volvo Group. The curators will cull 200 artifacts from the collections of Scandinavian and North American museums.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who heads the White House

Millennium effort, said this is another opportunity "to take stock of who we are and where we come from and what we hope and want from the future." Though generations of schoolchildren and consumers of movies and comic books might think of the Vikings as warriors who sacked, raped and pillaged, the organizers stressed that they will be telling a different story, one of seafaring pioneers and the first meeting of Europeans and the native Indian and Eskimo peoples. The exhibition, said Robert Fri, director of the Natural History Museum, will be called "Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga" and will use mythology and newer archaeological discoveries to discuss the Vikings' spirit of exploration, discovery of new frontiers and many accomplishments, such as shipbuilding. And, Fri promised, the Minnesota Vikings football team will not be ignored.

Mrs. Clinton suggested she was one of those who had received incomplete information from her early education about Vikings.

"Anyone who has a stereotype view of who the Vikings were from old movies that we saw would be surprised to learn about the many contributions those seafarers were making and how far-flung their adventures were," she said. "Viking explorers got as far as Afghanistan and brought back lapis and other minerals and stones to trade. Their fleets got to what was then the precursor of Istanbul. They were among the earliest conveyors of information and experience and culture from one part of the known world to another."

She said the Viking ship, in a way, "was the Internet of the year 1000."

William Fitzhugh, curator of the show, said a major portion of the exhibit will trace the detective work of scientists studying the Viking civilization. The \$3 million show will be underwritten by the Smithsonian, the Nordic Council and Volvo; after September 2000 it will travel around North America for two years.

A Night to Never Forget

At the White House, Elie Wiesel Carries On the Lessons of the Holocaust

By LINTON WEEKS
Washington Post Staff Writer

Elie Wiesel hates war. He loves NATO. He holds up NATO's intervention in Kosovo as a shining moment in the 20th century. "This time," he said, "the world was not silent."

Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor who has spent his adult life making sure the world never forgets Nazi atrocities, was in town yesterday as a guest speaker in the series of "Millennium Evenings" being sponsored by the White House. In front of about 200 people last night he—and President Clinton and the first lady—staged a two-hour

seminar in the East Room on "The Perils of Indifference: Lessons Learned From a Violent Century."

"What will the legacy of this vanishing century be?" asked Wiesel, one of the great question-askers of our time. There has been "so much violence, so much indifference."

Indifference, he said, "makes humans inhuman."

Indifference, he said, "is never creative."

Indifference, he said, "is always the friend of the enemy."

And indifference, he said, "is not only a sin, it is a punishment."

For Wiesel, the evening was a platform; for the

Clintons, it was a providential opportunity to sit together on the dais and talk about something other than domestic tribulations.

"We cannot be indifferent," the president said, "to the fact that the Serbian leader has defined destiny as a license to kill."

Hillary Rodham Clinton said she never could have imagined when she invited Wiesel to speak, more than a year ago, that Kosovo would be in the news.

See WIESEL, C3, Col. 1

Indifference, Elie Wiesel said last night at the White House, "is not only a sin, it is a punishment."

BY MICHAEL LUTZKY—THE WASHINGTON POST



Elie Wiesel on War

WIESEL. From *C1*

Pre-screened questions and statements were presented by members of the audience and folks from around the country who tuned in via the Internet. But some of the toughest questions came from Wiesel himself. Why, he asked, did President Roosevelt turn away a boatload of Jewish refugees from American shores in 1939? Why did some of America's largest companies continue to do business with Hitler's Germany until 1942?

The questions seemed to boil up from Wiesel's heart, his gut. "Why are we," Wiesel asked directly of Clinton, "so nobly involved in Kosovo and why were we not in Rwanda? I think we could have prevented that massacre. Why didn't we?" In 1994 at least 500,000 Tutsis were brutally massacred by the Hutu ethnic majority.

The president explained that there is no NATO-like alliance for Africa. "I will do my best," Clinton replied, "to make sure that something like this does not happen again in Africa."

At 71, Wiesel has earned the right to ask questions. Born in Transylvania, then part of Hungary, he has been a refugee, an orphan, an eyewitness to unspeakable tragedy, a survivor. His mother and a sister were sent to the Auschwitz gas chambers during World War II. His father died in the concentration camp in Buchenwald.

Yesterday, Wiesel said, marked the 54th anniversary of his first day of freedom.

After the war, Wiesel became a journalist. In 1958 he published his sad and astonishing life story in a book called simply "Night."



BY WIN McNAMEE—REUTERS

"I'm against war," Elie Wiesel said last night, "yet here I am."

"Never shall I forget that night," wrote young Wiesel, "the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky."

"Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever."

"Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live. Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust. Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God himself. Never."

The Clintons said last night they had read the book at the urging of their daughter, Chelsea.

A writer of more than 40 books and winner of several shelves of prizes, including the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize, Wiesel teaches humanities at Boston University and was founding chairman of the Holocaust Memorial Council. He became an American citizen in 1963.

During an interview before his speech last night, Wiesel said he had followed Clinton's impeachment "with pain." He said, "I learned in my life not to be a judge. I'm a witness." For a while yesterday afternoon he sat in a dimly lit conference room in the offices of the White House Millennium Council. In dark suit, white shirt, dark tie, his silver hair tousled, he softly defended his stance. "I'm against war," he said, "yet here I am. It is out of character for me. There is anguish."

But he has concluded that NATO and his adopted country were forced to become involved in Kosovo.

"What is the alternative?" Wiesel said. "I always think of the victim."

Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic "is really of no interest to me," said Wiesel.

He is interested only in the victims. "What do they think of us? They know that we know. What judgment would they pass?"

He shies away from comparing Milosevic, or anyone, to Hitler. "All analogies are two-way streets," he explained. If Milosevic is Hitler, then Hitler is Milosevic, he said, and there the comparison falls apart.

"I have faith in our government and our system," he said. "I have faith in the NATO alliance."

As the world enters a new century, Wiesel told the gathering last night, he is hopeful. His hope, he said, "comes from hopelessness."

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White House Plans New Partnerships

Higher-education leaders and federal officials met at the White House last week to lay the foundation for Imagining America, a national consortium of colleges and cultural institutions that have promised to create partnerships among academics, public agencies, and community organizations.

The consortium is sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation—which will provide grants to supplement its efforts—and the White House Millennium Council, a project to mark the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the next millennium. The effort will be based at the University of Michigan.

The idea for Imagining America grew out of a Michigan pilot program, "The Arts of Citizenship." Held during the 1997-98 academic year, it brought together scholars and community leaders to explore the relationships of local and global geographies, cultural creation, and the meanings of civil society.

During a speech at Michigan last year, Hillary Rodham Clinton praised the goals of the pilot program. "Universities have a special role to play in making sure we are all conscious of the importance of the arts and humanities," she said. They provide safe havens for unconventional ideas and thoughts and serve as an incubator of culture, she added.

The consortium intends to set up three types of programs: grants for partnerships between universities and community organizations; efforts involving the design and planning of public places; and artists' residencies aimed at producing new work about the worlds of universities and their regions.

Several institutions, including Yale University and the University of California at Berkeley, have said they will support projects under the consortium.

—P.W.C.

Honor the Past, IMAGINE THE FUTURE

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

In a very special exclusive for Woman's Day, Mrs. Clinton shares some personal thoughts about the beginning of the new millennium—how far we've come and where we're going

As we approach the new millennium, our thoughts are riveted on the future. What will life be like in the 21st century? What new thresholds will we cross? What challenges will we face? I believe that the past holds at least some of the answers.

Take a moment to travel back in time with me. Imagine that it's July 1848. You are a 19-year-old glovemaker named Charlotte Woodward, and you live in a small town called Waterloo, New York. Every day you sit for hours sewing gloves together, working for small wages, with no hope of ever going to school or owning a home.

Then, one day you hear about a women's rights convention to be held in nearby Seneca Falls—a convention to discuss the social, civil and religious rights of women. How can this be? You run from one friend's house to another, finding other women who have heard the same news. Some are excited, others amused. Many are shocked by the idea that women may have rights separate from their husbands and fathers. A few agree to travel to Seneca Falls with you—at least for the first day—to see what all the fuss is about.

Early on the morning of July 19, you set off aboard a horse-drawn wagon. At first, the road is empty and you're worried that no one else will come. Then, as you reach a crossroads, you see other wagons and carriages. Among the travelers that day is the great abolitionist Frederick Douglass, who would later write of the event: "We were few in numbers, moderate in resources and very little known in the world. The most that we had to commend us was a firm faith that the right must ultimately prevail."

I often think about the incredible courage it must have

taken to join that procession. Yet these were ordinary men and women just like us. And just like those who have embarked on similar journeys throughout American history, seeking freedom or escaping religious and political persecution, speaking out against slavery or striving for workers' rights. Above all, they were motivated by dreams of a better life and a more just society.

At the end of the two-day convention, one hundred people—68 women and 32 men—signed the Declaration of Sentiments. Borrowing from the Declaration of Independence, the document boldly asserted: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men and women are created equal." It was a shout heard around the world and, if we listen, we can still hear its echoes today.

I've heard it in the voices of women from Belfast to Beijing, from Rwanda to Russia—the voices of women struggling to improve their lives and the lives of their families. I've even heard those voices here in our own country. Sometimes when I'm traveling around the world speaking to other women, I wish I could take groups of American teenage girls along with me, so they could hear the power and determination in those voices, too.

Keep the Stories Alive

To usher in the millennium, the President and I have chosen the theme "Honor the past and imagine the future." To honor the past, we must honor the men and women who lived it—those who fought so courageously for the rights we enjoy today. We must tell and retell, learn and relearn their stories. It's important to me to pass their stories on to my daughter, and I hope you do the same with your children, too.



MRS. CLINTON AT THE WHITE HOUSE, PHOTOGRAPHED BY HARRY BENSON.

We must never forget that the rights and opportunities we enjoy as women today were not simply bestowed upon us. They were fought for, agonized over, marched for, jailed for and even died for.

Every time we buy, sell or inherit property in our own name, we honor their struggle. Every time we enter a profession of our choosing, we honor those who signed the Declaration of Sentiments.

Every time we vote, we honor the women and men of Seneca Falls, as well as the Suffragists who tirelessly fought to win passage of the 19th Amendment. Every time we elect a woman to office, we honor groundbreaking political leaders—everyone from Margaret Chase Smith to Bella Abzug—who proved that a

American women should count our blessings every day. I know how much change I have seen in my own lifetime. When I was growing up in the '50s and '60s, there were scholarships I couldn't apply for, schools I couldn't go to, jobs I couldn't have—just because of my sex. Thanks to federal laws such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX and the Equal Pay Act, my daughter and yours won't face the same legal barriers to equality.

But if we believe the fight in Seneca Falls is done, we miss the central point of the Declaration of Sentiments, which was, above all, a document about the future. As long as gaps remain between our ideals and our reality, our work will not be finished. This is part of the great

not just a symbol of equality, but a guarantee. It is the voice we use to express our political views, the means by which we hold our leaders and governments accountable, and the ticket to bridging the gap between what our nation is and what we want it to be.

So many women of the last century were silenced by someone else. Today we silence ourselves. But we have a voice, and we must make that voice heard.

What Will Our Daughters Say?

Fifty years from now, when our daughters celebrate the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Sentiments, what will they say about our stewardship? Will they say that we honored the struggle of our predecessors—that we saw their struggle as our struggle? Will they say that we created systems for education, employment, child care and health care that support and strengthen families? Will they say that we transcended distinctions of race and class and ultimately found strength in each other's differences?

Will our daughters say that women today supported each other's choices? Did we admit once and for all that there is no single cookie-cutter model for being a successful and fulfilled woman? Did we leave our children a world where all men and women are not only created equal but are *in fact* equal?

As we enter the new millennium, we know our daughters and granddaughters will face new challenges that we today cannot even imagine. But each of us can help prepare for that future by speaking out for justice and equality, knowing that eventually the causes we advocate will succeed. Why? Because they are rooted in the conviction that all people are entitled by their Creator and by the promise of America to the freedom, rights, responsibilities and opportunities of full citizenship.

This is what I imagine for our future. As we celebrate the millennium, I invite each of you to honor the past and imagine the future with me. Then we, too, can work together for a more perfect union. **WD**

For more information, see Sourceline, page 144.



Mrs. Clinton gives a speech at Seneca Falls last July.

woman's place is truly in the House, the Senate, and one day, even in the White House.

Every time we take another step forward for justice, we honor extraordinary women such as Harriet Tubman, who escaped from slavery, then risked her life time and again to bring other slaves to freedom. Harriet Tubman's rule on the Underground Railroad was "keep going." With those words, she galvanized her followers, no matter how dangerous the course.

Don't Stop Here

We, too, must keep going. We travel the same road that the pioneers of Seneca Falls started down 150 years ago. They knew they probably would not live to see the changes they advocated. In fact, only Charlotte Woodward, the glovemaker, lived long enough to see American women finally win the right to vote. Those who signed that Declaration did so for their daughters and granddaughters—and for us.

I certainly believe that we as

beauty of the American experiment—we are always striving to build a better nation, to keep faith with our founding ideals and translate them into reality.

Imagine the Possibilities

So what kind of future can we imagine? I imagine a future where no American will ever again face discrimination on the basis of gender, race or sexual orientation. Women and children will be protected against domestic abuse and violence. All families will have access to safe, affordable, quality child care. And the education our children receive in America's schools will be the best in the world.

I imagine a future where every woman will receive equal pay for equal work. A full-time wage will lift people out of poverty, and all workers who retire will have financial security in their later years through guaranteed Social Security and pensions.

And I imagine a future where all Americans use the power of the vote to make their voices heard. The vote is

On the Trail Campaign

It could have been a standard-issue political event. On a rail-trail in Severna Park, Md., Hillary Rodham Clinton was about to kick off the White House Millenium Trails project, a multimillion dollar plan for creating, improving, and recognizing America's trails as part of the country's year 2000 celebrations. During the coming year, trails of all kinds all across the country will benefit.

The day was stage-managed to the last detail, with the requisite flower-bearing school children, flag-waving Cub Scouts, and officious local officials. But the predictability lasted only until the keynoters got up to speak. From Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater to National Park Service Director Robert Stanton to Mrs. Clinton, this event went beyond the pro forma to the personal—there was genuine excitement. David Burwell, president of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, said this was our chance to “tie the nation up in a ribbon of green.” “Trails were America's original surface transportation system,” said Slater, whose department primarily oversees the building of federal highways. “Not merely preserving but expanding trails can improve the quality of life for millions of Americans, lifting their spirits and their pocketbooks.”

In this issue of *WALKING* writer Melissa Chessher finds that bit of political rhetoric is true. Her story, *Is Your Life Hazardous to Your Health?* (p. 66), shows how our



Not just a gesture: Clinton was excited about Millenium Trails.

society's approach to food and transportation robs people of their health. For her sake, and that of her daughter, Chessher takes a big step—a new job in a new community.

Mrs. Clinton would no doubt support Melissa. “Millenium Trails,” she said, “are tangible gifts to our future. With them we are creating the kind of communities—and the kind of nation—we want to have.” She stepped down from the podium. As her coterie glanced at their watches and tried to edge her toward her limo, Mrs. Clinton lingered, chatting away. You sensed

she was aware of her choice: She could continue to enjoy the outdoors and the friendly community it engendered, or she could return to Washington. Mrs. Clinton stayed. I don't blame her a bit. That's what trails are for.

SETH D. BAUER
Editor in Chief

Mrs. Clinton, Kids Dream of Mars

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* WASHINGTON (AP) - First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and arts officials kicked off planning Thursday for the first permanent station

* on Mars by some of the schoolkids who may eventually go there.

Youngsters are being asked to think about the year 2030 and a

* "Millennium Mars Project." So far, only small experimental vehicles have

* been landed on Mars.

"We will all be reliving, through these young people's imagination,

* what it means to create a new world," Ms. Clinton said during the kickoff at the National Air and Space Museum, part of the Smithsonian Institution.

The idea is to get pupils and high school students working with

* scientists and technicians on the design for a permanent Mars settlement, according to officials at the National Endowment for the Arts, which is putting \$500,000 into the project.

"Our young citizens will not only imagine what new dance and music

* and painting will emerge in a community on Mars," said NEA Chairman Bill Ivey, "but they must also consider what our interplanetary pioneers will carry with them. They will need creative minds - imagination and ingenuity - to solve the problems they are certain to encounter as they invent their new world."

* Before her speech, Mrs. Clinton and Donna Shirley, who managed the Mars Pathfinder project, met 15 pupils from Washington's Anne Beers Elementary School.

* Sitting under a prototype space suit for visitors to Mars, they talked about work the children have done on how they imagined living conditions would be - based on what has already been discovered about conditions on the planet.

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Dec 98

First Lady Visits Historic Synagogue, Movie House

■ **Preservation:** Trip to L.A. promotes White House drive to save key landmarks. Getty Trust gives \$1.1 million in support of nationwide project.

By JOSEPH TREVIÑO
and CAITLIN LIU
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited a historic synagogue in Boyle Heights on Thursday and an ornate downtown movie house to promote a White House initiative dedicated to preserving historic American sites.

Clinton's stop in Los Angeles was one of several on behalf of the Save America's Treasures campaign, an initiative of the White House Millennium Council, led by the first lady.

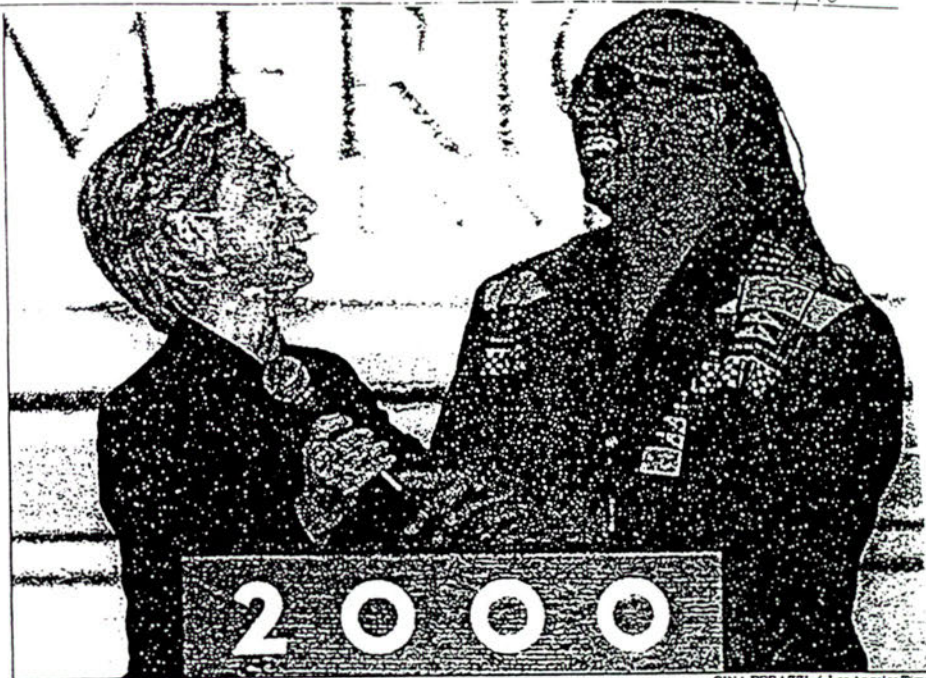
Last week Clinton was in New York to visit Louis Armstrong's archives and in the Boston area for Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's house and the African Meeting House. Today she plans to tour San Francisco's Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park.

The Breed Street Shul is the last remaining synagogue in Boyle Heights, once a center of Los Angeles' Jewish community. The Los Angeles Theater, built in 1931, was the last palatial movie house constructed on Broadway.

On Thursday afternoon, Clinton stood in front of the dilapidated synagogue and addressed more than 500 people.

"This shul and the work we are doing together to preserve it for future genera-

Please see CLINTON, B5



First Lady Hillary Clinton shares a laugh with Stevie Wonder after he sang at the Los Angeles Theater.

CLINTON: History

Continued from B1

tions is an important statement," she said. "We believe that there must be continuity between generations."

Boyle Heights, Clinton said, always has been a community for immigrants.

"Boyle Heights immigrants today can think back to those immigrants 60 to 70 years ago who did not speak English—they spoke Yiddish," she said. "In honoring this particular building, we honor the past."

Before Clinton spoke, the crowd was entertained by a series of cross-cultural shows, symbolizing Boyle Heights past and present. Mariachi Sol de America jammed with Barry Fisher's Klezmer All-Star Band and performed a traditional Mexican song. Then Latino and Jewish students danced to the rhythms of Mexican bands and Jewish choirs.

At the synagogue, a \$1.1-million grant from the J. Paul Getty Trust to the National Trust for Historic Preservation was announced. It will support as many as 25 model projects throughout the country that are part of the Save America's Treasures campaign.

The Breed Street Shul is the recipient of a \$15,000 grant from the Getty for emergency repairs to the structure, damaged during last winter's storms. Built in 1923, the synagogue was an integral part of the flourishing Jewish community from the 1920s to the 1950s, when Boyle Heights was home to about 90,000 Jews, then the largest Jewish population west of Chicago.

But the Jewish community moved to other areas, and by the late 1970s, the congregation wasn't able to gather a minyan of 10 men to pray.

The congregation ceased services in 1993, when the last rabbi of the Congregation of Talmud Torah wanted to raze the building and sell the property. In July the City Council voted to buy the synagogue and turn it over to the Jewish Historical Society.

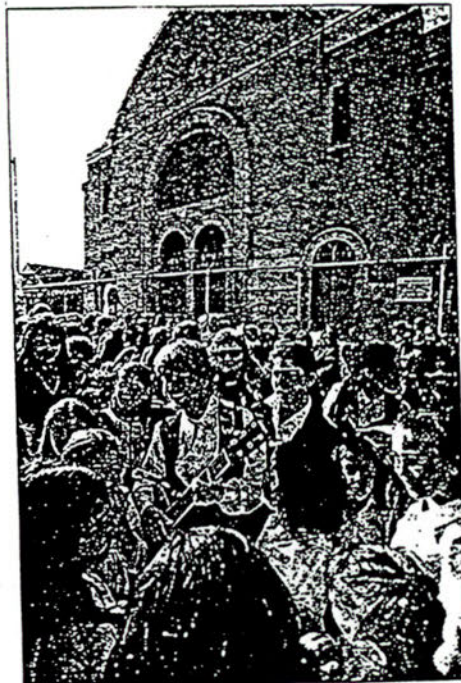
The shul has great personal significance to several City Council members. Councilman Hal Bernson's Bar Mitzvah was held there, and Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg's aunt, uncle and cousins were members of the congregation. Councilman Mike Feuer's mother grew up a few blocks away.

After Clinton spoke at the synagogue, she addressed more than 1,000 people at the Los Angeles Theater, one of the city's most magnificent historic theaters.

"It is so wonderful to be in this beautiful theater to join all of you," Clinton said. "I think there are people who have lived in Los Angeles for a long time who don't know about the Broadway district."

Clinton then evoked the revival of Manhattan's Times Square, as well as Hollywood's historic theaters.

"I have a vision of what could be done with these old theaters," she said. "When we see our history come alive as these theaters are coming back to life, it's



A crowd of students await the arrival of the first lady in front of Breed Street Shul in Boyle Heights.

really our communities coming back to life."

Designed by S. Charles Lee Charles, the theater's splendid French Baroque interior, with chandeliers, murals and paintings, is considered unmatched by any other construction of its kind in Los Angeles. The theater was originally a vaudeville center, then evolved into a movie house. It was closed in the early 1990s and is now used for movie productions.

An album to raise funds for the Save America's Treasures campaign is scheduled to be released by Warner Bros in May. A retrospective of voices and songs, it is intended to form a musical tapestry of the nation's history. Plans for the musical tribute were announced Thursday.

"Sing, America: A Celebration of America and its Music," will include songs by Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald and Stevie Wonder, who entertained the crowd at the theater before Clinton spoke. A book and television show are also planned.

Event in New York kicks off first lady's tour of 'treasures'

By Susan Page
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton and trumpeter Wynton Marsalis team up today at an unpretentious two-story frame house in Queens to celebrate its renowned longtime resident, Louis Armstrong.

The event is intended to support plans to open the Louis Armstrong House as a museum in 2000 — the 100th anniversary of Satchmo's birth — and efforts to preserve 650 reel-to-reel tapes of his conversations and performances that are in danger of deterioration.

The quick visit to the borough's Corona neighborhood is the first stop by Hillary Clinton in an intermittent four-city tour over the next nine days. She will highlight several of what she calls "America's treasures" in need of restoration, part of a project sponsored by the White House Millennium Council.

"Each case is an American story" that deserves attention, says Ellen Lovell, director of the Millennium Council.

At each stop, Clinton will announce private contributions to help with the restoration projects. In New York, individuals and music companies will donate \$130,000 to help restore Armstrong's house and fund his archives at Queens College.

Marsalis, the first jazz composer to win the Pulitzer Prize for music, will perform. Arvell Shaw, a member of Armstrong's band, will attend. And children from the Louis Armstrong elementary and intermediate schools will sing his signature *What a Wonderful World*.

Later stops on Clinton's tour:

► The Longfellow National Historic Site in Cambridge, Mass., a house built for a wealthy Tory in 1759 that was used as a hospital for wounded American soldiers in the Revolutionary War. Gen. George Washington had his headquarters at the house as he planned the siege of Boston. In the 19th century, it was the family home of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Managed by the National Park Service, the site is now closed for reconstruction.



Undated file photo

Armstrong: Music legend's home in Queens to open as museum in 2000

► The African Meeting House in Boston, built in 1805 or 1806, the oldest standing African-American church in the USA. Abolitionist Frederick Douglass recruited the historic 54th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry here. The building is owned and operated by the Museum of Afro-American History and managed in partnership with the National Park Service.

► The Breed Street Shul in Los Angeles, a historic synagogue. The Jewish Historical Society is working with the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council and the East Los Angeles Community Corporation to establish a museum honoring Jewish heritage.

► The Broadway Theater district in Los Angeles, a neighborhood of vaudeville and movie houses.

► The Conservatory of Flowers in San Francisco,

built of glass and redwood and modeled after London's Royal Conservatory of Kew Gardens. The elaborate conservatory, which houses endangered plants from the rain forest and plants with prehistoric origins, has been closed to the public since 1995 because of deterioration from earthquakes and age.

The first lady is scheduled to be in Massachusetts on Saturday, Los Angeles Dec. 10 and San Francisco Dec. 11.



Gannett News Service

Douglass: Abolitionist, statesman

OPINION

Life in Newburgh after Hilary

Several thousand hearty and eager people braved the blistering heat last week to greet the nation's First Lady.

And Hilary Rodham Clinton did not disappoint them.

As part of her campaign to "Preserve America's Treasures," the First Lady made Newburgh a stop on her swing through the northeast. She has visited the Thomas Edison National Historic Site in West Orange, N.J. and would later journey to Seneca Falls, N.Y., birth of the women's rights movement.

In Newburgh, she took a walking tour of Lander Street and Washington's headquarters and spoke passionately about preservation beneath the Gothic columns of the Old Dutch Reformed Church. She reminded us that history is

often made by ordinary people and that America's treasures were often the possessions and dwelling places of those very same ordinary people.

And Newburgh, an extraordinary city of ordinary people, responded to her message. It felt good to hear her describe Newburgh as "a beautiful jewel of the Hudson Valley." When she promised to come back to take another tour of a changed Lander Street, there was a reason to applaud.

Then she was gone, leaving us to wonder if our dreams won't melt under the hot sun.

Most of us know the recent history of the Dutch Reformed Church, which someday could be the home of the New-

burgh Center for the Arts. We know it will cost at least \$2 million to preserve this important piece of the city's past. What we didn't learn from Mrs. Clinton's visit, is where the money will come from.

It's good to be able to feel good about yourself, and last Tuesday was certainly a day for that. It's also important to realize that the key to the future may lie in the past. We must preserve our treasures and our history for the sake of generations to come.

It's also perfectly natural to wonder what comes next. Can Newburgh sustain any momentum from that special day, and can that momentum bring some positive change to Newburgh?

We certainly hope so.

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USA TODAY

WASHINGTON

Hillary's hike blazes millennium trails

By Susan Page
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton will hike briefly along the Baltimore & Annapolis Trail in Maryland this afternoon to announce a White House "Millennium Trails" project designed to promote development of bike paths and jogging trails across the nation.

By 2000, the program will designate 12 national "flagship" millennium trails of special importance, honor a "state millennium trail" in each state

from nominations made by governors and identify 2,000 community trails.

The goal: to help create trails and riding paths within 15 minutes of each American's front door by the end of the millennium celebration.

"Trails connect people, their land, their culture and their history," says Marianne Fowler of Rails to Trails Conservancy, a private group that is joining in the project.

The 13.3-mile Baltimore & Annapolis Trail is an abandoned rail corridor that winds past suburban developments,

historic sites, shopping centers and picnic spots. It is a link in the proposed East Coast Greenway, a 2,000-mile system of recreational trails that is to stretch from Maine to the Florida Keys.

The East Coast Greenway is likely to be designated one of the nation's flagship trails, says Ellen Lovell, director of the White House Millennium Council. The council, the federal Department of Transportation and a half-dozen other federal agencies are participating in the project.

Other likely flagship trails

include the Appalachian Trail, which was started more than 75 years ago; the Grand Canyon Greenway, a project that will enable tourists to hike around the rim of the canyon; and the Bay Area Ridge Trail, a project that is developing a trail around the San Francisco Bay area.

The project will encourage states to tap federal Transportation Department funds available to develop pedestrian and bike paths and other trails. Last year, states were given an estimated \$1.35 billion for trails and paths.



Taking a trip: The Clintons head for Camp David, Md., Saturday.

Hillary Clinton Inaugurates Preservation Campaign

By PATRICIA LEIGH BROWN

BALTIMORE, July 13 — The heroic bronze figures on the Francis Scott Key Monument are corroded, and an oar that was once in the statue's supple-looking stone waters is long gone. But standing in front of this beleaguered 1911 monument to the national anthem in a quiet, green square this afternoon, Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke of renewal.

Her visit kicked off "Save America's Treasures," Mrs. Clinton's four-day history tour and preservation pledge drive that ends on Thursday in Seneca Falls, N.Y., at a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the first American women's rights convention.

In many ways, the tour reflects the current diversity of the historic preservation movement, once associated with battlefields, Presidents' birthplaces and blue-haired lady restorers in sneakers. Although Mrs. Clinton is in fact visiting one site where George Washington really slept — his headquarters in Newburgh, N.Y. — her stops also include a dilapidated theater, an Indian archaeological site, Thomas Alva Edison's laboratory and landmarks devoted to women's rights and African-American history.

The tour, a traditional First Lady-like endeavor, is designed to raise public awareness that if history is America's future, the bridge to the 21st century is in precarious shape.



Marty Kalz for the New York Times

Visiting Baltimore, Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke yesterday in front of the Francis Scott Key Monument, which commemorates Key's writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" in 1814.

Earlier today, the President appeared with his wife at the National Museum of American History in Washington. They were dwarfed by the original "Star-Spangled Banner." The 15-stripe, 15-star flag, which looms nearly three stories high, survived the attack on Fort McHenry in 1813-14 and inspired Francis Scott Key but is now a fragile, muted textile in dire need of restoration.

The President and First Lady shared the stage with Ralph Lauren, the designer who launched thousands of Polo sweaters with the American flag on them. Mrs. Clinton's campaign began with the announcement that Mr. Lauren had agreed to contribute \$10 million toward the flag's conservation, including a state-of-the-art laboratory that will be visible to museumgoers.

"We've been assured that this is a philanthropic gift and not a marketing gift," said I. Michael Heyman, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

The sites on Mrs. Clinton's tour include Federal, state and privately financed landmarks, all with expensive wish lists. One of the not-so-subtle purposes of the tour is to encourage public-private partnerships like Mr. Lauren's donation, the single largest corporate contribution in the Smithsonian's history.

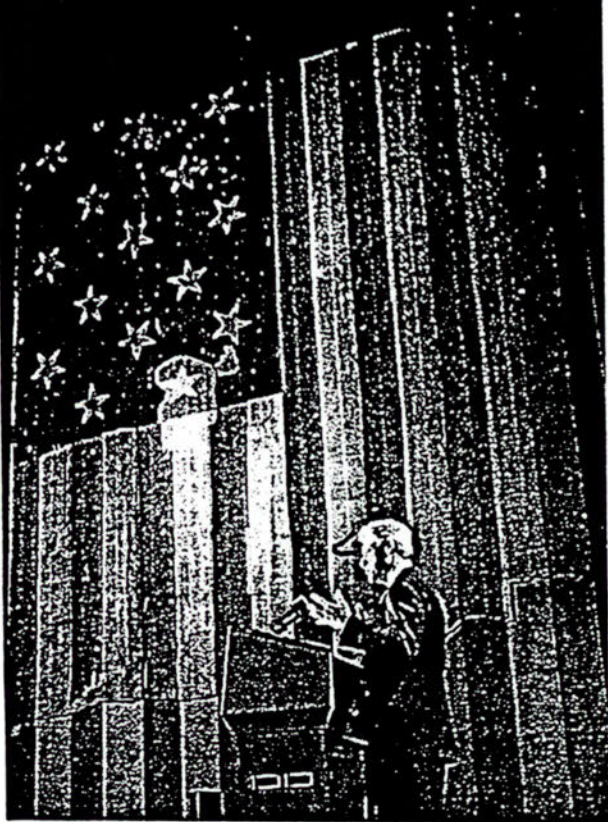
The Park Service alone has a \$1 billion backlog in historic structure repair, said Randall J. Biallas, the chief historical architect. The President's budget request of \$50 million for the preservation program has yet to be approved by Congress.

"We are not talking about just generous gifts, but also encouraging kindergartners to collect pennies to clean up the monument in the town square," Mrs. Clinton said in an interview at the White House.

Speaking later at the National Museum of American History, she encouraged Americans to be "good ancestors," preserving landmark buildings as well as artifacts like "historic photographs yellowing in a county clerk's cabinet."

An example is the contents of the Thomas Alva Edison National Historic Site in West Orange, N.J. It was there, in his Invention Laboratory, that the master inventor developed, among other things, the motion picture camera, the nickel-iron-alkaline battery and the disk photograph.

Now a little-known outpost of the National Park Service, the site consists not only of historic structures, including the first building designed for motion-picture filming, but also 400,000 artifacts and 5 million pieces of paper, including origi-



The Fort McHenry flag, which inspired the national anthem, is one of the treasures at stake in Hillary Rodham Clinton's restoration tour.

The First Lady's Tour of History

THURSDAY	Seneca Falls	Women's Rights Convention
TOMORROW	Victor	Ganondagan State Site
	Waterloo	Women's Rights Park
	Auburn	Harriet Tubman Site
	Troy	Kate Mullan House
TODAY	Pittsfield	The Colonial Theater
	Lenox	Edith Wharton's home
	Newburgh	George Washington site
	W. Orange	Thomas Edison factory
YESTERDAY	Baltimore	Francis Scott Key Monument
	Washington	Museum of American History

The New York Times

nal letters and lab notes, many of which are decomposing.

Mrs. Clinton is the latest of several First Ladies to adopt American history and the environment as their cause: Lady Bird Johnson campaigned for the beautification of the nation's highways, and Jacqueline Kennedy took on the renovation and preservation of the White House.

In her new endeavor, Mrs. Clinton has surrounded herself with

preservation gurus, most notably Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which is sponsoring the "Save America's Treasures" program with the White House Millennium Council. "She's really into it," Mr. Moe said. "We've never had a First Lady this deeply involved."

Mrs. Clinton acknowledged that historic preservation is an easier cause than, say, health care. "The politics are less controversial," she

said. "No one is going to stand up against 'The Star-Spangled Banner' and its need for preservation."

In embracing preservation, Mrs. Clinton is attaching her star to a populist design movement that has sprung from the ground up from the inception, often against the wishes of politicians. In 1859, for example, Anne Pamela Cunningham established the Mount Vernon Ladies Association as a last resort after failing to persuade either Congress or the State of Virginia to save the mansion from developers.

"Historic preservation is the most important singular popular mass movement to affect architecture and planning in the modern era," said Vincent Scully, the Sterling Professor Emeritus of art history at Yale University, who recently gave an architectural lecture at the White House that reportedly had the Clintons spellbound.

Mr. Scully continued: "Architects hate it. It's the people taking back the way they want to live and what they want their cities to be. Instead of being at the mercy of architects, planners and politicians."

Among the people Mrs. Clinton will encounter is Stephen Miller in Pittsfield, Mass., whose art supply and wallpaper store is housed in the 1903 Colonial Theater, imbuing the neo-Baroque haunt of Douglas Fairbanks, Ethel and John Barrymore and Sarah Bernhardt with the scent of linseed oil and vinyl. This week the marquee reads, Miller Supply Co. Inc. Welcomes Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Mr. Miller's father, George, bought the place in 1952, dreaming that one day he would restore it as a theater, drawing on both the local community and the Berkshire bound culture tourists. The Colonial Theater has been waiting in the wings, mothballed and hidden, ever since, its now abandoned rotunda balconies resplendent with dusty peeling putty.

Like the theater, Pittsfield has had its economic hardships. Robert Boland, the head of the Friends of the Colonial Theater, a private group, said that about \$10 million was needed to restore the building. The state has committed \$2.5 million, he said.

There is no Ralph Lauren in Pittsfield, and the unglamorous nitty-gritty work of preserving landmarks falls to people like Mr. Miller.

"We'd love to see it renovated that has always been the intent," Mr. Miller said recently, leading a visitor up a hidden staircase to the theater, its silk and linen damask curtains still sweeping the balcony but no longer Nile green. "There plenty of sweat maintaining building like this. My hope is the Hillary Clinton's presence will serve as a catalyst to get this off the ground."

USA TODAY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1998

Trip into the past is also a bid to save it

First lady's tour will encourage preservation

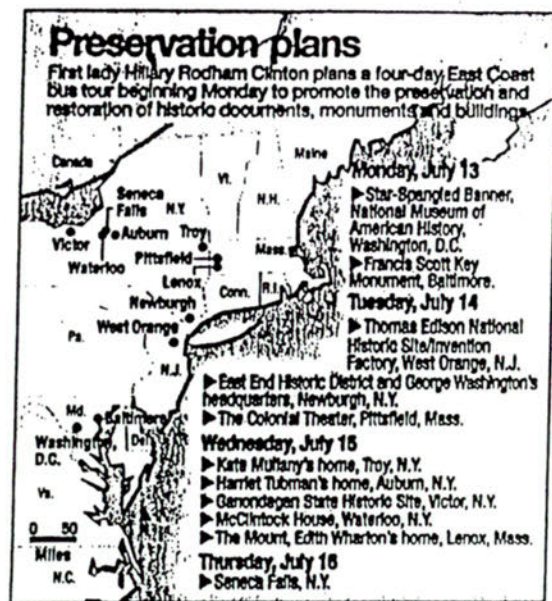
By Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Millions of pages of Thomas Edison's lab notes and letters are deteriorating in boxes stored beneath the West Orange, N.J., factories and labs where he spent 44 years developing products such as the motion-picture camera and phonograph.

The Colonial Theater, an ornate, domed structure in Pittsfield, Mass., built in 1903, was host to such entertainers as John Philip Sousa and Sarah Bernhardt. Now it houses a paint and wallpaper store.

The windows of a 163-year-old Dutch Reformed Church, on a Newburgh, N.Y., bluff overlooking the Hudson River, are boarded up.

Preservationists say these historic documents and buildings — and thousands more nationwide — are in danger of deteriorating beyond repair.



To draw attention to their plight, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will visit 11 such sites next week during a four-day bus trip that will take her

from the nation's capital to Seneca Falls, N.Y.

The "Save America's Treasures" tour is designed to encourage an increase in private-

public financing to pay for the work, and the first lady will announce new money for some of the projects along the way.

The president's budget request for \$50 million for restoration projects has not been approved by Congress.

Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which is working on the restoration project with the White House Millennium Council, says he hopes the first lady's trip will encourage more private donations and inspire community leaders.

Not only should they be preserved as learning tools for children and scholars, he says, but also as potential money-makers as tourist sites.

The bus tour begins Monday in Washington, where President Clinton will join his wife at the National Museum of American History for a visit to the original Star-Spangled Banner. The flag, commissioned by the War Department in 1813 and inspiration for the national anthem, is under restoration after decades on display.

The tour also will take the first lady to:

► The Francis Scott Key

Monument in Baltimore, where she will announce funding to save outdoor sculptures.

► The East End Historic District and George Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh, N.Y. Some buildings in the district are being renovated for use as public housing.

► The Troy, N.Y., home of Kate Mulhany, a laundry worker who organized an all-female union in the 1860s.

► The 30-acre property in Auburn, N.Y., where Underground Railroad leader Harriet Tubman ran a Home for the Aged.

► The Victor, N.Y., Ganondagan State Historic Site. It includes a Iroquois burial place and educational center.

► The Lenox, Mass., home of novelist Edith Wharton.

► The Waterloo, N.Y., McClintock House, where activists Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton met in 1848 to write the Declaration of Sentiments outlining demands for legal, political and educational rights for women.

The tour ends Thursday in Seneca Falls, N.Y., at a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the first U.S. women's rights convention.

San Francisco Chronicle

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1998

"The human race needs to improve its mental and physical qualities."

STEPHEN HAWKING at the White House

A Dazzling Night in D.C. With a Brilliant Thinker

By David Perlman
Chronicle Science Editor

Washington

Stephen Hawking starred in a Star Trek poker game at the White House the other evening, and the famed British astrophysicist was the hottest ticket in town.

Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton both confessed to an audience of scientific luminaries that, at best, they had understood only parts of Hawking's famously complex best-seller, "A Brief History of Time." (The president even conceded that he had read it twice.)

But the first couple listened



Stephen Hawking painted an optimistic portrait of the future

raptly and with visible awe as Hawking's computer-driven voice-synthesizer — he is almost completely paralyzed from Lou Gehrig's disease — intoned his vision of a future driven by increasingly complex technology.

Hawking's message — punctu-

HAWKING: Page A17 Col. 1

Gore Weighs In From Cyberspace

Like all of the Clintons' "Millennium Evenings," Stephen Hawking's lecture was carried on the Internet through a remarkable new technology called streaming video, which enabled computer users throughout the world with the proper software to follow the event in real time. Sponsored by Sun Microsystems, the White House series is posted on the World Wide Web both at www.whitehouse.gov and at www.sun.com.

As a result, when Hillary Clinton announced before Hawking spoke that people could send him questions by e-mail, the White House was flooded with more than 2,000 messages from as far away as Malaysia and Cro-

atia. Hawking gave serious responses to a couple of electronic queries, but the audience burst into laughter when the first lady announced that an e-mail had just come in from "Al in New Hampshire," and the message was posted on the video screens behind Hawking.

"Al" was the high-tech vice president himself, tapping on his laptop. Gore wanted to know how Hawking felt about the recent news that the universe appears to be expanding faster and faster because of some unknown anti-gravity "repulsive force" — perhaps a new version of Einstein's cosmological constant.

The report was interesting, Hawking said, but it could not be

proved for several years, until a brace of American and European satellites flies into space to study in great detail the faint background radiation left over from the Big Bang, the event that created the universe.

But it appears, he said to more laughter, "that inflation is a law of nature."

At that point the president took over and with a big grin he gave Hawking a brief lesson in American politics.

"There's a peculiar gravitational force in New Hampshire," Clinton said, "that manifests itself with remarkable regularity." It comes, his audience knew, when presidential primary fever begins to attract potential candidates.

— David Perlman

Hawking — Dazzling Night With a Brilliant Mind in Washington

From Page 1

ated with his own brand of elfin humor — was exhilarating. He insisted that his vision of the future is an optimistic one, for he foresees an early triumph in the scientific quest for a unified understanding of all the forces and particles in the universe — a true "Theory of Everything."

Yet he also offered a more disturbing prospect: Engineered human change, through genetic manipulation, he said, might become crucial if humanity is to keep up with the accelerating pace of technological change.

Hawking's talk was part of a series of intellectual and cultural gatherings hosted by the first lady called "Millennium Evenings at the White House." In keeping with the Clinton administration's oft-stated goal of providing a "bridge to the 21st century," the program was designed to provide a forum where great minds can link their views of the past and present to the future.

Armed with one of the event's prized gold-embossed invitations, this reporter experienced the exceptionally warm hospitality of a White House social and intellectual evening.

A chorus of schoolchildren garbed in white greeted about 200 guests as they trooped into the ground floor of the White House East Wing. Young naval aides bedecked with gleaming gold braid bade each visitor a "Welcome to the White House" and ushered us upstairs past a string quartet of red-gowned female military musicians playing Haydn.

Another military orchestra in a corner of the huge reception room overlooking the South Lawn played quiet show tunes while civilian waiters proffered white wine or sparkling mineral water. The view across the lawn offered the Washington Monument and the distant Jefferson Memorial illuminated against a darkening sky.

Minutes of small talk passed as the guests, drinks in hand, strolled through the historic Red Room, Green Room and Blue Room, or sat to chat on elegant chairs, sofas and settees that are normally roped off

during guided public tours.

Soon the guests, all sedately dressed in the "business attire" prescribed in their invitations, moved decorously into the gold-walled East Room and sat in chairs arranged in dozens of rows.

Up front were some of the leaders of the Washington science establishment: Bruce Alberts, president of the National Academy of Sciences; Harold Varmus, Nobel laureate and director of the National Institutes of Health; John Gibbons, recently retired as the president's chief science adviser, and his successor, Nell Lane, formerly director of the National Science Foundation; Lane's successor at NSF, biologist Rita Colwell, a former president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; and Francis Collins, chief of the \$3 billion Human Genome Project.

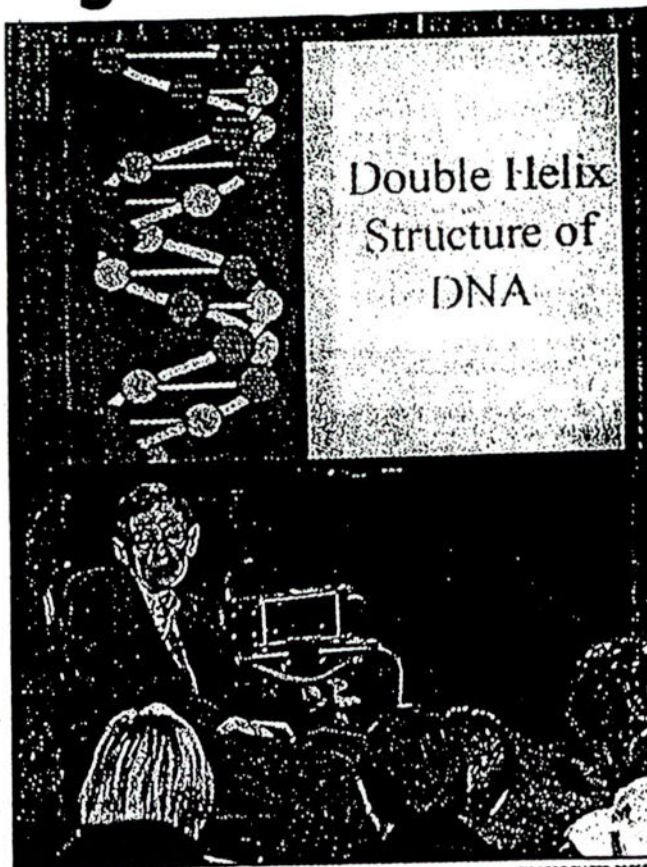
The remaining seats were occupied by scores of distinguished scientists and educators along with a small covey of national science journalists.

"Ruffles and Flourishes" sounded outside the room, the audience stood, and the president and first lady entered along with Hawking in his motorized wheelchair and his tall, smiling wife, Elaine.

Stricken since 1962 with what Americans call Lou Gehrig's Disease and doctors term amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS, Hawking's body leaned slightly to one side in his chair, his eyes fixed on the small computer screen mounted in front of him, while his almost motionless right hand manipulated both the computer keys and the chair's driving mechanism.

There was a poignant moment when Hawking, whose progressive neuromuscular disease has robbed him of almost all control over his own body, slumped slightly to the side. Gently, lovingly, with barely a touch, his wife lifted him upright. Hawking's face, expressionless for the most part, creased into an appreciative smile.

Then Hillary Clinton introduced him: Here, she said, is a man who "embodies the enduring spirit



BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hawking predicted that human DNA will eventually have to be re-engineered to keep pace with rapid technological changes

of imagination that sees no boundaries, only possibilities." Here was an unstilled voice, she added, that bespeaks "the wonder and awe of the cosmos."

Then it was Hawking's turn, a man with a helpless body whose mind remains unimpaired. Despite the ravages of his disability, the Cambridge University mathematician professor has clearly retained his Cantabrigian sense of humor.

He began by displaying on large video screens set up for his audience a now-famous episode from Star Trek, the scene where the android Data brings Albert Einstein, Sir Isaac Newton and Hawking together in a poker game betting on an unspecified outcome.

"I raise 50," says Hawking's synthesized voice.

"Blast, I fold," says the periwigged Newton, throwing down his cards.

Then Data folds, too.

Einstein gloats: "The uncertainty principle will not help you now, Stephen. All the quantum fluctuations in the universe will not change the cards in your hand. I call. You are bluffing and you will lose."

"Wrong again, Albert," says Hawking with a grin, and he lays down a straight flush in spades.

At that instant "Red Alert" sounds aboard the starship Enterprise, the game breaks up and the scene ends with Einstein's bowed head a study in frustration.

"Because of the Red Alert," Hawking tells the audience through his voice synthesizer, "I never collected my winnings. I approached Paramount studios, but they didn't know the exchange rate." At that remark, the president and first lady, along with the entire audience, rocked with laughter.

Then Hawking turned serious. Star Trek, he said, assumes fallaciously that humans will remain unchanged in both body and values for endless centuries. But much must change — and quickly — he said. At today's exponential growth rates in population and energy needs, he explained, "by the year 2800, the world's population would be standing shoulder to shoulder and the electricity consumption would make the Earth glow red hot."

So, then, the question is what does the future hold?

"Let me stick my neck out and

offer my predictions for the future. I will have some chance of being right about the next hundred years," Hawking said, "but the rest of the millennium will be wild speculation."

Since Einstein, scientists have sought the "Holy Grail of Physics" by developing a theory to link all concepts of space and time and energy and matter in the universe into a great unified Theory of Everything.

Accomplishing it, Hawking said, would require discovering structures with smaller and smaller dimensions, probing to distances so small that they would be the equivalent of "a millimeter divided by a hundred thousand billion billion billion."

"We are not about to build particle accelerators that can probe to distances that small," Hawking said. "They would have to be larger than the solar system and they are not likely to be approved in the present financial climate."

"However, to a very large extent we will have to rely on mathematical beauty and consistency to find the ultimate Theory of Everything. Nevertheless, I am confident we will discover it by the end of the 21st century and probably much sooner. I would take a bet at 50-50 odds that it will be within 20 years starting now."

Hawking turned next to the human future, describing the nature of DNA and the genetic code, and the slow pace at which biological evolution proceeds.

"There has been no significant change in human DNA in the last 10,000 years," he said, "but it is likely that we will be able to completely redesign it in the next thousand. Of course, many people will say that genetic engineering on humans should be banned. But I rather doubt if they will be able to prevent it."

"Clearly, developing improved humans will create great social and political problems with respect to improved humans. I'm not advocating human genetic engineering as a good thing. I'm just saying that it is likely to happen in the next millennium, whether we want it or not."

"In a way, the human race needs to improve its mental and physical qualities if it is to deal with the increasingly complex world around it and meet new challenges like space travel. And it also needs to increase its complexity if biological systems are to keep ahead of electronic ones. . . .

"This is why I don't believe in the science-fiction picture of an advanced but constant future. Instead, I expect complexity to increase at a rapid rate, both in the biological and electronic spheres. Not much of this will happen in the next hundred years, which is all we can reliably predict. But by the end of the next millennium, if we get there, the change will be fundamental."

After more than an hour of talk and speculations and questions, the formal evening was over. Guests repaired to a large adjoining reception room where the finger food was abundant and delicious, the wine was equally so, and the party continued.

Hawking graciously demonstrated how he uses his voice synthesizer — he has been known to complain that it speaks with an American accent — and the first lady chatted tirelessly, while the president slipped away upstairs to run the government.

Grand Millennium Celebration Is in the Works

President, First Lady Launch National Campaign to Plan Once-in-a-Lifetime Festivities

By Peter Baker
Washington Post Staff Writer

As it turns out, the fabled Bridge to the 21st Century will be an eclectic span indeed. There will be ballet dancing and boys' choirs and photographs and lectures and the original Star-Spangled Banner.

More than two years before the turn of the millennium—or is it really three?—President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday launched a national campaign to plan a once-in-a-lifetime celebration designed, as he put it, “to honor the past and to imagine the future.”

“For centuries, people have wondered what this millennium would bring,” Clinton said, standing before the Constitution in the majestic rotunda of the National Archives. “Would it signal an apocalypse or herald a new world? Mark a time of decline or a time of renewal? Whatever

the prophecies and forecasts ... the millennium is no longer a distant possibility. It has arrived. We are present at the future, a moment we must now define for ourselves and for our children.”

The approach of that future has long fascinated Clinton, who made the bridge his primary metaphor in last year's campaign and delights in calling himself “the last president of the 21st century.” He often defines his administration as a transition between an industrial past and the information age of tomorrow.

With that in mind, Clinton has created a small office and tapped his wife and her aide, Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, to oversee preparations along the lines of those leading up to the nation's bicentennial in 1976 or the Statue of Liberty's centennial in 1986. A new Internet web site will solicit input from Americans with a creative bent.

Clinton aides called around to different federal agencies to collect examples of projects already underway. Among those in the works are lectures to “provoke our thinking about the past and future,” national television spots highlighting important moments in history, free performances by the Kennedy Center and an expanded Folklife Festival by the Smithsonian Institution.

The National Endowment for the Arts has already earmarked \$5.8 million for 29 “millennium projects,” including a photographic survey of the United States and a variety of dance, music and artistic initiatives.

In addition, the archives has a plan to preserve the original Constitution and other major documents while the Smithsonian is working to save the actual American flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the national anthem.

On a substantive level, Clinton

also vowed yesterday to solve the glitch that threatens to disrupt thousands of computers when the date turns from 1999 to 2000.

“I want to assure the American people that the federal government ... is taking steps to prevent any interruption in government services that rely on the proper functioning of federal computer systems,” he said.

Perhaps just as knotty a dilemma, though, is when precisely to celebrate. The populist theory is that the new millennium will begin at the end of 1999; the scholarly position is that the true change is at the end of 2000.

The White House has a classic Clintonian split-the-difference solution: celebrate for the whole year.

The White House Millennium Program web site is <http://www.whitehouse.gov/Initiatives/Millennium>.