White House Conference on Teenagers:
Raising Responsible and Resourceful Youth
May 2, 2000

NEWS CLIPS

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Local

Divider Title:_____

199TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The Boston Globe

April 21, 2000, Friday ,THIRD EDITION

SECTION: NATIONAL/FOREIGN; Pg. A1

LENGTH: 1311 words

HEADLINE: RESEARCHERS WORRYING AS TEENS GROW UP ONLINE

BYLINE: By Patricia Wen, Globe Staff

BODY:

Teens don't understand the big fuss. As the first generation to grow up in a wired world, they hardly know a time when computers weren't around, and they leap at the chance to spend hours online, chatting with friends. So what?

But researchers nationwide are increasingly concerned that, as cyberspace replaces the pizza parlor as the local hangout, adolescents are becoming more isolated, less adept at interpersonal relationships, and perhaps numb to the small - and big - deceptions that are so much a part of the e-mail world. From Massachusetts Institute of Technology to the Internet Addiction Center at McLean Hospital in Belmont, researchers are asking just how the futures of teenagers are changed when so many of them are spending an hour or two on the Internet each day, replacing face-to-face contact with virtual reality.

"We're not only looking at what the computer can do for us, but what are they doing to us," said Sherry Turkle, an MIT sociologist who has secured start-up funding for a Center for Technology and Identity. "It's on so many people's minds."

Turkle's center will study, among other things, how today's teens are affected by growing up with interactive computer technology. She wants to know how a teen's sense of self and values may be altered in a world where personal connections and the creation of new identities can be limitless.

Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh is beginning a study on the long-term effect on teenagers when the computer becomes a central part of their social lives. Social psychologist Robert Kraut said he's concerned about the "opportunity costs" of so much online time for youths.

Kraut found that teens who used computers, even just a few hours a week, showed increased signs of loneliness and social isolation. In his 1998 study of 100 Pittsburgh families that use the Internet, Kraut said these teens reported having fewer friends to hang around with, possibly because their computer time replaced hours they would have spent with others.

"Chatting online may be better than watching television, but it's worse than

hanging out with real friends," he said.

The interest in cyber-chatting teens goes beyond academia. Next month, a White House conference on teenagers is sponsoring a session on teens and online behavior, including warnings about cyber-stalkers and other predators.

But today's teens don't see anything strange in the fact that the computer screen occupies a central place in their social lives. Just as their parents' generation quickly adjusted to microwave ovens and touch-tone phones, so have today's teens to personal computers.

Since 1989, when America Online burst onto the scene with chat rooms and instant-messenger systems, teens flocked to them by the millions. Traffic soared in the mid-1990s when AOL developed a "buddy list" for the instant-messenger system, enabling teens to know when friends were online, and then start a conversation. If all the buddies wanted to e-mail at once, they could enter their own chat room.

Teenage use of computers grew even more over the last two years, thanks to the steep drop in prices of personal computers. About 40 percent of US households now have a computer, and nearly 70 percent with incomes more than $50,000 have them, according to the Yankee Group, a Boston-based technology research firm.

Not surprisingly, AOL reports a spike in instant-messenger traffic in the mid-afternoon, just after school lets out. Teens say it's little different than the rush at McDonald's after 2 p.m. as adolescents look for ways to unwind.

"School is stressful and busy. There's almost no time to just hang out," said Parker Rice, 17, of Newton South High School. "Talking online is just catch-up time."

Many teens acknowledge there's an unreal quality to their cyberspace communication, including their odd shorthand terms, such as POS (parent over shoulder) or LOL (laughing out loud). Psychologists see this code as part of the exclusive shared language that teenagers love.

When it comes to e-mail exchanges, teens also show a remarkable tolerance for each other's fudges or deceptions. Nor are they surprised when a mere acquaintance unloads a personal secret through e-mail. Nobody seems to expect the online world to be the same as the real world.

While waiting outside school recently, Rice recalled a timid boy in class who recently got up the nerve to send her an e-mail. At the end, he issued an uncharacteristically macho send-off, "Later, Babe."

"He'd never say that to me face to face in school," said Rice, more amused than annoyed. "Sometimes people try to seem more self-confident online."

And consider the fact that Jonathon Reis, 14, of Somerville, didn't seem the least bit put off when a girl who had described herself online as slender turned out to be quite heavy. "I know it's likely they'll say they look better than they are," he said while shopping at the CambridgeSide Galleria.

Teens say they also appreciate the ability to edit what they say online, or take the time to think about a response. As cowardly as it may seem, some teens admit that asking someone for a date, or breaking up, can be easier in message form.

But they insist there's no harm intended, and cyberspace has become just another medium - like the telephone - in the often-clumsy, experimental world of adolescence.

Echoing the view of these youths, Turkle, an MIT specialist in the computer's impact on human behavior, sees cyberspace as the new electronic "playspace" for adolescents, an escape from the pressure of everyday life.

While she worries about some safety issues, Turkle said the anonymity and distance of cyberspace allow young people to try out new identities. For instance, an artistic boy can admit to an interest in fashion or an awkward girl can reach out to some new friends with little fear of rejection. Shaping their own identities and forming strong peer groups are among the most central themes of adolescence, she said.

"The Web is the location where much of the work of adolescence is being done these days," said Turkle.

But other researchers don't think everything is so benign, worrying that some teens will mistake the "weak social ties" so easily found among e-mail buddies for genuine friendship.

"These are not the kind of relationships that will sustain you if you have a personal crisis or a death in the family," said Harry Waxman, a psychologist and chair of the Project on the Internet and Human Behavior at Harvard Medical School.

Waxman and others worry about raising a generation of teens who, as adults, would rather solve a dispute through e-mail than in person. In some ways, the Internet exacerbates the trend toward isolation and away from community that Harvard government professor Robert Putnam has described as "bowling alone."

Beyond the issue of social isolation, a small group of researchers speculates that the developing neural connections in the brains of teens could be affected by such intense involvement with the computer screen.

"If you restrict your experience to staring in front of the screen, you may be short-changing your brain," said Dr. Martin Teicher, head of developmental biopsychiatry at McLean Hospital.

In fact, McLean Hospital has already set up an Internet Addiction Center for teens as well as adults who fear computers are harming them psychologically.

Maressa Hecht Orzack, its coordinator, said she gets many teenage patients, often youngsters who are socially marginalized or among the "bright and bored." She's eager for more research to be done on the impact of online life on teens, saying the good and bad of the medium is not yet fully known.

"These young people may be losing connections to real objects," she said.
SIDEBAR THE GROWTH OF INSTANT E-MAIL SEE MICROFILM FOR CHART DATA GLOBE STAFF

166TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Atlanta Constitution
The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

May 1, 2000, Monday, Home Edition

SECTION: News; Pg. 5A

LENGTH: 367 words

HEADLINE: Clintons focus on teen, parent challenges

BYLINE: Bob Deans, Staff

SOURCE: CONSTITUTION

DATELINE: Washington

BODY:
He's used the White House to try to broker peace in the fractious Mideast and to ask some of the world's smartest economists how to keep the country's boom from going bust.

This week, though, President Clinton takes on a truly thorny issue: a daylong seminar to probe the mind and behavior of the American teenager.

"Raising Responsible and Resourceful Youth," is the subtitle to Tuesday's White House conference on American teens.

Neither Clinton nor conference co-host, and first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, expects to solve the riddles of adolescence in a one-day session of policy-makers and experts huddled in the East Room.

The idea is to cast a spotlight on the challenges faced by teens and their parents, particularly those trying to balance child rearing with career demands.

The conference is the brainchild of Mrs. Clinton, who sees it as a follow- up to a similar session two years ago that focused on parenting and the workplace.

Among those attending is a slate of
Cabinet members including Education Secretary Richard Riley; Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala; and Labor Secretary Alexis Herman.

Also on the schedule are an array of academicians and social policy experts from around the country, as well as actors Danny DeVito and Rhea Perlman.

Clinton's Republican foes, who have criticized in the past the administration's proclivity for governance by seminar, were quick to fire off potshots in advance of the teen conference.

"I guess it doesn't take a village to raise a child anymore," said Chris Paulitz, spokesman for Republican National Committee Chairman Jim Nicholson, teeing off on the title of Mrs. Clinton's book on child rearing. "It takes a

group of partisan Democrats and Hollywood moguls."

Paulitz said Americans have grown weary of White House lectures on family life.

"Bill and Hillary Clinton are in no means in a position to dictate how Americans raise their children," he said. "Republicans have always stood for family values and personal responsibility. The Democrats have always fought us on that at every turn."

ON THE WEB: Information on the conference: www.whitehouse.gov/WH/New/html/20000420.html.

LOAD-DATE: May 1, 2000

111TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Austin American-Statesman
Austin American-Statesman

May 2, 2000, Tuesday

SECTION: News; Pg. A12

LENGTH: 612 words

HEADLINE: White House to ponder mind of American teen,; Here's a sample

BYLINE: Bob Deans

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- He has used the White House to try to broker peace in the fractious Mideast, to ponder the secrets of the human genome and to ask some of the world's smartest economists how to keep the country's boom from going bust.

Today , though, President Clinton takes on a truly thorny issue: a daylong seminar to probe the inscrutable mind, and often baffling behavior, of the American teen-ager.

"Raising Responsible and Resourceful Youth" is the ambitious-sounding subtitle to today's White House conference on American teens, a subject only a second-term president might dare to survey.

The topic of one panel session alone -- "Who Are Today's Teens and What Do They Need?" -- might well constitute the single-most vexing question of the age, if not of all time.

Neither Clinton nor conference co-host Hillary Rodham Clinton expects to solve the riddles of adolescence in a one-day session of cogitation and pontification from policy-makers and experts huddled in the ornate confines of the East Room. The idea is to cast a spotlight on the challenges faced by teens and their parents, particularly those trying to balance child-rearing with the demands of the modern workplace.

"It's looking at the many issues that are raised to ultimately help give parents the tools they need, and the government the policies they need, to help promote successful family life, and balancing family life with the pressures that parents face in their workplace," said White House spokesman Joe Lockhart.

The conference is the brainchild of the first lady, who sees it as a follow-up to a similar session two years ago that focused on parenting and the workplace.

President Clinton is to present remarks kicking off the conference, and Hillary Clinton is scheduled to moderate a pair of panels, including one titled "What Parents and Communities Can Do to Raise Successful Teens."

Leading the conference are a slate of Cabinet members, including Education Secretary Richard Riley, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and Labor Secretary Alexis Herman. Also on the schedule are an array of academicians and social policy experts from around the country, as well as actors Danny DeVito and Rhea Perlman.

The conference will include talks on preventing teen pregnancy, preparing low-income teens for successful careers, dealing with teen homosexuality and improving the classroom environment for middle schools and high schools. There's a discussion on the effects of television and the Internet on the nation's youth, and another titled "Family Time: What Can We Do to Make it Easier for Parents and Teen-agers to Spend Time Together?"

Clinton's Republican foes, who in the past have criticized the administration's proclivity for governance by seminar, were quick to fire off potshots in advance of the teen conference.

"I guess it doesn't take a village to raise a child anymore," said Chris Paulitz, spokesman for Republican National Committee Chairman Jim Nicholson, teeing off on "It Takes a Village," the title of Hillary Clinton's book on child-rearing. "It takes a group of partisan Democrats and Hollywood moguls."

Paulitz said Americans have grown weary of White House lectures on family life.

"Bill and Hillary Clinton are in no means in a position to dictate how Americans raise their children," Paulitz said. "Republicans have always stood for family values and personal responsibility; the Democrats have always fought us on that at every turn and called our ideas on that extreme."

You may contact Bob Deans at bobdeans£coxnews.com or (202) 331-0900.

LOAD-DATE: May 10, 2000

160TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 Chicago Tribune Company
Chicago Tribune

May 2, 2000 Tuesday, EVENING UPDATE EDITION

SECTION: News; Pg. 2; ZONE: C; EVENING. People.

LENGTH: 469 words

HEADLINE: CLINTONS LEND SUPPORT TO PARENTS OF TEENAGERS AT WHITE HOUSE FORUM

BYLINE: By Deb Riechmann, Associated Press.

BODY:

President Clinton Tuesday ordered a ban on a "glass ceiling for parents" in the federal workforce, meaning the government cannot discriminate against parents out of concern that home life will intrude on the workplace.

"Believe it or not, there are still some employers who are reluctant to hire or promote employees who have children at home," Clinton said at the start of a White House conference on helping families raise teenagers.

"The job they are doing at home is more important," Clinton said, citing studies and a new poll that, he said, confirm that communication and family togetherness are crucial factors in raising responsible, happy teenagers.

Clinton's executive order applies only to federal workers and does not require approval from Congress.

"Parents are still the most important adults in their teenagers' lives," First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said.

Mrs. Clinton described occasional frustrations as she and the president dealt with Chelsea's teenage ambivalence toward them. "You want to hang around just in case they'll deign to say something to you," she said to laughter.

Parents, teens, teachers, youth workers and others were invited to the daylong conference to discuss ways to raise and mentor responsible and resourceful youth.

Mrs. Clinton moderated two morning sessions, including one on what parents and communities can do to help teens succeed. Afternoon panel discussions were to address what can be done to make it easier for parents to spend time together, and what parents, communities and young people can do to avoid risky behavior.

"Adults usually do not listen to young people and they don't make it their business to help them implement their goals," said panelist Dorothy Stoneman, founder of the Boston-based YouthBuild USA, which teaches low-income young

people construction skills by building affordable housing in their communities.

The conference also was highlighting recent brain research that says the preteen years are as important in setting patterns for adult behavior as the first three years of life.

Scientists had believed that brain development slowed after the first few years of life -- that the brain was essentially organized by the time a child enters the first grade. The research, first published late last year and then in the March issue of the journal Nature, showed that in teenagers up to age 15, there are peak growth rates in areas of the brain associated with language and associative thinking.

"Sometimes we give up on kids early and feel that they are already doomed for certain fates, but from the biological perspective there are still lots and lots of opportunities for change during the teen years," said Dr. Jay Giedd, a National Institute of Mental Health child psychiatrist who worked on the research.

GRAPHIC: PHOTOPHOTO: President Clinton walks Tuesday with First Lady Hillary Clinton, Tameka Malone and a group of teenagers at the White House, during the president's conference on raising teenagers. AP photo.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 3, 2000

65TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Atlanta Constitution
The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

May 3, 2000, Wednesday, Metro Edition

SECTION: News; Pg. 11A

LENGTH: 280 words

HEADLINE: Clinton forbids job bias against parents by feds

BYLINE: Andrew Mollison, Staff

SOURCE: CONSTITUTION

BODY:
Washington --- President Clinton issued a ban Tuesday on employment discrimination against parents by the federal government.

"Believe it or not, there are still some employers who are reluctant to hire or promote employees who have children at home," Clinton said at the White House Conference on Teenagers.

At the daylong meeting, experts, parents and teens spent much of their time discussing ways for busy parents to keep close relationships with busy adolescents.

"If it's tough to be a teenager today, it's probably tougher to be a parent, " said first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. "More and more parents are working outside their homes (and) struggling to do right by their families and their jobs."

The president said his executive order sends those who recruit, refer, hire, promote or discharge federal employees this message: "No glass ceiling for parents. The job they are doing at home is more important anyway, and if they can do your job, you ought not to stop them."

While he ordered the Office of Personnel Management to set guidelines, he stipulated that his order sets a goal rather than giving anyone the right to sue.

His order, which doesn't require congressional approval, is based on a much stronger bill that would give parents the right to sue public or private employers who discriminate against them. Congress has yet to act on the bill.

"It is about eliminating bias, not about guaranteeing accommodation," said Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.), who emphasized that parents would still have to fill any job performance requirements.

> ON THE WEB:
Sites for teens: www.americasteens.gov
White House: www.whitehouse.gov

67TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The Boston Globe

May 3, 2000, Wednesday ,THIRD EDITION

SECTION: NATIONAL/FOREIGN; Pg. A1

LENGTH: 921 words

HEADLINE: CLINTONS LEAD TALKS ON THE CHALLENGES OF THE TEENAGE YEARS

BYLINE: By Mary Leonard, Globe staff

BODY:

WASHINGTON - It may take a village to raise a child, but as most parents know, that pales next to the time, patience, and perseverance required to rear a healthy teenager.

To explore the issue, Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday hosted the first White House Conference on Teenagers, which assembled specialists, activists, adolescents, and even actors who offered more counsel to concerned parents than criticism of the teenage culture. There was common-sense advice (eat meals with your teenager); new research (the brain's gray matter expands at puberty); and an executive order aimed at ending discrimination against parents in the federal workplace.

"Believe it or not, there are still some employers who are reluctant to hire or to promote employees who have children at home," said President Clinton, who was introduced by Mrs. Clinton as her "co-parent." The president said he signed the executive order to say, "No glass ceiling for parents. The job they are doing at home is more important anyway."

The daylong event followed the teenager killings at Columbine High School by a year and the shooting of seven children at Washington's National Zoo by a week. It also takes place in the thick of the political season when pollsters see work-family pressures emerging as a potent issue, especially among women voters. In addition, Mrs. Clinton is running for the US Senate in New York as an advocate of families and children.

The first lady said she understands that it is hard being an adolescent today - harder than when she was a girl - and that the teen years can be times of great stress, alienation, and confusion. But, speaking as the mother of a daughter just turned 20, Mrs. Clinton said her heart goes out to parents of teenagers.

"Parents are worried about the movies their children are seeing, the Web sites they are visiting, the music they are listening to," said Mrs. Clinton, who moderated two panels for several hundred guests in the East Room of the White House.

"There is a lot of worry that all those heart-to-heart talks and those efforts to communicate, which are sometimes so awkward and difficult, about values and good behavior, are getting drowned out by a popular culture filled with gratuitous sex and violence," she said.

Mrs. Clinton shared some personal observations. One was that even with their hectic schedules, she and the president always tried to eat at least one meal a day with Chelsea before she went to college. And Mrs. Clinton said the reason she and the president didn't plunge into the Washington social scene during the first term was that they needed to stay in the White House, "hanging around, waiting for a sighting" of Chelsea.

"You know, when you have one in your home, you want to hang around with the hope that just maybe they'll deign to say something to you," Mrs. Clinton said of teenagers. "Occasionally it worked, but not always."

A survey released yesterday by the YMCA of the USA showed teenagers are concerned about the lack of time they spend with their parents and the depth of their communication. In responses from 200 parents and 200 teens, the poll found that 61 percent of parents said they talk frequently to their children about values and beliefs, but only 41 percent of the teens report having those conservations.

Ellen Galinksy, head of the Families and Work Institute in New York, said her studies show teenagers want strong relationships with their parents and value quality over quantity time.

"Psychological connectedness" of parents to children - talking to them on the phone, leaving notes on the refrigerator, assigning them responsibilities and chores - is the best prescription for lowering the risk of unhealthy teen behavior, said Dr. Robert Blum of the University of Minnesota. Access to weapons in the home, peer drug use, and sexual victimization all raise the risk, he said.

The Rev. Jeffrey Brown, pastor of Union Baptist Church in Cambridge and co-founder of Boston's Ten Point Coalition to check youth violence, said Blum's message was one he would carry home. Brown said the message he himself brought to the conference was that "building a dialogue between families and teenagers relates to transforming neighborhoods and communities."

Three teenagers, all success stories, spoke about the strength of their family bonds. Edwin Speaker, 17, of Los Angeles, said he was nervous - "How many kids get to fly six hours and stand right next to the first lady?" - but not afraid to speak up about his relationship with his single father: "It takes a man to raise a man," Edwin said.

Actor Danny DeVito, the father of three teenagers, said parents need to tell children "they weren't always so perfect, like they are now." DeVito and his wife, Rhea Perlman, are leading a group called the After School Alliance, which aims to provide quality, after-school care in all of the nation's elementary schools by 2010.

The president said his 2001 budget request to Congress includes doubling the

funds to $1 billion for after-school and summer-school programs.

Clinton said a new report by his Council of Economic Advisers presented a mixed picture of today's teenager. "The good news is that teenagers are far healthier, more prosperous, and look forward to more promising lives than ever before in our history," he said. But he cited "a significant opportunity gap" between white and minority students, and he said the incidences of teen smoking, drug use, pregnancy, and gun violence remain "too high."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, A group of youths joining President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton at the White House yesterday for the conference on teenagers. / REUTERS PHOTO

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 3, 2000

81ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Kansas City Star Co.
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

May 3, 2000, Wednesday METROPOLITAN EDITION

SECTION: OPINION; Pg. B7 ;STARBEAMS

LENGTH: 331 words

HEADLINE: Starbeams

BYLINE: BILL TAMMEUS; The Kansas City Star

BODY:

"THERE is no group of Americans more in need of the support, guidance and committed efforts of all of us than today's teen-agers," Hillary Rodham Clinton says. Unless it's Congress.

For balance, shouldn't this week's White House conference on how to rear teen-agers be followed by a conference for teens on how to bring up parents?

WE never had much trouble in our teen-age years. But it helped that we were almost always right about nearly everything.

"Lifting the burden of debt from our children and grandchildren," says Mr. Clinton, "is one of the most important investments in the future we can make." Well, that and a balanced diet.

"I WANT America to be the safest big country in the entire world," says Mr. Clinton. But it will be a strange country without big cities.

New polling shows Al Gore's support in key states is shaky. It's the sort of result likely to result in on-going work for pollsters.

A CONSERVATIVE candidate, Joseph DioGuardi, has joined the New York Senate race against Hillary Rodham Clinton and Rudolph Giuliani. This will make a "None of the Above" vote more meaningful.

The United States, Russia, France, Britain and China have pledged to eliminate nuclear arms. Let's hope it's not by firing them at one another.

A TIME Warner-Disney dispute left millions of television viewers without ABC. Many of them considered this eg-Regis.

Overheard on our bus: "The only thing I don't like about May is that when you spell it backward you get my least favorite kind of potato."

THE U.S. Treasury says it will pay off $216 billion of the national debt this year. Think of it as adding 47 cents to the minimum payment due on your Visa bill.

New figures show the economy should remain strong this year. Good, except that next year we have to hear why this makes Alan Greenspan unhappy.

- Starbeams is regarded as the oldest, continuously published newspaper column in the country.

LOAD-DATE: May 4, 2000

83RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The New York Post

May 3, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: All Editions; Pg. 020

LENGTH: 290 words

HEADLINE: HILL'S PARENTING LESSON: YOU BE A FINE EXAMPLE

BYLINE: Marilyn Rauber Post Correspondent

BODY:

WASHINGTON - Hillary Rodham Clinton, sitting not far from where her hubby had his fling with Monica Lewinsky, yesterday chided parents who don't practice what they preach.

"People think that talk substitutes for action, that as long as you are a good talker, then it doesn't really matter what else you do," Mrs. Clinton said at the first-ever White House Conference on Teenagers.

"Only by showing [teens] ... do you really have a chance of creating the sort of person you hope to have," Mrs. Clinton told a crowd of experts packed into the White House East Room.

First Daughter Chelsea, now 20, was a teenager during the sex scandal and House impeachment of her dad for lying under oath about his Oval Office affair with the then-White House intern just a few years older than his daughter.

Yesterday, Mrs. Clinton, who wrote the child-raising best-seller "It Takes A Village," left the New York stump - where she's running for Senate against Mayor Giuliani - to host the high-profile conference, televised on cable TV.

She recalled staying up to catch a "sighting" of Chelsea on the chance she might "deign to say something," forego weekends at Camp David to be with Chelsea, and ensuring the family ate together once a day.

A new study shows teens who dine five nights a week with their parents are less likely to dabble in drugs, booze or sex.

The first lady, wearing little-seen reading glasses, blasted Tinseltown and the news media for "negative" portrayals of teens - and called for a new, uniform rating system to help parents control what their kids watch.

GRAPHIC: FOR THE KIDS: First Lady and Senate candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday addresses the first-ever White House conference on teens. AP

62ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER

May 03, 2000, Wednesday , FINAL

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. A5

LENGTH: 557 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON ISSUES BAN ON BIAS FOR PARENTS WITH FEDERAL JOBS

BYLINE: ANDREW MOLLISON COX NEWS SERVICE

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

President Clinton issued a ban yesterday on employment discrimination against parents by the federal government.

"Believe it or not, there are still some employers who are reluctant to hire or promote employees who have children at home," Clinton said at the White House Conference on Teenagers.

At the daylong meeting, experts, parents and teens discussed ways for busy parents to keep close relationships with busy adolescents. "If it's tough to be a teenager today, it's probably tougher to be a parent," said first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. "More and more parents are working outside their homes (and) struggling to do right by their families and their jobs."

The president said his executive order sends those who recruit, refer, hire, promote or discharge federal employees this message: "No glass ceiling for parents. The job they are doing at home is more important anyway, and if they can do your job, you ought not to stop them."

While he ordered the Office of Personnel Management to set guidelines for federal agencies, he stipulated that his order sets a goal, rather than giving anyone the right to sue the federal government.

His order, which doesn't require congressional approval, is based on a much stronger bill that would give parents the right to sue public or private employers who discriminate against them. Congress has yet to act on the bill, which was proposed by Clinton in January 1999 and introduced on his behalf in November by Sens. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., and Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

"It is about eliminating bias, not about guaranteeing accommodation," said Dodd, who emphasized that parents would still have to fill any job performance requirements.

"Thus, an employer may discipline an employee who is late because of child-care issues," Dodd said. "Similarly, an employer may reject an applicant for a job that requires extensive travel if that applicant is unwilling to

travel because of his or her responsibilities."

At the teen conference, which included a three-hour discussion led by Hillary Rodham Clinton in the East Room of the White House, the more than 200 participants learned of several new polls and studies concerning teens.

Many were intrigued by a contrast between answers of 200 parents and of 200 children aged 12 to 15 in a poll (with a margin of error of plus or minus seven percentage points) that was conducted in April for the YMCA of the USA:

-- Sixty-one percent of the parents, but only 41 percent of the children, said they talk frequently about values and beliefs.

-- The top concerns listed by parents about their teens were drugs, alcohol and violence, but the top concerns listed by the children were education and "not having enough time together" with parents.

-- While 78 percent of the children said they ate eight or more meals with at least one of their parents during a normal week, only 61 percent of the parents said they ate that many meals with their teens.

Another study by Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers found that teenagers who had dinner with their parent or parents five nights a week were more likely than other teens to avoid smoking, drinking, violence, suicide and drugs. The council said it couldn't tell whether family meals helps teens avoid risk, or whether risk-taking teens avoid family meals.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 4, 2000

88TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 Star Tribune
Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)

May 3, 2000, Wednesday, Metro Edition

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 4A

LENGTH: 854 words

HEADLINE: National digest

BODY:

Clinton bans discrimination against

parents in federal jobs

Parenting teens is just as important as holding down a government job, President Clinton said in signing an executive order prohibiting discrimination against parents in the federal workplace. Clinton signed the order during a daylong conference moderated by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at the White House. The order ensures that workers are not discriminated against simply because they are parents. It applies only to federal workers and does not require approval from Congress. "Believe it or not, there are still some employers who are reluctant to hire or to promote employees who have children at home," Clinton said at the conference on raising and mentoring responsible teens.

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Ex-prosecutor leads inquiry of judge

A former federal prosecutor has been chosen to investigate why Norma Holloway Johnson, the chief trial judge in Washington, D.C., assigned several cases involving associates of President Clinton to four judges appointed by the president, lawyers in the case said. Joe Whitley, an Atlanta lawyer who served in two Republican administrations, will look into why she bypassed the usual computer-operated random selection process. Whitley was chosen by a special five-member panel of judges undertaking the investigation in response to complaints by a conservative legal group and Rep. Howard Coble, R-N.C.

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Columbine report gives timeline

All but two of the 13 people killed by gunmen at Columbine High School were dead by the time the first SWAT team reached the school's library, even though authorities knew hours earlier from a teacher's 911 call that the gunmen were firing outside the library. The call from teacher Patti Nielson is part of a timeline of events that ABC's "World News Tonight" reported. The network said its story was based on a draft report on the April 20, 1999, shootings being developed by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. The document has not been released to the public. Victims' families have complained about how long it has

taken the sheriff to complete the report and have sued to force its release.

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Air Force readiness sharply declined

The U.S. Air Force's readiness to fight a war dropped in recent months to its lowest level in 15 years, declining 28 percent since the end of the Cold War, a senior military official said. Only 65 percent of the force's combat units were considered operating at the military's best levels of readiness in December and January, the official said on condition of anonymity. He blamed

budgets that didn't allow enough for spare parts and didn't offer competitive salaries. He also blamed an aging aircraft fleet and an increased tempo of operations.

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Waste on ship since '86 now in Florida

Fourteen years after 14,000 tons of incinerator ash left Philadelphia, then was rejected by port after port, 2,000 tons of the waste has ended up in barges along the Florida coast. Laboratory tests showed the ash is not hazardous, an official said, but Florida counties are refusing to transport it to their landfills. Waste Management Inc. is trying to place the ash somewhere in the Southeast, a company spokesman said. In 1987, nearly 4,000 tons of ash was unloaded near Haiti's port of Gonaives. The ship's captain later testified that he was ordered to dump 10,000 tons into the Atlantic and Indian oceans. In 1998, Haiti ordered the ash removed. There was no explanation of what happened to the other 2,000 tons.

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Study details drunken drivers' toll on kids

Most children killed by a drunken driver are riding unrestrained in the car with them, according to a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Dr. Kyran Quinlan, lead author of the study, and colleagues at the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control used a national database on fatalities between 1985 and 1996 to examine deaths among child passengers. Researchers found that there were 5,555 child passenger deaths involving a driver who had been drinking _ 28 percent of all child passenger deaths.

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Survey: Minorities value college more

Hispanic and black parents are more likely than white parents to rank a college education as the most important ingredient for a child's success, a poll found. The survey of the general public and parents of high school-age youths found that 65 percent of Hispanic parents and 47 percent of black parents considered college the most important element for success. Only 35 percent of the general public and 33 percent of white parents agreed. The survey was conducted by the New York-based Public Agenda, a non-profit research group.

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN) May 3, 2000, Wednesday, Metro Edition

New Miami police chief sworn in

A Cuban immigrant was sworn in as Miami's police chief after his predecessor quit in the political furor over the Elian Gonzalez case. Raul Martinez, 50, the first Hispanic to lead the 1,100-member department, spent 24 years as a police officer. He replaces William O'Brien, who resigned following the April 22 federal raid in which Elian was taken from his Miami relatives' home.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 3, 2000

50TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 Chattanooga Publishing Company
Chattanooga Times / Chattanooga Free Press

May 5, 2000, Friday

SECTION: OPINION; Pg. B7

LENGTH: 99 words

HEADLINE: Mr. Clinton Makes Point on Good Kids

BYLINE: LEE ANDERSON Associate Publisher & Editor

BODY:

When a conference on teens and parenting was hosted by the White House this week, President Bill Clinton made an important point in just a few words:

"Listen to this," he said, "the report found that teen-agers that had dinner with their parents five nights a week are far more likely to avoid smoking, drinking, violence, suicide and drugs."

All good parents want to keep their children out of trouble, and to have them grow up in ways that are best for them. What could be a simpler and more productive start than five nights a week of parents and children having dinner together?

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 17, 2000

52ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Indianapolis Star
THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

May 05, 2000, Friday ,CITY FINAL EDITION

SECTION: EDITORIAL; Pg. A20 ,TIM SWARENS

LENGTH: 603 words

HEADLINE: Warning: parents on board

BYLINE: TIM SWARENS

BODY:

The trio of teen-agers in the minivan were bebopping with the boys of N'Sync.

The old man in the driver's seat wasn't in tune with the music, but he was ready to sing the praises of the 13-year-olds he was ferrying home from a basketball game.

Each was courteous. Each was strong, mentally, morally, physically. And each came from an involved, loving family.

That the last fact follows the first isn't by accident.

Teens in the news

Teen-agers were in the news again this week. But for once it wasn't because one of them shot up a school.

On Tuesday, the nation's first parents, Bill and Hillary, led a White House Conference on Teen-agers. Newsweek devoted its cover to the lifestyles of America's teens. And a national discussion was sparked about what teen-agers want and need.

Republicans scoffed at the conference as purely political, which is true, but also entirely beside the point.

The Clintons have perfected Mom and Pop politics not because of their answers, but because they have a knack for recognizing the questions that the nation is pondering.

And Americans, ever since a couple of deranged teen-agers shot up their high school in Colorado, have been asking: What's wrong with those kids today?

Yet the lead headline from the outbreak of news about adolescents shifts the focus from Generation Next to Generation Present. While teens want everything, what they need most are parents.

That bit of wisdom may sound as old-fashioned as a Nirvana CD, but it's still accurate.

One bit of conventional wisdom that is not accurate, however, is that today's kids face more challenges growing up than did previous generations.

Drugs. Alcohol. Sex. Violence. Eroding standards. Failing schools. Broken families. They all supposedly have added up to create a morally adrift generation unable to resist the destructive lures of our culture.

Yet the temptations facing most modern teens are no more irresistible, and no more dangerous, than the challenges faced by their parents.

What the current generation often lacks, however, and what their predecessors were blessed with, is guidance.

Too many parents don't have the courage or the wisdom to state what should be the obvious. "Of course, you're going to school today. Of course, you can't get your tongue pierced. Of course, we don't allow co-ed sleepovers."

Society cracks down

Because parental controls have been relaxed, society has in turn overcompensated with its own restrictions.

We're more apt to prosecute a prank, more likely to send a child to jail. School administrators are so on edge that a kid's ill-chosen words can lead to expulsion, arrest and headlines.

Beyond stronger parents, perhaps what the current generation needs most (and my own children will be shocked to read this) is a break.

The kids, or at least most of them, are all right.

But we need to allow them to learn -- as many of us once did without having permanent labels attached -- from their mistakes.

I'm touting another old-fashioned concept here: grace.

It's a commodity that in its pure form often is lacking in our culture, to the detriment of our children.

Grace isn't incompatible with strength. Parents can be their children's toughest judge and their chief advocate, serving as both prosecutor and protector.

But to do so, parents must be around and involved.

The arrival of an emerging generation was heralded with a Baby on Board sign hanging from a minivan's rear window.

What those infants turned teens need now is the sign of a parent on board.

Swarens is a Star editorial writer. His e-mail address is tswarens@starnews.com

LOAD-DATE: May 5, 2000

41ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Florida Times-Union
The Florida Times-Union (Jacksonville, FL)

May 7, 2000 Sunday, City Edition

SECTION: INSIGHT; Pg. E-2

LENGTH: 462 words

HEADLINE: FAMILIES Time together

BODY:

This may come as quite a shock to many parents, but their teenagers want to spend more time with them.

That isn't true in all cases, obviously. But a YMCA poll, released during a White House conference on teenagers last week, found the biggest concern of 12- to 15-year-old Americans is that they would like more family time.

In the same poll, young people said they trusted the advice of their parents more than anyone else.

Many teenagers say their mothers and fathers are too busy working to give them adequate attention. That probably is true, in this era of single-parenthood. But for those who find the time, there are big dividends.

A study by the president's Council of Economic Advisors, for example, found that teenagers are less likely to smoke, use alcohol or marijuana or have sex if they eat dinner with a parent five days a week or more.

Also, young people who say they feel close to at least one parent are far less likely to fight at school.

In a Christian Science Monitor article, the president of a consulting firm on teens summed up the irony well: 'Here's a generation that wants family, and for all intents and purposes, they've been deprived of it.'

Even when they are busy, parents can do more -- turn off the car radio and talk, for example, and ask open-ended questions to their child about his interests or worries. They can get to know about his friends and ask about what he is learning in school.

They also can rearrange their priorities, even if that hurts socially or financially.

Stephen Covey, author of 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, made several excellent suggestions during a recent Chamber of Commerce seminar here.

Parents should not only have weekly dates with each other, he said, but also regular one-on-one outings with each child. Regular family meals are important, he said, and so is a family history.

Families that are rushed and struggle to organize often have problems, particularly those in which members react based on emotion or circumstances rather than principles.

Another reason that families have problems is that members go for 'your way, ' 'my way' or compromise. It doesn't work, he said, when 'we both give up something so that we can agree.'

If they are firm on principle but flexible on preference, he added, they are more likely to succeed; if they complain often or compete with one another for attention or affection, problems are more likely.

Covey recommends that families draw up a mission statement, stating the principles upon which they choose to guide their interactions, and post it in a conspicuous place.

As Covey implies, a good family life is possible -- if only there is commitment by everyone to make it work.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: June 01, 2000

43RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 P.G. Publishing Co.
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

May 7, 2000, Sunday, ONE STAR EDITION

SECTION: HEALTH, Pg. A-3

LENGTH: 764 words

HEADLINE: SCIENTISTS SAY BRAINS ARE 'PRUNED' UNTIL AGE 19 OR 20, BUT IT'S NOT CLEAR WHAT;
DETERMINES WHAT'S LOPPED OFF. WHAT TEENS DO MAY AFFECT HOW THEIR BRAINS ARE; BUILT

BYLINE: RACHEL SMOLKIN, POST-GAZETTE NATIONAL BUREAU

BODY:

The brain enters a critical second wave of development during the preteen years, new research shows, suggesting that an adolescent's choices and environment may influence how the brain is finally hard-wired.

Scientists previously believed that the brain was formed by the time a child reached 18 months. But preliminary research highlighted last week at the White House conference on teen-agers indicates that the brain continues to grow in complexity until just before puberty.

During that expansion, brain cells grow extra connections, similar to a tree growing extra branches. These extra connections cause the brain's gray matter to thicken, a process that peaks at about 11 in girls and 12 in boys. After that, the gray matter begins to thin, a process called "pruning" that lasts until age 19 or 20.

Researchers don't know what drives the pruning, but one leading theory suggests that teens themselves may be responsible for determining which brain connections survive and which ones don't. Known as the "use it or lose it" principle, this line of thinking asserts that cells that are used flourish, while those that aren't whither and die.

"Teen-agers themselves can choose their own activities and can, in a sense, help sculpt their brains for years," said Jay Giedd, the National Institute of Mental Health child psychiatrist who worked on the research. "That's a pretty empowering thing for a teen."

If a teen uses his or her mind for arts or sports or video games, the brain becomes hardwired accordingly, Giedd said.

So far, there is no hard evidence to prove that an athlete's brain forms differently from a musician's or mathematician's. But if this theory is correct, it implies that a teen's behavior patterns and choices are even more critical

than previously believed.

"If that part is true, that would probably be the most useful part for parents, society and even the teens themselves -- to realize that this is a second chance, and what they're doing at this time really matters a lot," Giedd said.

When teens use drugs, and particularly inhalants, they are doing so at a time when their brain is particularly vulnerable. "The drugs may not only affect that weekend or moment, but could be making changes that will be with you for the rest of your life," Giedd said. "That seems to be an effective message, and it seems to be giving people pause for thought."

The other brain development theory is that of genetic determinism. This view suggests that the brain is genetically predetermined to become hardwired a certain way and is not greatly influenced by the activities or behaviors a teen chooses.

To investigate which theory is correct, Giedd and Paul Thompson of the University of California at Los Angeles are studying identical twins. They use magnetic residence imaging, or MRI, technology to scan the twins' brains when they are young, as they follow similar patterns and activities. As the twins age and take different paths -- one perhaps choosing music while the other picks sports -- brain scans over time may provide important clues to the environmental influences on brain development. Giedd hopes the ongoing experiments will provide some answers in two to four years.

As researchers learn more about the pruning process, they can begin to explore a host of social and educational questions.

A 3-year-old learns languages more easily than a 21-year-old, leading scientists to believe that some language potential is lost in an early pruning process. Could this mean there are prime times for educators to teach other critical skills, such as long division?

"We don't have enough information so far, but that would be the sort of question we'd want to address," Giedd said.

The new findings, first published in Nature Neuroscience magazine in October and then in Nature magazine in March, also imply that the preadolescent and teen-age years are a crucial period in a young person's moral development.

Much of the brain's maturation takes place in its frontal lobes, which are involved in planning, judgment and organization.

"Sometimes people can throw in the towel when kids are pretty young and say, 'He's already headed for jail,' " Giedd said. "But there's another chance during the teen years to turn things around."

Such findings could bolster early-intervention arguments for young people who run afoul of the juvenile justice system.

"I think the new news," Giedd said, "is that before, there was so much emphasis on [ages] 0 to 3. What we're saying now is, the next 16 years matter

45TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 Bergen Record Corp.
The Record (Bergen County, NJ)

May 7, 2000, SUNDAY; ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: REVIEW & OUTLOOK; Pg. O2

LENGTH: 398 words

HEADLINE: RAISING RESPONSIBLE TEENS ;
ADOLESCENTS NEEDTHEIR PARENTS MORE THAN EVER

BYLINE: The Record

BODY:

A WHITE HOUSE conference on raising responsible teenagers last week called attention to important new scientific research that parents should be aware of.

Scientists have found that the first three years of life are not the only significant time for brain development in children. The cognitive portion of the brain goes through a second critical wave of development just before puberty, when gray matter more than doubles. For girls, that wave of development peaks around age 11 and for boys, age 12.

The scientists say this period of intellectual development helps adolescents get ready to master more complicated intellectual tasks and prepares them for adulthood. The research indicates that if the new brain connections are not used, they can disappear.

That means parents and teachers should be working with adolescents to take advantage of this new brain power. It can also mean a crucial second chance for some kids. "Sometimes we give up on kids early and feel that they are already doomed for certain fates,"said Dr. Jay Giedd, a child psychiatrist who spoke at the White House. "But from the biological perspective, there are still lots and lots of opportunities for change during the teen years."

The new research is still more evidence that parents must be continuously engaged in their teenagers lives, experts at the White House conference said. Other research has found that teens who say they have a close relationship with at least one parent and who regularly share mealtimes with parents are much less likely to smoke, use drugs or alcohol, or become sexually active. They are much more likely to do well in school than other kids.

Parents should be urged to have more meals as a family and to make time for their children throughout the week. The workplace should also

be more flexible for both fathers and mothers, and employers should understand that the job their employees are doing at home is just as important, if not more so, than the job they are doing at work.

Millions of Americans who are the parents of teenagers struggle daily with the pressures of balancing work and family life. Even though their children are older, their job as parents is far from over. They need support and help in raising responsible teens, and they need to know they are not alone.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: May 8, 2000

46TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The State Journal-Register
State Journal-Register (Springfield, IL)

May 7, 2000, Sunday

SECTION: BELIEFS, Pg. 21

LENGTH: 537 words

HEADLINE: Focusing our attention on teenagers

BODY:

If Tuesday's White House conference on teenagers had a theme, it might have been this ancient biblical text. All the modern problems of drugs, violence and sex come down to this historic prediction, say the experts. Live a life of violence, and you will produce violent kids. Drink, and your children will likely become alcoholics. Model promiscuous behavior, and prepare to be a very young grandparent. Ignore your children, and they won't have time for you.

Despite statistics and studies, tables and tabulations, most of what the experts said was achingly simple: Teenagers need attention. Teenagers need love. Teenagers need a safe and sane home. It is tempting to dismiss the discussion as ridiculously simplistic until you realize how few of today's teens actually get these basic necessities. Said one expert, "Teenagers need to know that at least one person is crazy about them." It seems like a small thing to ask. And why should kids have to? The fact is, we are all too darn busy. I say this not from the pulpit but from the pew. I am too darn busy. With one teenager and one almost-teenager (the current debate in our house is whether being 12 "counts") I am tempted to look at these almost-grown men and think my job is almost done. They can pretty much get themselves through the day if they have to. But they shouldn't have to. Being a teenager today is infinitely more complicated than it was 30 years ago. Stresses and strains combine with expectations and hormones, leaving kids mostly baffled. Some get angry. Some seem to feel nothing. When I was a teenager, I could always turn to my parents for guidance and support. My kids should have the same expectation. For the most part, they do. But sometimes it is a call to my cell phone or a hotel room. Sometimes I am in a meeting and can't get back to them. Sometimes they can tell by the tone of my voice that now is not the time to debate the dynamics of a friendship. A few years ago I found myself praying for more time and better organizational methods to pack everything into my day. Somehow, the echo of my own voice was indicting. So I took a deep breath and tried again. The words that tumbled out were simple: Help me fall in love with my children. Falling in love with your kids is very different than just loving them. When you fall in love with your kids, you go early to the carpool line just to see their faces a split-second sooner. You find out what they like to do and learn about it too, even if it is bizarre-looking metal figurines. You try to keep up with them even if you nearly have a heart attack doing so. For me, the biggest surprise has been how little energy on my part has resulted in so much returned affection. I have sown so little and reaped so much. Perhaps the one thing lacking in Tuesday's White House meeting was a word to pay off obsessed adults about the joy of investing in a teenager's life. Yes, the negatives come back at you. But so do the positives. It doesn't take that much effort to let a teenager know you are crazy

about him or her. But look out. You might not be ready for the feeling of having a teenage boy throw his arm around you and say, "I love you." It can take your breath away.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 17, 2000

31ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Daily Oklahoman
THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN

May 08, 2000, Monday CITY EDITION

SECTION: EDITORIAL;

LENGTH: 216 words

HEADLINE: Clinton's Dinner Bell

BODY:

OUR micromanaging president has listened to his subjects once again and felt their pain. This time, he's hearing that one of the biggest concerns for today's teen-agers is not having enough time with their parents.

So acting like a governor or a mayor and not president of the world's only superpower, President Clinton has vowed to make sure federal employees can get home in time to be with their families for dinner.

At a White House conference on raising teen-agers, Clinton signed an executive order to ban discrimination against federal employees because they are parents.

We didn't realize this was a problem. But Clinton made it one in his attempt to promote the image that he's doing something for the children. Will the trial lawyers now use their power to sue to extend this new form of discrimination into the nongovernment workplace?

Yes, parents ought to spend more time with their children. Too often children have to compete with their parents' jobs and other activities for a minute of family time.

Clinton could support families by eliminating the marriage penalty tax and cutting taxes so those families could afford to spend more time at home. The federal government doesn't have to solve every family problem with a new rule.

LOAD-DATE: May 9, 2000

33RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Deseret News Publishing Co.
The Deseret News (Salt Lake City, UT)

May 8, 2000, Monday

SECTION: OPINION; Pg. A10

LENGTH: 436 words

HEADLINE: Parents, kids should keep talking

BYLINE: Deseret News editorial

BODY:

There's nothing particularly novel about the advice coming out of the first White House Conference on Teenagers. Quite simply, parents and their children need to keep talking.

Between school, activities, jobs and a social life, it's difficult for teens to squeeze family time into the calendar. Likewise, parents are stressed as they attempt to juggle their family lives and careers. As life becomes more chaotic, social science research and common sense suggest that both parents and children must continue to make family time a priority.

The welfare of children, families and communities may depend upon this connection. Ideally, parents and children should regularly share meals, where they catch up on the goings-on at school, talk about family matters or share stories. As they pass the potatoes, parents must also pass along their moral expectations and family histories, and they should reinforce their religious beliefs.

If that isn't possible, parents must at a minimum keep in contact with their kids by talking on the phone, leaving notes on the refrigerator and assigning them responsibilities.

While parents worry about drugs, violence, sex and media influences, a recent survey released by the YMCA of the USA showed teenagers are concerned about the lack of time they spend with their parents and the depth of their communication. A poll of 200 parents and 200 teens showed that 61 percent of parents say they talk frequently about values and beliefs, but only 41 percent of the teens report having those conversations.

While parents may have been led to believe otherwise, a growing body of research reinforces that children really do care what their parents think. The problem is, adolescents have a funny way of showing their interest or need for parental guidance. At a time when they need their parents the most, they tend to push them away. Some parents find it too difficult to push back, but they must.

Not all communications with children need be verbal. Sometimes kids simply need a hug, a smile or a look of reassurance. Because children follow the examples of their parents, it's vitally important that adults adhere to high standards. They must live the values they want their children to emulate,

whether it regards maintaining a healthy lifestyle or following the tenets of their religious faith.

Forget the negative messages in popular culture, which often portrays parents as nerds who couldn't possibly understand what it's like to be growing up in the 2000s. Research shows youths want more than anything else for their parents to help guide their journey through life.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 8, 2000

29TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Deseret News Publishing Co.
The Deseret News (Salt Lake City, UT)

May 9, 2000, Tuesday

SECTION: OPINION; Pg. A17

LENGTH: 517 words

HEADLINE: Thank Clintons for good kids?

BYLINE: By Scott Forbes Scripps Howard News Service

BODY:

How did my parents do it?

How could they possibly have been so loving and caring to three kids? How could their house have been a good place for their three children to go through those tumultuous teenage years? How could my parents have taught high moral character to two of their kids (I missed that lesson) and a firm sense of responsibility to all three kids while they were both so busy working and volunteering and conducting an active social life?

I certainly don't know how they could do it all without the help of Bill and Hillary Clinton.

In what may be the most transparently phony photo op ever foisted upon the American public by a couple of politicians, our transparently phony First Couple held a conference last week on raising teens. Obviously, they are the acknowledged experts, having raised one more teenager than I have.

In spite of the transparency and phoniness, lots of people are glad this conference took place.

My sister's two boys will be teenagers in a few short years, and the thought of facing such a prospect without the help of the Clintons had her in a cold sweat. She's feeling much better now, though, after hearing deep thoughts from luminaries like White House spokesflak Joe Lockhart, who stated the conference aimed to give parents and teens "some of the tools they need to succeed."

It might be a shocking revelation to some, but parents have been successfully raising teenagers for generations without the help of the Clintons.

So was there a point to this conference on raising teenagers? Did anything of any consequence come out of it? No. It did nothing but supply the Clintons with another platform upon which to spout their big-government message and show the world they care.

In what's got to be a Pavlov's dog-like reflex for him whenever he's got the floor, Clinton went on to announce a laundry list of costly executive decrees that includes the expansion of family-leave legislation and increased funding for after-school activities.

This is a great political ploy, and it's a perfect example of how, these days, emotion triumphs over common sense. The president shows he cares and understands the difficulty people have spending time with their families these days. The president implies that, left to him and the federal government, the problem will be solved. The unspoken truth is that his ideas cost more money and invite more federal government control into aspects of our lives where the federal government should not be.

But until someone stops it, the cycle initiated by this federal power grab will continue. Parents will both work to pay the ever-increasing tax bite on their income, food and possessions. More and more of those tax dollars will go toward propping up the continually failing public schools that their teenagers attend. So the parents work harder (and generate more tax dollars) to pay for their teenagers to attend private school and then parents and teens alike discover a long-forgotten, but worthwhile after-school program.

It's called homework.

Scott Forbes is a freelance writer living in Denver.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 9, 2000

26TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 Chicago Sun-Times, Inc.
Chicago Sun-Times

May 10, 2000, WEDNESDAY, Late Sports Final Edition

SECTION: EDT; Pg. 47

LENGTH: 721 words

HEADLINE: Giving at-risk kids what they need

BYLINE: Arianna Huffington

BODY:

The president and Mrs. Clinton held an all-day Conference on Teenagers last week at the White House, where President Clinton unveiled a shiny, happy report by his Council of Economic Advisors. With only a drive-by nod to the "significant opportunity gap" between white and minority youths, he focused on the report's "good news." Teenagers, he told the conferees, are "far healthier, more prosperous and look forward to more promising lives than ever before in our history." Who'd they survey -- 'N Sync, Britney Spears and the Backstreet Boys?

The world of "far healthier, prosperous teenagers" is not the one Geoff Canada deals with every day. Introduced at the White House conference by Mrs. Clinton as a "hero to many for his groundbreaking work in Harlem," Canada felt that the conference was about one America while the crisis is in another. "It was exciting to have a conference putting children front and center," he told me, "but what I found disappointing is that we did not use the moment to address the plight of millions of our children. Here we are in the middle of this great prosperity, with a $ 67 billion budget surplus, and only the most fragile infrastructure supporting huge numbers of our kids."

Instead of a call to action, the conference sounded an urgent call for parents to have dinner with their teens. "They were speaking to a part of America that feels that's their issue -- that they're not connecting with their kids," Canada said. "But they missed the larger issue -- this huge disconnect with the other America."

The other America -- with its 13.5 million at-risk kids -- is the one Canada knows inside out. In his office in central Harlem hangs a color-coded map showing the "Harlem Children's Zone," a 23-block area he has carved out to provide the infrastructure and the personal support that the children there have been missing. "The yellow squares," he said, "are city-owned housing. We change them to red when we've organized the tenants to apply to become a low-income co-op. Brown means the residents have purchased their apartments."

It was a rainy day in New York when Canada took me on a tour of his projects. It was like going from one healing outpost to another -- from the baby college to the Technology Center to the Employment Center to the Rheedlan University for Community Education -- a building teeming with teenagers bursting with

creativity.

In one room, there was an editorial conference going on for "Harlem Overheard," a monthly youth newspaper covering the community. In another, a group of young people were putting the finishing touches on a public-service announcement about the Diallo murder -- as 41 shots ring out, the faces of 41 Harlem teens flash on the screen. In a third room, a large mural of Harlem reborn was being painted. These kids may not be prosperous, but they are full of hope and productivity. "If it were not for what we're offering in these 23 blocks," Canada said, "these same kids that you see here would probably be in jail."

Ever since Canada returned to Harlem with a master's from Harvard and a third-degree black belt, he's been telling America through his speeches, his books and his life that "we have failed our children. They live in a world where danger lurks all around them, and their playgrounds are filled with broken glass, crack vials and sudden death. And the stuff of our nightmares when we were children is the common reality for children today."

What the embattled teenagers in our inner cities need is fewer hyped, but anemic, White House conferences and more tangible resources -- private and public -- of time and money. When one of the children Canada has been working with testified to the Senate Judiciary Committee, he explained how a Rheedlan worker had helped turn his life around: "He made a deal with me. If I went to school and did well, he would take me to a fancy restaurant once a week." When asked what kind of fancy restaurant, he replied, "Wendy's." The senators laughed. "A child's life turned around," Canada summed it up. "The cost: time with a caring adult and a couple of hamburgers." Surely we can afford this -- multiplied by a few million adults and a few billion burgers. Just imagine the sign: "Over 13 Million Served."

E-mail: ariannafariannaonline.com

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: May 10, 2000

24TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

May 13, 2000 Saturday, METRO

SECTION: LIVING; Pg. E7

LENGTH: 550 words

HEADLINE: LET YOUR TEENAGERS KNOW THAT YOU'RE CRAZY ABOUT THEM

BYLINE: DALE HANSON BOURKE

BODY:

"For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

If the recent White House conference on teenagers had a theme, it might have been this ancient biblical text. All the modern problems of drugs, violence and sex come down to this historic prediction, say the experts.

Live a life of violence, and you will produce violent kids. Drink, and your children will likely become alcoholics. Model promiscuous behavior, and prepare to be a very young grandparent. Ignore your children, and they won't have time for you.

Despite statistics and studies, tables and tabulations, most of what the experts said was achingly simple: Teenagers need attention. Teenagers need love. Teenagers need a safe and sane home.

It is tempting to dismiss the discussion as ridiculously simplistic until you realize how few of today's teens actually get these basic necessities.

Said one expert, "Teenagers need to know that at least one person is crazy about them."

It seems like a small thing to ask. And why should kids have to?

The fact is, we are all too darn busy. I say this not from the pulpit but from the pew. I am too darn busy.

With one teenager and one almost-teenager (the current debate in our house is whether being 12 "counts"), I am tempted to look at these almost-grown men and think my job is almost done. They can pretty much get themselves through the day if they have to.

But they shouldn't have to.

Being a teenager today is infinitely more complicated than it was 30 years ago. Stresses and strains combine with expectations and hormones, leaving kids mostly baffled. Some get angry. Some seem to feel nothing.

When I was a teenager I could always turn to my parents for guidance and

support. My kids should have the same expectation.

For the most part, they do. But sometimes it's a call to my cell phone or a hotel room. Sometimes I'm in a meeting and can't get back to them. Sometimes they can tell by the tone of my voice that now is not the time to debate the dynamics of a friendship.

A few years ago I found myself praying for more time and better organizational methods to pack everything into my day. Somehow, the echo of my own voice was indicting. So I took a deep breath and tried again. The words that tumbled out were simple: Help me fall in love with my children.

Falling in love with your kids is very different from just loving them. When you fall in love with your kids, you go early to the carpool line just to see their faces a split-second sooner. You find out what they like to do and learn about it too, even if it's playing with bizarre-looking metal figurines. You try to keep up with them even if you nearly have a heart attack doing so.

For me, the biggest surprise has been how little energy on my part has resulted in so much returned affection. I have sown so little and reaped so much.

Perhaps the one thing lacking in the White House meeting was a word to adults obsessed with payoffs about the joy of investing in a teenager's life. Yes, the negatives come back at you. But so do the positives.

It doesn't take that much effort to let a teenager know you are crazy about him or her. But look out. You might not be ready for the feeling of having a teenage boy throw his arm around you and say, "I love you."

It can take your breath away.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

COLUMN: Religion and ethics

LOAD-DATE: May 13, 2000

19TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 News & Record (Greensboro, NC)
News & Record (Greensboro, NC)

May 15, 2000, Monday, ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: GENERAL NEWS, Pg. A1

LENGTH: 905 words

HEADLINE: FROM A COLLEGE VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE

BYLINE: BY JOHN NEWSOM STAFF WRITER

DATELINE: GREENSBORO

BODY:

Mary Grace Hicks figured her spring break trip to Washington would let her and her family take a quick look at Georgetown University.

Instead, Mary Grace, a 17-year-old junior at Grimsley High School, wound up in a short video that opened the recent White House Conference on Teenagers. So did her mother, bank executive Betsy Barrett, and stepfather, middle-school teacher Sandy Barrett.

Mary Grace went from studying math to shaking hands with the president when the White House, searching for families to appear in the video, called a Washington lobbying group where Mary Grace's aunt works. The aunt put the White House in touch with Mary Grace, who passed muster during an interview on a pay phone in the Georgetown admissions office.

On May 2, the family returned to the nation's capital for the conference. As professors and policy-makers gathered in the East Room of the White House, Mary Grace and her parents watched the video in the Blue Room. It was a private screening, just for President Clinton, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and the families who appeared in the video.

We talk to Mary Grace about her visit to the White House and being a teenager today.

When did you first see the president?

He came in (to the Blue Room) by himself. When he came around to us - he'd just been saying ''hello'' to everyone and shaking their hands - my stepfather asked him, kind of father-to-father, ''How did you feel sending your daughter 3,000 miles away to college?'' Of course he knew that would get him started.

So what did you talk about?

We ended up having maybe a five-minute conversation about colleges. We talked about Stanford and the kind of diversity that it offered. At that point, Hillary caught up to us and he said, ''This girl is looking at Stanford,'' and she said, ''Wow!'' And we talked about that for a while. I remember really specifically

she told me, ''Whatever choice you make, you can make it into the right one,'' which I thought was really good words of advice for colleges because everyone makes a big deal about it.

How did you react to meeting the president?

I was beaming. My mom said that she knew I would not stop smiling for the next day. It was very exciting. It was kind of funny because when we were done, (one of the other mothers) came up and said, ''Why did they talk to you for so long?'' It was funny - she was on ''Good Morning America'' that morning.

What did you talk about on the video?

I talked about the pressures that teenagers feel. I said that more than drinking and drugs and things like that was the pressure to be apathetic, like it's not cool to get good grades or care about the adults around you. There's a basic consensus among high school students that you're supposed to be above what the adults think of you because it doesn't matter to you.

Why do kids do that?

I think it makes you harder to hurt. If you decide that you don't care, then failure doesn't mean anything. It's a defense mechanism.

What's another big pressure that teenagers face?

They seem to be starting you earlier and earlier on this track for the rest of your life. People start telling you in eighth grade that you have to know what you want to be because if you don't know what you want to be, then you can't take the right classes right now to get into the right college to get into the right grad school. I think it's so silly because I guarantee you I won't know what I want to be until I've had some more experiences and gotten to try some new things. I think you can make the most of the high school years and get into a good school and work it out.

What can adults can learn from teenagers?

I think a lot of adults don't realize that teenagers are intelligent people who, most of the time, really think about the decisions they make and the consequences that will result from it. They're not just irresponsible people who never listen, who can't handle things for themselves. I'm not saying that teenagers don't need guidance. But teenagers listen and think about things a lot more than they always get credit for.

Do you think it's important for teenagers to spend time with their parents?

I think so. We might not want to be seen at dinner with our parents on Friday night. But that's different from just feeling that they care about your life and are involved in it, from being home at night just to ask you how your day was. It's important to me to know that it matters to them, how I feel about things.

Do you and your family make time for each other?

Usually, I'm the one with the extra-busy schedule. We don't always have a lot

of time at home together, but we always make a point of having dinner together. They have my mom in the video saying, ''I might not always cook dinner, but we'll always have dinner together.'' Everybody kind of laughed, and Hillary said, ''That's right.'' That was cute.

Did you learn anything at the conference?

There was this one lady who had given a talk about how the media portrays teenagers. What she said that really disturbed me is that the top two things that ever get on the news when teenagers are mentioned is either education or violence, and they're both even with each other. I think it's really sad that half the mentions of teenagers on television have to do with violence because that's not an accurate portrayal of the group as a whole.

GRAPHIC: JERRY WOLFORD/ News & Record, Mary Grace Hicks

LOAD-DATE: May 16, 2000

8TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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News & Record (Greensboro, NC)

May 29, 2000, Monday, HIGH POINT EDITION

SECTION: TRIAD/STATE, Pg. B1, CATHY WEAVER

LENGTH: 696 words

HEADLINE: FAMILY TIME WELL WORTH THE EFFORT IT REQUIRES

DATELINE: HIGH POINT

BODY:

''One of the biggest casualties of modern life has been family time.''

These words are from first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who spoke recently at the White House Conference on Teenagers that focused on raising responsible and resourceful youth.

A sophisticated study conducted for the conference revealed quite a few simple truths, but the most significant one was this: Sitting down to dinner can have an enormously positive impact on the family.

The study showed that teenagers who had dinner with their parents five nights a week are far more likely to avoid smoking, drinking, violence, suicide and drugs. This holds true for single-parent families as well as two-parent families and crosses all income and racial groups.

Don Patterson, a High Point psychologist specializing in child and adolescent counseling, thinks the conference's recommendation on eating dinner together has merit, if we take the statement with a grain of salt.

Most families today do find themselves too busy for basic family time, and Patterson advises all of us to look at our daily activities and rethink our priorities.

''Families need relaxed time that encourages conversation and communication,'' Patterson says. ''To the degree you lose time for that, problems develop.''

Problems like smoking, drinking, violence, suicide and drug use. Pretty heavy prices to pay for being busy.

So, is the dinner hour the best time for family gatherings? For the first family, mealtime was when they could check out of their busy schedules and check in with each other. Patterson cautions that mealtime won't work for everyone.

''The first lady and the president made time to have dinner with their daughter when she lived at home,'' he says. ''But I know that they didn't have to worry about grocery shopping and dinner preparation. Most of us don't have an aide who helps us with dinner.''

Patterson, who has a daughter in college and a son who's a senior in high school, says his family typically gathers each evening to plan the next day's schedule. And each of them factors family time into their schedules.

''A number of pressures exist with each individual and with their families that make it exceedingly difficult to be together,'' Patterson says.

One recent day, Patterson's family was pulled in a number of directions. His wife had a meeting after work, and his son had to work after school. Do the Pattersons give up family time when their schedules seem mutually exclusive?

Absolutely not. Going into that hectic day, all three knew they'd reconvene later that evening. Simply put, they make the time to get together. It wasn't a meal, but it was time well spent.

Making family time requires what family time offers - communication.

''Family time is time that fosters communication,'' Patterson says. Always have in mind, ''How are we doing as family members?'' Ask yourself, ''What are we as parents doing to foster those relationships?''

Family time, you see, doesn't just happen.

For most of us, family time comes in batches here and there instead of in five neat dinner packages each week. You and your children may find valuable time together while riding home from school or soccer practice. If that's the case, don't give in to the temptation to car pool. Keep those moments sacred for you and your kids.

Evening mealtime actually is pretty sacred at our house. Call us then, and don't expect us to answer the phone.

It's easy not to answer the phone, but what do you do about the other distractions? Eliminate the things that interfere - as much as is reasonable. You may not be able to change your work schedule, but you can limit your own ''outside'' activities. After all, what's more important, a club meeting or your family?

''Our tendency is to book too many things,'' Patterson tells parents. ''The desire there is a positive one. You want to raise a child who has a wide variety of skills. However, kids need time to relax. They need the opportunity to be a member of a family. If your children are always busy with other activities, they are not likely to develop the talents they need to be good family members.''

LOAD-DATE: May 30, 2000

7TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 Sentinel Communications Co.
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

June 12, 2000 Monday, METRO

SECTION: EDITORIAL; Pg. A8

LENGTH: 591 words

HEADLINE: HISPANIC STUDENTS CAN ACHIEVE MUCH MORE WITH HELP FROM YOU

BODY:

After decades of struggles to reach academic parity with whites, African-Americans finally are catching up in at least one important marker: high-school graduation. Nationally, African-Americans and non-Hispanic whites are graduating at virtually the same rate -- 90 percent.

Despite the added stress of disproportionate poverty among blacks and the lack of positive male role models in the lives of many inner-city boys, we are seeing children rise above those obstacles.

A recent White House conference on teenagers focused on ways to rear responsible and resourceful youth. It found a host of reasons why teens of all races are doing better academically. Tops among them: Parental involvement.

No surprise there.

What happens, though, when single or divorced parents stressed beyond limits working two jobs can't be there at critical times for their children?

How can those parents help their kids succeed when they have to work, work, work just to put food on the table and give their family shelter?

Mentoring programs, such as Central Florida's YMCA Black Achievers and the Orange County Compact can help.

Those programs and others that recruit hundreds of volunteers each year are making a huge difference in the lives of many children of all races and ethnic backgrounds.

For Hispanic children, the need for bilingual mentors and tutors is critical. Hispanics have the highest dropout rate of all student groups. And Hispanic girls, in particular, are at a higher risk of attempting suicide, getting pregnant and abusing drugs or alcohol than girls in all other ethnic or racial groups.

A recent report by Connecting Communities & Creating Change, a Los Angeles-based group that advocates for improving the Hispanic community's health and well-being, found that Hispanic mentors can help build up girls' self esteem and help them avoid risky behaviors.

Unfortunately, it's sometimes difficult to find sufficient volunteer mentors

who can spend the time that's required. It's hard, too, for some business people and professionals used to getting things done in a New York minute to realize that the rewards of mentoring come in small, incremental steps.

The rewards, though, can be great when you look into the eyes of teens who for the first time are being recognized for doing what's right instead of getting yelled at for messing up.

On Saturday, there were many bright eyes and eager smiles at the YMCA Hispanic Achievers 2000 excellence awards luncheon. Parents and volunteers were on hand to recognize 45 Orange County students in this year's program.

Hispanic Achievers started last year with a pilot program at Oak Ridge High School and now also serves Colonial High School students. Next school year, the program plans to expand to the Buenaventura Lakes area in Kissimmee, where many Hispanics, particularly Puerto Rican families, live.

Before his death this year, Osceola County Commissioner Robert Guevara had been working with the YMCA's Dan Garcia to broaden the program. Guevara's wife, Dalis, promised Saturday to continue her husband's work and donated money the community contributed.

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida, led by Rick Hernandez, a Sentinel advertising executive, has been instrumental in helping encourage more business people and professionals to volunteer, too.

Anyone who wants to help for the coming school year, should contact Dan Garcia at 407-895-4299.

Don't procrastinate.

Even if you can only give a few hours once or twice a year, every moment counts.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: June 12, 2000

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233RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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USA TODAY

April 12, 2000, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

NOT IN LIBRARY ANYMORE

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 19A

LENGTH: 392 words

HEADLINE: Clintons to host conference on bringing up teens

BYLINE: Kathy Kiely

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- It's a topic that parents by the millions talk about every day over kitchen tables and office fax machines. And next month, President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will give it bully pulpit treatment when they host a White House conference on raising teens.

The White House Conference on Teenagers: Raising Responsible and Resourceful Youth will take place May 2, less than two weeks after the first anniversary of the shootings April 20 at Columbine High School, where a pair of teens killed 12 classmates and a teacher before turning their guns on themselves.

A formal announcement of plans for the conference is expected from the administration today.

Concern over youth violence is only one of several reasons the Clintons have decided to host the conference, according to a senior administration official involved in planning the conference.

Among other things, the first couple want to focus attention on new research that indicates that preteen years are a key time for brain development and that -- contrary to many parents' beliefs -- kids want and need more direction from their parents.

The Clintons want to discuss the challenges and risks of raising what White House officials believe is one of the fastest-growing and most diverse groups of teens in U.S. history. There were 35.3 million Americans ages 10-18 as of September 1999, according to the latest estimates from the Census Bureau.

The day-long conference will feature parents, teens, educators, policymakers and other experts. Among the topics expected to be discussed are drug and alcohol abuse, violent behavior, sexual activity and the effects of the news media on children and parents.

After an opening session, the conferees will break into small

discussion groups, led by members of Congress and Clinton administration officials.

The conference is a reflection of Hillary Clinton's long-time interest in children's issues.

It follows up on a similar forum that she and the president hosted in 1997 on early childhood development.

It also will give the first lady a high-profile forum to appeal to women, a constituency that is expected to be key in her New York Senate race.

Her likely Republican opponent, New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, has also been wooing female voters.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, B/W, Bebeto Matthews, AP; Hillary Rodham Clinton: Longtime interest in children's issues.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 12, 2000

213TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The New York Times Company
The New York Times

April 16, 2000, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 1; Page 30; Column 5; National Desk

LENGTH: 376 words

HEADLINE: President and First Lady Plan Conference on School Violence

BYLINE: Reuters

DATELINE: PALO ALTO, Calif., April 15

BODY:

President Clinton said today that he and his wife, Hillary, would hold a White House conference on teenagers next month to look at ways to avoid violent outbursts like that at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., a year ago.

"As we prepare next week to mark the one-year anniversary of the tragedy at Columbine High School, our thoughts turn to the safety of our communities, schools and children," Mr. Clinton said in his weekly radio address.

Mr. Clinton said he and Mrs. Clinton, a Democratic candidate for a United States Senate seat in New York, would hold the conference on May 2 and would bring in parents and teenagers, experts in the causes of violence and educators "to talk through the challenges of raising responsible children."

On April 20 last year, two students went on a shooting rampage at the Columbine school near Denver, killing 13 people before killing themselves.

The conference will examine the risks, challenges and anxieties faced by today's teenagers, the impact of the Internet on young people and parenting, what parents, communities and young people can do to avoid risky behaviors and other topics, the White House said.

Mr. Clinton, on a five-day trip to Georgia, California, New Mexico and Illinois, also announced $40 million in new grants for 23 school districts to pay for strategies for reaching out to troubled young people.

"These districts are bringing school nurses and counselors together to respond to warning signs like depression or bullying," the president said.

One of the concerns in the aftermath of Columbine and other school shootings is that teachers, students and parents need to pay more attention to warning signs from troubled youths.

"Those of us who are parents have perhaps the greatest responsibility," Mr.

Clinton said.

The president last Wednesday marked the coming anniversary of Columbine with a visit to Denver, focusing on ways to keep guns out of the hands of teenagers.

Mr. Clinton also said he was releasing $60 million from a COPS in Schools program for police officers to work in schools in more than 220 communities.

"The vast majority of our schools are safe places for our kids to learn," he said. "But any violent incident is one too many."

http://www.nytimes.com

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 16, 2000

219TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Washington Post
The Washington Post

April 16, 2000, Sunday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A09

LENGTH: 200 words

HEADLINE: President, First Lady to Host Summit On Teenagers

DATELINE: PALO ALTO, Calif., April 15

BODY:

President Clinton said yesterday that he and his wife, Hillary, will hold a White House conference on teenagers next month to examine ways to avert violent outbursts like that at Colorado's Columbine High School a year ago.

"As we prepare next week to mark the one-year anniversary of the tragedy at Columbine High School, our thoughts turn to the safety of our communities, schools and children," Clinton said in his weekly radio address.

Clinton said he and the first lady, a Democratic candidate for a U.S. Senate seat in New York, will hold the conference on May 2 and bring in parents and teenagers, experts and educators "to talk through the challenges of raising responsible children."

On April 20 last year, two students went on a shooting rampage at the school outside Denver, killing 13 people before killing themselves and leaving a deep scar in the American psyche about the causes behind the violence.

The conference will examine the risks, challenges and anxieties faced by today's teenagers, the impact of the Internet on youth and parenting, what parents, communities and young people can do to avoid risk behaviors, and other topics, White House officials said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 16, 2000

115TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Christian Science Publishing Society
The Christian Science Monitor

May 2, 2000, Tuesday

SECTION: USA; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 1448 words

HEADLINE: How schools stop teen violence

BYLINE: By Francine Kiefer and Neil Irwin, Staff writer of The ChristianScience Monitor

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

HIGHLIGHT:
Recent shootings have prompted districts nationwide to try new programs, and a template for success is emerging.

BODY:

Across the nation, communities are redoubling their efforts to prevent teen violence - much of it in the year since the shootings in Littleton, Colo.

While tragedies such as Columbine are what often dominate the headlines, experts say a growing number of programs from Florida to Oregon are starting to prove effective in stemming youth violence.

The initiatives vary widely: from simple efforts to reward good behavior with gold-star-like stickers to more aggressive psychological counseling programs. Not surprisingly, the popularity of the initiatives varies too: Some have dramatically reduced violent incidents in schools and been embraced by teachers and parents alike. Others have proven costly for districts and raise questions of too much intrusion into family lives.

But beneath all the experimentation, researchers say they are now starting to identify common elements that make programs work. "Across the country, in every state, there are real pockets of excellence, real pockets of hope," says David Osher of the American Institutes for Research, a behavioral science group based here that has become something of a national clearinghouse of success stories.

In drawing up model initiatives for communities, he and other social scientists have come to one deceptively simple conclusion: By taking preventive measures early on, communities can head off tragedies down the road.

This week, President Clinton and the first lady host a White House conference on teens, aimed at exploring some of those early steps. The meeting will include parents, community leaders, and teenagers themselves.

Amid all the attention, the Monitor looked at case studies of several schools

with impressive violence-reduction records.

Stop and think

In stopping violence in America's schools, a red sticker in elementary school can be more effective than metal detectors and security guards in high school.

That is, if it's a "Stop and Think" sticker, awarded to students who show exceptionally good behavior at Cleveland Elementary School in Tampa, Fla.

Since 1993, the school has adopted a general approach toward teaching its students - many of whom come from broken homes - how to listen, resolve conflict without fighting, deal with losing, wait one's turn, and otherwise interact with others effectively.

The 20 minutes a day spent learning social skills, along with those prized red stickers to reward students who take the lessons particularly to heart, have reaped big rewards, says veteran second-grade teacher Kimberly Howery. "When they come to a situation, whether it's someone talking to you when the teacher's talking or calling you a name, they stop and think and make a good choice or a bad choice."

But do lessons in sportsmanship and dealing with embarrassment really help stop student misbehavior? At Cleveland, it seems so. According to Principal Phyllis Rodriguez, in 1992-93, just before the program started, there were 358 disciplinary referrals at the school. In 1995-96, there were 85.

Bigger rewards may come when these students are in middle school and high school.

"We have a pretty rough population. Most are from a nearby housing project and are from single-parent homes, and for many of them these things are not taught at home," says Ms. Rodriguez. Hence, she argues, it is important to instill these behaviors early so that they will not turn to violence to settle arguments later.

Moreover, the children enjoy the lessons, says Ms. Howery. "They get excited about it and tell the class if they used a skill over the weekend. It's really made a difference in our school."

Response to warning signs

But broad-based efforts to reduce school violence like that at Cleveland Elementary are only part of the answer, say experts. Also important is dealing effectively with kids who send out warning signs by misbehaving. This means doing more than assigning detention and hoping problems will solve themselves.

"Administrators and teachers have a lot to deal with on a daily basis, so it's easy to neglect or ignore subtle hints or behaviors and deal just with major things like a fight," says Ron Echandia, the principal at Kennedy Middle School in Eugene, Ore.

But, he argues, that's precisely the wrong approach.

In the past five years, his school has taken a more aggressive stance toward students who misbehave, even when the offenses aren't that severe.

For example, he says that recently, several girls had an argument and one of them shoved another. Under the old way of doing things, the shover would have met briefly with a vice principal and either been suspended or sent back to class.

But instead, they had all the girls meet with counselors. They also asked the shover's teachers if her behavior had changed recently - and they said it had. So Mr. Echandia called her home, and found that there had been some domestic turmoil recently.

"Now, the father is coming in, and we have counselors involved, and the father is receptive to what we've proposed. I think our chances of success with this girl are high," he says.

While some may see the school's approach as overreacting - or meddling in a family's private affairs - the results of this careful attention to low-level misbehavior are striking. In the 1996-97 school year, the school had 1,200 disciplinary referrals. Last school year, there were 500. Similarly, in 1996-97 there were 15 cases of weapons brought on campus. Last year, there was one.

This work, school officials hope, will stop students who show signs of violent inclinations from veering further down that path. "There's a big change when they enter high school," says Echandia. "It's better to intervene at the middle school level. You have a better chance of success."

Severely troubled kids

But what do you do with kids whose behavior is so explosive that their next stop is a juvenile correctional facility?

In most cases, special-education teachers work with them in public schools. Besides being less costly, that approach keeps them in the mainstream - and research shows segregation doesn't necessarily help severely troubled kids.

But in greater Cleveland, when individual cases are too much for the public schools, there's PEP.

That stands for Positive Education Program, a network of six off-site day centers for kids 6 to 18. Held up by some as a national model, PEP gives intense attention to young people from diverse racial and economic backgrounds, putting them in classes of 10, with two teachers per class.

Their record is enviable. The program takes in 150 to 200 children each year, but behavior improves to such a degree that one-third eventually return to mainstream life. Another third go back to public school but still require a lot of support. A recent study showed that, two years out of the program, half the kids were staying out of trouble.

With its roots in the 1960s, the philosophy at PEP involves the whole community in the "reeducation" of the child. Each participant gets a case worker who keeps in touch with the child's parents, doctor, social worker, church youth worker,

and probation officer.

Students get sent home with daily "passports" reporting to parents what went well, and maybe not so well. These kids also work in the community, teaching literacy to adults; volunteering with the elderly; clearing trails in parks.

"We place kids in situations where their good side shines. For the first time in their lives, they are not the bad kid," says PEP director Frank Fecser.

Mr. Fecser admits his program "is costly, no question." In fact, he spends about $ 12 million to $ 18 million a year to serve approximately 540 kids. But, he points out, his day program is far less expensive than residential programs, and than similar day programs in other states.

At the centers, academic and emotional education are combined. Teacher Carole Geraci concentrates on reading and math, but also works on social skills with her students. They practice sitting still, learning how to ignore taunts, and even how to apologize. Then, when real life situations come up, "it's almost automatic," she says proudly.

Every day before going home, students are required to say something positive about themselves, and about someone else. And Ms. Geraci lays on the praise when they behave well, even if it's as minor as going quietly to the sink to wash their hands.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 01, 2000

116TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Christian Science Publishing Society
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May 2, 2000, Tuesday

SECTION: EDITORIALS; THE MONITOR'S VIEW; Pg. 10

LENGTH: 401 words

HEADLINE: Helping Teens' Needs

BODY:

Today's White House Conference on Teenagers has been criticized as a politically motivated event, taking advantage of the recent anniversary of last year's violence at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. Some suspect the conference is largely intended to showcase the concerns and ideas of Hillary Clinton, the first lady, who is now running for the US Senate in New York.

But let's step back from this skepticism that too easily envelops what transpires in Washington. A conference on the problems facing today's teenagers is unquestionably timely, and not only because of the Columbine anniversary.

This is a difficult time for teenagers, and their parents. The world's social, educational, and economic underpinnings are rapidly transforming - even as teens embark on the sometimes harrowing transition to adulthood.

Terrible events like Columbine both reflect young people's inner uncertainties and add to them. School security has shot to a top priority in the past year. New programs, many of them enlightened and successful, have sprung up around the country (see story page 1). Efforts to create more caring codes of conduct within schools, to help troubled students recognize their worth, and to work more closely with willing parents, deserve high marks. They take school safety a needed step beyond metal detectors and police in the halls.

The White House conference will highlight such efforts. It will undoubtedly also note the huge diversity of experience among American teens - as well as their common needs.

Kids from blighted urban areas, where family structures are battered by poverty and substance abuse, present unique issues. For them, violence can be a daily occurrence.

Well-off kids from the suburbs have vastly different daily experiences. Yet violence has intruded in their lives, too.

The White House gathering - and the wider dialogue it ought to stimulate - should focus on the essentially moral and spiritual needs shared by teens of all backgrounds. Chief among these needs is the presence of caring adults who can guide and nurture. Parents have primary responsibility, but teachers,

counselors, and mentors can be crucial.

All Americans, from the first family down, have an interest in helping teens find stability and purpose.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 01, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Gannett Company, Inc.
USA TODAY

May 2, 2000, Tuesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 10A

LENGTH: 1042 words

HEADLINE: Survey: Teens craving parental involvement

BYLINE: Paul Leavitt; Kathy Kiely; With staff and wire reports

BODY:

They might be in their rebellious years, but teenagers still rely on Mom and Dad for advice, and they wish their parents had more time to spend with them, according to a survey to be unveiled today at a White House conference on teenagers. The YMCA commissioned the telephone poll of 200 12- to 15-year-olds and 200 parents. Among its findings:

* Parents might underestimate how much time kids spend with TV and the Internet and overestimate how much they discuss issues such as sex and drugs.

* One in four parents reported eating no more than four meals a week together with family. Teens listed inadequate family time as one of their top concerns.

* 47% of fathers and 38% of mothers said they are trying to find more time to spend with their kids.

In addition to President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, the conference will feature Cabinet officers and experts on education and youth policy. Actor Danny DeVito and actress Rhea Perlman, who are married to each other, will discuss their work with the After School Alliance and their experiences as the parents of three teenagers. -- Kathy Kiely

GOP eyes new presidential primary system

A proposal to be unveiled today would revamp the Republican presidential primary system to put smaller states at the top of the calendar. Unlike Democrats, who plan to keep the status quo, the Republican National Committee's Primary Commission is recommending that the GOP adopt a system in which states vote in order of population. Least-populous states would vote first, then midsized states. Larger states would be last, but with their huge delegate counts, they still would play a decisive role in picking the nominee. The question of Iowa and New Hampshire, which traditionally come first, would be left open for the RNC to decide. The plan will be presented to the RNC's Rules Committee on May 11 in Indianapolis.

If the committee adopts it, it must be ratified by the full Republican National Convention July 31-Aug. 3 in Philadelphia. -- Richard Benedetto

* As expected, Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson was named chairman of the 107-member Republican Platform Committee to draft the policies the party will run on in November. National Chairman Jim Nicholson said Thompson is "the senior Republican governor and an articulate advocate of smaller, smarter government, greater freedom and stronger families."

New drug benefit urged for military retirees

All 1.3 million Medicare-eligible military retirees would get a new prescription drug benefit under legislation the Senate Armed Services Committee takes up today. Chairman John Warner, R-Va., said the benefit is in keeping with "commitments made to military retirees," primarily the promise of health care for life. Currently, mail-order and pharmacy drug benefits are available only to about 450,000 retired military personnel who had been receiving their prescriptions at medical installations on bases that have been closed.

Report touts exports by small companies

The number of small and medium-sized companies exporting goods nearly doubled over a recent five year period, a General Accounting Office report out today says. It says that 202,185 companies with 500 or fewer employees exported goods in 1997, the last year for which figures were available, compared with 108,206 in 1992. The value of those exports in 1997 was $ 172 billion, or about 31% of all exported goods that year. The study is being released by the House Ways and Means Committee as Republican leaders try to build support for a bill that would end Congress' annual review of China's trade status and grant permanent normal trade relations. In return, China would open its markets to more U.S. goods. -- William M. Welch

* The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom urged Congress to reject China's bid for trade benefits, citing the Communist government's crackdown on religious groups such as the Falun Gong spiritual movement. The 10-member advisory panel is appointed by the president and Congress.

Sheen stars at state Democratic fundraiser

In a sign that some of the most important races in this year's election are the furthest down the ballot, actor Martin Sheen spent Sunday evening as host of a fundraiser for Democratic members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Sheen, who plays the president in NBC's popular series The West Wing, schmoozed with donors at a $ 5,000-a-head cocktail reception, then spoke to a larger crowd at a $ 1,000-a-ticket affair. The state's legislative races are particularly important this year. Republicans hold a 102-100 edge in the Pennsylvania state House. If they keep their majority,

they will control redistricting next year, when the congressional boundaries are redrawn to conform with new Census figures. That could mean the number of Democratic-held seats in the U.S. House could drop from 11 to six, Pennsylvania House Democratic leader Bill DeWeese says. -- Kathy Kiely

N.Y. Senate race remains hotly contested

A poll out Monday on the Senate race in New York showed that Hillary Rodham Clinton and Rudy Giuliani are in a statistical dead heat, with no sympathy bounce as a result of the New York mayor's disclosure last week that he has prostate cancer. The statewide Quinnipiac College Poll had the race 46% for Clinton and 44% for Giuliani. A Zogby Poll over the weekend had each with 43%.

* Actress and TV personality Donna Hanover, Giuliani's wife, said she is postponing her performance in the sexually suggestive off-Broadway play The Vagina Monologues due to family circumstances. She did not mention Giuliani in the announcement. Her participation in the controversial production had raised eyebrows, given the mayor's high-profile battles against raunchy art.

* The first lady's campaign has received $ 32,500 from lawyers in the law firm of former independent counsel Ken Starr. The donations were made by 33 lawyers and one legal assistant at Kirkland & Ellis. None of the firm's 635 lawyers had contributed to Giuliani's campaign. Starr is on leave from the firm and is writing a book about his time investigating the Clintons.

GRAPHIC: PHOTOS, B/W, AP (2); PHOTO, B/W, Leslie E. Kosoff, AP; Thompson: Building the platform. Boosting Pa. Democrats: Martin Sheen, left, and Bill DeWeese at Sunday's fundraiser in Washington. Hanover: Delaying Monologues.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 02, 2000

71ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Christian Science Publishing Society
The Christian Science Monitor

May 3, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: USA; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 966 words

HEADLINE: Teenagers want more ... family time?

BYLINE: Francine Kiefer, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

HIGHLIGHT:
A majority of American teens today say they are not spending enough time with their parents.

BODY:

Here's a surprise for today's parents: Their teenagers want to spend more time with them.

Evidence is growing that increasing numbers of young people feel they are not getting enough parental attention. Many teens now see it as their top concern.

The findings speak volumes about today's fast-paced society and the decline of the nuclear family. Teens, perhaps more isolated from adults than ever before, are saying they need their parents, yet parents - strapped for time by work or single-parenthood - are unable to respond to the degree their kids want.

"This is the surprise: Youth are [saying], 'I want to talk to an adult, but people are zipping by us.' What's interesting is that this research is coming out just as adults are not around," says Lynn McDonald, a psychologist at the University of Wisconsin's School of Education.

The benefits of something as simple as regular family mealtimes are significant. Teens who eat dinner with a parent five days a week or more, are less likely to smoke, use alcohol or marijuana, or have sex, according to a study by the president's Council of Economic Advisors, released yesterday at a White House conference on teens.

And kids who say they feel close to at least one parent are far less likely to consider suicide or engage in antisocial behavior such as fighting at school, the study shows.

A YMCA poll of parents and their children, also released at yesterday's conference, highlights the pivotal role parents play in their kids' lives. Twenty-one percent of teens aged 12 to 15 listed spending more time with family as their biggest concern - the top response, along with education.

Similarly, in a recent poll by Newsweek, 73 percent of teens aged 13 to 19 said parents don't spend enough time with their children.

Turning to mom for advice

Perhaps as another surprise to parents, kids put parents highest on their list of people they turn to for advice, according to the YMCA poll, though friends are still a major influence (78 percent said they turn to parents; and 58 percent to friends). In both cases, younger teens are more interested in mom and dad than older teens are.

While the popular perception is that parents don't spend much time with their kids, that isn't necessarily true. Although 10 percent of parents say they eat just one meal a week or less with their teens, kids and parents are still finding time for each other - on average about 80 minutes a day.

But it isn't the quantity, it's the quality of the time that may be lacking. Polls continue to show a major disconnect in the way parents communicate with their kids.

For instance, although many parents say they talk frequently to their kids about important issues like sex, dating, drugs, alcohol, and future plans, their kids don't agree. The same goes for parents' monitoring of their kids' TV and Internet use. Parents think they do this frequently, but kids say they don't.

"The good news is that families are still spending time together," says Kenneth Gladish, national director of the YMCA. "The bad news is that children may not be hearing what we parents think we're saying."

Surprisingly, another sign of the disconnect between teens and adults is that many parents don't even consider spending more time with their kids a top concern. In fact, the YMCA poll showed that most adults are far more concerned about outside threats such as drugs and alcohol.

But those threats could greatly diminish if parents put in more time parenting. "The two things kids say that help steer them clear [of trouble] are a good relationship with parents and a good relationship with their school," says Ms. McDonald.

Of course, the question is, how can today's already overloaded parents do this?

Changing the rules

Some experts argue that it's partly society's responsibility to change the rules so that parents can spend more time at home.

That's certainly Hillary Rodham Clinton's view. In a recent Newsweek column about raising Chelsea, the first lady urged lawmakers and business leaders to establish more flexible hours in the workplace.

The societal response is spreading at the community level, as well.

The Dallas YMCAs, for instance, are about to institute a program where parents

can pick up their kids from the Y - along with their groceries, dry cleaning, and prescription drugs.

Parents have to agree that the time saved on these after-work errands will be used for family mealtime at home. Inside their grocery bags are talking points to help generate dinner-table discussion - and those points are discussed at the Y the next day.

McDonald, at the University of Wisconsin, is working with schools to hold regularly scheduled dinners with parents and their kids so they have time to talk. It's a program that's spreading quickly.

Parental practices

But other experts say it's not just institutions that need to change, but also parental practices and attitudes. Volunteer to be the teen driver as often as you can, turn off the radio in your car when you're driving with your kid, ask your teens open-ended questions, schedule retreats with your children - these are the ways to get to know your children, says Eric Chester, president and founder of Generation Why, a speaking and consulting firm on teens.

Kids have a lot of "stuff," says Mr. Chester, what they need more of is parental attention. "A lot of kids really want more family time. They've heard of the family unit. Here's a generation that wants family, and for all intents and purposes, they've been deprived of it," he says.

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USA TODAY

May 3, 2000, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 469 words

HEADLINE: Clinton calls for parental rights Bans discrimination in federal workplace

BYLINE: Kathy Kiely

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- Saying there should be "no glass ceiling for parents," President Clinton signed an executive order Tuesday banning discrimination against them in the federal workplace.

He urged Congress to extend the protection to all workers by making it illegal to deny jobs or promotions to people because they have obligations at home. "The most important work a society does is still to raise children," the president said.

Clinton's order applies only to federal employees. Legislation protecting parents from discrimination by private employers has been stuck in Congress because of opposition from business.

Pat Cleary of the National Association of Manufacturers said the order targets a non-existent problem and could spawn a wave of costly and frivolous lawsuits. "People are already protected today by a host of anti-discrimination laws," he said. "To create one more is to create one more opportunity for mischief."

Bruce Reed, the president's chief domestic policy adviser, said the president's action is as important symbolically as it is legally. "We wanted to send a clear signal to employers that there is nothing wrong with being a parent," he said.

Clinton made his announcement at a White House conference on raising teenagers. The lack of adult supervision was a major theme of the conference.

"One of the biggest casualties of modern life has been family time," said first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who took time out of her New York Senate campaign to make one of her increasingly rare official appearances at the White House.

The first lady joked that she and her husband "speak of course with great authority, having just graduated from being parents

of a teenager . . . and having survived it." Their daughter, Chelsea, is 20.

"I know the experience of hanging around and waiting for a sighting," Hillary Clinton said as the room erupted in sympathetic laughter.

Republicans responded to the conference skeptically. "I think we can find some common ground," said House Republican Conference chairman J.C. Watts, R-Okla. "But the Clinton-Gore administration must stop playing politics with our children."

Among the recommendations at the conference:

* Families should break bread together. A Council of Economic Advisers report found that teenagers who dine regularly with their parents are less likely to become involved with alcohol, drugs, violence or sex.

* Chores give children "the opportunity to be effective, contributing members of our society," said Jacquelynne Eccles, a psychologist at the University of Michigan.

* Employers should provide flextime not just for new parents but for those who have teens at home.

* The entertainment industry should come up with a simpler ratings system.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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92ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Washington Post
The Washington Post

May 3, 2000, Wednesday, Final Edition

SECTION: STYLE; Pg. C17; KIDSPOST

LENGTH: 337 words

HEADLINE: TODAY'S News

BODY:

Future Teens, Read This

* A White House conference yesterday about teenagers stressed how important it is for adults to listen to kids.

President Clinton and Hillary Clinton hosted the conference. The subjects included how parents can balance work and home and the need for families to spend time together.

"Adults usually do not listen to young people and they don't make it their business to help them implement their goals," said Dorothy Stoneman, founder of a group that teaches construction skills to poor young people. When grown-ups listen, Stoneman said, "young people get engaged and connected and they feel better about themselves."

Scientists talked about research on brain development. In pre-teens to 15-year-olds, there is very fast growth in areas of the brain that help humans use language, make decisions and think about complicated subjects.

Those years are good times for kids to get new knowledge and experiences--and basically teach their brains how to work well for the rest of their lives.

Too Young to Climb?

* A 14-year-old who set out to climb Mount Everest hasn't made it to the top yet, and there's controversy over whether he should try at all.

If he succeeds, Temba Tsheri Sherpa would be the youngest person to climb the world's highest mountain. But some mountain climbers think he is too young and inexperienced. They worry that he might be injured or that other climbers might be hurt trying to rescue him.

"These Sherpa climbers are incredibly strong," said George Martin, who works for www.everestnews.com, a climbing Web site. "One of the biggest questions is: Does the boy have the knowledge and the mental ability to know at this age the

risk he's taking?"

Temba, who is climbing with his father and older brother, might attempt to reach the top of Everest as early as Friday, depending on the weather.

A 15-year-old, Arbin Timilsina, tried to climb Everest last year but turned back after getting within 100 meters of the summit.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Copyright 2000 Gannett Company, Inc.
USA TODAY

May 11, 2000, Thursday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: LIFE; Pg. 10D

LENGTH: 1455 words

HEADLINE: Boys will be boys, so just listen Parents, teens advise letting kids open lines of communication

BYLINE: Karen S. Peterson

BODY:

In an era of school shootings and at a time when the White House holds a conference on the importance of good parenting, engaging teens in productive conversation is seen by many as a key to a less violent future.

But how do you communicate with a teen who doesn't seem interested in talking to parents at all?

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton noted at the day-long conference May 2 that conversing with teens can be tough. "You'll want to hang around just in case they deign to say something to you," she said with a laugh.

James Levine, director of the Fatherhood Project of the non-profit Families and Work Institute, calls knowing how to engage teenagers -- especially reluctant boys -- "one of the great riddles of parenthood."

He also says that, like many great riddles, the answer is "a paradox. If you want to get a teenage boy to talk, do not try to get him to talk."

Instead, Levine says, "do something active with him. Wash the car, throw around a football, do an errand. When you're doing things together -- even when you are just in the car driving together -- he is more likely to start talking spontaneously than to respond to a question you throw out." He is more relaxed and does not feel a parent is putting him on the spot, Levine says.

Many experts, teens and parents agree with Levine.

"I never sit down and say, 'Let's have a talk,' " says Bill Flynn, 53, of Manassas, Va. Flynn has two grown sons and one about to turn 13. "That is just not me. I don't do like they tell you on those TV public service announcements: sit at the breakfast table and talk to your kids about drugs. They just roll their eyes back when you try something like that."

Lucas Ruiz, 16, of Junction City, Kan., says: "Don't make it a big deal. Ask if your kid wants to go to the movies, and maybe afterward you can get something to eat. And then you can get to talking."

Talk sideways

Laura Sessions Stepp says that having effective conversations with teens means "talking sideways." It is important to have dinners together and chat face-to-face, as the White House conference experts said, but "lots of conversations occur alongside a teen while working on some project," she says.

If parents have an issue they want to raise, they can plan a setting that will let a teen talk at his own pace, says Stepp, the author of Our Last Best Shot: Guiding Our Children Through Early Adolescence. "Think about how you can structure an environment so the conversation can take place," she says. And remember that "things come out slowly, haltingly, even to parents they love and trust. The kids still worry they will look like fools."

In her book, Stepp talks about a boy suspended from school for a year. "His dad put him to work hanging drywall working alongside him. They had lots of conversations at work about what the son had done. His father came to understand him much more."

Be prepared for such sideways conversations to occur at any time and place, says Linda Perlman Gordon, a family therapist and co-author of Why Boys Don't Talk and Why We Care: A Mother's Guide to Connection.

In her book, she talks about a teenage boy who burst into his parents' bedroom at 11 at night, reacting to what he had seen on Jerry Springer. His dad said it was late and he wanted to sleep, but his mom "followed her instincts and used the moment to draw her son into conversation."

Read your son's cues about when he is ready to talk, Gordon also suggests. Marcia Cohen indicates that she does just that. "I find that when Josh (17) has had lots of sleep, he is ready, wide awake and ready to converse," says Cohen, 43, of Harrisburg, Pa.

Gordon talks in terms of staying connected to sons through "touch points" rather than full-fledged talks. Put a note on the refrigerator saying you've left him a tuna sandwich, or set up a time to touch base on the phone most days, she says. Such touchstones "can be small moments," but they show connection.

Telling family stories is often a good way to get teens to open up, says Mark Wertman, author of True Confessions of a Real Mr. Mom. Talking about family members who have dropped out of school or have been engaged in family feuds can get the conversational

ball rolling. "And it gives teenagers a sense of their heritage," Wertman says, as well as a reason to share their own experiences.

How moms connect

Drawing out sons can be especially difficult for moms, Linda Gordon says. Moms aren't usually out tossing footballs with their sons or hanging drywall with them. Moms may not understand as well as dads that "connection for an adolescent boy may not be based on a deep, emotional exchange with another." In fact, connection may be only "a brief moment of agreement about an issue, an incident that reaffirms trust, or even an extended period of comfortable silence."

And moms also may be worried about even trying to stay close, fearing that their sons won't grow up to be strong, independent males if they stay attached to mom as teens, Gordon says. She calls that concept nonsense. "Trust your instincts," she says.

Both parents may not realize that when their sons are talking, often the adults are not really listening, says Kathy McCoy, author of The New Teenage Body Book. "As parents, we want to share our wisdom," she says. "But it is all too rare when we really listen. You have to let teens know you value their opinions."

Put the newspaper down and listen, says Brady Welch, 16, of Mount Pleasant, S.C. "Be inquisitive but not too aggressive," he says. "And don't talk down to your kid, like he is inferior. That is an absolute no-no."

Judith Holland says she is lucky. Her son, 15, is very verbal, and it is up to her to do the listening. "Joel is very talkative," says Holland, 50, of McLean, Va. "It is really just a matter of my saying, 'Isn't that interesting,' of my hearing him, showing concern. I am just terribly interested in whatever he has to say."

Just be available

Just because your son is not talking to you doesn't mean he is not talking to other adults, both teens and parents say. "Teens may be talking to somebody else and getting advice they feel comfortable with," says Branndon Jackson, 15, of Cincinnati. "It can be other adults, whoever they feel safe with."

Marcia Cohen says that many of her son Josh's friends come to her to talk. "They tend to open up with me. Josh knows I can get his friends to spill their guts," she says. "Then Josh thinks it is cool to talk with me."

All of the advice about talking to teenagers has one foundation: talking with them way back when they were little kids, says Hara Estroff Marano.

"You can't build a house starting with the second story. You have to lay a lot of groundwork first," says Marano, an editor

at large for Psychology Today and the author of Why Doesn't Anybody Like Me? A Guide to Raising Socially Confident Kids. "By the time they hit 13, their peers are an all-powerful influence. Parents have to establish a line of communication early and keep it open."

More important than trying to initiate some big conversation is just being available when your son wants to talk to you, Branndon Jackson says. And that may not happen often.

"Parents can be supportive of talking to their child," he says. "But teen boys have a lot of pride. It is not like they will always tell what is on their mind. And sometimes parents have to accept that they just don't want to talk."

Watch for subtle cues he's opening up

Opportunities to talk to sons can occur at unexpected moments, say Susan Morris Shaffer and Linda Perlman Gordon in Why Boys Don't Talk and Why We Care: A Mother's Guide to Connection (Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, $ 14.95). The authors suggest finding and taking advantage of "teachable moments," special times when a son indicates he is ready for conversation:

* Learn to recognize your son's cues about when he is emotionally ready for you to approach him.

* Expect your son's cues to be more subtle than your daughter's. Girls are often more open to discussion than boys.

* Be open to talking, even at odd hours, about his interest in anything from sports to girls.

* React to what he says without overwhelming him with comments

* Don't make a big deal about his having talked to you. He may not want to feel "noticed."

* Don't make him feel criticized or patronized or ashamed.

* Answer his questions honestly, even if they make you uncomfortable.

* Don't berate yourself for missing a cue. There will be other chances.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, B/W, Michael Schwarz, USA TODAY; PHOTO, B/W, Rebecca D'Angelo

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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NO SATURDAY

May 13, 2000, Saturday, Home Edition

SECTION: Metro; Part B; Page 9; No Desk

LENGTH: 828 words

HEADLINE: VOICES / A FORUM FOR COMMUNITY ISSUES;
YOUTH PLATFORM;
HOW INVOLVED SHOULD PARENTS BE?

BYLINE: MARY REESE BOYKIN.

BODY:

President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton held a White House Conference on Teenagers to discuss how parents can help their children successfully manage the difficult teen years. One goal of the conference, according to Mrs. Clinton, was to "help more parents remain involved in their teenagers' lives." How much parental involvement do teenagers want? Teens shared their views with MARY REESE BOYKIN.

*

DANIEL GONZALEZ

14, freshman, Fairfax High School

My parents cannot spend all that much time with me because they have to work. When I leave for school, they are barely arriving at home. When I come home, they are leaving for work. I know that they care about me because they work this hard to provide me with shelter, food and clothing.

Sometimes, we have dinner together. That's when we catch up on what we've missed. We talk about school, their jobs, events.

I feel more special during these times because I have their attention. Even though they are not there as much as I'd like, they still show me their love for me.

*

KIANA METCALF

17, senior, King/Drew Medical Magnet High School

It gives us kids an extra drive to know that someone is in our corner, that someone else wants us to succeed. A person can stay strong and do it alone, but having support makes a difference.

My grandmother has been my mother and my father. Throughout the years, she has encouraged me to stay on top of my schoolwork. When I didn't do as well as I expected, she would say, "That's all right. You can do better the next time."

She has been involved in taking me to church. If she had not done that, I don't know where I would be. My faith sustains me; I keep God first, and I know that I can achieve my goals.

This fall, I'll leave home to attend Xavier University, a historically black college, in New Orleans. My grandmother wanted me to stay near home for college. It wasn't that I wanted to leave home, but I want to become a trauma surgeon. Xavier is ranked No. 1 among schools whose African American graduates enter medical school. With the help of my Upward Bound coordinator, I convinced my grandmother that Xavier is the best school for me. She showed her love for me by putting my interest above her preference.

*

AUBREY MUSGROVE

16, sophomore, University High School

Teenagers need parental involvement otherwise they feel neglected or feel that whatever they do is not good enough. My mom is very strict. She is genuine in her need to protect me from heartbreak and the dangers of life.

I want my mom involved in everything. I tell her everything--what happened at school and which girls I am talking to. But I don't want her to be overly protective. At times, I push her away. But she keeps coming back. Her influence is always there, even if I am reluctant to admit it.Maybe I am just confused. I want her involvement on the one hand. I don't want so much of it on the other. The perfect solution is for her to be involved, but leave me alone, let me find myself and see what life is like.

*

TENETRA HUGHES

15, freshman, Locke High School

My mom is very involved in my life. She talks to me all the time. She tells me that she is proud of me and that I am smart. She tells me to stay focused and

stay in school. We do many things together: sing, go to the beach, give family gatherings.

When it comes to boys, my mom tells me to be smart, choose wisely, be into my books. In fact, she often says, "Books first; boys later." She has helped me to realize that if a boy can talk a girl into having sex with him, the girl can get pregnant. Then the girl's life is changed forever. My mom teaches me to carry myself like a lady so that I will be respected.

I am grateful that my mom is involved in my life because I have some friends whose parents are uninvolved. These friends smoke weed and have sex and, one has had numerous abortions. They have a place to live, but they have no parental involvement, so they do what they want, Often, they take the wrong path.

My mother puts her children first. I am grateful for everything about my mother.

*

CIARA JASIEWICZ

17, junior, Woodrow Wilson High School, Long Beach

My biological mother is deceased. My father is not in my life. Kanika and I have been friends since pre-school. A year ago, when I needed a place to live, Kanika's mom took me in.

She is a mother to me. She cares for me, shows me affection and love. I feel secure and safe. She has taught me that love crosses color lines. I am white; she is black. Some of my white friends feel that I have betrayed them by living with a black family, but my "mom" tells me to move on with my life, stay strong and hold my head high.

My "mom" does set limits. I have a 9 p.m. school night curfew and a midnight curfew for weekends. I go to youth group meetings at church on Wednesdays and Fridays, and I attend Sunday school. My involvement in church makes me feel like a stronger person.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: AUBREY MUSGROVE PHOTO: TENETRA HUGHES PHOTO: CIARA JASIEWICZ

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: May 13, 2000

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Copyright 2000 The New York Times Company
The New York Times

May 13, 2000, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 19; Column 2; Editorial Desk

LENGTH: 553 words

HEADLINE: Quality Time Is Authority Time

BYLINE: By Kay S. Hymowitz; Kay S. Hymowitz is the author of "Ready or Not: Why Treating Children As Small Adults Endangers Their Future -- And Ours."

BODY:

Last week's White House conference on teenagers kept coming back to one conclusion above all: that parental involvement is the best tonic for what ails troubled teenagers. President Clinton, calling attention to a report from the Council of Economic Advisers, announced that "teenagers that had dinner with their parents five times a week are far more likely to avoid smoking, drinking, violence, suicide and drugs." He and the first lady trumpeted a campaign to encourage family togetherness, and he promised to make it easier for federal workers to spend time with their teenagers.

Would it were so simple. The uncomfortable truth is that eating dinner with your teenage daughter will not by itself reduce her chances of engaging in risky behavior any more than merely sitting in the passenger seat of a car next to your 15-year-old son will help him learn how to drive.

The problem is not simply that some parents don't spend time with their kids or aren't close to them; it is that many adults fail to use that time to define a moral universe for their children. The Kaiser Family Foundation recently found that two-thirds of all families with children between 8 and 18 have the television set on during meals; those parents may be eating with their kids, but that doesn't mean they have anything to say to them.

Parents today find themselves in a culture of ambivalence about parental authority. An ethos of self-esteem and child empowerment encourages children to make decisions not just about whether they prefer apple juice or orange juice, but about whether to attend religious school or what time to go to bed at night. Last year, several of my daughter's fifth-grade classmates even chose to wear pajamas to school one day -- with their parents' blessing.

These ideas clash with what has been the most important task of parents in any society: to shape their children's character and make them responsible members of a wider community. No wonder a 1997 report from Public Agenda found that parents describe feeling "tentative and uncertain in matters of authority" or that therapists like Evelyn Bassoff of Colorado report hearing parents say they feel "mean" and "guilty" when disciplining their children.

It is telling that in a Y.M.C.A. survey released at the conference, 61 percent of parents said that they frequently talked to their children about values and beliefs, but only 41 percent of teenagers reported having had such conversations.

In fact, not all of the research findings about family togetherness are as compelling as the White House's grand announcement implied. It is true that more than 40 percent of 15- and 16-year-olds who do not eat dinner regularly with their parents have been involved in serious fights. But so have close to 30 percent of the kids who do eat with their parents. And though 38 percent of the 15- and 16-year-olds who don't have close relationships with their parents have been suspended from school, so have over a quarter of those teens who do report close relationships.

Much has been made of recent polls that show a desire among teenagers to spend more time with their mothers and fathers. But unless parents are willing to act like parents, family dinners every night of the week will not offer much nourishment to American adolescents.

http://www.nytimes.com

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 13, 2000

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News Agencies

Divider Title:_____

223RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press

The materials in the AP file were compiled by The Associated Press. These materials may not be republished without the express written consent of The Associated Press.

April 15, 2000, Saturday, AM cycle

SECTION: Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 645 words

HEADLINE: Clinton announces new grants to prevent youth violence

BYLINE: By LAWRENCE L. KNUTSON, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Marking the first anniversary of the shooting deaths at Columbine High School, President Clinton announced $120 million in new federal grants Saturday to place more police officers in schools and help even the youngest kids cope with their problems.

"In our national struggle against youth violence we must not fail our children; our future depends on it," the president said in his weekly radio address.

Clinton announced that he and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will host a White House Conference on Teen-agers on May 2 to "talk through the challenges of raising responsible children."

Parents, teens, teachers, youth workers and others will discuss research that indicates the preteen years set patterns for behavior and success in adulthood. Other subjects will include the risks, challenges and anxieties faced by young people today and what can be done to avoid dangerous or risky behavior.

"We need to talk about safety and security in every house in America," Clinton said.

Republican critics said the federal government is a clumsy middleman in trying to cope with problems that should be addressed locally. They cast doubt on whether the teen conference would accomplish anything, accused Clinton of ignoring media violence, and said he should support stiff jail sentences for anyone carrying a firearm in a violent or drug-related crime.

Clinton announced $40 million in grants for 23 school districts that he said have found successful, comprehensive approaches to help troubled young people.

"These districts are bringing school nurses and counselors together to respond to warning signs like depression or bullying," Clinton said. "They are improving classroom security and expanding after-school and mentoring programs."

Clinton also unveiled the $60 million fifth round of funding for "COPS in School," a Justice Department program that helps pay the costs of placing police officers in schools to help make them safe for students and teachers. The money will be used to provide 452 officers in schools in more than 220 communities.

"Already, it has placed 2,200 officers in more than 1,000 communities across our nation, where they are heightening school safety as well as coaching sports and acting as mentors and mediators for kids in need," Clinton said.

Finally, Clinton said the Education Department has earmarked $20 million for local proposals to create or expand counseling programs for elementary schoolchildren. "We have seen all too clearly that even our youngest children need our help," he said.

"As we prepare next week to mark the one-year anniversary of the tragedy at Columbine High School, our thoughts turn to the safety of our communities, schools and children," Clinton said. "All of us - parents, schools, communities and government - share responsibility to keep kids safe."

On April 20, 1999, two students at Columbine High in Littleton, Colo., fatally shot 12 students and a teacher before killing themselves.

Clinton's proposals drew instant comment from Republicans.

"The White House Conference on teen-agers is sure to draw national headlines and attention, but unlikely to add new light to these troubling questions," said Rep. J.C. Watts Jr., R-Okla., chairman of the House Republican Conference. He said the solutions will be found around America's kitchen tables, "not from Washington or from posturing politicians."

Republican National Committee Chairman Jim Nicholson accused Clinton of having "shamelessly politicized and taken advantage of national tragedies" while ignoring the films, television programs and music videos Nicholson said are responsible for creating "a culture of death" among youthful Americans. Instead of using his office to combat the entertainment industry, Clinton has chosen to use the industry as a source of campaign cash, he said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 16, 2000

182ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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April 29, 2000, Saturday, AM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 107 words

HEADLINE: Nashville student headed to Washington for conference with president

DATELINE: NASHVILLE, Tenn.

BODY:

A Nashville teen-ager is headed to Washington to participate in a panel on youth issues to be hosted by President Clinton.

La Toya Gardner, 16, is one of 24 teens who will speak at the White House Conference on Teen-agers on Tuesday. The Maplewood Comprehensive High School junior was selected for her leadership in the Positive Teen Awareness Program at the YMCA.

Gardner will be on a panel with professors from Harvard, Stanford and the national president of the YMCA. She will deliver a four-minute speech about her YMCA program.

"To me, if I get too excited, I can't focus on the goal," Gardner said. "So, I'm suppressing."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 30, 2000

180TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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April 30, 2000

SECTION: Washington - general news

LENGTH: 1085 words

HEADLINE: WHITE HOUSE TO PROBE TEEN MIND

BYLINE: Bob Deans

BODY:
WASHINGTON - He's used the White House to try to broker peace in the fractious Mideast, ponder the secrets of the human genome and to ask some of the world's smartest economists how to keep the country's boom from going bust.

This week, though, President Clinton takes on a truly thorny issue: a day-long seminar to probe the inscrutable mind, and often baffling behavior, of the American teenager.

"Raising Responsible and Resourceful Youth," is the ambitious-sounding subtitle to Tuesday's White House conference on American teens, a subject only a second-term president might dare to survey.

The topic of one panel session alone "Who are today's teens and what do they need?" might well constitute the single most vexing question of the age, if not of all time.

Neither Clinton nor conference co-host First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton expects to solve the riddles of adolescence in a one-day session of cogitation and pontification from policymakers and experts huddled in the ornate confines of the East Room.

The idea is to cast a spotlight on the challenges faced by teens and their parents, particularly those trying to balance child rearing with the demands of the modern workplace.

"It's looking at the many issues that are raised to ultimately help give parents the tools they need, and the government the policies they need, to help promote successful family life, and balancing family life with the pressures that parents face in their workplace," said White House spokesman Joe Lockhart.

The conference is the brainchild of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who sees it as a follow-up to a similar session two years ago that focused on parenting and the workplace.

President Clinton is to present remarks kicking off the conference, and Mrs. Clinton is scheduled to moderate a pair of panels, including one entitled " What Parents and Communities Can Do to Raise Successful Teens."

The Clintons are both slated to leave the conference by midday. The president is booked to give a speech to South American officials gathering a few blocks away at the State Department, while Mrs. Clinton jets off to New York to press her bid for a U.S. Senate seat.

They will leave the teen conference in the hands of a slate of cabinet members including Education Secretary Richard Riley; Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala; and Labor Secretary Alexis Herman.

Also on the schedule are an array of academicians and social policy experts from around the country, as well as actors Danny DeVito and Rhea Perlman.

Clinton's Republican foes, who have criticized in the past the administration's proclivity for governance by seminar, were quick to fire off pot shots in advance of the teen conference.

"I guess it doesn't take a village to raise a child anymore," said Chris Paulitz, spokesman for Republican National Committee Chairman Jim Nicholson, teeing off on "It Takes a Village," the title of Mrs. Clinton's book on child rearing. "It takes a group of partisan Democrats and Hollywood moguls."

Paulitz said Americans have grown weary of White House lectures on family life.

"Bill and Hillary Clinton are in no means in a position to dictate how Americans raise their children," said Paulitz. "Republicans have always stood for family values and personal responsibility; the Democrats have always fought us on that at every turn and called our ideas on that extreme."

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Some 40 million Americans, nearly 15 percent of the population, are teens or pre-teens between the ages of 10 and 19.

Their impact, though, extends far beyond their numbers. Habits formed and behaviors practiced during those years help shape a person's adult life.

"Those teen years are so formative," said Ben Casey, who has worked with teens for 34 years and will deliver the keynote address at Tuesday's conference.

"Even though I'm 58 years old, I still see myself in teen images," said Casey, president of the YMCA of Dallas, Tx., which counts some 260,000 members from the metropolitan area.

If the teenage years help cast enduring self-images, they are also affected by a laundry list of society's ills. Any serious attempt to address crime, gun violence, drug abuse or poverty, for example, must consider the role of the nation's teenagers.

Tuesday's conference will include talks on preventing teen pregnancy,

preparing low-income teens for successful careers, dealing with teen homosexuality and improving classroom environment for middle schools and high schools.

There's a panel discussion scheduled on how television and the Internet are affecting the nation's youth, and, another entitled "Family Time: What can we do to make it easier for parents and teenagers to spend time together?"

Part of the answer, said Casey, is to turn off the television and get off the Internet.

"In today's world, we're all so fast-paced that we don't make the time for that other conversation - to talk about feelings and concerns and to create an atmosphere where the teenager can say that 'such and such happened the other day and I didn't know what to do,"' said Casey. "It is important that we make it a priority to have the time to listen and care."

Casey will release a survey Tuesday commissioned by the YMCA showing a yawning gap between how much time parents think they spend communicating with their teenagers, and the far different perceptions of teens themselves.

In short, parents tend to believe they're talking to their teens far more than teenagers themselves think.

In the survey - a nationwide telephone poll of 200 families conducted between April 11 and 20th - 64 percent of the parents questioned said they spent time with their teenagers discussing values. Only 41 percent of the teens, though, said they'd had such conversations.

Nearly 8 parents in 10 said they'd had serious conversations with their teens about sex; only 6 teens in 10 said they'd discussed the matter with their parents.

Instead, the teens said, when parents are available at all, conversation centers on the logistics of school, home chores and extra curricular activities.

That communications gap, said Casey, is a serious concern, one that will form the centerpiece of his address.

On the Web, information from the White House on the upcoming conference can be found at http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/New/html/20000420.html.

Bob Deans' e-mail address is BobDeans(at)Coxnews.com.

Story Filed By Cox Newspapers

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 1, 2000

181ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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April 30, 2000

SECTION: Washington - general news

LENGTH: 466 words

HEADLINE: BRAIN SCANS OF KIDS HELPED SHAPE WHITE HOUSE AGENDA With TEENS for release Monday, May 1

BYLINE: ANDREW MOLLISON

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:
Brain scans of more than 1,200 children and teens helped shape the agenda of the White House Conference on Teenagers, which will be Tuesday.

Since 1994, researchers at the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Md., have been using magnetic resonance imaging machines to take MRI snapshots of the brains of those volunteers at different ages.

"We already knew that the first two to three years of life are very important to brain development," said Dr. Jay Giedd, a psychiatrist for children and adolescents who is a leading member of the federal research team. "What we learned from the MRI scans is, so are the next 13."

In its early years, the brain grows rapidly, producing far more brain cells and connections than it needs. In a process that some researchers call " neural Darwinism," there is a competition for survival, in which only the the healthiest or strongest connections survive.

By the time a child enters first grade, that first surge of growth and pruning is over, and the average brain has reached 95 percent of its adult weight of about three pounds. That's why many educators stress the need to stimulate children's brains in the pre-school years.

"But when we scanned the brains of the same children every two years, we were shocked to find a second wave of overproduction that begins around age 9, " Giedd said.

The brain doesn't get bigger, but the gray matter, or thinking portion, of the brain thickens between that age and a peak at about 11 years in girls and 12 years in boys.

Then over the next few years, "the excess connections are eliminated or 'pruned', resulting in a thinning of the gray matter," he said.

The minimal significance, according to Giedd: "There are lots of biological changes in the way your brain is wired, long after the age of 3 or 5."

Giedd is one of several researchers who strongly suspect that the adolescent pruning process is based on the "use it or lose it" principle, in which those connections that are used are most likely to survive and flourish.

"If time is spent on academics or music, that is what the brain will be hard wired or optimized for," Giedd plans to tell teens at the White House conference. "Or, you can hard wire your brain for sports or video games."

"In my clinical work, I am struck by how many teens want to positively shape their own future," Giedd said. "A lot of them will accept that the years in which your brain is being sculpted for life is one time you wouldn't want drugs or alcohol to foul up the wiring of your brain."

On the Web, information from the National Institute of Mental Health on children and adolescents is at www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/childmenu.cfm.

Andrew Mollison's e-mail address is AndyM(at)Coxnews.com.

Story Filed By Cox Newspapers

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 1, 2000

163RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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May 1, 2000, Monday, AM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional; Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 683 words

HEADLINE: Group chided for survey in N.J. has role in national seminar on teens

BYLINE: By LAURENCE ARNOLD, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

A nonprofit research group that helped organize Tuesday's White House Conference on Teen-agers has raised the hackles of parents in some states for asking students detailed questions about sexual activity and drug use.

Three parents are suing the Ridgewood, N.J., school district for distributing the 156-question survey written by the Search Institute of Minneapolis. The survey asks youths how many times they have taken various illegal drugs, whether they have tried to kill themselves, and what protection they use if they are sexually active.

The Radford, Va., school board refused to allow the survey to be distributed in schools. Some Colorado Springs, Colo., parents objected to the survey as intrusive. So did some parents in the Middletown-Monroe school system in Ohio, who argued that questions about sexual protection should not be asked of adults, much less of children.

Peter Benson, the institute's president, was among about a dozen experts consulted by the White House in scheduling Tuesday's conference on "raising responsible and resourceful youth."

Benson will also speak at one of the afternoon sessions on the subject, "Closing the gap: How can we provide positive opportunities for all teen-agers?"

Benson said the vast majority of questions on the survey are designed to measure positive influences in a given neighborhood. The limited number of questions about sex and drugs, he said, are there because "these are the public health issues that have been framed in America for 20 or 30 years."

The Search Institute says more than 1 million students have taken the survey over the past 10 years, and the vast majority of communities have been happy

with the results.

"The purpose of the survey is really to understand young people's experiences of positive, healthy, productive things in their communities, in their lives, in their schools," said Marc Mannes, research director for the Search Institute.

Regarding the direct questions about sex, Mannes said, "Sexual activity is something that young people are engaging in, and we're trying to get honest and accurate information so communities can do best by young people."

In Ridgewood, though, some parents were horrified that their children were handed the survey in a classroom.

"It's one thing to take advantage of an adult, but it's another thing to take advantage of a child in a public school environment, a mandatory environment," said Frances Edwards, a mother of three children in the Ridgewood school system. "I find that insidious. Their survey exploits the child, the (person) they say they are trying to help."

Founded in 1958, the Search Institute initially focused on youths in religious settings. Though it still received money from the Lutheran Brotherhood, the institute calls itself nonsectarian, works primarily with public school districts and also received money from the federal government, the Ford Foundation and such corporate giants as Pillsbury and General Mills.

Most of the questions in the controversial survey help the institute pursue a program it calls "asset-building."

Under that philosophy, children need 40 "assets" or strengths, such as a B grade point average or better, caring neighbors and a sense of integrity, to become productive adults.

"The primary message we give to communities is that these 40 building blocks are extremely important," Benson said. "You know it, scientists know it, and too few of the kids in your community have these assets."

Benson said the institute has worked with 1,000 communities and found objections in perhaps 10 of them. Usually, he said, "People say 'Oh, I see the larger purpose of this work."'

But not everybody in Ridgewood was convinced.

On behalf of three families, the Rutherford Institute sued the school district, charging that parents were not fully informed about the survey before it was distributed to their children.

Ridgewood school superintendent Frederick Stokley said parents were given repeated notices throughout last year about the forthcoming survey, including letters home.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 2, 2000

165TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press

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May 1, 2000, Monday, AM cycle

SECTION: Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 418 words

HEADLINE: White House holds conference on raising teens

BYLINE: By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

A White House conference about teen-agers on Tuesday will highlight recent brain research that says preteen years are as important in setting patterns for adult behavior as the first three years of life.

A researcher, who says children's brains change dramatically in key areas into puberty, has been invited to the conference along with parents, teens, teachers, youth workers and others interested in finding ways to raise responsible and resourceful youth.

"Sometimes we give up on kids early and feel that they are already doomed for certain fates but from the biological perspective, there are still lots and lots of opportunities for change during the teen years," said Dr. Jay Giedd, a child psychiatrist at the National Institute of Mental Health who worked on the research.

Scientists had believed that brain development slowed after the first few years of life - that the brain was essentially organized by the time a child enters the first grade. The research, first published late last year and then in the March issue of the journal Nature, showed that in teen-agers up to age 15, there are peak growth rates in areas of the brain associated with language and associative thinking.

"There was this notion that so much of the brain development was done by 3 years old, and the rest didn't matter as much," Giedd said. "But the period when the environment of the brain matters a lot is really most of the time that kids are with their parents."

The conference also will address the changing demographics of today's youth, perceptions and realities about the role parents play in the lives of teen-age children and the risks and challenges faced by today's teens. Other topics

include the media's impact on youth and parenting and what parents, communities and young people can do to avoid risky behaviors.

"I think when we invite people in to share their expertise on important issues, it gives parents, it gives those who are taking care of - whether they be young people, whether they be teen-agers - some of the tools they need to succeed," White House press secretary Joe Lockhart said Monday.

President Clinton plans to speak at the conference. First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton also will moderate two morning sessions. Afternoon panels will be about community support of teens, how to make it easier for teens and parents to spend time together and making positive opportunities accessible to all teens.

On the Net:

The White House: http://www.whitehouse.gov

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 2, 2000

107TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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May 2, 2000, Tuesday

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 283 words

HEADLINE: US teens want more time with parents, rarely dine together: poll

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, May 2

BODY:

While US teenagers say they want more time with their parents, most families spend barely over an hour a day together and have significant communication gaps, according to a poll out Tuesday.

Many Americans rarely eat dinner together and most parents underestimate the amount of time their kids spend in front of the television, according to a Young Men's Christian Association survey sponsored by the White House.

While 61 percent of the parents surveyed with their 12-15 year-olds said they talk frequently with their teens about sex, drugs, alcohol and violence, only 41 percent of the kids reported such conversations.

And while 62 percent of the parents said their children shared their views, only 46 percent of the teens agreed.

Education and inadequate family time topped the teens' list of concerns, while parents cited alcohol and drug abuse as their biggest worries, according to the telephone survey of 200 teens and 200 parents conducted April 11-20.

Most families spend only 80 minutes a day together and parents eat no more than four meals a week with their children, the poll found.

Only 12 percent of parents believe their kids spend most of their free time watching television while 20 percent of the teens confessed it was their main pastime.

US President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary were hosting a conference on teenagers to discuss the findings and search for ways to keep kids in school and out of trouble.

The study and the event were prompted by growing concerns about troubled teens and the wave of school shootings as well as by new research finding that the brain goes through a critical developmental stage just before puberty.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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The Associated Press

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May 2, 2000, Tuesday, AM cycle

SECTION: Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 530 words

HEADLINE: White House holds conference on raising teens

BYLINE: By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Parenting teens is just as important as holding down a government job, President Clinton said Tuesday in signing an executive order prohibiting discrimination against parents in the federal workplace.

"Believe it or not, there are still some employers who are reluctant to hire or to promote employees who have children at home," Clinton said at a White House conference on raising and mentoring responsible teens.

"The goal of this order simply says no glass ceiling for parents," Clinton said.

The order ensures that workers are not discriminated against simply because they are parents. It applies only to federal workers and does not require approval from Congress.

"The job they're doing at home is more important anyway, and if they can do your job, you ought not to stop them," Clinton said to employers of parents.

Parents, teens, teachers, youth workers and others attended the daylong conference, which was moderated by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. Topics included what parents and communities can do to help teens succeed, how parents can spend more time with their teens, and the media's effect on youth and parenting.

Today's teens aren't different, society is, Mrs. Clinton said.

"Rather than trying to make our kids somehow adapt, we should be thinking about ways that our institutions can change and be more supportive of our own kids and provide what our children have always needed - the kind of connectedness and support and love and discipline that every young person really

wants and needs from us."

She announced an Internet site for teen-agers (http://www.americasteens.gov) to help them with homework, hobbies and careers. The site is being developed by 17 federal agencies. In addition, she announced that another site will be created where parents can find information about current media ratings systems.

Republican National Committee spokesman Chris Paulitz complained that the conference relied heavily on liberal-minded panelists. Mrs. Clinton "used to say it takes a village to raise a child," Paulitz said. "Now all it takes is partisan Democrats and Hollywood moguls."

Actor and producer Danny DeVito, father of two teens and a 12-year-old, and his wife, actress Rhea Perlman, spoke in the East Room of the White House about successful after school initiatives in Los Angeles.

"We have to listen to kids," DeVito said. "There are so many things going through their heads. They're confused. They're mad, or sad. What do they do if they don't have anybody who they can trust or turn to?"

But just being at home doesn't mean parents are emotionally involved with their teens, said Dr. Robert Blum, director of general pediatrics and adolescent health at the University of Minnesota. Going shopping or tossing a football does not bond parents and teens, he said.

"I challenge adults to include us, encourage us, have faith in youth of all ages," said Gabriella Contreras, a 14-year-old activist in Tuscon, Ariz. "Volunteer with us to make a difference in our community, to enable us to have a voice ... or just get involved with our daily lives."

On the Net:

The White House: http://www.whitehouse.gov

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 3, 2000

125TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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May 2, 2000

SECTION: Washington - general news

LENGTH: 715 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON BARS FEDERAL JOB DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PARENTS 360&add.

BYLINE: ANDREW MOLLISON

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:
President Clinton issued a ban Tuesday on employment discrimination against parents by the federal government.

"Believe it or not, there are still some employers who are reluctant to hire or promote employees who have children at home," Clinton said at the White House Conference on Teenagers.

At the day-long meeting, experts, parents and teens spent much of their time discussing ways for busy parents to keep close relationships with busy adolescents.

"If it's tough to be a teenager today, it's probably tougher to be a parent, " said first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. "More and more parents are working outside their homes (and) struggling to do right by their families and their jobs."

The president said his executive order sends those who recruit, refer, hire, promote or discharge federal employees this message: "No glass ceiling for parents. The job they are doing at home is more important anyway, and if they can do your job, you ought not to stop them."

While he ordered the Office of Personnel Management to set guidelines for federal agencies, he stipulated that his order sets a goal, rather than giving anyone the right to sue the federal government.

His order, which doesn't require congressional approval, is based on a much stronger bill that would give parents the right to sue public or private employers who discriminate against them. Congress has yet to act on the bill, which was proposed by Clinton in January 1999 and introduced on his behalf in November by Sens. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., and Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

"It is about eliminating bias, not about guaranteeing accommodation," said Dodd, who emphasized that parents would still have to fill any job performance requirements.

"Thus, an employer may discipline an employee who is late because of child-

care issues," Dodd said. "Similarly, an employer may reject an applicant for a job that requires extensive travel if that applicant is unwilling to travel because of his or her responsibilities."
(Story can end here. Optional add follows)

At the teen conference, which included a three-hour discussion led by Mrs. Clinton in the East Room of the White House, the more than 200 participants learned of several new polls and studies concerning teens.

Many were intrigued by a contrast between answers of 200 parents and of 200 children aged 12 to 15 in a poll (with a margin of error of plus or minus seven percentage points) that was conducted in April for the YMCA of the USA:

_ A strong 61 percent of the parents, but only 41 percent of the children, said they talk frequently with each other about values and beliefs.

_ The top concerns listed by parents about their teens were drugs, alcohol and violence, but the top concerns listed by the children were education and " not having enough time together" with parents.

_ While 78 percent of the children said they ate eight or more meals with at least one of their parents during a normal week, only 61 percent of the parents said they ate that many meals with their teens.

Another study by Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers found that teenagers who had dinner with their parent or parents five nights a week were more likely than other teens to avoid smoking, drinking, violence, suicide and drugs.

The council reported that it couldn't tell whether sharing family meals helps teens avoid risk, or whether risk-taking teens avoid family meals.

The emotional and physical health of children is affected not so much by the amount of time parents spend with their teenagers as by the teens' perceptions of the warmth and closeness of their relationship with their parents, according to research cited by Robert Blum, an adolescent health researcher at the University of Minnesota.

Ellen Galinsky, president and co-founder of the Families and Work Institute, said that in her surveys of the children of working parents, "Kids said they wish their parents were less stressed and less tired."

But, in her surveys of employers, she found, "Unfortunately, only 12 percent are doing something specifically to help the parents of teenagers."

On the Web: New federal site for teens, www.americasteens.gov; White House, www.whitehouse.gov.

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ENDIT

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 3, 2000

152ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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United Press International

May 2, 2000, Tuesday

SECTION: GENERAL NEWS

LENGTH: 558 words

HEADLINE: Clintons convene conference on teens

BYLINE: By LORI SANTOS

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, May 2

BODY:

President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton convened a White House conference on teens Tuesday, addressing issues facing parents and young people under today's added pressures of the work place and the Internet, along with the more traditional problems.

As part of the day's events, Clinton signed an executive order barring discrimination against parents in the federal workplace. The order mirrors legislation pending on Capitol Hill and prohibits employers in the executive branch from acting on assumptions that parents cannot satisfy the requirements of a particular position.

"The goal of this order simply says, 'no glass ceiling for parents,'" Clinton said in the opening session. "The job they are doing at home is more important anyway."

Clinton adviser Bruce Reed said the executive action does "for the federal workplace what we would like Congress to do for the country."

He said, for example, a candidate for a job or promotion cannot be penalized for having to be home by 6 p.m.

The Clintons also released two studies as part of the first-ever conference, one a report by the president's Council of Economic Advisors that concluded teenagers whose parents are engaged and involved in their lives are more likely to excel in school and avoid risk behaviors.

A YMCA poll found that parents are most anxious about drug and alcohol use and violence while teens are most concerned about "not having enough time together" with their parents, and their education.

"The good news is that the teenagers are far healthier, more prosperous and look forward to more promising lives than ever before in our history," Clinton said, citing declines in youth violence, homicide, suicide, pregnancy and drug use.

The down side, he said, was teen smoking, drug use and gun violence "are

still far too high."

One startling finding, Clinton said, was that teenagers who have dinner with their parents five nights a week are far more likely to avoid smoking, drinking, violence, suicide and drugs. The first lady said she and the president had tried to do just that every evening with their daughter Chelsea, now 20 and a junior at Stanford University. The three would eat together in the small kitchen of the private quarters upstairs in the White House and the Clintons even avoided going out much or to the Camp David presidential retreat to be around for their daughter.

"All of us are here because we believe there is no group of Americans more full of promise or potential," Hillary Clinton said. "But we also believe there is no group of Americans more in need of the support, guidance and committed efforts of all of than today's teenagers."

The public proceedings, however, broke little new ground, focusing instead on rather standard prescriptions for parents to keep lines of communication open, spend more time with their teenagers and monitor what movies they watch and their use of the Internet.

One teen who took part in the conference, 14-year-old Gabriella Contreros, said she thought it would be helpful if families could eat dinner together every night but some, like her own, are split up and often work late in the evening.

Contreros, an 8th grader from Tuscon, Ariz., said the discussions put little out there she hadn't heard before.

"Being a teenager, I kind of knew a lot of it," she said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 3, 2000

157TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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May 2, 2000, Tuesday

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; SCIENCE, CULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH

LENGTH: 210 words

HEADLINE: White House Holds Teenagers Conference

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, May 2

BODY:

U.S. President Bill Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Tuesday hosted a conference at the White House on helping families raise "responsible, resourceful" teenagers.

At the session, Clinton ordered a ban on discrimination against parents in the federal work force out of concern that home life will affect their work.

"Believe it or not, there are still some employers who are reluctant to hire or promote employees who have children at home," Clinton said at the session.

"The job they are doing at home is more important," he said, adding that communication and family togetherness are crucial factors in raising responsible, happy teenagers.

Clinton also called for expanding family-leave legislation and increasing funding for after-school programs.

The conference, the first of its kind, was attended by parents, teens, teachers, youth workers and others. The participants called for more government steps to help parents and teens.

"Parents are still the most important adults in their teenagers ' lives," said first lady Hillary.

New research showed that early teen-age years are a crucial step in brain development.

U.S. teenagers are facing major challenges of smoking, drug use, pregnancy and gun violence.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 4, 2000

68TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 BPI Communication, Inc.
BPI Entertainment News Wire

May 3, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: Entertainment News

LENGTH: 713 words

HEADLINE: Clintons on ratings offensive

BYLINE: By BROOKS BOLIEK, The Hollywood Reporter

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

During a White House conference about teenagers Tuesday, the president and first lady criticized the plethora of ratings systems that have developed for different media as a confusing mess.

"I try to sort it all out, but when I see it, it's like you need a dictionary to sort to all out," President Clinton told a packed crowd in the ornate East Room.

Hillary Rodham Clinton argued that a "unified" ratings system, an idea that she broached during her U.S. Senate campaign in New York, is necessary to help parents control their children's access to a "pop culture filled with gratuitous sex and violence."

"Parents are concerned about the movies their kids are seeing, the Web sites they're visiting and the music they listen to," she said.

The first lady announced a presidential task force to develop Internet portals that will help parents navigate the new media. She said the task force will create a Web site that will explain the various ratings systems.

"This is only a temporary step," she said. "Let's create a unified ratings system so parents can decide what's appropriate for their children to see."

Lawmakers jumped to accommodate her wishes. Senators John McCain, R-Ariz., and Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., introduced legislation Tuesday that would require a uniform labeling system for all movies, video games and music products. It would modify the cigarette labeling law to include entertainment.

"The producers of these products have a moral obligation to inform consumers of violent content," said McCain, who chairs the Senate Commerce Committee. "What this legislation does is impose a legal requirement to do so."

Under the McCain-Lieberman bill, the entertainment industry would have six months to develop a unified violence rating system for video games, video programs, motion pictures and sound recordings. The Federal Trade Commission would have authority to "accept, reject or modify" the system.

"A similar-type bill was overwhelmingly defeated in the House," Motion Picture Association of America chief Jack Valenti said. "Movies are not cigarettes, and to equate First Amendment-protected intellectual property with cigarettes is a bit bizarre. Moreover, mandating the FTC to be the final arbiter on ratings and labels is a dangerous move toward government intrusion into freedom of speech and expression. Americans who honor the Bill of Rights will be dismayed by this proposed bill."

Parents, teens, teachers, youth workers and others were invited to the daylong conference to discuss ways to raise and mentor responsible and resourceful youth.

The first lady said the proliferation of cable and satellite TV, new broadcast networks and the rise of the Internet have made it more difficult for parents to control what their children watch, hear and read than when she was a girl battling with her siblings over which show to watch on one of the three networks.

Entertainment industry executives in Washington were nonplused by the Clintons' appeal.

"I'm in full agreement with the goals of the White House conference," said Valenti, inventor of the movie and TV ratings systems. "Anything that gives parents more information and guidance to help them monitor the values of their children is something we want to be part of."

Industry executives say they have no plans to build a one-size-fits-all content ratings system.

The conference also was highlighting recent brain research that says the preteen years are as important as the first three years of life in setting patterns for adult behavior.

Scientists had believed that brain development slowed after the first few years of life -- that the brain was essentially organized by the time a child enters the first grade. The research, first published last year and then in the March issue of the journal Nature, showed that in adolescents up to age 15, there are peak growth rates in areas of the brain associated with language and associative thinking.

"Sometimes we give up on kids early and feel that they are already doomed for certain fates," said Dr. Jay Giedd, a National Institute of Mental Health child psychiatrist who worked on the research. "But from the biological perspective, there are still lots and lots of opportunities for change during the teen years.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 4, 2000

76TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 Gannett Company, Inc.
Gannett News Service

May 03, 2000, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: Pg. ARC

LENGTH: 587 words

HEADLINE: Clintons stress quality time for parents, teens

BYLINE: SERGIO BUSTOS; Gannett News Service

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- The nation's first couple Tuesday urged parents to spend more time with their teen-age children, citing a national poll that found a significant number of families share few meals together and that parents and children seldom talk about sensitive subjects as sex, dating, drugs or alcohol.

The poll was released as part of a daylong White House conference exploring the pressure-filled lives of teen-agers and their parents.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, taking a break from her New York Senate campaign, led the discussion that included educators, members of Congress, and parents and teen-agers from across the country.

"If you ask teens and you listen to teens, you can hear, directly and indirectly, their voices telling us that growing up today feels tougher than ever before," Clinton said. "I happen to think that's right."

"And if it's tough to be a teen-ager today, it's probably even tougher to be a parent," she said.

President Clinton, whom the first lady introduced as "my co-parent," used the conference to announce he had signed an executive order that prohibits discrimination against working parents employed by the federal government.

"The goal of this order simply says, no glass ceiling for parents," said Clinton. "The job they're doing at home is more important, anyway, and if they can do your job, you ought not to stop them."

The conference, "Raising Responsible and Resourceful Youth," included sessions that examined such topics as how the news media influence youth and how communities can better support parents and teen-agers.

Carole Morris, a registered nurse and the founder and CEO of the Mount Vernon, N.Y., Neighborhood Health Center, was among the experts invited to the White House to talk about raising healthy teen-agers. Morris, who was chairman of the National Association of Community Health Centers, is also president of Community Choice Health Plan of Westchester, a Medicaid managed care plan.

The national poll, conducted by the YMCA of the USA, surveyed 200 children age 12-15 and 200 parents of children in the same age range by telephone, and found stark differences between the two generations.

Among the findings:

-- Teens are three times more likely than their parents to say that "not having enough time together" is their biggest concern. Family time tied with education as the top priorities of teens.

-- Parents are far more concerned by outside threats such as drugs and alcohol than they are about family time. Quality time ranks fourth among parents' concerns.

-- About 36 percent of parents reported that their teens spend most of their free time in front of a computer or television screen. Almost one in three teens agreed.

-- 34 percent of both parents and teen-agers blame parents' workload as the main reason families don't spend more time together.

-- As teens get older, parents talk to them less about sex. Only one in six 15-year-olds surveyed reported talking to their parents about sex.

-- Only three in 10 teens said their parents discussed drugs or alcohol with them.

-- While most parents (64 percent) believe their teen-age children share the same basic values, less than half of the teen-agers (48 percent) agreed with their parents' values.

For more information about the White House Conference on Teenagers: Raising Responsible and Resourceful Youth, visit the White House Web site: www.whitehouse.gov

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 04, 2000

37TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 Scripps Howard, Inc.
Scripps Howard News Service

May 08, 2000, Monday

SECTION: COMMENTARY

LENGTH: 705 words

HEADLINE: Bill and Hillary to the rescue

SOURCE: Scripps Howard News Service

BYLINE: SCOTT FORBES

BODY:

How did my parents do it?

How could they possibly have been so loving and caring to three kids? How could their house have been a good place for their three children to go through those tumultuous teenage years? How could my parents have taught high moral character to two of their kids (I missed that lesson) and a firm sense of responsibility to all three kids while they were both so busy working and volunteering and conducting an active social life?

I certainly don't know how they could do it all without the help of Bill and Hillary Clinton.

In what may be the most transparently phony photo op ever foisted upon the American public by a couple of politicians, our transparently phony First Couple held a conference last week on raising teens. Obviously, they are the acknowledged experts, having raised one more teenager than I have.

In spite of the transparency and phoniness, lots of people are glad this conference took place. My friends Kurt and Connie had a baby last fall and they've been petrified at the prospect of raising their young son through his teenage years without the help of a state-sponsored how-to guide.

Tuesday's conference quelled their fears and they're now confident that such a guide will be available when they need it.

My sister's two boys will be teenagers in a few short years and the thought of facing such a prospect without the help of the Clintons had her in a cold sweat. She's feeling much better now, though, after hearing deep thoughts from luminaries like White House spokesflak Joe Lockhart, who stated the conference aimed to give parents and teens "some of the tools they need to succeed."

It might be a shocking revelation to some, but parents have been successfully raising teenagers for generations without the help of the Clintons. My parents, for instance, did a fabulous job of helping their kids through the difficult teenage years. And to the best of my knowledge, they never once called The White House for help.

Of course, the Clintons would probably disagree that Mr. and Mrs. Forbes did a good job: Two of my parents' three teenagers developed an annoying tendency to vote Republican once they became adults.

So was there a point to this conference on raising teenagers? Did anything of any consequence come out of it? No. It did nothing but supply the Clintons with another platform upon which to spout their big-government message and show the world they care.

Of course, it's easy to care when you're doing that caring with someone else's money. For instance, the president released a report from his Council of Economic Advisors that highlighted the importance of parents spending time with and listening to their children.

Did we really need an entire wing of the Executive Branch to learn that? Perhaps we can enlist the Department of Defense to double-check their findings.

In what's got to be a Pavlov's Dog-like reflex for him whenever he's got the floor, Clinton went on to announce a laundry list of costly executive decrees that includes the expansion of family-leave legislation and increased funding for after-school activities.

This is a great political ploy and it's a perfect example of how, these days, emotion triumphs over common sense. The president shows he cares and understands the difficulty people have spending time with their families these days. The president implies that, left to him and the federal government, the problem will be solved. The unspoken truth is that his ideas cost more money and invite more federal government control into aspects of our lives where the federal government should not be.

But until someone stops it, the cycle initiated by this federal power grab will continue. Parents will both work to pay the ever-increasing tax bite on their income, food and possessions. More and more of those tax dollars will go toward propping up the continually failing public schools that their teenagers attend. So the parents work harder (and generate more tax dollars) to pay for their teenagers to attend private school and then parents and teens alike discover a long-forgotten, but worthwhile after-school program.

It's called homework.

(Scott Forbes is a freelance writer living in Denver.)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 8, 2000

Clinton Presidential Records
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Magazines

Divider Title:_____

78TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 BPI Communications, Inc.
The Hollywood Reporter

May 03, 2000

LENGTH: 712 words

HEADLINE: Clintons on ratings offensive
'Unified' system urged; task force launched to assist parents

BYLINE: Brooks Boliek

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

During a White House conference about teenagers Tuesday, the president and first lady criticized the plethora of ratings systems that have developed for different media as a confusing mess.

"I try to sort it all out, but when I see it, it's like you need a dictionary to sort to all out," President Clinton told a packed crowd in the ornate East Room.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 03, 2000

87TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 Microsoft Corporation
Slate Magazine

May 3, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: Today's Papers

LENGTH: 1102 words

HEADLINE: The Pop and Momintern

BYLINE: Scott Shuger

BODY:

USA Today leads with President Clinton's signing yesterday of an executive order banning discrimination against parents in the federal workplace, which came at a White House conference on raising teen-agers that also recommended regular family meals together, chores for kids, and flextime for parents of teen-agers as well as for new parents. The Los Angeles Times leads with Time Warner's decision yesterday to relent and give its cable subscribers access once again to ABC programming--at least until July 15. Yet, notes the LAT, Disney refused to drop the issues of market control that it had raised at the outset of the flap. Indeed, yesterday for the first time Disney called for the government to block TW's proposed sale to AOL, and a top Disney executive referred to TW's "monopoly pipeline." The New York Times goes with a Republican Party commission's recommendations that presidential primary voting start with small states only and then progressively proceed to larger and larger ones so that the races aren't decided until the biggest states vote in early June. The plan would also combat early pre-emptive outcomes by banning winner-take-all primaries. The Washington Post leads with a number of new regulations governing genetically modified food, which will result in more research as well as more disclosure to the government and consumers about such foods as corn that makes its own insecticide and salmon with fast-growth genes. The story quote one senior Clinton administration official's context for the new rules: that while bioengineered food is as safe as its non-engineered counterparts, the public could use some reassurance on this point. With the exception of Time Warner/ABC, which is fronted by the NYT and the WP, everybody's lead is absent from everybody else's front.

The WP and NYT inside stories on President Clinton's executive order basically just mention it without elaboration. But even the USAT lead leaves a crucial question unexplored: Is it discrimination against a working parent who goes home promptly at 5 and never works weekends if a company allocates its biggest rewards of money and power to those whose accomplishments come from effort expended after-hours and on weekends? Also, the coverage notes that a similar Clinton-supported ban on parental discrimination in private sector workplaces has been bottled up in Congress, which raises another question the papers don't answer but should: What are the limits of executive orders?

The WP front reports federal officials' charge that although one of a Tufts University scientist's research subjects died of a heart attack after having a gene infusion in her heart and another who shouldn't have been in the study

because of a pre-existing cancer having a lung tumor rapidly double in size, the scientist did not reveal anything to supervisors. Months later, he reported the complications but not the death. The story scatters time references around in a way that makes it hard to recognize that the Tufts death took place before the death last fall of a teen-ager participating in a University of Pennsylvania gene therapy experiment.

The NYT and the Wall Street Journal report that the publisher of the Hearst paper the San Francisco Examiner was removed yesterday after he admitted that he'd offered San Francisco's mayor favorable editorials in return for his support of Hearst's purchase of its competition, the San Francisco Chronicle. This had been previously denied in Hearst press releases and by the Examiner's executive editor, Phil Bronstein (the NYT doesn't mention who he's married to, but the Journal identifies him as "Mr. Sharon Stone"). The Journal makes the point that if true, the episode takes a chunk out of the theory that editorials don't matter to anybody.

Unfortunately, some of the biggest helpers of that theory are writers of ... editorials. Witness today's lead LAT editorial on Time Warner/ABC. Under the hortatory headline, "CLEAR THE CABLE STATIC," the effort stresses that the interest that must be served in the controversy is not that of TW or of ABC, but of the public, and yet never says in two full columns anything about what that interest is nor how it should be served.

The WP runs an op-ed on the current vogue for limited missile defense, asking, among other things, how would such a system meet an attack of aluminum-coated balloons only some of which contain nuclear warheads. If there are more balloons than system interceptors, then at least one nuke gets through. (To make the example seem more tactical, make that aluminum-coated multiple warheads coming Hydra-like from an opening missile nose cone.) And a letter to the NYT notes that American negotiators have been trying to persuade the Russians on the advisability of the U.S. adopting a missile defense system by pointing out to them that the U.S. system couldn't handle an "annihilating counterattack" (see WP example above), which is possible as long as Russia keeps its strategic arsenal on constant alert. In other words, marvels the letter writer, the U.S. system works if the Russians increase their number of warheads trained on the United States!

The WP's Howard Kurtz does a long takeout on new media's next new, new thing, Powerful Media, which hopes to be a journaltainment Web site media players will have to have. Kurtz one-hands and on-the-other-hands in the usual way, but one thing he doesn't do is give the Web address. (Even if the site isn't up yet, doesn't anybody know where it will be?) This is like reviewing a play but not saying where the theater is.

The WP reports that yesterday, 10 black current and former Secret Service agents filed a federal class-action lawsuit alleging the service's systematic racial discrimination in hiring and promotion. Surely this rates higher placement than Page 21!

The NYT's Maureen Dowd runs a clever riff showing a stunning isomorphism between Bill Gates and Bill Clinton. Her sharpest parallel: "When you look at the alternatives, these guys start to look pretty good."

Today's Papers confesses to a frisson upon first seeing that the Michael Kelly column in the WP was headlined "Some Closing Thoughts." But TP was quickly brought down by: a) the realization that this is not Kelly's last column, but only one about his closing on his new house; and b) that this is yet another column in which a boomer stuns us with domestic insights like buying a house is expensive. Now we know why Kelly has zero feeling for Bill Clinton. He's spent it all on himself.

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For more political news, go to Slate's Politics page.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 4, 2000

48TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The Economist

May 06, 2000 , U.S. Edition

SECTION: Parenting

LENGTH: 647 words

HEADLINE: Comedy, cont'd

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, DC

BODY:

HAVING put in a magnificent performance as a stand-up comic at the weekend's White House correspondents' dinner, Bill Clinton was back on deadly serious form on May 2nd, tackling two of America's most worrying problems: the glass ceiling that prevents parents from rising to the top at work, and the difficulty of raising teenagers.

You could almost hear that terrible ceiling crack as Mr Clinton issued his executive order banning federal employers from denying people jobs or promotions because of their parental obligations. All those honest folk who once had to make a choice between climbing the greasy pole or weaning their daughters off Black Sabbath will now be able to get the best of both worlds -- and sue if anybody tries to stop them. "We wanted to send a clear signal to employers that there is nothing wrong with being a parent," said Bruce Reed, the president's chief domestic policy adviser, in one of the bravest speeches of his career.

There were nevertheless two big disappointments. First, the private sector is still dead set against parental rights, on the extraordinary grounds that it "targets a non-existent problem" and creates yet more opportunities for frivolous lawsuits. It might be a little harsh to say that this is part of the conspiracy of the childless to preserve their control of corporate America. But it is worth noting that, in a recent survey of the heads of America's biggest companies, exclusive to The Economist, only 10% reported having any kids "that they know of".

The second problem is an all-too-familiar one with the Clinton White House: vagueness. Mr Clinton made his attack on discrimination at a conference attended by many of the country's leading experts on raising teenagers. The experts came up with some superb solutions to the teenage problem, but the White House (recently free of its own teenager) failed to back them up.

The conference recommended that families should "break bread together". A Council of Economic Advisers report found that teenagers who dine regularly with their parents are less likely to become involved with alcohol, drugs, violence or sex (no, we are not making that up). But what sort of bread should they break? What is the optimum combination of foods to promote healthy teenage growth? Should they eat fish on Friday and roast beef on Sunday? And, if so, what options should be provided for the inevitable sulking vegetarians?

The White House was also worryingly silent on how to prevent women from bearing a disproportionate share of the burden of preparing all these family meals. Should the government offer tax credits so that more men can learn to cook? Or should it issue an executive order mandating that men must do all the table-laying and dishwashing?

Similarly, the conference recommended that parents should give their children more chores, on the grounds that these help them be "effective, contributing members of our society". But parents should be careful how often they ask their teenagers to take out the rubbish or pick up their clothes from the floor, since federal regulations are strict about hours worked without compensation.

The last recommendation is the most dangerously vague of all: that employers should provide flexitime for all parents who have teenagers living at home. But how do we know that these parents will use their flexitime wisely? There are grounds for thinking that at least some of them will spend their time vegetating on the couch in front of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer", with or without their teenage progeny, rather than offering counselling on the evils of sex, drink and drugs.

The ideal solution, from all sorts of perspectives, might be to recruit a corps of people who can report, discreetly of course, on whether people are using their "parenting time" wisely. Mr Clinton would make an ideal chief family monitor.

GRAPHIC: graphic, no caption

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 4, 2000

36TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 Newsweek
Newsweek

May 8, 2000, U.S. Edition

SECTION: SPECIAL REPORT; Pg. 75

LENGTH: 844 words

HEADLINE: Parenting a Teen...

BYLINE: By Hillary Rodham Clinton

HIGHLIGHT:
...is a tough job. The First Lady tells what she learned, and how a White House Conference can help others.

BODY:

A few months ago, Bill and I graduated from being the parents of a teenager to being the parents of a young adult. Chelsea turned 20 in February. We look at this life passage with mixed emotions--pride at our daughter's accomplishments; wistfulness about how quickly it has all happened; and most of all, gratitude for Chelsea's safe transition to adulthood. We know we are very fortunate.

This week, the President and I will be holding a White House Conference on Teenagers. We'll be joining other parents, teenagers and experts to talk about how we can all work together to help families navigate this critical period in their lives.

Why a Conference, and why now? Well, ask any teen: growing up today feels tougher than ever. While the cases may be extreme, the tragedies at Columbine High School last spring, and just recently at the National Zoo, are chilling reminders of the stress, alienation and violence that can overwhelm a troubled teen. And if it's tough to be a teen these days, it's even tougher to be a parent. More and more parents are working outside the home, and struggling every day to meet their responsibilities. Parents tell me they worry that all their best efforts to create a world of love and support at home might be useless, when our popular culture continues to depict a world of gratuitous sex and violence. They're worried about their teens' choices, how the bright future they envisioned for them can disappear with a single bad decision to drink, to try drugs, to trust the wrong person.

One theme we will be discussing at the Conference is the critical role parents can--and should--play in their teenagers' lives. What parent of a teenager hasn't felt that pang when a child who once couldn't be pried out of his mother's lap is now embarrassed to be in the same room with her? But studies are showing that for all their protest and swagger, teenagers need--and want--the everyday love, involvement and discipline of their parents.

Sometimes, even modest efforts to reach out to your teenager can make a tremendous difference. When Chelsea had to stay up all night adding footnotes to a research paper in high school, she appreciated our willingness to stay up with

her, even though we were useless when her computer became temperamental. When she became a vegetarian, the three of us bought vegetarian cookbooks. When she was getting ready for college, we went shopping for extra-long sheets, shower caddies and all those other necessities of dorm life.

I believe that one of the biggest casualties of modern life--of fast food, TV and more stressful days at work for parents--has been family time, the time during meals, for instance, when parents and children can check in with each other. Before Chelsea left for college, she, Bill and I made it a priority to share at least one meal together every day. That half-hour in the small kitchen of our private quarters of the White House was always my favorite part of the day.

Now, with three thousand miles between us, the three of us try to talk on the phone as often as possible. Of course, it isn't quite the same. You can't always count on a busy college junior to be in her room when you call. And chatting across a continent is nothing like chatting across a dinner table. You can't watch your daughter's eyes light up as she describes an interesting lecture or a fun activity. But one thing remains the same. Chelsea knows that whenever she needs to talk, to ask for advice or just to say hello, we will always be available and eager to listen.

We hope that the White House Conference will help more parents remain involved in their teenagers' lives. Three years ago, we held the first-ever White House Conference on Early Learning to raise awareness about the new research showing the critical brain development that takes place during the first three years of life. Now scientists are beginning to learn that the brain goes through another--equally crucial--growth spurt during the early teenage years. We hope to help more parents use this still-evolving research to make the most of their relationships with their teens.

Most of all, we hope the Conference will inspire all Americans to take concrete steps to give working parents the tools they need to stay active and involved in their teenagers' lives. I urge lawmakers to extend the Family and Medical Leave Act so that parents can take the time they need to take their children to the doctor, or to attend teacher conferences and other activities. Businesses can do their part by giving parents flexible work schedules. The entertainment industry can develop a voluntary uniform ratings system, and technology companies can devise programs to help parents supervise what their teens see on TV, at the movies and on the Internet.

The time between childhood and adulthood is pivotal. The choices teens make, the values they adopt now can determine whether they become happy and productive citizens. Together we can help them to make choices that are good for them, and for all of us.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Together: With Chelsea in Jordan last fall

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 3, 2000

11TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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Jet

May 22, 2000

SECTION: FAMILY; Pg. 34

LENGTH: 1590 words

HEADLINE: President Clinton And First Lady Give Advice On How To Parent Teens

BODY:

Parents must spend more time with their teenage children, advised President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton during a recent White House conference on today's teens.

During the day-long conference, the Clintons gave advice on how to parent teens.

"If you ask teens and you listen to teens, you can hear directly and indirectly their voices telling us that growing up today feels tougher than ever before," said Mrs. Clinton, who hosted the conference. "I happen to think they are right."

Mrs. Clinton continued, "And if it's tough to be a teenager today, it's probably even tougher to be a parent. More and more parents are working outside our homes; they're struggling to do right by their families and their jobs. And I have met so many mothers and fathers who tell me that they just feel inadequate and anxious about navigating those teenage years -- moreso than they certainly felt when their kids were younger." Parents, teens, teachers, youth workers experts and others attended the conference. Topics included what parents and communities can do to help teens succeed, how parents can spend more time with their teens and the media's effect on youth and parenting.

Mrs. Clinton said, "All of us are here because we believe there is no group of Americans more full of promise or potential. But we also believe there is no group of Americans more in need of the support, guidance and committed efforts of all of us than today's teenagers."

During the conference, President Clinton announced he had signed an executive order prohibiting discrimination against parents in the federal workplace.

"Believe it or not, there are still some employers who are reluctant to hire or to promote employees who have children at home," President Clinton said.

"The goal of this order simply says no glass ceiling for parents," he added.

The order ensures that workers are not discriminated against simply because they are parents. It applies only to federal workers and does not require approval from Congress.

"The job they're doing at home is more important anyway, and if they can do

your job, you ought not to stop them," Clinton said to employers of parents.

The first lady acknowledged the challenges and fears of parenting a teenager. "We're all worried about the choices our teenagers make, about how the best-laid plans for a bright future can disintegrate with a single bad decision to drink, to try drugs, to drive too fast, to trust the wrong person."

She added, "Parents are worried about the movies their children are seeing, the web sites they're visiting, the music they're listening to. And there's a lot of worry that all those heart-to-heart talks and those efforts to communicate, which are sometimes so awkward and difficult, about values and good behavior are getting drowned out by a popular culture filled with gratuitous sex and violence."

The Clintons cited a national poll conducted by the YMCA of the USA released at the conference. The poll reported a great number of families only eat a few meals together and that parents and teens very seldom discuss sex, dating, using drugs or drinking alcohol.

The Clintons urged parents to try to find the time to spend with their children.

Mrs. Clinton said, "I remember the very wise advice I got from a friend of mine when my daughter was very small and she was raising three teenagers. And she said, 'You know, the two times in a child's life that seems most similar to me are those toddler years and the teenage years. It's when we need to give so much more attention to our children . . . But I remembered that so often during the times when our young daughter was growing up -- that even if your teenager or your preteen doesn't want you following her or him around, in many ways -- think of that toddler metaphor -- they need you around. And it's hard for a lot of parents to figure out exactly how to do that."

Mrs. Clinton stressed that teenagers "need the guidance and support of their parents more than ever."

She noted, "It is still difficult for many of us to remember that teenagers want our attention. After all, this is the time when the real or the imaginary 'keep out' signs start appearing on closed bedroom doors, when many of our children would rather spend two hours talking to a friend on the phone than 10 minutes talking to their mother or father in person. But what we are learning is that for all their declarations of independence, America's teenagers still want and need the everyday love, involvement and discipline of their parents."

The Clintons announced that the National Partnership for Women and Families, along with the Families and Work Institute, will kick off a campaign to promote the importance of spending time with teenagers, called "Time With Teens."

Mrs. Clinton advised parents that time meant with teens does not mean a long lecture. "There are some lessons we parents have to learn about this. That is not the time when you unload every piece of worldly advice you have stored up for your entire lifetime; it is not the time when you lecture and fill up the space with all the words you want to fill. These are things that I've learned from experience."

She pointed out, "It is, instead, a time when you hopefully are there to

inspire the communication that is two-way and principally coming from your teen. The Time With Teens campaign will challenge parents to take stock of their own lives and work habits and look for ways to make more time for their children."

Today's teens aren't different, society is, Mrs. Clinton said.

"Rather than trying to make our kids somehow adapt, we should be thinking about ways to provide what our children have always needed -- the kind of connectedness and support and love and discipline that every young person really wants and needs from us."

Throughout the conference, which was the first-ever White House conference on teenagers, the Clintons and experts cited the insightful YMCA poll.

The revealing poll found that parents are still the most important adults in their teenagers' lives. More than three out of four teens say they still turn to their parents in times of trouble, Mrs. Clinton said.

The poll noted that while parents list the threat of drugs and alcohol as their top concerns about their teens, the teens themselves list education and "not having enough time" with their parents as their top concern. Quality time came in fourth among parents' concerns, the poll noted.

The YMCA poll, which surveyed 200 children ages 12-15 and 200 parents, also found that as teens get older, parents talk to them less about sex and drugs. Only one in six 15-year-olds said they talk to their parents about sex and only three in 10 teenagers said their parents talked to them about drugs or alcohol.

Spending time and talking to teenagers are essential in helping them become responsible and resourceful youth, the Clintons said.

Mrs. Clinton pointed out, "I believe one of the biggest causalities of modern life has been family time, especially during meals, when parents and children can check out of their busy schedules and check in with each other. Before our daughter left for college, the three of us made it a priority to share at least one meal together a day."

She admitted that it wasn't always easy, but they taught Chelsea, who is now 20, to know they are always there for her. "Bill and I were very convinced that we wanted to convey to our daughter a simple message, that we hoped she would carry away to college: that whenever she does need someone to talk to or ask for advice, or just wants to say hello, we will be available and eager to listen."

President Clinton cited statistics from a report by the Council of Economic Advisors which found some good news about today's teens. They are "far healthier, more prosperous and look forward to more promising lives than ever before in our history," President Clinton noted.

"Last year for the first time in the history of the country, the high school graduation of African Americans and the White majority was almost statistically identical."

President Clinton noted, however, that teen smoking, drug use, pregnancy and gun violence remain "too high."

He stressed that time spent with your teenager goes a long way in helping the teen lead a responsible and productive life.

Clinton said, "The report found that teenagers who had dinner with their parents five nights a week are far more likely to avoid smoking, drinking, violence, suicide and drugs. This holds true for single parent, as well as two parent families, across all income and racial groups."

He admitted that if parents cannot spend this kind of time with their children "it's really important to find some way to fill that gap."

The report also found that teens who participate in community service as a requirement for a high school diploma are 75 percent less likely to drop out of school.

Mrs. Clinton emphasized that parenting sometimes extend outside the family, to teachers, coaches and others in the community. "If there is one message we hope all Americans will take away from this conference, it is that each of us has the power to make a difference in every teenager's life. And it is not just a task for parents."

She pointed out, "The research and our own experience shows that often-times, it is a teacher or a coach, a minister or an employer, a neighbor or another relative who can provide the mentoring and the stability that every young person needs."

GRAPHIC: Picture, President Clinton walks into the East Room of the White House with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, whose arm is around Tameka Malone, a teenager from Laurel, MD. The Clintons hosted the first-ever White House conference on teenagers to address how to parent teens and deal with the anxiety and frustration felt by teens and parents. The girl at left is Mary Grace Hicks of Greensboro, NC.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 30, 2000

Clinton Presidential Records
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Television

Divider Title:_____

104TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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ABC NEWS

SHOW: GOOD MORNING AMERICA (7:00 AM ET)

May 2, 2000, Tuesday

TYPE: Profile

LENGTH: 854 words

HEADLINE: AMERICAN TEEN-AGERS CITE NOT SPENDING ENOUGH TIME WITH THEIR PARENTS AS NUMBER ONE PROBLEM; LABOR SECRETARY ALEXIS HERMAN, SINGLE MOTHER DEBORAH SILCOX AND HER TEEN-AGE SONS DREW AND DYLAN DISCUSS THE ISSUE

ANCHORS: DIANE SAWYER

BODY:
DIANE SAWYER, co-host:

Well, here's a surprise for you. According to a new survey sponsored by the YMCA, the number one problem cited by American teen-agers is, are you ready for this? Not spending enough time with their parents. Twenty one percent of them ranked that as the biggest problem, while only 8 percent of their parents did. It's all going to be discussed today at a White House Conference on Teen-agers, hosted by President and Mrs. Clinton. And with us now from Washington, Labor Secretary Alexis Herman and Deborah Silcox, a single mother of two teen-age sons, Dylan and Drew, who are attending the conference.

And we welcome you all.

Secretary Herman, on average, we are told, the American parent spends 80 minutes a day with their teen. And that includes weekends. Is that enough time, and what can the White House do about it?

Ms. ALEXIS HERMAN (Secretary of Labor): No, Diane, it's not enough time. And we have to do better, we must do better. That's one of the reasons the president and the first lady are having this conference, to sput--to put the spotlight on these issues and to say what can we do to help families balance work and family time. The president today is going to sign an executive order, for instance, demonstrating that the federal government can be a model employer in this regard, by stretching more family work arrangements that are more family-friendly and also talking about the fact that we cannot discriminate against parents in the workplace today.

SAWYER: But, specifically, what are you talking about? What are you going to ask businesses to do?

Ms. HERMAN: Well, we're going to ask businesses to pay more attention to

flexible work arrangements. The very first piece of legislation the president signed was the family and medical leave act. We want to extend that legislation. We want to be able to give families more time for parent-teacher conferences, to spend more time with their children. And the president and first lady are going to launch a national campaign, working with employers to put more of an emphasis on this issue.

SAWYER: Ms. Silcox, I know that after your husband left, you took on a second job managing a restaurant in the evening in order to keep your kids in the school and the same apartment. What sort of stress is that on your and their lives?

Ms. DEBORAH SILCOX (Single Mother): Well, it can be very stressful because I'm not there. I'm working between 50 and 60 hours a week, so I can't provide the support that especially my younger son needs for homework and even just to fix dinner for him. So it can be very stressful.

SAWYER: But is it more important to keep them in the same school and apartment than it is to have the extra time?

Ms. SILCOX : Well, we're still in the family home. Yes, it is. It really is because they're around their peers. They're around positive influence where we are now. If I had to relocate, I'm afraid they would have to deal with a lot more challenges than they deal with now.

SAWYER: So, Drew, let me ask you, do you have enough time with your mom?

Mr. DREW SILCOX (15 Years Old): Not really, because now that she works two jobs, she gets home late, and she's only home a couple of hours before I have to go to bed. So it's not really a lot of time to just to be with her.

SAWYER: And, Dylan, when you all sat down with her in the past and tried to do, say homework, what's that like?

Mr. DYLAN SILCOX (18 Years Old): It was tough because she wasn't around that much, so I really didn't get much homework done. It was--it was tough.

SAWYER: And, Dylan, would you agree that that's been sort of the number one problem you'd cite in your teen years, now that you're heading to college?

Mr. DYLAN SILCOX: Yes, I would. I would agree that it was one of my number one problems, not having a--not having my mother there to--to help me out with my homework when I needed the help, and my father wasn't there to help me. So it would have helped out a lot.

SAWYER: So, Ms. Silcox, before we go back to Secretary Herman, what--what would you like to see the White House do for you--if you could talk to the president today?

Ms. SILCOX : I hope I can. What I'd like to see is, I work for a non-profit, I work for the YMCA of central Maryland, and I would like to see the government filter some funds through the block grant process for non-profit organizations so that we're able to provide more programs for our communities.

SAWYER: And, Secretary Herman, is that likely to happen?

Ms. HERMAN: I think we're going to discuss programs for the community, yes. I think that's very probable today--after-school peer programs, ways just to get parents more involved and to have the time with their kids today. It's so important.

SAWYER: All right. Well, our thanks again to all of you. And at least you have a few minutes now before you have to head off to the conference at 7:30, to spend time with each other. And we thank you again for being with us.

Ms. HERMAN: Thank you.

SAWYER: It's now 17 minutes past. Charlie:

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: May 3, 2000

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ABC NEWS

SHOW: WORLD NEWS TONIGHT (6:30 PM ET)

May 2, 2000, Tuesday

TYPE: Newscast

LENGTH: 395 words

HEADLINE: WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON TEEN-AGERS HELD TODAY

ANCHORS: PETER JENNINGS

REPORTERS: JOHN COCHRAN

BODY:
PETER JENNINGS, anchor:

There was a White House conference on teen-agers today. A White House conference can be very effective, increasing awareness, getting an issue a lot of attention. Teen-agers in any year are a complex issue. ABC's John Cochran is at the White House tonight. So, John, how did it go today with this always fascinating subject?

JOHN COCHRAN reporting:

(OC) No surprises, Peter. But a White House aide did tell ABC News that we had to do something for parents who are scared by the recent rash of violent incidents involving teen-agers.

(VO) And this conference was that something. But instead of a dramatic change in policies, what parents got was advice from a panel of experts and other parents who are worried themselves. And most of the advice sounded very familiar.

Mr. DANNY DeVITO (Actor and Parent): You know, it's easy for them to get into trouble if they don't have, like, if they have a lot of free time on their hands and there's no guidance.

Dr. ROBERT BLUM (University of Minnesota): Chores, having responsibilities is a nonverbal message that you matter in my family. And kids who don't have chores get the message you don't count.

COCHRAN: (VO) The president pointed to a new White House report that again offered what sounded like just plan common sense.

President BILL CLINTON: Listen to this: the report found that teen-agers that

flexible work arrangements. The very first piece of legislation the president signed was the family and medical leave act. We want to extend that legislation. We want to be able to give families more time for parent-teacher conferences, to spend more time with their children. And the president and first lady are going to launch a national campaign, working with employers to put more of an emphasis on this issue.

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President BILL CLINTON: Listen to this: the report found that teen-agers that

had dinner with their parents five nights a week are far more likely to avoid smoking, drinking, violence, suicide and drugs.

COCHRAN: (VO) Mrs. Clinton, who has missed many White House functions while campaigning for the Senate, was here today to address a problem of concern to parents everywhere, including New York state.

Ms. HILLARY CLINTON: We also recognize that it is more difficult for parents to keep track of what teens are watching and learning on TV or on their home computer.

COCHRAN: (VO) Mrs. Clinton said the government is starting two new Internet portals where teens can find inoffensive material and where parents can find advice on raising teens. To many conservatives, today's conference was another example of the "nanny state," the government interfering in private lives.

(OC) The White House's response: 'No one is forced to follow our recommendations.' Peter:

JENNINGS: Thank you, John. John Cochran at the White House.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: May 4, 2000

113TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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CBS News Transcripts

SHOW: THE EARLY SHOW (7:00 AM ET)

May 2, 2000, Tuesday

TYPE: Interview

LENGTH: 862 words

HEADLINE: DONNA SHALALA, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SECRETARY, DISCUSSES A WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE FOCUSING ON TEENS IN AMERICA SHE'S ATTENDING

ANCHORS: BRYANT GUMBEL; JANE CLAYSON

BODY:

BRYANT GUMBEL, co-host:

Coming up on 7:10. Jane.

JANE CLAYSON, co-host:

Bryant, in other news this morning, a top concern among teen-agers in America is not having enough time with their parents. That's according to a new poll to be released today as part of a White House conference focusing on teens in America. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala is going to take part in that meeting. Secretary Shalala, good morning.

Secretary DONNA SHALALA (Health and Human Services): Good morning.

CLAYSON: Teen-agers say they are three times more likely than their parents to not have enough time together as a family. Is--that's their biggest concern. Does that surprise you?

Sec. SHALALA: It does a little bit. But it's a very important message to parents, that teens want to spend more time with their families.

CLAYSON: Parents say they're far more concerned about issues like drugs and alcohol than spending more time with their kids.

Sec. SHALALA: The message is listen to your teen-agers; they know best.

CLAYSON: There is a disconnect in the numbers I'd like to show you. Sixty-one percent of parents say they talk frequently to their teen-agers about beliefs and values. But only 41 percent of kids report such conversations are happening.

(Graphic on screen)

Discuss Values and Beliefs
61% Parents Believe They Talk To Their Children

41% Children Believe Parents Talk To Them

Source: YMCA Poll

Sec. SHALALA: Well, that--it...

CLAYSON: Where is--where is the communication breakdown there?

Sec. SHALALA: Well, first of all, I think we have some evidence that only about two-thirds of the messages get through, so there is a disconnect. That means spending more time will make a difference to these teen-agers. If you increase the amount of time, more of the messages about values and beliefs will get through to teen-agers.

CLAYSON: The poll also shows that many families aren't even eating dinner together on a regular basis. Twenty-four percent of parents say they eat no more than four meals a week together as a family, and 10 percent of parents say they'd eat just one meal together as a family.

(Graphic on screen)

Family Time

24% - 4 Meals A Week

10% - 1 Meal Or Less A Week

Source: YMCA Poll

CLAYSON: Is this a function of our changing priorities, our changing societal pressures? What is it?

Sec. SHALALA: Well, it's a function of--of lots of people working and being busy. But parents--making this a priority, I think, would really make a difference. Even during holidays, I've noticed in my own family that we have kids' tables and we have adults' tables. That didn't happen before. And I always take the trouble to sit next to my youngest cousin so I can find out what's going on in his life. But the important thing is to spend more time together when the opportunity--and make those opportunities to spend more time together. That's what teen-agers are telling us. And we ought to listen to them.

CLAYSON: One more number I'd like you to comment on. Eighty-five percent of parents say they frequently monitor what their kids watch on TV.

(Graphic on screen)

Monitor Television Viewing

85% Parents Say They Frequently Monitor What Their Kids Watch On TV

61% Children Say They Are Watching TV Without Any Supervision

Source: YMCA Poll

CLAYSON: Sixty-one percent of children say they're watching television without any parental supervision. What does that tell you?

Sec. SHALALA: Wow! That tells you, again, that there is a disconnect between what parents think they're doing, what they think they're saying, and what teen-agers perceive is actually happening. And, again, all of this information ought to be helpful to parents. They ought to be sitting down and spending more time with their teen-agers, a very important time in their lives, as important as when the children are very young.

CLAYSON: Part of what will be discussed today at the White House, Secretary, is that--new research that shows that brain development in preteen years is just as significant as brain development in--in the first three years of life. How significant is that?

Sec. SHALALA: Very significant. It means that we have another shot at--at growing healthy, young people, and it means that we can't--after kids get through their--their early years, it means that we must not give up. We must continue to worry about their development, particularly about their brain development, just before they're teen-agers, and that's a very good piece of information for parents.

CLAYSON: One good news out of this report is that teen-agers still turn to their parents in times of crisis. No?

Sec. SHALALA: Absolutely. And that's what they're sending us messages about. They're saying, 'Make me strong inside. Talk to me. Listen to me.' And we couldn't have a better message in our society. This is a wonderful generation of young people, and they're sending us very clear, straightforward messages, and we ought to listen.

CLAYSON: All right. Secretary Donna Shalala, good luck at the White House today.

Sec. SHALALA: Thank you.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: May 2, 2000

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CBS News Transcripts

SHOW: CBS EVENING NEWS (6:30 PM ET)

May 2, 2000, Tuesday

TYPE: Newscast

LENGTH: 403 words

HEADLINE: PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON HOLD WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON PARENTING TEEN- AGERS

ANCHORS: DAN RATHER

REPORTERS: JOHN ROBERTS

BODY:
DAN RATHER, anchor:

At the White House today, a conference devoted to one of the toughest and most important jobs in the world. Subject: how to be a good parent to a teen-ager. CBS News chief White House correspondent John Roberts was there.

JOHN ROBERTS reporting:

In convening this first-ever summit on raising teens, the president and Mrs. Clinton spoke about an issue with which they are intimately familiar.

Mrs. HILLARY CLINTON: ...having just graduated from being the parents of a teen-ager to being the parents of a 20-year-old and having survived it.

ROBERTS: The conference was called as part of the administration's ongoing response to the Columbine tragedy. The main message, supported by a lengthy White House study: Parents need to spend more time with their children.

President BILL CLINTON: The report found that teen-agers that had dinner with their parents five nights a week are far more likely to avoid smoking, drinking, violence, suicide and drugs.

ROBERTS: While those results appear obvious, it was surprising to find that when it comes to quality time with family, it's the children who are left wanting. A new study by the YMCA found that while drugs and alcohol topped parents' concerns about teens, teens say their number-one worry is not spending enough time with their parents.

Ms. LAURA SESSIONS STEPP ("Our Last Best Shot"): No matter how teen-agers may criticize their mom and dad, parents matter to them a lot.

ROBERTS: The conference also looked at single-parent families, finding that children like Edwin Speaker, who spends a lot of time with his father, do just as well as those from two-parent families.

EDWIN SPEAKER: He took me fishing, we used to go out to the ball game, he was involved in a lot of programs in the club, and it's because of that that I think I'm here today.

ROBERTS: With a quarter of the nation's teens at risk of heading in the wrong direction, the president today urged Congress to expand the Family and Medical Leave Act to allow parents more time to meet their family responsibilities. But with American parents working longer hours than any other parents in the world, it will take more than an act of Congress to tip the balance. Dan.

RATHER: John Roberts.

Up next, more CBS original reporting. Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg talks about how she survived the loss of her brother.

(Announcements)

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: May 3, 2000

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CNN

SHOW: CNN EARLY EDITION 07:00

May 2, 2000; Tuesday

Transcript # 00050205V08

TYPE: INTERVIEW

SECTION: News; Domestic

LENGTH: 871 words

HEADLINE: Single Father, Teenage Son Discuss Challenges of Adolescence

GUESTS: Edwin Speaker, Edd Speaker

BYLINE: Leon Harris, Carol Lin

HIGHLIGHT:
In Washington today, the White House is hosting a conference on helping teenagers survive and thrive those difficult adolescent years. Edd Speaker, a single father, and his 17-year-old son Edwin discuss their relationship and provide insight into the problems parents and youth today.

BODY:
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LEON HARRIS, CNN ANCHOR: In Washington today, the White House is hosting a conference on helping teenagers survive and thrive those difficult adolescent years. The first lady says the key is parental involvement. In an article in "Newsweek" magazine, Mrs. Clinton says that even modest efforts to reach out to teenagers can make a big difference.

CAROL LIN, CNN ANCHOR: Well, as most parents know, raising a teenager is especially challenging for single parents.

To give us some insight into the problem, we're joined this morning by Edd Speaker, a single father, and his 17-year-old son Edwin. They are attending the

White House conference today and they both join us from Washington.

Good morning to both of you.

EDWIN SPEAKER, SON ATTENDING CONFERENCE: Good morning.

EDD SPEAKER, FATHER ATTENDING CONFERENCE: Good morning.

LIN: Edwin, let me start with you. You're invited to talk about teenagers and what they need most. What most do you want to get across to the president and the first lady today?

EDWIN SPEAKER: Teenagers mostly need guidance. That's what I think. As my father has guided me, I think that he's put me on the right path, and that if you're on the right guidance, you have to take the initiative yourself to step out on the right path also. Only a little bit comes from the parents. Most of it has to come from the child within.

LIN: Well, most teenagers don't feel very comfortable talking to their parents. What do you think your father did right in encouraging you?

EDWIN SPEAKER: Taking me out places, doing father-and-son activities is probably what brought us a close bond. And that's what I think got us together, and I can tell my father anything now.

LIN: Well, Edd, I understand that you can talk to your son about just about anything. How did you create that channel of communication? EDD SPEAKER: Well, you know, I think it's something that comes about naturally. I don't think that there's a real formula or anything that can be said as to how you create it. You just establish a bond, you know, by communicating with your child and convincing them that it's OK to tell you about different things.

LIN: Well, the government is going to be asking you to speak to academics and ministers, local community leaders, as well as local government officials. What can they do for you that you couldn't figure out yourself?

EDD SPEAKER: Well, I think that the thing that the government can do is continue to provide the support groups that are needed desperately throughout the communities in the United States. There are kids out there that need different types of support groups, be they educational, be they athletic, all type of groups that need funding. And the government needs to take a conscious look at what they're doing in terms of making sure that the taxpayers' dollars go toward helping the youth, who are our future.

LIN: What did you need most as a single father?

EDD SPEAKER: I think as a single father, the thing that I needed most would be after-school care. This is the thing that you want to provide a safe environment for your kid. You know, obviously, all of the parents out there, be they single parents or, you know, two-party parents, have to have an environment where the kid can exist while they're at work and the parent not have to worry about them. So that was the thing that was most important to me, was an after-school program somewhere where my kid could be safely and I didn't have to worry about it.

LIN: Edwin, one of the surprising things I heard out of the White House was that they found that a lot of older kids like yourself really want to have that communication with their parents, really want to talk to their parents. Do you find that your friends feel the same way that you do?

EDWIN SPEAKER: Not all of them. Some parents, you know -- some of my friends stay with single mothers. Not all of them stay with single fathers, so some of them can communicate with their dad, but a lot of them communicate with their friends. And I feel that, you know, I'm so lucky because I have my father and I can communicate with him.

LIN: Right. Well, if I had a 17-year-old son already and I was watching you, I would think to myself, boy, maybe I made a lot of mistakes in my life and it's too late to reach him. Would you agree? Is it too late?

EDWIN SPEAKER: Not really. If you give them mentoring I think that you can change the path, and that they will be on the right path and go into good things and go to colleges and stuff. Not all kids are bad, it just has to be the right structuring that comes from the parents, I think.

LIN: All right, so it's never too late?

EDWIN SPEAKER: Never too late.

LIN: All right, Edwin speaker, your father, Edd, thanks for join us this morning, and good luck today at the White House.

EDD SPEAKER: Thank you.

EDWIN SPEAKER: No problem. Thank you.

LIN: Have a good time.

EDWIN SPEAKER: All right.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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CNN

SHOW: CNN EARLY EDITION 07:00

May 2, 2000; Tuesday

Transcript # 00050201V08

TYPE: LIVE REPORT

SECTION: News; Domestic

LENGTH: 551 words

HEADLINE: White House to Host Conference on Raising Responsible Teens

BYLINE: Carol Lin, Eileen O'Connor

HIGHLIGHT:
President Clinton and the first lady are sponsoring a conference at the White House today on raising responsible teenagers. The conference will focus on new scientific research that shows the preteen years are as important as early childhood.

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CAROL LIN, CNN ANCHOR: At the White House today, President Clinton and the first lady are sponsoring a conference on raising responsible teenagers. So let's see what's on the agenda.

CNN's Eileen O'Connor is at the White House with that.

Good morning, Eileen.

EILEEN O'CONNOR, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Good morning, Carol.

Well, the president and first lady are bringing together scientists, doctors, psychologists and school officials and, of course, parents to talk about how to raise teenagers. As you know, with the rise of school shootings in America,

there has been increased concern about America's teenagers.

So the conference is going to be focusing in on some new scientific research that shows preteen years are as important as early childhood, the risks and challenges that are facing teens and parents and strategies some communities and work places are using to help parents and teens connect.

Of course, always, what you hear about in the media is what is going wrong with teenagers, and the White House says -- the first lady's advisers say they do want to focus, also, on what is going right. And experts say that while it may look that teenagers want to pull away from their families, what they really want is to spend more time with their parents.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

ELLEN GALINSKY, PRESIDENT, THE FAMILIES AND WORK INSTITUTE: There are so many young people doing good things and I think this conference is going to emphasize what's good about kids today, what's going on that's positive. I also think this conference is going to break some stereotypes. For example, in a study I just did, I found that it was older children, not younger children, who felt that they didn't have enough time with their parents. And we think of them, as kids, as pushing us away and yet they are saying, well, we really do want to connect.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

O'CONNOR: So, what the White House is going to also be looking at are some strategies that can help parents within the community and within schools and also within the workplace, to help them to find more time to be able to spend with their teenagers. Studies show that the more connected teens feel to their families, the better they actually do in school and in society -- Carol.

LIN: Eileen, are they talking about any other programs today?

O'CONNOR: Well, what they're going to be looking at are some very specific programs here. In fact, there's going to be the head of one YMCA from Dallas here, and he has had some innovative programs at that YMCA where he's actually had programs to lure teenagers to come into the Y, but also to get their parents to come in with them so that they're working out together or they're doing some kind of craft or drama program together.

And, basically, that's what the focus will be in on, is how to get teens and parents to communicate better because, as I said, the research shows the better they can communicate, the less risky behavior teens actually engage in -- Carol.

LIN: Lots of parents looking for a way to do just that. Thanks, Eileen.

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CNN

SHOW: CNN MORNING NEWS 09:00

May 2, 2000; Tuesday

Transcript # 00050209V09

TYPE: LIVE REPORT/PACKAGE

SECTION: News; Domestic

LENGTH: 1102 words

HEADLINE: White House Hosts Conference on Challenges of Raising Teenagers; Parents Seek Flexibility at Work to Juggle Tasks at Home

BYLINE: Bill Hemmer, Eileen O'Connor, Daryn Kagan, Pat Etheridge

HIGHLIGHT:
The White House is hosting a conference on the parenting of teenagers today led by the first lady. The meeting will bring together experts from school communities, doctors, counselors and parents to talk about the problems raising teenagers today. Many working parents try to juggle the demands of their jobs with the challenges of shepherding their children into adulthood.

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BILL HEMMER, CNN ANCHOR: The mere words may strike fear into the heart of even the most confident parent: the teenage years. It's a time when your child confronts adult issues and you are relegated to the sidelines. Or are you?

CNN's Eileen O'Connor at the White House this morning for a conference on the parenting of teenagers, and it's being led by the first lady, who knows the issues first-hand.

Eileen, good morning.

EILEEN O'CONNOR, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Good morning, Bill.

Well, with the rise in violence in the schools and some of these school shootings, although there are, overall, less violence in today's schools, there's a lot more attention focused on them. So the White House wanted to bring together some experts from school communities, doctors, counselors and parents to talk about the problems they're facing in raising today's teenagers.

And many parents surveyed say that they believe their children are growing up in environments far more different than the ones they faced. There are more mothers working, new technologies and new media to deal with. And while parents say that they believe they're spending enough time with their teens, it's surprising, though, that teens say they're three time mores likely to say they don't believe that parents are spending enough time.

Now, the experts say that the more connected teens feel to their parents, the better they actually will do at school and socially.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

ELLEN GALINSKY, FAMILIES AND WORK INSTITUTE: Our studies find that parents spend less time with kids the older that they get, and yet it's -- kids are really wanting more time. But they don't want time for, say -- I mean, they don't want time where you're yelling at them, fussing at them, being nasty with them, you know, they want time where you're really paying attention to them, responding to them. They want time just to hang out.

(END VIDEO CLIP) O'CONNOR: Now, a new study that was done by the YMCA, a survey of teenagers aged 12 to 15, show that while 61 percent of their parents say that they believe they are discussing values, beliefs enough with their teens, 41 percent of the teens say that their parents don't actually discuss these issues enough.

But the good news, the White House says, is that 78 percent of teenagers say that, in times of trouble, it is their parents that they are most likely to turn to.

So, the White House today looking for strategies to enable parents to spend more time with their children -- Bill.

HEMMER: Eileen, what are the experts saying? Any practical solutions out there?

O'CONNOR: Well, one of the things they're looking at are some of the school-based and community-based solutions. One program they're looking at is in Dallas at the YMCA. The head of that YMCA has organized programs specifically designed to lure teenagers into the YMCA, and also to bring their parents with them to workout together.

And another group that they're going to focus in on is really corporate America. What they'd like to do is see corporate America allow parents during the teenage years -- not just for maternity leave -- but during the teenage years to take time off and spend that time with their children; also, perhaps, to harness new technologies enabling parents to work online from home later in the afternoon, which they say would enable parents to spend dinner time with

their teens.

You know, Bill, one survey shows that if parents spend just spend a family meal with their teenagers, their teenagers actually do better on test scores -- Bill.

HEMMER: That's a lot of green beans. Eileen O'Connor, thank you.

Now to Daryn.

DARYN KAGAN, CNN ANCHOR: Among parents of teenagers, the most longed-for luxury may be flexibility, a lot of working parents trying to juggle the demands of their jobs with the challenges of shepherding their children into adulthood.

Our parenting correspondent, Pat Etheridge, takes a look at that.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

PAT ETHERIDGE, CNN PARENTING CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): When it's time for 17-year-old Brian (ph) Fisher to play ball, you'll find his mother on the sidelines. She never misses a game.

MARCIA FISHER, MOTHER: He can look up and see that I'm sitting in the stands, you know, cheering him on. I think it means a lot to him. ETHERIDGE: How does a single mother with a full-time job pull that off? Marcia's company offers an array of flexible work options. She works three days in the office, two days at home, and she can arrange her hours around family needs.

M. FISHER: Just because they're older and can make their own breakfast and lunch and drive a car, I think it's still important that a parent is involved.

ETHERIDGE: Like many parents, Marcia has discovered that having a teenager means that being there is more important than ever.

ELLEN GALINSKY, PRESIDENT, FAMILIES AND WORK INSTITUTE.: There are a number of studies that show that there are a series of societal problems that can happen between the time that school is out and parents get home.

ETHERIDGE: Ellen Galinsky is president of the Families and Work Institute.

GALINSKY: The advice to parents that I always give is think about: Will you regret this decision in five years? And if you will regret it, then change.

ETHERIDGE: Corporate America is waking up to this new notion of "adolescent leave" and that it can be as crucial as maternity leave.

M. FISHER: The stress level is not there.

ETHERIDGE: Cigna HealthCare, where Marcia has worked for the past 12 years, estimates as many as one-fourth of its employees opt for flexible work schedules.

SUSAN THOMAS, CIGNA CORPORATION: And I think what really has given us the impetus is the fact that we discovered that this really helps not only the employees, but it helps the business. Turnover is extremely low. The employee

will put out more than 100 percent because the employee feels like, hey, look what you're giving them.

ETHERIDGE: Brian says things go better for him on the field when he knows his mother is watching.

BRIAN FISHER, TEENAGER: I always know that somebody's watching me and their supporting me, so that makes me feel better as a person.

ETHERIDGE: And mom says times like this are bittersweet. Her son is on his way and she wants to look back with no regrets.

Pat Etheridge, CNN, Atlanta.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

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CNN

SHOW: CNN NEWS DAY 12:00

May 2, 2000; Tuesday

Transcript # 00050202V11

TYPE: LIVE REPORT

SECTION: News; Domestic

LENGTH: 444 words

HEADLINE: Clintons Lead Discussion at White House Teenager Conference

BYLINE: Jeanne Meserve, Eileen O'Connor

HIGHLIGHT:
President and Mrs. Clinton are leading a discussion today at a conference about teenagers at the White House, which grew out of last year's Columbine High School shootings. Both parents and teenagers surveyed for this conference say they blame parental work obligations as the culprit behind lack of family time.

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JEANNE MESERVE, CNN ANCHOR: Well, what's a parent to do to keep a teenager safe and on the straight and narrow?

At the White House today, a conference that grew out of last year's Columbine High School shootings, President and Mrs. Clinton are leading the discussion.

CNN medical correspondent Eileen O'Connor joins us now with details -- Eileen.

EILEEN O'CONNOR, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Well, Jeanne, the White House is now discussing some scientific evidence that they heard about earlier, that shows that the teenage years are just as important as the years of early childhood in terms of wiring of the brain both intellectually and emotionally.

The president and the first lady also called on the media and the entertainment industry and they're also hearing from some people in the entertainment industry to force some controls and rating system -- a unified rating system to help the parents of teens decide which kind of programs they should watch.

This is Rhea Perlman, a TV star, and she also -- her husband Danny DeVito has also been directing a -- talking to the audience about these kinds of controls the challenges that parents face in looking at the new media.

Teenagers, they say, are growing up in very different times. But one of the issues they're also focusing on is the lack of family time. Time, parents say that because they are working longer hours they are finding it increasingly difficult at this critical time for their teens to spend time with their family.

The president and first lady are calling on communities and the workplace to help parents find that time. They say little things like family dinner are really important.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: The report found that teenagers who had dinner with their parents five nights a week are far more likely to avoid smoking, drinking, violence, suicide and drugs. This holds true for a single parent as well as two-parent families across all income and racial groups. (END VIDEO CLIP)

O'CONNOR: Both parents and teenagers surveyed for this conference say that they blame parental work obligations as the culprit behind this lack of time. The president and the first lady called on corporate America and on government to help enable families to find the time and get some more free time away from work during these critical years.

I'm Eileen O'Connor, reporting live from the White House.

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CNN

SHOW: CNN TODAY 13:00

May 2, 2000; Tuesday

Transcript # 00050201V13

TYPE: LIVE REPORT/INTERVIEW

SECTION: News; Domestic

LENGTH: 870 words

HEADLINE: Shalala: Government Should Help Parents Tailor Work Schedule to be 'Supportive of Their Children'

GUESTS: Donna Shalala

BYLINE: Natalie Allen, Eileen O'Connor

HIGHLIGHT:
The White House is hosting a conference concentrating on teenagers today. The president has referred to a new report emphasizing the developmental impact of adolescence. HHS Secretary Donna Shalala, who was at the conference today, discusses what she thinks the government should do to help parents find more time to spend with their teenagers.

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NATALIE ALLEN, CNN ANCHOR: Happy, successful, well-adjusted teenagers, millions of parents swear that's a contradiction in terms, but experts say it could be a matter of the nurturing and mental stimulation kids receive as pre-teens.

According to new research, kids' brains grow and develop just as much in the pre-teen years as they do between birth and age three. We tell you this because the White House is devoting the whole day to the art and science of raising teenagers.

CNN medical correspondent Eileen O'Connor is there -- Eileen.

EILEEN O'CONNOR, CNN MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT: Well, as you said, that scientific evidence shows that these teenage years are very, very important in developing the brain. And yet, while they are critical, three out of four teenagers say that they don't spend enough time with their parents. Although, 78 percent say it is their parents they want to turn to in times of trouble.

So the president and the first lady is calling on the workplace, communities and schools to help parents find that time. Saying that it is even more necessary to help the brain develop and to help their children face the new kinds of challenges that today's environment brings on with new technologies and new media.

Actor Danny DeVito said the most important thing that you can do for your teen is actually one of the simplest things: just spend time with them and just be there for them to turn to.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DANNY DEVITO, ACTOR/DIRECTOR/PARENT: There's so many things going through their head. You know, all kinds of weird thoughts and whatever and what do they do? And if they don't have anybody that they trust and they can turn to, it's, you know, it's devastating. They're confused and they're mad, or they're sad, or a combination of, you know, all that at once.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

O'CONNOR: The president said that it is a little bit of time, but even on a consistent basis, it is really important. He cited a study showing that teens who have dinner with their families five nights a week, have a much lower incidence of taking drugs, of drinking and of teen pregnancy.

With me is the secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala.

Thank you for joining us.

DONNA SHALALA, SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: You're welcome.

O'CONNOR: You were at the conference today. What do you think that government should do, as the president asks government to do, to help parents find more time to spend with their teenagers?

SHALALA: Well, there are a number of things we can do. Obviously, parents that are worried about health care for their kids or child care don't have to work a second job to help pay for those things. So we can reduce the amount of time they have to be in the work force, increase the amount of time they can be at home.

But government can also be a model employer. I tell my senior people: don't have a meeting after 6:00, I want you to go home with your families, I want you to have dinner with your kids.

O'CONNOR: The president also called for an end to discrimination in the

federal workplace against parents. Do you find that there is discrimination against parents in the workplace overall, even in private industry?

SHALALA: I know there is. I once had to talk to a supervisor who said to me that he was having trouble with his secretary because every day at 3:00 she got a number of phone calls after work. Those calls were from her kids checking in as they went home, and I said to him: She's doing the best thing she can do as a parent, making sure she knows where her children are. So it doesn't effect the quality of her work, you just let her take the time and get those calls from her kids.

O'CONNOR: You talked about tax breaks to help parents pay for day care, and perhaps the president talked about more funding for after school programs. But what about tax breaks for families, for a parent who wants to stay home from work? Is that under consideration?

SHALALA: Well, it is under consideration, and in fact, we believe the tax system ought to work in a way that it doesn't discriminate against a family in which one family member -- it can be a male or a female who decides to stay home with the children. The tax system itself ought not to work in a way that discriminates against that family.

The fact is, though, for most families in this country, for good economic reasons, both parents are working. We have to make sure that their work hours are those in which are supportive of their children. Having dinner with your kids is very important.

O'CONNOR: OK, thank you, secretary.

SHALALA: You're welcome.

O'CONNOR: And the teen conference will continue throughout the day. The president and first lady are hoping that by bringing all these experts together they'll be able to disseminate some of the kinds of strategies that are working in the schools and communities.

I'm Eileen O'Connor, reporting live from the White House.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 2, 2000

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CNN

SHOW: CNN THE WORLD TODAY 20:00

May 2, 2000; Tuesday

Transcript # 00050202V23

TYPE: PACKAGE

SECTION: News; Domestic

LENGTH: 604 words

HEADLINE: New Poll Shows Parents Not Spending Enough Time With Teenaged Children

BYLINE: Jim Moret, Anne McDermott

HIGHLIGHT:
The tough job of raising teenagers took center stage at the White House today with a conference featuring teens, parents, educators and experts. A new YMCA poll shows that many teens are lacking quality time with their parents.

BODY:
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JIM MORET, CNN ANCHOR: The tough job of raising teenagers took center stage at the White House today with a conference featuring teens, parents, educators and experts.

Saying he wants to eliminate any glass ceiling blocking parents from advancing in the workplace, President Clinton issued an executive order banning federal employers from discriminating against workers with children. He also urged Congress to expand family-leave legislation to cover more situations, and he asked for $1 billion for more after-school programs.

Mr. Clinton cited a government report that shows family time can make a difference.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: The report found that teenagers that had dinner with their parents five nights a week are more likely to avoid smoking, drinking, violence, suicide and drugs. This held true for single parents as well as two-parent families across all income and racial groups.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MORET: Still, three out of four teenagers say their parents do not spend enough time with them.

Our Anne McDermott looks at today's teens and why time matters.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

ANNE MCDERMOTT, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Breakfast in the Juarez home, home to two teenagers, a pre-teen, and their loving and worried parents.

(on camera): Is raising teenagers easy?

MARVINE JUAREZ, PARENT: No, it's not, not at all.

MCDERMOTT (voice-over): Well, how about being one? Christina Juarez says there's lots of distractions.

CHRISTINA JUAREZ, TEENAGE DAUGHTER: It could be like parties, drugs, sex -- everything is out there -- and when you go to like, high school, when you're a teenager, and you just have to know when to say no, and it's kind of hard.

MCDERMOTT: It is kind of hard. Don't forget all those channels on cable, all those sites on the Net, and you better believe kids are on computers. Who's watching? Well, according to a recent poll by the YMCA, more than 70 percent of parents say they monitor their children's Internet use. But, according to that same poll, most kids say they aren't monitored.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I think just being a teenager in the '90s is just difficult itself.

MCDERMOTT: And maybe it's not just the pressures of school or those hormones that rage. Maybe you can add those brains that keep changing. That's right.

Once it was thought that the human brain had pretty much matured by the age of 8, or a little later. Now it's known that a remarkable growth spurt occurs in teen brains, which may be adding to their angst. What to do? Well, the Juarezes say, forget the eating out.

M. JUAREZ: It's when we gather together; it's when the family gets together and we talk what happened.

MCDERMOTT: It works for Christina.

C. JUAREZ: Some of my friends don't even have the communication that I do

with my parents, so I feel privileged.

MCDERMOTT: Does she sound too good to be true? Well, the YMCA poll shows spending time with family is a big teen concern. They want more of mom and dad.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That'd be a good thing.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's nice to spend some quality time with your parents.

MCDERMOTT: Sure, teenagers may be big. Teenagers may look tough. Teenagers can be sullen. So it can be easy to forget that teenagers are still just children.

Anne McDermott, CNN, Los Angeles.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

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SHOW: TODAY (7:00 AM ET)

May 2, 2000, Tuesday

HEADLINE: HILLARY CLINTON TO HOST CONFERENCE ON TEEN-AGERS

ANCHORS: ANN CURRY

BODY:
ANN CURRY, anchor:

Today, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton hosts a White House conference on raising good teen-agers. This in response to last year's Columbine shootings. On the agenda today, how teens and parents can spend more time together, and what impact the media has on young people.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: May 3, 2000

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SHOW: MORNING EDITION (11:00 AM on ET)

May 2, 2000, Tuesday

LENGTH: 545 words

HEADLINE: STUDY OF TEEN-AGE BRAINS SHOW GREAT GROWTH PERIODS IN CELLS AND CONNECTIONS RIGHT BEFORE PUBERTY

ANCHORS: BOB EDWARDS

REPORTERS: MICHELLE TRUDEAU

BODY:

BOB EDWARDS, host:

The conference on teen-agers at the White House today will highlight new research on the brains of healthy, active teen-agers. NPR's Michelle Trudeau reports.

MICHELLE TRUDEAU reporting:

It turns out teen-agers' brains are different, according to researcher Jay Giedd from the National Institute of Mental Health. And he's got the brain scan pictures of 200 healthy youngsters to prove how this happens.

Dr. JAY GIEDD (National Institute of Mental Health): The key to this is to understand how the brain builds itself. And it's actually a very clever way. It greatly overproduces the number of brain cells and connections, more than can possibly survive.

TRUDEAU: Now it's been widely assumed that the brain's massive overproduction of cells and connections occurred only once and very early on in an infant's development. But Jay Giedd is discovering that the same process of brain growth occurs again, about a decade later.

Dr. GIEDD: It was only when we actually followed individual children through

their development that we found there was a second wave of overproduction.

TRUDEAU: This second wave peaks at around age 11 in girls, about age 12 in boys.

Dr. GIEDD: And we can see this as the gray matter or thinking part of the brain thickens.

TRUDEAU: Thickening dramatically in an area right behind the forehead called the frontal lobes. That part of the brain in charge of planning, judgment, organization. It's as if the teen-age frontal lobes are getting ready, bulking up to be able to learn these new, more adult skills.

Dr. GIEDD: So much like a tree growing extra branches and twigs and roots, the brain cells grow extra connections, extra branching, extra twigs to communicate with other brain cells.

TRUDEAU: This second wave of proliferation reaches its maximum, about a 25-percent increase, right as the sex hormones kick in and kids are poised at puberty. And then as children become teen-agers and experience adolescence, the extensive branching begins to be pruned back.

Dr. GIEDD: Our best guess is that this process is guided by the use-it-or-lose-it principle. So those cells and connections that the teen-ager is using will survive and flourish. Those cells and connections that are not being used will wither and die.

TRUDEAU: Elizabeth Sou(ph) from UCLA has pictures, too, that reveal the next major stage of brain development as teen-agers mature. That's when a striking increase in the brain's insulation material, called myelin, wraps around the nerve cells. Now better insulation means stronger, faster, more efficient communication between nerves. But, adds Sou, the insulation carries a price tag. As brain cells get wrapped in it, they become more hard-wired for specific tasks and far less flexible for new tasks. Putting it all together shines a new light on the teen years.

Ms. ELIZABETH SOU (UCLA): These new data, which show brain development really occurring much more dramatically much later than we really originally thought should really impress upon us in general how we educate our children, how we discipline them.

TRUDEAU: Brain researcher Jay Giedd.

Dr. GIEDD: Which is why we feel that if children are using their brain at this point for academics or sports or music or video games, that is what their brain will be hard-wired or optimized for.

TRUDEAU: Giedd is scheduled to speak at the White House today, saying the adolescent years are a second chance for parents, teachers and for teen-agers to take advantage of this extraordinary second wave of brain growth and brain maturation. Michelle Trudeau, NPR News.

EDWARDS: The time is 19 minutes past the hour.

LANGUAGE: English

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SHOW: MORNING EDITION (11:00 AM on ET)

May 2, 2000, Tuesday

LENGTH: 867 words

HEADLINE: SURVEY OF TEEN-AGERS FIND THOSE WITH CLOSE TIES TO PARENTS AND SCHOOL WILL HAVE LESS PROBLEMS IN LIFE

ANCHORS: BOB EDWARDS

REPORTERS: VICKY QUE

BODY:

BOB EDWARDS, host:

This is NPR's MORNING EDITION. I'm Bob Edwards.

At the White House today, scientists, teachers, parents and young people meet with President Clinton and his wife Hillary to talk about teen-agers. The focus of the one-day conference is what parents and communities can do to protect teen-agers and to help them become successful adults. NPR's Vicky Que reports.

VICKY QUE reporting:

More than three-quarters of all deaths among teen-agers in this country are caused by accidents, homicide or suicide. Researchers say what often contributes to these deaths are risky behavior and bad decisions. What parents want to know is how to prevent teen-agers from making these mistakes.

Dr. MICHAEL RESNICK (Sociologist, University of Minnesota): What is so important for nurturing and promoting the well-being of kids is a sense of connection to others.

QUE: Sociologist Michael Resnick of the University of Minnesota. He was lead author of a study which surveyed more than 90,000 US students in the 7th through 12th grades. The study, the largest of its kind, looked at factors that

increased teen-agers' health and well-being. What they found is students who have a strong relationship with their parents are significantly less likely to suffer emotional problems, attempt suicide or commit violence, compared to teens who don't have such a bond.

Dr. RESNICK: The kids who were in trouble were the ones who said, 'There's nobody there for me. I can't count on anybody being there in a consistent kind of way.'

QUE: But what exactly does 'being there' mean? For the teens in the survey, it meant they felt warmth, love and caring from their parents, and they spent time with them. As to how much time, there's no clear-cut formula. What the researchers learned is consistency matters most. And some times are more important than others, like eating dinner together.

Dr. RESNICK: There is something specifically nurturing and important about breaking bread together that seems to protect and promote the well-being of our kids.

QUE: But even making it home for dinner can be difficult for many working parents, parents like Michelle Rodriguez.

Ms. MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ: It's hard. Right now, we have to--I'm working in the daytime and nighttime.

QUE: Rodriguez lives in Philadelphia with her three children. She works from 8 to 4:30 at her first job.

Ms. RODRIGUEZ: And I go to my other job 6 to 10.

QUE: Rodriguez took the second job because she and her husband recently divorced, and she's having trouble making ends meet. She tries to make up for lost time by making sure the weekends are reserved for family time. They shop, eat dinner, watch videos and play board games. That's when she connects with her children, asks about problems, helps them make decisions and tries to get her messages across: Don't use drugs, alcohol or cigarettes, finish school.

Ms. RODRIGUEZ: I just tell my kids, 'Try to do the best. If you do the best, it's fine with me.' But I always tell them, 'You have to finish high school and you have to finish college.'

QUE: The University of Minnesota study found that teens whose parents expect them to do well in school have lower levels of risky behavior. Rodriguez says so far, the family is close and the kids have good grades. But, lately, there's been some tension. Her teen-ager, Esther(ph), doesn't seem to want to spend as much time at home. She wants to hang out with friends, start dating.

Ms. RODRIGUEZ: She only 14, and sometimes she asks me and I say, 'No, Esther, not yet. You're not ready yet.' Or she asks me to have a boyfriend. I say, 'Not yet. Wait.'

QUE: Esther?

ESTHER RODRIGUEZ: It makes me feel bad sometimes because I want to be out with my friends and all that stuff.

QUE: Psychologist Laurence Steinberg at Temple University says this kind of tension is normal. Many young teens become almost embarrassed to be with their parents in public.

Dr. LAURENCE STEINBERG (Temple University): It's a time when kids are starting to grow into adulthood and they don't want to be reminded that they're still children. The most salient reminder of the fact that you're a child is your parents.

QUE: Steinberg says many parents make the mistake of backing off too much. He says when researchers ask, teen-agers usually say they wish their parents spent more time with them.

Dr. STEINBERG: And that the same child that doesn't want to be seen in public with you is probably really happy to spend the night with you eating junk food and watching a basketball game on television.

QUE: The trick, he says, is finding out what your teen-agers want to do with you. The University of Minnesota study also found that feeling connected to their schools protects teens against risky behavior. But feeling like they belong, especially at large schools, can be hard. Esther Rodriguez, a freshman, hated high school until she got to know her science teacher, Mrs. Torres(ph).

RODRIGUEZ: That teacher, she's always looking for me. If I don't show up at school, she'll call my house. I'm always sitting, talking to her about what I've been doing through the day and stuff like that, and what goes on at home.

QUE: Esther says she's even talked to Mrs. Torres about her mom and dad's divorce. This kind of relationship is especially important when teens don't feel close to their parents. Researchers say what protects teens from harm is forming a strong relationship with at least one caring, competent adult in their lives. Vicky Que, NPR News.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: May 12, 2000

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SHOW: ALL THINGS CONSIDERED (9:00 PM ET)

May 2, 2000, Tuesday

LENGTH: 743 words

HEADLINE: CONFERENCE ON RAISING TEEN-AGERS HELD AT THE WHITE HOUSE

ANCHORS: NOAH ADAMS; LINDA WERTHEIMER

REPORTERS: MARA LIASSON

BODY:

NOAH ADAMS, host:

It's NPR's ALL THINGS CONSIDERED. I'm Noah Adams.

LINDA WERTHEIMER, host:

And I'm Linda Wertheimer.

The White House reached out today to parents worried about raising responsible teen-agers in an often violent, high-stress culture. President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton chaired a conference that brought teen-agers, parents and teachers together with child development experts. Mrs. Clinton, who is running for a Senate seat in New York, got a chance to showcase her signature issues, families and children. One of the main recommendations of the conference was a simple one: Parents should spend more time with their teens. NPR's White House correspondent Mara Liasson reports.

MARA LIASSON reporting:

The Conference on Responsible Teenagers followed a pattern that the Clinton White House has perfected: a daylong seminar with a maximum of information but a minimum of government-led solutions. In this case, the problem was one many families are grappling with: raising teen-agers in a world filled with violent video images, parents with too little time and the constant temptations of drugs, sex and other risky behavior. At the conference, the Clintons released a new study by the YMCA that showed parents are still the most important adults in their teen-agers' lives.

Mrs. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: More than three out of four teens say they still turn to their parents in times of trouble. While parents list the threat of drugs and alcohol as their top concerns about their teens, teens themselves list education and, quote, "not having enough time with their parents" as their top concern.

LIASSON: Today's session gave Mrs. Clinton a chance to talk about her own experiences raising a teen-ager. She said before Chelsea left for college, the Clintons made it a priority to share at least one meal together a day.

Mrs. CLINTON: That hour or half-hour in the small kitchen of the private quarters upstairs in the White House was truly my favorite part of the day because Bill and I were very convinced that we wanted to convey to our daughter a simple message, one that we hoped she would carry away to college, that whenever she does need someone to talk to or ask for advice or just wants to say hello, we will be available and eager to listen.

LIASSON: The president released the results of another study from his own Council of Economic Advisers. It showed that American teen-agers today are healthier and more prosperous than ever before. Last year, for the first time in American history, the president said, the high school graduation rate of African-Americans and whites was the same. But, the president said, teens still need a lot of help to steer clear of drugs, violence, tobacco and pregnancy.

President BILL CLINTON: This is the time to be thinking about, I will say again, how we can deal with the significant challenges of this country. And anybody that thinks that we've done everything we need to do to help parents with teen-agers hasn't had teen-agers and hasn't been around lately.

LIASSON: The main recommendation of the conference, that parents should spend more time with their teen-agers, was confirmed by 16-year-old Ed Speaker(ph). He was reared by a single dad who always managed to make time for him.

ED SPEAKER (Attended Conference): I owe it most to my dad. He took me fishing. We used to go out to the ball game. He was involved in a lot of programs and the club. And it's because of that that I think I'm here today. I owe most of the credit to him. That's all I have to say.

(Soundbite of applause)

LIASSON: The president repeated his call for expanded family leave legislation and for putting more money into after-school programs. And he issued an executive order forbidding the federal government from discriminating against workers with families. The president has been criticized for this kind of bite-sized federal action, short on government clout but long on symbolism. But at least one Republican has been following the president's lead. Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush has been making a series of mini-proposals of his own to help schools and families. Recently Bush proposed adding $ 15 million to encourage character education in schools, and he's advocating a $ 400 tax deduction for teachers who buy school supplies out of their own pockets. Mara Liasson, NPR News, the White House.

LANGUAGE: English