

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of The Press Secretary

For Internal Use Only

October 5, 1994

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY
CHILD MAGAZINE QUESTIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

A PARTICIPANT: We can just -- right off of what you say.

A PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible.)

MRS. CLINTON: What is Child Magazine?

A PARTICIPANT: It's like Parents' magazine. It's not as big, but it's the same kind of audience, you know, you hit the -- you hit the 30 to 40 range parents with kids. (Inaudible) working mom -- it's -- they hit a broad cross-section.

MRS. CLINTON: Cute little kids. Oh.

A PARTICIPANT: I know. We could fake it. We could -- I mean --

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I mean, you know, we've tried to eat dinner together. We watch TV together. We play cards together. We do puzzles together. We go to Camp David together. We exercise together. What else?

A PARTICIPANT: You (inaudible)?

MRS. CLINTON: Any health recipe tips.

A PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible.)

MRS. CLINTON: Okay. Number 2. No, I would love to have had a lot of kids, but I just didn't. They didn't come, but I would have if I'd had them. "After spending so

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much time with famous high achieving people, how do you convey to Chelsea, she is most important?" What a goofy question. By loving her unconditionally, I mean, what else is there to say? I mean, it's just -- what does that question mean?

A PARTICIPANT: I think it's more of -- I think what they're trying to get at here is that you make your family a priority, in that your husband and your daughter are priorities in your life. Right, and that balance.

MRS. CLINTON: Okay. Okay. "Is it ever hard to draw Chelsea out or feel connected with her?" No.

(Laughter)

MRS. CLINTON: Sometimes it takes a little longer. You've got to be patient, because she's a teenager, so you just have to sometimes sit around and wait for her to say something. "Has Chelsea said or done anything lately that let's you know you must be doing something right?" What was it?

A PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible.)

MRS. CLINTON: Well, what is that question about?

A PARTICIPANT: I think it's -- oh, I don't know. There has to be some time recently that she's said something --

A PARTICIPANT: She's showed a social (inaudible).

A PARTICIPANT: -- or made you proud or (inaudible).

MRS. CLINTON: I think she does it all the time by the kind of person she is. She's just a wonderful person. Gave me a note in the State dinner last night. But other than that, I mean, I don't know. What else is there to say?

A PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible.)

MRS. CLINTON: Uh-huh. Well also, she wanted -- you know, she was sick yesterday, so she gave me a report about she felt she was going to bed.

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A PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible.)

MRS. CLINTON: She's such a good kid.

A PARTICIPANT: But I mean, she (inaudible).

MRS. CLINTON: Oh, absolutely.

A PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible.)

A PARTICIPANT: No.

MRS. CLINTON: No. No.

A PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible.)

MRS. CLINTON: Just a nice thing.

A PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible.)

MRS. CLINTON: Martha's Table, she did that for a week, and I got wonderful notes from the people she worked with about what a good kid she was. The -- very actively involved in her church group, and really takes a lot of interest in that.

"How does Chelsea describe you?" As an overprotective, much too concerned mother, but she indulges me. Answer 7, yes, it is hard to teach kids values today, because there are so many influences and the media is such a pervasive influence.

"What have been my biggest emotional hurdles?" Probably realizing she's a separate person from me, and that you have to let her be the person that she was meant to be, and not impose your own feelings or experiences on her.

"How does your parenting style differ from your husband's?" I'm the stricter parent, but what -- you know, usually that seems to be the case, with daughters, anyway. It's been my experience -- mothers get the bulk of the responsibility. I think -- I mean --

A PARTICIPANT: You think mothers (inaudible).

MRS. CLINTON: -- it's always been my experience. Fathers may yell louder, but --

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A PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible.)

MRS. CLINTON: No. And so -- but my husband's a wonderful father. He's such a good, involved parent. "What parenting rules do you break most?" I didn't know there were rules. You mean I've missed the rule book? I could have had it. It would have solved me a lot of --

A PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible.)

MRS. CLINTON: -- solved me a lot of problems. I try -- I mean, the rules that I care about, know about, I don't break, that I can think of. I'm probably breaking ones I'm not aware of.

A PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible.)

MRS. CLINTON: "If you could turn back the clock, what three things would you change about your life until now?" I mean, ask me in 20 years (inaudible). You know, really, I mean, I don't know what to say.

A PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible.)

MRS. CLINTON: "(Inaudible) the role government should play?" I think, pull my Chicago speech, and just look at what I talked there about -- I'll try to -- I mean, I have -- I've never read this before, but (inaudible) to say.

A PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible.)

A PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible) take the question as a guide --

A PARTICIPANT: Yes.

A PARTICIPANT: -- let it turn into --

A PARTICIPANT: I mean, you're not (inaudible.)

A PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible.)

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Our solution to a hectic lifestyle is to spend as much time together as often as possible. We watch movies in the theater, play cards (usually pinochle or spades), and take walks or bike rides together. Occasionally Chelsea and I sneak out for a meal at a

local restaurant or go to the mall to do some shopping. And like other parents, the President and I attend as many of Chelsea's school functions as we can.

Most parents today know that it's a difficult balancing act to juggle demanding jobs and family responsibilities. It requires tremendous energy and planning. It also requires a commitment to the importance of family relationships. I believe that both the quality and quantity of time with children are important factors. Some of my best times with Chelsea come when we're just sitting around talking, usually after school or when she comes home from ballet classes, while we get ready for dinner. She will raise issues or discuss events in her life that give me the chance to know what's happening in school or with friends.

I've discovered over the years that being a parent is a continuous learning process, one that evolves as your child grows. One of the hardest challenges

is realizing that my daughter is a separate person and that, although I have the obligation to guide and discipline her according to our family's values, I have to allow her to become the person that God meant her to be.

Being Chelsea's mother has taught me more about myself than anything else I've done, and I wish my husband and I had been fortunate enough to have had additional children. Each child is a gift—and a challenge. I'm grateful we've been blessed with Chelsea.

The President and I are lucky that our daughter has always been healthy and secure. We get great pleasure from watching her grow up into a wonderful young woman. She is an engaged, involved person who cares about helping others. She's active in her church group and volunteers at Martha's Table, an organization that serves meals to the homeless in Washington, DC. She understands that we all have an obligation to give something to the

community in which we live.

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Parenting is always a challenge in any time or place. But the challenges for parents in America today are different and, I believe, often more difficult because of the many influences outside the family that affect our children.

We have to stand up for what I think was so well expressed in a pastoral letter the National Conference of Catholic Bishops issued in 1991 titled "Putting Children and Families First." The letter said, "No government can love a child, and no policy can substitute for a family's care. Government can either support or undermine families. There has been an unfortunate, unnecessary, and

unreal polarization in discussion of the best way to help families. The fact is that our children's future is shaped both by the values of their parents and the policies of our nation."

It is time that we recognize the fundamental truth that every family and every parent has to assume responsibility for the most sacred trust they are given—the nurturing and care of the next generation—and that our nation must do better in supporting all families to fulfill that trust. ■

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FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
CHILD MAGAZINE
OCTOBER 1994

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Child Magazine has called with their edits/questions:

1. In paragraph #2, they ask what kinds of school functions the Clintons have gone to, they remember the story about the Sidwell Friends Auction and the puppy. Perhaps we could add something like:

And like other parents, the President and I attend as many of Chelsea's school functions as we can, like the Sidwell Friends annual silent auction, and "Open House" events.

2. In paragraph #5, HRC mentions that she has learned about herself through Chelsea. Examples of what she has learned?

3. In paragraph #6, HRC says "...and I are fortunate that our..." since she just used fortunate in paragraph #5, they'd like to use another word like "...and I are so lucky that our ..."

4. In paragraph #7, Where HRC talks about worrying for Chelsea, they'd like to know what kinds of things she worries about. Maybe something like:

But she indulges me, for instance, when I suggest that she needs a coat because I think it's cold outside. She puts up with me worrying, and we're lucky

5. Also in that paragraph, where HRC talks about the POTUS being a terrific father, what kinds of things does he do? Like making sure to eat meals together, the story about POTUS writing letters to Chelsea when she was young so that she could work on her writing skills, that kind of anecdote.

6. In paragraph #8, where HRC mentions the "influences outside the family that affect our children," are there specific issues, like crime, violence, drugs, the environment that she's referring to.

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DRAFT FOR CHILD MAGAZINE
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PHOTOCOPY
HRC HANDWRITING

The President and I are ~~very~~ fortunate that our daughter has always been healthy and secure. We get great pleasure from watching her grow up into a wonderful young woman. She is an engaged, involved person who really cares about helping others. She's active in her church group and volunteers at Martha's Table, an organization that serves meals to the homeless in Washington, D.C. She understands we all have an obligation to give something of ourselves to the community in which we live.

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~~exercise, and take walks together. On Sundays we often go on bike~~ ^{Pinochle}
~~rides. Occasionally we sneak out for a meal at a local restaurant~~ ^{or spades,}
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to juggle demanding jobs and family responsibilities. It requires
tremendous energy and planning. It also requires a belief in the
importance of family relationships. But I'm sure most parents
agree that it's worth the effort because nothing compares to the
joy and satisfaction we derive from our children.

One thing I've discovered over the years is that being a parent is a continuous learning process, one that evolves as your child grows. ~~For me,~~ the hardest part is realizing my daughter is a separate person, and that I have to let her become the person she was meant to be. I know many parents struggle with this. I'm always reminding myself not to impose my ^{own} feelings and experiences on her ~~but~~ ^{try} to remember that she is her own person and her tastes and attitudes may differ from mine.

There used to be a time when I would interrogate my daughter about everything that happened to her. I'd ask her one question after another. Now that Chelsea is a teenager, I find I probe a little less than I used to. I'm more patient. I listen more. I try to wait and hear what she has to say. And I've found she ends up teaching me a lot of things I never knew before.

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child

FEBRUARY 1995



44 Twin tips for new parents

16 Personal priorities:
Hillary on parenting



Child Exclusive

16 Raising Chelsea

The First Lady writes about what it's like to raise her daughter in the White House and what the President and she do as parents to keep Chelsea's life as normal as possible.
by Hillary Rodham Clinton

Your Child Now

22 Napping A to Zzzzz ● ■ ▲ ◆

How (and why) to get your child to take a daytime snooze
by Ann E. LaForge

29 Stages ● ■ ▲ ◆ ★

Making Sense of Make-believe
by Charles E. Schaefer, Ph.D., and Theresa Foy DiGeronimo, M.Ed.

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Special Subscriber Section

For age-by-age advice about your child's development or for ordering information, see page 33.

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Kid-Teacher Conflicts
by Lisa Feder-Feitel

29 Help your child's
imagination soar.



22 Experts offer sleep-easy
strategies for no-nap kids.

BabyBest

44 Twins: First-Year Survival Guide ●

Part One: Strategies for parents and families and friends of the twice-blessed
by Tamara Eberlein

50 Nursery News ●

Up-to-the-minute info about your baby

52 A Cut Above the Rest ●

Baby's first haircut can be a snap if you follow these tips from hair stylist Frederic Fekkai.
by Jonathan Small

54 The First Year ●

Experts answer your new-baby questions. *by Gerda Gallop*

COVER Calvin for CED wears a denim shortall by Baby Guess?, \$26, a striped top by Artwear by Hailey, \$24, and a hat by Meece Mouse, \$12, all for Natalie & Friends. Photographed by Paul Lange. See Shopping Guide.

Cover articles are indicated by page numbers in red.

Age-by-Age Guide

Articles and columns are coded to help you find those that specifically deal with issues relating to the age of your child.

- Baby (also Pregnancy) ●
- Toddler..... ■
- Preschool age..... ▲
- School age..... ◆
- Preteen..... ★

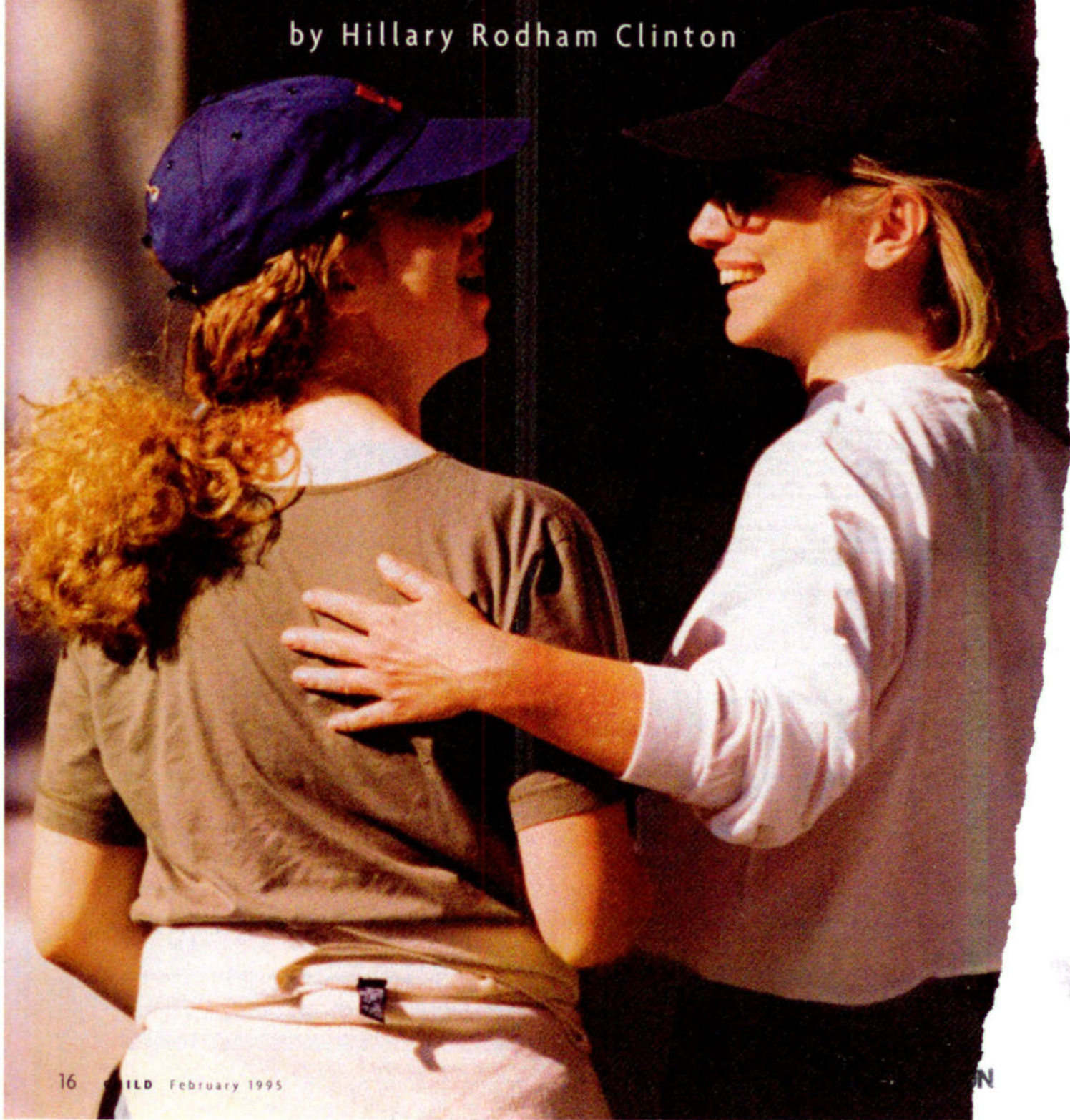
PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



CHILD Exclusive

Raising Chelsea

by Hillary Rodham Clinton



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Most parents today know that it's a difficult balancing act to juggle demanding jobs and family responsibilities. It requires tremendous energy and planning. It also requires a commitment to the importance of family relationships. I believe that both the quality and quantity of time with children are important factors. Some of my best times with Chelsea come when we're just sitting around talking, usually after school or when she comes home from ballet classes, while we get ready for dinner. She will raise issues or discuss events in her life that give me the chance to know what's happening in school or with friends.

I've discovered over the years that being a parent is a continuous learning process, one that evolves as your child grows. One of the hardest challenges

is realizing that my daughter is a separate person and that, although I have the obligation to guide and discipline her according to our family's values, I have to allow her to become the person that God meant her to be.

Being Chelsea's mother has taught me more about myself than anything else I've done, and I wish my husband and I had been fortunate enough to have had additional children. Each child is a gift—and a challenge. I'm grateful we've been blessed with Chelsea.

The President and I are lucky that our daughter has always been healthy and secure. We get great pleasure from watching her grow up into a wonderful young woman. She is an engaged, involved person who cares about helping others. She's active in her church group and volunteers at Martha's Table, an organization that serves meals to the homeless in Washington, DC. She understands that we all have an obligation to give something to the

community in which we live.

Chelsea would probably describe me as an overprotective, overly concerned mother. But she indulges me. She puts up with my worrying, and we're lucky as a family that my husband is a wonderful father. He's always been an involved, concerned parent. We have also tried to underscore for her the importance we place on family. And we hope she will experience the same feelings of joy around her children that we experience around her.

Parenting is always a challenge in any time or place. But the challenges for parents in America today are different and, I believe, often more difficult because of the many influences outside the family that affect our children.

We have to stand up for what I think was so well expressed in a pastoral letter the National Conference of Catholic Bishops issued in 1991 titled "Putting Children and Families First." The letter said, "No government can love a child, and no policy can substitute for a family's care. Government can either support or undermine families. There has been an unfortunate, unnecessary, and unreal polarization in discussion of the best way to help families. The fact is that our children's future is shaped both by the values of their parents and the policies of our nation."

It is time that we recognize the fundamental truth that every family and every parent has to assume responsibility for the most sacred trust they are given—the nurturing and care of the next generation—and that our nation must do better in supporting all families to fulfill that trust. ■



Breaking away: The Clintons hit the road for a much-needed family bike ride.



The way they were: Mom and Chelsea, age 7 (left), take in a soccer game. Chelsea, 2, with a woolly friend.