

AUTHOR GAIL SHEEHY TELLS STONE PHILLIPS THE FIRST LADY MAY HAVE QUESTIONS TO ANSWER ABOUT POSSIBLE MARIJUANA USE IN HER PAST, IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW ON "DATELINE NBC" NOV 29

In an exclusive interview with Stone Phillips about her new book, best-selling author Gail Sheehy raises questions about possible marijuana use in the First Lady's past, and says that Mrs. Clinton virtually stopped talking to her husband for eight months after he confessed about Monica Lewinsky. The interview will be broadcast on "Dateline NBC" Monday, November 29 (10-11 p.m. ET).

Sheehy's book, "Hillary's Choice," is an unauthorized portrait of the First Lady, based on over 400 interviews with people who knew the Clintons, as well as conversations Sheehy had with the First Lady while covering her over the years.

In the book, Sheehy quotes David Rupert, who she says is Mrs. Clinton's first love, as saying "Some of us were inhaling," referring to marijuana. When asked whether Mrs. Clinton may have joined in, Sheehy writes that Rupert responded, "I don't have to go there, but you can read between the lines."

Sheehy tells Phillips she interprets Rupert's remarks to mean "that they partook of what everybody else in their age group did in 1968 and '69. They went to parties where people were smoking and they probably smoked." When asked by Phillips if she thinks the candidate Mrs. Clinton has some drug questions to answer, Sheehy replied, "Probably, just like almost every other candidate has had to answer them."

After Monica Lewinsky, Sheehy says Mrs. Clinton stopped speaking to the President for eight months and in August of 1998 she completely withdrew from the Presidency. According to Sheehy, the silence was not broken until this March when Mrs. Clinton called her husband from Africa and told him he must begin bombing in Kosovo. "The day after she said that, he [President Clinton] announced that he was informing his NATO allies that he was recommending a bombing campaign," Sheehy tells Phillips.

Sheehy also tells Phillips that in 1990 Mrs. Clinton came very close to separating from her husband, after learning that he had fallen in love with another woman. The woman would later be known as Jane Doe #1 in the Paula Jones lawsuit. "The affair, which has never been described before, almost drove a stake through that marriage. He [President Clinton] became obsessed with her [Jane Doe #1]. He would call her sometimes 18 times a day. He made hundreds of phone calls to her over a period of a year and a half," says Sheehy.

Sheehy details a private, heart-to-heart confrontation between the Clintons, in which a "shattered" Mrs. Clinton, worried that she had lost her husband, tries to woo him back with an offer: if he repented, she would give him the free pass he needed to secure his political future. "She could give him forgiveness for his previous transgressions, give him cover so that he could run for President in '92, but she would not condone an ongoing affair. That was the price," explains Sheehy.

Both Jane Doe #1 and President Clinton maintain they were friends and nothing more. They declined to respond to Sheehy's allegations.

A spokesperson for Mrs. Clinton told Dateline the First Lady stands by her previous statements that she has never taken illegal drugs. And, in regard to whether the Clintons did not speak to one another for eight months, the spokesperson told Dateline the Clintons were working through difficult times and were communicating.

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Media Contact: Hilary Smith (212) 664-2617, Hilary.Smith@NBC.COM NYC - 11/24/99

30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, 10112 212 664-4444 A Division of National Broadcasting Company, Inc.

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First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
White House
Washington, D. C.

Gail Sheehy
300 E. 57th St.
New York City
10022

Hold

GAIL SHEEHY

May 21, 1999

Dear Hilary —

I appreciate your taking the time to write me a personal note about your Macedonia trip. Your interview with Christine was most impressive. In fact, I plan to use a quote of yours from the interview on the title page. (Enclosed)

I meant what I said about my high regard for you. Talking to you before I finish my book, however briefly, will

guarantee greater accuracy and add warmth, both of which I believe are in your interest as well as mine. My final deadline is end of June.

Wishing you inspiration on your big decision —

Best wishes,

Gail

HILLARY'S CHOICE

By Gail Sheehy

"Every one of us has a choice...I think that in everyday ways, how you treat your own disappointments and whether you're able to forgive the pain that others cause you and, frankly, to acknowledge the pain you cause to others, it's one of the big challenges we face as we move into this next century. And it's something that I certainly have faced. But I look into the eyes of people all over my country and the world, and I know it's something all of us face."

--Hillary Rodham Clinton, May 14, 1999

GAIL SHEEHY
AUTHOR, JOURNALIST

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
VANITY FAIR
350 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 10017

300 E. 57 ST.
NEW YORK 10022, SUITE 17E
(212) 759-2321
FAX: (212) 888-2383

cc: Melanne
Parrish

Hillary Rodham Clinton

May 17, 1999

Dear Gail,

I did not see your letter until
my return from Macedonia and apologize
for not contacting you to tell you
I was not taking any journalists with
me. The trip was not finalized until the

Sherry-
File

last minute, and, because of security issues, we had to limit the number of travellers. I hope you have a chance to see the refugees first hand so you can add your voice to all those speaking on their behalf.

Sincerely yours, Hillary