

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. schedule	Proposed Engineering Schedule (3 pages)	05/03/1999	b(7)(E)
002. list	High School Students [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (2 pages)	06/03/1999	b(6)
003. profile	Langley High School student bios [partial] (1 page)	06/03/1999	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Lissa Muscatine
OA/Box Number: 20081

FOLDER TITLE:

Good Morning America - June 4, 1999

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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

HOUSE
LEFT

*Naomi Itirabayashi	Will STALEY	
Boena Emami	Mike Collin	SCOTT CARVER
MELANIE BROOKS	*KATIE SCHAEZ	
LEANNE DEW	MANDY JENKINS	Jonathon Schnenit
Missy JENKINS	CHARLIE	BRANDY VARNER
SARAH MCARTHUR	ALBERT SMITH	CHAD TORNABENI

Josh

Kathryn
Long

Kotcher
Dizayyer

~~Tiffany
Bull~~

HOUSE
RIGHT

Andrew BONBON Steven Kerchner	Patricia Rios	*Robert WEAVER	SARY BAIRD
	MAYA HARRIS	Bray Hamell	
Elizabeth Sutton	*Khor RAY	Michael ROBBINS	Brian Borden Danna FALK
Tiffany Bull	TREY CARVER HOPE WILLIAMS	DIANE JEN BIDOLA	JADA BOAZER Betina Lynn

Good Morning America
Youth Violence Questions and Answers
June 4, 1998

School Safety/Youth Violence

Q: In the wake of the school shootings, like those in Jonesboro, and Littleton, what can really be done to make our schools and communities safer for our children?

A: All of us must work together and accept responsibility for the safety of our children -- in our schools and our communities. And that means there is more for each of us to do at home and at school, in Hollywood and in the heartland and here in Washington.

First and most fundamentally, we must do more to help parents fulfill their most important responsibilities -- those to their children. Challenging parents to turn off the television or use the V-Chip to block inappropriate programming; to use the new tools to keep an eye on the computer screen; to refuse to buy products that glorify violence.

I have called on the media and entertainment industries for their participation as well. We cannot pretend that there is no adverse impact on our culture and our children if there is too much violence coming out of what they see and experience. So we have to ask people who produce things to consider the consequences of them -- whether it's a violent movie, a CD, a video game. If they are made, they at least they should not be marketed to children and I have called on the FTC and the Justice Department to immediately commence a study into this issue.

And finally, the Congress must join in our national effort by quickly passing legislation necessary to keep guns out of the hands of children and criminals. I've proposed comprehensive legislation on this front, and worked with gun manufacturers and sportsmen to garner their support for my common sense measures that will help save lives.

Q: Are America's schools unsafe?

A: America's schools are quite safe. While we need to work to make them safer, we know that for the most part our schools are safer than the communities in which they are located. Data from the Annual Report on School Safety indicates that 43 percent of schools reported NO incidents of crime, and 90 percent of schools reported NO incidents of serious violent crime.

But even though schools are generally safe, no school or community is immune from senseless violence, as recent school tragedies remind us. And although students are safer sitting in a classroom than walking down the street, serious crime problems persist, gang presence in schools doubled between 1989 and 1995, thousands of kids bring guns to

school, and discipline remains the #1 problem in the classroom. My revamped Safe and Drug-Free Schools program will put a new emphasis on school discipline, in addition to combating crime and drugs in schools.

Q: How many students are expelled for bringing guns to school? Is this number increasing?

A: As part of our national policy for gun-free schools, in the 1996-97 school year, over 6,000 students were expelled for bringing a gun to school. We have some indications that these numbers are decreasing and fewer students are bringing guns to school. Moreover, serious violent crime committed against students at school -- which is lower than crime committed against students while they are away from school -- has also been on the decline.

Q: What specific school safety initiatives have you recently proposed?

A: My revamped Safe and Drug-Free Schools proposal contains a number of new initiatives to help keep our schools safer, more disciplined, and drug-free. My safe schools proposal will require counseling for students who bring guns and bombs to school, promote programs that educate students on the risks associated with firearms, provide more school counselors to help deal with troubled youth, and inform parents when guns are brought to school. My proposal also promotes more orderly and disciplined classrooms by allowing more education funds to be spent on alternative schools for disruptive youth, and character education to help instill common sense values in our young people.

My proposal also provides more effective prevention programs for the reduction of drugs and violence in schools, more accountability for results, and better targeting to those schools that need the most assistance. Under the revamped program, school districts will be expected to develop comprehensive plans that: require schools to adopt comprehensive school safety plans, use proven anti-drug and violence prevention programs, establish security procedures for schools, and give parents an annual school report of incidents of drug use and violence. In addition, my safe schools initiative would create Project SERV-- the School Emergency Response to Violence -- to dispatch a coordinated FEMA-like response if a school tragedy should occur.

But whole communities need to get involved with keeping our schools safe. That is why we created a new \$380 million program, the Safe Schools-Healthy Students initiative, to establish community-wide responses to school safety. Our initiative will give communities funds to provide comprehensive services for our young people, such as mental health services, school resource officers, mentoring, and after school programs.

Q: What are some examples of local solutions that have been successful in combating youth violence?

A: Communities across the country have been successful in devising solutions to their local youth violence problems. Some particularly noteworthy communities include:

- **Boston, MA:** Boston brought together a broad coalition of Federal, state, and local government agencies, non-profits, businesses, religious leaders, and residents to devise a comprehensive strategy to address the escalating number of youth homicides. Some of the innovative programs they developed include Operation Ceasefire and the Boston Gun Project which helped them to identify gang-involved youth, send clear messages about the city's zero tolerance policies, and trace crime guns to disrupt illegal gun markets. Boston also created Operation Night Light to strengthen supervision of youth probationers, and expanded their intervention and prevention programs for at-risk youth. As a result, Boston's youth homicide rate dropped dramatically, and experienced a remarkable two year period where no juvenile was killed with a gun.
- **Minnesota, MN:** Minnesota created a unique public-private partnership ("Minnesota HEALS") to develop their violence reduction strategy. The initiative includes numerous corporate commitments and public agency collaborations to reduce violent crime. The city created a Law Enforcement Task Force to help identify the gang problem responsible for much of their violent crime, a rapid response team to crack down on gang shootings and retaliations, and saturation patrols to patrol crime and gun "hot spots." In addition, Honeywell, General Mills, and other private companies partner with existing community organizations to provide financial resources and expertise for revitalization programs, as well as school partnerships, and to employment training. As a result of Minnesota HEALS, homicides are down by 30 percent, and gang-related homicides have been cut in half.
- **San Diego, CA:** In San Diego, the school district responded to the county's increase in juvenile violence and crime with a comprehensive approach to reduce youth violence and increase students' educational success. The district provides a race/human relations team to proactively deal with discrimination and gang issues, a Life Skills Program to prevent substance abuse and teen pregnancy, counselors and nurses in every elementary schools, and zero tolerance policies for guns and drugs in schools. The district also maintains close ties to police officers, juvenile judges and probation officers, and employs a number of security measures as well such as school police, a crisis team, and undercover police to detect drug use. As a result, the district has less crime and truancy during the school day, significant declines of 50 to 75 percent in drug, alcohol and tobacco use by students and a decrease in drop out rates.

Guns

Q: The gun lobby has successfully beaten back efforts to pass new gun laws in recent years. Do you believe that the Congress will actually pass gun control legislation this year?

A: I believe the Congress will -- indeed, it must-- pass common sense gun legislation this summer. Although violent and gun-related crime have fallen dramatically over the last 7 years, these tragic school shootings remind us that we must do even more to reduce youth violence and keep guns out of the hands of children. An estimated 13 young people die everyday in America from a gun shot wound. This is unacceptable. While the Senate should be commended for moving quickly to pass reasonable gun legislation, the House leadership must recognize that there is a growing national consensus that government should do more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and children, and that it should put the will of the American people over the clout of the gun lobby.

Q: Are you satisfied with the Senate-passed gun legislation?

A: I am pleased that the Senate bill contained many of the provisions that I recently proposed as part of my Youth Gun Crime Enforcement Act -- the most comprehensive gun legislation put forward in 30 years. Some of my proposals included in the Senate bill would: (1) close the gun show loophole to require Brady background checks at gun shows; (2) ban the juvenile possession of semi-automatic assault rifles; (3) halt the importation of large capacity ammunition magazines; (4) bar violent juveniles from owning guns as adults; (5) require child safety locks with guns; and (6) help law enforcement trace more crime guns to their source.

However, as the House of Representatives prepares to take up gun legislation in the coming weeks, they should view the Senate's gun provisions as a floor -- not a ceiling. The House bill should also raise the age of handgun possession from 18 to 21, extend the Brady Law to purchases of explosives. I believe that these additional measures would go a long way toward helping to save lives, and the House should act on them promptly.

Q: The NRA and certain Republicans charge that under the your Administration, federal gun prosecutions are significantly down, and almost no cases have been brought against students for bringing a gun to school. They believe that more enforcement of existing laws is needed instead of new gun control laws. What is your response?

A: Although Republicans and the NRA like to say that so-called "Triggerlock" prosecutions are down, and my administration has failed to prosecute kids for bringing guns to school, that's simply not the real story on federal firearms prosecutions. The truth is that:

(1) The laws have succeeded in deterring gun crime. The federal laws cited

by the NRA have relatively small penalties and were enacted primarily for their deterrent effect on crime and weapons-carrying by criminals and young people. Put simply, they are intended to stop guns from getting into the hands of criminals and juveniles, and the evidence shows they are doing so. Crime rates are down nationwide, and gun-related crime -- particularly by youth -- is down dramatically: homicides, robberies, and aggravated assaults committed with gun are down by an average of 27 percent. This is in part because these laws have stopped over a quarter million felons, fugitives, and prohibited users from buying guns in the first place.

(2) Federal prosecutions of serious gun crimes have gone up. At the federal level, we have focused on the most serious gun crimes, and prosecution of these crimes is up during this Administration. Prosecutions of gun criminals serving sentences of five years or more have increased by fully 30 percent.

(3) Overall firearms prosecutions of serious gun criminals are up. Combined state and federal prosecution of gun offenses is up during this Administration, in large part because of improved coordination and sensible allocation of resources. About 25 percent more criminals currently are sent to prison for state and federal weapons offenses than in 1992. In many cases, state prosecutions make more sense because criminals may be subject to longer sentences in the state court system.

(4) Tough talk is cheap. Despite its rhetoric, time and again, the gun lobby has opposed efforts to provide real money to state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies to investigate, arrest, and prosecute gun criminals and illegal gun traffickers. Over the past two years, we have called for more resources to enforce our gun laws on every front -- requesting tens of millions of dollars to hire over 280 new ATF agents and over 40 new federal prosecutors, as well as more than a billion dollars to hire more local police and prosecutors.

(5) Enforcement alone is not enough. While we support increased resources for federal enforcement and prosecutions, enforcement alone is simply not enough. It is essential to prevent criminals and kids from getting guns in the first place. The Brady Law has stopped over a quarter of a million felons, fugitives, and stalkers from getting handguns, preventing countless crimes. That is why I am urging the Congress to enact my proposals to prevent guns from falling into the hands of children and felons.

Q: It has been widely reported that there is a growing divide between the gun industry and the NRA. Are you encouraging this divide? And how does this affect gun legislation in Congress?

A: I have called on all sectors of society to come together and do what they can to prevent and combat youth violence. I am pleased that key members of the gun industry are

stepping up to the plate and have signaled their support for reasonable, common sense measures to help reduce gun violence.

The American Shooting Sports Council, which represents over 300 gun manufacturers and dealers, specifically endorsed five of my proposals: (1) requiring background checks at gun shows; (2) raising the age of handgun possession from 18 to 21; (3) expanding our crime gun tracing initiative; (4) establishing liability for adults who allow children access to guns; and (5) permanently banning violent juveniles from owning guns.

We believe that the industry's endorsement of our proposals to keep guns out of the hands of kids and criminals exemplifies the kind of broad support we have for our common sense proposals -- and gives Congress yet another reason to enact these initiatives immediately.

Media Violence

Q: Earlier this week, you announced a joint FTC and Justice Department study on marketing violence to youth. What will this study specifically look into?

A: Studies show that violent programming increases children's aggression toward others and desensitizes them to violence. If and to the extent that the video game, movie, and recording industries market to children violent and other materials that are rated for adults, they undermine current content-based ratings systems, make it harder for parents to control the movies, music and games their children see, and increase the likelihood of children being exposed to inappropriate materials.

That is why I asked the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice to conduct a study to determine whether and how the video game, motion picture, and recording industries market to children violent and other material rated for adults. The study will examine whether sectors of these industries advertise violent material rated for adults in media outlets in which children comprise a substantial percentage of the audience or whether they otherwise use marketing practices designed to attract children to violent material. The study also will examine whether these industries have adopted procedures restricting the sale of products rated for adults to children and the extent to which these procedures are effective in ensuring that children do not have access to adult-oriented material.

Q: What do you plan to do if this study concludes that media industries do market violent materials rated for adults to children?

A: First, the study can help the industries themselves to enforce their self-regulatory systems by providing them with information about various kinds of marketing practices. If the report concludes that some members of these industries are pushing adult-rated material

on children, the industries as a whole may want to adopt stronger protections against these marketing practices. Second, this information will serve as a useful tool for parents by helping them better understand, and thereby better monitor, whether and how the media target violent material to children. Third, government officials can review the finding of the study to determine whether any action is appropriate, consistent with the First Amendment.

Q: Why doesn't your study look into whether the gun industry targets children?

A: The study focuses on the entertainment industries for the simple reason that these industries do massive amounts of marketing; indeed, images of guns and other weapons reach far more people through entertainment advertising than through advertising for those products. If those conducting the study, however, believe that they can uncover important information by looking further into the gun industry's marketing practices, then they have the authority and resources to do so.

Q: There has been a lot of talk about the V-Chip, and its ability to help parents screen out programming that they don't want their children to see. When will it be ready?

A: With the Vice President Gore helping to lead the fight, we passed legislation that requires that the V-Chip be installed in all new television sets sold beginning January 1, 2000. And last month, we took two more steps to make sure the V-Chip becomes a useful tool for parents. First, the FCC will establish a V-Chip Task Force to ensure that V-Chip requirement is enforced promptly and comprehensively and promote parental awareness. And second, we are working with the Kaiser foundation and the Center for Media Education in their national effort to educate parents about the V-Chip TV ratings system -- with free booklets for parents on how the V-chip TV ratings system works that will be available through a toll-free telephone number.

National Campaign to Prevent Youth Violence

Q: You've previously announced that you were planning to launch a national campaign to prevent youth violence. Why a national campaign? Can it really do anything?

A: Youth violence is a problem that government cannot solve alone. That is why we called for the creation of a national campaign to reduce youth violence. This campaign will work at the grass-roots level with all sectors of our society -- the media, education groups, parents, religious leaders, and young people -- to focus on this problem, find what is working, and spread it to new communities.

We wanted to model the new campaign after two extremely successful efforts that we

May 18, 1999

Memorandum for Hillary Rodham Clinton

From: Neera Tanden
Ruby Shamir

Subject: Your Activities in the Wake of Littleton

You have participated in the following activities post-Littleton (listed here in chronological order):

April 22	Al Shanker Speech before AFT
April 27	Event with the President on Guns Control Initiative
April 28	Column on Littleton
April 29	Principal for a Day
April 29	Jefferson Jackson Dinner
May 8	Mother's Day Event on Guns
May 10	White House Strategy Session on Children, Violence and Responsibility
May 12	Column on Gun Control and National Campaign
May 20	Trip to Littleton

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 18, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I want to commend the Senate for reversing its position of last year and voting overwhelmingly today to require that child safety locks be provided with every gun sold. This was a courageous, common sense vote that will help prevent tragic shootings and gun-related accidents in the future.

I also want to thank Speaker Hastert for agreeing that we should close the gun show loophole and raise the age of handgun ownership from 18 to 21. The Senate should likewise put progress over politics and give its strong backing to these reasonable measures to keep guns out of the hands of children and criminals. I urge Senator Lott to let the Senate keep working on the juvenile crime bill and give every Senator the chance to vote on these common sense provisions.

30-30-30

TO: The First Lady
FROM: Neera Tanden
RE: Crime Issues
Date: May 17, 1999

I wanted to provide you with a brief update on gun control and other crime issues.

I. Gun Amendments to the Juvenile Crime Bill

As part of its consideration of juvenile crime legislation last week, the Senate voted on a number of gun-related amendments:

(1) Gun shows: The Senate narrowly passed two amendments dealing with gun shows. After voting to table the Lautenberg amendment to require background checks at all gun shows (51-47), the Senate passed a Craig amendment establishing a system of voluntary background checks for unlicensed sellers at gun shows. After considerable criticism, Republicans tried to strengthen their gun shows amendment the next day by making background checks mandatory for some gun sales at gun shows. However, the Republicans' revised amendment remains problematic for a number of reasons:

(a) It continues to exempt some gun sellers -- or a new class of "special licensees" created by the amendment -- from mandatory background checks.

(b) It rolls back current law to exempt pawnshops from conducting background checks on redeemed firearms. It is worth noting that persons who redeem firearms at pawnshops are more than 3 times as likely to be a prohibited purchasers under law.

(c) It undermines federal law enforcement by not requiring a new class of persons allowed to conduct background checks -- special registrants -- to assist law enforcement in tracing firearms, and by not allowing federal law enforcement to require gun show sellers to certify that they are in compliance with state and local gun laws, as the Lautenberg amendment would.

(d) It would weaken the Brady Law by requiring background checks at gun shows to take place within a 24-hour period (not a business day). Under the Brady Law, the FBI has up to 3 business days if necessary to clarify arrest records, and it requires additional time in about 20 to 30 percent of the background checks. Thus, a background check conducted Saturday morning at a gun show would have to be completed by Sunday morning, even though the state court officer -- where many criminal records are kept -- would be closed.

Despite these problems, the Republican gun shows "fix" passed by a 48-47 vote (with 4 Democrats not voting). This amendment also included \$50 million for enhanced federal firearms prosecutions, increased penalties for criminals who use firearms, a watered down version of juvenile Brady, and an expansion of the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative.

(2) Assault weapons: The Senate passed versions of two proposals included in the Administration's gun legislation. The Senate passed an Ashcroft amendment to bar juvenile possession of assault rifles and large capacity ammunition clips. Unlike the Administration's proposal, however, the Ashcroft ban contains numerous exemptions that track those for handguns in the Youth Handgun Safety Act (e.g., hunting, ranching, etc.), and it only bans possession through age 18. The Administration's bill would have banned assault weapons and clips in every instance and for all persons under the age of 21. The Senate also passed the Feinstein amendment to bar the importation of all large capacity ammunition magazines.

(3) Internet sales: The Senate voted down a Schumer amendment to require background checks for firearms sold on the Internet.

Although the Senate is expected to resume consideration of the juvenile crime bill and other gun amendments this week, the bill may be taken off the floor if Republicans and Democrats do not reach any agreement on how to limit the number of outstanding amendments.

II. 1998 FBI Crime Data

Yesterday, the FBI released the preliminary 1998 Uniform Crime Report, which showed that overall crime fell by 7 percent from 1997. Between 1997 and 1998, both violent and property crime decreased by 7 percent. Violent crime: murder dropped by 8 percent, rape and assault fell by 5 percent each, and robbery fell by 11 percent. Property crime: larceny-theft fell 6 percent, burglary and arson down 7 percent each, and motor vehicle theft declined by 10 percent. Crime decreased in all regions, with the West reporting the largest drops in violent crime (9 percent) and the Midwest reporting the smallest decreases (4 percent). Serious crime fell in cities of all sizes, with large cities (populations from 250,000-999,999) and suburban cities (50,000 to 99,999) reporting the largest decreases (8 percent each) and smaller cities with populations of less than 10,000 reporting the smallest decreases (4 percent). This is the seventh year the nation has witnessed a decline in violent crime.

May 9, 1999

BRIEFING ON STATISTICS RELATED TO YOUTH VIOLENCE

FROM: NEERA TANDEN
RUBY SHAMIR

The following are statistics on factors that may contribute to youth violence. The first section is a synopsis of several studies on media violence and its effects on children's behavior. The second section, on the state of the nation's children, notes that feelings of depression and isolation appear to be growing. The third section includes statistics on gun violence.

Media and Violence

There have been numerous studies on the effects of television violence on children. The vast majority of these studies, which cover a range of settings and issues, have concluded that violence on television promotes aggressive behavior in children.

Impact of Media Violence

Studies on the effects of television violence on children have taken place in a range of settings and the vast majority of them have concluded that violence on television leads to aggressive behavior.

- The 1972 Surgeon General Report said "We know that children imitate and learn from everything they see - parents, fellow children, school, the media; it would be extraordinary, indeed, if they did not imitate and learn from what they see on television." Experiments carried out for this report revealed that violence on television causes children either to mimic directly the actions they view, or it may instigate aggressive behavior. Other studies found that if an actor is rewarded for violent behavior, children are more likely to imitate it.
- In 1992, the Journal of the American Medical Association reported that "they (young children) do not possess an instinct for gauging a priori whether a behavior ought to be imitated...up through the ages 3 and 4 years, many children are unable to distinguish fact from fantasy in television programs..."
- According to the American Psychiatric Association, ignoring consequences of violence or depicting the consequences unreasonably sets in motion a destructive encoding process. Viewers become desensitized and fearful and begin to identify with aggressors and the aggressors' solutions to various problems. The violent behaviors and attitudes thus encoded, aggression is now all the more likely in personal situations.
- Studies have shown that television violence has a particularly negative effect on children who have a tendency towards aggressive behavior. However, it is important to note that television

violence affects youngsters of all ages, both genders, all socioeconomic levels and all levels of intelligence. Dr. Leonard Eron of the University of Chicago has said that television violence creates a vicious cycle in which televised violence causes children to become more aggressive, and these more aggressive children in turn, watch more violence on television to justify their own behavior.

- Recent studies have measured the longer-term effects of television violence by tracking subjects from childhood to adulthood. Dr. Eron led a study in 1960 that tracked 870 youth in New York and found that a boy's early childhood aggression in elementary school was statistically related to aggressive anti-social behavior 10 years later. A 22-year follow-up with the same group of children found that their early violence viewing related to their adult criminality at age 30.
- NOTE: There has been no major research on video games or the Internet. The proposed Surgeon General's report would include new research on the effects of these new media.

Violent Programming Content

- The level of violence in prime time television has remained at approximately five violent acts per hour, while the level of violence in children's Saturday morning programming is much higher at about 20 to 25 violent acts per hour.
- Children witness 8,000 murders and 100,000 other assorted acts of violence by the time they graduate from elementary school, and an estimated 200,000 acts of violence, and 16,000 simulated murders, by the time they are teens.
- According to the 1996 National Television Violence Study, a three-year study financed by the cable industry, the majority of television programs (57%) contained some violent content.
- The National Television Violence Study also found that perpetrators of violent acts on television go unpunished 73% of the time and that 25% of violent acts on television involve the use of a handgun. Children's programs posed special concerns because they were least likely to depict the long-term consequences of violence (5%) and they portray violence in a humorous fashion 67% of the time.

State of the Nation's Children

Children and Depression

The National Mental Health Association (NMHA) cites a number of studies and statistics on childhood depression. The NMHA also marked May 6 as Childhood Depression Awareness Day to bring attention to childhood depression.

- The rate of suicide for five to 24 year olds has nearly tripled since 1960, making it the leading cause of death in adolescents and the second leading cause of death among college age youth. (AACAP, 1995)

- As many as one in every 33 children and one in eight adolescents may have depression. (U.S. Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), 1996)
- Once a young person has experienced a major depression, he or she is at risk of developing another depression within the next five years. (CMHS, 1996)
- Two-thirds of children with mental health problems do not get the help they need. (CMHS, 1996)
- Suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15 to 24 year olds (approximately 5,000 young people) and the sixth leading cause of death for five to 15 year olds. (American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), 1995.)

Youth Attitudes

As you know, the Ad Council produced a study entitled "Kids These Days: What American Really Think About the Next Generation," covering a range of issues. The study, a collection of surveys, found that young people today face a moral crisis because parents are not sufficiently engaged in the lives of their children. The study further noted that parents do not feel that they are able to spend enough time with their children, because they must work harder.

The study had a special focus on teen's attitudes. Teenagers described themselves as happy and said that they have warm relationships with their parents and other adults. Many, however, noted that they have a lot of free, unstructured time and said that their environs are filled with hazards and potential trouble.

Statistics on Gun Violence

Gun Violence

Gun violence is also on the rise, as the firearm injury rate is ten times higher than the polio epidemic in the first half of the century. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that by 2003 the leading cause of death from injury will be from gunshots.

- In 1996, 4,643 children and teenagers were killed by firearms in murders, suicides, and unintentional shootings.
- Gunshot wounds are the second leading cause of death for all people aged 10-34.
- According to a February 1997 report by the Centers for Disease Control, the rate of firearm deaths among children 0-14 years old is nearly twelve times higher in the United States than in 25 other industrialized countries combined.

Gun Ownership

According to a 1996 Department of Justice report:

- There are approximately 200 million guns in private hands even though only 25 % of all adults in America own guns.
- 20% of all gun-owning households had a loaded, unlocked gun in the home, a figure that was significantly higher among households that had a handgun, as opposed to a long gun. Further, the study found that 53% of long guns and 57% of handguns are usually kept unlocked.
- 26% of all guns and 55% of handguns are usually kept loaded. Loaded guns of either type are more likely to be unlocked than are unloaded guns. The result is that one in three handguns, and one in six long guns, is kept loaded and unlocked.

PROMOTING SCHOOL SAFETY & PREVENTING YOUTH VIOLENCE

President Clinton's Record

SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Hosting the White House Conference on School Safety. Convening experts, parents, principals, students, law enforcement and local community leaders, the President and First Lady held the first-ever White House Conference on School Safety on October 15, 1998, to provide an opportunity for Americans to learn more about how they can make their own schools and communities safer. The Conference focused both on the recent incidents of extreme violence as well as the causes of youth violence more generally. It included members of communities affected by school shootings and was linked by satellite to schools and communities across the nation.

Launching a Community-Wide Response to School Safety and Youth Violence. Last month, the President launched the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative, which will provide up to \$180 million this year -- and a total of \$380 million over the next three years -- to help 50 communities develop and implement community-wide responses to school safety and youth violence. This initiative, which was also a product of the White House School Safety Conference, represents an unprecedented collaboration between the Departments of Justice, Education and Health and Human Services to provide comprehensive educational, law enforcement, mental health, juvenile justice, and other services to help communities prevent youth violence and drug abuse, in and out of school. Communities have until June 1, 1999 to apply for as much as \$3 million each through this initiative.

Helping to Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free. In 1994, President Clinton expanded the Drug-Free Schools Act into the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, making violence prevention a key part of this program. Safe and Drug-Free Schools provides support for violence and drug prevention programs to 97 percent of the nation's school districts. At the White House Conference on School Safety, President Clinton announced his plan for a significant overhaul of the nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program to focus more on effective violence prevention initiatives. Under the President's proposal, schools will be required to adopt rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans that include: tough, but fair, discipline policies; safe passage to and from schools; effective drug and violence policies and programs; annual school safety and drug use report cards; funding for mental health services; links to after school programs; efforts to involve parents; and crisis management plans.

Responding to the Early Warning Signs of Troubled Youth. President Clinton directed the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General to develop a guide to help teachers and principals identify and respond to the early warning signs of troubled youth that can lead to school violence. In August 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education released *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*. The guide, aimed at teachers, principals, parents, and others who work with young people, provides information on how to identify and respond to the early warning signs of troubled youth that can lead to violence in schools. In addition, the guide also instructs schools on how to develop a violence prevention plan and

provides a crisis procedure checklist for schools to use if violence occurs. Finally, the guide lists actions students can take -- such as listening to troubled friends, involving trusted adults, and asking law enforcement to conduct school safety audits -- to help create safer schools. More than 200,000 guides already have been distributed to schools across the nation, and 150,000 additional copies will be distributed next week.

Creating a New Federal Response for Violent Deaths in Schools. President Clinton has proposed a \$12 million School Emergency Response to Violence -- or Project SERV -- in his FY 2000 budget to help schools and local communities respond to school-related violent deaths, such as those that occurred last school year in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; and Springfield, Oregon. Developed with input from local officials and educators in these and other communities, Project SERV will enable the federal government to assist local communities in much the same way that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assists in response to natural disasters. The program will also help communities build the infrastructure necessary to bring more mental health services into their schools.

Hiring School Resource Officers, Targeting Assistance to Schools with Serious Crime Problems. To help give schools with crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, at the White House Conference on School Safety, the President announced a new \$65 million initiative to hire up to 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools -- and to train police, educators and other members of the community to help recognize the early warning signs of violence.

Forging School-Based Partnerships Between Schools and Law Enforcement. Under the School-Based Partnerships grant program, the Clinton Administration released \$16.4 million in grants to 155 law enforcement agencies in September 1998. The School-Based Partnerships grants will be used by policing agencies to work with schools and community-based organizations to address crime at and around schools. This initiative emphasizes using principles of community policing and problem-solving methods to address the causes of school-related crime. The grants will help forge or strengthen partnerships between local law enforcement and schools to focus on school crime, drug use and discipline problems.

Issuing the First Annual Report on School Safety. In December 1997, President Clinton called for an Annual Report on School Safety, which was released on October 15, 1998 and sent to every school in the nation. The report includes: an analysis of all existing national school crime data and an overview of state and local crime reporting; examples of schools and strategies that are successfully reducing school violence, drug use and class disruption; actions that parents can take locally to combat school crime; and resources available to schools and communities to help create safe, disciplined and drug-free schools.

GUN CONTROL

Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Children. A number of laws and initiatives are keeping guns out of the hands of children and away from criminals. For instance, since the Brady Law's enactment, over 250,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers have been denied handguns, and the 1994 Crime Bill banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies -- keeping assault

weapons off America's streets. The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) is cracking down on the illegal gun markets that supply firearms to juveniles and criminals in 37 target cities. The ATF has already traced more than 77,000 crime guns in the YCGII cities, which has led to the investigation and arrest of hundreds of illegal gun traffickers supplying guns to juveniles and criminals. The Administration's FY 2000 budget proposal proposes adding ATF agents to new YCGII cities to assist in gun trafficking investigations. In addition to these programs, President Clinton signed a directive to every federal agency, requiring child safety locking devices with every handgun issued to federal law enforcement officers. And, in an historic agreement, eight major gun manufacturers have voluntarily agreed to provide child safety locking devices with all their handguns, helping to protect our children.

Enforcing Zero Tolerance for Guns and Other Weapons in Schools. In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, requiring states to have in effect a law requiring local education agencies (LEAs) to expel students who bring guns to school. The President issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce "zero tolerance" for guns in schools, a policy requiring the expulsion of students who bring guns to schools. In school year 1996-97, the U.S. Department of Education estimates that, under zero tolerance policies, 6,093 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school.

CULTURE

Giving Families A New Tool -- A Content-Based Television Ratings System. Striving to protect children from violence and adult content on television, the President and Vice President garnered a breakthrough agreement from the television industry to create a content-based voluntary ratings system. The new system went into effect October 1, 1997, giving parents the information they need to determine if TV shows are appropriate for viewing by their children and identifying which programs they want to block from their homes through screening technology (the V-chip). The voluntary rating system includes age- and content-based ratings.

Helping Parents Control What Comes Into Their Living Room with the V-Chip. Four years ago, President Clinton and Vice President Gore used the Family Policy Conference in Nashville to call for V-chip legislation -- to give parents new tools to help them screen out television programs that are not fit for their kids. Under strong leadership from the White House, the following year saw Congress enact the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which included V-chip legislation. Now, by January 2000, all new televisions are scheduled to include this screening technology.

Hosting the White House Conference on Children's Television. In July 1996, the President, Vice President, and First Lady convened the White House Conference on Children's Television to improve and expand education television for children. Conference participants included parents, industry representatives, advocates, experts and advertisers. At the Conference, the television industry joined with the President and agreed to air more educational and instructional children's shows.

Encouraging More Educational Television. At the President's urging, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted clear and concrete rules to encourage the

development and promotion of TV programming that would be both welcomed by parents and watched by children. The rules require three hours of regularly scheduled, half-hour weekly educational and instructional programming as a requirement for license renewal.

Promoting a "Family Friendly" Internet. The President and Vice President have worked to make cyberspace a safe place for children. The Administration has enlisted the assistance of numerous stakeholders, including industry leaders, teachers, parents, Internet users and librarians to work towards the creation of a "family friendly" Internet. The Administration's three part strategy includes: 1) industry commitments to provide blocking, filtering and labeling technology for use by parents and teachers using the 'Net; 2) effective enforcement of existing laws; and 3) increased parental awareness and involvement. This strategy is designed to give parents and teachers the tools they need to prevent children from getting access to inappropriate material on the Internet, and to guide them towards high-quality educational resources.

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Increased Funding for Children's Mental Health Services: From 1993 to 1999, the President has increased funding for children's mental health services from just \$5 million to \$78 million. Significant parts of this funding will be used to provide link schools with mental health services.

Substantial New Increases to Improve Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment. In 1999, the Congress responded to the Administration's proposal to substantially increase substance abuse prevention and treatment activities. Congress has approved a critical \$275 million increase in the Substance Abuse Block Grant at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). With this increase, over \$1.5 billion will be allocated to the block grant in FY1999 enabling tens of thousands of high-risk youth, pregnant women, and other underserved Americans to get much-needed drug treatment and prevention services.

New Investments in Mental Health Services at SAMHSA. The President's FY 99 budget included a new \$13 million increase in mental health block grant. With this increase, the block grant will contain \$288 million in mental health spending this year. These services provide much needed treatment, counseling and services for thousands of people with mental illnesses.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for More than a Million Children a Year. Last year (FY98), the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program was expanded to \$200 million. This funding is already supporting hundreds of school-based after-school programs in rural and urban schools in 44 states and the District of Columbia, including weekend and summer programs. This year, the President proposed to triple this initiative -- to \$600 million -- to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 1.1 million school-age children in communities across the country. In addition, the Education Department released a report in June 1998, titled *Safe and Smart: Making the After-School Hours Work for Kid*. This report shows that after-school programs can lower juvenile crime and improve academic performance. *Safe and Smart* was sent to every school district in the country.

Cracking Down on Truancy. Truancy prevention initiatives have been shown to keep more children in school and dramatically reduce daytime crime. The Education Department issued a guidebook to the 15,000 school districts nationwide which outlines the central characteristics of a comprehensive truancy prevention policy and highlights model initiatives in cities and towns across the country. Since then, the Education Department has provided grants to local school districts to develop innovative truancy prevention programs of the kind described in the guidebook.

Encouraging Schools to Adopt School Uniform Policies. School uniforms have been found to be a promising strategy to reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect in school. Because of this, the Clinton Administration has encouraged schools to consider adopting school uniform policies by sharing with every school district a school uniforms manual prepared by the Department of Education in consultation with local communities and the Department of Justice. Since the President highlighted school uniforms, a growing number of schools have adopted these policies including: New York City, Dade County, San Antonio, Houston, Chicago and Boston.

Supporting Curfews at the Local Level. Community curfews are designed to help keep children out of harm's way and enhance community safety. Because of their success, President Clinton has encouraged communities to adopt curfew policies. A 1997 survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors has shown that 276 of 347 cities surveyed -- or 80 percent -- had youth curfew laws, up from 70 percent in 1995.

Developing a Comprehensive Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy. President Clinton has proposed a comprehensive strategy to (1) target gangs and violent youths with tougher punishments and by expanding anti-gang task forces and the use of racketeering statutes (i.e., RICO) for gang-related offenses; (2) crack down on kids and guns by prohibiting violent juveniles from buying guns and increasing penalties for selling handguns to youths; and (3) keep kids off the streets and out of trouble by expanding after-school programs and promoting anti-truancy initiatives and youth curfews.

Supporting Civic, Community and Faith-Based Organizations. Recognizing the important role that civic, community and faith-based organizations can play in reducing crime, the Administration launched a new Values-Based Violence Prevention Initiative to make \$2.2 million in grants available to 16 community-based collaboratives, including religiously-affiliated organizations, that target youth violence, gangs, truancy, and other juvenile problems by promoting common-sense values and responsibility.

Encouraging Conflict Resolution. The Departments of Education and Justice have developed and distributed 40,000 conflict resolution guides to schools and community organizations, providing guidance on how to develop effective conflict resolution programs; Education and Justice are training community officials and educators on these conflict resolution measures.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 10, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT,
THE FIRST LADY,
THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE

AFTER WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY SESSION
ON CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

The Rose Garden

2:06 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Please be seated, everyone. We're getting our group up here, you see. It's a little slow -- it's a large and, as you can see, diverse and distinguished group. We just had a wonderful meeting in the East Room of the White House. We had not only the Vice President and Tipper and Hillary and I, but many members of our administration and four members of Congress -- Senator Brownback and Senator Reid, and Leader Gephardt and Representative Jennifer Dunn were there.

And we listened to several hours of discussions; over 40 people spoke, many of them already heavily involved in the efforts to give our children a safe childhood and protect them from violence.

This was exactly the kind of session I had hoped for, where everyone was talking about the problems and the opportunities; everyone was talking about what could be done to accept responsibility. No one was pointing the finger of blame.

In the weeks and months ahead, as we launch our national campaign to prevent youth violence, we will build on the strong foundation of this day, and on many of the things which have been said and many of the people who have said them.

I want to say a special word of appreciation to the young people who are here today and who are working in their own communities to try to help their fellow students have a safe and

wholesome life.

As the national campaign gets underway, we know we'll have to overcome the old ways of doing business. We've seen some of that today as well, in the remarkable support that gun manufacturers have given to many of our common-sense gun proposals. We see in the efforts of networks like ABC and CBS, and private family foundations like Kaiser, and agencies like the FCC, all of whom have supported the television rating systems, and giving parents the tool of the V-chip to protect children from excessively violent programming.

We know that there is more for each of us to do at home and at school, in Hollywood and in the heartland and here in Washington. Every parent, every teacher, every leader has something more to do.

First and most fundamentally, we must do more to help parents fulfill their most important responsibilities, those to their children. Challenging parents to turn off the television when they don't like what they see; to use the new tools the Vice President announced recently to keep an eye on the computer screen; to refuse to buy products that glorify violence. If no

one consumes these products, people will stop producing them. They will not build it if you don't come.

To the media and entertainment industries, I also say we need your wholehearted participation in this cause. There are many changes which have occurred over the last generation in our society. It is true that we've had a lot of breakdowns in families, schools and communities. It is true that we have had a rise in the availability of weapons. It is also true that there has been a coarsening of the culture in many ways. And those who influence it must be sensitive to that.

I mentioned today that not very long ago there was a fascinating story on the birth of Hollywood, the virtual creation of Hollywood by immigrants, on one of our cable channels. And the story really graphically demonstrated how these immigrants -- who came to the United States, faced initial discrimination, went to California to make a new life -- created an image of America, and an image of the American Dream and an image of American life in the movies that they made that had a very positive impact on the culture of America for decades.

We cannot pretend that there is no impact on our culture and our children that is adverse if there is too much violence coming out of what they see and experience. And so, we have to ask people who produce things to consider the consequences of them -- whether it's a violent movie, a CD, a video game. If they are made, they at least they should not be marketed to children.

Finally, I urge Congress to join in this campaign by passing the legislation necessary to keep guns out of the hands of children. As a group of gun manufacturers and sportsmen made clear today, these are common-sense measures that they support.

There are also other things that we can do that I hope we will do -- to provide more support for counseling services, for mental health services, for other things which will help to improve our efforts.

Again, let me say, I want to thank the Vice President and Tipper Gore for the work they have done on these issues for years. I want them to come forward and speak. But first, I want to ask the First Lady to speak -- and acknowledge that she has to go to a school as soon as she finishes talking here.

She had the idea for us to call this national conference and to try to organize a national grass-roots campaign. It was a good idea and it looks like a lot better idea after today's meeting. So I want to thank Hillary for everything she's done and ask her to come forward and say a few words. (Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you, all. I think everyone who participated in the meeting this morning came away with the positive feeling that there isn't any problem that we face when it comes to our young people, that if we're honest enough to talk about it we can come up with ideas about how to address it, and we can better empower all parts of our society to be part of the solution.

To that end, the President mentioned that we want to have a national campaign to prevent youth violence. It's modeled on the national campaign against teenage pregnancy, the national campaign that was launched to convince employers to hire people coming off of welfare to go to work. It's in the greatest of American traditions of the kind of public-private partnership that is unique to our country.

And in the next weeks that campaign will be put

together. It will be a not-for-profit, 501-C3 effort that will bring together many of the people around the table today in the East Room and many others. It will come forward, we hope, with very specific suggestions about what parents can do, what schools can do, what community groups can do, what the media can do, what gun manufacturers can do, what all of us can do.

You probably know that I really do think it takes a village; but my book had a subtitle, and that was, it takes a village to raise a child and other lessons children teach us. And the most important lesson I think all of us are learning, once again because of the tragedy in Littleton and the consequences that flow from that, are that we have to do a better job doing our most important job, and that is helping to raise our children and create a climate in our country that is good for children.

We have to battle a lot of attitudes and cynicism and skepticism and hopelessness and helplessness, and a sense by many people that the forces that are arrayed against families and children are just too big to try to deal with, and maybe the only thing we can do is just shut the doors of our own home and try to deal with what goes on there. But we have to do that as well.

So I'm very encouraged by the conversation that we had this morning, and I'm very excited about the prospects for this national campaign. And I hope that everyone, everyone in America, will realize that there's a role for each of us in trying to prevent youth violence. And more than that -- trying to reach out and listen to our children so that we can provide the kind of support that they need.

And someone who has known that and done it in her own life, and done it in our public life for many years, who has continually addressed the issue of mental health and particularly how it affects children -- someone who I admire greatly and who will be chairing the first ever White House Conference on Mental Health on June 7 -- and that is Tipper Gore. (Applause.)

MRS. GORE: Thank you very much, Mrs. Clinton. And to everyone that participated in the strategy session today, we want to thank you. We want to thank members of the media for being here, because certainly in some of the things that we heard we would like to ask the media to help get the word out to the parents, to all members of the community, that we are all part of a solution to helping better support our kids.

We heard loudly and clearly that every member of the community -- whether it was the entertainment industry, the gun industry, businesses giving more flexibility, time to their employees so that they could strengthen their families by spending more time with their children whenever that was necessary -- we really heard that children need to spend more time with adults. Children themselves, the kids involved in the strategy session said that they need to have more involvement from adults, parents, in their lives. And that's a call to action that we've got to answer.

Something else that we heard loudly and clearly is that, yes, while Littleton was symbolic for so many of us and such a tragedy and a wake-up call, that there have been little massacres going on in our society for years. And many people have been very, very concerned about that, and we continue to be. But we all come together now, around the table -- just as I hope all Americans will come around their tables, in their own homes, in their own neighborhoods, in their own communities, to say, how can we better support children?

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One way we clearly can is by providing more counselors in schools, more access to mental health support and mental health help. When we hear children talk to us about other kids who are headed toward violence either against others or against themselves -- since suicide is the second leading cause of death among teenagers -- we have to have adults in place in all parts of the community that will listen, but especially in the schools.

So that is something that I wanted to mention, and that I would like to ask also for the media's help in our coverage of these issues very specifically, in the first-ever White House Conference on Mental Health, which will happen on June the 7th, with some 1,000 downlinks all around the country. And it will be at Howard University.

You can do a great deal to help us talk to kids, and tell children in America that we are willing and ready to listen to them, as well as -- I'd like to ask for people in the media, themselves, the programmers and others, if they will consider the effect they have in reporting the news on kids, the effect that they may have, and the way that they portray people with a mental illness in their programming. They can go a long way -- all of us can -- if we just join our hands and hearts together in a very positive way,

and ask a central question: Is what we are doing good enough to help our kids mature into healthy adults? Because that's in the interest of all of us, for all Americans.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

And now I'd like to present someone who has even more to say on this subject, in particular, about giving parents tools to use in order to do their job more effectively, the Vice President, Al Gore. (Applause.)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you, Tipper. And, Mr. President, I want to thank you and congratulate you and the First Lady for taking the initiative to pull this rather extraordinary strategy session together that we just had. I know that I speak for all of the men and women and children who participated in this session in saying it was quite a useful, even inspiring, certainly encouraging, session.

And just to try to briefly capture the spirit of it for those of you who were not there — and, incidentally, I'm sure it would not have been as good if it was open to the press. (Laughter.) Even you, Sam. (Laughter.) But people who have had differing points of view on contentious issues for years and years spoke directly to one another about how they wanted to reconsider some of the assumptions they have held in the past, how they wanted to have an open mind about new approaches to solving problems that obviously have not been solved up until now. It was really an occasion for quite a bit of reconciliation.

So I want to thank you, Mr. President and the First Lady. I want to thank Tipper for being my inspiration and source of education on these issues for a long time now. Twenty-two years ago, she formed a citizens group on violence in the media, and as others have mentioned, the White House Conference on Mental Health Care is coming up.

I want to thank Leader Dick Gephardt, and Jennifer Dunn, Harry Reid and Sam Brownback, all of my colleagues in the Cabinet, and all of the leaders from the various sectors of industry and society, who were present here today.

One of the other very impressive things about this gathering was that it didn't just point fingers, and it didn't try to

simplistically settle on one particular cause of a very complex problem. And I think it's a sign of maturation in our society that people from all different sectors could come together and really see this issue in all of its complexity.

Obviously, better parenting is the main and most important solution. But some of the participants raised new aspects of that that haven't been always talked about in connection with this issue. Let's look at the prevalence of domestic violence in our society, and realize that the painful real-life lessons that children learn from seeing domestic violence, as common as it is -- even if it's seldom reported to the extent that it occurs -- those lessons are far more powerful, in the impact on those children than the imagery they see in the media.

Obviously, all of the adults in this nation have to take more responsibility for becoming involved in the lives of all children. Dr. Maya Angelou talked about the epidemic of rage and cynicism that can only be cured if adults become more involved and more constructively involved with children.

We talked about the importance of early childhood education and after-school care -- both areas where communities can help parents by filling in the times of the day when it's so difficult for some families to do the job they need to do. Of course, we talked about the problems in schools, how some of them are too big, how we need smaller schools, or at least smaller schools within large schools; more teachers; more guidance counselors.

We talked about how to heal communities that foster a feeling of alienation and isolation, that hurts the ability to establish a sense of connectedness that is so important for children to learn. Of course, we talked about how to limit the availability of guns to children and to criminals and to those who are obviously unsuitable to have guns.

And we talked about the role of the media. And I want to commend ABC and CBS and most of the cable networks and satellite networks for participating in the V-chip system that is going to hold the promise of dramatically improving the ability of parents to protect their children against images they feel their children are not capable of handling.

We talked about the Internet. Steve Case and others described the new safeguards that are going into effect in just a couple of months, and video games. And a new breakthrough occurred

right in the meeting with an agreement between the video game industry and the Internet industry to plug a loophole that now makes it possible for children to get unrated and violent video games over the Internet, where it's impossible for them to buy them in stores.

We talked about self-restraint and a movement starting within the entertainment industry to recognize that, obviously, since billions of dollars is spent on advertising because it affects behavior, the plague of ultra-violent images that are planted like seeds in the minds of children bear bitter fruit in some vulnerable children. Most can handle it; they've been given the strength to do so by their families and by their faith and by their communities. But it was so encouraging to hear the

entertainment industry describe the steps already taken, others in prospect, and the movement within the industry.

And, of course, the need for more mental health services and early detection and an ability to intervene early because, as someone said, a 1st grade teacher can often tell you within a couple of weeks after the start of the school year that one or two children in her or his new class is going to be vulnerable to trouble if there's not intervention. But there are waiting lines and not enough services.

Finally, we talked about the faith dimension of this and the need to -- with all, of course, due respect and utmost observance of the principle of separating government from religion -- of making it easier to reconnect faith communities with some of the efforts that are now underway.

In closing, as the President mentioned, this is just the beginning of an important new partnership. And he mentioned -- excuse me -- the First Lady mentioned that this was modeled after the campaign against teen pregnancy. Secretary Shalala has played a big role in that one. And I had the privilege of announcing the success, the new figures that show success in that -- where, again, it was recognized there's not a single cause, there has to be a community-wide effort to address all of the factors that go into that. And it's succeeding.

So I'm encouraged. And, Mr. President, I want to thank you again for the kind of leadership that has made this possible. And I know that all of the people who joined us here would like to join with Tipper and me in thanking you for convening this session.

(Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you.
(Applause.)

Q -- forces? Is that good enough?

Q Mr. President, are you encouraged by word of a Serb withdrawal?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm encouraged by any good word, but I think that the conditions that we set out are the minimal ones to make this work. I don't think that the -- after all the Serbs -- after all the buildup, and the hundreds of thousands of Kosovars have been driven out, many, many killed, I don't think they'll come back with that. So I think we have to do better.

But any little daylight, any little progress is -- it's better than it was the day before. We just have to bear down and keep working, and we'll work through it.

But I think that forces have got to be withdrawn. There has to be an international security force there. Otherwise, they won't come home. And that's the important thing.

Thank you.

Q Mr. President, as a high-schooler, how can I reconcile these images we see on the news?

Chairman William Kennard has
Chair the Task Force

perfectly legal for 18-20 year-olds to possess handguns or to buy them from unlicensed sellers -- even though law enforcement traces more crime guns to 18- and 19-year-olds than all other age groups. The President has proposed raising the legal age of handgun ownership from 18 to 21 years, while maintaining current exemptions for employment, hunting, target shooting, ranching, and military service.

- **Holding adults responsible for child access to guns.** Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws promote gun safety and responsibility by holding adults responsible if they allow children easy access to firearms and ammunition. The President has proposed imposing felony penalties on adults who knowingly or recklessly allow a child to have access to a gun that is later used to cause death or injury.
- **Helping law enforcement to trace more firearms used in crimes.** Over the past two years, the President has expanded comprehensive crime gun tracing to 37 cities -- helping them to trace all crime guns to their source, to identify illegal gun markets, and to crack down on gun traffickers. Last year, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. The President has proposed expanding comprehensive tracing nationwide, starting by doubling the program to 75 cities.

MAKING THE V-CHIP WORK

The V-Chip is a device that allows parents to block television programming they consider inappropriate for their children. President Clinton and Vice President Gore led the successful fight for legislation that requires that the V-Chip be installed in all new television sets sold beginning January 1, 2000. At today's strategy session, the President will announce two new initiatives to make sure the V-Chip becomes a useful tool for parents.

- **V-Chip Task Force.** To ensure that the V-Chip law is implemented effectively, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will establish a V-Chip Task Force. The Task Force will: (1) ensure that the V-Chip requirement is enforced promptly and comprehensively; (2) promote parental awareness about the V-Chip and work closely with organizations sharing this goal; (3) encourage adoption of a standard label identifying television sets that contain the V-Chip and; (4) study the use of the V-Chip and evaluate the effectiveness of the industry's ratings system. FCC Chairman William Kennard has appointed Commissioner Gloria Tristani to chair the Task Force.

- **The V-Chip Survey and Education Project.** According to a survey released today by the Kaiser Foundation, while many parents (77%) say they want to use the V-Chip, fewer than four out of ten parents (39%) have ever seen information on how the system works. The Kaiser Foundation and the Center for Media Education announced today a major national effort to educate parents about the V-Chip TV ratings system. The educational campaign will include free booklets for parents on how the V-chip TV ratings system works. The free parent information will be available through a toll-free telephone number and will be promoted through partnerships with TV manufacturers, retailers, parents' organizations, newspapers, and television stations.

A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT YOUTH VIOLENCE

Recognizing that youth violence is a problem that government cannot solve alone, the President, the First Lady, the Vice President and Mrs. Gore will call for a national campaign to reduce youth violence. This campaign will work with all sectors of our society – the media, education groups, parents, religious leaders, and young people – to focus on this problem, find what is working, and spread it to new communities, while also helping to ensure that the media sends the right message to our children.

This campaign is modeled after two extremely successful efforts launched by the Clinton Administration. Four years ago, the President asked for a national campaign to reduce teen pregnancy. Today, under the leadership of Governor Tom Kean, former governor of New Jersey and now the President of Drew University, that campaign is playing an important role in reducing teen pregnancy rates nationwide. Two years ago, the President called for a national effort by businesses to hire people off welfare, to make sure the welfare reform effort would work. Today, under the leadership of Eli Segal, the Welfare to Work Partnership has grown to 10,000 companies that have helped move more than 40,000 people from the welfare rolls to the job rolls.

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A Conference on Youth Violence

In the past it was hard not to be struck by the way time seemed to roll over a tragedy like a school shooting, by the disparity between the enduring grief of parents who lost children in places like Paducah and Jonesboro and the swift distraction of the rest of us. This time, perhaps, things may be different. The Littleton shootings have forced upon the nation a feeling that many parents know all too well — that of inhabiting the very culture they are trying to protect their children from.

What happened at Columbine High School has for a moment embodied the violence in our society, allowing us to look directly at it. The questions it raises make nearly everyone uncomfortable. Do we have the power to change the culture we inhabit? And, harder still, do we have the tools to change it without destroying basic freedoms and without dividing a largely shared culture into warring fragments?

These questions lay behind yesterday's White House strategy session on children, violence and responsibility. The list of participants who gathered for three hours in the East Room included representatives from the Administration, from television and motion pictures, from the gun industry and from the anti-gun industry. There were medical experts, religious leaders, students, parents, teachers and executives from the worlds of the Internet and video games. In short, those who were supposed to bear at least part of the blame for the climate of the Littleton shootings were seated next to those who were supposed to find at least part of the solution.

The tentative agreements that emerged from yesterday's meeting are a measure of the psychic wound inflicted at Littleton. Some representatives of the gun industry agreed in principle to legislation raising the legal age of handgun ownership to 21 and to requiring background checks on the sale of guns

at gun shows, as well as several other measures. Internet executives promised to develop a ratings system for on-line video games, and television executives promised to promote the use of the V-chip.

These commitments, as well as President Clinton's national grass-roots campaign to prevent youth violence, are all signs of a consensus that has emerged, in part, out of shock. They will, if fulfilled, close several important legal loopholes that have made it hard to keep guns and violent entertainment out of the hands of children.

But closing legal loopholes, valuable as that is, is not the same as changing the culture of violence that is visible through those loopholes. To address a problem so deeply entrenched in the very habit of being American will require spending a great deal of political capital, something the White House and Congress have been reluctant so far to do.

"Responsibility" was a word used often at yesterday's strategy session, both as a counterbalance to "blame" and as a way to suggest that youth violence cannot be curbed by government action alone. Most parents feel, rightly, that responsibility begins at home but that it also begins in the executive offices of the entertainment and gun industries and in the halls of Congress and the White House. If the grass-roots campaign the President has in mind is to work, those are the places its influence must be felt.

What parents want for their children is not just devices that will screen out the worst choices in an open market. They want better choices. The urge to do something about youth violence is very strong, as yesterday's meeting evinced, but it will require an urge to do many things, and to do them with considerable ingenuity and dedication, before symptomatic violence of the kind that occurred at Littleton begins to seem truly improbable, not just as unlikely as the last shooting.

The New York Times

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1999

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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Saturday, May 15, 1999

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. In the past few weeks, ever since that terrible day in Littleton, people all across America have searched their souls and searched for solutions to prevent this kind of tragedy from happening again, and to reduce the level of violence to which our children are exposed.

Last Monday, at our White House strategy session on children and violence, representatives of every sector of society agreed on one fundamental fact: making progress requires taking responsibility by all of us. That begins at home. Parents have a duty to guide children as they grow and to stay involved in their lives as they grow older and more independent. Educators have a responsibility to provide safe learning environments, to teach children how to handle conflicts without violence and how to treat all young people, no matter how different, with respect. They also need to teach them how to get counseling or mental health services if they're needed.

Communities have a responsibility to make sure that there is a village, as the First Lady said, that supports all its children -- especially those who don't get their needs met at home. And the community needs to do more to get our kids involved in working with each other and serving the community, not being isolated from it.

And here in Washington we have a responsibility. We've got a responsibility to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and children. There's a broad national consensus on that point. At the White House conference the gun manufacturers agreed that we need common sense approaches. Everybody agrees except the U.S. Senate. For example, everyone knows we need a real law to close the deadly gun show loophole, through which thousands, indeed, tens of thousands of guns are sold each year without background checks -- even though they'd have to have a background check to be sold in a gun store.

Now, the Senate declined to pass that bill. Even worse, the Senate's substitute bill is riddled with new loopholes -- permitting convicted felons to get guns at pawn shops, no questions asked; and making it harder, not easier, for law enforcement to trace guns used in crimes. If the Senate wants to fix the problem, it should fix the

problem, not make it worse. The American people deserve better. They know law abiding citizens don't need loopholes in our gun laws, only criminals do. I sure hope that in the coming weeks the Senate will step up to its responsibility and do the right thing by our children.

I've always said the entertainment industry must do its part, too. In 1993, shortly after I became President, I traveled to Hollywood and spoke there, to members of the community about their responsibility. I said then, you have the capacity to do good, to help change the way we behave, the way we think of ourselves; examine what together you might do to help us rebuild the frayed bonds of community, to give children nonviolent ways to resolve their frustrations.

After six years of work the entertainment industry is helping parents to limit children's exposure to violence, working with the administration on a voluntary rating system for television and the V-chip to enforce it; and on parental screening for the Internet and ratings for all Internet game sites. But there is still too much violence on our nation's screens, large and small. Too many creators and purveyors of violence say there is nothing they can do about it. And there are still too many vulnerable children who are steeped in this culture of violence, becoming increasingly desensitized to it and to its consequences and, therefore, as studies show, hundreds of them more liable to commit violence themselves.

By the age of 18, the typical American will see 40,000 dramatized murders. There are those who say they can or should do nothing about this. But I believe they're wrong. Every one of us has a role to play in giving our kids a safe future. And those with greater influence have greater responsibility. We should see movies and music, TV programs, video games and advertising for them made by people who made them as if their own children were watching. Members of the entertainment community can make a big difference.

Today, I want to issue three specific challenges to them. First, the whole industry should stop showing guns in any ads or previews children might see. Second, I challenge theater and video store owners all across our country to enforce more strictly the rating systems on the movies they show, rent and sell. You should check IDs, not turn the other way as a child walks unchaperoned into an R-rated movie. Third, I challenge the movie industry to reevaluate its entire ratings systems, especially the PG rating, to determine whether it is allowing too much gratuitous violence in movies approved for viewing by children.

Our administration is fighting to do all we can to protect children. The entertainment industry should do everything it can, too. Across America people are coming together, saying, yes, together we can change this culture of violence; together we can give our children a safer future and a culture of values we'll be proud to pass on to future generations. We can do it together.

Thank you.

President Clinton:
Challenging the Nation to Address Youth Violence
May 15, 1999

As part of his weekly radio address, the President outlines measures that the government and media can take to address youth violence. The President criticizes the Senate for its refusal to adopt simple measures to keep our children safe from guns, and he calls on the entertainment industries to take steps to reduce our children's exposure to gratuitous violence.

Challenging the Entertainment Industries to Reduce Youth Access to Violence. In his radio address, the President calls on those in the entertainment business to think carefully about the content of their products, and make movies, music, TV programs, and video games as if their own children were watching. The President issues three specific challenges to members of the entertainment industries:

Curbing the Use of Guns in Previews and Advertisements. The President issues a challenge to the entire entertainment industry to stop showing guns in any advertisements and previews children might see. The film industry currently prohibits the depiction of drug use in movie trailers viewed by children, on the view that these images can promote harmful behavior. Images of guns in advertisements and previews seen by children can act in a similar way to increase the allure of these objects. Many in the entertainment industries have said that guns are behind the problem of youth violence. Banning guns from ads and previews to which children have access is one simple step to help solve this problem.

Making the Movie Ratings System Work Better for Parents. The President also challenges the movie industry to re-evaluate its ratings system, with a specific focus on the PG-13 rating, to determine whether it is allowing gratuitous violence in movies viewed by children. When a movie is labeled PG-13, parents should not have to worry about their teenagers watching it. Yet many of these movies contain gratuitous and graphic violence -- violence of the kind that parents want to and properly should know about. In a recent national PTA survey, 80 percent of parents said that they wished the ratings system gave clearer information as to a film's level of violence.

Limiting Children's Access to Inappropriate Entertainment Through Tougher Enforcement. The President challenges theater and video store owners to enforce, strictly and uniformly, the R-rating prohibition for underage children by requiring young patrons to show proof of age. Many children now see R rated films even though they should not be able to. According to a recent Gallup poll, half of American teens say they have seen an R rated movie in the last month, including 42 percent of those aged 13-15.

Challenging the Senate to Pass Common-Sense Gun Laws. Last year, over 4,000 gun shows were held across the country. An estimated 25-50 percent of the sellers at these shows need not conduct background checks: they can sell guns to criminals and youth with no questions asked. Twice this week, however, the Senate failed to close this gun-show loophole, and in fact created additional dangerous loopholes in our gun laws. Legislation approved by the Senate would (1) continue to allow some vendors at gun shows to sell guns without the background checks necessary to keep guns away from juveniles and criminals; (2) create a new "pawnshop loophole" for felons by exempting firearms redemptions at pawnshops from Brady background checks; (3) thwart law enforcement's ability to trace firearms sold at gun shows and later used in crimes; and (4) undermine the effectiveness of background checks by cutting the amount of time the FBI has to complete them from three days to 24 hours.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Los Angeles, California)

For Immediate Release

May 15, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE DSCC AND DCCC DINNER

Greystone Mansion, Courtyard
Beverly Hills, California

10:20 P.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: I have never before had the honor of being the warmup act for Andrea Bocelli, but I will. I will do my best. (Laughter.) I want to -- and if I sing a little, you will just have to -- (laughter) -- I want to say first of all how grateful I am to all of you for being here, especially to the chairs and the cochairs of the dinner and, of course, to David and Steven and Jeffrey. I want to thank my leaders, Senator Daschle and Congressman Gephardt. I was looking at them up here. We knew each other, of course, before I was elected, but not so well as we do today. And I can tell you that it is a joy and an honor every day to work with them -- people that we can really be proud of.

And I have seen them in far less comfortable circumstances than we find ourselves tonight, and they are what they seem to be, and they're always there for the American people.

I'd like to thank Governor Davis and -- for coming. I'm thrilled by his success and was honored to be asked to campaign here a time or two last year. And I want to echo what has already been said about Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer. They are on the forefront of this still ongoing and yet unfolding struggle to protect our children on the gun issues, and I want you to give them a big boost tonight and a lot of support, because it's been pretty tough there, although the American people did a great job in turning some of those votes around last week.

I'd like to thank Senator Torricelli for being here. It's his unhappy, or sometimes happy duty to go around and try to make

sure that we've got someone to actually run for all these Senate seats and take on some very tough fights. I thank Congressman Kennedy and your Congressmen, Henry Waxman and Brad Sherman for being here, and Mayor Levin gave me a gift from the city tonight, so I'm delighted to be here. (Laughter.)

And I'm glad to be here and, as far as I know, the only beneficial product to the Teapot Dome Scandal here -- this beautiful place.

Most of what needs to be said has already been said, but I would like to try to put a few things in perspective, talk a little bit about some of the events of the present that are of great concern to people.

When I came to California in 1991 and early '92, this was a very different place in a different country. People were divided and confused and drifting and frustrated. And I believed very strongly it was because we had no overriding vision for our future, no strategy to achieve it. No way, therefore, of pulling the American people together and getting us pointed in the right direction. And that's really why I got in the race for the President.

It was not the easiest of races -- I was laughing with Goldie Hawn tonight because I remember her being in the Biltmore in Los Angeles on June 2, 1992, when I was nominated for President -- really officially -- I won in California and New Jersey and Ohio that night, so it was clear that I had enough votes to be nominated. And all the stories were the exit polls showing that Ross Perot was really in first place and I was in third place. I say that to caution you about reading too much into any polls. (Laughter.)

But I knew something. I thought about the American people, about where we were at this moment in our history and where I thought we ought to go. Just six weeks later there had been a complete reversal in the polls and, thank the good Lord, they stayed that way through November and the people of California were very good to me and to Al Gore and to our families and our administration, twice. And I am very, very thankful. (Applause.)

What I want you to do -- you know what all the individual issues are, but what I want you to think about tonight, just for a minute, before we hear a magnificent performer, and before you go home and you go back to your lives tomorrow and the days

ahead, is what you would say to people if they asked you why you came tonight. You could say, well, Geffen made me. (Laughter.) Or there's a lot of things you could say.

But I hope you will have some really good answers. I guess the first thing I'd like to say to you is, obviously, this is a fundraiser for the Congress -- it's not for me, I can't run anymore. And I'm here because I believe very strongly that the people you just saw should lead the majorities in the House and Senate; because while I am very grateful for the opportunity I have been given to serve the American people as President, and for whatever role I was able to play in this remarkable economic turnaround, and the big drop in crime, and welfare, and the improvements in almost all the indicators of social health -- the lowest minority unemployment in history, the highest homeownership -- all the things that are moving in the right direction. I'm grateful that we've had a chance to be a force for peace and freedom around the world.

What I want you to understand is, first, most of what we have done could not have been done, had it not been for the support I received from the Democrats in the Congress. Second, most of what we stopped could not have been stopped, had it not been for their support.

And, third and most important, what we did grew out of a vision of 21st century America, as a place where there is opportunity for every responsible citizen; where we celebrate our differences, but we come together in one community; and a place that can still lead the world for peace and freedom and prosperity. And out of a willingness to think in different ways about the future, to break out of the old vices that were paralyzing Washington.

We believe, for example, that we can reward successful entrepreneurs, like many of you in this audience, and still expand the middle class and give poor people a chance to make it. We believe we can grow the economy and improve the environment. We believe we have an obligation to help people succeed not just at work but also at home, because raising children is the most important job of any society.

We believe these things. We believe that we can have a quality and excellence, and high standards and accountability in education. We believe we can be a force for peace in the world, and still stand up if we have to, against ethnic cleansing and

all of our work ought to be looked at against the backdrop of these two issues. I do think -- you heard Dick Gephardt talking about what the person who lost a child at Littleton said, don't let my child die in vain. I do believe that even more than all the terrible tragedies that happened last year because of the sheer scope and power of this event, it touched a deep nerve in America that has profoundly opened up our country to a serious examination of what it would take to give our children a safer childhood.

And last Monday I had a lot of people from every sector of our society into the White House, with Hillary and Al and Tipper, to talk about how we could have a national campaign against children's violence in the same way we have seen other national campaigns prevail in the past. And what I'd like to say is -- what I've pleaded with people to do is not to make this chapter 57 in the ongoing American culture war saga. You know, if the house next door here were burning down, we'd probably all be willing to go over there and help put the fire out.

And think how absurd it would be if Norm looked at David and said, I'm not going to help put the fire out because it's your fault you left your car running outside the house, and it's sparks from the fumes caused the fire. And David said, Norm, if you'd quit smoking years ago, you wouldn't have put a cigarette over in the yard, and that's what caused the fire. And so everybody gets in a fight about who's at fault here and we let the house burn down. That is a dumb thing to do. This is far more important. We can't let those children have perished in vain. And I don't know -- you know, probably a lot of you are like me. I have watched the parents of these children being interviewed. I have seen the school people. I have seen some of the wounded children.

I have been, on the whole, profoundly moved and impressed by these people -- by the depth of their faith and their conviction and their genuine striving to understand and go beyond this.

So for me, I think we ought to -- since I think what happens to our kids is more important than whether the house next door burns down -- I think we ought to have the same attitude. We ought to say, okay, I'm showing up for work, tell me what I can do. And I believe that we have to do more to help parents do their job, whether it's better child care or family leave programs or -- literally helping people understand that your kids can become strangers in your own home.

And I agree with what has already been said. It is a fact that most parents in America spend far less time with their children today than they used to spend. That is not free. That's why I say, we will never be the society we want in the new century until we better balance work and family.

I think we have to help the schools do more. I was in a fabulous school in Alexandria, Virginia, the other day -- that's the most culturally diverse school district in America now, just across the river from the White House -- where they have peer mediation programs and counseling services and mental health services, and a 1-800 anonymous hotline that if one kid calls and says, I'm worried about another one, they know it will be followed up on, and they know they will be kept anonymous.

We have to do those kinds of things. We have to give every school the ability to protect our children better.

I think the people in the gun business ought to come to the table and help us. And I want to say one thing the wasn't mentioned, that I'm very proud of, is that the gun manufacturers who for years sided always with the NRA and always opposed all these measures have changed. And every one of you who believes that it's a good thing that we raise the handgun ownership age to 21 and that we close the loophole -- and Senator Feinstein's assault weapons bill, so now we can stop these big ammunition clips from coming in -- it's never had any purpose, anyway.

We can also thank the gun manufacturers who supported the legislation this time in Congress and had the kind of civic responsibility that we need more from every American. I appreciate that. (Applause.)

Now, we've still got a lot of work to do. We've got to do background checks on explosives. We've got to get this gun show loophole closed in the right way. And I'm going to watch it pretty close, because unlike most Americans, I've actually been to a lot of these gun shows. It was part of my job description at one time when I was governor of Arkansas. And I enjoyed them greatly, but they ought to have background checks and they ought not to have loopholes.

So that's a big part of it. I also believe -- let's talk about the entertainment issue. You know, I think the -- here's the way I look at this. It's like the NRA can say, guns don't kill people, people do. That's true, but people with guns kill

more people than people without them. And we're the only country in the world that has no reasonable restrictions. There are now over 300 studies that show that sustained lifetime, week in and week out, night in and night out exposure to indiscriminate violence through various media outlets over a period of time makes people less sensitive, both to violence and to the consequences of violence.

Now, for most kids, it won't make any difference. But if you have a society where we have already positive -- there are more kids who are spending less time with their folks and less time being connected to somebody that they know they're the most important person in the world to; and if that same society has those same kids having easier access to weapons, then desensitizing them will be more likely to push those that are vulnerable into destructive behavior.

Now, that doesn't make anybody who makes any movie or any video game or any television program a bad person or personally responsible with one show for a disastrous outcome. There's no call for finger-pointing here, but we just look around and we know that all these things go together, starting with the raw material that you've got more kids who are more isolated -- some of them in their own homes, strangers.

So I would like to say, first, like I said about the gun manufacturers, it ought to be put in the record that the entertainment industry for six years has worked with Al Gore and me and with our administration the V-chip, the television rating system, the video game rating system, the screening technologies that the Internet people have worked with us to try to help parents screen inappropriate material away from their kids on the Internet.

Today in my radio address, I said there were two or three other things -- I had been studying this and listening that I think ought to be done. I think that if young people can't see certain kinds of movies, then they shouldn't see the advertisement for the movies if the advertisement has the same stuff that cause the movie to be rated as inappropriate. And that's something I think the entertainment industry can look at and ought to look at very seriously, that the advertising ought to be consistent with the rating in terms of the audience that receives it.

I also think there's a lot of evidence that these ratings

are regularly ignored — not by you, but by the people who actually sell or rent the video tapes or the video games or run the movie theaters. And the rating system ought to be used by checking IDs. And, finally, I believe in light of the most recent research, it would be a very good thing if the industry would reexamine the nature of the rating system, especially the PG-13 as it relates to violence. Not because anybody is willfully doing something that they know is going to hurt somebody. Not because any one television program or video game or movie will do it. But because we know that by the time a person becomes 18 in America, he or she has seen about 40,000 killings. And because we have a higher percentage of vulnerable people.

But we are determined to do this as a family. When we were at the White House we sat around a big old table and everybody was there, and everybody was asking, what can I do. And I say again to the Congress, this is not the time to let any interest group control doing things that are common sense. How in the world we can let somebody buy a gun at a gun show that they can't get in a gun shop because they've got a criminal background is beyond me. And this is a classic example — to go back to what my leaders said earlier. The people of Florida, not the most liberal state in America, voted last November, 72 percent to close the gun show loophole — with no ifs, ands or buts, no wrinkles or curlicues or subterfuge.

So I say this is a time for all of us to do this. And how we deal with this, and whether we really come up with a kind of grass-roots national campaign, like the campaign that Mothers and Students Against Drunk Driving launched that precipitously lowered deaths from drunk driving in America; like the effort that has been made that has precipitously lowered the teen pregnancy rate; like the grass-roots effort business made that led to 10,000 business people hiring over 400,000 people off welfare — now we do this will have a lot to say about whether we're really going to build one community.

But there are other things we ought to do, too. And let me come back to Kosovo and talk about — you say, well, what's that got to do with this. Well, first of all, all the studies, the reports indicate that these young men who were involved in this terrible tragedy at Littleton felt like they were a disrespected group and felt like they had to find some other groups to look down on or hate — the athletes, the minorities in the school.

And in Kosovo what you see, and what you saw in Bosnia is

people who have been ethnically cleansed -- that's a sort of sterilized word for being systematically killed, uprooted, raped, having your property records destroyed, having your mosques and your museums and your libraries destroyed; having an effort to basically eradicate your existence.

But it's very interesting. Don't you find it ironic -- especially those of you -- I was talking to Steven the other day about my library and we were talking about whether we could have some virtual reality effects in my library in the museum, you know. Sometimes I feel like I'm living in virtual reality, so I'm highly interested in this. (Laughter.) This is the kind of thing you guys think about when you think about the 21st century, you know? Our kids are all on the Internet and the human genome secrets have all been unlocked and we all live to be 135 and we whiz around the world in safe airplanes that never have wrecks. And we'll be driving on the Los Angeles freeways and there won't be any more traffic jams because all our cars will be computer programmed and directed and everything will be managed just fine. This is the exciting -- and our kids will all have pen-pals in Mongolia and Zimbabwe and Bolivia and every place around the world, technology will bring us together and there will be a new golden age. That's our sort of image for our children in the 21st century.

Don't you think it is ironic that here we are in the last year of this millennium and that image is threatened by the oldest demon of human society -- the hatred of the other? It starts as fear of the other, goes to hatred of the other, goes to dehumanization of the other, goes to killing of the other. Don't you think that's interesting? I mean, these people in Kosovo, they're not fighting over who gets the right to show the latest Hollywood movie in the theaters in Pristina. In Rwanda, they weren't killing each other over who got the latest software package. They're talking about how they worship God and what their ethnic group is, what real or imagined slights they have against one another as groups. And we are not free of it here.

I was in Texas the other day meeting with the daughter of James Bird, the African American who was dragged to death in Texas. The other night, I went to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights dinner in Washington and recognized the mother of Matthew Shepard, the young man who was killed in Wyoming because he was gay. So America's got some work to do here, too -- we ought to pass the hate crimes act and the employment nondiscrimination act -- and we ought to -- to show that we

understand this.

But let me say, how we respond to Kosovo will determine what kind of world we're going to live in. I think all of you who know me know that I have worked for peace, that I deplore violence, that I have been heartbroken by the people who have been innocents in this battle who have perished.

You know, I'd a lot rather be in Northern Ireland, giving speeches to my people about how they ought to put all their guns down. I want to go back and work on peace in the Middle East. I don't even think that we can intervene in all the ethnic conflicts in the world. We're not asking everybody to get along. We can't even ask them not to fight. But if we cannot stand after the lessons of the 20th century against the systematic killing of people and their uprooting because of their religion or their race or their ethnicity, then what kind of world are we leaving to our children? (Applause.)

You know I had a wonderful day today. I spent the day with my daughter today, and Hillary just got back from Macedonia. That's where she was in the refugee camps. And so we called her and then we got lonesome and we'd call her again. The three of us were talking about all this. And she was talking to me about these people and how they have lost everything, and how they have loved ones they don't even know what happened to. There are tens of thousands of people who are unaccounted for. Nobody knows what happened to them. And she talked about this little girl that was holding her hand while she was speaking. The little girl had no idea what she was saying -- just holding her hand.

I saw them in Germany when I was there. The young women and the Muslim families where rape is an even worse thing than it is in our culture -- saying, I want to talk to you, but these are things I cannot discuss in my family. A 15-year old boy stood up and said, I cannot talk about Kosovo and sat down and started crying.

I ask you to think about this. What Europe and the United States is doing, what we are now engaging the Russians in trying to do -- we're not trying to redraw the map of Europe, we're not playing some power game. I don't want to control anybody's life. All I want to do is to create a world in which we do not idly turn away from systematic bigotry based on hatred of the other that leads to mass killing. And I believe, as difficult as all the questions are I have to answer here -- God, I grieve for

those Chinese people that were killed in that horrible mistake that was made. As difficult as all the questions I have to answer, I would rather answer these questions than answer the question of why am I having a good time in Los Angeles tonight and we have not lifted a finger to help those people. That is the question I would have no answer to. (Applause.) I would have no answer to that.

They are a part of our community. If you want a world that will really be fit for your children to live in, if you want the benefits of the modern world, we need at home the philosophy the Democratic Party has brought that -- we're going to have all these benefits, we're not going to leave anybody behind if we can help it. We're certainly not going to leave anybody behind that's willing to work to be a part of it.

But even more, we have to build a sense of community -- where we not only tolerate each other, we actually relish our differences. And we can have the security to relish them, and make our lives more interesting, because underneath we know that what binds us together is a whole lot more important than what's different about us.

And I want to close with this story. Tom Daschle told you that we had these tribal leaders come to the White House. And he didn't tell you the whole story.

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We had the heads of 19 Indian tribes from the high northern plains -- from the two Dakotas and Montana. They asked for a meeting at the White House through Senator Daschle and his colleagues. And then they came into the Roosevelt Room at the White House, which is in honor of Teddy, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, and Teddy Roosevelt's Nobel Peace Prize is hanging on the mantelpiece.

And so the tribal leaders said, well, could we sit in a circle? That is our custom. So we sat in a circle. And each in their turn, they stood up and said, well, here's what we'd like to have help on. Here's our education concerns, our health care concerns, our economic concerns. And I came into the middle of the meeting, listened to it all. It was just fascinating.

Then at the end, the guy who was sort of their main spokesman, the tribal leader -- whose name was Tex Hall,

interestingly enough -- stood up and said, well, there's one other thing we want to do. He said, Mr. President, we want to talk to you about Kosovo. He said, you see, we know something about ethnic cleansing. And our country has come a long way. And we believe what you are doing is right. And so the chiefs have signed this proclamation supporting it.

And then at the end of the room, another young man who was a tribal leader stood up, and he said, I would like to speak. He had this beautiful silver necklace on. And he was very dignified, and he said -- Mr. President, he said, I had two uncles. One landed on the beach at Normandy. One was the first Native American fighter pilot in the United States military. He said, my great-great-grandfather was slaughtered by the 7th Cavalry at Wounded Knee. He said, we have come a long way from my great-great-grandfather's time, to my uncles' time, to this time.

He said, I have only one son, and I love him more than life. But I would be honored if he went to Kosovo to stand up for the human rights of people who are different from the majority.

That is the journey America has made. that is the journey I hope we can help the world to make. And if we do, you will take care of the rest of our challenges.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

A Mother's Day Pledge for America's Parents

May, 1999

- I will not give my child unsupervised access to a firearm.
- I will not allow my child to play in a home where guns are improperly stored.
- If I own a gun, I will unload it and lock it up and store the ammunition separately and securely.
- I will urge others, including my community leaders and political leaders, to do everything in their power to protect our children from guns.

May 9, 1999, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 1; Page 25; Column 4; National Desk

LENGTH: 1045 words

HEADLINE: Hillary Clinton Appeals For Gun Control Lobbying

BYLINE: By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, May 8

BODY:

Stepping up the Clinton Administration's campaign against gun violence, Hillary Rodham Clinton used an emotional White House ceremony today to call on Americans to press Congress to "buck the gun lobby" and pass several gun control measures.

Today's event, pegged to Mother's Day, which is Sunday, was held in the formal East Room of the White House and featured three parents of children killed or wounded by gunfire. They included Tom Mauser, whose son Daniel was killed last month in the shooting rampage in Littleton, Colo. His story of waiting for word about his son's fate brought Mrs. Clinton nearly to tears as she took the podium and gravely addressed an audience of other parents who had lost their children in shootings.

The Senate is to begin debate next week on a number of gun control measures, some of which mirror proposals offered recently by President Clinton. "The senators need to hear from all of us," Mrs. Clinton said. She urged voters "to give them the encouragement to do what they know is right and to remind them that there are many, many millions of American voters and citizens who will stand behind political leaders who are brave enough to buck the gun lobby, wherever that may take us, so that they will vote for the measures that we know will save lives."

Mrs. Clinton was as careful as her husband has been to say that there are many causes of violence and that parents need to take responsibility for their children's behavior. But Mrs. Clinton, who is considering running for the Senate from New York, where gun control is popular, has also been more forceful than the President in directly taking on the powerful gun lobby in the aftermath of the Littleton killings.

In contrast with her remarks today, for example, the President, speaking at a fund-raiser in Houston Friday night, said that while he was pressing for more gun control laws, "I hope we can avoid yet another big fight in Washington between the N.R.A. and others." He has said in the past

that the association's campaign against certain lawmakers who supported his gun control measures had cost Democrats control of the House in 1994.

Still, a split between the National Rifle Association and "others" -- including its traditional allies -- is looming. Spokesmen for the American Shooting Sports Council and the National Shooting Sports Council, which represent gun manufacturers, say they have agreed in principle to back five of President Clinton's proposals to clamp down on access to guns, although they are waiting to see the exact language.

The five proposals would: raise the age limit for possessing a handgun to 21 from 18, while still allowing exemptions for hunting, employment and ranching; extend background checks to those who buy guns at gun shows, provided that the records are eventually expunged; ban juveniles who are convicted of violent felonies from ever owning a gun; prosecute parents if they recklessly or negligently allow a gun to fall into the hands of children who use it to commit a crime, and expand the Government's gun tracing program, underway in 35 cities, to 75 cities.

The move signals a breach within the powerful firearms community over tactics as the manufacturers take steps to try to appease public officials and tamp down the trend among cities to sue gun makers to recover the medical and social costs of gun violence.

Such a split within the pro-gun community could isolate the rifle association and help gun opponents portray it as an extremist organization, although whether it undermines the association's political hold on lawmakers remains to be seen. The White House seems to be trying to take advantage of that possible opening, scheduling a conference on violence for Monday and inviting the gun makers but not the high-profile officials of the rifle association.

The five proposals emerged from discussions last year between the gun industry and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The industry has been working with several of the mayors, notably Ed Rendell of Philadelphia, to try to show a good-faith effort to reduce youth access to firearms. So far, Philadelphia has held off from joining seven other cities in filing potentially expensive law suits against the gun manufacturers.

After the rampage in Littleton, the largest mass murder in an American school, Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, Democrat of Connecticut, called for a White House summit on youth violence. Robert A. Ricker, executive director of the American Shooting Sports Council, wrote to Mr. Lieberman saying his group wanted to participate in such a summit and would support certain restrictions.

President Clinton then announced a package of anti-gun measures, many of which had been advanced by the mayors. In bits and pieces, Mr. Ricker and Robert Delfay, president of the National Shooting Sports Council, backed some of those proposals, although they, with the rifle association, still oppose two that the Administration considers vital -- restricting handgun sales to one a month per person and reinstituting a waiting period before a gun can be bought.

The White House then set a summit for Monday on youth and violence. In preparation, Bruce Reed, Mr. Clinton's domestic policy adviser, invited Mr. Ricker and Mr. Delfay to the White House,

and they met for 90 minutes last Tuesday to discuss the legislative proposals. Also at the meeting was Paul Jannuzzo, general counsel for Glock Inc., the pistol maker.

"For purposes of the Monday meeting, we are concentrating on just those issues where we have been able to potentially agree," Mr. Ricker said today.

Pointedly not invited to Monday's seminar were the figures most identified with the National Rifle Association -- Charlton Heston, the association's president, and Wayne LaPierre, executive vice president. Instead, the White House invited a member of the association's board, Bill Brewster, a former Republican Congressman from Oklahoma and now a lobbyist in Washington. Mr. Reed described Mr. Brewster, who has gone duck hunting with Mr. Clinton, as "an old friend of the President's."

The rifle association is planning its own event on Monday to discuss its legislative agenda. This consists primarily of calling for better enforcement of existing laws.

Virgil I. Grissom Junior High School
Reporter Q&A Regarding Youth Violence
Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Queens, New York
April 29, 1999

The following is Mrs. Clinton's response to a reporter's question about what she thinks needs to be done to address the problem of youth violence that has come to national attention since the killings at Columbine and other schools over the last several years.

Mrs. Clinton: Well, I understand why with any killing we would be worried. I still, more than a week later, find it very hard to read the coverage and watch it on the television. The pain, the suffering and the anguish that the people of Littleton—particularly the students and teachers and family members of Columbine—have gone through is just beyond description.

But I also think that there are ways we can respond to and address the obvious problems that we have seen in a number of these school shootings. I've spoken about that before, and I will be speaking about it again tonight and in the future. But briefly, I don't think there is any one single strategy that will answer this terrible problem. I think we've got to move on several fronts: I think we have to be aware that we've got a problem. We cannot be in denial. We have a lot of young people who, for all kinds of reasons, are really disoriented and alienated from our society, from their families, from their schools. So we have to be willing, first of all, to say, "Let's work on this together. Let's not feel helpless and hopeless, but let's try to come together in a united way to address this issue."

And when we do that, I think that we're going to need a national campaign against youth violence. And it will have many strategies. We do need to look at our mental health services. We have to do a better job of identifying and intervening and working with children on a continuing basis. And that's a very complex problem. It's complex because a lot of schools don't have the resources they need to identify and follow up with kids. A lot of parents don't have the financial resources, even if they are referred for help. And a lot of people in the mental health profession don't feel that they have the understanding of the larger public about what these issues are. And that's one piece of it.

The second, very important piece, is this culture of violence which I spoke about last week in Niagara Falls and which I wrote about in 1995, and which I feel very strongly about. And there is something for a lot of sectors of society to do when it comes to that. Certainly the people in the entertainment and media industry have to exercise more responsibility, but it is not just their responsibility. Those of us who are viewers and consumers have to exercise responsibility, particularly when it comes to children. Because there will be—if there's a market for the kind of video games that these young men played, or a market for the kind of horrible movies that they watched—people are going to make them. Whether they're made by big-name studios or the small independents, they're going to be made. I wish they'd be more responsible. I want more

conversation. I want more efforts to try to figure out what we can do to try to persuade them to follow the lead that the President and the Vice President and Tipper and I have been urging. But there's gonna be work that needs to be done on that front, and also on the sides of consumers and parents exercising more responsibility—turning off the television sets, not buying or letting your kids use those video games. All of that has to happen.

The third piece is guns. We cannot talk about this problem without talking about access to weapons. You've got firearms, and now we have to start worrying about materials for making bombs and the instructions that can get in the hands of not only high school students, but also elementary and junior high school students. The President outlined some steps that need to be taken about further gun legislation. I would urge the Congress to do just that.

And I was very heartened to hear some voices of people who in the past have been very strong allies of gun owners and the gun lobby, saying in the last 10 days that they just do not believe that these automatic weapons and these high-caliber, multi-magazine weapons are what we mean when we're talking about the rights of sportsmen and hunters. So I'm hoping that we will see some increases in sensible gun legislation like the President outlined at the White House.

And then finally, I think everybody has to search his or her heart about how we take care of our children. I mean, ultimately, that is what this is all about. What kind of time do you spend with your kids? How much do we really listen to them? How willing are we to take time out from our adult activities to figure out ways to rearrange schedules, maybe forgo some material possessions, to be able to really get back into our children's lives and to be supportive of those members of the community—like our teachers—who are on the front lines day in and day out.

So there is no easy, one-time fix for any of this. It's a problem that really has to be addressed, and everybody has a role to play. I don't think finger-pointing does any good. I think instead we ought to be working to bring people together in a unified way to ask ourselves the hard questions. And to think of ways we can address them.

And I will just end by saying that we've seen progress when we've worked together in the last six years. I am delighted, as I know everybody in America is, that the crime rate has gone down for six years in a row. Well, it went down because we had legislation, we had community response, we had leadership, we had a unified approach.

And today we were just delighted to see the results of our efforts with teen pregnancy. For the last six years, teen pregnancy rates have gone down. Birth rates to teens have gone down. Now part of that has to do with our addressing it, creating what we call the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. But a lot of it has to do with a unified response by a lot of people dealing with a very challenging problem.

So I think there are things we can do. And as we mourn and sympathize and feel the anguish of the people in Littleton, let's not let those children die in vain. Let's get ourselves organized, and unify, in a positive way, to address these complex issues. But there are things we can do to address each one of them.

So that's probably a much longer answer than anybody could have expected this morning, but it's really been on my mind, as it's been on the mind of every American. I just can't talk to anybody without it coming up. I can't think about any other issue without worrying and considering what we can do.

So there's a lot of work ahead of us. But I'm confident that if we don't just wring our hands, or if we don't just walk away in denial, we can make some real progress on this.

Thank you all very much.

May 6, 1999, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 33; Column 2; Editorial Desk

LENGTH: 769 words

HEADLINE: Moving Beyond Blame

BYLINE: By Gary Ross; Gary Ross is a writer and director whose films include "Big," "Dave" and "Pleasantville."

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

BODY:

Ever since the tragedy in Littleton, Colo., the American preoccupation with finding a simple answer has been churning nonstop. In a nation that reduces everything to box scores ("Conventional Wisdom" in Newsweek, etc.), the media and its pundit class have been obsessed with finding the immediate cause, like a zealous cop hellbent on making an early collar.

My industry (the movie business), in a pre-emptive first strike, said the cause was guns. Gun lovers of course said the cause was movies. Politicians, depending on their place in the political spectrum, said the cause was one, the other, or both.

And no sooner were these first accusations traded than the natural defenses began. "Guns don't kill people, people kill people." "Movies don't kill people, people kill people." "Video games don't kill people, people kill people." (This N.R.A. construct is almost as specious as "guns don't kill people, bullets kill people," but even the N.R.A. wouldn't go that far.)

Let's just assume for a minute that all these things are involved. In other words, instead of shifting blame, what if we search our souls for culpability? Guns kill people and movies kill people and video games kill people and it soon becomes obvious that the list doesn't stop there.

It may not reduce to a tidy sound bite or a convenient political enemy, but the simple truth is that whatever debases the culture (Springer), degrades the value of human life (Doom), panders to violent impulses (local news), trivializes human relationships (Springer again) or isolates us from one another (paradoxically, the Internet) can contribute to a situation like Littleton. It is absurd to say that this problem occurred in the absence of social forces, but it is equally absurd to blame a single one.

In the book "Finding the Heart of the Child," the psychiatrist Edward Hallowell cogently lists many of the factors that contribute to the kind of alienation that allows something like Littleton to occur. These include changing family structure (single-parent homes, two-career homes); the breakdown of communities, villages and neighborhoods; cynicism about government and social institutions; the decrease in a sense of security, job permanence or close personal relationships; the decline of genuine spirituality as an ethical force in the culture; an explosion of information that creates anxiety over one's worth or abilities; a lack of respect for older people and an overreliance on "self" to find the meaning of life.

In comparison to that list, the movies/guns paradigm withers. How many of us who have an impact on the culture have contributed (however unwittingly) to the social forces that Dr. Hallowell identifies?

When conservative Republicans fought to have night basketball removed from the crime bill of several years ago, they were eroding a sense of community that can prevent this kind of isolation. When prime-time magazine shows peddle yet another "hard hitting" investigation of yet another corrupt local official, they are feeding our cynicism about social institutions by elevating the exception to the rule. When advertisers exploit perfect bodies on perfect men and women to sell their less-than-perfect products, they are exacerbating the anxiety that adolescents feel in regard to their self-worth. (Littleton has shown us this is no benign thing.) When the local news leads its broadcast with a homicide three nights a week, it is committing the very desensitization that it decries when it covers a story like Littleton.

So how do you program a V-chip for all of that?

It seems to be a vicious circle. When problems seem overwhelming, we grasp for sound-bite solutions as a way of convincing ourselves that the problems are not insoluble and the alienation is not that deep. Of course, the hollowness of this just increases the feelings of futility and alienation, but for a moment we feel better. For a moment we feel assuaged by the passion play that modern news has become: a hero gets elevated, a villain gets vanquished, a sinner gets stoned, a victim is avenged.

Since only an acceptance of personal responsibility can possibly break this deadlock, let me start now. I will not defend the role of movies in the culture. Despite my deep and abiding passion for the First Amendment, I will not even defend our right to make them. Let me say that movies can contribute to this desensitization. And let me promise that, on each screenplay, I will ask myself what the ramifications are to the culture in which I live and the children who may see these films.

But what should we ask after that?
GRAPHIC: Drawing (Milan Trenc)

"Good Morning America" Production Escort Schedule

Thursday, June 3

- 6:30 AM Delivery Trucks arrive 17th and Pennsylvania to deliver staging and camera gear
- NEED: One escort for troubleshooting
- STAFF: TBD
- 10:00 AM Crews begin cabling from South Lawn, through Rose Garden to Roosevelt Room
Delivery trucks on North Lawn deliver staging and camera equipment
- NEED: Two escorts for crews on South Lawn. One Escort for North side
- STAFF: Megan Moloney
Ted (OEOB Press Intern)
Meghan (Upper Press Intern) – North Side
- 1:30 PM Setup continues in Roosevelt Room. All South Lawn/Rose Garden activity
halted until the conclusion of Cabinet Room meetings and Rose Garden
Statement
- NEED: One escort to monitor Roosevelt Room
- STAFF: Toby Graff (1:30 –3:00ish)
Jen Smith (3:00ish to 4:30ish)
Julie Goldberg (4:30ish to 6:00ish)
- 5:00 PM Cabinet Room setup begins
- NEED: One escort to monitor Cabinet Room
- STAFF: Sarah Gegenheimer
- 8:00 PM Setup concludes for the evening

Friday, June 4

4:00 AM ABC Crew Call at the White House, engineering begins final set up

NEED: Two escorts for crews on South Lawn, One for Roosevelt Room, One for Cabinet Room (you will stay with your crews until 9:00 AM or when the crews decide to break)

STAFF: Megan Moloney
Ted (OEOP Press Intern) – Cabinet Room
2 TBD (Roosevelt Room, South Lawn/Rose Garden)

6:00 AM Kids arrive WH Press Briefing Room for escort to Roosevelt Room

NEED: One "host" for teens

STAFF: TBD (Lower Press Intern?)

7:00 AM Broadcast begins

NEED: Two "hall monitors" to make sure folks stay out of broadcast areas.

STAFF: Toby Graff (7:00 – 8:00)
Jen Smith (7:00 – 8:00)
Julie Goldberg (8:00 – 9:00)
TBD (8:00 – 9:00)

9:00 AM Broadcast concludes

9:30 AM Tear down begins

NEED: Two escorts for South Lawn, One escort for Roosevelt Room, one escort for Cabinet Room, and one escort for the North Side.

STAFF: Megan Moloney
Ted (OEOP Press Intern) – Cabinet Room
Sarah Gegenheimer – Roosevelt Room/Trucks
Meghan (Upper Press Intern) – South Lawn

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Meghan (Upper Press Intern) – South Lawn

Good Morning America 1717 DeSales Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 Telephone 202-222-7390



Agenda for Meeting Tuesday June 1, 1999 at the White House

Editorial

- 1) Confirm use of the Roosevelt and Cabinet Rooms or Oval Office as locations for GMA broadcast.
- 2) Discuss possibilities for opening the show. Rose Garden or Oval Office. Also need to confirm that President and Mrs. Clinton can open the show with Diane Sawyer and Charles Gibson at 7:00am EDT
- 3) Discuss participation of White House personnel to be interviewed in the 8:30 half-hour of the broadcast. Possibilities to include WH Chef/Pastry Chef, Head WH Usher, Social Secretary or WH Gardener. Also need to confirm live or tape venues for these guests. *Betty Markman 62550*
- 4) How best to facilitate Secret service clearance of all GMA staff essential to the broadcast and guests for the Town Meeting. Estimates of time it takes for clearance, information needed in advance etc.
- 5) Discuss live locations for Tony Perkins (North Lawn, SE gate)
- 6) Permission to have live performance by singer Sarah McLachlan
- 7) Discuss use of diplomatic reception room as backup for Rose Garden in event of rain
- 8) Examine possibility of use of any other rooms for live interviews, Town Meeting, opening and closing of the broadcast

Technical

- 1) Parking for Production Truck and confirm day and time it can be parked, swept and left in place at White House. Also need to discuss how many other vehicles will be used for dropping or equipment/personnel and where they can unload. Time to be allowed for equipment to be swept by Secret service?
- 2) Cabling of equipment from Production truck to various remote locations. Need to determine path of least resistance, needs for disguising cables time when cable can be run so as to least disturb the WH staff and family?
- 3) Need to confirm entry times for GMA staff to light, mike and set cameras for each remote location.
- 4) Confirm that Diane Sawyer/ Charles Gibson can rehearse at 3:30pm EST Thursday June 3 from the White House from the Roosevelt Room.
- 5) Confirm President and First Lady will wear RF microphones

GOOD MORNING AMERICA

MEMORANDUM

TO JOE LOCKHART, MARK NECHIS, MARSHA BERRY
THE WHITE HOUSE

FROM SHELLEY ROSS/PHYLISS MCGRADY
GOOD MORNING AMERICA

RE GMA TOWN HALL WITH YOUTH AT THE WHITE HOUSE
FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1999

DATE JUNE 2, 1999

INTRODUCTION:

Good Morning America is pleased to join the President and the First Lady at the White House on Friday, June 4, for what we anticipate will be a stimulating and thoughtful discussion seeking the critical perspective of American youth on the issue of teen violence.

PARTICIPANTS:

The town hall will feature approximately 40 youth ages 13-18. Approximately 10 youth will be traveling to the White House from communities across the nation to join approximately 30 young people from local D.C., Virginia, and Maryland high schools. Attached to this memo are profiles of the ten (who will be giving brief "testimonials" within the format of the town hall), and a description of the area high schools and the additional 30 localized students attending.

The young town hall participants will "look like America" -- representing an appropriate cross section of age, gender, ethnic, geographic and economic backgrounds that track the phenomena of youth violence in our middle and high schools.

PRIMARY AREAS OF DISCUSSION:

The town hall discussion will featuring three primary issue areas and a wrap-up "solutions" component:

- **Gun Access:** Gun accessibility and access ramifications.
- **Cultural Influences and Glamorization:** Cultural issues regarded videos, lyrics, and violent image saturation; as well as cultural issues of self-esteem, peer pressure and peer rejection, and youth responsibility/accountability.
- **Parental Communication/Accountability:** Issues of quality time, areas of communication, and ultimate responsibility.
- **Solutions:** A Wrap-up discussion of what the youth think the President, their schools, and their peers could and should be doing.

FORMAT:

The town hall will be facilitated by Diane Sawyer and Charlie Gibson on behalf of the President, the First Lady, and the youth participants. The forum will feature a select number of youth "testimonials" and tape set up segments to provoke discussion among the young audience with the President and the First Lady, as well as with the facilitators. The participants will be encouraged to direct their remarks to the President, First Lady, and to each other.

We understand that it is likely the President and the First Lady will only be able to join us for the 7:30 - 8:00 a.m. portion of the event. We would welcome and encourage them to stay longer if possible. If their schedule dictates their departure at 8:00, Diane Sawyer and Charlie Gibson will continue the town hall for the duration.

Taped Segments: The tape segments under consideration for inclusion in the town hall include extremely brief introduction pieces to a select number of the designated 10 young people sharing their stories; and brief pieces from GMA and/or 20/20 tracking the town hall issue areas of gun availability and cultural influences.

Page Three

PROFILES OF SELECT YOUTH ATTENDING WHITE HOUSE GMA TOWN HALL

- Robyn Anderson, Littleton, Colorado: Senior at Columbine, friend of Eric and Dylan and purchased guns for them. Will be speaking out publicly for the first time.
- Jen Bidula, Bethel Park, PA: Enjoys guns as sport and hobby she shares with her family. Her Bethel Park Highschool had a high-profile pepper spray violent incident the day before Littleton that sent 40 youth to area hospitals. a.
- Brooks Brown, Littleton Colorado: Senior at Columbine, friend of Ed Harris and Dylan Kleybold. Has spoken out on feelings of isolation shared by his friends who were not among popular elite. Able to provide insight on history and motivation of his friends.
- Trey Carver, Conyers, Georgia: A junior at Heritage High school and a friend of T.J. Solomon. Reported on Solomon when he brought a gun to school two weeks prior to the shooting incident.
- Scott Carver, Baltimore, Maryland: Teenager who has his own "Doom" web site. Immersed in video culture.
- Leanne Dews, Pearl, Mississippi: Sister of Pearl school shooting victim: now advocates for better accountability and parental responsibility issues. Her family is suing Woodham family.
- Missy Jenkins, West Paducah, Kentucky: Paralyzed in shooting by Michael Carnica at Heath High School. Advocates for more gun reform, parental and school control.
- Marc Kramer and Mike Robbins, Chicago, Illinois: Best friends; Marc accidentally shot his friend Mike at his father's home with his father's gun (Mike recovered).
- Albert Smith, Evanston, Illinois: Albert's sister was shot in a random shooting outside his home. Albert has organized an annual anti-violence march and advocates for more control and intervention.

- Brandy Varner, Jonesboro, Arkansas: Sister of Britthey Varner who was killed in Jonesboro at Westside Middle School. Her mother has become active in getting legislation introduced on parental responsibility. Brandy thinks there is too much violence in movies and on TV that does not depict the shattered lives left from incidents of teen violence.
- Betina Lyn, Springfield, Oregon. Betina was shot by Kip Kinkel at Thurston High School, and has become a strong advocate for tough gun legislation. t

PROPOSAL FOR GOOD MORNING AMERICA LIVE BROADCAST FROM THE WHITE HOUSE FRIDAY JUNE 4, 1999

7:00AM	Open with Diane Sawyer, Charlie Gibson, the President & Mrs. Clinton in the Rose Garden or Oval Office
7:02AM	News with JuJu Chang in NY
7:04AM	Weather with Tony Perkins (Remote in DC) WH East Gate with Tourist
7:05AM	President Clinton Interview in the Cabinet Room with Charles Gibson
7:17AM	Mrs. Clinton and Diane Sawyer do scene setter for Town Meeting in Roosevelt Room
7:22AM	Charles Gibson & President Clinton walk (on camera) from Cabinet room or Oval Office to the Roosevelt Room
7:30AM	The President/Mrs. Clinton/Diane Sawyer/Charles Gibson in Roosevelt Room for Town Meeting with (40) Middle School and High School children on Kids and Violence. <i>Ideally Mrs. Clinton and Diane Sawyer are in the room in advance to help warm up the kids from 7:17 scene setter segment</i> This segment will fill the entire 7:30am half-hour. No news broadcast in this half-hour. We are looking to do this half-hour without any commercial breaks.
8:00AM	Open in Roosevelt room with Diane Sawyer and Charles Gibson
8:02AM	News with JuJu Chang (NY)
8:06AM	Weather with Tony Perkins Location TBD
8:09AM	Town Meeting continues in the Roosevelt room. <i>Ideally with the President and Mrs. Clinton</i>
8:30AM	Open with Diane Sawyer and Charles Gibson in the Rose Garden
8:32AM	News with JuJu Chang (NY)
8:34AM	Weather with Tony Perkins on North Lawn with National Spelling Bee Winner
8:37AM	Hope for Live interview & tour of State Dining Room with White House Usher, Gary Walters
8:42AM	Hope for Live interview in White House Kitchen with WH Chef or Pastry Chef
8:46AM	Tape segment on Solutions
8:52AM	Possible live performance by Sarah McLachlan
8:56AM	Final Thoughts with Diane Sawyer, Charles Gibson and Tony Perkins in Rose Garden

ALL TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE. THIS IS A DRAFT ONLY.

6:00 am Shuts. - out of ducks

set-up at 10:30 am - 1:30 p.m. Production trucks

Charlie & Diane in at 3:30-4:30 pm

out at 6pm

Cabinet room set up 5:00-8:00pm

Fri.

Kids in place 6am

possible remote

Weather at Tourist Gtr. - with lawn
+ North Lawn

Sarah McLachlan No.

open 7am.
Rose Garden
or
Oval Office

No. ⇒

North Lawn ⇒

No. ⇒

Marsha,

Attached is what GMA has proposed...here are the main issues/questions to discuss with Bob Wheelock:

Scene Setter

I told GMA that I didn't think she could do a scene setter that early, as I was concerned that there'd be too much time there where they could sneak in questions (on proposed schedule from 7:17 – 7:22 am). But perhaps could do a real scene setter, a one-minute or less cut to Roosevelt Room to promo next half-hour?

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. slot

I have told Bob Wheelock that this may not be the most appropriate time to do “behind the scenes” interviews and also that it would be difficult to set up given schedule/logistics....but did not say absolutely no.

FYI...Survey says: Capricia thinks we should not do; Gary Walters would rather not do, given set-up for the Wellesley dinner; Jen Palmieri/Mark Neschis think it might be good so we have more control over broadcast!

Sarah McLachlan performance

Per Capricia, I did relay that we could not have Sarah McLachlan perform here...not appropriate since the Clintons would not be there. Suggested looking at different location or studio?

Other Issues:

Briefing Material

We will be getting information on all of the kids either tomorrow or Thurs. a.m. I'm talking to Neera about other material...can use what she/Ruby prepared for Littleton/Rather interview and information from FTC announcement today. Also checking on possible POTUS announcement(s).

Format for Discussion

They have proposed that the Clintons, Charlie and Diane sit facing kids (flag side) in Roosevelt Room. We have not gotten to work out the exact format yet, but will discuss tomorrow. Even if don't do scene setter, HRC would have to come down a little early to get in place/set-up (they requested she wear a lav, but will have hand held too if problem).



Agenda for Meeting Tuesday June 1, 1999 at the White House

Editorial

- 1) Confirm use of the Roosevelt and Cabinet Rooms or ~~Oval Office~~ as locations for GMA broadcast.
- 2) Discuss possibilities for opening the show. Rose Garden or Oval Office. Also need to confirm that President and Mrs. Clinton can open the show with Diane Sawyer and Charles Gibson at 7:00am EDT
- 3) Discuss participation of White House personnel to be interviewed in the 8:30 half-hour of the broadcast. Possibilities to include WH Chef/Pastry Chef, Head WH Usher, Social Secretary or WH Gardener. Also need to confirm live or tape venues for these guests.
- 4) How best to facilitate Secret service clearance of all GMA staff essential to the broadcast and guests for the Town Meeting. Estimates of time it takes for clearance, information needed in advance etc.
- 5) Discuss live locations for Tony Perkins (North Lawn, SE gate)
- 6) Permission to have live performance by singer Sarah McLachlan
- 7) Discuss use of diplomatic reception room as backup for Rose Garden in event of rain
- 8) Examine possibility of use of any other rooms for live interviews, Town Meeting, opening and closing of the broadcast

Technical

- 1) Parking for Production Truck and confirm day and time it can be parked, swept and left in place at White House. Also need to discuss how many other vehicles will be used for dropping or equipment/personnel and where they can unload. Time to be allowed for equipment to be swept by Secret service?
- 2) Cabling of equipment from Production truck to various remote locations. Need to determine path of least resistance, needs for disguising cables time when cable can be run so as to least disturb the WH staff and family?
- 3) Need to confirm entry times for GMA staff to light, mike and set cameras for each remote location.
- 4) Confirm that Diane Sawyer/ Charles Gibson can rehearse at 3:30pm EST Thursday June 3 from the White House from the Roosevelt Room.
- 5) Confirm President and First Lady will wear RF microphones

(need to find out)

7:17 a.m. - scene setter
check

make-up?

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. schedule	Proposed Engineering Schedule (3 pages)	05/03/1999	b(7)(E)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Lissa Muscatine
OA/Box Number: 20081

FOLDER TITLE:

Good Morning America - June 4, 1999

2015-0275-S

rc2066

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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002. list	High School Students [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (2 pages)	06/03/1999	b(6)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Lissa Muscatine
OA/Box Number: 20081

FOLDER TITLE:

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- KIDS -

Name	High School	Grade	Social Security	DOB	Place of Birth
Sarah McCarthy	Langley High School	12			
Mia Harris	Langley High School	12			
Chad Tomabeni	Langley High School	12			
Jonathon Schnerit	Langley High School	12			
Steven Kirschner	Langley High School	11			
Brian Borden	Anacostia High School	9			
Andrew Benbow	Anacostia High School	10			
Hope Allison Williams	Wilson High School	12			
Patricia Rios	Wilson High School	12			
Robert Weaver	Wilson High School	12			
Mike Cullen	Fairfax High school	11			
Jada Beazer	Fairfax High school	12			
Borna Emami	Fairfax High school	9			
Kotcher Diziye	Fairfax High school	10			
Naomi Hirobayashi	Fairfax High school	10			
Gary Baird	Fairfax High school	12			
Elizabeth Sulton	South Lakes High School	11			
Katharine Guthrie	South Lakes High School	10			
Melanie Brooks	South Lakes High School	11			
Josh Bolton	South Lakes High School	12			
Baye Masud Harrell	Elanor Roosevelt High				
Nananmala Roy	JFK High School				
Kathryn Long	Walter Johnson High	10			
Daina Falk	Walter Johnson High	10			
Scott Cover	North Hanford High	12			
Albert Smith	Evanston High, IL	11			
Betina Lynn	Springfield, OR	12			
Brandy Varner	Jonesboro, AK	9			
Missy Jenkins	Paducah, KY	11			
William Jenkins (father)					
Tiffany Burk	Littleton, CO	12			
Trey Carver	Conyers, GA	11?			
Leeanne Dews	Pearl, MS	Post Grad			
Tiffany Burk	Littleton, CO	12			

(b)(6)

[002]

Mark Kramer
Mike Robbins
Jennifer Bidula
Michael Robbins (father)
Rebecca Lynn (mother)

William Staley Langley High School

11

12

(b)(6)

As many of you know, ABC's "Good Morning America" will be here at the White House beginning tomorrow for a live, 2 hour broadcast on Friday from 7:00 to 9:00 AM.

I will be helping Mark with some of the technical setup for the broadcast and will be needing some assistance from our staff and interns to help ABC with their technical setup. Below is a schedule for setup, rehearsal and broadcast. Please let me know if you -- or your blue-badged intern -- would like to help out.

Thursday, June 3

10:00 AM Crews begin cabling from South Lawn, through Rose Garden to Roosevelt Room

-- Delivery trucks on North Lawn deliver staging and camera equipment
NEED: Two escorts for crews on South Lawn. One Escort for North side

1:30 PM Setup continues in Roosevelt Room. All South Lawn/Rose Garden activity halted until the conclusion of Cabinet Room meetings
NEED: One escort to monitor Roosevelt Room

5:00 PM Cabinet Room setup begins
NEED: One escort to monitor Cabinet Room

8:00 PM Setup concludes for the evening

Friday, June 4

4:00 AM ABC Crew Call at the White House, engineering begins final set up
NEED: Two escorts for crews on South Lawn, One for Roosevelt Room, One for Cabinet Room
(you will stay with your crews until 9:00 AM or when the crews decide to break)

6:00 AM Kids arrive WH Press Briefing Room for escort to Roosevelt Room
NEED: One "host" for teens

7:00 AM Broadcast begins
NEED: Two additional "hall monitors" to make sure folks stay out of broadcast areas.

9:00 AM Broadcast concludes

9:30 AM Tear down begins
NEED: Two escorts for South Lawn, One escort for Roosevelt Room, one escort for Cabinet Room, and one escort for the North Side.

Please let me know if you will be available to help out. I'll try to put a schedule together later today. Thanks.

Megan

NEED: One

PROFILES OF SELECT YOUTH ATTENDING WHITE HOUSE/GOOD MORNING AMERICA TOWN HALL

Jen Bidula, Bethel Park, PA: Jen enjoys guns as a sport and hobby she shares with her family. Her Bethel Park High School had a high profile pepper spray violent incident that sent 40 kids to area hospitals. The incident occurred the day before the Columbine High School shooting

Trey Carver, Conyers, Georgia: Trey is a junior at Heritage High School, site of last month's school shooting. He reported that his friend, T.J. Solomon, brought a gun to school two weeks before he shot and wounded six students.

Scott Carver, Baltimore, Maryland: Teenager who has his own web site dedicated to the video game "Doom". Scott is completely immersed in the video culture.

Leanne Dews, Pearl, Mississippi: Sister of Pearl school shooting victim who now advocates for better accountability and parental responsibility. Her family is suing the family of the boy responsible for the school shooting at her high school.

Missy Jenkins, West Paducah, Kentucky: Paralyzed in Heath High School by the shooter, Michael Carnal. Supports more gun control, parental responsibility and school control.

Marc Kramer and Mike Robbins, Chicago, Illinois: Marc accidentally shot his best friend Mike at his father's home with his father's gun. Mike recovered.

Albert Smith, Evanston Illinois: Albert's sister was shot in a random shooting outside his home. Albert has organized an annual anti-violence march and supports more gun control and parental intervention.

Brandy Varner, Jonesboro, Arkansas: Sister of Britney Varner who was killed in Jonesboro at Westside Middle School. Her mother, Suzanne Wilson, has become active in getting parental responsibility legislation introduced. Brandy thinks there is too much violence in movies and on television. She also thinks the media does a bad job of depicting the shattered lives left from the incidents of teen violence.

Betina Lyn, Springfield Oregon: Betina was shot by Kip Kinkel at Thurston High School. She has become a strong advocate for tough gun legislation.

FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL – Fairfax, VA

_FHS is mostly middle class suburban Virginia. 1800 students.

Very similar to Columbine, they even have teachers that used to work at Columbine. Same mascot – The Rebels

_Ethnic backgrounds: 57% Caucasian [includes Middle Eastern kids], 25% Asian, 10% Latino, 8% Hispanic

_Security at school – Officer in charge of security oversees staff of 4, police officer in building aka as school resource officer, city police station down the street. 5 administrators.

_Violent incidents at school: They had a bomb threat on 4/29. School officer checking grounds at 4:30am saw the word BOOM and date 4/29 spray painted in back of building. Next to it there was a door with a window broken, and an entrance to the roof was open. School was closed for the day, no bombs found. They are closed to finding the pranksters.

_Peer helping group and mediation goes on all the time.

Jada Beazer – Senior, President of her class, Key Club treasurer [community service organization], cheerleader, 2 part-time jobs. Jada will go to James Madison U. in the fall.

Naomi Hiroibayashi – Sophomore, Class Secretary, varsity soccer, in leadership class. Belongs to her church youth group.

Kotcher Diziye – Sophomore, born in Iraq, staff writer for the school paper, vice president for fashion marketing, will be school's DECA spokesperson

Borna Emami – Freshman, born in Iran, in football, president of 9th grade, in the honor roll.

Mike Cullen – Junior, vice-president of his class, plays football, baseball, track

Gary Baird – Senior, Basketball coach of the county league, deacon at his church for 6 years, church choir, student government, will go to George Mason in the fall.

WALTER JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL – Bethesda, MD

_WJH is located in upper middle class suburban Maryland. 1600 students

_Ethnic backgrounds: 68.7% Caucasian, 13.3% Asian American, 9.8% Latino, 7.9% African American, .3% American Indian

_Security at school: 3 security officers [2 are former Montgomery County police officers], and 4 school administrators "who make it a point to know their kids"

_Low suspension rates, highly academically motivated kids, have special program for kids who want to go beyond advanced placement.

Kathryn Long – Sophomore, environmental activist, literary magazine, Gay-Straight alliance, plays flute and is a dancer.

Daina Falk – Sophomore, varsity tennis team, mock trial and teen court, vice-president French Honors Society.

WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL – Washington, DC

_Wilson High represents broadest area of DC, has students from NW, SW and NE. Kids are from all socio economic levels, about 30% are enrolled on free lunch program. 1500 students

_Ethnic backgrounds: 57% African American 17% Latino 17% Caucasian 7% Asian, 85 different nationalities and 150 languages represented.

_Security at school: 2 metal detectors, hallway camera monitors, 6 security officers, Principal and 3 assistant principals with walkie talkies.

Violence at school: Delante Hicks, student, was murdered by another student across the street from school last year. There are gangs at school. Delante's murder led to the creation of Peace Week, 500 kids pledged to do something to prevent violence.

Hope Allison Williams – Senior, Battalion executive ROTC, E-4 Specialist in the reserves, cross country & track and field, participated in Diversity workshops, will go to Hampton University in the fall.

Patricia Rios – Senior, Latino activist, created and is president of Latinas in Action, member of Female Initiative Club, teen Health promoter, and homeroom representative, will go to American University in the fall.

Robert Weaver – Senior, vice-president of the art club, writing staff member, has a part-time job, will go to Virginia Union in the fall.

SCOTT COVER, 18

One of the creators of WWW.DOOMWORLD.COM

From Street, MD [30 miles northeast from Baltimore]

Scott comes from Hanford County, a rural community in MD. He's a senior at North Hanford High, track and field athlete in high school, all advanced placement and honors courses, will go to college in fall.

SOUTH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL, Reston VA

- Reston is a planned community – rough estimation ethnic background at South Lakes– 55% white, 20% african american, 12% asian, 12% latino, some multiracial –maybe 5....very diverse in terms of economic backgrounds...
- Have a police resource officer have a safety and security staff made up of 5 people – police drive by every so often – have teachers with hall duty and dog
- Have brought dogs in twice for drugs, check empty lockers, very sensitive to rumors coming..
- May 10th – rumor that there would be bombs around that something major was going to happen – invited some parents to come and help from parents – invited parents to come if were afraid for kids...Some kids said never felt safer than on May 10th – most kids attended that day...

Elizabeth Sutton – Junior

Elizabeth actually went to elementary school in Littleton Colorado, so the events out there struck her very hard. She is very active in all aspects of Southlakes, and is very interesting on the differences between going to a diverse vs. a more homogeneous school

Katie Guthrie – Sophomore

Katie is very involved throughout school a Cheerleader, Secretary of the Sophomore class, and a contributor to the school paper.

Josh Bolton – Senior

Josh is one of the schools Newspaper editors, involved with the Art Department, was a part of Mrs. Clinton's Project Tolerance (although seems to have fallen apart to some degree at the school. In his spare time, what he has of it he is the President of his Youth Group, plays in a band. Josh plans on attending the University of Maryland in the fall.

Melanie Brooks – Sophomore

Melanie plays lacrosse and field hockey, manages the boys basketball and football team. She is on her school newspaper and yearbook staffs, and is the President of her youth group.

ANACOSTIA HIGH SCHOOL, Washington DC

- little less than 1000s – full restructured high school of academy high schools _ there are 5 – freshman and then pick from Creative Arts, pUblc service, enviornmental science, computer technology and the law, justice and security program.
- Students are 99% black, 1% mixed origin – Staff is fully mixed by race and religion
- Have MVM security provided by school systems, metal detectors are included.
- Low level of violence – the 8 kids that I talked to said they have the normal school experience some fights, but not weapons fights – there was one shooting at Anacostia this year, but it was accidental.....All of the kids I talked to thought that city schools got a bad reputation and were as safe as others....

Brian Borden – freshman academy

- Brian is a freshman and is very involved in school spirit activities, very into sports,
- He thinks that it is very important for kids to be involved in activities, and credits his mother's support and involvement and own motivation in the good head he has on his shoulders.

Andrew Benbow – Sophomore – law and justice academy

Andrew is very involved in the ROTC and teaches a class for 8th graders early in the morning before schools. Andrew also talks about his "strong academic reputation" he holds high standards for himself, and is very proud of maintaining a 3.4 GPA and his ROTC.

LANGLEY HIGH SCHOOL, McLean, VA (serves McLean and Great Falls)

- 1625 students attend the four year high school – predominately white, but has some degree of international community due to it's McLean location.
- pretty upper class, over 95% go on to 4 year college
- Langley has one Fairfax County police officer assigned to the school, and 3-4 people on security staff.
- Since Columbine, they have had a couple of scares – Someone wrote on the school's bathroom wall "Trenchcoat Mafia will return on May 20th", also guns were stolen out of two homes in the community (both homes are also of Langley students) – about 1/3 of the school stayed home on the 20th – they added a PTA patrol on that day which the principal calls "Take your parent to school day" – they also have changed the entrances so there are only 2 ways in and out of the school and visitors have to sign in.
- NOTE – FBI Director's son goes to Langley.....according to some students

William Staley

Will is a Senior at Langley and very active in Student Government. He is proposing a program called SAVE – Students Against Violence Everywhere/Students against Violence in Education (including fax with this for Mark)

Chad Tornabeni

Chad is a Senior at Langley. He is a three sport athlete, playing for Langley's baseball, football, and basketball teams, and is the star quarterback of the football team. Chad plans to attend Virginia Tech next year, and may try to walk on to the Baseball team

Steven Kirschner

Steven is a Junior at Langley. He is involved in both the school band and the Soccer team. Steven talks about being an individual and says that while there is pressure to be like everyone else. He really thinks it is important for kids to be themselves and get to know each other...

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. profile	Langley High School student bios [partial] (1 page)	06/03/1999	b(6)

COLLECTION:

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First Lady's Office
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OA/Box Number: 20081

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Jonathon Scherit

Jonathon is a widely involved in leadership and sports. He is a member of the student government and he plays for both the football and the basketball team. He plans to go to Washington and Lee College in the fall.

Sarah McCarthy

Sarah's dad is in the foreign service and she has lived overseas – most recently lived for 5 years in Cairo, Egypt. She plays basketball, is very into sports and is also very involved in working with special ed kids. She is the President of "Interlinks" which is a group that works with Special Ed and Autistic Children holding dances and other events to help going to mainstream schools easier. Sarah is part of a team of kids in her sociology class (see Mia below) that is debating gun control – She is arguing the side against it, but personally is on the other side.....

Mia Harris

[003]

Mia moved to McLean after the 8th grade. (b)(6) and she has spent a lot of her life in the South. She is a member of the Basketball team and is currently debating the issue of Gun Control for her Sociology class (on the side for total gun control as they are debating absolutes)

previously launched: the national campaign to reduce teen pregnancy, and the Welfare to Work Partnership. These campaigns have played important roles in helping to reduce the teen pregnancy rates, and moving over 40,000 people from the welfare rolls to the job rolls.



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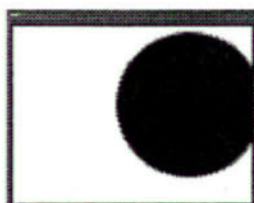
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Clinton on Guns: Blame Congress

By Sandra Sobieraj

Associated Press Writer

Friday, June 4, 1999; 9:43 a.m. EDT

WASHINGTON (AP) -- A testy President Clinton, with pointed finger and pounding fist, rejected suggestions today that he fumbled a golden opportunity to stand tough for gun control.

The sweeping restrictions he would like to see -- including a mandate that people "register guns like they register cars" -- will take years to enact, he said, because he is hamstrung by a Republican Congress "out of touch with the American people."

The president and his wife, Hillary, aimed their anti-youth-violence campaign at family breakfast tables nationwide today, appearing on ABC's "Good Morning America" with 40 teen-agers -- some from schools made infamous by shootings last year -- for a live brainstorming session.

Anchor Charlie Gibson opened the broadcast from the White House Roosevelt Room with a separate interview with the president. The journalist quoted an unnamed Clinton ally as saying the president, after the Littleton, Colo., school massacre, "had a chance to roar and he meowed."

His eyes narrowed and his finger pointed accusingly, Clinton replied: "Look, let's join the real world here. You want to have an honest conversation, let's have an honest conversation. I am the first president who ever took on the NRA. I got my party in Congress to stand with me on the Brady bill. ... Now wait a minute, you talk about roaring and meowing -- then I came forward with this legislation."

Clinton pounded his left fist into his right palm.

"For you to say I shouldn't take what I can get and instead I should ask for things that I am absolutely positive will be defeated in the Congress is quite wrong," he said.

The president narrowly won Senate passage last month of a limited bill requiring mandatory background checks for all transactions at gun shows, then lost a fight to have the House follow suit before its Memorial Day recess.

He has -- as a matter of political practicality, he said -- deferred until later the battle for additional gun controls, such as background checks for explosives sales, increasing from 18 to 21 the legal age for owning handguns and assault weapons and limiting gun

purchases to one per month.

Clinton said today that the House Republican leadership delayed a gun vote until after the holiday recess in order to give the National Rifle Association time to lobby and water down the legislation.

"I made it clear I want to do this in sequence. I think this is going to take years. The Congress is out of touch with the American people."

Following the president's one-on-one interview in the Cabinet Room, he and Mrs. Clinton sat down with students from Littleton, Springfield, Ore., West Paducah, Ky., Conyers, Ga., and other areas for an uninterrupted discussion of youth violence.

After 45 minutes, the Clintons agreed to scrap their schedules and stretch it another 10 minutes. "We can stay longer," the first lady said. "I want to hear from them."

One student, Albert Smith, questioned the president skeptically. "How spectacular is this legislation and why will it make a difference?" Another student in the discussion was Missy Jenkins, who was paralyzed from the waist down on Dec. 1, 1997, when a classmate opened fire inside her West Paducah high school.

Mrs. Clinton, with apologies for pulling "the nose mother routine," beseeched kids to ask questions and demand safe surroundings. "If you guys are going to a party make sure there are no guns around," she said.

The first lady also asked students to speak out for tougher gun controls. "There's no reason why a lot of you who are about to be or are already 18 can't let your voices be heard too."

The Clintons saw "Good Morning America" and its estimated 7 million viewers as a ripe opportunity, White House spokesman Jake Siewert said. "The Clintons can talk directly to families as they get ready for another school day."

Earlier this week, the president ordered a joint investigation by the Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission of marketing practices by the motion picture and video game industries to see if they are targeting children with their violent wares.

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Hillary Clinton Moves Closer to Run

By Sandra Sobieraj

Associated Press Writer

Friday, June 4, 1999; 9:19 a.m. EDT

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Taking a big step toward a political race, Hillary Rodham Clinton said today she will form an exploratory committee in July to prepare for a possible campaign for a Senate seat from New York.

"I'm going to open an exploratory committee in July," she said. "And then I'll spend some time -- a lot of time -- in New York listening to people and I'm looking forward to that."

The first lady made her comments in an interview on ABC's "Good Morning America." Her statement confirmed what her top political adviser had said Thursday, that she would form an exploratory committee next month for the seat being vacated next year by Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan. No first lady has ever run for public office.

It is a race that could pit her against the Republican mayor of New York City, Rudolph Giuliani.

"I think exploring New York is a good thing," Giuliani said following a speech in Michigan, stressing that the first lady has never lived in New York. "Maybe she should explore New York a little."

"I should say though, I have supreme confidence that the next senator from New York will be someone from the state of New York," the mayor added.

Formation of an exploratory committee will allow Mrs. Clinton to begin raising money for the race. That means she could begin paying for some of her travel to New York, for polling and other campaign-type expenses. She already has come under fire for making campaign-style trips to New York as first lady, and thus at taxpayer expense.

Formation of such a committee will be seen in political circles as tantamount to a declaration of candidacy.

Harold Ickes, who is heading up Mrs. Clinton's political operation, disclosed the exploratory committee plans after Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., called the first lady to tell her she would seek re-election to the House, leaving the Senate Democratic field open for Mrs. Clinton.

"I told her it seemed clear she was running. ... I wished her well,"

Lowey said. "I told her I would support her enthusiastically."

Mrs. Clinton issued a statement that said: "Today Nita Lowey called me to say that she would be running for re-election to the House. I thank Nita for her support and I look forward to working with her."

Mrs. Clinton also met Thursday with political consultant James Carville.

Asked whether they discussed the New York Senate race, the first lady's spokeswoman, Marsha Berry, said, "They both have a love of politics, so it wouldn't surprise me."

Ickes, a former White House chief of staff to President Clinton, said Mrs. Clinton did not go into detail about her own political plans during the conversation with Lowey.

But Ickes added: "I think you can discern that Hillary is going to press forward and she will be forming an exploratory committee in early July and just keep moving forward."

He cautioned that formation of the committee did not necessarily mean Mrs. Clinton would seek the seat. "This is one step at a time," Ickes said. "The initial step forward is to form the exploratory committee and continue to talk to the people of New York."

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MEMORANDUM

TO **JOE LOCKHART**
PRESS SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM **SHELLEY ROSS**
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/GOOD MORNING AMERICA

RE **GOOD MORNING AMERICA APPEARANCE**
BY THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY

DATE **MAY 5, 1999**

Joe:

Phyllis McGrady, Vice President/ABC News, and I would like to thank you again for what we found to be an extremely productive meeting at the White House on Tuesday. We have subsequently prepared the following proposal regarding a Good Morning America appearance by the President and the First Lady, incorporating our discussions and your suggestions as well as some further brainstorming with Diane and Charlie and our senior producers.

Regarding the potential dates we discussed, Good Morning America will be on our Gulf States bus tour all of next week and, as you have indicated, the President and First Lady are otherwise committed through the end of May with the exception of the dates we therefore suggest -- **Monday, May 17 or Tuesday, May 18**. We are also willing to consider the **first week of June** following the First Family's return to the White House.

These dates will, of course, place us some weeks from Littleton and in the more immediate aftermath of your task force meeting Monday. Please know we find this timing not only acceptable but entirely appropriate. At the directive of both Diane and Charlie, Good Morning America is committed to aggressive and ongoing reporting that will seek cutting-edge solutions to the issues erupting from Littleton -- most specifically gun regulation and control, parental involvement and culpability, and the cultural glamorizing of violence. America is clearly at permanent attention and GMA intends to be so as well.

Finally, while we offer the following thoughts and ideas in some detail, we know we are presenting a preliminary framework for further discussions. We look forward to getting back in touch with you shortly to see where we can all go from here.

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**Venue:**

As we discussed, we propose Good Morning America feature the President and the First Lady from the White House to achieve the level of gravitas and impact these issues deserve. We would welcome any number of venues including your suggestion of the Rose Garden/South Lawn, or perhaps a location in the East Wing such as the East Room or Map Room (considering our mutual spring rain anxieties).

Format:

In the context of our joint commitment to the issues of youth violence and safety, we propose to maximize our potential time with the President and First Lady beyond the traditional one-on-one sit down interview.

Specifically:

Timing: Good Morning America would like to devote at least our first hour and quite possibly the entire program to these issues at the White House.

Participating Audience: We propose the President and First Lady engage in interviews with Diane and Charlie (either consecutively or together), and further participate within a framework of a small interactive audience comprised primarily of teen-age youth who have been drastically effected as either the victims or perpetrators of gun violence. Rather than a random restating of teenage thoughts and insights to which we have become accustomed in recent weeks, these young people suffer shattered lives with experiences to share that present the most evocative cases for gun and violence deterrent.

Grassroots Heroes/Innovations and Solutions: Audience participation will also include a select number of parents, community activists, law enforcement officers, and simply citizens innovatively engaged in real change and reform at the grassroots - successful ridding guns and gun mentalities from their schools, their neighborhoods and their communities. Americans who know what's working.

Celebrity Participants: We will also consider a select number of celebrity/role model participants, such as actress and activist Meryl Streep, whose body of work and life experiences would be appropriate for such a forum.

President, First Lady and Audience Facilitation: The audience participation would be facilitated by Diane and Charlie and engage the President and/or the First Lady in both listening to their stories and commenting on their insights.

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Possible Chelsea Clinton Participation: We would, of course, welcome any level of participation from Chelsea Clinton. While we know this is a common request and an uncommon occurrence, we suggest for your consideration Chelsea utilizing her age appropriateness and inevitable role model status to share insights and experiences from other teenagers who write her (a series of letters to Chelsea) or speak to her in her travels (especially in the aftermath of Littleton).

Taped Intros and Segments: The format of the discussion with the President, First Lady, and audience guests would include interspersed tape footage to further the discussion and debate - including intros to audience testimonials and segments of past Diane Sawyer interviews with victims of gun violence.

Second Hour:

We would hope to continue our second hour from our White House venue and have discussed the possibility of two scenarios for your consideration:

Scenario One: Diane and Charlie continue the second hour from the White House but from a different White House location after the departure of the President, First Lady, and possibly our audience - perhaps moving from the East Room to the Rose Garden or vice versa. The second hour format would continue the discussion with a series of individual expert guest drop ins and a final wrap up round table discussion

Scenario Two: A continuation from our first-hour venue with our participating guests remaining and a continuing interactive discussion with special guest appearances that might include select members of the Cabinet interspersed with our grass roots case histories.

These scenarios are, of course, for further discussion and refinement. We look forward to getting back in touch with you soon.