

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

| DOCUMENT NO.<br>AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE                                          | DATE | RESTRICTION |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------|
| 001. report              | Where Are They??? [student report] (partial) (6 pages) | n.d. | b(6)        |

### COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records  
First Lady's Office  
Melanne Verveer  
OA/Box Number: 14384

### FOLDER TITLE:

Melanne Verveer's Mail - 1998 - B [3]

2013-0534-S

ry1604

### 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]

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 29, 1998

Representative Elaine Bloom  
Florida House of Representatives  
300 71st Street  
Suite 504  
Miami Beach, FL 33141

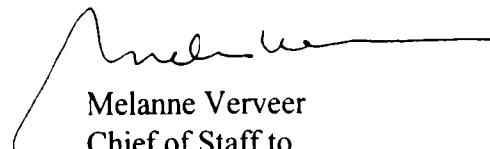
Dear Representative Bloom:

Thank you for your letter and proposal for a summit that would encourage private philanthropic efforts to send children from "at-risk" schools to college.

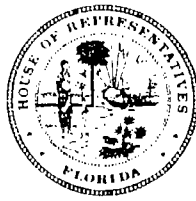
We will review your materials carefully. We appreciate your important work.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady



## FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**ELAINE BLOOM**

REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 106

300 71st Street, Suite 504  
Miami Beach, Florida 33141  
305-864-8648

212 The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
904-488-0690

January 15, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer  
Assistant to the President and  
Chief of Staff to the First Lady  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Melanne,

When we met in Miami during the excellent Women's Leadership Forum event on September 30th, I commented to the First Lady that following your White House efforts on Child Care in America, I hoped you would consider bringing together a summit on private responses to inner-city schools. The goal would be to encourage private philanthropic efforts to send kids from "at-risk" schools to college. The First Lady seemed quite interested in the proposal.

Here in Florida, we have at least two outstanding and successful examples and I am enclosing material on the Orlando experience:

1) Harris Rosen's program in Orlando is at the Tangelo Park Elementary School. He promised a college education to any Tangelo Park student who stays in school, and then graduates from the area High School. This has been going on long enough so that Mr. Rosen already has students who have enrolled in college. One girl last year was even admitted to the Air Force Academy. She declined the opportunity and went to the University of Florida at Gainesville instead, but the point was made.

Tangelo Park is a rather low income neighborhood right near the famous International Drive tourist area. Many of the workers in Harris Rosen's hotels live in Tangelo Park. He has also provided most of the funds to make child care available at the school.

Mr. Rosen treats his employees exceptionally well, with a unique Health Care program for their families. He is self-insured so he encourages wellness and preventive care. Mr. Rosen is a gentle, shy person who worked very hard building his hotel business. After he succeeded, he married and now has three young children.

Page 2.

Ms. Melanne Verveer

2) Stephanie Trump (whom the First Lady met) and her family have promised that the children at Charles Drew Elementary School (in the Overtown section of Miami) would also be guaranteed a college education if they stayed in school, etc. I happen to know this school, its Principal, and the Charles Drew Middle School as well. There is a great spirit there, thanks particularly to the Principal, Fred Morley.

I think the example of these two youngish entrepreneurs (both in their late forties or early fifties), might be replicated in other states, if we went looking. I also have to believe that if some CEOs of major corporations, and other mega millionaires, saw these examples, that many more philanthropists would emulate these models.

Thank you for your consideration of this. I look forward to discussing the possibilities with you in the near future. Both Harris and Stephanie are ready to discuss their ideas with you too.

Best regards to our Wonderful First Lady!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elaine".

Elaine Bloom

EB/cl

## THE TANGELO PARK COMMUNITY PILOT PROJECT

Tangelo Park is a community of 983 homes in the International Drive tourist area of Orlando, Florida. Historically, this area suffers from characteristic urban problems such as high crime, poor school attendance, and high drop out rates. Like so many communities, Tangelo struggles with problems which seem to compound themselves.

Some extraordinary things, however, are occurring in Tangelo Park. Two years ago, the citizens of this neighborhood decided to reclaim their streets from the drug dealers. They formed a community advisory board with members from the local elementary school, Baptist church, YMCA, and Civic Association. The board organized a community action program involving citizens' night watches and other activities which marginalized the drug dealers. Through their efforts to reduce crime on the streets, the citizens of Tangelo Park were able to reclaim their neighborhood by themselves.

In spite of this remarkable achievement, the economic, educational, and social problems persist in the Tangelo Park. Single parents struggle to support their families. Children experience difficulty finishing school; and even more difficulty progressing beyond high school to obtain vocational training or a college education. Tangelo Park, however, is not unique. The economics and demographics of this community represent thousands of neighborhoods in this country; neighborhoods generally are the target of numerous public programs, most of which are generally ineffective.

Presently, however, an even more exciting event is developing in Tangelo Park. A private sector initiative led by Mr. Harris Rosen is supporting the community in addressing its educational, social, and economic problems with the Tangelo Park Pilot Project. In Rosen's words this project "is providing a safety net for the community." This safety net, financially guaranteed by Rosen, assures that:

1. Every two, three, and four year old in Tangelo Park will have the opportunity to attend preschool - **AT NO COST!**
2. Parents or guardians of these children will be offered the opportunity to attend parenting and vocational classes while their children are in school - **AT NO COST!**
3. Every Tangelo Park student who graduates from Dr. Phillips High School and is accepted by a vocational school, community college, or university will be provided tuition, room, board, and living expenses - **AT NO COST!**

In addition to providing the financial backing for these endeavors, Rosen continues to raise financial and program assistance from the Orlando

private sector and is organizing the support of several agencies for the community. For example, the Orange County Public School System will coordinate the preschool program within Tangelo Park and has assigned the 1994 Teacher of the Year to supervise its development. In addition, the school system has dedicated a full time counselor to work with Tangelo students at Dr. Phillips High School.

The University of Central Florida's (UCF) College of Education and College of Health and Public Affairs have committed education and social work interns to the project. UCF's College of Education will coordinate evaluation activities including:

- follow-up of first year students on their respective campuses
- needs assessment work with the local elementary school, Baptist church, YMCA, Civic Association, and
- documentation of the project activities thus far.

Florida Hospital will initiate free health screening services, including prenatal care, within the Tangelo Park community beginning in January 1995.

WMFE, the local public television station, will begin broadcasting a series of community forums from several sites in the Tangelo Park community. The station, in collaboration with other community groups, will create new resources and refine existing ones to support families. A resource center will provide easy access and additional support for parents and students.

Tangelo Park community organizations are also getting involved, in addition to serving on the advisory board. For example, the YMCA, without external funding, is establishing a program to work with students from the community who have been suspended from the elementary, middle, or high school. The Tangelo Park Civic Association maintains close contact with the community and is a primary source of input for the Tangelo Park Pilot Project. The Tangelo Park Baptist Church conducts several programs for parents and youth and is one of the most important sources of communication with the community.

The Tangelo Park Pilot Project is an example of a private sector program run by the community. The advisory board determines policy and administers programs. So far, these efforts appear to be working. Twenty high school graduates from Tangelo Park are beginning their post secondary education, largely because of encouragement and financial backing provided by the project. Because of this program, the community is insuring that every child in Tangelo Park is entitled to a college education, and much more.

## **TANGELO PARK PROGRAM (TPP) PRESS KIT ROUGH DRAFT**

### **What is the TPP?**

The Tangelo Park Program (TPP) is a unique initiative which promotes civic commitment by private, public, and community organizations thus enhancing quality of life for its residents.

### **What is the purpose of the TPP?**

The purpose of the TPP is to provide a consistent and stable safety net for the community, so that residents are assured that quality day care and post secondary education or training opportunities are always present and viable.

### **What has TPP accomplished?**

As of August, 1997, the TPP has provided approximately 90 Dr. Phillips High School graduates who reside in Tangelo Park the opportunity to obtain a post-secondary education. Presently, there are four community based day care facilities in Tangelo Park with additional sites projected as state guidelines are met. The formation of the TPP has reinforced the relationship between the Community Night Watch Program and the Orange County Sheriff's Department, resulting in reduced drug activity in the area..

### **What is the Future of the TPP?**

Financial support for the TPP is assured by Mr. Harris Rosen so that scholarships and day care will be available to Tangelo Park residents as long as the community exists.

### **Overview of the TPP:**

Tangelo Park is located approximately one-quarter mile southeast of Orlando's famed International Drive Tourist area. According to the 1990 Bureau of Census Report, approximately 75% of Tangelo Park residents are African American (out of 983 households). From the late 1980s through the early 1990s Tangelo park typified many urban communities with low socioeconomic demographic problems of overt drug activity, poor school attendance, high dropout rates and declining test scores. In 1993, the Tangelo Park Pilot Program, now known as the TPP was formed. Supported by the Financial backing of Mr. Harris Rosen, of Tamar Inns, Inc. and with the collaborative support of four Tangelo community organizations - Tangelo Park Elementary School, the YMCA, Tangelo Park Baptist Church and the Tangelo Park Civic Association - along with support from local education and public officials the advisory board was created.

The supportive safety net provided by the TPP is threefold: (1) TPP financing will assure that every two-,three, and four year-old in Tangelo Park will have the opportunity to attend pre-school, (2) parents or guardians of these children will be offered the opportunity to attend parenting and vocational classes while their children are in school and (3) every Tangelo Park student who graduates from Dr. Phillips High School and is accepted by a vocational school, community college, or university will be provided tuition, room, board and living expenses. These services are offered to community members **at no cost!**

The TPP has received additional funding from several sources including the Orlando Magic Foundation, Walt Disney World and the Edith Bush Foundation. The program and Mr. Rosen have been recognized with many awards such as the B'nai Brith Great American Traditions, and the Amvets Silver Helmet. As well Tangelo Park has been visited by state and national figures such as Florida Education Commissioner Frank Brogan, and former Vice President Dan Quayle.

After being in existence for four years, the TPP advisory board will expand its activities to include: (1) research and evaluation of the program, establishing improved support networks for students on various campuses, strengthening family support and involvement, preventing school dropout and suspension as well as helping communities throughout the country model the accomplishment. However, above all else, the TPP remains committed to the community of Tangelo Park by supporting their cause to independently improve their quality of life.

#### **Tangelo Park Advisory Board Officers**

Dr. Robert Allen, Chair  
Principal, Tangelo Park Elementary School

Harris Rosen, Founder/Treasurer,  
Tamar Inns, Inc.

Juanita Reed, Secretary  
TPP Counselor, Dr. Phillips High School

#### **Participating Organizations**

1. Tamar Inns Inc.
2. G.E.S. – Exposition Services
3. WMFE-TV Channel 24
4. Orange County Commissioners Office District #6
5. Orange County Action Board
6. Orange County Sheriff's Office
7. Tangelo Park Advisory Council
8. Parents of TPP Scholarship Recipients
9. Tangelo Park Baptist Church

*Each organization  
is providing  
information to  
go on here*

10. Tangelo Park Civic Association
11. Tangelo Park Y.M.C.A.
12. Tangelo Park Elementary School
13. Dr. Phillips High School
14. Tangelo Park Head Start
15. Representatives of Orange County Public Schools
16. Southwest Middle School
17. Mid-Florida Tech
18. Valencia Community College
19. University of Central Florida

**For more information on the TPP**

For more in-depth information, visit the TPP website at  
**<http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~tangelo/home.html>**  
or contact

Ms. Juanita Reed, Secretary  
Tangelo Park Program, Inc.  
Dr. Phillips High School  
6500 Turkey Lake Road  
Orlando, FL 32819

Dr. Robert Allen, Principal  
Tangelo Park Elementary School  
5115 Anzio St.  
Tangelo Park, FL 32819  
(407) 354-2630

# **THE TANGELO PARK PROGRAM: A COMMUNITY REVITALIZING ITSELF 1997 FERA SYMPOSIUM PROPOSAL**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Tangelo Park Program (TPP) is a Florida-based reform initiative receiving national acclaim. TPP shows how a community can revitalize itself from within by having public and private interests come together in the absence of bureaucracy. Tangelo Park, Florida is located approximately one-quarter mile southeast of Orlando's famed International Drive tourist area. Historically, the community (which is approximately seventy-five percent African American) has suffered from social problems characteristic of neighborhoods with depressed economic bases: high crime rates, heavy and flagrant drug activity, poor school attendance, excessive unemployment, and declining test scores. Just a few years ago, Tangelo was spiraling downward into catastrophic problems.

Remarkably, however, four interests in the community came together – the elementary school, the Baptist church, the YMCA, and the civic association. The coalition formed by these four groups banded into a firm resolve aimed at reclaiming the streets from the drug dealers. Over a period of months, Tangelo citizens assisted by the sheriff marched, watched, reported, and took back their community. This remarkable accomplishment caught the attention of several people including Commissioner Mable Butler and Mr. Harris Rosen, CEO of Tamar Inns, Inc. At the same time, Rosen, a self-made multimillionaire in the hotel business became interested in several community-based reform programs throughout the country. Possessed by the strong conviction that one ought to give back to his community and that education is the key to success he launched the Tangelo Park Program. We wish to tell that story at the symposium.

## **THE PURPOSE OF THE TPP**

The purpose of the TPP is to provide a stable and consistent safety net for the community so that it may function on its own. The net, guaranteed by Rosen, is threefold: 1) TPP financing will assure that every two, three, and four year old in Tangelo Park will have the opportunity to attend preschool; 2) parents or guardians of these children will be offered the opportunity to attend parenting or vocational classes while their children are in school; 3) every Tangelo Park student who graduates from Dr. Phillips High School and is accepted by a vocational school, community college, or university will be provided tuition, room, board, and living expenses. These services are offered to the community at no cost.

## **HOW DOES THE PROGRAM OPERATE?**

The Tangelo Park Program operates as a complete democracy, where all decisions are made by representatives of the community. All actions are taken by the program board which meets once a month in the Tangelo community. No one associated with TPP receives compensation, there are no employees, no offices, and no organizational structure. Every member of the board contributes – every member is a volunteer.

## **TANGELO PARK ADVISORY BOARD OFFICERS**

Dr. Robert Allen, Chair  
Principal, Tangelo Park Elementary School

Harris Rosen, Founder/Treasurer,  
Tamar Inns, Inc

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14. Tangelo Park Head Start
15. Representatives of Orange County Public Schools
16. Southwest Middle School

17. Mid-Florida Tech

18. Valencia Community College

19. University of Central Florida

## **WHAT HAS TPP ACCOMPLISHED?**

As of August, 1997, the TPP has provided approximately 90 Dr. Phillips High School graduates who reside in Tangelo Park the opportunity to obtain a post-secondary education. Young students are made aware that funding for their education is assured. Counselors and teachers at the elementary and middle schools work with Tangelo students preparing them for successful transition. At Dr. Phillips High School, Ms. Juanita Reed guides Tangelo students in all phases of their studies and facilitates their college choices. Presently, there are four community day care facilities in Tangelo with additional cites projected as state guidelines are met. The formulation of the TPP has reinforced the relationship between the Community Advisory Board Night Watch Program and the Orange County Sheriff's Department, resulting in reduced drug activity in the community. TPP has received funding from additional sources including the Orlando Magic Foundation, Walt Disney World, and the Edith Bush Foundation. The program and Mr. Rosen have been recognized with many awards such as B'nai Brith Great American Traditions and the Amvets Silver Helmet. Tangelo Park has been visited by state and national figures such as Florida Education Commissioner Frank Brogan and former Vice President Dan Quayle.

Many additional things are happening in the community. The YMCA, for instance, raised funds to expand its facilities and provide a gymnasium. In addition, the "Y" is conducting educational programs for suspended students. The civic association continues monitoring drug activity. Head start is active. Public television WMFE, Channel 24, features Tangelo on its Family Works series. The University of Central Florida provides a number of services including evaluation and a resident nursing program two days a week. Valencia Community College provides special support programs for Tangelo students and the Orange County Sheriff's Office continues working with citizens to prevent crime. Tangelo Park is becoming a model of community reform.

## **WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF TPP?**

Financial support for the TPP is assured by Mr. Rosen so that scholarships will be available to Tangelo students as long as the community exists. After four years of working with the democratic process as the basis for community reform, the board will expand its activities to include: beginning evaluation activities, forming stronger support networks, for students on the various campuses, strengthening family support, and preventing dropout and suspension, as well as helping communities throughout the

country model the accomplishment. The TPP, however, remains resolved to its fundamental commitment to this community.

## **SYMPOSIUM**

I could not submit this proposal before obtaining permission from the board. They approved my request at the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting agreeing that participation would benefit Tangelo. Members of the community will make the presentation and answer all questions. I will ask Harris Rosen to participate but there is no guarantee that he will. He shies away from public appearance. We can start with a twenty minute video which gives an overview followed by brief presentations by the chairman of the board, and board members from the church, YMCA, Civic Association, the counselor in residence at Dr. Phillips, and Mr. Rosen. Each presenter will discuss the program from their point of view. These people represent their community and will not be making research presentations. They are, however, bright, articulate, and very engaging. This will be a good experience for FERA members. The ideal time for the symposium is right before lunch on Friday so that Tangelo Citizens can sit with us for the meeting.

| <b>Future Study Plans</b>                  | <b>Continuing Education</b>                                                                                              | <b>Year Active in TPP</b>                             | <b>Parental Support</b>                                                                                                                                          | <b>Study habits changing since involved in TPP.</b>            |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Orlando Vocational Tech/ Mid Florida Tech. | Attend Mid-Florida Tech for training in auto mechanics.                                                                  | In 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade, I became aware of the TPP. | To do well and be the first one in my family to graduate high school.                                                                                            | My study habits have changed some, but I work a part time job. |
| F.A.M.U                                    | To better myself, improve my chances of getting the job I want and have a career I enjoy.                                | In 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade.                             | My family supports me totally, and they stress that it is going to be hard to get the job I want without a college education.                                    | No.                                                            |
| Valencia Community College.                | I want to attend college so I can be successful in life.                                                                 | In 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade                             | My parents are very supportive of me attending school and then college.                                                                                          | Yes, I study more and with higher intensity.                   |
| Military or Mid-Florida Tech.              | To get a higher education.                                                                                               | In 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade.                            | Very positive.                                                                                                                                                   | Yes, It made me work harder in class.                          |
| Tallahassee Community College.             | Attend T.C.C. to further my education.                                                                                   | My 10 <sup>th</sup> grade year.                       | Quite a bit.                                                                                                                                                     | No.                                                            |
| F.A.M.U.                                   | To be successful and financially stable.                                                                                 | Not sure.                                             | They support me 100%.                                                                                                                                            | No.                                                            |
| U.C.F.                                     | So I can be able to do something with my life. I would like to go into the field of medicine as a physician's assistant. | In 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade.                            | My mother is always telling me that I can do anything that I wish as long as I try to do it. She pushes me to go to college so I can create a future for myself. | No.                                                            |

| <b>Future Study Plans</b>        | <b>Continuing Education</b>                                                                        | <b>Year Active in TPP</b>  | <b>Parental Support</b>                                                                                                                                             | <b>Study habits changing since involved in TPP.</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| F.A.M.U.                         | To ensure my future.                                                                               | In 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade.  | It was just always assumed /expected that I would graduate.                                                                                                         | No.                                                 |
| Mid-Florida Tech.                | To better myself in life.                                                                          | I'm really not sure.       | Good advice, they push me and make sure I get up on time in the morning to get to school.                                                                           | Not really.                                         |
| University of South Florida.     | So I can acquire the background needed to be competitive in today's television/broadcast industry. | In 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade. | My family is very supportive of all my educational decisions.                                                                                                       | No.                                                 |
| Univ. South Florida.             | I want to further my education. I want to be successful in life, and college will help me.         | In 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade. | They encourage me to go to college if I want to make something of myself. I know my family is proud.                                                                | No.                                                 |
| St Petersburg Community College. | So I can further my education.                                                                     | In 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade. | My family gives me a lot of support about finishing high school and going to college. They are always on my case about get all of my school business taken care of. | No.                                                 |

| <b>Most important factor or reason to succeed and graduate from college.</b>                              | <b>Would a college prep or enrichment program be beneficial for you to prepare to attend college?</b> | <b>Are you the first person in your family to have an opportunity to or attend college?</b>                              | <b>Once you complete college, would you be willing to assist or mentor future TPP Scholarship Recipients?</b> | <b>After college, where do you plan to reside? Orlando/ Tangelo Park etc.</b>   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I am a young father, so I need a good job.                                                                | Yes                                                                                                   | Yes                                                                                                                      | Yes                                                                                                           | Not in Orlando or Tangelo if I have a choice.                                   |
| The fact that I hope to become successful in life.                                                        | Yes, because it will help me understand college and what is expected of me.                           | Yes.                                                                                                                     | Yes.                                                                                                          | Yes hopefully!                                                                  |
| To have the freedom of being me.                                                                          | Yes, a prep class would help.                                                                         | No, my cousin is attending UCF. I also have a cousin attending Howard University, and one attending a community college. | Yes, I am willing to help in the future.                                                                      | At this point and time I am not sure, but I do like living in the Orlando area. |
| Having a positive self concept about myself is the most important factor for me to graduate from college. | Extremely beneficial.                                                                                 | No.                                                                                                                      | I would be more than happy to.                                                                                | I will go wherever my career takes me.                                          |
|                                                                                                           | Yes.                                                                                                  | Yes.                                                                                                                     | Yes                                                                                                           | No                                                                              |
| Work very hard.                                                                                           | Yes.                                                                                                  | No.                                                                                                                      | Yes.                                                                                                          | Well, I'm not really sure yet!                                                  |

| <b>Most important factor or reason to succeed and graduate from college.</b>                                         | <b>Would a college prep or enrichment program be beneficial for you to prepare to attend college?</b> | <b>Are you the first person in your family to have an opportunity to or attend college?</b> | <b>Once you complete college, would you be willing to assist or mentor future TPP Scholarship Recipients?</b> | <b>After college, where do you plan to reside? Orlando/ Tangelo Park etc.</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To be able to set my mind to succeed and not distract myself with the things going on around me.                     | Yes.                                                                                                  | Yes.                                                                                        | Yes.                                                                                                          | I haven't decided yet.                                                        |
| Just to work hard.                                                                                                   | Not for me.                                                                                           | No.                                                                                         | Yes.                                                                                                          | No, I don't really care for the Orlando area.                                 |
| Just by me being in college, I realize that I must do what I have to do or otherwise a lot of money is being wasted. | Yes.                                                                                                  | No.                                                                                         | Yes.                                                                                                          | Yes.                                                                          |
| My devotion to study and complete the next level.                                                                    | Yes.                                                                                                  | Yes.                                                                                        | Yes, most definitely.                                                                                         | No, I would like to travel and move up into a higher market.                  |
| My family encouraging me and practicing good study habits as well as managing my time.                               | Yes.                                                                                                  | No.                                                                                         | Yes.                                                                                                          | Yes.                                                                          |
| Motivation and basketball                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                   | No                                                                                          | Yes                                                                                                           | No, I plan to reside wherever I am playing professional basketball.           |

| <b>Future Study Plans</b>   | <b>Continuing Education</b>                                                                                                    | <b>Year Active in TPP</b>  | <b>Parental Support</b>                                                                                           | <b>Study habits changing since involved in TPP.</b>                                                         |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Valencia Community College. | I want to become a dentist.                                                                                                    | In 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade  | A great deal of encouragement, even before the scholarship program began.                                         | Not much, it should have, but my senior year study habits have gotten better.                               |
| Orlando Vo-Tech.            | I want to attend cosmetology school.                                                                                           | In 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade. | My mom encourages me a lot.                                                                                       | Yes, I am trying to do better in school.                                                                    |
| Valencia Community College. | To learn more and to try to get a job that pays good money so I will not have to struggle.                                     | In 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade. | To always do my best and never give up.                                                                           | Yes, in the past I would just do my schoolwork and close the books but now I actually study more.           |
| Valencia Community College. | So I can further my education.                                                                                                 | In 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade. | Complete support, they stand behind me every step of the way. My parents push me to do my very best.              | My study habits changed for the better, not just because of the TPP, but because they needed to be changed. |
| Syracuse University.        | So that I can get a good education and a good job.                                                                             | In 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade. | I live with my sister. My mom died several years ago. My sister encourages me a lot.                              | Yes I study really hard to keep my grades up. I also took some classes over to improve my G.P.A.            |
| Valencia Community College. | To learn more about my career choice and basically educate myself so that I can have a successful future along with stability. | From the moment it began.  | I receive full support morally and intellectually. It is constantly being stressed how important my education is. | Yes, it has made me appreciate it more and study harder, making it my top priority.                         |

| <b>Most important factor or reason to succeed and graduate from college.</b>                                | <b>Would a college prep or enrichment program be beneficial for you to prepare to attend college?</b> | <b>Are you the first person in your family to have an opportunity to or attend college?</b>                                        | <b>Once you complete college, would you be willing to assist or mentor future TPP Scholarship Recipients?</b> | <b>After college, where do you plan to reside? Orlando/ Tangelo Park etc.</b>                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Extra help and study skills.                                                                                | Yes, Very Much.                                                                                       | Except for my mother, yes.                                                                                                         | Yes, I would be a mentor and give advice.                                                                     | In Orlando yes, In Tangelo, it depends if I decide to further my education out of state or somewhere else. |
| I would like to own my own beauty shop.                                                                     | Yes.                                                                                                  | Yes.                                                                                                                               | Yes.                                                                                                          | Yes.                                                                                                       |
| The most important factor will be for me to work, never give up and to stay busy doing my schoolwork.       | Yes                                                                                                   | Yes.                                                                                                                               | Yes,                                                                                                          | Yes                                                                                                        |
| The most important factor for me to succeed in college will be motivation within myself and from my family. | Yes.                                                                                                  | No my sister went to college.                                                                                                      | Yes.                                                                                                          | Most likely.                                                                                               |
| I want to be able to get a good job and be able to help my family and also the kids in my community.        | I think I was in one.                                                                                 | No. My sister went to UCF, but had to drop out because she could not afford to stay, and she had to take care of my mother and me. | Yes, I want to help my community.                                                                             | I don't know, because I hope I will be drafted for football.                                               |
| It would be my career.                                                                                      | Yes.                                                                                                  | No.                                                                                                                                | Yes.                                                                                                          | Yes, along with my family.                                                                                 |

**Summary/Update of the first four Graduating  
Classes from DPHS who Qualify for the Tangelo  
Park Program Scholarship. 1994-1997**

Graduating Seniors:      $\frac{94}{24}$     $\frac{95}{21}$     $\frac{96}{22}$     $\frac{97}{23}$    Total = 90

Students Attending(Planning to)  
State Universities:

$\frac{94}{4}$     $\frac{95}{5}$     $\frac{96}{9}$     $\frac{97}{7}$    Total = 25

Students Attending(Planning to)  
Community Colleges:

$\frac{94}{3}$     $\frac{95}{2}$     $\frac{96}{3}$     $\frac{97}{10}$    Total = 18

Students Attending (Planning to)  
Vocational Schools:

$\frac{94}{1}$     $\frac{95}{1}$     $\frac{96}{1}$     $\frac{97}{5}$    Total = 8

(Note: One student has completed Firefighters training and  
another student has completed Cosmetology training in  
1996.)

Students Enlisted in the Military:  $\frac{94}{5}$   $\frac{95}{0}$   $\frac{96}{2}$   $\frac{97}{0}$  Total = 7

Students not Graduating:  $\frac{94}{1}$   $\frac{95}{1}$   $\frac{96}{2}$   $\frac{97}{1}$   
 Total = 5

Projections for TPP/DPHS

Class of 1998:

Total Seniors: 32

G.P.A.'s 3.0 – 4.3

(Note: This students were eighth graders when the TPP began in 1993-1994)

# Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

## Clinton Library

| DOCUMENT NO.<br>AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE                                          | DATE | RESTRICTION |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------|
| 001. report              | Where Are They??? [student report] (partial) (6 pages) | n.d. | b(6)        |

### **COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
First Lady's Office  
Melanne Verveer  
OA/Box Number: 14384

### **FOLDER TITLE:**

Melanne Verveer's Mail - 1998 - B [3]

2013-0534-S

ry1604

### **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]

W H E R E   A R E   T H E   Y ? ? ?

| STUDENT'S NAME     | GRAD. YR. | G.P.A. | INITIAL PLANS           | CURRENT STATUS                                                                           |
|--------------------|-----------|--------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Adams, Christopher | '94       |        | Military                | Moved out of Tangelo Park - Working                                                      |
| Baxter, Dante      | '94       |        | Florida A&M University  | Florida A&M University                                                                   |
| Campbell, Julien   | '94       |        | Univ. of Cent. Florida  | Valencia Community College (transfer)                                                    |
| Carson, Terrance   | '94       |        | Florida A&M University  | Florida A&M University                                                                   |
| Coleman, Ebony     | '94       |        | FLorida A&M University  | FLorida A&M University                                                                   |
| DeCastro, LaToya   | '94       |        | Florida A&M University  | Florida A&M University                                                                   |
| Demmitt, Dervane   | '94       |        | Valencia Comm. College  | Attended VCC for 1 year - Family moved out of Tangelo Park                               |
| Edwards, Julia     | '94       |        | Valencia Comm. College  | Moved out of Tangelo Park - Sum. '94                                                     |
| Franklin, Nakia    | '94       |        | Military                | Working                                                                                  |
| Gauldin, Edward    | '94       | (b)(6) | Valencia Comm. College  | Attended VCC for 1 year - Enlisted in the Army                                           |
| Harris, Chantz     | '94       |        | Orlando Voc. Tech. Sch. | Completed Cosmetology Program - Working in field                                         |
| Hill, Adria        | '94       |        | Univ. of Cent. Florida  | Attended VCC for one semester - Moved out of Tangelo Park                                |
| Jones, Matara      | '94       |        | Valencia Comm. College  | Withdrew from VCC in Sept. '94 - Enlisted in Air Force                                   |
| Jordan, Belinda    | '94       |        | Valencia Comm. College  | Attended VCC for 1 year - Enlisted initially in Reserves; switched to active duty (Army) |
| Luke, Brian        | '94       |        | Valencia Comm. College  | Attended VCC for three semesters<br>Placed on Academic Probation - Working               |
| Mathis, LaShonda   | '94       |        | Valencia Comm. College  | Moved out of Tangelo Park- Sum. '94                                                      |

W H E R E   A R E   T H E Y ? ? ?

| STUDENT'S NAME   | GRAD. YR.     | G.P.A. | INITIAL PLANS          | CURRENT STATUS                                                                                        |
|------------------|---------------|--------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| McBean, Akela    | '94           |        | Valencia Comm. College | Valencia Comm. College                                                                                |
| Melbourne, Keith | Did not Grad. |        |                        | Moved out of Tangelo Park                                                                             |
| Only, Monica     | '94           |        | Valencia Comm. College | Planning to transfer to UCF<br>2nd Semester - Competes in Pageants                                    |
| Reddick, Kelvin  | '94           |        | Valencia Comm. College | Moved out of Tangelo Park                                                                             |
| Stevens, Jeffrey | '94           |        | Valencia Comm. College | Attended VCC for 1 semester -Sprg. 95<br>W/D and started working                                      |
| White, Eric      | '94           | (b)(6) | Valencia Comm. College | Worked for one year; married & enlist-<br>in military; Moved from Tangelo-Sum '94                     |
| Woodson, Suzanne | '94           |        | Navy                   | Stationed in Jacksonville; attended<br>Fla. Jr. College in Jax. No contact<br>since February, 1995.   |
| Wright, Sharon   | '94           |        | Univ. of Cent. Florida | Attended UCF 1994-95; Valencia 95-96;<br>Re-enrolled UCF Fall '96 - Disqualified<br>Currently working |
| Daniels, Tameka  | '94           |        | Valencia Comm. College | Attended VCC for 1 semester - married<br>moved to Virginia. Back in Orlando                           |
| Total Graduates  | 24            |        |                        |                                                                                                       |
| Did not Grad.    | 1             |        |                        |                                                                                                       |
|                  |               |        | Universities:          | 4                                                                                                     |
|                  |               |        | Comm. College          | 3                                                                                                     |
|                  |               |        | Vocational Sch.        | 1                                                                                                     |
|                  |               |        | Military               | 5                                                                                                     |
|                  |               |        | Moved                  | 9 (1 didn't grad.)                                                                                    |
|                  |               |        | Working                | 3                                                                                                     |
|                  |               |        | Total                  | 25                                                                                                    |

W H E R E A R E T H E Y ? ? ?

| STUDENT'S NAME      | GRAD. YR. | G.P.A. | INITIAL PLANS            | CURRENT STATUS                                                           |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Anderson, LaToya    | '95       |        | Valencia Comm. College   | Attended VCC for one year; Married & moved out of Tangelo Park           |
| Cordones, Hiram     | '95       |        | Mid-Florida Tech         | Working - Received Special Diploma                                       |
| Easter, Christopher | '95       |        | Orlando Voc. Tech.       | Married & moved out of Tangelo Park                                      |
| Gipson, Bryant      | '95       |        | Westside Voc. Tech.      | Completed Upholstery Program & opened shop in Apopka                     |
| Harris, Edania      | '95       |        | Valencia Comm. College   | Attended VCC for one semester; Married & moved out of Tangelo Park       |
| Harris, Daniel      | '95       |        | Florida State University | Florida State University                                                 |
| Hill, Kenya         | '95       |        | Valencia Comm. College   | Valencia Comm. College                                                   |
| Holiday, Damian     | '95       | (b)(6) |                          | Did not graduate                                                         |
| Horsford, Jason     | '95       |        | Mid-Florida Tech.        | Working                                                                  |
| Jackson, Letitia    | '95       |        | Mid-Florida Tech.        | Working - Received Certificate of Completion                             |
| Jean, Yolande       | '95       |        | Mid-Florida Tech.        | Married; Moved out of Tangelo Park<br>Received Certificate of Completion |
| Jenkins, Etoya      | '95       |        | Valencia Comm. College   | Attended VCC for three weeks - Spring '96; W/D - working                 |
| Matthews, Sinika    | '95       |        | Military                 | Working                                                                  |
| Munfus, Wilbert     | '95       |        | University of Florida    | University of Florida                                                    |
| Pope, Vivian        | '95       |        | Valencia Comm. College   | Working                                                                  |
| Preston, Kevin      | '95       |        | Valencia Comm. College   | VCC & Firefighting Academy<br>Completed Program - Working in Field       |

W H E R E A R E T H E Y ? ? ?

| STUDENT'S NAME   | GRAD. YR. | G.P.A. | INITIAL PLANS             | CURRENT STATUS                                                                     |
|------------------|-----------|--------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reed, Ryan       | '95       | (b)(6) | Florida A&M University    | Florida A&M University                                                             |
| Stocks, Sharnell | '95       |        | Univ. of Mississippi      | Univ. of Mississippi                                                               |
| Watts, Yolanda   | '95       |        | Tallahassee Comm. College | Attended TCC for one year; Returned to Orlando; family moved out of Tangelo Park   |
| Welch, Regina    | '95       |        | Florida A&M University    | Florida A&M University                                                             |
| Wesley, Tyrian   | '95       |        | Valencia Comm. College    | Moved out of Tangelo Park                                                          |
| Dunn, Denise     | '95       |        | Valencia Comm. College    | Attended VCC for one year; Placed on academic probation; moved out of Tangelo Park |
| Total            | 21        |        | Universities:             | 5                                                                                  |
| Did not Grad.    | <u>1</u>  |        | Comm. College:            | 2 (one completer)                                                                  |
| Total            | 22        |        | Vocational Sch:           | 1 (completer)                                                                      |
|                  |           |        | Moved:                    | 7                                                                                  |
|                  |           |        | Working:                  | 6                                                                                  |
|                  |           |        | Did not grad:             | <u>1</u>                                                                           |
|                  |           |        |                           | 22                                                                                 |

W H E R E A R E T H E Y ? ? ?

| STUDENT'S NAME   | GRAD. YR. | G.P.A. | INITIAL PLANS             | CURRENT STATUS                                                  |
|------------------|-----------|--------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Adams, Lanorris  | '96       |        | Orlando Voc. Tech. School | Did not graduate; moved out of Tangelo Park                     |
| Barnes, Joel     | '96       |        | Florida State University  | Florida State University                                        |
| Bridges, William | '96       |        | Florida A&M University    | Florida A&M University                                          |
| Castor, Nigel    | '96       |        | Military                  | Military                                                        |
| Charlton, Isaiah | '96       |        | Virginia Tech. University | Virginia Tech. University<br>(Football Scholarship)             |
| Crayton, LaFaith | '96       |        | Mid-Florida Tech.         | Received Certificate of Completion<br>Moved out of Tangelo Park |
| Cummings, Tyra   | '96       |        | Univ. of North Florida    | Univ. of North Florida                                          |
| Easter, Mary     | '96       | (b)(6) | Mid-Florida Tech.         | Working                                                         |
| Felton, Choi     | '96       |        | Univ. of Central Florida  | Transferring to FAMU - Fall '97                                 |
| Fuller, Kelvin   | '96       |        | Florida A&M University    | Florida A&M University                                          |
| Gauldin, Joseph  | '96       |        | Valencia Comm. College    | Valencia Comm. College                                          |
| Gifford, Yalonda | '96       |        | Mid-Florida Tech.         | Moved out of Tangelo Park                                       |
| Gilbert, Kishroy | '96       |        | Florida A&M University    | Florida A&M University                                          |
| Jester, Emanuel  | '96       |        | University of South FL    | University of South Florida                                     |
| Lewis, Queen     | '96       |        | Valencia Comm. College    | Moved out of Tangelo Park                                       |
| Munfus, Delicia  | '96       |        | University of Florida     | University of Florida                                           |
| Pender, Phillip  | '96       |        | Military (Marines)        | Marines (Stationed in Korea)                                    |

W H E R E A R E T H E Y ? ? ?

| STUDENT'S NAME      | GRAD. YR. | G.P.A. | INITIAL PLANS          | CURRENT STATUS                                                  |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Perkins, Keema      | '96       |        | Orlando Voc. Tech.     | Moved out of Tangelo Park                                       |
| Perkins, Robert     | '96       |        | Devry Institute        | Moved out of Tangelo Park                                       |
| Richardson, Kendell | '96       |        | Valencia Comm. College | Valencia Comm. College                                          |
| Saxon, Nicholas     | '96       |        | Valencia Comm. College | Valencia Comm. College                                          |
| Turner, Candice     | '96       | (b)(6) | Mid-Florida Tech.      | Received Certificate of Completion;<br>Working                  |
| Tutwiler, Chiquita  | '96       |        | Mid-Florida Tech.      | Mid-Florida Tech. Center;<br>Received Certificate of Completion |
| Dyson, Xavier       | '96       |        |                        | Did not graduate                                                |
| Total               | 22        |        | Universities:          | 9                                                               |
| Did not grad.       | <u>2</u>  |        | Comm. College:         | 3                                                               |
| 24                  |           |        | Vocational Sch:        | 1                                                               |
|                     |           |        | Moved:                 | 5                                                               |
|                     |           |        | Military:              | 2                                                               |
|                     |           |        | Working:               | 2                                                               |
|                     |           |        | Did not grad:          | <u>2</u>                                                        |
|                     |           |        | Total                  | 24                                                              |

SUMMARY OF THE FIRST THREE GRADUATING CLASSES  
QUALIFYING FOR THE TANGELO PARK SCHOLARSHIPS

|                                                       | <u>1 9 9 4</u> | <u>1 9 9 5</u> | <u>1 9 9 6</u> | <u>TOTALS</u> | <u>1 9 9 7*</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Total Graduating Seniors                              | 24             | 21             | 22             | 67            | 23              |
| Students Attending(Planning to)<br>State Universities | 4              | 5              | 9              | 18            | 7               |
| Students Attending(Planning to)<br>Community Colleges | 3              | 2              | 3              | 8             | 10              |
| Students Attending(Planning to)<br>Vocational Schools | 1              | 1              | 1              | 3             | 5               |
| Students Enlisted in Military                         | 5              | 0              | 2              | 7             | 0               |
| Students Not Graduating                               | 1              | 1              | 2              | 4             | 1               |

Projection for the Class of 1998

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| Total Seniors | 32 |
| G.P.A.'s      |    |
| 3.0 - 4.3     | 12 |

\*These figures are based on paperwork completed for the class of 1997 as of June 27, 1997

# DRAFT

Dear Mr. Smith,

The University of Central Florida is a growing metropolitan university that encompasses 1,400 acres on its main campus in Orlando and operates branch campuses in Daytona Beach, Cocoa, Downtown and South Orlando. Serving more than 28,000 students, UCF offers 144 bachelor and advanced degree programs through five colleges, and plays an essential role in bringing technology, the arts, health, science and public service to Central Florida. The University is accredited by the commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award degrees at the associate, baccalaureate and doctoral levels. Additionally, UCF is designated a research II university.

The University of Central Florida seeks a grant of \$500,000 to conduct research and prepare an evaluation of a collaborative initiative called the Tangelo Park Program (TPP). The initiative serves the children and families in the community of Tangelo Park and facilitates their reaching their highest hopes and aspirations.

Tangelo Park is an urban, predominately African-American community of approximately 980 homes in the International Drive tourist area of Orlando, Florida. Historically, Tangelo suffered from problems such as high crime, poor school attendance, and high dropout rates. Like so many communities, Tangelo struggled with problems that seemed to compound themselves.

However, some extraordinary things have occurred in Tangelo Park. The citizens in the neighborhood decided to reclaim their streets. They formed a community advisory board with members from the elementary school, Baptist church, YMCA, and Civic

## DRAFT

Association. The board organized a community action program involving citizens and night watches that suppressed the drug dealing and other criminal activity. Through their efforts to reduce crime on the streets, the citizens of Tangelo Park reclaimed their community by themselves.

Unfortunately, the economic, educational, and social problems persisted. Single parents struggled to support their families. Children experienced difficulty finishing school, and even more difficulty progressing beyond school to obtain vocational training or a college education. Tangelo is not unique. The economics and demographics of this community represent thousands of neighborhoods in the county that are the target of numerous public programs, most of which are only marginally effective.

In the past four years, however, another remarkable event developed in Tangelo, an event that we believe will serve as a model for many other communities in this country. A private sector initiative led by Mr. Harris Rosen, president of Tamar Inns, Inc., began supporting the community in addressing its educational, social, and economic problems through the Tangelo Park program. The purpose of TPP is to provide a stable safety net for community so that it may function on its own. The net, guaranteed by Rosen, is threefold: (1) TPP financing will assure that every two, three, and four year old in Tangelo Park will have the opportunity to attend preschool, (2) parents and guardians of these children will be offered the opportunity to attend parenting and vocational classes while their children are in school, (3) every Tangelo Park student who graduates from Dr. Phillips High School and is accepted by a vocational school, community college, or university will be provided tuition, room, board, and living expenses. These services are offered to the community at no cost.

# DRAFT

The Program is remarkable because policies and actions are established by the community. The board meets monthly taking care of business in a democratic format. All participants are volunteers, giving freely of their time and expertise. No one is paid. There are no offices and the community board is the only beauracritic structure. Meetings operate with the shared decision making model called Facilitative Leadership. Because there is no overhead all funds go to scholarships, daycare, parent training, or activities which support those functions. The board participants are as follows:

**Dr. Robert Allen, Chair**  
Principal, Tangelo Park Elementary School

**Harris Rosen, Founder/Treasurer,**  
Tamar Inns, Inc.

**Juanita Reed, Secretary**  
TPP Counselor, Dr. Phillips High School

## **PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS**

Tamar Inns Inc.  
G.E.S. – Exposition Services  
WMFE-TV Channel 24  
Orange County Commissioners Office District #6  
Orange County Action Board  
Orange County Sheriff's Office  
Tangelo Park Advisory Council  
Parents of TPP Scholarship Recipients  
Tangelo Park Baptist Church  
Tangelo Park Civic Association  
Tangelo Park Y.M.C.A.  
Tangelo Park Elementary School  
Dr. Phillips High School  
Tangelo Park Head Start  
Representatives of Orange County Public Schools  
Southwest Middle School  
Mid-Florida Tech  
Valencia Community College  
University of Central Florida

# DRAFT

The accomplishments of the Tangelo community are impressive. Ninety scholarships have been awarded and four fully licensed home-based day care centers operate within the community. Parent training is on-going and a number of additional services such as health screening are being initiated. The elementary school has made a remarkable improvement in its test scores and the YMCA sponsors an effective “back on track” program for suspended students. Tangelo students in the 1998 Dr. Phillips High School class, those who were aware of their educational opportunities since the eighth grade, has an expected average grade point of approximately 3.5. Many local and national organizations are aware of the program and offer support. Tangelo receives visitors with permission of the community only – for instance Florida Commissioner of Education Frank Brogan and former Vice President Dan Quayle have been guests. We believe that both will be happy to serve as references for TPP. Harris Rosen and Tangelo have been recognized on numerous occasions. Some examples include:

The Walt Disney World Community Service Award  
B’nai B’rith Great American Traditions Award  
Amvets Silver Helmet  
FTPNEA Human Relations and Education Award  
Kappa Delta Pi Educational Foundation Award  
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University “Presidents” award  
Nominated, 1997 President’s Service Award

For the past four years, we have been involved in Tangelo because it is the right thing to do. Harris Rosen guarantees financial support as long as the community exists. At this point in our development we would like to ask the Anne E. Casey Foundation to join us in a comprehensive evaluation of TPP so that we may point the way for so many other communities that might benefit from our efforts. The community board has asked

# DRAFT

Dr. Charles Dziuban of the College of Education of the University of Central Florida (UCF) to conduct this project. Dziuban is a nationally recognized expert in school desegregation and project evaluation. More importantly, however, he is an accepted member of the program board – having participated since its inception. We anticipate a project duration of three years with possible extension. This evaluation, like TPP, must be tailored to the needs and wishes of the community. Accordingly, the notion of an outside evaluator is not viable. The evaluation must be accomplished from within the community just as every other aspect of the program has. The primary data collection agencies will be the elementary school, the Baptist church, the YMCA, and the Civic Association. The UCF College of Education will coordinate the evaluation working with the data collection agencies and under their council. We realize this flies in the face of traditional evaluation, but this is and must be the spirit of Tangelo – to accomplish this any other way would revert to traditional missionary models which have been so ineffective. We hope to provide, in the community's own words, a blueprint for Tangelo-like initiatives.

There is much more information available on the Tangelo Park Program. The UCF College of Education has completed an oral history of the many forces and how they came together to foster the initiative (copies of this history are available). WMFE, our local public television station, has featured Tangelo on its Family Works series – tapes of which are available. You may review our board membership on our web page at <http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~tangelo>. The site is maintained by a parent in the community. Best of all, however, you and your staff are cordially invited to a monthly meeting – always in the community. We would be happy to make those arrangements so you can

## **DRAFT**

Speak to parents, scholarship recipients, the board, and Mr. Rosen. Of course, we will be happy to visit you at your earliest convenience providing additional information.

Thank you for considering our invitation. The Tangelo Park Pilot Program will last in perpetuity – this is assured. Our partnership, however, will enable other communities to accomplish what we have by first not making our mistakes and secondly providing an example of a community successfully revitalizing itself. We look forward to hearing from you.



## HARRIS ROSEN: TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

by Ric Keller

### *The Virtue of Work*

Orlando hotel magnate Harris Rosen grew up in a tough, working-class neighborhood of Manhattan's Lower East Side. As a young boy, he would often visit the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, where his father, Jack Rosen, worked as a safety engineer. Inspired by his dad, a young Harris decided that he would pursue a career in the hotel industry. Rosen washed dishes to work his way through Cornell University's prestigious hotel management program.

In 1970, Rosen moved to Orlando to work for Walt Disney World as the Director of Hotel Planning, only to be fired 3 years later. The problem: Rosen was not amenable to working for somebody else. But Rosen wasn't deterred. He managed to turn this temporary setback into a positive. "After I left Disney, I promised myself that I would never again work for anybody else. I wanted to have more control over my own destiny," Rosen says.

Rosen used his entire life savings of \$20,000 and a loan, co-signed by a friend, to purchase his first hotel, a Quality Inn. "A lot of people thought I was crazy. The occupancy rates in the Orlando area

hotels at that time were very low because of the oil embargo. But I saw it as a great opportunity. I thought I could outwork anybody," Rosen says. He did, often holding

five positions at the same time: general manager, sales manager, food and beverage manager, security guard, and gardener. As sales manager, Rosen came up with the idea of hitchhiking across New England to talk up his hotel to motor coach companies. "They were thrilled that the owner of a hotel would hitchhike to their company," Rosen says. Promising to rent rooms to these companies for whatever price they thought fair, he signed a multitude of contracts on the backs of business cards. As food and beverage manager, he worked in the hotel's kitchen preparing meals and carving meats. With the help of his German shepherd, Rinny, he guarded the hotel's premises at night. And as the hotel's gardener, Rosen planted every tree on the hotel property. Within a year, Rosen turned his first hotel into a success.

With proceeds generated by the Quality Inn, Rosen promptly bought his second hotel, the International Inn, and three more hotels followed—a Quality Plaza, a Comfort Inn and the Clarion Plaza Hotel. In November 1995, Rosen opened his flagship, the Omni Rosen, a magnificent 1,335 room convention hotel located adjacent to the Orlando Convention Center. The hotel is 25

stories high and features two ballrooms and three restaurants.

Today, at 56, Harris Rosen owns six very busy hotel properties in the International Drive area of Orlando. He employs approximately 2,500 people and owns 4,850 of Orlando's hotel rooms. Remarkably, Rosen has no debt on his properties. Yet despite his considerable wealth, Rosen remains refreshingly down to earth. He drives an old Ford Taurus, wears blue jeans to work, and, like everybody else, gets scolded by his wife for failing to take out the trash.

His modest office is a hotel room on the second floor of his first hotel, the Quality Inn. Despite the grand trappings available to Rosen at the Omni Rosen, he has no plans to move into a swanky corporate office. "I lived in this hotel room for seven and a half years when I was starting out. I feel comfortable here. This will always be my office," he says. Hanging on his office wall is an old, scribbled note from his first year in business reminding him of his schedule for carving meats in the hotel's restaurant. His beloved guard dog, Rinny, is buried 20 feet from his office.

### *The Virtue of Compassion*

Family is Rosen's top priority, and to keep them front and center, he delegates his work at the hotels to a top-notch team of executives. "My family is the most important thing in my life," says Rosen, who attends all of his kids' basketball and soccer games. His four children, all under 6 years old, sometimes visit their dad at work, just like Rosen did with his father.

But having a happy family and profitable business was never

enough for Rosen. He always hoped that he could make enough money to be able to help the less fortunate of Orlando, and as the years went by, Rosen grew anxious to make a difference.

In 1993, Rosen got his chance. Florida was receiving a great deal of unfavorable media attention because of the numerous acts of violence by youths against tourists. Rather than sit on the sidelines and complain about the government's failure to solve the crime problem, Harris Rosen decided to take action by starting the Tangelo Park Pilot Program. Tangelo Park is a predominantly black, working-class community of approximately 1,000 homes in south Orange County. At that time, Tangelo Park was experiencing its own problems with drugs and crime.

Rosen always believed that a good education was a passport out of poverty, so in December 1993, he outlined a plan to pay for a college education for every child in the Tangelo Park community who



stayed in school. Rosen started the Tangelo Park Pilot project by providing \$50,000 in seed money. He pledged to bankroll a scholarship fund to benefit any of these children, even if it meant the investment of several million dollars of his own money. Under the program, the tuition can be applied to college or vocational school.

In addition, money from the

fund provides early childhood education to every neighborhood child from 2 to 4 years old. "We can take a deprived neighborhood and turn it into an advantaged neighborhood. These kids are as capable as any other kids; they just have not had the opportunities. If they work hard and stay in school, they can go to college," says Rosen.

Harris Rosen doesn't believe that government is the answer to all of life's problems. "We are not asking for federal or state funds," he says. "We will do it ourselves." He encourages other companies and individuals to contribute to the fund and has set a goal of establishing a \$3 to \$5 million dollar endowment to ensure that the Tangelo Park project continues in perpetuity. Thus far, Rosen's old employer, Walt Disney World, and the Orlando Magic Youth Foundation have made significant contributions. Recently, Disney chose the Tangelo Park project over 1,200 applicants for its prestigious community service award.

Rosen's work has not been without controversy. In a competitive environment, many have accused him of hand-picking the Tangelo neighborhood for funds because of its close proximity to his own businesses. "If that's controversy, I say bring it on," says Jacob Stuart, president of the Orlando Chamber of Commerce and a leading business advocate for Central Florida. "I love Harris, I love his leadership skills, I love his avant-garde approach, and I love his commitment to the children

***"We are not asking for federal or state funds. We will do it ourselves."***

of our community."

"My dream is that some day every inner city will have a plan modeled on Tangelo Park, with a corporation, endowment, foundation or philanthropist backing it. I would like to see thousands of Tangelo Park projects all across the country," says Rosen. What would happen if the funds dry up one day? "If no one else steps forward, I'll write the checks. You can't promise a youngster a college education and close it down," says Rosen.

With the youths of today facing gangs, poverty, drugs and teen pregnancy, the Tangelo Park scholarship fund offers a tangible reward for those young people willing to help themselves. As a result of Rosen's work, there are already 10 kids in four-year colleges, 18 in community colleges, 4 in vocational schools, with many more to come. By the year 2005, Rosen estimates that 400 kids from Tangelo park will have enrolled or graduated from college.

One well-known hotel chain offers people a folksy advertising slogan, "We'll leave the light on for you." Rosen truly leaves a light on for many kids whose dreams of a college education are now a reality. And who knows? Just maybe, a small kid from the tough, working-class neighborhood of Tangelo Park will decide to make a name for himself in the hotel industry. Harris Rosen would no doubt welcome the competition!

***Ric Keller is an Orlando attorney with Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell.***

# EDUCATION

## TRENDS AND TRIALS

### The Rosen Plan: Get private sector involved

*Orlando hotelier puts his money where his mouth is*

*by Michael Candelaria*

**H**arris Rosen will be the first to tell you that he doesn't know much about education. He builds hotels, he says, not the minds of young students. He does, however, have what it takes to help make schools more effective, and he isn't bashful about using it: money.

Rosen, a longtime hotelier who owns five hotels on International Drive and is building a sixth, concurs with many others in the community that area schools are fraught with numerous problems. But Rosen doesn't merely lament the ills of youth violence, child abuse, juvenile delinquency and truancy. He's crafted — and funded — a plan to stem the tide.

Officially called the Tangelo Park Pilot Program but dubbed the "Rosen Plan," its premise is simple. If you reach children early, provide them with an opportunity to learn while also teaching their parents new skills, fundamental lifestyle improvements can be realized. The program's target is Tangelo Park, a tight-knit neighborhood of about 1,000 homes in south Orange County.

Specifically, under the plan all children aged 2 to 4 years old in Tangelo Park will be given the chance (free of charge) to attend preschool. Parents or guardians of those children, meanwhile, will be offered the chance at no cost to attend parenting classes and other vocational classes. As the children progress to Southwest Middle School, they will benefit from additional teachers and mentors, sponsored by the corporate community. And, as they move to Dr. Phillips High School, those who graduate and qualify for post-secondary school will be granted a scholarship.

The plan is simple, yes, but not inexpensive. For starters, estimated costs of the program are \$97,000 annually plus \$167,000 for the scholarships to a four-year college, a community col-

lege or a vo-tech school. Enter Rosen, a self-made man who emerged from Manhattan's tough lower East Side to become a millionaire. Already, he's donated \$50,000 and helped solicit another \$20,000 from area businesses. His guarantee: "Whatever the balance required is, I'll write the check." In May, some 30 scholarships were awarded to Dr. Phillips High graduates.

Although the plan is only in its first year, Tangelo Park Elementary School Principal Bob Allen is confident of success. "There's no doubt in my mind if you find the financial backing — a Harris Rosen — this can work. We have the expertise in Orange County." Allen points to a synergy that is occurring at, for example, the University of Central Florida and Valencia Community College.

Both are providing support and interns to help teach. "If we can get them early in their formulative years, we can make the difference," Allen concludes.

Rosen, for one, is banking on it. "If I were to predict, I'd say in 15 to 20 years this [type of plan] will be in all major inner cities. It will completely revolutionize the inner cities as we know them today. A rather bold statement." If there's any skepticism, he notes, it's in people just reserving opinion until more results are in.

Rosen, a father of three children age 4, 3 and 1, is obviously a caring man. Notably, his company, Tamar Inns Inc., has its own medical clinic and doctor, with many of the services available free to employees. Also, using his own resources, he's saved the unprofitable Orlando International Aquatic Center from demise; it's now owned by the YMCA. The motives of his education plan, though, aren't solely altruistic. They make good business sense, too, he insists. A better educated work force is one example, less crime is another. "It's a vicious cycle," Rosen says. "What we do is break the cycle. You can't wait until the child is 5, 6 or 7. You probably have to get him at 6 months."

The jury's still out, but Rosen appears wrong about at least one thing; he just might know more than a little about education after all.



Harris Rosen

## Outstanding community service winner

# Tangelo Park wins Disney top prize

□ The educational program in a poor neighborhood was awarded \$50,000.

By Sandra Mathers

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

An educational program aimed at minority youths in one of Orlando's poorest neighborhoods walked away Tuesday with the top prize at the Walt Disney World Community Service Awards ceremony.

The 18-month-old Tangelo Park Pilot Project won the Bob Allen Outstanding Community Service Award and \$50,000 at the annual event in Disney's Contemporary Resort Convention Center.

The award honors Allen, who was vice president of the Walt Disney World Resort before his death in 1987.

### Award winners, C-6

No one was more surprised than another Bob Allen, chairman of the Tangelo Park project.

"I had no idea," said Allen, principal of Tangelo Park Elementary School. "I was talking to one of the people at the table and said, 'I figure we don't have it ...'"

The fledgling project — considered unique in Florida — runs a free preschool program and provides full college scholarships for children in Tangelo Park. The

neighborhood is off Sand Lake Road near International Drive.

It was one of 67 nonprofit organizations in five Central Florida counties awarded a total of \$350,000 — \$50,000 more than last year. Nearly 500 nonprofit groups from Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Lake and Polk applied for the prestigious private-sector awards.

Disney opened its awards program this year to groups in Lake and Polk counties because a survey showed a large number of the company's employees live there, said Holly Stuart, the company's director of community relations.

Three Orange County organizations won Judges Choice Awards of

\$25,000: BEFA (Birth, Education, Training, Acceptance), Christian Service Center for Central Florida and Habitat for humanity of Greater Orlando.

But the Tangelo Park Pilot Project took the limelight. The nine-

member volunteer judges' panel called it "the most worthy and significant project of 1994."

Known as a "supermarket for drugs" in the late 1980s, the area also was plagued by a high crime and school dropout rate. That was

before neighborhood residents launched a reclamation drive.

The project was jump-started in January 1994 with an initial pledge of \$1 million from hotel magnate Harris Rosen, president of Tamar Inns. The project is seeking additional money from corporate leaders.

Its aim is to provide free preschool education for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds and free scholarships for high school graduates living in the 842-home community, he said.

"Every child in Tangelo Park is eligible," said Allen. "We're looking at brighter children, a healthier community, and fewer teen pregnancies and AIDS cases."



GEORGE SKENE/THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

Bob Allen is cheered when his group, Tangelo Park Pilot Project, won Disney's Community Service Award.

*I had no idea. I was talking to one of the people at the table and said, 'I figure we don't have it ...'*

— Bob Allen, principal of Tangelo Park Elementary School



## David D. Porter

SENTINEL COLUMNIST

### Seeds of hope planted in Tangelo Park kids

**S**ome people say it's impossible to give other people hope. They say hope has to come from within.

I know a guy who has given other people hope. His name is Harris Rosen and he owns several hotels on International Drive in Orlando. I know some people around town, upon reading that name, will probably groan. Let them.

Rosen isn't liked in some circles because he's rich and opinionated. I know a couple of big shots are particularly unhappy with Rosen, because they think he tried to gum up the financial works when Orlando made an unsuccessful bid for a Major League Baseball team.

OK, so everybody doesn't love Rosen. Big deal. I'll say this, though, he did something 21 months ago that really impressed the heck out of me.

He established a \$1 million scholarship fund to benefit any child living in the Tangelo Park community who stays in school and graduates. The tuition can be applied to college or vocational school. What's more, money from the fund is going to provide early childhood education to every neighborhood child from 2 to 4 years old. Other local foundations also have joined the effort.

Rosen didn't say the scholarships would go to only the kids who got the highest grades. He said the scholarships would go to all kids from that community. As one who certainly was not a National Merit Scholar and who worked his way through college, I consider that an amazingly generous offer.

Through this program, there are already 10 kids in four-year colleges, 18 in community college, four in vocational school and many more prospects in the pipeline.

For anyone who doesn't know, Tangelo Park is a mostly black, working-class community in south Orange County, just a couple of blocks off the International Drive tourist strip.

In the past, Tangelo has had its share of problems with drugs and crime. Thankfully, though, the neighbors joined forces to fight crime and improve their community.

That's what Rosen said impressed him about Tangelo Park. "I really like that the community had demonstrated a desire to improve itself."

Rosen didn't have to establish a scholarship fund for Tangelo. There are many mainstream charitable efforts where he could have put his money. He was driven to work with Tangelo because he said he wanted to show young people that "if you work hard, success is possible."

The way I see it, crime, drugs, alcoholism and teen pregnancy — problems that plague many urban neighborhoods — are all byproducts of hopelessness. There is no doubt, though, that this scholarship program offers hope.

It's hard to persuade some kids to work hard and stay in school. Some kids have a hard time understanding that there is a worthwhile payoff at the end.

Rosen's offer is a tangible reward. It plants hope in the minds of children who may not be giving a lot of consideration to what's next after high school.

It also emphasizes to the kids of Tangelo the value of education, which, in my mind, has proved to be the most reliable social and economic elevator.

What I also find particularly interesting is that Rosen has avoided falling into the trap of thinking that he should run everything because of his personal investment in the scholarship program. The program is managed by a community board.

"Look," he told me, "this is not a Harris Rosen endeavor. This is a Tangelo Park endeavor."

That's as it should be.

Harris Rosen is only one man, and what he has done helps only one neighborhood. What I wonder, though, is how many others are out there right now planting the seeds of hope. If you know one, please let me know.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 29, 1998

Ms. Rhonda Brain  
Principal  
C1-Parkes Public School  
Currajong Street  
Parkes, 2870  
N.S.W.  
Australia

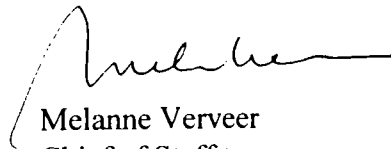
Dear Ms. Brain:

Thank you very much for your letter and invitation to the First Lady to speak at the 1998 Parkes Reading Day.

Regrettably, the First Lady is unable to attend. We wish you all the best for a successful event.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady

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☐ As you requested; ☐ For your information; ☐ For your files; ☐ Confirm receipt with \_\_\_\_\_;  
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copy to follow; ☒ Additional Comments:

*Enclosed is letter to Pres. Clinton;  
unable to get thru on his Sat  
lne.*

*Thank you.*

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\*\*New Mexico and Oklahoma  
\*New York  
\*\*New York and Oklahoma

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

VIA FACSIMILE - 202/456-6244

**RE: Judicial Appointment**  
**United States District Court for the Northern District**  
**(Candidate Deborah Shallcross)**

Dear Ms. Clinton:

Enclosed is a copy of my letter to the President dated today. I cannot emphasize strongly enough that Judge Deborah Shallcross, who currently serves as an Oklahoma trial judge, has a proven record of community service and judicial excellence. The other candidates for this position are certainly qualified for judicial appointment but Judge Shallcross has more years of service as a judge, more experience in the actual trial of cases, and a more distinguished record of service to this community.

Mike Turpen sends you and the President his warmest regards. I am proud to be associated with Mike, and I hope that Judge Shallcross will be given every serious consideration for this important position in the Northern District of Oklahoma. Thank you very much for your consideration. Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Donald M. Bingham  
FOR THE FIRM

DMB/bbb

Enclosure

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New York and Oklahoma

**VIA FACSIMILE**

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20050

**RE: Judicial Appointment**  
**United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma**  
**(Candidate Deborah Shallcross)**

Dear Mr. President:

I am a law partner of Mike Turpen. I cannot speak for Mike individually or for any other member of this Firm, but I am writing to endorse the application of Deborah Shallcross for appointment as District Judge in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

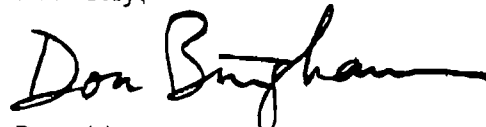
I have known Ms. Shallcross since approximately 1977. I tried several cases against her while I served as Assistant District Attorney and she served as an Assistant Public Defender. Ms. Shallcross was subsequently appointed to a trial-level judgeship, and I have appeared before her on many occasions.

Judge Shallcross is highly qualified for a Federal judicial appointment. She has extensive experience, unquestioned integrity and a most appropriate judicial temperament. Judge Shallcross has a keen sense of fairness and treats all litigants in a just and common-sense manner. Judge Shallcross has not only the intellectual ability to serve at the highest judicial levels, but she also values the rights and dignity of any person who appears before her.

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
January 16, 1998  
Page Two

I strongly recommend that you nominate Judge Deborah Shallcross to serve as District Judge in the Northern District of Oklahoma. Thank you very much for your consideration. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

  
Donald M. Bingham

DMB/bbb

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 29, 1998

Ms. Joy E. Bennett  
50 Catmousam Rd.  
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Dear Joy:

This is in response to your letter asking about my duties as Chief of Staff to the First Lady. You asked a series of questions and my answers follow. I am responsible for the overall operations of Mrs. Clinton's office which includes a wide range of activities from issues work, press and travel to scheduling and social functions. We have approximately twenty-five people, in addition to interns and volunteers.

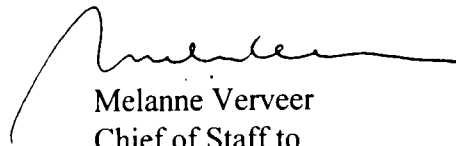
I most enjoy working on the issues that Mrs. Clinton is concerned with, like child care, health care, adoption, micro enterprise development, national service, human rights and international concerns affecting women and children.

My background includes experience over 25 years in Washington working either on Capitol Hill or for public interest organizations.

There are no particular academic qualifications for this job. My undergraduate and graduate degrees are in Russian studies. I have a family. My husband and I have lived in Washington for much of the last thirty years. We met in college at Georgetown University and we have three grown children. I grew up in a small town in Pennsylvania. I started working for the President and First Lady at the beginning of the Clinton Administration in 1993. I started as Deputy Chief of Staff to the First Lady and last year became Chief of Staff. When my work here is over, I hope to have a chance to continue in some capacity to work on issues and public policy concerns that are of importance to our country.

Thank you for writing. You live in a beautiful part of our country. I wish you all the best. May all your dreams come true.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady

December 14, 1997

Chief of Staff to the First Lady  
Honorable Melanne Vermeer  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW 20500  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Honorable Melanne Vermeer,

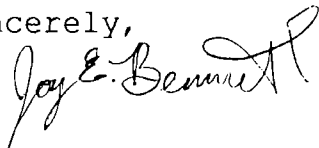
I am writing to you to better understand what a chief of staff to the First Lady has for responsibilities.

I am a junior at Kennebunk High School. This fall I tried out for and made the high school football team. I was the only girl on the team. I enjoyed being apart of the team and plan to try out again next year. I live with my family in Kennebunk, ME. I have one brother and one sister. My mom is a nurse and my dad is a Automotive technician. We have a cat named Nadia. I enjoy music and Softball in the spring.

I would like to know what it would be like to do your job for a day. What are your responsibilities? How many employees are you responsible for? Do you personally take care of the First Lady or do you oversee the person or persons who do? What is your favorite part of your job, what is your least favorite? How does a person qualify for your position? Do you have a degree -if so what? I am also curious about your personal life, do you have a family? Where did you grow up and why did you choose this job? How long have you held this Position and what happens when the President leaves office?

Thank you in advance for your time in responding to my letter. Please write back and send a picture of you and the First Lady if possible.

Sincerely,



Joy E. Bennett  
50 Catmousam Rd.  
Kennebunk, ME  
04043

January 23, 1998

Mr. Donald M. Bingham  
Riggs, Abney, Neal, Turpen, Orbison & Lewis  
Frisco Building  
502 West Sixth Street  
Tulsa, OK 74119-1010

Dear Mr. Bingham:

Thank you for your letter and information on Judge  
Deborah Shallcross.

I have passed the information along to Charles Ruff's  
office and we appreciate your efforts.

Sincerely,

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady

*Ken - There's  
a different  
letter in  
Hume's file  
to answer  
this.*



### **WHAT IS IT?**

It is a project aimed at reaching all parents with the vital importance of language interaction between them and their child, right from birth.

### **WHY IS SUCH A PROJECT NEEDED?**

More and more children are entering Kindergarten with poor language skills. This in turn makes it harder for these children to learn to read.

### **HOW WILL IT HELP MY CHILD?**

It will give your child a better start to formal learning, in general. Being able to read assists in raising self-esteem which in turn helps in how we relate to others.

*Supported by all schools in Parkes*

*Central West Christian Community School  
Holy Family Primary School  
Middleton Primary School  
Parkes Early Childhood Centre  
Parkes East Primary School  
Parkes High School  
Parkes Public School  
Burnside New Ventures Scheme  
Parkes Shire Library*

**by you realise it is by simply**

**reading to**

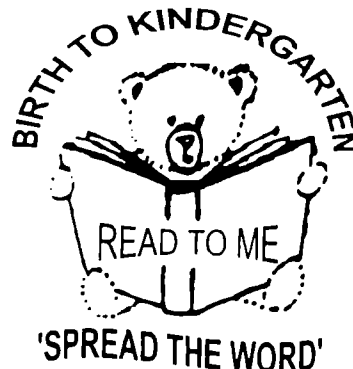
**singing to**

**talking to**

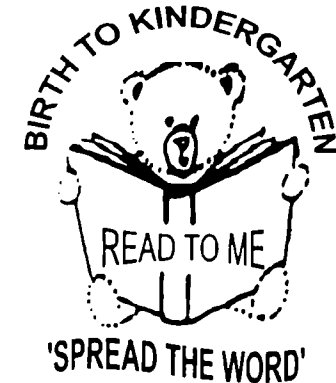
**and playing with**

**your child right from birth,  
you can really make a  
difference in their ability to  
read.**

**Start Today!**



# **PARKES READING DAY**



**THURSDAY 31st JULY**

### **WHAT IS IT?**

A special day when all people - in shops, offices, walking along the street - will be reading. Small groups of children and teachers will be reading in various locations. Activities will be held in Cooke Park for school children, pre-schoolers and members of the community.

**TIMETABLE INSIDE**

### **WHO IS PARTICIPATING?**

Business houses, all schools, invited "celebrities", churches, members of organisations and services, and **YOU!** ... please

**We would love you to "shop" on**

**Thursday, 31st July, between 10am and 3pm**

**reading a book as you go.**

**\_ Or as you watch your children, carry a book.**

# PARKES READING DAY TIMETABLE

| TIME    | WALK                                                                                                                                                | READERS' THEATRE                                                                  | STORIES IN STORES                                                                                    | ANIMALS - STORY TELLING<br>IN BOOKCASE              |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 9.45am  |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                   | Parkes Public School at Woolworths                                                                   |                                                     |
| 10.00am | Parkes Public School and Celebrities                                                                                                                |                                                                                   |                                                                                                      | Spot the Dog<br>Skippy the Kangaroo                 |
| 10.30am |                                                                                                                                                     | Parkes Public School and Celebrities                                              |                                                                                                      |                                                     |
| 10.45am |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                   | Middleton Public School at Fosseys                                                                   |                                                     |
| 11.00am | Middleton Public School Early Childhood Centre and Celebrities                                                                                      |                                                                                   |                                                                                                      | Spot the Dog<br>Skippy the Kangaroo<br>Prime Possum |
| 11.30am |                                                                                                                                                     | Middleton Public School Early Childhood Centre and Celebrities                    | Parkes East Public School at the Bookcase<br>Central West Christian Community School at the ANZ Bank |                                                     |
| 11.45am | Parkes East Public School Central West Christian Community School and Celebrities                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                                      |                                                     |
| 12.00pm |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                   |                                                                                                      | Spot the Dog<br>Skippy the Kangaroo<br>Prime Possum |
| 12.15pm | <b>OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY IN COOKE PARK (LEAGUES CLUB, IF RAINING)<br/>DR LORETTA GIORCELLI, THE MAYOR, PRIME POSSUM AND<br/>ALL CELEBRITIES</b> |                                                                                   |                                                                                                      |                                                     |
| 12.45pm |                                                                                                                                                     | Parkes East Public School Central West Christian Community School and Celebrities |                                                                                                      |                                                     |
| 1.00pm  | <b>CIVIC RECEPTION</b>                                                                                                                              |                                                                                   |                                                                                                      | Spot the Dog<br>Skippy the Kangaroo                 |
| 1.45pm  |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                   | Holy Family Primary at Clarinda Connection                                                           |                                                     |
| 2.00pm  |                                                                                                                                                     | Holy Family Primary and Celebrities                                               |                                                                                                      |                                                     |
| 2.15pm  | Holy Family Primary School and Celebrities                                                                                                          |                                                                                   |                                                                                                      |                                                     |
| 4.00pm  | <b>PARKES LEAGUES CLUB - DR LORETTA GIORCELLI<br/>A VERY INFORMATIVE AND ENTERTAINING SPEAKER FOR ALL PARENTS AND TEACHERS</b>                      |                                                                                   |                                                                                                      |                                                     |

## VISITING CELEBRITIES

Mr Harry Woods M.P: NSW Premier's Parliamentary Secretary

Dr Alan Rice: Director of Early Learning - Dept of School Education

Ms Edwina Rudd: State Library of NSW

Mr John Scott: Parkes Shire Librarian

Mr Michael Cobb: Federal Member of Parliament for Parkes

Mr Ian Armstrong: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, NSW  
Member for Lachlan  
Leader of the National Party NSW

Mr Barry Foster: District Superintendent  
Department of School Education, Orange

Assoc. Professor Judith Parker: Head of School of Teacher Education  
Charles Sturt University Bathurst

Dr Robert Meyenn: Foundation Dean,  
Faculty of Education CSU Bathurst

Ms Anne Klosko: Former Reading Consultant, Dept School Education  
Lecturer Charles Sturt University

Ms Marcelle Holliday: Manager of Early Learning  
Curriculum Directorate

Rt. Rev. Dr Harry Westcott: Leader of Vision Ministries  
Bishop of International Communion of Charismatic Churches

Mr Jonathon Hughes: Manager Prime Television, Orange

Lt. Col. Geoff Steventon: Australian Reserve Forces (M.B.E.)

Dr Loretta Giorcelli: International Speaker

Mr Stephen O'Doherty: Shadow Minister for Education and Training

**4.00PM AT THE PARKES LEAGUES CLUB  
DR LORETTA GIORCELLI**

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

9/1/98

Home: 2 Tulara Pl  
Parkes, 2870  
N.S.W.  
AUSTRALIA  
Ph. (02) 6862 1196

Work: C/- Parkes Public School  
Currajong St  
Parkes, 2870  
N.S.W.  
AUSTRALIA  
Ph. (02) 6862 1702  
Fax (02) 6862 5047

Regd

Dear Ms Vermeer,

I was recently handed the February, 1997 edition of "Time" magazine and was excited to read Mrs Clinton's article on reading. Mrs Clinton's comments are so in line with the ethos of a project that is being implemented in Parkes. The article is very inspiring & confirming.

I am the Principal of one of the 7 schools in Parkes and the Co-ordinator of a joint project called "Birth to Kindergarten - Spread the Word", which is a huge awareness-raising campaign about the importance of reading to, talking to, singing to, saying nursery rhymes to, modelling reading to, your child RIGHT FROM BIRTH. (See enclosed project outline)

We have used/are using many strategies - one of the most effective is the giving of a book to every parent of newly-born babies, along with a message about language-rich environments. The midwife in charge of the maternity ward presents the book to the parents, giving them the whole spiel about reading to their baby.

Another very significant strategy was the staging of an outstanding community Reading Day which had an extensive promotion over many months. To this day, we invited many celebrities. (See enclosed letter box drop to this day)

All this brings me to THE MAIN POINT OF THIS LETTER.

I realise this is a monumental request (outlandish, even!!) and that Mrs Clinton could well perceive it to be gross presumption on my behalf..... but we (our committee members - from each of the 7 govt. & independent schools) would be incredibly ecstatic... overwhelmed... to have Mrs Clinton as our guest speaker at the 1998 Parkes Reading Day.

I also realise this isn't protocol i.e. for an ordinary citizen to invite the First Lady of U.S.A. to a town in Australia... no doubt the invitation should come from our Prime Minister.

I really don't know the procedure... ignorance is bliss, otherwise I probably wouldn't have dared to write this letter!! However, if by any amazing turn of events, Mrs Clinton accepts this invitation, I will do whatever you advise. Maybe the first move could come from Mrs Clinton; saying she's heard about our project and wants to support it because of her great interest in reading being "an easy way to help a baby's brain grow, as well as "nurturing love and comfort between parent and child" and helping prevent juvenile delinquency.

Just think what significance would be placed on reading, both here in Australia AND in the U.S.A., if the First Lady believed it to be so important that she would travel to a country town in New South Wales, solely to add her support to a Literacy Project.

Not only do I dare to extend this invitation to Mrs Clinton but I also have to point out that we can't pay her travelling expenses. Our Reading Day is tentatively set for July 30th but of course, we would fit in with any date that suits Mrs Clinton.

Please know that my motivation is not one of presumption but comes from a genuine and passionate desire to give all children a good start in life... certainly I hesitated in writing this letter, but then decided that if I didn't ask, I'll never know if this invitation might indeed appeal to Mrs Clinton.

I anxiously await your reply

Yours respectfully

Rhonda Brain

(Co-ordinator of Project)  
+ School Principal

P.S. To give more background to our project, I have enclosed a few, selected items.

# **THE READING PROJECT**

## **"SPREAD THE WORD"**

**sponsored by all Parkes Schools**

**RATIONALE:** Enriched language environments for young children are closely linked with the development of literacy skills. There is increasing recognition of the importance of early intervention in the prevention of failure in Reading. The number of children entering Kindergarten in Parkes with language deficiency is a concern. Furthermore, the link between poor literacy skills and low self esteem, which in turn often affects behaviour, has far-reaching effects on the poor reader, especially in terms of how he/she relates to others and to his/her community.

Police have reported that a majority of young offenders have poor literacy skills.

**OUTCOMES:**

1. Language deficiency will be prevented.
2. More Parkes children will learn to read & enjoy Reading.
3. More Parkes students will succeed at school.
4. More children feeling good about themselves.
5. Less vandalism, graffiti and other anti-social behaviour.

**AIM:** To have every child in Parkes read to, listen to spoken to in sentences, sung to. OFTEN, between the ages of 0 to 5 years, especially.

**SHORT TERM GOAL:** To reach all parents of 0 to 5 year olds with "the message".

**TIME FRAME:** 12 months.

**LONG TERM GOAL:** To no longer have the need to "educate" all parents of 0 to 5 year olds with "the message" as it has become just another thing that is handed down through families.

**TIME FRAME:** 3 to 5 years

### **THE GRAND VISION**

THAT PARKES BECOMES KNOWN AS A "READING TOWN" - a town where EVERYONE values reading - a town where EVERYONE KNOWS, and acts upon, the importance of reading to, talking to, singing to, reciting to, children from 0 to 5 years, especially - a town that has minimal vandalism.

**THE "GRAND VISION"** will be publicised through a "**GRAND SATURATION**" of the whole community i.e. council, newspaper, radio, service clubs, all schools' newsletters, hospital, doctors, community health, D.O.C.S., businesses/shops, etc, etc.

Aug. '96  
**FINANCIAL SUPPORT:**

**INITIALLY** - from "NEW VENTURES SCHEME"

1997 - from "NEW VENTURES SCHEME" and D.O.S.E.

**STRATEGIES ALREADY IMPLEMENTED AND UNDERWAY**

- 1) Every mother of new-born baby is presented with a very easy-to-read child's book with a brief letter of congratulations and message of the importance of language-filled environment (see enclosed copy of letter)

**NB 1** DIRECTOR OF MATERNITY WARD PRESENTS THIS BOOK ON OUR BEHALF OF ALL SCHOOLS. SHE IS VERY COMMITTED TO THE PROJECT AND GIVES THE WHOLE SPIEL!!

**NB 2** ANOTHER MIDWIFE HAS SET HERSELF THE TASK OF HAVING EVERY NEW MUM AND/ OR DAD READ THE BOOK TO THE BABY AT LEAST TWO TIMES BEFORE GOING HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL

- 2) MAJOR LAUNCH OF PROJECT held at Shire Council; co-sponsored by Mayor; all town leaders invited e.g. owners of shops, police, presidents of clubs, shire councillors etc. to inform them of project, convince them of need and enlist their assistance (not financially, at this stage), GUEST SPEAKER: DR LORETTA GIORCELLI (see attached invitation and program)
- 3) ADVISORY COMMITTEE established eg. Community Nurse, Speech Pathologist, Child Day Care Manager, D.O.C.S. etc
- 4) STORYTELLING TENT at Parkes Annual Show for two days Sessions of free storytelling and giveaways with Rozo the Clown
- 5) INTERVIEWS on State and Regional ABC RADIO
- 6) ONE TEACHER, FROM A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH FORTNIGHT RELEASED TO GO TO IMMUNISATION DAY at Community Centre to meet and "gossip" the message of language-rich environments to the Mums and/or Dads
- 7) COMMITTEE MEMBERS now spoken at meetings of Lions Club, entire district staff of D.O.C.S., Shire Council and Churches Caring In Crisis, Parkes High School staff, own school staff.
- 8) VIDEO OF DR GIORCELLI'S LAUNCH MESSAGE has been produced and is in circulation - especially at hospital - for new parents to watch
- 9) LITTLE NOTES put in all purchases at Shoe Shops (in actual box), Book Shops, Photography Shop (in actual photo sleeve) etc.
- 10) BUMPER STICKERS produced (actually windscreen stickers!)

NOW, ALL HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN PART OR COMPLETELY

STRATEGIES WELL IN TRAIN FOR IMPLEMENTATION .... REQUIRING MASSIVE WORK

- 1) STUDENTS OF CSU COMMUNICATIONS COURSE TO CREATE AND PRODUCE TV COMMERCIAL .... PRIME TV (ORANGE) TO HEAVILY SUBSIDISE COST.

Staged on July 31st, 1997

Outstanding success! ✓  
(See enclosed pamphlet)

- 2) \* PARKES READING DAY where everyone is seen reading. MUCH MEDIA COVERAGE. Mayor is seen walking in main street reading, all shop and business employees are reading, etc. Lots of Reading Spots all over main business area where adult reads to school children. Many celebrities invited. Newspaper photos + articles of various groups (e.g. Football team, firemen, policemen etc) reading, as lead up to the actual day.
- 3) LAUNCHING HUNDREDS OF LIGHTLY-FILLED HELIUM balloons carrying inside them a message about importance of reading .... hopefully the balloons will land in people's yards all over Parkes. AGAIN MUCH MEDIA COVERAGE - AND SEVERAL BALLOONS WILL CARRY PRIZE VOUCHERS

- 4) FLOAT IN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE and activity in the Fete that follows.

- 5) PAMPHLETS LEFT ON EVERY SEAT AT SCHOOL PRESENTATION ASSEMBLIES .... because this is one function nearly every parent in each school attends.

- 6) THE WRITING OF A SERIES OF <sup>13✓</sup>FOUR CHILDREN'S BOOKS for K, Yr 2, Yr 4 and Yr 5, teachers to read to their class ... MESSAGE/THEME: Adults reading to, singing to, saying nursery rhymes to very young children, at home, ringing out the fun and the warmth of it.

→ 3 books written, illustrated, produced... Launch of books held on 13th Dec. '97. (See copy of newspaper article)

\* Also, author wrote a Reading song for K, 1, 2 students to sing. Choirs performed this song at Book Launch.



# Birth to Kindergarten - Spread the Word

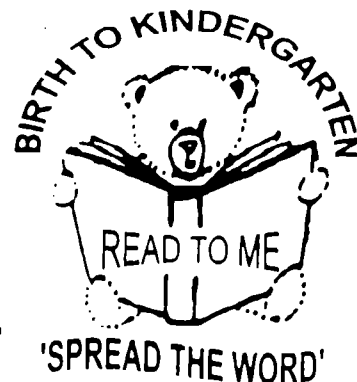
**PARKES READING DAY - 31 JULY 1997**

## **OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY**

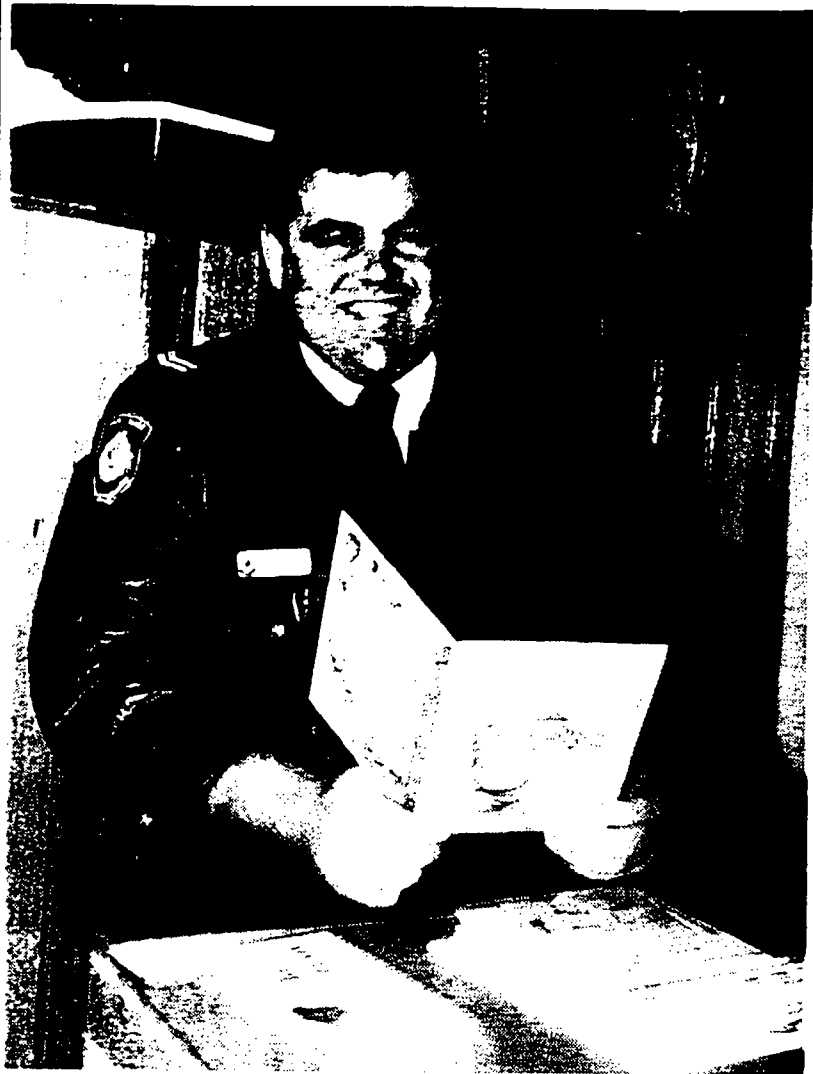
- ♦ Call to Attention: Town Crier
- ♦ Introduction of Visiting Guests: Project Co-ordinator, Rhonda Brain
- ♦ Official Opening: The Mayor, Councillor Robert Wilson
- ♦ Address: Dr Loretta Giorcelli
- ♦ Release of 100 Balloons: Trumpet Fanfare by Peter Poole - Visiting guests and students with countdown for release led by Prime Possum

**Do you realise that by simply**  
**reading to**  
**singing to**  
**talking to**  
**and playing with**  
**your child right from birth,**  
**you can really make a difference in their**  
**ability to read.**

**Start Today!**



## Police support literacy project



The Parkes project launched a week ago to target the development of literacy in children from birth until they enter formal schooling in Kindergarten is relying considerably on support from the community.

Ultimately, the vision is to have a literate town which will provide many benefits and a better community in which to live.

The media, community groups, schools, council, all have pledged to back the project to ensure it is an overwhelming success.

Parkes Police have been quick to do their bit to help in teaching kids to

read. They have purchased a small table and chair, plus books, and placed them in the foyer of the Parkes Police Station.

This is the area where people have first contact with the police, and now there is an area set aside for the kids to read while waiting on their parents.

PICTURED is Senior Constable Andrew McGrath, testing out the chairs and seeing if there is a book he can read.

Sergeant Greg Fletcher (in the background) can see the amusing side of Sen. Const. McGrath's attempt to fit in the chair.

*Page 2*

PARKES MAYOR, CR. ROBERT WILSON  
and  
PRINCIPALS OF ALL PARKES SCHOOLS  
have pleasure in inviting

---

to attend the launch of

“Birth to Kindergarten --  
Spread The Word”

to be held on

Thursday, 22nd August, 1996

at 5.30 p.m. till 7.00 p.m.

VENUE: PARKES SHIRE CHAMBERS

Guest Speaker: Dr. LORETTA GIORCELLI  
(An international educator)

★ Light supper provided

R.S.V.P.  
14th AUGUST

RHONDA BRAIN  
Parkes Public

PH: 068 62 1702  
FAX: 068 62 5047

# Police praise for Christmas behaviour

Parkes Police have been loud in their praise of residents and motorists alike during the four day Christmas holiday season.

Police said yesterday there had been very few arrests and traffic had proceeded without any major accidents.

The area is fatal-free and police said they would like to see it remain that way during the lead up to the new year.

Acting Police Sergeant Al Powley said there had been quite a heavy build-up of traffic along the highway but motorists appeared to be adhering to the rules of the road.

"We have had a heavy police presence on roads in the area, but we have detected very few inconsiderate motorists

And we would like to see it stay that way.

We are warning people that we will again be out in force during the next few days because we want to ensure a fatal-free start to 1998.

Police said only three arrests were made during the week.

An 18 year old Parkes youth was arrested at 3pm on December 23 and charged with driving in a manner dangerous and negligent driving. He will appear in Parkes court on January 12.

At 2.30am on Christmas morning a 53 year old Parkes man was arrested and charged with mid range PCA. He had a reading of .115 and will appear in Parkes Court on January 12.

A 22 year old Parkes man was charged with assault following an incident at 4.15am on Christmas morning.

Christmas morning.

Police have attended a number of domestic matters but no charges have been laid, nor are likely to be.

They indicated that feelings tend to run high during the Christmas season and most matters of a domestic nature are quickly sorted out.

The situation was a little different however, for Parkes Fire Brigade who were had two calls within a couple of hours of each other on Boxing night and early Saturday morning.

Parkes Fire Captain, Robert Tucker said that fortunately conditions were calm and the fires were not in too much danger of getting out of control.

The first call was to a grass fire in a paddock at Panorama Crescent at about 11pm on Friday.

Fire fighters were quickly on the scene and brought the fire under control. About an acre was burnt.

Then at 12.30am on Saturday, the brigade received a call to the 11th Street where 1500 square metres of grass had caught fire.

Captain Tucker warned residents to exercise great care while the weather remained hot and dry as they no doubt will be.

There is still plenty of fuel about. MEANWHILE weather conditions in the new year appear to be very experienced in the past week.

The weather bureau said it should be very warm to hot until Wednesday. There is a chance of some scattered rain.

## Birth to Kindergarten book launch a great success

The Birth to Kindergarten Committee was thrilled with the response to the book launch held at McDonalds and Pizza Hut.

The Birth to Kindergarten project aims to raise community awareness of the importance of reading to children right from birth.

Organisers were pleased with the big crowd which attended both venues for the launch of three books by author and illustrator Katrina Nannestad.

Katrina, whose books relate in a delightful way the importance and joy children receive from being read to each day, was on hand to autograph books sold on the day.

Peter Poole, Parkes Shire Council Music and Development Officer, was on hand to help with the choir and played a fan fare to start the program.

Coordinator of the project, Rhonda Brain, has thanked the community for their ongoing support of the project, in particular Pizza Hut and McDonalds as well as all the schools of Parkes.

Anyone who missed getting a book can purchase a copy from Parkes Public School.



The Combined Schools Choir in full voice at the Birth to Kindergarten book launch at McDonalds.



Pictured at the book launch with author, Katrina Nannestad holding Klaus and with Finn Nannestad, are Ossie Sutton and Nicole Davis of Parkes East, and Carmen Symonds (Parkes Public).

## INSIDE TODAY... INSIDE TODAY...

◆ Parkes schools get a good report - **page 2**

◆ Parkes scouts prepare to head out



◆ Trainee doctor gets a feel for Parkes - picture, story - **page 4**

◆ Warning about

## IN SPORT.

◆ Harness Racing conducts successful meeting - **page 2**

◆ The real truth! Parkes' Grinste

Hillary Rodham Clinton

# Comfort and Joy

The First Mom suggests reading as an easy way to help a baby's brain grow

**T**HE NIGHT AFTER THE INAUGURAL, BILL AND I GATHERED with our family in the solarium on the third floor of the White House. After dinner our toddler nephews Tyler and Zachary climbed up on the couch with their Uncle Bill to hear him read a story. They accompanied him with words, sounds, pointed fingers and a few tussles over who would hold the book. As I watched them, I thought of all the times Bill and I used to take turns reading stories to Chelsea. Every night one of us (and occasionally both) would stretch out on her bed, hold her in our arms, and either read or make up new tales about imaginary characters who embarked on improbable but breathtaking adventures.

Bill and I did not know about brain cells or synapses or the newest discoveries in neuroscience. Reading to Chelsea became a daily ritual because it's what our own parents and grandparents had done with us, and because we wanted to spend quiet time with her every day. Bill's grandmother thought that reading to him would help him develop a strong vocabulary and the language skills he would need later on in school. My mother and father placed a similar premium on reading, and to this day I remember the feelings of security and comfort that I felt sitting in my grandfather's lap when he read stories to my brothers and me.

Today, thanks to advances in brain research, we know that reading with a child has intellectual, emotional and physical benefits that can enhance the child's development.

The intimacy of sharing books and stories strengthens the emotional bonds between a parent and child, helps a child learn words and concepts, and actually stimulates the growth of a baby's brain.

As I discussed in my book, *It Takes a Village*, scientists have discovered that children whose parents read and talk to them during the first three years of life create a stronger foundation for future reading success. In other words, what our parents and grandparents knew instinctively is now backed up by hard scientific evidence.

That's why doctors and nurses are starting to prescribe reading to babies along with regular checkups and vaccinations. Recently I went to Georgetown University's Medical Center with Maurice Sendak, the renowned children's author and illustrator. His book *Where the Wild Things Are* was one of Chelsea's—and Bill's—favorites. Mr. Sendak read the story to children, and I announced, along with representatives of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Booksellers Associ-

ation and the American Library Association, a U.S. campaign to put books in the hands of parents who bring their young children to the doctor, and to get doctors to prescribe daily reading. My husband and I will be discussing this and other activities to follow up on the latest findings about the brain at a White House conference later this year.

It's important that we take to heart what the neuroscientists are telling us—without losing the heart of the reading experience. In today's high-tech world of E-mail and microchips, it is easy to forget the importance of human connections in our daily activities. Technology has brought many welcome conveniences to our lives. But it has the potential to create feelings of distance, detachment and isolation among us.

Reading to a child while touching, hugging and holding him or her can be a wonderful antidote to the im-

personal tendencies of the information age—for both the adult and the child. While critical to building brains, reading is equally important to building trusting and close relationships. That's why many of us remember the warm embrace or the comfortable lap that cradled us when we read books as children. And that's why reading should not be viewed solely as an intellectual proposition, particularly in the era in which we now live.

If people take away only one lesson from these

exciting scientific discoveries, I hope it's that reading to children is easy, affordable and feasible for parents no matter what their level of education or economic station in life. Children's books are available for free at public libraries in every American community and can be found at reasonable prices in many bookstores everywhere. Doctors, librarians, teachers, book publishers, business leaders and the news media can help make books available to families and educate parents about the vital role that reading plays in our children's lives.

It isn't very often that we have before us such a simple, inexpensive and pleasurable way to improve our children's health and development and raise their prospects for a brighter future. Whether you lie down together on the rug, sit together in an old rocking chair or cuddle on your child's bed the way Bill and I used to with Chelsea, there is no better way to spend time than reading to your child.

And now we also know that there are few better ways to help your baby's brain grow.



Mrs. Clinton with her daughter in the crucial first three years

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 13, 1998

Ambassador Shirley Elizabeth Barnes  
Department of State, Room 5226  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

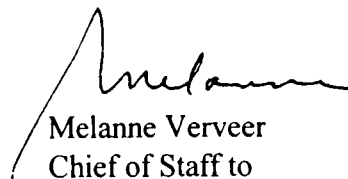
Dear Shirley:

Congratulations on your appointment as U.S.  
Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar. We wish you all  
the best as you face new challenges and opportunities.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

*We are thrilled,  
with your news.*

  
Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 5, 1998

**PRESIDENT CLINTON NAMES SHIRLEY ELIZABETH BARNES AS U.S.  
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR**

The President today announced his intent to nominate Shirley Elizabeth Barnes, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, to be U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar.

Ms. Shirley Elizabeth Barnes, of New York, New York, is presently the Director of Western European Affairs in the Bureau of European and Canadian Affairs. In her Foreign Service career, Ms. Barnes has served in Cairo, Dakar, West Berlin and Sofia. Her most recent overseas assignment was as Consul General in Strasbourg, France. Ms. Barnes has also worked in the State Department's Office of Management Policy and Programming. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Ms. Barnes held positions in private industry and with non-profit foundations. She worked for the Ford Foundation in the Republic of Congo-Kinshasa in the early sixties, with the African-American Institute in New York City, and reached the level of vice-president in several major advertising agencies in New York.

Ms. Barnes holds a B.B.A. from Baruch College, City University of New York, and an M.B.A. from Columbia University. She graduated from the National War College, at Fort McNair, and was a member of the Senior Seminar Class of 1995, the U.S. government's most distinguished senior level training program. Ms. Barnes speaks French.

-30-30-30-

Melanne Verveer

*Pis do a congrats  
she's at state*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 13, 1998

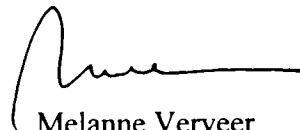
Ms. Kathy Adams Baczko  
3422 Dent Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Kathy:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sending me a copy of the invitation to the President to participate in Georgetown University's Capital Campaign Kickoff Celebration in October. Leo has been in touch and the President's scheduling office has been informed that this is Georgetown's priority.

Best wishes and thanks for all you do. I can't make your SLL anniversary meeting, but if there's anything I can do, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady

C

3422 Dent Place N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007

March 4, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff  
Office of The First Lady  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500-2000

Dear Melanne,

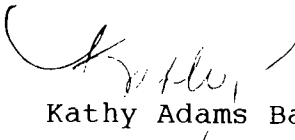
I have been meaning to forward to you a copy of this letter I sent to the President requesting his presence and participation in the Georgetown University Capital Campaign Kickoff Celebration scheduled for October 10, 1998. I received a prompt response from him that he would like to participate but could not commit at this time and had forwarded the letter to his scheduling office. Stephanie Street has since confirmed this status.

With all you have to oversee, I reluctantly ask you to keep an eye on this invitation if you possibly can. You may recall that we spoke about the importance of this critical event in the overall campaign for the future of the University. The President has been incredibly generous toward the University, but this hallmark event will be historic. We certainly are counting on his presence as our most distinguished alumnus.

I thought you might also like to see my other project for the week. It seems as though we are back to grass roots activism once again. Several friends I know are doing a similar mailing - and we are all working as hard as we can to set the record straight.

All the best to you. I had a delightful visit with Hillary at Camp David and enjoyed my first opportunity to really have a conversation with her. What a wonderful person she is and I am full of admiration. You are blessed to have each other!

Sincerely,

  
Kathy Adams Baczko

*144 Alexander Palm Road  
Boca Raton, Florida 33432*

December 24, 1997

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500-2000

Dear Mr. President,

It is my honor, on behalf of Georgetown University, and as Chair of the University's Capital Campaign Kick-Off Weekend, to invite you, as our most distinguished alumnus, to attend and address our Third Century Celebration Gala on Saturday, October 10, 1998.

As you well know, the University has embarked on a \$500 million capital campaign which will enhance all areas of University life and prepare it to meet the challenges of the future. Enclosed is a brochure which highlights the priorities of the campaign. This is a critical milestone in the history of Georgetown and essential to its renewal for yet a third century. The theme for the campaign is "Georgetown forever" which captures in its simplicity our mission. Those of us who have benefited from a Georgetown education certainly recognize the responsibility to insure similar opportunity for generations of students to come.

A three day extravaganza of events is scheduled for October 8-10 to launch the public phase of the capital campaign. By that date, over half of the \$500 million goal will have been reached. The University will bring to campus alumni, donors, friends and supporters from around the world to celebrate this achievement and move the campaign dramatically forward to surpassing \$500 million by 2001.

The hallmark event of the weekend is a Celebration Gala to be held at the National Building Museum on Saturday, October 10. We anticipate an audience of 1000 prominent guests, major donors and donor prospects. Let me emphasize that there is no charge for this event and everyone is invited as a guest of the University.

Your presence and participation at this event would be a most significant gift to the University and lend tremendous support to our overall development efforts. We quite frankly cannot imagine the celebration without you!

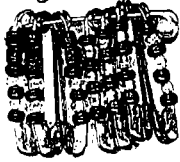
-2-

I sincerely hope this unique occasion for you to endorse all that Georgetown represents will fit into your busy schedule for next Fall. We have the date reserved - October 10, 1998 and I hope you will also!

Sincerely yours,

Kathy Adams Baczko  
Chair  
Capital Campaign Kick-Off

an inexpensive, clever design  
by a friend of mine —



for you or Webster! Truly  
Buckley

*Jean Hering*  
10938 Bloomingdale Drive  
North Bethesda, MD 20852 U.S.A.  
(301) 231-8062

3422 Dent Place N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007

March 3, 1998

Dear Friend,

It looks as though we have another campaign to organize! I thought that after two Presidential elections, I could retire from political campaigns...but events of the past six weeks have me incensed!

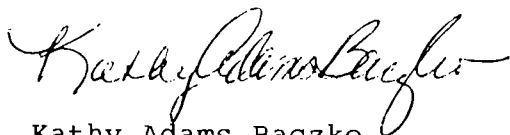
I am convinced that the overall strategy of certain power groups is to undermine the Clinton presidency at any cost and derail it from the spectacular road of progress it has built these past six years. After millions of dollars and far too many false and unproved allegations and rumors, the President's opponents and the media have brought the battle field to an all time scandalous low point. I was too young to witness the McCarthy era or understand the character assassinations of the regimes of Stalin or Mao, but there is too familiar an echo to all that is happening today in America.

Perhaps living in Washington gives me more than my fair share of unsubstantiated gossip, but I refuse to succumb. I believe that all of us who know the President and have supported him over the years have an obligation to make our voices heard.

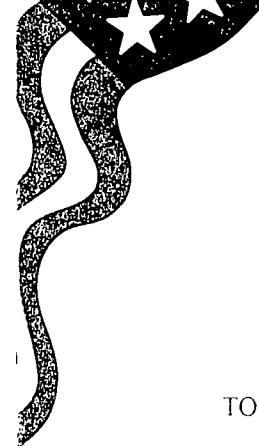
This is not a time to simply discuss the daily tabloids and subterfuge around the kitchen table. We all need to stand up and be heard. As friends and supporters of the President we know what a man of integrity and vision he is. He has brought leadership and prosperity to the country and has much work left to do to ensure a brighter future for our children. Why should all these diversionary tactics and character assassinations be allowed to continue? Our country deserves better.

Please take a moment to review the enclosed suggestions - and then select at least one and ACT NOW! This kind of character assassination is wrong. We can all help set the record straight!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathy Adams Baczek". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kathy Adams Baczek



# Democratic National Committee

Steve Grossman, *National Chair* • Governor Roy Romer, *General Chair*

February 20, 1998

TO: FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS  
FROM: OFFICE OF SPECIAL PROJECTS  
SUBJECT: USEFUL MATERIAL

*Thank you for your expression of support. It is so important that those of us who appreciate all that the Clintons have done for this country find ways to speak out and express that support. Following are some suggested forms of action.*

## Speak Out

- \* Speak up about your support for the President in ways that can be heard -- from calling into talk radio to coffee break conversations at the office.
- \* Do not be defensive about your support for the President. He is doing a great job and, as the polls show, the American people want him to go on doing the job they elected him to do. Do not sit back and let the President's opponents do all the talking.
- \* Suggested points are attached.

## Write

- \* **We need a balanced viewpoint.** Writing op-ed columns, letters to the editors of local and national newspapers or other publications is extremely effective. Remind people that the President has clearly and directly said that these allegations are not true, and that a full and fair investigation of the facts will confirm what he has said.
- \* The President has many positive achievements that are lost in the daily press crush. It never hurts to remind people about his work on expanding the economy and helping working families, or about his important agenda for next year, like saving Social Security and lowering class size to help improve education.
- \* If you do not think the President is getting fair treatment in the press, take the time to make your views known: call or write your media.

## Political Action

- \* Contacting elected officials is important, especially Democrats you have helped to elect. To date, the investigations against the President have cost millions of dollars -- forty million for Ken Starr alone! No wonder so many Americans are fed up and want an end to this partisan, unfair, and interminable process.

## Keep in Touch

- \* The easiest way for us to communicate with people is by e-mail. If you would like to continue to receive periodic updates, please send your e-mail address to us at: [demsunited@dnc.democrats.org](mailto:demsunited@dnc.democrats.org)  
If you do take action in support of the President, please let us know via e-mail at the above address. If you do not have an e-mail address, you can leave a fax number with Peter Kauffman at (202) 863-8148.

It is important to remember that one person can make a difference. Thank you for all your help. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## IMPORTANT POINTS TO STRESS

### **He Gets Up Every Day and Goes to Work for the Country**

\* The President is on the job, doing the job he was elected to do and doing it very well. Just think of the difference he has made in this country. That's why people want to keep him on the job and keep him working for them and their families. He has been true to his word: concentrating on growing the economy, expanding opportunities for working families and helping secure the futures of our children.

### **President Clinton has spoken out clearly and directly about these charges:**

"I think it is important for me to tell the American people that it wasn't an improper relation. I didn't ask anybody to lie. And I intend to cooperate. And I think that's all I should say right now so I can get back to the work of the country." [National Public Radio, 1/21/98]

\* First Lady Hillary Clinton has also spoken out: "(W)e're right in the middle of a rather vigorous feeding frenzy right now. And people are saying all kinds of things, and putting out rumor and innuendo. And I have learned over the last many years, being involved in politics, and especially since my husband first starting running for president, that the best thing to do in these cases is just to be patient, take a deep breath and the truth will come out. And you know, when I'm here today, I'm not only here because I love and believe my husband. I'm also here because I love and believe in my country. And if I were just a citizen out there, maybe because I know about the law and I have some idea of some of the motivations here, I would be very disturbed by this turn of events." [Today Show, 1/27/98]

\* When people say the President needs to "come out and tell the American people the truth," the response should be, "The president has clearly stated he did nothing wrong or illegal." And if you hear people wonder why the American public is not more upset about these charges, remind them that we have been through this before, and what hindsight has taught us is that there should be no rush to judgment. For all the money spent on investigations, nothing has ever come of any of them.

### **It goes on and on and on and on.....:**

\* Bill Clinton has been president of the United States for five years and for most of those five years his political opponents have tried to destroy him with personal attacks. Devoid of ideas and unable to win at the ballot box, they resort to false allegations and rumors.

### **The Right Wing's "Arkansas Project":**

\* Clinton-hater and billionaire Richard Mellon Scaife, as part of his self described "Arkansas Project," has funneled as much as \$600,000 a year from tax exempt foundations to The American Spectator magazine to conduct an attack campaign against the President and First Lady.

\* When the founding publisher of the Spectator demanded an audit of the "Project" he was fired and prohibited from speaking about the reasons for his dismissal.

\* For further information, please refer to New York Observer, February 9, 1998.

### **Rumor-mongering**

\* Every day there is a new rumor du jour. Allegations and blatant lies have swirled around for the last three weeks and it is astonishing how many of the sensational headlines have turned out to be not true. It is impossible to count how many of the exaggerated headlines over the past five years about the President have just faded away.

\* Mrs. Clinton said, "I anticipate that it will slowly dissipate over time by the weight of its own insubstantiality. So I just advise everybody to just take a deep breath and watch this develop. And I think some of the developments of the last week or two should certainly give anybody pause about what is really going on here. [Press Briefing, 2/10/98]

### **The Facts Speak Loud and Clear**

\* Here's what we have learned: a partisan prosecutor, who started out investigating a 24 year old land deal more than three years and 40 million dollars ago, has been unable to find any wrong doing by the President. So now he has expanded his investigation to include interrogating the mother of a young woman for days.

\* The New York Daily News editorial recently stated, "The spirit of Joe McCarthy is alive and as perverse as ever. On the American political scene, not since the Army-McCarthy hearings of 1954 has prosecution been so clearly linked to persecution. In dragging Monica Lewinsky's mother before a grand jury yesterday, independent counsel Kenneth Starr has shown there is no depth to which he will not sink." [New York Daily News, 2/11/98]

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 20, 1998

Mr. Norman Birnbaum  
Dipartimento di Politica  
Istituzioni, Storia  
Universita Degli Studi di Bologna  
Strada Maggiore, 45-40123 Bologna  
ITALIA

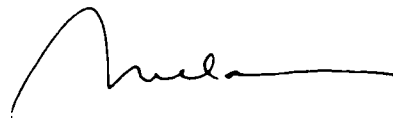
Dear Norman:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you very much for your thoughtful fax and for your thought-provoking ideas about the millennium.

We hope you are finding your professorship in Bologna challenging and enjoyable. What a great deal you have! There's no truth to my leaving here. There's much to do.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady

# Dipartimento di Politica, Istituzioni, Storia

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BOLOGNA

Strada Maggiore, 45 - 40125 Bologna Italia Tel. 051/6402500 Telefax 051/239548



Fax/Telephone (39) (51) 261 790

10 March 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the First Lady  
The White House  
Washington DC

Dear Melanne,

Any answer should come to me by fax or Federal Express to the university address. The Italian mail system's current condition can be inferred from the fate of a registered letter, sent special delivery by the President of the Republic from his office to Milan. It took sixteen days, and the President's spokesman declared that it showed what a truly democratic society Italy was: all were treated equally by the public services. For his part, the Minister of Posts indignantly rejected suggestions that he resign: he had, he insisted, sped things up.

I read somewhere that you are thinking of taking a leave or doing something else. If you treat yourself to a well earned vacation, this is a marvellous city and I'll be here until the beginning of June---enough said.

Sincerely,

Norman Birnbaum

PS I am also sending a copy of the letter to Sidney  
and to Ellen Lowell

# Dipartimento di Politica, Istituzioni, Storia

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BOLOGNA

Strada Maggiore, 45 - 40125 Bologna - Italia - Tel. 051/6402500 - Telefax 051/239548

Professor Norman Birnbaum



Telephone and Fax (39) (51) 261-790

9 March 1998

Ms. Hillary Clinton  
Office of the First Lady  
The White House

Dear Ms. Clinton:

May I offer greetings from Italy (il vero, the Italian heartland) and from Europe? The United States counts for a great deal, here, still. I'm Fulbright Professor for three months: the seminar I've begun on contemporary American social movements is over-subscribed, and a number of colleagues have come.

If I may say so, your own standing has never been higher in Europe. It isn't only the matter of your admirable steadfastness (and that of the President) in the face of what you rightly term a conspiracy. There was a very positive European response to your talk at Davos, where few had dared to challenge the egregious social Darwinism of the market ideologues. (Le Canard Enchaîné compared you favorably to the French Minister of Finance.) The resentful provincials who staff our own media did not, it seems, think your ideas worthy of their attention---but they are utterly remote from history.

The Europeans, of course, continue to struggle with theirs. No doubt, the governments will decide to proceed with monetary unification. If they wish to avoid very serious difficulties with their sceptical publics, however, they had best align themselves with the French government (and the next German one, likely to be led by the Social Democrats) and initiate an employment policy for the European Union as a whole. Pursuing budgetary rigour in the interests of a common monetary policy and simultaneously declaring that employment cannot be dealt with on a European basis is a way to summon up the dreadful spirits of the European past, many of them (Bossi here, Haider in Austria, LePen in France and the rampaging skinhead gangs in Germany) already too much in evidence.

Of course, as always in politics, human frailty provides relief. Insistent that the other Europeans demonstrate fiscal discipline and honesty in national accounting, that his fellow citizens develop ascetic self-restraint re their incomes and social benefits, the President of the German Bundesbank has been caught in a bit of discreet insider trading. Frailty is universal: I have no doubt that the Honorable Richard Armey's financial affairs would afford us as much amusement as Senator Ashcroft's private life and, no doubt, we'll learn about each in time.

May I take the theme of frailty to make a suggestion re the

Millennium project? Professor Bailyn's superb talk at the White House evoked the contradictions in our original political practise. He demonstrated the gift of a great historian---the ability to see the past as different. Lots of Americans, however, lack the Irenic sense of a Harvard professor. We suffer from no excess of historical modesty. Our history has one property which no amount of reassurance on the progress we have made can obscure: we continuously produce enormous numbers of losers. Quite apart from blacks and Indians (and the Irish Catholics who were thought to be black when they fled the famine), the nineteenth century in many respects was a funeral pyre of human hopes. The newer historians of the west like Patricia Limerick have documented the costs to the conquerors of the occupation of the continent, and fully a third of the European immigrants left the promised land to return to their homes. I hardly need tell you of the bitter struggles of our nation's women. A historian of labor like David Montgomery or of poverty like Jacqueline Jones, taken seriously, render triumphalism gratuitous, even offensive.

When I was growing up in Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt's America (and LaGuardia's New York), Agee and Evans with Let Us Now Praise Famous Men told us of lives of unremitting suffering even in the midst of the New Deal's great amelioration of ordinary existence. I've been on the bleaker strips of downtown Austin recently: in newer form, that older America is still there. And John Sweeney will tell you that the sweatshops, too, are back.

It is true that for enormous numbers of our citizens, there has been a continuous rise in living standards, and an enlargement of life chances. There are still two grounds for saying something about the losers. One is that society may be redefining loss. James Atlas, who writes on culture for the New York Times Magazine, has provided a not entirely satiric argument to the effect that a decent existence in middle class Manhattan requires several hundred thousand dollars a year. Perpetually short of time, desperately trying to reconcile familial obligations and the demands of work, not entirely without self-criticism about their inability to undertake more civic functions, a good deal of our prosperous middle class has no reason to think of itself as unequivocally victorious.

The satisfactions of ordinary existence may be more limited than they should be in our country. Even large parts of our reformist tradition seek a society of opportunity. The sub-text, however, is more than a little ambiguous. Those who do not make the most of their opportunities (or who think they have not done so) think less well of themselves. (In American English, persons do not have successes, they are successes.) Not so long ago, I was talking with a wealthy Wall Street figure who first abandoned his initial commitment to social justice to become a new Democrat, then turned to compulsive affirmation of a singular version of Jewishness. No dwelling on the Prophets for him: we Jews, he told me, have a great gift for economic success. I thought it right to

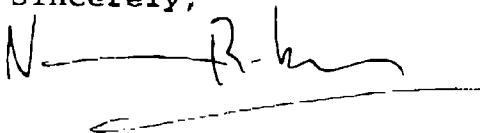
point out that there were plenty of Jews who did not live alongside him on Fifth Avenue. Consider the Brooklyn accountant on a mere \$ 100,000 per year. His brother-in-law earns, as his wife reminds him, twice as much, his daughter and son think they have been cheated out of Harvard and Stanford in having to attend CUNY Queens, and so the spiritually battered head of family reproaches himself daily for not having as much money as Rohatyn or Rubin. I'm aware of the phrase, playing by the rules: suppose the rules are deformed?

In short, there is a perspective on our history which emphasizes the value of solidarity. That may well be a pre-condition for enjoyment of what were once termed the unbought graces of life. Catholic thinkers seem to know this, and so does the party of conscience elsewhere in our spiritual spectrum. The former Bishop of Denver, Francis Stafford, has been named Cardinal recently: he directs the Papal Commission on the Laity in Rome. When he was in Denver he wrote a remarkable pastoral letter on "The Catholic Moment." That, he suggested, was about to come: the nation's penchant for individualism was ill adapted to the demands of modern existence and a new emphasis on solidarity was necessary. At the very least, we owe the losers---past and present---an act of spiritual contrition. It might even help our own redemption.

I'm aware that all known societies have tops and bottoms and layers in between, that there are large human discontents and disappointments--and worse, psychic catastrophes--which even the most generous of politics cannot cure. Freudian psychotherapists and less rigorous advocates of spiritual renewal, clinical Calvinists, devout Buddhists and gurus authentic and decidedly less so, have found in our country a pastoral and professional promised land. Utopia has been privatized: escape from the human condition isn't the least of American dreams. Nonetheless, there is a large place in life for visions of total transformation. Our country, in spite of the bitter realism of its artists and the cynicism of many of its citizens, is the home of a culture of utopia---an action painting, a collage of metahistorical visions and social yearnings. John Winthrop, Roger Williams, the anti-Federalists, Fanny Wright, Thoreau, Wendell Phillips, Brook Farm, Edward Bellamy, the Populists, the IWW, Jane Addams, the Catholic Workers movement, SNCC, the early SDS and Martin Luther King were utterly different and the same: they each wanted a radically better future and they wanted it almost at once.

The imminence of the Millenium has already reactivated some desperate American anti-utopias, of despair, fear and hate: the Survivalists and the protagonists of an Aryan nation as well as the male panic of the Promise Keepers. There is a case to be made for your reminding the nation of another side of our history, in which losers and winners are destined to disappear, to be replaced by citizens who are also achieved human beings.

Sincerely,



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1998

Ms. Mary Brigid Barrett  
President  
National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance  
P.O. Box 634  
Franklin, MA 02038-0634

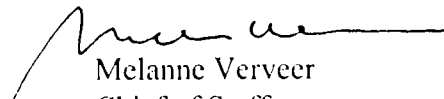
Dear Ms. Barrett:

Thank you very much for your letter and invitation to the First Lady to speak to the national symposium, "Children and Books at a Crossroads" on October 9.

We have forwarded your request to the Director of Scheduling for the First Lady and she will be in touch with you as soon as a decision has been made.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady

THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK AND LITERACY ALLIANCE

Mary Brigid Barrett  
PRESIDENT

P.O. Box 634 Franklin MA 02038-0634  
508.533.5851 Fax 508.820.9184 email mbbarrett@aol.com

2

# THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK AND LITERACY ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 634  
Franklin, MA 01701-0634  
508.820.9590  
508.820.9584  
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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEA/NEA/CA

April 12, 1998

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the First Lady  
Old Executive Office Building, Room 100  
Washington DC 20500

Dear Ms. Verveer,

Enclosed with this letter is an invitation for First Lady, Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton to speak at our national symposium, "Children and Books at a Crossroads," which is being held at and cosponsored by the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library October 9, 1998. Our Board of Directors is grateful that Mrs. Clinton lent her name and reputation in support of our efforts as Honorary Chair of the symposium and her presence at the symposium would be the highlight of what we hope will be an electrifying day.

Maya Angelou has already committed to giving a morning speech concerning reading and books as a transcendent experience in a child's life. Pulitzer Prize winning historian David McCullough will be giving the afternoon keynote speech, weaving together the wide variety of issues which must be addressed in order to successfully confront illiteracy, and putting them in the historical context of the values on which our country has been founded. A morning panel will debate the reasons why we as a nation need to be concerned about children, books and reading. Charles Osgood, who is a member of our Honorary Board of Directors, as well as David McCullough, and Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island, and Senator James Jeffords of Vermont, will be moderating the morning panel discussion. The afternoon session will highlight successful individuals, organizations, and businesses from across the country who are combating the many problems related to childhood literacy with meaningful actions. Catherine Snow, Jean Shall, and Peggy Charren have already committed to appearing as panelists. We will be extending invitations to Tom Brokaw, Jane Alexander, Richard D. Parsons, Marion Wright Edelman, and Oprah Winfrey, amongst others.

We have also formed relationships with the Boston Public Library and the Harvard Graduate School of Education, both of whom are working to help us create a meaningful and exciting symposium.

We also have the full support of many of the major literacy organizations.

The NCBLA has been created by a group of Newbery and Caldecott winning children's authors and illustrators. Patricia and Frederic McKissack, two of the greatest writers of Afro-American history for children, have just joined our active board. The NCBLA is committed not only to drawing the public's attention to the fact that children need to learn how to read, but to educate the public to the need of *continued* literacy from birth to adulthood. For too long the message of childhood literacy has been kept within the confines of the children's book and literacy community, not unlike the wonderful graphic READ posters which the American Library Association has created, but which hang, in of all places, libraries. We do not need READ posters in libraries. We need them on subways and at bus stops. We need them on city billboards and at supermarkets. We need to go beyond the choir and meet people where they live.

Because of our experiences at many literacy conferences, where quite often one finds oneself speaking to the "choir," the invitation only audience at the symposium will consist mainly of individuals and organizations outside of the traditional children's literacy and book community. Invited guests will include national heads and boards of the Boy's and Girl's Clubs, scouting organizations, sports organizations, pediatricians, social service workers, teacher educators, government officials involved with state teacher certification programs, media representatives, and business, government, and community leaders. We have already had preliminary discussions with a number of major media outlets and are making plans for coverage by C-SPAN. A California Internet information service is very interested in covering the entire day live on the Internet.

On a personal note, one of the many reasons I began this organization is that I was one of those children who could have easily fallen through the cracks, one of those children who managed to surmount extremely challenging circumstances because of the magic of story in both fiction and havens. I am the oldest of eight children, responsible for my siblings from the age of ten. I know what it is like to live on the edge, to have nothing but cereal and powered milk to eat for weeks on end. Books helped me to escape. They let me know there were other ways to live and that I could

choose my own life's path. They let me know I was not alone in the world. I now write and illustrate books for children, teach elementary and secondary kids about the wonders of reading and writing, teach young adults writing and illustration at the Rhode Island School of Design- and have created the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance, because I want every child to have the opportunities I had, and from what I see daily in most of the schools I visit, most do not.

Mrs. Clinton has been committed to issues related to children, education, literacy, and the arts her entire life. The Clinton Administration is the first administration to address these issues concretely since the Kennedy-Johnson Administrations. Literally and symbolically, Mrs. Clinton personifies everything that is of vital importance to National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance. Also, the founding board of the NCBLA took the Clinton Administration's call to community service seriously. The last thing any of our board members needed was more work, but we felt that it was time to stop talking about these issues and time for all literacy groups to work together for the first time to address these challenges with actions.

And, I must take a moment and give high praise to a member of your staff who has been unfailingly supportive and helpful, right from the first meeting we had with her over a year ago. Katy Button is not only a delight, but a highly effective, creative young woman, in fact, a joy! I have kept Katy abreast of our development but should you have further questions, or if you would like to meet to discuss things, please do not hesitate to call me at 508.533.5851.

We hope that Mrs. Clinton can attend and speak at our national symposium. Her spirit and commitment to issues related to getting and keeping children reading would provide the biggest adrenaline rush of the day to all who are present.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mary Brigid Barrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Mary Brigid Barrett

President, National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance