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Boston University

Office of the Vice President and
Dean of Students
775 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
617/353-4126 (V/TTY)
Fax: 617/353-4225

June 28, 1993

Eli J. Segal
Assistant to the President and Director
Office of National Service
160 Pennsylvania Avenue
Room 145-OEOB
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Segal:

Since your last correspondence with me indicated support of Boston University's "First in Peace" concept, I am pleased to inform you that we will house fifty unemployed male adolescents from greater Boston's inner-city at Fort Devens, in Ayer, Massachusetts for a four-week summer demonstration program. These youth, ages 14-18, will be housed in barracks and supervised by unemployed veterans. The youth will attend classes on base in the morning and then provide apprentice type community service under the supervision of their veterans. The youth will receive a \$500 stipend, and the veterans a \$1,500 stipend.

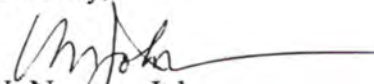
After the summer program concludes, Boston University will continue to follow the youth participants to evaluate the success of the program, and, through contact with their parents and teachers, further assess the program's impact on the lives of the participants. Most importantly, we plan to continue the process initiated in the summer by including these youth in the myriad of community outreach programs at Boston University such as tutoring, health care, and social enrichment.

Now we are working now to complete a Memorandum of Understanding with Ft. Devens so that we can conduct a one week training session for our veterans by July 17, 1993, one week before the youth come aboard on July 24, 1993 for their four week program.

I have taken the liberty of enclosing a fact sheet about our program for your information.

Thank you for your interest and support of First in Peace and I would be most pleased to respond to any questions you may have.

Sincerely,


W. Norman Johnson
Rear Admiral, US Navy (retired)
Vice President and Dean of Students

cc: Colonel Edward Nutall, Commander, Fort Devens
Carter Hunt, Deputy Commander

enclosure



Susan

Very interesting. Close to job corps than service, but what really distinguishes this from YouthBuild or LACC. They're essentially GED programs with a little service/skills training thrown in. This is different primarily in that it's 4 week kids are young & it's residential. It involves veterans.

El.

June - one copy,
then send
to Dean Scott
C. Goodwin
S.

Boston University to Launch Pilot Program

First in Peace

Boston, Massachusetts -- In an effort to relate inner city youths, veterans, and closing military bases, Boston University will conduct an intensive four week pilot program called *First in Peace* at Fort Devens in Ayer, Massachusetts, from July 17 to August 21.

Inspired by an ironic bumper-sticker - "America's Veterans: First in War, Last in Peace!" - Boston University's Vice President and Dean of Students, Rear Admiral W. Norman Johnson, USN (Ret.), conceived a program that would, as its name suggests, encourage veterans to continue their service to the nation in a time of peace by providing them with appropriate training to serve as role-models, mentors, educators - indeed, as surrogate family-for inner city youths while living in residential facilities on closing military bases.

This pilot summer program will bring together twelve recent veterans and fifty youths ranging in age from fourteen to eighteen and of mixed racial, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. The youths will receive supervision and guidance from caring adult role models along with remedial educational, job training, and community service activities. They will learn about personal hygiene, nutrition, remaining substance and violence free, and will receive medical and dental check-ups. And in their free time, they will be able to take advantage of the many recreational facilities such as swimming, tennis, and canoeing.

work
checking
out if
it doesn't
turn out
all people
of color.

After the summer program concludes, Boston University will continue to follow the youth participants to evaluate the success of the program, and, through contact with their parents and teachers, further assess the program's impact on the lives of the participants. Most importantly, the University plans to continue the process initiated in the summer by including these youth in the myriad of community outreach programs at Boston University such as tutoring, health care, and social enrichment.

Additionally, the program will provide employment to veterans who are bearing the economic brunt of the Defense Department's downsizing. Also, as part of the program, the veterans will receive a stipend, along with career training, job skills testing and career/educational advising to enhance their successful transition from military to civilian employment.

In developing the *First in Peace* pilot program, Admiral Johnson said, "The failure of the "Summer Jobs Bill" resulted in thousands of America's young people being unemployed, particularly in our inner cities. These unemployed teenagers will be exposed to drugs, violence and other negative aspects of inner city problems since they will have an inordinate amount of time on their hands. *First in Peace's* summer program will provide meaningful employment for some of these youth--work that is needed by their communities and which could lead to career employment, such as an apprenticeship in a museum or in carpentry. As part of the training we will teach the youth money management skills by helping them wisely budget their stipends. Conflict resolution without violence, community support, and career opportunities will also be addressed."

John Silber, President of Boston University, in support of the *First in Peace* program said, "The veterans represent an extraordinary collection of talent, motivation and commitment. Trained and disciplined, they possess sound moral values along with leadership, technical, and service skills. You're using the [closed] bases. You're providing jobs and skills for the vets. You're reducing violence, educating the kids and providing role models. The potential social and economic benefits are immense."

In conclusion, Admiral Johnson said, "As a young African-American growing up in an urban neighborhood, I chose a career in the military because it offered me a way to meet my obligation to my country and an avenue out of the ghetto into a better life. With the end of the cold war, the military is reducing its forces and closing bases. Subsequently, many Veterans feel their country does not need them. But we need them in peace even more than we needed them in war. We need their skills, their experience, and their commitment in the same urban areas from which many of them came. At the same time, the young people of this nation's inner cities find themselves increasingly trapped in a web of hopelessness as witnessed by the flood of statistics in the media. We forget that there are survivors, children who must be fed, housed, educated, and loved - or lost. *First in Peace* will link two of our most valuable resources: urban youth and military veterans."

Because of its practical employment of veterans, economical alternative uses for closed military bases, and proactive outreach to inner-city youth, *First in Peace* should have the right combination of strengths to commend it as the national model.



9/27 Response
(RB)

National Council of Jewish Women – Daring To Make A Difference
53 West 23rd Street • New York, NY 10010 • (212) 645-4048 • Fax (212) 645-7466

Susan Katz
President

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August 23, 1993

Eli Segal
Assistant to the President and
Director of the Office of National Service
Room 145 - OEOB
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Segal:

As the Executive Director of the National Council of Jewish Women and a member of the American Society of Association Executive's Key Philanthropic Organizations Committee, I am writing to you about a concept for a Conference on Volunteerism and Individual Giving that I would like to discuss with you.

The proposed purpose of the conference would be to focus on the work done by voluntary organizations and the examination of governmental policy recommendations needed to support that work.

The volunteer spirit is a major fact of American life. Over 51.1% of American adults volunteer an average of 4.2 hours per week, or 20.5 billion hours per year in aggregate, through American's associations and other not-for-profit organizations. Voluntary financial contributions by the people of America through these same organizations now exceed 101.8 billion dollars per year. By providing a focus and structure for this outpouring of volunteer time, talent, energy and financial support, these organizations assure that America advances.

Such a conference could be organized as a coalition project of the White House Office of National Service. This conference could provide an opportunity to showcase the National Service.

Susan

Needs response
(+ added to outreach
list) but I assume
no ~~real~~ real
encouragement unless
you feel otherwise.

EL

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I would like to explore with you any interest in this concept and to:

1. determine if the Clinton Administration would be interested in a White House Conference on Volunteerism and Individual Giving;
2. determine the direction the administration would want to take with such a conference if it were held and;
3. to explore what funding and support might be available.

I will be in Washington on September 23rd and would like to schedule a meeting with you at that time.

Sincerely,

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

Iris Gross, CAE
Executive Director



Maryland

Department of Economic & Employment Development

health
safety
envt.
education

William Donald Schaefer

Governor

Mark L. Wasserman

Secretary

Maryland State Arts Council

601 North Howard Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Telephone: (410) 333-8232

Fax: (410) 333-1062

TDD: (410) 333-4519

Sssed
FYI
Eli

August 4, 1993

Mr. Eli Segal
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Segal:

President Clinton helped to codify the arts in education when he announced the Goals 2000: Educate America Act. We applaud and support the inclusion of the arts in this Act. In his current initiative - the National Service bill - the arts have been forgotten. It is our belief that artistic/cultural organizations should be included and encouraged as possible service sites.

The arts are vital in today's world. Studies have shown that the arts enhance learning ability, contribute to improved test scores and achievement levels; help in understanding history, culture and other subjects; and, finally, educate for the workplace, fostering self-esteem, communication, decision making, cooperation, and problem solving. What better way is there to foster the arts than through permitting students to pay for their education by volunteering in the very same organizations that helped to teach them what they need to know today? It is critical to stress arts within the educational system and it is equally important to encourage graduates to volunteer for arts organizations.

As today's leaders, you have the opportunity to ensure that the arts remain an integral part of our society. Public access and involvement in the arts by as many citizens as possible should be a high priority. We urge you to amend the National Service bill to include arts organizations.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Mears

Mary Ann Mears, Chair
Arts Education in Maryland Schools

Anne West

Anne West, Coordinator
Arts Education in Maryland Schools.

August 10, 1993

ELI-
DRAFT LETTER FOR
YOUR REVIEW.
JINA

Stuart E. Whitney
Executive Director
reStart Inc.
918 East 9th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106-3072

Susan

This letter was never sent
because it was buried in
my in box. Jina's letter is
fine. Key question is do we
have systematic way of reaching
out to groups like this and just
responding to their
letters).

Thank you for sending your letter about reStart Inc. Because the President's National Service Initiative is designed to build from the ground up, it can only succeed if focused and innovative programs are developed and replicated all over America.

Enclosed is a fact sheet on the National Service Trust Act. ~~The legislation is close to becoming a law. You will also be put on our mailing list in order to receive future information from our office. Also enclosed is information about ACTION (the Domestic Volunteer Service Act). The National Service Trust Act, if passed, will combine the White House Office of National Service, ACTION, and the Commission on National and Community Service. Programs run under ACTION should remain in their same form and content.~~ along with

National Service will bring out the best in America by strengthening its communities, offering opportunities for learning, and rewarding individual responsibility. I look forward to your continued support for such an important part of the President's agenda.

Sincerely,

Eli J. Segal
Assistant to the President and
Director, Office of National Service

EJS:js



An Interfaith Ministry with Homeless Persons

918 East 9th Street, Kansas City, MO 64106-3072
(816) 472-5664 • FAX (816) 472-6127

July 13, 1993

Mr. Eli Segal
Director of National Service
Old Executive Office Building, Room 145
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Segal:

I have just finished reading about the National Service Trust Act in the Nonprofit World Updates.

We operate a residential program for homeless women, men, youth and families and are interested in knowing how we can relate to the revised programs as set forth in the National Service Trust Act.

We are particularly interested in more information regarding the Corporation for National Service and programs under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 particularly VISTA and Older American Volunteer Programs.

Any information that you could supply would be appreciated.

Sincerely,


Dr. Stuart E. Whitney
Executive Director

August 10, 1993

Deborah E. Benigni
1426 17th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205

ELI -
DRAFT LETTER
FOR YOUR REVIEW
-JINA

Thank you for sending your proposal and newspaper articles about NAPSAC. Because the President's National Service Initiative is designed to build from the ground up, it can only succeed if focused and innovative programs are developed and replicated all over America.

The President has chosen four priority areas on which to concentrate. You will be happy to know that one of those priority areas is the environment.

Enclosed is a fact sheet on the National Service Trust Act. The legislation is close to becoming a law. You will also be put on our mailing list in order to receive future information from our office. It is possible that we will send out a request for proposals as early as the spring of 1994.

National Service will bring out the best in America by strengthening its communities, offering opportunities for learning, and rewarding individual responsibility. I look forward to your continued support for such an important part of the President's agenda.

Sincerely,

Eli J. Segal
Assistant to the President and
Director, Office of National Service

EJS:js



THURSDAY
COM TO DA

Susan
EL

July 16, 1993

Deborah E. Benigni

1426 17th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205

(813) 746-6550
FAX (813) 954-1036

Mr. Eli Siegal
Aide to President Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Siegal:

Some weeks ago I provided you with a copy of the **New American Park Service Auxiliary Corps (NAPSAC)** proposal for student loan repayment. As you are aware, both houses of Congress are currently examining President Clinton's proposed National Service Trust Act of 1993. It is my hope that you have had an opportunity to examine my proposal and that NAPSAC may someday be a small part of this historic legislation.

Over the past several months NAPSAC has received widespread attention herein southwest Florida from The St. Petersburg Times, The Bradenton Herald, and WBSV TV-62. Copies of the articles are enclosed for your reference.

Being a college graduate who is in a position to need and utilize the National Service Trust to its fullest extent, I would like to make you aware that I AM WILLING TO TESTIFY before the Senate and House Committee Hearings (at my own expense if necessary) in an effort to ensure the passage of a workable National Service Initiative.

Thank you for taking the time to review my request and the NAPSAC proposal. I look forward to corresponding with your office in the future.

Very truly yours,

Deborah E. Benigni



Deborah E. Benigni
1426 17th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
(813) 746-6550
FAX (813) 954-1036

MONDAY
June 14, 1993

**Phoenix wins
in three OTs**
Suns close gap in NBA
Finals with 129-121 win
over Chicago. **In Sports**

TODAY IN
PG*

When a woman has a miscarriage, it's often a loss she suffers silently — and one that friends and family may not understand.

PLUS:

- Parent Exchange
- Family Movie Guide
- Kids and pets

St. Petersburg Times

Weather High, near 90;
40% chance of rain. 28

Florida's Best Newspaper

25 cents

Attacking 2 problems with 1 job

■ Deborah Benigni thinks she has an idea that will help unemployed college graduates and the national parks.

By **DIANE RADO**
Times Staff Writer

Everything was supposed to go smoothly.

A college education. A job. An easy path to paying off \$10,000 in student loans.

But things didn't go as planned for Deborah Benigni of Bradenton, who graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a broadcasting degree in May 1991.

She stacked up 70 or so rejection letters looking for a job. She worked for free, trying to get her foot in the door in public relations and marketing. She worked for minimum wage at the mall.

She finally managed to get a part-time job at a small advertising agency in Bradenton.

Meanwhile, the government was calling: Remember all those loans you got for college? Time to start paying them back.

Benigni was able to get a temporary deferment on paying back the loans. But she also began thinking about changing the system for other recent college graduates in her shoes — jobless, disillusioned and saddled with student loans.

"In the '80s, college graduates immediately walked into big jobs and we just assumed . . . that when we came out that was going to continue," said Benigni. "It didn't."

Rather than feeling sorry for herself, she got to work.

Benigni decided to propose an alternative plan for paying off student loans and she has been writing to Florida lawmakers, other state officials,

representatives in Washington, D.C. — even the White House.

Her plan combines President Bill Clinton's proposals for encouraging young people to pay for education or repay student loans through public service, and her concerns about the national parks system, which has been burdened by budget problems, lack of adequate staff and poor pay and training for employees.

"It just clicked: Why not take two areas having problems (the parks and unemployed graduates) and use them to solve each other," said Benigni.

Her proposal: The "New American Park Service Auxiliary Corps," NAPSAC for short. NAPSAC would allow college graduates to pay back their loans by working in one of the country's national parks.

Please see **JOB 5B**



Deborah Benigni thinks graduates would rather work at parks than McDonald's.

Job from 1B

Under the program, graduates would enlist in the corps and agree to pay back their loans, as well as the interest that would accrue over 10 years, through service at a national park.

NAPSAC would immediately pay back the principal, to a maximum of \$5,000, but would keep the interest and use it to run the program.

The enlistees would receive basic federal government medical coverage; group housing; uniforms; use of park service vehicles for transportation to and from work, and a \$100 a week tax-exempt stipend to cover food and expenses.

The plan combines President Clinton's proposals for encouraging young people to pay for education or repay student loans through public service, and a concern for national parks.

The minimum cost of the program per participant would be about \$15,000 a year, which Benigni says is less than what first-year rangers and many other parks staffers earn.

The advantages would be many, she says. Among them: The National Parks system would receive additional ranger staff and increase the visitor-to-ranger ratio, and the NAPSAC program would help decrease the number of defaults on student loans.

Benigni has gotten lots of encouragement and nice letters about her proposal, including one from Vice President Al Gore.

"You have raised a very interesting issue, and I agree that it merits thorough consideration," Gore wrote. "As I work with the President to pursue goals of particular importance to the American people, I know that I will benefit from your views."

Benigni says she'd like to go from encouragement to action on her proposal. That hasn't happened.

Larry Arnold, director of Florida's Office of Student Financial Assistance, said he isn't sure a program like Benigni's would change things dramatically.

"You're still going to have defaults out there," he said. The loan default rate has remained fairly steady because of better collection efforts and other changes, Arnold said. The national default rate is about 13 percent or 14 percent now, and Florida's default rate is similar, Arnold said.

He said he has seen surveys that indicate many graduates would not want to participate in a pay-back program that involves public service. "The expectation of those that will work would be about 10 percent of total borrowers," Arnold said.

Benigni acknowledges that working in a national park wouldn't be for everyone.

But a desperate, unemployed college graduate might consider it.

"I've talked to a number of people in this situation, and when your options are a national park or McDonald's, what would you choose?" Benigni said.

"I worked in a mall for four months and it drove me nuts. I'd sooner be out in the woods somewhere. Bears are sometimes easier to deal with than people."

Benigni acknowledged her proposal will need some fine-tuning, but meanwhile she'll continue pushing it with anyone who will listen. She recently sent a copy to Ross Perot.

"Whoever it takes to get it out there, we're going to try it," she said.

Over Please

The Bradenton Herald

VOL. 71 NO. 294

MONDAY, JULY 5, 1993

BRADENTON, FLORIDA

25 CENTS \$2.25/WEEK

Graduate's plan would 'park' debts

JANET PRESHHA
Herald Staff Writer

Deborah Benigni graduated from Penn State University two years ago with a bachelor of arts degree in broadcasting under one arm and \$15,000 of debt under the other.



Because she works part-time at a local advertising agency making less than \$10,000 a year, the 24-year-old Bradenton woman can't pay off her college loans.

So, Benigni came up with an idea to help college graduates in debt.

"There are so many people in my situation (unable to pay

back loans) and can't get a job," Benigni said. "Something needs to be done."

Benigni's proposal, The New American Park Service Auxiliary Corps, is an alternative to the Clinton administration's proposal for student loan repayment.

PLAN

From B-1

Under Benigni's plan, college graduates would enlist to assist a park ranger in one of the 360 national parks.

Participants agree to work enough hours to redeem the principal and interest of the loan within 10 years. They receive a \$100 stipend, housing and medical coverage.

Benigni's idea for the proposal came from a documentary.

"I thought why not use the parks; they are a contained model," she said. "It is working within something that exists. Every summer I visited parks, and they are an important piece of America getting sideswiped by

budget cuts."

Benigni has sent the proposal to various lawmakers and government officials and asked for help. Benigni said she received unenthusiastic replies from President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, but did get help from state Rep. Julie McClure, D-Bradenton.

"She is the only one that really listens to me," Benigni said of McClure.

Benigni said she wants a program that works and a full-time job.

"My primary concerns are that a lot of people are out of school and need a program like this," she said. "And if the administration wants to put in a program, why not benefit the parks?"

PLAN

To B-2



North Carolina State University

College of Education and Psychology

Department of Educational Leadership and
Program Evaluation
608 Poe Hall
Box 7801
Raleigh, N. C. 27695-7801
(919) 515-3127
FAX: (919) 515-7634

9/7/93

Susan Stroud, Senior Advisor
Office of National Service
Room 145
Old Executive Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20500

Dear Ms. Stroud:

I have just read with great interest your remarks on national service delivered at the AAHE Conference on Higher Education in March. In particular, I was impressed with your openness to ideas as to the college and university's role in formulating service options, and would welcome copies of any of your other articles and papers on the topic. May I also receive a copy of President Clinton's Rutgers speech?

Having conducted research on students' community service for some years, my sense is that many undergraduates undertake off-campus service work partly out of frustration with their own colleges and universities. Despite the good efforts of Campus Compact, COOL, and other groups, there is often a perception that campuses provide few opportunities for direct, responsible involvement in pro bono activity. It is not surprising then that preliminary results from my new study show that students overwhelmingly support the idea of national service. Moreover, about two-thirds of sample members are themselves interested in participating in the program.

Thanks for considering my request for papers, and best wishes as you press forward with the implementation of national service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Serow".

Robert C. Serow, Ph.D.
Associate Professor



LOS ALAMOS COUNTY

P.O. Box 30, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544 (505) 662-8120

Community Development
Department

September 9, 1993

Mr. Eric Segal
Office of National Service
Whitehouse, Room 145 OEOB
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Segal:

I am interested in using some "youth corps" groups performing national service under President Clinton's new plan.

What is the process involved? When do you expect the program to be up and running? Will there be a state/local office I should work with?

Please advise.

Thank you.

Lisa Brown
Community Development Coordinator

LB/vm