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[Miscellaneous News Articles About AmeriCorps] [loose] [1]

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Fear of empowering communities

George F. Will's article "Clinton still serving up half-baked liberalism" (Star Tribune, Jan. 29) was so filled with misinformation it made me wonder how he came up with the title "half-baked."

As director of an AmeriCorps program in Minneapolis, I am disheartened to think that thousands of readers might take this information as the truth.

Will claims that 2.9 million of America's 80 million volunteers are ages 18 to 25, but said nothing about their average income level or where they volunteer. AmeriCorps involves people from communities in which they live providing the service and solutions to solve their own community's problems.

Eighty percent of our AmeriCorps members come from low-income homes, many of them below the poverty line. We have mem-

bers from 12 cultures who collectively speak nine different languages. They are learning how to work together, how to communicate with each other, learning how to solve community problems. All this in a society filled with multiculturalism and unfortunately senseless violence. AmeriCorps members go home to neighbors whose children they tutor, coach, teach karate, etc., all as a part of their service.

Will talks about the Washington bureaucracy, how much money is spent to recruit members. We recruited our members by going into the communities where they would be working. We did not have to go far; soon people were coming to us. We found people looking for any opportunity to give to their own communities and be able to feed themselves, help their families and attend school.

Will describes the work members are doing as political. One of our society's growing social ills is apathy toward our political system. No more than half of our population votes. Many of the nonvoters are undereducated, low-income people of color — the same people who make up our AmeriCorps program.

AmeriCorps encourages people to become active in their communities, to stand up for what is believed in. I always thought that concept was an American value. Maybe Will and other conservatives don't want undereducated, low-income people of color to become politically active and stand up for what they believe in.

We have AmeriCorps members who were raised on public assistance working to better their communities. It is easy to assume all people should be able to volunteer, hold a

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spurs AmeriCorps foes

job, pay for their child's or their own education and still be able to eat out once in a while. I wonder who pays for Will's children's education. We have AmeriCorps members putting in 35 hours a week, working a second job and attending school. We have AmeriCorps members who will be the first in their families to attend a postsecondary educational institution.

Without AmeriCorps many of our members would be working minimum-wage jobs and education would be a faraway dream. Education in this country is for people with money. AmeriCorps is trying to give others a chance.

Will and the New Citizenship project state that AmeriCorps members get paid \$7 an hour. Members earn \$636 a month and must complete 1,700 hours of service; this equals \$4.48 an hour. Yes, they get some-

thing called health benefits, \$100 deductible with 80 percent coverage after that. Most members use sliding-fee clinics because they cannot afford to pay the deductible. Children are not covered. The education voucher given to members on completion of the 1,700 hours of service can *only* be used for tuition and to pay back student loans.

I would say the fierce show against the AmeriCorps program by the new Republican Congress has more to do with fear of empowering communities.

It would be nice if George Will could use his intellect to figure out ways we could strengthen our communities instead of attacking a program doing just that.

Andrea Breen, Minneapolis. Director, AmeriCorps — Pillsbury Neighborhood Services.

AmeriCorps crew sweats to polish a scenic route

*Minneapolis' miles of greenery
are nation's first urban byway*

By Steve Brandt
Star Tribune Staff Writer

*Min Star Trib
5/29/96 B1*

For the last six weeks, Ted Arndt and the crew of 11 he leads have sweated over Minneapolis.

They've burned prairies, obliterated cattails, rooted out trees, grubbed earth — all in the name of improvements at some of the city's best-known parks. They've also planted willow slips, built a boardwalk and spread wood chips.

**"I somehow
don't think they
envisioned the
possibility of
urban byways."**

— Dennis Adams,
Minnesota's byways
program manager.

The AmeriCorps volunteers are one benefit of the designation of the Minneapolis parkways Grand Round as a scenic byway — the first in the nation that's not a rural road.

"One of the things that struck us was that it was an urban scenic byway. People still tend

to think of that as a foreign concept," said Drew Cramer, spokesman for the American Recreation Coalition, which helped to organize a recent conference in Washington, D.C., that gave Minneapolis officials a chance to show off the Grand Round.

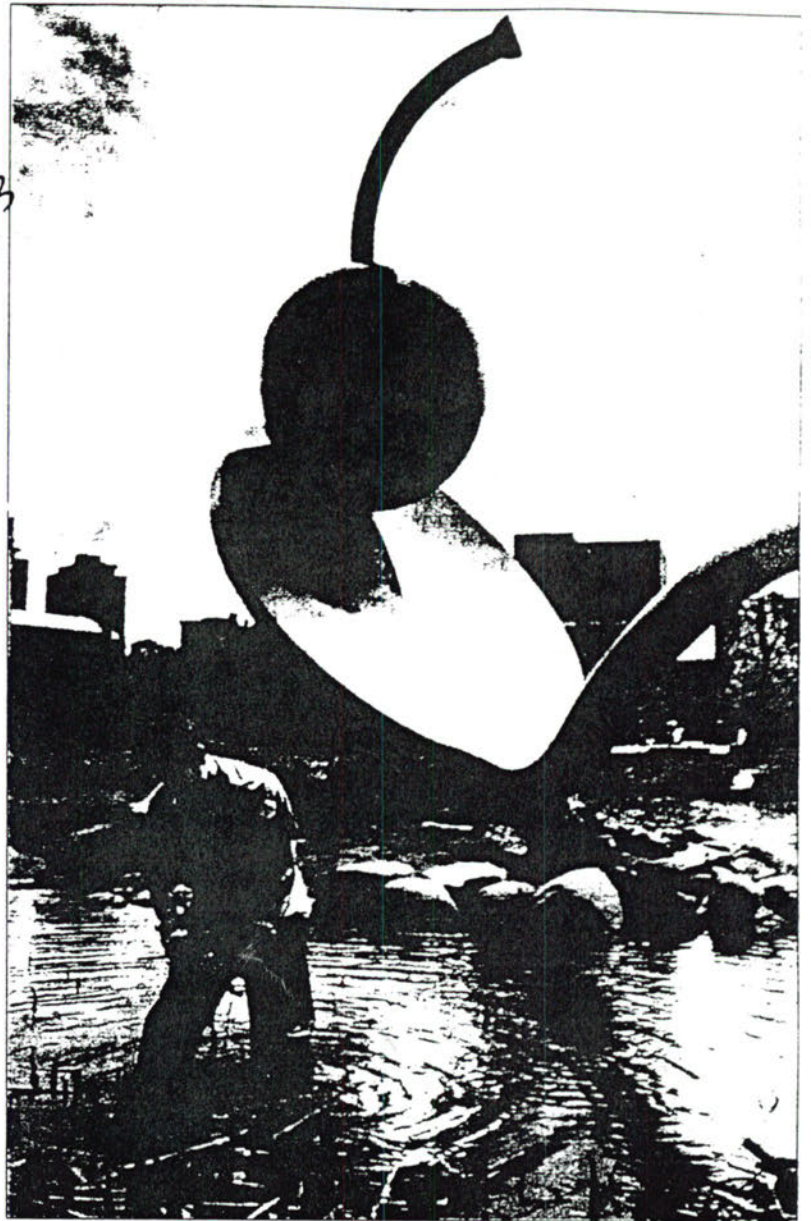
Turn to BYWAY on B7 for:

— For volunteer crew, park work is a good fit.

— A list of the state's scenic byways.

Also on B7:

— Meet a bilingual AmeriCorps volunteer who is helping Minneapolis middle schoolers understand their home economics lessons.



Star Tribune Photo by Cheryl A. Meyer

Ted Arndt, who leads a crew of 11 AmeriCorps volunteers, worked in the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden last week to remove cattails from the reflecting pool of "Spoonbridge and Cherry." The Sculpture Garden is part of the Minneapolis scenic byway, a 53-mile network of parks and parkways.

BYWAY from B1

AmeriCorps muscle spruces up scenic byway – in Minneapolis

The Las Vegas strip recently was designated a night scenic byway.

The Minneapolis parkway designation was made last year by Minnesota's scenic byways commission, which has approved eight other routes as official byways. They've been picked for their scenic, natural, cultural, historic, archaeological and recreational features. The designation also means the park system can seek federal money earmarked for byways.

"I somehow don't think they envisioned the possibility of urban byways," said Dennis Adams, the state's byways program manager.

The Park Board hasn't publicized the designation, made almost a year ago, but it soon will become evident. By midsummer, brightly colored scenic byway markers will go up at key intersections along the 53-mile route.

A route map with highlights of attractions along the parkways has also been published. Some of those highlights include the city lakes, St. Anthony Falls and the milling district, the Stone Arch Bridge, Minnehaha Falls, the quaking bog at Wirth Park, Victory Memorial Pkwy. and the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden.

Park officials are seeking \$340,000 from federal funds earmarked for byway development. The money would be used to develop an interactive kiosk at the Longfellow House at Minnehaha

Park that would dispense information about the Grand Round and to update other kiosks scattered along the route, according to Mary Barrick, a park research planner.

A good fit

To Arndt, the leader of the work crew drawn from AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), working in city parks has been "an ideal project for a team to be involved with."

One of their roughest tasks was the removal of unwanted buckthorn trees in the lower gorge of Minnehaha Park, a job that seemed never-ending at times. "I think we put them back 30 or 40 years," Arndt said of the invasive vegetation. The team then built an 850-foot boardwalk through the glen.

Their work in Minnehaha was alongside visual reminders of the contributions of public works projects. The park still has walls built by the employment programs of the WPA (Work Projects Administration) of the 1930s.

"It makes you think that what we're preparing is something that I could bring my grandchildren back to," said team member Megan Hill, 22, of Columbus, Ohio. Indeed, team members have met Civilian Conservation Corps veterans of the 1930s at the team's base near Denver.

"Whenever I talk to them, I see the look in their eye," said Arndt. It's

Minnesota's scenic byways

The state's scenic byways commission has approved nine routes as official byways because of their scenic, natural, cultural, historic, archaeological and recreational features. The designation also allows routes to seek federal money earmarked for byways. The state expects to have signs along all the byways within the next month.

- **Hlawatha Apple Blossom Drive:** About 17 miles on county roads near La Crescent in southeastern Minnesota.
- **Edge of the Wilderness Drive:** 41 miles on Hwy. 38 from Grand Rapids to Effie in Itasca County.
- **Hwy. 210:** 9 miles, from Carlton to Hwy. 23 (through Jay Cooke State Park).
- **Root River Trail:** 88 miles in southeastern Minnesota on Hwy. 16 from La Crescent to Dexter.
- **Great River Road:** The 730 miles of Great River Road along the Mississippi in Minnesota.
- **Shooting Star Scenic Byway:** 32 miles in far southern Minnesota on Hwy. 56 from Hwy. 63 to Interstate Hwy. 90.
- **Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway:** At least 150 miles of state and county roads along the river from Browns Valley to Belle Plaine.
- **Otter Trail:** A loop of 150 miles of state and county roads in Otter Tail County in western Minnesota.
- **Minneapolis Grand Rounds:** 53 miles in the Minneapolis parkway system.

a look of envy for the young AmeriCorps volunteers, and pride in past achievements. "For many of them, it's the glory years of their lives."

Community service

Besides team projects, the AmeriCorps team members are expected to do community service. For Francie Bell, 18, of San Jose, Calif., that meant helping build a new playground at the Northwest YMCA in New Hope.

Arndt described AmeriCorps as a good place for people who aren't yet sure what to do with their lives. He's 25, an Omaha native and an economics graduate from the Uni-

versity of Nebraska. But his first work as a corps member last year involved teaching, and he's now planning to return to college to be trained as a teacher.

When the team's 10 months of service are up late this summer, Hill plans to go to Louisiana, to live with her husband, who's in the military, and to finish her degree in math. Bell plans to start junior college in San Jose, studying engineering and computer science.

After Minneapolis, most of the crew returns to Denver to work as mentors for at-risk children, but Arndt and three others will provide help at the Atlanta Olympic games.



Americorps member Justin White wrestles with the mud in a Waldoboro flat Tuesday while laying a net to protect seed clams from predators. (NEWS Photos by Bruce Kyle)

Group seeds clam beds

Americorps members set up growth experiments

By Bruce Kyle
Of the NEWS Staff

WALDOBORO — It's a long way from the azalea gardens of Augusta, Ga., to the mud flats of Waldoboro, but for Americorps's Marjorie Goldberg, a day seeding clam beds was a truly "oozesome" experience.

"This is my first time on a flat — we don't have anything like this in Georgia," the Americorps team leader said through a mask of muck Tuesday. "I never anticipated being in mud halfway to my knees when I signed up, but it's great. It's kind of fun to play in, plus we're doing something worthwhile."

What Goldberg and 20 other Americorps members were doing wallowing about in Arthur's Cove at low tide was setting up protected clam beds and growth experiments, part of the Seeding For Maine's Future program going on along the coast on the designated National Day of Service.

Americorps, called the domestic Peace Corps, has more than 100 members in Maine, working in projects in conservation, outdoor recreation, agriculture, public health, homelessness, education and youth programs. Members commit to a year of service and receive a living allowance, health insurance and a financial award for education.

Also on Tuesday, Americorps members and other volunteers were in Lubec's Cobscook Bay, seeding 20,000 clams in two nets and 5,000 clams in each of five protector pockets. In Casco Bay, volunteers in South

See Clams, B3, Col. 1



Marjorie Goldberg

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17TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995, The Commercial Appeal
The Commercial Appeal (Memphis)

January 26, 1995, Thursday, Final Edition

SECTION: NEIGHBORS (Thursday Only), Pg. 8CE

LENGTH: 602 words

HEADLINE: Theater aims to create voice for teen parents ,
Northside program is outlet for kids

BYLINE: Robert K. Gordon, Special to The Commercial Appeal

BODY:

The best way to communicate with young people is through other young people.

That is the hope of a now-forming improvisational theater group of teen parents from the infant care center at Northside High School.

The effort is being made possible by an \$ 11,896 Learn and Serve grant from the Tennessee Commission on National and Community Service, which oversees national service funding.

Porter-Leath Children's Center, a nonprofit child welfare agency in North Memphis that oversees the center at Northside, received the grant.

It is designed for 20 teen parents - mostly mothers - to address issues facing teens such as teen parenting, sexual harassment and date rape through theater.

"Teens relate to one another better in talking about teen issues," said Stephanie Cassell, supervisor of special projects at Porter-Leath. "There is a better sense of credibility."

Cassell said the theater group will act as an outlet for the teen mothers, giving them the opportunity to express what they think and feel.

"It will help them build self-esteem," she said.

Bill Baker, project coordinator for BRIDGE, an alcohol prevention theater group at the University of Memphis, will work with the teens. Weekly training sessions begin today at Northside.

Baker said no acting talent is required.

"The only thing required is a willingness to play," he said. "I think we all like to play."

He anticipates the group will debut in April.

Cassell said anyone interested in having the group perform should call Porter-Leath. She hopes the group can perform at other high schools, churches and community centers.

The Commercial Appeal, January 26, 1995

Baker said he will train the actors using games and exercises made popular by Brazilian theater director Augusto Boal.

One technique calls for the participant to make an image of what is oppressing them, even using other participants and audience members as props. Baker said someone else may react to what they see, and add another aspect.

Once they start performing, Baker said the actors will have no lines to learn, only an issue to address.

Sonya Smith, program manager at Northside's infant center, said she hopes the theater group will open up a new world and be a source of encouragement for those who participate.

"Some of them have been no further than (North Memphis), so the exposure will be good for them.

"In talking with some of the mothers, I have found that some of them have been molested, or they are in a cycle of welfare, or they think that they don't need a man's help in raising a child. To them, that's normal," Smith said.

"By addressing these issues, I hope it will raise questions in their minds about the lives they lead. I want them to start thinking."

Carol White, executive director of the year-old, Nashville-based Tennessee Commission on National and Community Service, said the program benefits participants and allows them to serve their communities.

"One of the most effective ways to communicate with youngsters is through their peers, and when you teach something, you learn yourself."

The Porter-Leath grant runs through the end of the year. Cassell said she will know by the spring if Porter-Leath can renew the grant.

The Tennessee Commission awarded 12 such grants last month to nonprofit, community-based organizations. The grants, from \$ 10,000 to \$ 15,000, also focus on such issues as environmental education, conflict resolution and recycling.

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18TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The Dayton Daily News
The Dayton Daily News

January 26, 1995, THURSDAY, CITY EDITION

SECTION: OP ED, Pg. 15A

LENGTH: 764 words

HEADLINE: WHAT'S A VOLUNTEER?;
GOP WRONG TO CHALLENGE CLINTON'S AMERICORPS PROGRAM

BYLINE: Marianne Means

BODY:

House Speaker Newt Gingrich wants to kill the Clinton administration's national service program because, he claims, it is "coerced volunteerism," a tortured concept he just invented.

The man who had a \$ 4.5 million book deal approves of volunteerism, mind you, he just disapproves when it doesn't spring from a selfless desire to work for free, but actually results in concrete rather than purely spiritual reward.

Cute Newtspeak. Clever Newtogoguery. This is the most convoluted act since Rose Mary Woods demonstrated how she struck a foot pedal barely within reach to accidentally erase 18 crucial minutes from a Nixon Watergate tape.

The president's program, called AmeriCorps, puts young men and women at work on public service projects for a year at the minimum wage. They are rewarded with \$ 4,725 in education vouchers, to be put toward college tuition or paying off college loans.

They commit to a regular full week's work, unlike the traditional unpaid Gingrich-preferred volunteer, who serves perhaps an hour or so a week, when he or she can find time away from job and family responsibilities.

National service corps participants aren't forced to join this program; they must apply of their own free will. No coercion is involved. No government rope snares them in, no federal trap compels them. Far more people are clamoring to get in the program than funds can support.

And government incentives to prompt people to do what they should be doing in the first place is a social policy as old as communal living itself.

Republicans, in fact, have no objections to such stimuli when they come in the form of tax breaks, tax credits or subsidies to lure private industry or wealthy individuals into preferred development, investment or regulatory strategies.

The service corps is a domestic version of President Kennedy's famous Peace Corps. It is designed to encourage good citizenship, provide needed civic service and help deserving young people go to college all at the same time.

It combines idealism and practicality, opportunity and responsibility. What could be wrong with that?

The Dayton Daily News, January 26, 1995

It has President Clinton's name on it, that's what's wrong. It might, if left intact, become a positive part of his historical legacy.

The resurgent congressional Republicans would like to wipe out every trace of Clinton's presence in the White House. He has mightily offended them by reversing major policies of the Reagan-Bush era and shifting some spending from the Pentagon toward domestic initiatives.

The national service corps, a Clinton campaign pledge, is the one program with which the president is totally identified. "It represents everything I wanted to do," Clinton says.

The Republicans complain that it is just more pork from big Democratic spenders. They hope that by slapping a big government label on it they can do in the program just as they did in the Clinton health plan.

But AmeriCorps volunteers aren't reporting to some big new bureaucracy. They go to work for established local community and philanthropic groups that are already serving the public in a wide range of ways, helping flood victims, repairing low-income housing, bringing supplies to elderly shut-ins, teaching illiterate adults to read and so forth.

Local government officials, not Washington bureaucrats, choose which organizations are to be helped. A small federal agency with a powerful inspector general was created primarily to monitor costs and conflicts of interest.

The cost, as federal budgets go, is not much. The program will fund 33,000 service jobs this year on a \$ 350 million budget. It could eventually put 100,000 young men and women to work - and help them go to college - at a cost of \$ 1.5 billion.

Republicans also contend that reimbursing volunteers is bad policy because it will discourage millions of young people already doing community service from offering their services for free.

This is unrealistic, not to say hypocritical. Most current volunteers serve intermittently, part-time, and are financially secure. The program is aimed at providing reliable, consistent service from young people needing financial help to go to college who are also dependent upon earning an income for daily survival.

President Clinton vows to fight for AmeriCorps. It is one of the places he has chosen to draw a line in the sand against the aggressive GOP challenge. He is correct on the merits. And it is the minimum pluck he must show if he is to earn a second term.

* MARIANNE MEANS is a syndicated columnist for Hearst Newspapers.

LOAD-DATE-MDC: January 28, 1995

The San Francisco Chronicle, JANUARY 26, 1995

JEAN WHITAKER

URBAN WHITAKER

San Bruno

GREEN CORPS' SUCCESS

Editor -- Regarding Mr. Gingrich's vehement opposition to national service (Chronicle, January 17), I point to the early success of many new AmeriCorps programs like Neighborhood Green Corps.

I am a team member with Neighborhood Green Corps, one of 55 young people working in teams from Dudley Street, Boston, to South Central L.A. on three urban environmental service projects. Our teams work in partnership with community-based organizations like Economic and Social Opportunities, Inc., a nonprofit organization in San Jose. Together we tackled critical environmental problems like energy conservation by weatherizing homes of low-income families. We also reached over 2,000 children through public school outreach. Our other projects deal with childhood lead poisoning prevention and community gar dens.

In the long run, our communities are bolstered by the energetic impact of national service participants like myself and my four team mates. More importantly, we carry with us the pride of accomplishment, the skills to get things done in our future pursuits, and an ethic of service to our country that doesn't just appear out of nowhere.

No, national service is not a "gimmick." It is an investment, and unlike many high-risk investments that go bust and leave taxpayers footing the bill, this one's a sure thing.

Don't throw the baby out with the bath water. Keep National Service.

CAROLINE PHILSON

San Jose

'THE BIG LIE'

Editor -- A recent letter printed in this department referred to Rush Limbaugh as "the most knowledgeable, articulate person in the country." Rush himself claims that if he is in error he will proclaim it at the start of his show.

I must agree that he is articulate, but if he is knowledgeable, then he must be dishonest to repeat total falsehoods in spite of properly informed objections.

One of his favorite claims is that volcanoes do more harm to the ozone layer than man-made chemicals. He calls authoritative sources such as Dr. Sherwood Rowland, an atmospheric chemist, and Science magazine "environmental wackos." The scientific fact is that chlorine from natural sources is soluble, and so it gets rained out of the lower atmosphere, while CFCs are insoluble and inert and thus make it to the stratosphere to release their chlorine. It seems that Rush has confused "global warming" with the ozone layer.

2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The Kansas City Star Co.
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

February 1, 1995 Wednesday METROPOLITAN EDITION

SECTION: OPINION; Pg. C6

LENGTH: 439 words

HEADLINE: The AmeriCorps debate

BYLINE: BILL TAMMEUS

BODY:

President Clinton, in his recent State of the Union address, called AmeriCorps "citizenship at its best. " Earlier, he'd called it "one achievement I could say I was most proud of. "

But House Speaker Newt Gingrich says this national service plan, sort of a domestic Peace Corps, is "the perfect, classic example of why people are furious about government and enraged at politicians. "

Both men, to put it kindly, overstate their cases. Gingrich, however, is considerably more off the mark than the president. Bill Clinton should win this argument. The new Republican Congress should find other fish to fry.

This is not to say there can't be economies in such programs.

For instance, AmeriCorps' administrative costs include a \$ 1.7 million contract with a public relations firm. Surely that could be cut. And there simply must be strict accountability and close financial oversight of the program, budgeted at \$ 1.5 billion over three years. But such measures should make the program more efficient, not kill it. One Republican, Christopher Shays of Connecticut, calls AmeriCorps "the most important program that has been adopted in the last 10 years. "

AmeriCorps now has about 20,000 members in more than 300 projects around the country, and thus is larger than was the Peace Corps at its height. The program allows for people to earn a minimum wage (plus health insurance and child care) and earn a credit of up to \$ 4,725 a year for their college costs.

Evidence suggests that AmeriCorps members are doing important work and helping many communities, including Kansas City, where Kansas City Consensus leads 22 agencies using AmeriCorps workers.

In fact, one Kansas City AmeriCorps worker, LeRon Fields, was chosen to attend the State of the Union speech to honor his work here with the Blue Hills Together anti-crime program. Kansas City police praise that program for helping to shut down a dozen crack houses and reclaim a neighborhood park from gangs and drug dealers.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR, February 1, 1995, Wednesday

AmeriCorps needs close financial oversight and constant evaluation to make sure it's doing what it should. But if managed wisely, it will make a relatively inexpensive investment in the country's future by helping people save for a college education and, at the same time, letting them do valuable community service.

In its publicly pronounced zeal for savings, Congress certainly should keep its eye on AmeriCorps. But until AmeriCorps proves itself unworthy, Congress should let it live.

LOAD-DATE-MDC: February 01, 1995

2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 American Political Network, Inc.
Daily Report Card

February 1, 1995

SECTION: SERVING THE COMMUNITY

LENGTH: 454 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON'S AMERICORPS: DOES IT HAVE STAYING POWER?

BODY:

A nagging question hangs over the heads of AmeriCorps supporters and volunteers: Will AmeriCorps last through a Republican-controlled Congress?

AmeriCorps is President Bill Clinton's domestic Peace Corps program. Already it is "larger than the Peace Corps at its peak in the 1960s," writes the WASH. POST (Sanchez, 1/31). Volunteers work in education, environment, poverty and public safety programs for "minimum wage, health benefits and an annual tuition grant of \$4,725," according to the paper. Approximately 200,000 young people are volunteering in 350 community service programs nationwide.

But detractors allege the program is an improper use of taxpayer dollars. The POST reports that some critics charge AmeriCorps "is more big-government liberalism that could undermine unpaid volunteerism, produce only marginal benefits for needy communities and burden civic groups with new federal rules." U.S. Senator Charles Grassley (R-Iowa): "The AmeriCorps program invites tremendous skepticism. It turns upside down the concept of volunteerism in American life by paying people to do government-defined 'volunteer' tasks."

Eli Segal, AmeriCorps director, counters critics by claiming the program accomplishes what Republicans want: federal money directed to local communities without "interference from Washington," writes the POST. "This is smart government," said Segal. "We don't want AmeriCorps members to feel better about themselves in a year, but have nothing change in their communities. This is about getting things done."

While AmeriCorps is budgeted for \$700M and 33,000 members next year, its days may be numbered. Newly elected House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) on AmeriCorps: "(I am) totally, unequivocally opposed (to AmeriCorps).

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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4TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 Investor's Business Daily, Inc.
Investor's Business Daily

February 1, 1995

SECTION: The Guest Editorial; Pg. A2

LENGTH: 835 words

BODY:

PG A2 TITLE The Guest Editorial ;fe> >G U E S T E D I T O R I A L Phony
Voluntarism By JOHN P. WALTERS

President Clinton's AmeriCorps program, a domestic Peace Corps that seeks to inspire 100,000 college-age individuals to undertake community service, seems like a worthy attempt to reverse the decline in civic responsibility.

In fact, it does just the opposite, undermining genuine voluntarism and promoting government-oriented activism. National leaders who truly care about revitalizing our domestic institutions must fight to end the program.

Highlighting the program in last week's State of the Union address, the president called AmeriCorps "the essence" of his vision for the future, "the New Covenant." Sadly, this vision is as full of holes as his claim to be a "New Democrat."

To begin with, there is the obvious contradiction: paid voluntarism. The average "volunteer" will receive a \$ 7,400 annual stipend, plus \$ 9,450 toward payment of higher education debts. That's more than \$ 7 an hour. And this does not include the program's automatic health- and child-care benefits, the cost of its Washington-based bureaucrats, or the \$ 1.7 million AmeriCorps national ad campaign.

AmeriCorps will undermine healthy voluntarism. Roughly 80 million Americans now serve as unpaid volunteers, notably in religious organizations, which have been the backbone of community service for most of U.S. history.

Countless groups offer night and weekend volunteer opportunities to better enlist the energies of working people and students -without pay, in their spare time. Genuine voluntarism flourishes when individuals understand that they - not government workers, however well-intentioned - are key to assuring their own well-being and the health of their community.

Paid "voluntarism" will discourage the real thing - precisely the type of perverse incentive that is the hallmark of the welfare state. In Baltimore's Summer of Service program, for example, one "volunteer," disappointed that community members did not show up to assist in cleaning up broken glass, tried to persuade passers-by to help. The typical response: "If you're already cleaning up, why should I help you?"

For all its faults, even the Great Society's federal "volunteer" boondoggle, VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), prevented its "volunteers" from providing direct services.

Investor's Business Daily, February 1, 1995

By attempting to bolster a successful private activity - voluntary community service - with an infusion of federal tax dollars, AmeriCorps will encourage community organizations to become dependencies of the federal government. In the process, local control takes a back seat to federal grant-seeking.

Moreover, AmeriCorps' ethic promotes the federal bureaucracy as an ideal venue of service. More than 1,200 of the first 20,000 "volunteers" have been assigned to federal agencies, including the National Endowment for the Arts, the Legal Services Corporation and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The program is ripe for abuse. The neoliberal magazine Washington Monthly and the Los Angeles Times exposed rampant politicization in AmeriCorps' pilot programs, the 1993 Summer of Service and the 1994 Summer of Safety.

Nevertheless, this fall, full-time AmeriCorps "volunteers" were assigned to radical and liberal advocacy groups including ACORN (Association for Community Reform Now), the National Council of La Raza and the Public Education Fund Network.

Cloaked in the respectable garb of voluntarism, AmeriCorps instead promotes the discredited ideal of federal beneficence. And by living off the taxpayers' largesse, it will end up reinforcing the notion of entitlement it claims to combat.

In November, voters resoundingly rejected big government, especially the Great Society, which has cost taxpayers over \$ 3.5 trillion without markedly improving the lot of the poor. Over the past three decades, well-intentioned social programs have gradually usurped the authority and responsibility that once rested with the individual, the family, religious organizations, civic groups, and local government. Now AmeriCorps poses a similar threat to voluntarism.

AmeriCorps is a textbook case of precisely what the federal government should not do. Voluntary community service and acts of charity are not the business of government, especially the federal government. And paid "volunteers" participating in programs approved and regulated by a federal bureaucracy is a distortion of genuine, healthy charity.

Abolishing this newest extension of welfare-state liberalism will be an important step in rolling back big government and opening the way to truly reinvigorating citizenship.

John P. Walters is president of the New Citizenship Project, a Washington-based organization that advocates limiting government in order to revitalize society.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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4TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The Houston Chronicle

February 1, 1995, Wednesday, 2 STAR Edition

SECTION: A; Pg. 16

LENGTH: 34 words

HEADLINE: Executive hoops

BYLINE: Staff

BODY:

Eli Segal, head of President Clinton's national service initiative, AmeriCorps, shoots hoops with students Tuesday at Jackson Middle School during his tour of Serve Houston Youth Corps' projects.

GRAPHIC: Photo: Eli Segal, head of the president's national service initiative, AmeriCorps, shoots hoops with students Tuesday at Jackson Middle School during his tour of Serve Houston Youth Corps' projects; Ben DeSoto/Chronicle

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February 1, 1995

SECTION: NATIONAL DESK

LENGTH: 6334 words

HEADLINE: Remarks by President Clinton in Meeting with Mayor's Youth Council of the City of Boston

CONTACT: White House Press Office, 202-456-2100

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Jan. 31

BODY:

Following is a transcript of remarks by President Clinton in a meeting with the Mayor's Youth Council of the City of Boston:

Parkman House

Boston, Massachusetts 4:11 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Let me just begin by -- let me make a couple of comments, and then I'll answer your questions. First, I want to congratulate all of you and the Mayor on this remarkable project. I wanted to do this for a couple of reasons, but one is I think this might spread across the country as more people, through the news media, hear about it. I think this is a wonderful idea that every city in the country could profit from copying.

I also want to say I'm glad to be here with your Mayor, with Mrs. Menino, but also with Senator Kennedy and Senator Kerry, who flew up here with me from Washington. We're going to dinner tonight, but they wanted to come over here and see you. And I think that's a great tribute to you and what you're doing.

Let's talk about the drop-out rate a little bit, and especially as it applies to teen parents. This is a big issue. We've just been discussing this down in Washington now as part of what we call the New Covenant. You mentioned that. The New Covenant is, for me, the obligation that we have to create more opportunity and people and citizens have to exercise more responsibility. It means that we in government have to try to help give you the tools you need to make the most of your own lives, and then all of you have to do the most you can with your lives and help your fellow citizens. That's the big reason I wanted to come here today, because I think it's so remarkable that you're committed to doing this.

Now, we know that a lot of people who have children drop out of school -- and one of the things I said to the nation and to the Congress the other night in my speech is that as we reform the welfare system our goal ought to be to prepare people to go to work, to get them in jobs, to keep them in jobs, and to do it in a way that helps them be better parents. So what I'm trying to do is to work with the states all across the country to structure welfare systems where there are always incentives for young people to stay in school and, if they have little children, that the children should be given appropriate child care and other kinds of support.

And I think one of the things that you can do is to hammer home to

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basements and schools all throughout the city of Boston as we deal with the diversity -- just like you're dealing with this legislation to have 500 more police officers.

Now, perhaps some of these people, newcomers -- you have a job; when you have a job that job is the greatest equalizer you have in this country. And that's very important. I'll tell you, that's a point for cities now, especially as the country faces changes.

Q Mr. President, before I ask my question, my dad wants me to let you know about the November election -- this, too, shall pass.
(Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I'm glad to hear that. (Laughter.) Tell your dad he can send me a message anytime. (Laughter.)

Q In Boston, Northeastern University has created a model of scholarships and other supports to help inner-city kids get to and stay in college. We want kids in other cities to have the same opportunities. As President, can you urge colleges across the country to do what Northeastern has done.

MAYOR MENINO: I'll explain what Northeastern has done. Last year when I gave my State of the City message I talked about anybody who maintained a B average through high school would get financial help from the Mayor's Office. And Northeastern University has come to in the last two months, to any student who maintains a B average for four years of high school will get a grant up to \$2,000. If they need more, they'll give more. But also if they're in the top five percentile of their class, they maintain 1150 on their SATs, they'll pay for their full tuition. And that's what the young woman is talking about.

I think you talked about in your State of the Union message about college kids.

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, let me say I applaud Northeastern for doing it, because the cost of a college education has gone up quite a lot in the last several years. And I'm doing what I can to make it more affordable.

Let me tell you the two things that we have done and what we've tried to get others to do as well. The first thing we did was to take the existing student loan programs -- and Congress passed a bill that enables us to let that student loan program be administered in a different way, directly by colleges like Northeastern, so that the interest rates would be lower, the costs would be lower and your repayment terms would be better.

A lot of young people don't want to borrow money to go to college because they think, gee, if I get out and I just make a modest wage, I won't even be able to repay the loan. So under the new rules, you can borrow money to go to college, and then you can limit the amount of your repayment every year to a certain percentage of your income. So we've made available more loans.

In addition to that, through the national service program -- you see a lot of these young people in the city or around here; some of them are affiliated with our national service program, and they're earning almost \$5,000 a year for every year they work in the service program for their college education. Now, what we've done is to try to challenge the colleges and universities around the country to match that. And this year, I'm trying to pass, and I hope the Congress will pass, a bill that provides for the reduction from a person's income taxes for the cost of paying tuition to any institution of education after high school -- two-year or four-year.

So these are the things I'm trying to do to make college more

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SECTION: NATIONAL DESK

LENGTH: 6747 words

HEADLINE: Remarks by President Clinton at New England Presidential Dinner

CONTACT: White House Press Office, 202-456-2100

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Feb. 1

BODY:

Following is a transcript of remarks by President Clinton at the New England Presidential Dinner:

Park Plaza Hotel
Boston, Massachusetts

8:56 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. You know, for a President who has been derided from time to time on the pages of the Wall Street Journal and other places for being too concerned with diversity, I feel that I should apologize tonight for giving you such an overconcentration of Irish blarney in the last three speeches. (Laughter.) I hardly know what to say. (Laughter.) And even if I do, I'll just repeat something. (Laughter.)

They were wonderful. I want to say, first to Senator Kerry, I thank you for your leadership and your wise counsel to me on so many things; for your occasional constructive criticism, which is always helpful -- (laughter) -- and for always thinking about how we can reach out to people who aren't in this room and who have been vulnerable to the siren's song of the other party. We should do more of that, because we're working hard to represent them, to help them.

I also want to say that when you introduced Theresa tonight I was sitting here thinking that next only to the President of the United States, you're about to become the most over-married man in the whole country. (Laughter.) And I congratulate you both, and I wish you well and Godspeed. (Applause.)

I want to say how elated I was to be a part of a couple of events for Senator Kennedy up here in the last campaign. Whatever labels you put on Democrats, the truth is that all elections are about two things: whether a majority of the people identify with you and think you're on their side, and whether you've got a message for the future.

In this last election, without apology, with great energy and gusto and courage, when all the national trends were going the other way and when no one could any longer seriously claim that Massachusetts was just a different state, Ted Kennedy told the people of this state what he stood for, what he had done, and most importantly of all, why he wanted another term. He made the election about the future and the people of Massachusetts and he won. And if the Democrats will make the elections of 1996 about the people of the United States and the future of our country, we will win as well. (Applause.)

I want to thank Alan and Fred and all the others on the

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committee. They're the only people I know who are more indefatigable than I am when it comes to trying to push our party's agenda and move this country forward. They're the sort of "Energizer Bunnies" of the National Democratic party, and I am grateful. (Laughter.)

I wish I could put them on television the way Mario Cuomo and Ann Richards were. Did you all see them on the Super Bowl? (Laughter and applause.) I don't know about you, but I've had three dozen bags of Doritos since then. (Laughter.) I can hardly walk. (Applause.) And I want them to stay on. I mean, write Doritos and tell them you ate lots of those Doritos and that's the only way we can get equal time with the Republicans on the air waves. (Laughter and applause.)

I want to thank your party Chair Joan Menard and Reverend Charles Stith, my longtime friend; your Secretary of State, President Bill Bulger; Speaker Flaherty; and the Attorney General; all the others who are here; and a special word of thanks to your wonderful mayor, Tom Menino, for making me feel so welcome here today. (Applause.)

You know, when Senator Kerry and Senator Kennedy and I went with the Mayor to meet with that youth council today and they had a young person from every part of this great city from all different ethnic backgrounds, and, obviously, different sets of personal conditions; and we were sitting there just having a family conversation about what these young people were interested in. And they kept asking me, well, here's a problem. But they didn't ask me, what are you going to do about it. They said, what do you think we can do about it. It was astonishing. Over and over, what do you think we can do about it. And I thought to myself, if we had enough kids like this all over America our country is in pretty good shape. And it's a great tribute to Boston and to the ethic of citizenship and service, which is vibrant and alive and burning here.

I was so glad to -- appreciate what Senator Dodd said about the national service program. I know all of you must be very proud of Eli Segal from Boston for the way he has run that program. It is a brilliant thing that is lining up possibilities all across our country -- immunizing children in south Texas; rebuilding housing projects in Detroit; helping people in all the natural disasters in California; restocking the salmon in the Pacific Northwest. You cannot imagine what those young people are doing all across this country. And I have to tell you that if it hadn't been for Eli Segal I'm not sure we ever could have done it the way he conceived it and executed it. And the next time he comes home to Boston give him a pat on the back, because he's been magnificent. (Applause.)

I want to thank my longtime friend, Don Fowler, for agreeing to join this team with Senator Dodd. The real reason Don came up here tonight is so there would be two southern rednecks book-ending all these Irish guys when they were talking. (Laughter.)

Don understands what part of our problems are. Everybody talks about change, but Clinton's ninth law of politics is, everyone is for change in general, but against it in particular. (Laughter.) Everybody is for lowering the deficit. The problem is when you have to lower it. That's what Senator Kennedy was talking about. We didn't get much help when we actually had to do it.

It's kind of like everybody is for going to the dentist, but if I tell you I made you an appointment for 7:30 a.m. in the morning, you have second thoughts. (Laughter.)

So to whatever extent I bear a responsibility for some of our party's difficulties because I had a drill to the tooth of America for the last two years, trying to whip this thing back in shape, I regret

THE CHRONICLE OF PHILANTHROPY

The Newspaper of the Non-Profit World

• April 20, 1995 •

National Service's Uncertain Future

Charities say AmeriCorps program has been a boon to good works, but Congress may kill it

By JENNIFER MOORE
and AMANDA ROCQUE

CHARITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY got a welcome infusion of manpower last fall from the 20,000 members of AmeriCorps, the new national-service program. For seven months, AmeriCorps members have been counseling crime victims, building houses for the poor, tutoring needy kids, working on conservation projects, and helping many charities achieve far more than they thought possible.

Now many non-profit leaders are worried that they may soon lose that help. Both houses of Congress have approved retroactive cuts in spending on the program and signaled that they are unlikely to provide the hundreds of millions of dollars that would be necessary to keep corps members on the job in years to come. Some lawmakers are talking about shutting down AmeriCorps altogether.

Janet Schrock, who is supervising 80 AmeriCorps members working with the National Council of Churches to provide tutoring, help for homeless teen-agers, and recreational and other activities in inner-city neighborhoods, says she is devastated by the developments on Capitol Hill. "Why in the world does Congress want to destroy something that is already up and running and that sparks the enthusi-

Continued on Page 10



Kevin McPeak, of Habitat for Humanity's Miami affiliate, says national-service workers have allowed the charity to build additional homes for the poor. See story on Page 12.

arm of folks that believe in serving children and the poor?" she asks.

"I don't understand how Congress can do this with a clear conscience."

'A Perverse Dynamic'

But to some people in the non-profit world, the demise of AmeriCorps could not come too soon.

John P. Walters, who served as deputy director of drug policy in the Bush Administration, persuaded foundations and other donors to help him create the non-profit New Citizenship Project specifically to challenge AmeriCorps.

"The program should be terminated," he says. "It creates a perverse dynamic of people coming in with the stipend and educational benefits the AmeriCorps program provides, in contrast to the much more numerous and extensive hard work that's done by young people—and not-so-young people—who are really and truly giving of their own time. And that's corrosive."

The battle over AmeriCorps is forcing many people to confront knotty questions about how best to encourage people to do good works:

Does paying people to perform community service attract a diverse and talented corps of people who otherwise could not afford to give up their time? Should wealthy people get the same financial rewards for volunteering as poor people? Will people who get paid to do community service when they are young expect rewards for volunteering throughout their lives? Is it government's role—or that of private organizations—to foot the bill for paid community service?

Taking Back the Money

Opponents of AmeriCorps have already scored major victories. The House of Representatives has voted to take back \$416-million—about 70 per cent of the sum that Congress had already given to AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve, a program that encourages high-school youngsters to volunteer. The reduction the Senate has voted for is much smaller, but still significant; it would rescind 18 per cent from this year's budget.

Key senators and representatives have also indicated that they will not support the Clinton Administration's proposal to provide \$800-million in fiscal 1996, which would be enough to support 47,000 community-service workers.

The final decision about the 1995 budget will not be made for several weeks. When Congress returns from its holiday recess next week, representatives of both chambers will meet to work out a compromise.

Most of the AmeriCorps programs have invited their representatives to take a firsthand look at their work during the Congressional recess.

National-service advocates have also organized rallies, marches, and service projects to coincide

with National Volunteer Week (April 22-29) to help draw attention to efforts like AmeriCorps. Much of the activity is planned for April 25, dubbed National Youth Service Day by Youth Service America, the Corporation for National Service, and the Points of Light Foundation. More than 1,000 volunteer projects are planned for that day, from working in soup kitchens and planting gardens for anti-hunger programs to cleaning up recreation centers and schools.

President Clinton, who made national service a big part of his election campaign, has been loudly criticizing the budget cutters. In a speech to AmeriCorps members in Dallas this month, he vowed his continued support for the program, but stopped short of specific promises about what actions he would take. "I'll stay with you," he pledged, "and together we can save it."

Debate Over Cost

No matter how much pressure Mr. Clinton is able to put on Congress, it seems inevitable that AmeriCorps will see its budget reduced.

The Administration estimates that the average participant costs about \$18,000 per year. That includes the educational benefits that AmeriCorps members receive: up to \$4,725 a year for college tuition, vocational training, or paying off college debts. The federal government also subsidizes a minimum-wage stipend. To obtain the services of an AmeriCorps member, charities must be willing to pay 15 per cent of living allowances.

Sen. Charles E. Grassley, an Iowa Republican who is leading the fight against AmeriCorps, says the White House is understating how much it costs. Based on estimates from a summer-service program conducted last year, he put the cost at \$30,000 per participant.

"I support the notion of national service and, by and large, the activities performed by the spirited AmeriCorps participants," says Mr. Grassley. "Where the President and I part company is that he supports an expensive bureaucracy, and I don't."

The disagreement over cost could be cleared up soon. The General Accounting Office, Congress's auditing arm, is expected to issue a report next month that will show a breakdown of AmeriCorps's expenditures.

Eli Segal, the Clinton Administration official who oversees AmeriCorps, says it is wrong to talk only about how much the government is spending.

"We've got to focus on moving the debate from costs to cost-benefit analysis," he says. "Costs are relevant, but the question is, Are they worth it?"

The answer to that question is Yes, Mr. Segal told a key House subcommittee last month, rattling off some of the benefits: "470 crime victims have received counseling and assistance ... 400 homeless families have a place to stay and 16,000 needy Americans have food to eat ... 7,638 children had tutors and more than 1,430 school kids had skilled teachers."

Notably questions that most

AmeriCorps participants are doing good work and improving the lives of many people. But many of the critics say they cannot understand why government has to pay for that kind of charitable activity.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Republican of Georgia, says AmeriCorps represents "coerced volunteerism" because many poor people feel they cannot turn down a chance to obtain money to pay for college or vocational training.

Other critics say that the spirits of unpaid volunteers will be dampened if they have to work alongside people who are being paid to do the same tasks. Mr. Walters of the New Citizenship Project says he does not know of any specific complaints from unpaid volunteers, but he says it is just "common sense" that people who are paid nothing for their service will start to wonder why they, too, are not entitled to something in return. "If it creates an unhealthy dynamic," he says.

AmeriCorps supporters say the opposite has been true. They note that most volunteers can spare, at most, only a few days or hours a week, and are not jealous when someone else is paid a small stipend to put in far more time.

Allison Burris, a 23-year-old AmeriCorps member who is working for the Border Volunteer Corps, which serves people along the Arizona-New Mexico state line, says she has not felt any tension with unpaid volunteers.

"Sometimes what we're doing is what other volunteers don't have time to do or they can't do," she says. "There's not a lot of people who can come into a school district and volunteer all day long, five days a week. I don't think anybody questions that you deserve \$125 an hour for that."

Some charity leaders say the AmeriCorps members have made it possible to recruit and supervise far more volunteers than usual.

The Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Miami, for example, has long received help from about 200 college students a week during spring vacations. This year, Habitat has been able to accommodate 300 to 350 students a week because several AmeriCorps members were available to train and supervise them.

"Without the AmeriCorps coordinators, the volunteers who don't have construction skills would be walking around without a clue," says Mark Cooper, a Florida International University official who organizes students to work with Habitat.

Benefits for the Rich

What makes some critics of AmeriCorps most angry is that wealthy participants receive the same pay and educational benefits as the poor.

"Kids from upper-income families who would likely attend college anyway if AmeriCorps didn't exist compete with children from impoverished families for volunteer slots," says a policy paper from the House Republican Conference

which recommended eliminating AmeriCorps.

Advocates say that charge is based on a fundamental misunderstanding of why participants receive educational benefits. They say AmeriCorps is not like a college-loan program: participants are receiving a benefit as compensation for the community-service work they do.

The Corporation for National Service points out that almost 30 per cent of this year's participants come from families with incomes of less than \$15,000 and 80 per cent from families that make less than \$50,000.

"There is a misconception that AmeriCorps is a bunch of rich kids," says Kristeen McLain, an AmeriCorps member from a middle-income family. She is working at the I Have a Dream Program in Chicago, which provides mentors and scholarships for low-income students. "We have members from the suburbs and members from Cabrini, which is a housing project in Chicago. This is not just a bunch of college kids who don't know what to do with their lives."

She adds that the AmeriCorps stipend doesn't go far in Chicago and other urban areas. "I came from a much higher-paying, salaried position," she says. "I have had to adjust my rent and start sleeping on a couch."

Seeking Private Money

Although the federal government has been providing the bulk of the money to run AmeriCorps, the Clinton Administration has been trying to attract private funds to support the program. Mr. Segal estimates that local groups have raised about \$20-million so far to help pay for AmeriCorps.

To people like Mr. Walters of the New Citizenship Project, the fact that AmeriCorps can win millions in private donations is proof that the entire effort could be supported without any federal money. He ac-

knowledges that some charities may not be able to raise enough private money to pay their AmeriCorps members, but he says programs that cannot generate sufficient donations are probably so poorly run or so unnecessary that they should not exist.

Stanley S. Litow, president of the IBM International Foundation,

says it is "totally unrealistic" to think that private philanthropy can shoulder the bill for AmeriCorps.

His company has provided \$120,000 for AmeriCorps programs in three cities that work with schools to train teachers and parents, set up computer networks, and repair old computers that sit unused in school closets.

"That's a substantial contribution from the IBM community," says Mr. Litow. "But we would never be able to fund the full cost of the stipends for the volunteers. And that's really what makes this program go."

Too Ambitious?

Critics and supporters alike say they fear the Clinton Administration was too ambitious when it designed the national-service program.

Mr. Walters says the program is trying to be a job-training program, an educational grant program, and a national volunteer program—and is failing at all three.

"AmeriCorps has a problem because it's losing coherence as a program," he says.

Henry Chang, a 23-year-old AmeriCorps member working at Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami, says he thinks the President's attempt to more than double the number of participants next year is a mistake. He believes the program will be most efficient if it sticks close to 20,000 people in each of the next five years.

"I really do believe in the program, but I think it's over-budgeted," he says. "I think it will take at least five years to work the kinks out."

Sandi Murphy, AmeriCorps program coordinator for the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, says the program may have been started too quickly. She oversees 18 AmeriCorps members who provide crisis counseling and organize support groups for victims of abuse. Negotiations over her program's budget dragged on into October, a month after the program's scheduled start, she says. She also says she often received conflicting information from the Corporation for National Service and the Iowa commission that selects most of the AmeriCorps projects for the state.

"Most of this year has been

growing pains," she says. "The Corporation for National Service is still learning how to run a multi-million-dollar program, but I think that a lot of the kinks that were plaguing this first year should be worked out by next year."

Many AmeriCorps members say they were frustrated when they first started work because their charity supervisors did not have a clear idea of what they wanted done. That, most of them say, is because the groups had only a month or two between the time they were notified and the time they were expected to have the program up and running.

Even with 20,000 participants, AmeriCorps has not come close to meeting the appetite that charities and government agencies have for

low-cost workers. More than 1,500 non-profit groups applied last year to have AmeriCorps members work with their programs. Only 350 were selected, and the competition for the next round of grants is expected to be even fiercer now that more charities know about AmeriCorps.

Selection Process Continues

Although the AmeriCorps budget is in limbo, the Corporation for National Service is continuing the process of selecting the charities that will participate in the program starting in September. Applications are due next month.

Meanwhile, AmeriCorps participants and charity leaders are trying to cope with the uncertainty. Nancy Zachar, who supervises 14 AmeriCorps members at the I Have a Dream Program in Chicago, says she is worried that the wrangling in Congress could make it hard for her to plan effectively. "I'm afraid that we are not going to know until June, and then we are going to have to start [the program] in September," she says.

Schlander Johnson, an AmeriCorps member who helps run health workshops and provide immunizations through the Children's Health Fund in Mississippi, says: "People keep asking if we are going to be here next year, and we keep saying that we don't know because of the state of everything."

"I think that a lot of government programs are like that: You are here one month and gone the next month."

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HEADLINE: RENEWING EASTER'S MESSAGE OF HOPE -- CHRISTIANITY'S CORNERSTONE
PRESENTS TRUE CHALLENGE

BYLINE: BY LEE MORIWAKI

BODY:

As Seattle-area churches prepare for the largest crowds of the year on Easter tomorrow, local religious leaders are sending out messages this weekend of hope, compassion, unity and new life.

Catholic Archbishop Thomas Murphy says in an Easter-vigil homily he is to deliver at St. James Cathedral tonight that the Easter story, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, is "radically different from the message of our times. It challenges us not to morbid fascination with death and violence but to live the new life that Jesus won for us.

"It is the story where life is always chosen over death; where sin is forgiven and forgotten; where the making of peace is always more important than the making of war; where new beginnings are always possible despite our addictions and our past; where we renew our commitment to care for the neglected child and family, the poor, the homeless, the hungry. This is the Easter story we need to tell and live. It is a story that must come alive today."

The Rev. Robert Jeffrey, pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Seattle's Central Area, said Easter is "the season that causes us to be more compassionate. Easter serves to remind us that tragedies happen when people misjudge people."

Just as Christ was misjudged, he said, society today sees some people as unsalvageable and prisons more important than new jobs.

The Rev. Ellis Casson, pastor of First African Methodist Episcopal Church, also in Seattle's Central Area, echoed Jeffrey's thoughts.

"It's not the (Palm) Sunday crowd I'm concerned about," said Casson, referring to the throngs that welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as he arrived on the back of a donkey. "It is the Friday crowd (that turned on Jesus) that I'm worried about."

Casson said the contemporary equivalent of the Good Friday crowd would be those who would take services from the poor, the needy and the elderly, those whom Jesus sought to serve. "We have to look at the hatred in our society, the lack of love and respect for one another," Casson said.

The Seattle Times, April 15, 1995

While Christmas, marking the birth of Jesus, tends to garner more publicity, Easter remains the cornerstone of the Christian faith.

"Christmas is a much easier sell, with its infant child, loving mother, and gifts from perplexed travelers from afar," wrote James Wall in this week's issue of the Christian Century, the ecumenical magazine he edits. Easter, on the other hand, is the "season that challenges the believer with data that won't compute," where events "remain today 'outside the ken' of rational thought."

The Rev. Steven Tsichlis, pastor of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Assumption, said the Easter story is the heart of the Gospels. He noted the story of Christ's birth is told only in two of the four Gospels, Matthew and Luke, while Christ's death and resurrection are told in all four.

"We believe we, too, will pass over from death to life," Tsichlis said. In the meantime, "You have to look at your life in a new way. Because of the joy of the resurrection, we are to forgive our enemies, speak even to those who hate us, and offer words of forgiveness." Tsichlis' congregation, along with other Orthodox churches, will celebrate Easter a week from tomorrow. The Orthodox church computes the date of Easter by the old Julian calendar and waits until the end of the Jewish Passover before celebrating. Passover began last night and ends next Saturday.

The Rev. Peter Battjes, an Assemblies of God minister and the coordinator of the annual Greater Seattle March for Jesus, said belief in the resurrection is the central doctrine of the Christian faith. Through Christ's death and resurrection come salvation and everlasting life, he said.

For Christians, the resurrection is an article of faith, Battjes said. Echoing Paul in I Corinthians 15:14, he said, "If Jesus had not risen from the grave, our faith would be in vain, . . . there would be no reason for our faith."

But the scriptural record reveals that after the crucifixion Jesus appeared physically to his followers, including Mary Magdalene, the disciples, a crowd of "more than 500 brothers and sisters," and to Paul on the road to Damascus, Battjes said. "As a result of their witness, there is valid evidence he indeed arose from the dead and completed his mission to provide salvation for those who would believe in him."

For the Rev. John Boonstra, executive minister of the Washington Association of Churches, the Gospel of John forms the basis of his thoughts for Easter.

Boonstra noted that John 19:41 describes the scene of Christ's death and entombment: "At the place where Christ was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid."

"Why does John insert this phrase, 'there was a garden . . . '? In places in our world where all we can see are things that represent death, there is a garden, and within that garden is the potential for new growth, new ways of seeing things, new ways of living," Boonstra said.

The Rev. Elaine Stanovsky, president-director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, said she has found the Easter story in a real garden. Homeless youths, in cooperation with Church Council and AmeriCorps volunteers and the

University District Youth Center, have cleared a steep front yard in the U District to grow vegetables, herbs and flowers, which they'll sell at the University District Farmers Market. Seattle Youth Garden Works will enable the youths to be part of a supportive community, learn job skills, return to school and learn their own power to create something of value and beauty, she said.

"When we hear about homeless, runaway youth, their lives sound like a wasteland. But when real needs meet with real compassion and resources, a beautiful garden can grow," Stanovsky said.

The Rev. Cheri Starchman, pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Seattle, which serves a predominantly gay and lesbian congregation, said that for her, Easter brings "the hope of equal rights for all people."

"Easter is about the end of fear and death. It is supposed to be about new life and hope. It seems so much of religion, especially Christianity, is caught up in fear of what's different instead of embracing the diversity among people. Instead of seeing all of God's creation as good, we take one slice and say it should all look like this."

At Overlake Christian Church in Kirkland, the Rev. Bob Moorehead predicted record turnouts on Easter as people seek to fill the vacuum in today's culture. "I believe people are searching today for genuine meaning. They haven't found it in sex, money, fame, position or work. . . . I believe that many people are learning that significance and fulfillment are only to be found in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ."

Bishop Vincent Warner, head of the Episcopal Church in Western Washington, said with the kind of violence and loss in society today, people are yearning for healing. "I think Easter speaks profoundly to that hunger for new beginnings, hope, forgiveness and reconciliation."

Bishop Calvin McConnell, head of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church, said that in a world all too often marked by feelings of uncertainty and chaos in values, belief and loyalties, the celebration of Easter "invites us to the reality of hope" and "assures us that God is actively involved in our lives and communities."

How can God be actively involved in people's lives while at the same time allowing uncertainty and chaos?

McConnell said God gives all people and their societies freedom of choice to determine where they are going and what they are to make of life. "Sometimes we look at the results of our freedom and recognize that it is not always good."

McConnell continued, "It is very helpful for us to realize at times that the whole course of human events is not determined just by us, but that God is an active participant in assuring that there will be wholeness and harmony among the people. . . ."

People today, perhaps especially today, know what it is to be crucified, McConnell said. "I have never experienced such an age in which we say, 'Throw the bum out,' 'I want you gone and I want your idea dead.' " There are other ways in which life is not working out for people, he added. Job loss, or divorce, for example, he said.

The Seattle Times, April 15, 1995

"This is where Christ, with the resurrection, tells us that God is still involved with us, that God goes to the cross with us, calls us back into life in spite of the things that have happened that are so disastrous, enables us to go on, surrounds us with people of compassion and good will, and finally enables us to say there is meaning and possibility in life in spite of the way my dream or hope has been crucified."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO ARCHBISHOP THOMAS MURPHY: 'IT IS THE STORY WHERE LIFE IS ALWAYS CHOSEN OVER DEATH.'

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: April 16, 1995

10TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The Kansas City Star Co.
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

April 15, 1995 Saturday MID-AMERICA EDITION

SECTION: MID-AMERICA; Pg. C4

LENGTH: 320 words

HEADLINE: More than 100 to start KCK garden

BYLINE: MATT CAMPBELL, Staff Writer

BODY:

More than 100 AmeriCorps participants will create a community garden near a Kansas City, Kan., housing project on Earth Day, April 22.

The Bridges Across the Heartland AmeriCorps program and the United Way Neighborhood AmeriCorps program will join forces on the garden at the Juniper Gardens housing development, near Edgerton Park at Third Street and Stewart Avenue.

The project also is supported by the Kansas City Community Gardens, Turner House Inc., the Juniper Gardens Residents Association and Kaw Valley Arts and Humanities.

Anyone wishing to help with spade or hammer work or a general cleanup of the surrounding area is welcome to participate, said Linda Roby, an AmeriCorps member with Kansas City Community Gardens.

Volunteers or organizations wishing to donate time or materials may call 931-3877. Needed materials include dumpsters, shovels, wheelbarrows, work gloves and hoes. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Turner House Community Garden will offer 30 raised planting beds that neighborhood residents may rent for \$ 12. The garden will occupy a reclaimed vacant lot.

"A community garden yields more than low-cost food," said Roby.

"It improves the quality of life and the quality of a neighborhood.

It empowers people because they are helping themselves through the healthy, nutritional benefits of the vegetables and fruits they are producing. "

In addition to being a designated Earth Day project, this is the second in a series of "Heartland Days" sponsored by AmeriCorps that are intended to promote a sense of common purpose in the metropolitan area.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR, April 15, 1995, Saturday

The AmeriCorps program is a domestic version of the Peace Corps initiated by President Clinton. Participants earn stipends, health care and money for education in return for one or two years of community service.

LOAD-DATE-MDC: April 15, 1995

3RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The Dallas Morning News
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

April 16, 1995, Sunday, HOME FINAL EDITION

SECTION: HIGH PROFILE; COMMUNITY; Pg. 3E

LENGTH: 811 words

HEADLINE: Tom Quigley;
Building morale by tearing down community's barriers

BYLINE: Lee Zethraus

BODY:

On an occasional Sunday, the Rev. Tom Quigley delivers a sermon in a church. But most days his message reaches a wider audience.

"Helping to shape the life of a community is our mission," says Mr. Quigley, 52, who is the executive director for the Greater Dallas Community of Churches.

In his job, Mr. Quigley serves as the go-between for about 315 churches and their neighborhoods across Dallas County. The organization's nearly 20 programs help feed the hungry, tutor and mentor students, rejuvenate housing, provide health care access, explore tax benefits, provide pastoral counseling, foster relationships across ethnic lines and speak to public policy.

This year, his success in getting a nearly \$ 500,000 AmeriCorps grant allowed about 50 additional people to help with programs and bolster existing services in five Dallas neighborhoods.

Instead of live and let live, the organization's goal is to live and help live.

At the center of all the planning and coordinating is Mr. Quigley.

"I try to help connect the churches to do a better job serving the community and to help the community understand the churches, what churches care about and what they have to offer," he says.

"He is rather Wesleyan. The world is his parish," says the Rev. Canon Peggy Patterson of St. Matthew's Episcopal Cathedral, comparing Mr. Quigley to evangelist and Methodist church founder John Wesley. Ms. Patterson is president of the GDCC.

Frank Jackson, GDCC's immediate past president, agrees. "He's very committed to solving many of the problems we have in our society," says Mr. Jackson, who owns a Fort Worth manufacturing company. "He is working to bring the church community together to solve those problems. He's very dedicated and high-energy."

The organization's past efforts include pairing different denominations of churches to encourage understanding and learning, and supporting single-member districts for the Dallas City Council.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, April 16, 1995

As the summer nears, Mr. Quigley says, efforts are in high gear to expand summer lunch programs to children who receive the benefit during the school year. The group expects to feed about 30,000 a day. The GDCC's goal is to feed 100,000 by 1996.

Mr. Quigley's interest in ecumenical relationships can be traced to his childhood, he says. His father was Protestant, his mother, Roman Catholic.

"All through life I had parents that loved one another but maintained their separate religions," he says. "Both were Christians, but what is it about their identities that holds them together but drives them apart?"

Having a younger sister who was mentally retarded heightened his sensitivity to others, he believes. He experienced compassion and witnessed others offering kindness and help. Attending a YMCA international youth conference in 1960 in Amsterdam further led him to appreciate diversity.

The Cincinnati native attended Ohio State University in Columbus, intending to be a doctor. He says a required chemistry course helped change his mind.

After getting a bachelor's degree in 1964, he went to The Divinity School of the University of Chicago, and graduated in 1967.

In the late 1960s, he took an associate pastor's position at the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Louisville, Ky.

Soon after, he had an opportunity for his church and two neighboring churches to bring storefront information and tutoring programs to the area, and the endeavor just seemed to make good sense, he says.

By 1972 he was asked to be the executive director of the Louisville Area Interchurch Organization, which coordinated activities among nearly 10 denominations.

Six years later, he became the executive director to the Indiana Interreligious Commission on Human Equality, which promoted human rights and justice. In 1980 he was asked to take the executive director's position with the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. He came to his job with the 45-year-old Dallas organization in 1988.

He and his wife, Jane, attend the East Dallas Christian Church, where he is an elder. He says it is difficult to imagine sitting down to write a sermon each week.

"I know this (job) was a good match for me," he says. "People are called to different roles in the ministry."

His wish is that people would realize it's time to tear away the barriers that divide communities.

"There is the tendency in all of us, in churches and neighborhoods, to look only as far as we can see," he says. "We're continually creating partial communities. We put up walls, whether they are by denomination, economic, racial or geographic. Then we're disappointed because we live inside them."

How to help The Greater Dallas Community of Churches accepts financial donations and volunteers. For more information about the organization, write to: 2800 Swiss Ave., Dallas, Texas 75204, or call 824-8680.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO(S): Rev. Tom Quigley outside the Greater Dallas Community of Churches office (DMN: Randy Eli Grothe)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: April 17, 1995

20TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The Atlanta Constitution
The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

April 14, 1995

SECTION: EXTRA; Section N; Page 2

LENGTH: 349 words

HEADLINE: Science club adopts creek, starts cleanup

BYLINE: By Bernadette Burden STAFF WRITER

BODY:

After years of neglect and dumping, DeKalb's Shoal Creek is getting help from some environmentally conscious youth.

The students of Columbia High School's science club have adopted Shoal Creek, which runs through Shoal Creek Park on Glenwood Road in South DeKalb County.

The creek has fallen victim to decline because it, like others in DeKalb, has become a dumping ground for everything from unused roofing materials to old car tires.

"We need to let people know the harm that comes from dumping used oil in a storm drain or the harm caused by the use of unnecessary lawn fertilizers," said Joel James, a Columbia High science teacher and science club sponsor.

The science club is working on a cleanup of the creek and its surrounding area. Students removed shopping carts, bottles, scrap metal, trash cans, chairs and other items.

"I got involved because I hate seeing something pretty ruined," said Huraiyah Ahmend, a Columbia High junior.

Three creeks are paired

Once the cleanup is complete, Columbia students will begin monitoring the stream quality and educating the community about environmental hazards that disturb stream life.

The adoption of Shoal Creek completes the pairing of the three DeKalb creeks and streams that are listed in the nationwide "Adopt-a-Stream" program to groups that adopts them, according to DeKalb's Ginna Tiernan.

Southfork Peachtree Creek, which runs through Medlock Park in Decatur, has been adopted by the South Peachtree Creek Nature Preserve Inc., and Burnt Fork Creek, which runs through Decatur's Mason Mill Park, was adopted by Julie Hale, a student leader at DeKalb Technical Institute, and a group of the school's volunteers.

Tiernan said DeKalb's streams and creeks also have gotten a boost from the Greater Atlanta Community Corps' Americorp Group. The group has worked on repairing tree buffers, replanting foliage, water testing and stream stabilization.

1995 The Atlanta Journal and Constitution, April 14, 1995

The "Adopt-a-Stream" program encourages public awareness of environmental pollution and the need for citizen involvement in care and maintenance of water resources.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: April 15, 1995

19TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 Charleston Newspapers
The Charleston Gazette

April 14, 1995, Friday

SECTION: Editorial; Pg. P5A

LENGTH: 798 words

HEADLINE: COMMUNITY SERVICE AMERICORPS MEANS WIN, WIN, WIN

BYLINE: Rachel Tompkins

BODY:

Unless the national budget cutters prevail, this program will expand in West Virginia during 1995 and serve twice as many AmeriCorps members. As a taxpayer, an educator and the parent of two college-age children, I'm convinced this program ought to be continued and indeed, ought to expand.

ERIC STONE, 28, thought he would never be able to save enough money to go to college. Many people told him he was bright, clearly college material, but no one in his family had gone; so he had no example of how to do it. Then he read about AmeriCorps.

Today, Eric works as an AmeriCorps member at Chandler School Family Resource Center and the Roger Switzer Community Center in Kanawha County. He's earning the minimum wage and at the end of his year of service, he will have an additional \$ 4,725 in trust to spend on college. One more year of service and he will have enough to pay his tuition and fees at a West Virginia public college.

In the past six months since AmeriCorps began in West Virginia, 30 AmeriCorps members, like Eric, have been working in two community-based organizations: the Regional Family Resource Network in Kanawha County and the Coalition Against Domestic Violence based

The Charleston Gazette, April 14, 1995

in Sutton, Braxton County. An additional 30 AmeriCorps members work in West Virginia for various U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies, the Children's Health Fund in Cabell and Wayne counties and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

West Virginia AmeriCorps members range in age from 19 to 55.

Some have GEDs, or are just out of college, while others have been out of school many years. All are committed to obtaining more education. Some of those working for the Coalition Against Domestic Violence are victims of abuse themselves.

Some examples of AmeriCorps work in West Virginia include:

Reviewing 5,000 immunization records and scheduling 1,000 children for overdue immunizations.

Scheduling two community health clinics in underserved areas

Expanding the Parents as Teachers program.

Creating two new after-school programs serving 84 children

Helping 100 families use a common application for a variety of social, health and education services.

Expanding programs about domestic violence awareness in high schools in Southern West Virginia leading to four specific referrals

Providing multiple assistance to victims of domestic violence on hot lines and in shelters in eight communities.

Unless the national budget cutters prevail, this program will expand in West Virginia during 1995 and serve twice as many AmeriCorps members. As a taxpayer, an educator and the parent of two college-age children, I'm convinced this program ought to be continued and indeed, ought to expand.

AmeriCorps is a win, win, win program. First, local community

The Charleston Gazette, April 14, 1995

groups apply for AmeriCorps members to support local projects that need extra help. No one in the state or federal government tells communities what they need. Second, AmeriCorps members who go to work for local groups get things done. The jobs are real work that simply wouldn't get done without the time and talents of AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps members also get important work experience that will help in future job searches. Finally, each AmeriCorps member puts away \$ 4,725 toward post-secondary education or toward paying off college loans.

During the just concluded legislative session, Gov. Caperton proposed and the Legislature enacted a bill continuing the West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service to oversee the implementation of AmeriCorps and to promote service and volunteering in West Virginia. Debate on that bill reported in this newspaper suggested that AmeriCorps members were merely overpaid baby sitters . That is simply not so.

I know it is fashionable today to be against government programs and especially fashionable for Republicans to oppose this program so closely identified with President Clinton. But AmeriCorps builds on America's tradition of volunteerism and community service, and adds a new program to the more than 30 years of positive experiences of the Peace Corps, VISTA, the National Senior Corps and Learn and Serve. All of these programs have had strong bipartisan support over the years. <2119,13p5>

My hope is that West Virginia's elected representatives state and federal, Republican and Democrat will visit these programs, talk with AmeriCorps members, and consider the value of the program to

The Charleston Gazette, April 14, 1995

West Virginia citizens and communities. Eric Stone and his colleagues will be happy to share their stories.

Tompkins is chairwoman of the West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service.

LOAD-DATE-MDC: April 14, 1995

*National
Clips*

56TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 Plain Dealer Publishing Co.
The Plain Dealer

February 25, 1995 Saturday, FINAL / ALL

SECTION: NATIONAL; Pg. 12A

LENGTH: 626 words

HEADLINE: PRESIDENT'S AMERICORPS ON CHOPPING BLOCK

BYLINE: By KARIN WAHL-JORGENSEN; PLAIN DEALER BUREAU

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

President Clinton's prized national service program is on the Republicans' chopping block, which is bad news for 300 Ohioans, including 76 in the Cleveland area, who are part of the first crop of paid AmeriCorps volunteers.

A House Appropriations subcommittee has voted to eliminate the \$204 million increase previously appropriated for AmeriCorps this year. If the cut is approved by the House and Senate and not vetoed by the president, the previously authorized \$580 million budget for the program would be cut to last year's \$376 million.

Ohio received \$2.7 million for AmeriCorps last year and was to receive \$3.3 million this year. Program administrators in Ohio and other states have planned to hire additional people based on the authorized funding increase. A cutback now would "seriously hamper" Ohio's program, said Kitty Burcscu, executive director of the Governor's Community Service Commission, which administers AmeriCorps in the state.

Glen Odenbrett, director of two large AmeriCorps programs in the Cleveland area, CAREPLAN and ClassMATES, said, "We had hoped to expand our projects. Chances are that will not happen."

Rep. Jerry Lewis, a California Republican who heads the committee with jurisdiction over AmeriCorps, said, "This recision represents putting national service on a clear path to incremental phase-out."

The \$204 million cut would halt a planned expansion of the paid volunteer force from 20,000 to 33,000 next year. Instead the workforce would be reduced to 18,000, according to the AmeriCorps office in Washington.

"Cutting a third out of this program which is barely six months old, with no attempt to assess its effectiveness is not smart government," said J. Toscano, a spokesman for AmeriCorps. "This is a decision based on pure politics."

AmeriCorps is caught in a tug-of-war between Clinton, who made it a centerpiece of his presidential campaign and called it one of the big achievements of his first two years in office, and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, who derides national service as "coerced volunteerism" and "gimmickry." Gingrich says he is "totally, unequivocally opposed to national service."

The Plain Dealer, February 25, 1995

The effects from this high-level feuding eventually trickle down to volunteers like Victor Johnson and Shahada Raheem, two AmeriCorps workers in Cleveland. Johnson, 36, and Raheem, 34, eagerly seized the opportunity to work for AmeriCorps for a year to save money for college.

Raheem took a year's leave from college to participate in the ClassMATES program, which tutors elementary school pupils in language and science. A single mother of two children, Raheem could no longer afford college and had to find a job. Her work with AmeriCorps has made her want to continue working as a teacher. She is thinking of changing her major from accounting to education.

For Johnson, who had a cleaning job to pay for college while providing for two young children, AmeriCorps offered a way to combine teaching and finishing his music education degree. An employee in the Children of the Future program, Johnson helps students build musical instruments.

"I get to work, save money for school, and at the same time I get to teach these kids," Johnson said. "I can show them, 'Hey, I come from the same kind of neighborhood that you did, and I didn't turn out criminal,' he said.

AmeriCorps' paid volunteers have shored up the staff of existing agencies as well as providing workers for new programs.

"Federal investment in national youth service has helped expand the field, and increased the range of programs on a local level," said Roger Landrum, president of Youth Service America, an umbrella organization for national service programs. "If the funding is cut, it would be a major setback."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: February 26, 1995

37TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 News & Record (Greensboro, NC)
News & Record (Greensboro, NC)

February 26, 1995, Sunday, ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: EDITORIAL, Pg. F3

LENGTH: 839 words

HEADLINE: A QUESTION THAT NEEDS AN ANSWER

BYLINE: WILLIAM D, SNIDER

BODY:

Where should we locate the borders between public and private?

Maybe it requires a Canadian - near enough but with a bit of perspective - to propound the most important question growing out of the American political upheavals of 1992 and 1994.

In an insightful New York Times op-ed piece the other day, Andrew Stark, who teaches management at the University of Toronto, projects the interesting idea that the two men who preside over the 104th Congress - Vice President Al Gore and House Speaker Newt Gingrich - are mirror images of each other.

What does Stark mean by that? Simply that in their approaches to government they "precisely invert each other. Together they frame a set of alternatives" the nation hasn't faced before.

In his campaign to "reinvent government," Gore envisions the role of government in a wide range of areas. But his pitch is that it must adopt "market solutions instead of administrative solutions." It must restructure itself to "run as a business instead of a bureaucracy," and replicate the "customer-driven, results-oriented quality management" of the private sector.

On the other hand, Gingrich wants to turn over a great many functions of government to the private sector. But the private sector he has in mind is the one that operates according to nonmarket principles: volunteerism, community spirit, charity, Good Samaritanism.

"We must replace the welfare state," Gingrich says, "with a strategy of dramatically increasing private charities." For example, he argues that we could greatly reduce homelessness if "every church and synagogue in America" were to "adopt one homeless person." Instead of President Clinton's AmeriCorps, he suggests that every American do three hours of voluntary service a week.

It's easy to pick flaws with either of these two mirror images.

Much of government - from the post office to social services - never will achieve the incentives and constraints of a business driven by profit motives. Nor will private charities - and a newly encouraged sense of compassion and brotherly love among Americans - generate enough resources to cope with all the drug-drenched ghettos and parentless children haunting our society.

News & Record (Greensboro, NC), February 26, 1995

But regardless of flaws, Stark accurately concludes that neither the Gore nor the Gingrich approach - a market-oriented public sector versus a nonmarket-oriented private sector - gets at the very question they both profess to address: Where should we locate the borders between public and private?

That remains the essential question. It's been true in this century ever since Teddy Roosevelt began his trust-busting activities. Roosevelt concluded that the unfettered marketplace would ultimately be dominated by greedy robber barons uninterested in the public weal. That demanded public intervention.

The issue resounded in the New Deal. To stem the Great Depression, Teddy's cousin, Franklin Roosevelt, brought government to the rescue to avoid economic chaos and save the nation from the fear of fear itself. Some believed then (and continue to believe) that the free market - even with its ruthless decisions - would have sufficed. But the people repudiated Herbert Hooverism and made FDR the most revered chief executive of the 20th century.

Similar choices again came to the fore in the Great Society activities of Lyndon Johnson during the 1960s. His campaign encountered serious obstacles (combined with the ''guns and butter'' inflation of the undeclared Vietnam War). This, in turn, brought on Ronald Reagan's counter-revolution to get the government off people's backs and restore a measure of efficiency in the swollen federal bureaucracy.

During the 1992 presidential election campaign, Bill Clinton promised (with the goading of Ross Perot) to find a new coalition somewhere between market-driven Republicans and knee-jerk ''tax and spend'' Democrats too long entrenched in Congress. When Clinton faltered in that mission, voters gave him a savage kick in the pants last November.

Now Stark proposes that the Gore and the Gingrich camps debate the essential question: Where should the boundary lines be drawn?

Does the vice president go far enough in simply slashing some bureaucracy inside various departments? Should he address the more fundamental issue: the purposes of government?

Is Gingrich relying too heavily on the ''emergence of new private suppliers of former government services''? Will these new suppliers be ''profoundly nonmarket and selfless''? Or simply a new generation of robber barons?

These intriguing questions confront the two new ''mirror-image'' leaders of the 104th Congress, as well as the man who occupies the White House.

As Stark concludes: ''Market-oriented bureaucrats and Good-Samaritan citizens are wonderful things. But when they have to serve cunningly self-interested client groups or stunningly self-destructive dependent individuals, the borders between the public and the private sectors may still not be where they should.''

LOAD-DATE-MDC: February 28, 1995

59TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 McClatchy Newspapers, Inc.
Sacramento Bee

February 25, 1995, METRO FINAL

SECTION: EDITORIALS; Pg. B6

LENGTH: 560 words

HEADLINE: PRESERVING AMERICORPS

BODY:

High on the hit list of fevered congressional budget-cutters is the national service program, called Americorps, one of President Clinton's most cherished accomplishments and one that's widely regarded as a promising attempt to help students pay for college and engender in them lifelong commitments to their communities. The program is only at an infant stage, where its effectiveness is just beginning to be measured, but it has great promise and deserves to be spared.

Last year, with the program budget at \$ 376 million, 20,000 Americorps members were sworn in; in exchange for their full-time work in community service programs -- from tutoring and coaching after-school sports to restoring watersheds and building parks -- they've earned the minimum wage and a \$ 4,725 tuition grant for each year of service (two years maximum), which they can apply to future college or vocational school costs or outstanding college loans. This year, \$ 580 million has been authorized for 33,000 participants, and in 1996 Clinton seeks \$ 812 million -- out of a \$ 1.6 trillion national budget -- to finance the work of 47,000 men and women.

Opponents claim that Americorps is just another big government program -- that it puts a damper on volunteerism by making people think they should be paid for it. But how many volunteers would have materialized to immunize 104,000 infants in Texas two summers ago, as Americorps members did, or to organize hundreds of University of California, Berkeley, students to tutor middle schoolers or to work one-on-one with Kentucky second-graders to bolster their lagging reading skills? How many Americorps members, had there been no such program, would have been forced to seek higher-paying, non-public service jobs in order to pay off their college loans?

The administration has tailored the program to avoid waste: The creation of a cumbersome new federal bureaucracy was sidestepped by delegating most of the administrative responsibilities to established community-based organizations -- hospices, conservation groups, tutoring agencies, public health programs, police departments -- that have already shown success on the local level, and that know the needs of their particular communities.

Americorps deserves a chance to show that the investment will pay off. If it succeeds in forging lasting bonds between young people and their communities, in enabling them to commit to careers in public service and to see its rewards, the program will have benefits that nobody can put a price tag on.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

21ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 News & Record (Greensboro, NC)
News & Record (Greensboro, NC)

March 3, 1995, Friday, ROCKINGHAM EDITION

SECTION: ROCKINGHAM, Pg. R6

LENGTH: 508 words

HEADLINE: SCHOLARSHIP IS VOLUNTEER'S REWARD

DATELINE: WENTWORTH

BODY:

AmeriCorps is a national service initiative in which some 20,000 volunteers provide community services in return for educational benefits.

As Rockingham County's only AmeriCorps volunteer, Tracey Clark spends her days working in Rockingham Community College's child-care center.

In return, the Early Childhood Education major receives a monthly allowance for living expenses and will receive a \$ 4,700 scholarship to further her education at the end of her 10 months of service.

Signed into law by President Clinton in 1993, AmeriCorps is a new national service initiative in which 20,000 volunteers provide community services in return for educational benefits.

The AmeriCorps National Service Network consists of more than 350 different programs across the country.

Clark is a volunteer in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Corps program, one of the 14 AmeriCorps programs at work in North Carolina.

"AmeriCorps chose the RCC child-care center as one of its 18 sites across the state," Clark said.

Clark has been an AmeriCorps volunteer since October. She was chosen after filling out an initial application and being interviewed by AmeriCorps personnel. Clark's 10 months of service will end in July.

Clark's primary duty in RCC's child-care center is filling in while the center's regular teachers take classes to further their training or education.

As part of her AmeriCorps service, Clark also has to complete special projects. Two of these are establishing teacher appreciation days at the center and organizing a book fair.

Also, every other month Clark travels to Chapel Hill for seminars with other volunteers to help complete her training.

Clark is grateful for what the AmeriCorps program has done for her.

"The program has benefited me tremendously," Clark said. "I get hands-on experience with children. I get a scholarship that to me is tremendous. I get

News & Record (Greensboro, NC), March 3, 1995

to work and go to classes and basically do what I want to do for the rest of my life.''

RCC's child-care center director, Georgia Enright, is equally emphatic about the program.

' 'The RCC child-care center feels extremely fortunate and challenged to be selected as the AmeriCorps placement site for Tracey Clark,' ' Enright said. ' 'She brings to our center opportunities and experiences that would not have been available for our early childhood teachers.

' 'Because of her, our teachers are able to continue their educations during their work day. And our families benefit from her growing expertise.' '

The mission of T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Corps is to increase school readiness in North Carolina children by improving the quality of regulated child care.

The AmeriCorps mission has four components: getting things done by providing services that address educational, public safety, human and environmental needs; strengthening communities; encouraging responsibility by strengthening the spirit of citizenship; and expanding opportunities for volunteers by offering educational benefits as well as providing life and job skills.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Tracey Clark works in the child-care center at Rockingham Community College. In return for 10 months of service as an AmeriCorps volunteer, she receives monthly living expenses and a \$ 4,700 scholarship.

LOAD-DATE-MDC: March 4, 1995

19TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The Houston Chronicle Publishing Company
The Houston Chronicle

March 3, 1995, Friday, 2 STAR Edition

SECTION: A; Pg. 29

LENGTH: 506 words

HEADLINE: ONE GIANT STEP;

Houston youth corps provide shut-in a gateway to freedom

BYLINE: MIKE TOLSON; Staff

BODY:

ELDERLY and infirm, Josephine Mills has lived alone for four years in a deteriorating mobile home just north of the Katy Freeway. It was given to her by her former employer when her old home fell to pieces, and now it is following suit.

The roof leaks badly. There are dangerous holes in the floors and ceiling. There is no air conditioning and no heat save for the kitchen stove.

Worse yet are the steps leading up to her porch. They have been in such bad shape that Mills, who moves about only with the assistance of a walker, has been unable to leave her house for the past two years.

"I had been to the store to get groceries and when I stepped on the bottom step it broke in two," recalled Mills, 72. "My groceries went this way and I went that way. "

She ended up with a broken arm and a fear that would not go away.

"From time to time, my son-in-law patched it up, and the kids went up and down it," she said of the rickety steps. "But I never did trust it no more. I've never been no further than the porch since then. "

Mills' four-step gateway to the world was restored Thursday with the assistance of members of the Serve Houston Youth Corps, the Houston branch of President Clinton's AmeriCorps service program.

Reporters were invited to Mills' home to see the kind of projects the group will be undertaking on March 11 when local volunteers join together for Hands On Houston, the city's largest one-day community service effort.

"We're expecting 1,000 people to volunteer," said Martin Cominsky, director of Serve Houston. "We have more than 60 projects that we'll be working on. "

The Houston Chronicle, March 3, 1995

Many of the projects are small, but they can have great meaning to the people who benefit from them. Mills, a diabetic, has not seen a doctor in two years. Nor has she had a prescription filled.

Now, at least, she is not marooned.

"I think it's wonderful and I'm so thankful," the former housekeeper and cook said as the young workers hammered away in the background. "I hope God blesses every one of them." Mills' need was relayed to Serve Houston by another agency, Sheltering Arms, which serves Houston's elderly. She had been on its waiting list for almost three years before the agency finally contacted her about two weeks ago, she said. Now she has a case manager and soon she will see a doctor.

"As soon as the steps get fixed and I can call for an appointment," she said.

Arcadio Padilla, her case manager, said her overriding need, besides medical care, is to get her home repaired. Heavy rains last fall did substantial damage to her roof. Padilla doesn't know where he will find the funds or people to do the work, but he is grateful the first job is taken care of.

"It really is a great service they've done for her," Padilla said of the young workers' project. "And it brings to light that there are so many people like Mrs. Mills."

Those interested in volunteering for Hands on Houston may call Serve Houston at 666-8600.

GRAPHIC: Photo: Hands On Houston projects coordinator Martin Cominsky looks on as D.D. Battles nails a step into place Thursday for Josephine Mills (color); Howard Castleberry / Chronicle

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: March 4, 1995

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THE KANSAS CITY STAR

March 4, 1995 Saturday METROPOLITAN EDITION

SECTION: OPINION; Pg. C7; VIRGINIA HALL

LENGTH: 805 words

HEADLINE: A tough choice looms for 1996 voters

BYLINE: VIRGINIA HALL

BODY:

President Clinton's waffling on matters of principle has been abundantly criticized by pols and pundits, including yours truly. I must admit, however, to being impressed early on in his campaign for the presidency by what then seemed to be flexibility and open-mindedness - his ability and readiness to absorb seemingly conflicting concepts and attempt to reconcile them.

That impression was reinforced time and again when, in debates with opponents for the Democratic nomination, Clinton affably agreed with the positions staked out by the other candidates. I recall one instance in particular when he responded to a plan advanced by Jerry Brown by saying, "That's good. We can use that.

We can use it. "

Pretty soon Clinton seemed to have absorbed just about everything any of his rivals had championed as well as much of what the Republicans seemed to be advocating. Health care reform, welfare reform, cutting the deficit, "growing" the economy, downsizing government, creating a national youth service, encouraging individual responsibility, supporting diversity at the fringes of his administration and sameness at the core. ✓

It isn't working out. Seems there's such a thing as being too flexible, too open-minded, too affable, too too.

But if Bill Clinton lacks a guiding set of principles that he will not compromise under any circumstances or to achieve any purpose, his foes on Capitol Hill and those now lining up for a shot at him in '96 tend to adhere to a set of principles so rigidly that there is no room for the slightest adjustment when real-world exigencies intrude on their ideal philosophical framework.

That's a fancy way of saying they are right about anything and everything. You, if you disagree, are wrong. Political correctness on the left becomes political rectitude on the right. There is no room for debate.

It has been observed that history is a lockstep march - left, right, left, right, left, right . . . True. But the analogy is incomplete. History is a lockstep march with intermittent

THE KANSAS CITY STAR, March 4, 1995, Saturday

about-faces, ensuring that progress in any direction is, always and inevitably, abruptly halted and reversed.

If, as it seems, our choices in the next presidential election are limited to an inveterate compromiser on the one hand and an inveterate absolutist on the other, I'll have to go with the compromiser.

That is because historically, leaders of nations who believe they are totally right in any and all ways, and that their political beliefs and goals are the only ones worth having and pursuing, tend to be - well, Nazis.

Unfortunately, people like Clinton and, I must admit, like myself, put themselves - and in Clinton's case, the nation - at the mercy of mean-spirited individuals who would just as soon fry anyone with a difference of opinion as look at them.

For an example of what is meant here by mean-spirited, consider the balanced budget amendment. Republicans in Congress seeking passage of the amendment refused to specify what cuts would need to be made, even as defense expenditures are increased, to achieve a balanced budget by the end of the century. But Rep. Gerland Soloman, Republican of New York, now chairman of the House Rules Committee, did just that a year ago when his Balanced Budget Task Force itemized 500 or so essential cuts.

Here are a few of them, as listed in the March issue of Harper's :

Implement managed care for Medicaid beneficiaries. Cut Medicaid payments to hospitals. Eliminate Community Development Block Grants. (That's an odd one, considering all the block grants now contemplated; remember that they can be eliminated.) Adjust food-stamp eligibility.

Reduce medical care for veterans. Cut funds for child-nutrition programs. Cut funding for programs that pay for prenatal and preventive care, immunization, etc.

Eliminate the Economic Development Administration. Abolish the National Service program. Cut mass transit subsidies. Eliminate funding for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Arts. Freeze funding for social services for the elderly. And so on.

All together, this would be on the order of the 80 percent of Americans who say they favor a balanced budget amendment deciding to forgo food, clothing, health care for the kids and grandparents, transportation and any attempt to improve themselves intellectually, culturally and economically in order to pay off the mortgage and any other debts by a particular year.

OK. I exaggerate. They'd probably keep a car. Everyone needs a car.

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THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

March 5, 1995, Sunday, HOME FINAL EDITION

SECTION: TODAY; Pg. 1F

LENGTH: 1891 words

HEADLINE: The Community Builders;
Faces of a social movement

SERIES: THE WE DECADE: REBIRTH OF COMMUNITY

BYLINE: Thomas Huang, Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

BODY:

Dianna Fowlkes was a high-school dropout, lured to community service by the promise of college cash from Americorps, President Clinton's national service program.

"At first, you're not thinking of the community," says Ms. Fowlkes, 23, of Irving. "You hear about the scholarship, the grant money you can earn. Who wants to clean grafitti and repair parks?"

But since last fall, Ms. Fowlkes says she has undergone a transformation. As a member of the Dallas Youth Services Corps, she has installed windows in houses, painted and renovated homes, laid concrete, planted trees and repaired cracks in sidewalks and parking lots in neighborhoods from White Rock Lake to Oak Cliff.

A single mother with two daughters, she working on her GED and will get her grant for college after 1,700 hours of community service. She has not missed a single day of work, her supervisors say.

"When you get involved in community work, you see how good you feel," she says. "I have a lot of pride for my community now."

Young people like Ms. Fowlkes are participating in a movement to rebuild and revive their communities, joining a diverse group that is multigenerational as well as multiracial.

The group also includes ethnic minorities cultivating leaders within their own ranks, baby boomers looking for more fulfillment than the 1980s could provide, and retirees with more free time to do community work.

These '90s activists come from different backgrounds, but they say they share common motivations: They lack faith in government, are insecure about the future, and want to become connected with their communities.

There is no Vietnam War or civil rights movement to unify today's activists. But some say it is only natural, after the perceived selfishness and individualism of the 1980s, for people of all generations and ethnicities to seek solutions together.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, March 5, 1995

"The Me-Generation stuff, the ability of one individual to secure a future, seems less certain now than it did 15 years ago," says Trabian Shorters, 27. "The idea that we need to pull together to create a stability is much more real now."

Mr. Shorters works for the Washington-based National Urban Coalition, which conducts leadership training for students and community advocates in their 20s.

He says it will be important for coalitions to cross racial lines on an everyday basis, rather than only during times of crisis.

Mr. Shorters grew up in a neighborhood in Pontiac, Mich., that was devastated by the auto industry decline in the 1980s.

"When the factories left, people were stuck," he says. "For many in our generation, with the sudden loss, we didn't see any employment opportunities we could count on."

He says, "I remember the change in the neighborhood between 1982 and 1984. People went from getting into fistfights to pulling guns on each other. For me as a young guy, it was a very startling change."

Many twentysomething activists say they are not interested in trying to change the political system. Instead, they say they want tangible results. They choose to teach people to read, build houses and feed the homeless.

Reflecting these sentiments, a 1994 national survey by UCLA found that only 19 percent of freshmen polled considered it important to "influence political structures," but more than 60 percent felt it was important to help others in difficulty.

Activist organizations have grown on college campuses, because "there has been a greater visibility of crises - people homeless in every city, (savings and loans institutions) plundered, the environment spoiled," says Paul Rogat Loeb, author of Generation at the Crossroads, a seven-year study of campus activism. "The current hasn't hit its full impact."

As a sophomore at Vanderbilt University in the late 1980s, Michael Magevney of Nashville spent spring break helping others in his community, rather than partying. He helped scrape, sand and paint the house of a 90-year-old woman. The experience was an eye-opener.

In 1991, Mr. Magevney, now 26, started a nationwide program to help college students do community work during spring break. Break Away, based in Nashville, Tenn., works with 300 campus groups, helping match students with local organizations that need volunteers.

Involvement in spring break programs across the country has grown from about 4,000 students in 1991 to more than 10,000 in 1994, he says.

Mr. Magevney says he believes it is up to folks like him, not government alone, to solve community problems. "My first experiences were of Watergate - that doesn't leave too positive an impression" of government, he says.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, March 5, 1995

Elia Gallardo, 27, studied politics at the University of California at Berkeley and law at UCLA, but she remains beholden to her community and moved by her family's experiences, she says.

"I have been the advocate for my parents since I was young," says Ms. Gallardo. She remembers how people would look down on her parents because they were farmworkers. "My motivation is to not pretend that problems don't exist - to be very open and honest about what I experienced."

Now Ms. Gallardo has shunned high-paying corporate jobs.

Instead, she provides legal support for people closer to her heart - migrant farmworking women near San Francisco.

She travels through the Bay Area, teaching farmworker women about their legal rights - and learning about advocacy from these women, many of whom are long-time activists.

"You can't have sustainable social change, unless people who've been disenfranchised have been empowered," says Ms. Gallardo.

Unlike members of Generation X, many baby boomers participated in the political activism of the 1960s. They say they don't want to repeat their mistakes of the past - in particular, confrontation that created more heat than light.

"It was naive," says David Sawyer, 43, of Berea, Ky. "It wasn't sophisticated politically. It created a polarity, and that always has a backlash."

Mr. Sawyer directs a group called Students for Appalachia at Berea College. The group tutors children and teaches adults to read.

The public's interest in community parallels its growing interest in spirituality, and that is probably no coincidence, he says. Community service can provide a greater sense of meaning in people's lives.

Many people "left the Christian faith at age 13, and service is a way to find a religion or spirituality," Mr. Sawyer says. "People who are wounded get into service to heal themselves."

At the University of Kentucky in the late 1960s, Mr. Sawyer was in ROTC and lived in a fraternity. "I didn't question things," herecalls. "I had very little sympathy with those who thought our country was doing wrong" by being involved in war in southeast Asia.

Then National Guardsmen shot and killed students during a protest at Kent State University in Ohio. Mr. Sawyer says he came to believe then that the U.S. government could not always be trusted. He "went back to the land," he says, built his own log cabin and became a farmer. Eventually, he began to build houses for others in need.

"If you're serious about change, rather than jumping on bandwagon for the latest protest, you will dedicate yourself to accessing the system," he says.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, March 5, 1995

In San Francisco, a federal mandate required the racial integration of public housing, but little attention was paid to developing true communities, says Gen Fujioka, 38, a lawyer with the Asian Law Caucus. There have been conflicts involving Asians, blacks and Hispanics.

"We saw, to our horror, a breakdown in community," he says, "and a failure of private and government institutions to respond to that."

With the help of students from the University of California at Berkeley, the legal agency has launched a tutoring program for youngsters in public housing.

"We think government policy and lawsuits that might affect the policy have a place," Mr. Fujioka says. "But they don't make a community."

John Bilash, 34, worked as an electrical engineer for the government for nine years. "It was a good job," he says. "It paid well, there was good vacation and the people were wonderful. But when you see people who enjoy (their jobs), there's a glow on their face."

Mr. Bilash says he was missing that glow. In December 1993, he joined the federally-sponsored VISTA volunteer program in search of greater fulfillment.

Mr. Bilash is a staff member of the San Antonio Volunteer Exchange, a program for the elderly and disabled. People trade services with each other, such as buying groceries and providing transportation.

His job is to get neighborhoods involved in the program, and that means pounding the pavement, knocking on doors and speaking at community associations and churches.

"I'm a moderate," he says. "One thing that concerns me is the Democrats are blamed for throwing money at things that don't work, and the Republicans use it as an excuse to do nothing. What does work? Something in between? What can we do to change things?"

People who are retired have a key advantage over other age groups when it comes to community service, activists say. They have the time. By sheer numbers, retirees could have a significant impact on improving communities, says a report by the American Association of Retired People.

By 2030, the number of people 65 and older will more than double, from more than 30 million to 70 million, the report says.

From 1990 to 1992, the number of retirees with an interest in improving the community more than doubled, an AARP survey found, as did the number of those interested in helping the poor and homeless, working with older people and improving the environment.

In Dallas, retirees Bert and Helen Holmes are trying to protect what they see as one of their neighborhood and city's greatest assets: White Rock Lake.

"When you live here, you become the caretakers of the lake," says Mrs. Holmes. Before their retirement, the Holmeses generally did not speak out on issues because their jobs required them to be neutral, they say. Mr. Holmes was a newspaper editor, and Mrs. Holmes ran a public relations firm. They also

concentrated on raising their four sons.

"Twenty to 30 years ago," Mr. Holmes says, "we would have been more likely to contact our city councilman, and think that would be enough, rather than organize ourselves."

But the creation of single-member districts and the growing competition for project money have made it all the more important for each neighborhood to develop a strong voice, Mr. Holmes says.

Three years ago, Mr. Holmes, 73, was elected president of the White Rock Neighborhood Association, and his wife was elected vice president. They paged through a city directory and recruited members to the neighborhood association. They signed up 800 families.

The group has been successful in keeping tour and dinner boats off the lake, Mr. Holmes says. This year, the group hopes to persuade the city council to approve money to dredge the lake as part of a bond issue.

These actions have unified his neighborhood, he says.

"You see people in the store, wherever you might be, and you have something in common," Mr. Holmes says.

"Many families live as strangers in their neighborhoods, coming and going, hardly every interacting. But these issues and activities create a modern version of the old neighborhood."

GRAPHIC: CHART(S): Why The We Decade; PHOTO(S): (Photography by Karen Stallwood)
1. VISTA volunteer John Bilash, walking with Faye Beal in her San Antonio neighborhood. 2. Retiree Bert Holmes and his wife, Helen, who are involved in the protection of White Rock Lake. 3. Diana Fowlkes (right), who is earning grant money for college as she works with Dallas Youth Services Corps volunteers Jowanda McKinney (left) and Rosa Gomez, along the banks of White Rock. 4. Gen Fujioka, a public interest lawyer in San Francisco's Chinatown. 5. Elia Gallardo (standing, left), who is on a fellowship, meets with women farm workers in Castroville, Calif., along with Rosa Flores (standing, right).

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: March 6, 1995

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The Associated Press

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February 27, 1995, Monday, PM cycle

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 860 words

HEADLINE: Americorps Recruits Doing Good, Helping Themselves

BYLINE: By CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: ABERDEEN, Md.

BODY:

The new recruits at the military's Aberdeen Proving Ground carry no guns and don't salute. They are civilian foot soldiers of President Clinton's national service program, out to prove they can do some good.

Their enemy is a mucky stream, clogged with a junked love seat. Or a school with falling scores. Or fire in a national forest. They share little with the soldiers who test munitions here, other than morning exercise and mess-hall food.

"You hear the bombs go off all hours of the morning," Kia Orphanidys complains from her dormitory. But these recruits tend to be stoic. The AmeriCorps ethic, drummed into them from Day 1, is "getting things done."

AmeriCorps is about halfway through its first year, just getting its wings but already endangered.

A House subcommittee voted Thursday to cut \$ 210 million from AmeriCorps' previously approved budget of \$ 580 million for this year. Republicans would like to shut down the program entirely, and a vote by the House may come next month.

AmeriCorps is a new federal program in budget-cutting times, a Clinton idea to give Americans an opportunity to do what they're already pretty good at - community service - while getting something in return.

About 20,000 people are at work on its projects, devoting one or two years to it and getting money for education in return.

Most members work in the communities where they live. Aberdeen is one of four regional headquarters of a branch of AmeriCorps where members are drawn from scattered states and backgrounds and live away from home.

Sheryl Boone was cleaning houses, wondering how she'd ever get to nursing school. University graduate Chris Welch was back from the Peace Corps, questioning how his experience helping people abroad could be used at home.

The Associated Press, February 27, 1995

Their goals differ. But they're on the same route now, trudging along a meandering stream and mapping it for future erosion control and cleanup.

"I figured this was one way that I could earn a scholarship towards school but nobody would be handing it to me," said Boone, 23. "It wouldn't be like Mom and Dad scraping up the money or just applying for federal aid."

These are the new barnraisers, some say, people pulling together to help others.

"We think we go right to that tradition," said Eli Segal, the national service chief.

"I see kids being immunized in Texas, crack houses being closed in Kansas City (Mo.), reading scores increasing in Simpson County, Kentucky, homes being built in Miami and weatherized in New Haven (Conn.)"

Critics would say neighborly barnraisers don't get paid. The reward is food, fellowship and the understanding the farmer who was helped will pitch in when someone else needs to raise the rafters.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich is "totally, unequivocally opposed to national service" that pays. Clinton calls it part of "our God-given responsibility to serve our fellow human beings" and rarely misses a chance to talk it up.

The program provides the rough equivalent of a minimum-wage job or better. Members get about \$ 600 a month, and after one year's work, a \$ 4,725 award for future tuition or past debts for college, trade or vocational school.

The nearly 200 Aberdeen recruits get their food and housing free, take night courses on everything from car care to negotiating, and roam where they're needed.

Howard Hogan, 22, was preparing for a Washington career using his degree in international relations when he was stirred by the call to service.

"I went and fought fires in Idaho," he said. "I've worked installing fire alarms in Queens (in New York City). We helped build a recreational center for children."

On this detour before graduate school, Welch leads the team mapping a suburban Maryland stream that flows into Baltimore and the Chesapeake Bay.

The recruits scramble and slip down the banks, taking notes on the silt, exposed tree roots and other signs of destructive runoff, and shaking their heads at the garbage.

Welch taught school for the Peace Corps in Micronesia. His sponsor read about U.S. homelessness and AIDS and asked why his country had no Peace Corps for itself.

"I couldn't answer her because it was a really good question," he said. "And that ties in with my motivation for getting involved in this."

The Associated Press, February 27, 1995

Already, AmeriCorps is bigger than the Peace Corps ever was. But it has been able to accept only one in 10 applicants, a tiny fraction of the 15 million Americans in higher education.

AmeriCorps officials say the average graduate of a four-year public college emerges with a \$ 6,500 debt, a burden Americorps can largely eliminate while making only a dent in the staggering costs of private universities.

Spokesman John Thomas of the Independent Sector said his coalition of 800 non-profit groups has heard no complaints that AmeriCorps is robbing them of volunteers - a concern at the start.

"Any and all effort to foster service and volunteering in this country is good," he said. Some 90 million adults do some charitable work.

AmeriCorps gives money to civic groups in areas so broadly defined almost anything could be included: education, public safety, environment and "human needs."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: February 27, 1995

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Copyright 1995 Globe Newspaper Company
The Boston Globe

February 27, 1995, Monday, City Edition

SECTION: METRO/REGION; Pg. 28

LENGTH: 554 words

HEADLINE: State lawmaker drafts proposal for health service corps

BYLINE: By Don Aucoin, Globe Staff

BODY:

Taking a page from President Clinton's national public service program known as "AmeriCorps," a state senator is drafting plans for a "health service corps" in Massachusetts.

Sen. Marc Pacheco (D-Taunton), cochairman of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Health Care, said he will soon introduce legislation that would seek to tap the skills of tens of thousands of medical, nursing and dental students for what he calls "public health triage."

Under Pacheco's plan, in return for a break on their tuition or for college credit, members of the corps would spend a semester coordinating health care for uninsured residents.

They would steer people to free community health clinics, make sure their children have been immunized against childhood diseases such as measles and mumps, and screen them for diseases ranging from tuberculosis to meningitis to AIDS.

"We can create a model here in Massachusetts," Pacheco said. "We have a unique opportunity to provide prevention and education services to thousands of people who are uninsured."

An estimated 550,000 state residents are without insurance.

Pacheco's proposal was greeted with enthusiasm by some health care professionals last week and with wariness by others.

"I think it's fabulous," said Judith Shindul-Rothschild, an assistant professor at the Boston College School of Nursing. "I think it's needed, because a lot of people fall through the cracks."

Shindul-Rothschild said that a health service corps could plug those cracks by helping to redress an imbalance in the distribution of health care resources in Massachusetts.

For example, she said 52 percent of the state's registered nurses are located in Greater Boston, meaning a shortage of nurses in areas such as Cape Cod, with its burgeoning elderly population, and Holyoke, which has a high infant mortality rate.

The Boston Globe, February 27, 1995

Gloria Craven, a registered nurse who works for the Massachusetts Nurses Association, said she favors the idea of a health service corps because students who spend time in underserved areas as undergraduates are more likely to return there to live and work permanently.

"This would force us to begin to look at the question of where nurses are needed," Craven said.

However, some medical schools would balk if the state tried to require that institutions add participation in a health service corps to their curriculum, according to Albert Sherman, vice chancellor for university relations at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester.

The UMass School of Medicine already has a program under which medical students can get two-thirds of their tuition waived if they agree to practice medicine for four years in underserved areas, Sherman said.

"Adding this burden to them would have a real major effect on the curriculum," Sherman said.

Pacheco said he is putting the finishing touches on the health service corps bill. He said he doesn't yet know what the administrative costs of such a program would be, but argued that it would result in long-term savings because many hospitalizations would be prevented.

"This isn't the answer to the total problem," he said. "But this is one piece. It just makes sense to take the best we have to offer in Massachusetts - our higher education system - and match public service with private needs."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: March 1, 1995

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Federal News Service

FEBRUARY 27, 1995, MONDAY

SECTION: WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING

LENGTH: 1053 words

HEADLINE: REMARKS OF PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON
AT RED CROSS COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF EVENT
RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS

BODY:

PRESIDENT CLINTON: (Applause.) Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. And thank you, Elizabeth Dole, thank you for your remarks, and thank you especially for the strong leadership you have given to the Red Cross. In my own experience, I have watched you give it through hurricanes and earthquakes, through fires and floods. And I am delighted to be the honorary chairman of the American Red Cross and to be here at the start of the 1995 Community Campaign. You know, when I became president, I spent a great deal of time early trying to make sure that the federal government could do its part in dealing with natural disasters. There had been so much criticism of the federal disaster relief program before I took office, and we worked hard and I think that everyone in America would admit that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is doing the best job it has perhaps ever done. But I can tell you this, we never could have done what needed to be done for the American people had it not been for the Red Cross in the floods in the middle West, in California, all across the country. (Applause.)

I also can't help saying, on the way in here, Elizabeth, who never misses a chance to get you to do something else for the Red Cross -- (laughter) -- said, "Oh, by the way," -- on the way out -- "we're a little short of -- in our blood drive and would you mind making a public service announcement?" And I said, "No. Also, I wouldn't mind giving blood" --

MS. DOLE: Great!

PRESIDENT CLINTON: And I think I should -- (cheers, applause). As a matter of fact, it occurred to me that I ought to -- I could really require everyone at the -- (laughter) -- listen, I could really require everyone at the White House to contribute since they give blood every day anyway, they might as well -- (laughter) -- they might as well give it to the Red Cross -- (laughs) -- and do some good!

MS. DOLE: Great! (Applause.)

(Applause.)

I want to say again a special word of thanks to all of you who've been involved in the work of the Red Cross. I have for several years now said I thought what our country needed in thinking about how we relate to each other is the idea of a new covenant, that we are entitled to more opportunity but we owe, each of us, more responsibility. We've got to build this country at the grass-roots level, and that means we have to do it primarily as citizens, as private citizens with public spirits. That's what the Red Cross is all about.

I have seen the Red Cross workers in Florida and in California and all those terrible states that were devastated by the floods in the Middle West. I'm reminded of the example of Debbie Blanton (sp), the head of the Red Cross

Federal News Service, FEBRUARY 27, 1995

chapter in Albany, Georgia. When the floods struck last summer there, her home was literally buried by water, but she and her husband Joe went to work right away, and the very next morning after the floods struck, they had already opened the first shelter in their area, even though they couldn't get to their own home. When I went down to Georgia a few days later I met a lot of people, but I didn't meet her because she was too busy working on relief work. I'm happy to report that she and her husband moved back into their homes just four days before Christmas.

Time and again I have seen the work of the Red Cross, as I said, all across the country. I remember what I saw in the flood-devastated areas in California recently. I saw the Red Cross there feeding families from mobile kitchens, passing out blankets and emergency clothes, running shelters for displaced families.

As awful as they are, these natural disasters have a -- a funny way of bringing out the best in us -- neighbors helping neighbors to rebuild their communities and restore hope. If you go back to the beginning of our country, or back to the wonderful writings of Alexis de Tocqueville, you see that the keenest observers of America have always said that our ability to associate with people different from ourselves to work for a common purpose is the great strength of this country.

For more than a century, the Red Cross has led the way in that endeavor. I only wish that we could find a way to do on a daily basis what the Red Cross helps us to do when disaster strikes. For servicemen and women the world over, the Red Cross means a helping hand or a word from home. For hospital patients, it means the world's safest blood supply. For people in need, it means a hot meal, a warm bed, a hope for a better future. And so for many others, the Red Cross is terribly important not just in times of disaster, but when problems strike them or needs plague them, day in and day out.

I want to take a moment, if I might, to recognize two young people who are here today who represent the strong partnership in disaster response between the Red Cross and Americorps, our national service program. Johnny Jones and Beverly Beyer (sp) were trained by you, the Red Cross. They've worked side by side with the Red Cross when disaster struck in Idaho, during fires in Houston after the flood. I'm proud of them and the spirit of volunteerism they represent. I'd like them to raise their hands and be recognized. There they are. (Applause.) Thank you very much.

And now I have to do what Elizabeth sent me here to do -- (laughter) -- the sales pitch. (Laughter.) Because the truth is, that for all the work the Red Cross does, none of it can happen without the generous support of the American people, without the million and a half volunteers, the millions of financial contributors, and yes, the blood donors. So I urge all Americans to keep up your support, to give your time, to give your money, to give your blood, because, as the saying is this year, help can't wait. I hope the American people will continue to live out the ideals of the Red Cross and be good neighbors every day.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

MS. DOLE: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Would you like some refreshments from our emergency response vehicle? (Laughter.) And then -- and then we'll take the tour of the service spots. PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you.

MS. DOLE: How about it?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: (Laughing.) Let's do it.

MS. DOLE: I'll follow you, Mr. President. (Laughs.)

END

17TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The San Diego Union-Tribune

February 27, 1995, Monday

SECTION: LOCAL; Ed. 1,2,3; Pg. B-3

LENGTH: 377 words

HEADLINE: More people volunteer to serve others, but more are needed, speaker says

BYLINE: GREG MORAN
Staff Writer

BODY:

Against a national backdrop of government-financed social programs facing uncertain futures, more than 1,100 members of volunteer groups and service organizations gathered at a Mission Valley hotel this weekend for a conference on issues confronting volunteers across the state.

In an era when political leaders are calling for citizens -- instead of the government -- to become more involved in providing services in their communities, volunteerism is growing, said Linda Forsyth, executive director of the California Commission on Improving Life through Service.

The commission was a chief sponsor of the wide-ranging conference dubbed "Service & Volunteerism: Coming Together for a Stronger California." It continues through tomorrow at the Town & Country Hotel.

Volunteer work is also attracting a wider variety of people -- not just retirees or homemakers who, in the past, had more time to devote to community service, Forsyth said. Now, people with full-time jobs are finding the time to coach sports, clean up neighborhoods, assist at schools.

Even with the increased participation in volunteering and service activities, she said, more needs to be done.

"What we are seeing on some levels is how desperately urgent those demands are," said Forsyth. "Are they being met? No, they're not, not all of them."

Other conference attendees agreed that participation in volunteer and service programs is growing, as more citizens decide to become involved in their communities.

"People like it," said Ken Seaton-Msemaji, a San Diego resident who was appointed by Gov. Pete Wilson to serve on the service commission.

"They get out and do something and they see that they make a difference. It's very rewarding."

The conference has attracted people who work with schools, religious organizations, community volunteer centers and service programs, including President Clinton's AmeriCorps.

The San Diego Union-Tribune, February 27, 1995

That program allows young people to earn education benefits for college in exchange for working in grass-roots community service. Statewide, 2,500 youths are involved in the program.

Capping the conference will be a lunch tomorrow where Gayle Wilson, wife of the governor, will present several awards to outstanding volunteers.

GRAPHIC: 1 PHOTO; Linda Forsyth: A wider variety of people are volunteering in California, she says.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: February 28, 1995

33RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 McClatchy Newspapers, Inc.
The Fresno Bee

February 26, 1995 Sunday, HOME EDITION

SECTION: METRO, Pg. B6, BEE EDITORIAL

LENGTH: 421 words

HEADLINE: Preserving Americorps

BYLINE: Jack And Rose Gage, Fresno

DATELINE: ATLANTA

BODY:

High on the hit list of fevered Congressional budget cutters is the national service program called Americorps, one of President Clinton's most cherished accomplishments and one that's widely regarded as a promising attempt to help students pay for college and engender in them lifelong commitments to their communities. The program is only at an infant stage, where its effectiveness is just beginning to be measured; it deserves to be spared.

Last year, with the program budget at \$ 376 million, 20,000 Americorps members were sworn in; in exchange for their full-time work in community service programs -- from tutoring and coaching after-school sports to restoring watersheds and building parks -- they've earned the minimum wage and a \$ 4,725 tuition grant for each year of service (two years maximum), which they can apply to future college or vocational school costs or outstanding college loans.

This year, \$ 580 million has been authorized for 33,000 participants, and in 1996 Clinton seeks \$ 812 million -- out of a \$ 1.6 trillion national budget -- to finance the work of 47,000 men and women.

Opponents claim that Americorps is just another big government program -- that it puts a damper on volunteerism by making people think they should be paid for it. But how many volunteers would have materialized to immunize 104,000 infants in Texas two summers ago, as Americorps members did, or to organize hundreds of University of California at Berkeley students to tutor middle schoolers, or to work one-on-one with Kentucky second-graders to bolster their lagging reading skills? How many Americorps members, had there been no such program, would have been forced to seek higher-paying, non-public service jobs in order to pay off their college loans?

The administration has tailored the program to avoid waste: The creation of a cumbersome new federal bureaucracy was sidestepped by delegating most of the administrative responsibilities to established community-based organizations -- hospices, conservation groups, tutoring agencies, public health programs, police departments -- that have already shown success on the local level, and that know the needs of their particular communities.

Americorps deserves a chance to show that the investment will pay off. If it succeeds in forging lasting bonds between young people and their communities, in enabling them to commit to careers in public service and to see its rewards, the program will have benefits that nobody can put a price tag on.

36TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The Morning Call, Inc.
The Morning Call (Allentown)

February 26, 1995, Sunday, THIRD EDITION

SECTION: LOCAL/REGION, Pg. B1

LENGTH: 1378 words

HEADLINE: PEACE CORPS-LIKE PROGRAM PAYS OFF LOCALLY

BYLINE: RON DEVLIN; The Morning Call

BODY:

Behind the stone walls of Northampton County Prison, in a visitation cubicle the size of a walk-in closet, Margaret Gering is giving Arturo Santiago a new lease on life.

Facing him across a "Math Matters" workbook, Gering drills the 20-year-old convicted drug dealer in decimals and percentages.

"Which is greater, 75 percent or .875?" she asks.

Taking a moment to mentally convert the decimal to 87.5 percent, he responds, ".875".

Eighteen months ago, when he was dealing heroin in South Bethlehem, Santiago was a high school dropout with no permanent address. Now, he's studying math, English and science in pursuit of a General Equivalency Diploma. He even dreams of going to college.

"He's very motivated," said Gering. "Contrary to what many people think, the men in here are struggling to get an education and make a difference in their lives."

Score one for AmeriCorps, President Clinton's National Service Program.

Gering, an AmeriCorps volunteer who attends Northampton Community College, is in the first wave of students at area colleges to join the so-called domestic peace corps.

Eager, articulate and committed to doing something about the nation's social problems, some 20 students from a half-dozen area colleges have begun service programs in prisons, public housing projects, homeless shelters and inner-city schools in the last two months.

Yet, early successes like Arturo Santiago may be difficult to repeat.

Even as AmeriCorps takes root, the seeds of its demise are being sown in Washington.

Last week, the House Housing and Urban Development subcommittee gutted AmeriCorps' budget, slicing it by \$ 210 million to its 1994 level of \$ 370 million. The cut is likely to be approved by the Republican-dominated 104th Congress.

The Morning Call (Allentown), February 26, 1995

U.S. Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-Calif., subcommittee chairman, left no doubt as to the GOP's vision of AmeriCorps' future.

"The reduction still allows the administration to make good on commitments to (AmeriCorps) volunteers," Lewis said, "but it puts us on a very clear path toward incremental phaseout of the program."

Though small in comparison to the \$ 17 billion Republicans sliced in a two-day rampage through previously approved Democratic programs last week, the AmeriCorps reduction amounted to an ideological defeat for the Clinton administration.

With its Kennedyesque flavor, AmeriCorps was to be Bill Clinton's Peace Corps. Three decades after John F. Kennedy asked America's youth to put their country ahead of themselves, Clinton reached out to the youth for help in the war against the violent crime, ignorance and poverty that festers in the American soul.

The deal was this: volunteer for a community service program and AmeriCorps will pay you a stipend plus an educational grant.

Full-timers would be paid \$ 4.50 an hour, plus a \$ 4,725 education grant after completing 1,700 hours of service. Part-timers, mostly college students, would get \$ 4.50 an hour and receive a \$ 2,636 education grant after doing 900 hours over three years.

Often derided as complacent, self-absorbed members of Generation X, some 20,000 college-age Americans signed on to AmeriCorps in its first year. Clinton had envisioned it as expanding to 47,000 in 1996, costing \$ 826 million.

Jessica Wolfson, a Lafayette College sophomore who had always wanted to join the Peace Corps, shifted her focus to the domestic front.

"I like AmeriCorps even better than the Peace Corps; it's in our country," said Wolfson, a Main Line Philadelphia resident who tutors kids at Easton's Jefferson Street housing project. "So many things need fixing, we'd better start somewhere."

For starters, Wolfson and other AmeriCorps volunteers at Lafayette organized an after-school program for adolescents in an Easton public housing project.

Northampton Community College students, Gering included, began tutoring county prison inmates. Muhlenberg College students serve as mentors to students at Allentown's Harrison-Morton Middle School.

Lehigh University's AmeriCorps contingent is helping the homeless at Center City Ministries in Bethlehem. And Kutztown University students are tutoring in a heavily Latino elementary school in center-city Reading.

Such was the enthusiasm for AmeriCorps that Lafayette's community outreach coordinator, Sue Ruggles, had to turn away a half-dozen or so students.

"Today's students are activist," said Ruggles. "They're actually doing things, not just philosophizing about them around a table."

The Morning Call (Allentown), February 26, 1995

Popular as the program may be on campus, the Republican congressional leadership has attacked the Clinton program as unnecessary and too costly.

The Corporation for National Service, which administers AmeriCorps, was started last September with a \$ 376 million budget for 20,000 participants involved in 350 community service programs across the country. The program was funded through the 1995 fiscal year at close to \$ 580 million, and the administration wants \$ 826 million to expand the program to 47,000 participants next fiscal year.

AmeriCorps channels funds through state programs like

PennServe, the governor's office of citizen service, which got \$ 4.6 million to hire 500 participants to work in environmental, public safety and education programs. About 140 are Pennsylvania Service Scholars, college students like the AmeriCorps participants on Lehigh Valley campuses.

AmeriCorps volunteers are working with Habitat for Humanity, the Appalachian Mountain Corps and Manna, Philadelphia's food program for homebound AIDS victims.

"It's all about enhancing locally based community service efforts," said John W. Cosgrove, PennServe director.

Cosgrove acknowledged that AmeriCorps is under congressional scrutiny. The Corporation for National Service, he said, is preparing a report to be presented to Congress on March 15.

"I think they'll find that in the short time AmeriCorps is up and running, it has gone a very long way in delivering a simple promise: get things done in the neighborhood," he said.

Critics, including House Speaker Newt Gingrich, say AmeriCorps is not a genuine volunteer program. They argue that paying some to volunteer will discourage others who do not get paid.

Wendi Grassi, AmeriCorps spokeswoman, defended the program's stipend and educational grants.

For one thing, she said, young people whose parents are working hard to pay for college can't afford to take a year off to do volunteer service. Earning a modest stipend and a tuition grant, she argued, allows them to serve the community and earn money for their education.

"That makes good sense," said Grassi. "That is the American Dream."

U.S. Rep. Paul McHale denounced Republican opposition as pure politics.

"It appears to be more partisanship than thoughtful public policy," the Bethlehem Democrat said. "This is clearly an effort to undercut the major legislative successes of the last Congress."

AmeriCorps' Grassi argued that the country gets at least a 15-to-1 return on its investment. Each AmeriCorps participant, she said, is required to recruit 15 unpaid volunteers. So if the program works as intended, the 20 AmeriCorps

The Morning Call (Allentown), February 26, 1995

participants on Lehigh Valley campuses will recruit an additional 300 unpaid volunteers.

At Northampton Community College, where there are four AmeriCorps participants, recruitment has been enthusiastic. Manny Gonzalez, who coordinates volunteer services at NCC, said each AmeriCorps participant has recruited 18 people for a variety of projects, including tutoring children in Easton's ProJeCt.

Thomas Cruz-Soto, one of three AmeriCorps participants at Muhlenberg, organized a mentor program at Harrison-Morton. Cruz-Soto said a similar program in Camden, where he grew up, changed his life.

Network 3, an anti-drug program in Camden, gave Cruz-Soto the confidence to speak out on issues and to get involved in community projects -- so much so that on the 20th anniversary of the Drug Enforcement Administration, he found himself on the same stage with U.S. Atty. Gen. Janet Reno in Washington.

Representing Network 3, Cruz-Soto spoke on drug prevention to a national audience.

"I was once very shy and quiet," the Muhlenberg sophomore said. "Now, I'm a national spokesman for Network 3."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO by CLARENCE ELIE-RIVERA, The Morning Call CAPTION: The Camis brothers of Allentown perform as 'True Flavor,' a rap group, at Muhlenberg College. Jose, 12, and Angel, 11, (with brother Carlos, 5) are part of Kids Council, an AmeriCorps program at Harrison-Morton Middle School organized by Muhlenberg students. Danny, 10, is in background. PHOTO by PETE SHAHEEN, The Morning Call Margaret Gering, a student at Northampton Community College, tutors Northampton County inmates Leon Wilson (left) and Arturo Santiago.

LOAD-DATE-MDC: February 27, 1995

Federal News Service, JANUARY 19, 1995

MR. MCCURRY: We'll know -- we'll tell you more about the details of the stop as we get -- later in the week.

Yeah?

Q Mike, Senator Dodd this morning spent a great deal of time at the Sperling Breakfast outlining some of the things he thinks need to be done to -- (inaudible) -- the Democratic Party, but he started from the point saying that the November 8th election was a death sentence for the Democratic Party. Is that assessment -- that stark assessment held here as well?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know the context in which he said that, so I'll beg off a comment on that until I know more about what point he was trying to drive at. That sounds like it might have been something that's slightly out of context there.

Yeah?

Q Mike, you talked earlier about the need for focus in terms of communication strategy. On Monday you said that the theme for Monday and Tuesday was going to be national service and stressing that, and you said that probably Tuesday would be even a bigger day for that than Monday was. But when the president -- in all of his comments on Tuesday, in all of his public comments, he never mentioned national service once. Is part of the problem in terms of communicating the president himself?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't think that's fair. He talked in California -- you recall when he was visiting especially northern California, the flood damage, and also to a degree down in southern California when he was looking at the earthquake damage, he talked about the enormous positive work that had been done by a lot of the volunteers, including people who are sort of within the umbrella of the AmeriCorps program by virtue of being part of the California Civilian Conservation Corps. Then we talked -- met with them, he talked about his experiences with them and the good work that they were doing when we were in northern California. So it was really, I think, built around that general theme, and he will continue to press that theme, as, in fact, the Americorps staff has been in the last several days.

Q Just as a follow-up, I mean, he did mention volunteers, but unlike Monday, he never mentioned national service, he never mentioned AmeriCorps. He didn't stress the fact that this was an accomplishment of his administration. I mean, is part of the problem trying to keep him on track?

MR. MCCURRY: No. I think he is very focused and very disciplined himself.

Q Since when? (Laughter.)

MR. MCCURRY: Yeah, in the back there.

Q Mike, I want to ask you about something that was --

MR. MCCURRY: Let me ask a question. Can the people in the back hear okay or -- it's hard to hear the questions up front? I'll try to repeat some of them.

Q What? (Laughter.)

MR. MCCURRY: Yes, in the back.

Q I wanted to ask you about something that was going on in the House side today in committee. Will the president veto any legislation that would put a moratorium on federal regulations?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't -- I'm sorry, I am not familiar with -- repeat again what you were saying?

Q Will the president veto any legislation that would put a moratorium on federal regulations?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't want to project into the future a specific veto threat about that piece of legislation. I'm not familiar enough with that piece of legislation myself. I can look into that and maybe come back to that later in the week.

Yeah, over here?

2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The Houston Chronicle Publishing Company
The Houston Chronicle

January 19, 1995, Thursday, 2 STAR Edition

SECTION: A; Pg. 25

LENGTH: 533 words

HEADLINE: Director fights to save AmeriCorps group

BYLINE: STEFANIE ASIN; Staff

BODY:

The director of a Houston youth organization that is part of President Clinton's AmeriCorps says eliminating the fledgling service program would be tragic for the young volunteers, the city and the nation.

In four months, the Serve Houston Youth Corps has planted community gardens, organized child club houses, scrubbed flooded homes and tutored hundreds of disadvantaged children. But House Speaker Newt Gingrich has voiced his opposition to keeping the program, for which Congress approved \$ 300 million last year and \$ 500 million for this fiscal year.

"This is a very valuable program in the making and he needs to look at it," said Martin Cominsky, director of Serve Houston.

"I know Mr. Gingrich wants to save taxpayers money, so do I, but give us a chance."

Cominsky said the 60 youths in Serve Houston are learning and growing while nonprofit agencies benefit from their work. The national program involves 20,000 youths working in 300 communities.

Gingrich, R-Ga., recently said, "I am totally, unequivocally opposed to the national service." He called the program "coerced voluntarism" and "gimmickry" and it is expected to be on the Republican's budget cut wish list.

Clinton said he will fight to keep the program, which he calls the proudest achievement of his presidency, but Cominsky is worried about Serve Houston's future.

"I take him (Gingrich) seriously," he said, "but I want him to take us seriously as well."

Numerous nonprofit groups in Houston do appreciate Serve Houston, whose members receive up to \$ 4,725 a year for two years for college tuition or vocational school, a \$ 640 monthly living allowance, insurance and earn 12 hours of credit at the University of Houston-Downtown.

The Houston Chronicle, January 19, 1995

The corps is divided into teams of 10 who work for agencies such as schools, food pantries, literacy projects, the elderly, and even water quality, Cominsky said.

A team worked with the YMCA to set up after-school programs in three Gulfton-area apartment complexes, he said, and 150 children come to these centers every day for productive activities.

Serve Houston also planted five community gardens in the Fifth Ward, one at a school.

After the October floods, seven corps members volunteered with the Red Cross for six weeks canvassing homes to relay information about disaster assistance. They reached more than 1,400 Sunnyside area homes and helped clean up flooded houses, Cominsky said.

A Serve Houston team is assigned to the Chicano Family Center, where members tutor children and work with after-school programs. That team also tutors in three elementary schools and a junior high.

They are making a difference and to lose them would be terrible, said Elena Vergara, executive director of the center.

"There's no way we could have the money to pay for the services they are providing," she said.

There were more than 300 applications for the Houston corps last summer, Cominsky said, and that should be proof to Gingrich that no one is being "coerced."

"I think he hasn't had a chance to experience AmeriCorps, and once he does, he'll have a much different point of view," Cominsky said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: January 20, 1995

3RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The Atlanta Constitution
The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

January 19, 1995

SECTION: EXTRA; Section E; Page 2

LENGTH: 534 words

HEADLINE: Page Two WHAT'S HAPPENING Park, neighborhood projects get grants for their greenery

BODY:

Three city of Atlanta park projects and several neighborhood tree planting and gardening programs have been funded by an Urban Resources Partnership grant.

In Georgia, 22 environmental projects received a total of \$ 475,000 in grants from the organization. The money, in some cases, is already being spent.

Recently, Whisper Park was dedicated in Cabbagetown. The new park was carved out of a vacant lot at 218 Carroll St. by the very people who will use it: area children and neighbors.

Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association and Cabbagetown Revitalization and Future Trust used its \$ 1,960 grant to buy benches, a picket fence, flowers and bricks for walkways.

Piedmont Park Conservancy will get plants for erosion control and AmeriCorps teams will help install them in Lake Clara Meer.

Inman Park Neighborhood Association received \$ 20,000 for plants and construction materials to restore portions of Springvale Park. Park Pride's volunteer outreach training program received \$ 20,000 so volunteers can assist with park projects in their communities.

Fulton-Atlanta Community Action Authority received \$ 26,000, which it will use to hire Trees Atlanta to plant a number of large trees in the McDaniel-Glenn community.

The Urban Resource Partnership includes the U.S. Forest Service, National Resource Conservation Service, Co-operative Extension Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency working together with local and state government and communities to improve and rehabilitate urban environments and natural resources.

Center tackles domestic abuse

Morehouse College has established a Family Life Center for the prevention of violence, alcohol and drug abuse among African-American families.

Funded by a \$ 900,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the three-year pilot program specifically seeks to prevent and reduce violence among children from abusive families within the low-income, high-crime sections of Atlanta.

5TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Times Publishing Company
St. Petersburg Times

January 19, 1995, Thursday, City Edition

SECTION: EDITORIAL; EDITORIALS; Pg. 14A

LENGTH: 333 words

HEADLINE: Serving whose purpose?

BODY:

House Speaker Newt Gingrich can't be so dumb as to really believe President Clinton's successful national service program is "coerced voluntarism" and "gimmickry," especially since the program is based on the very ideal Gingrich says he values in wanting to reform welfare: fostering in young people a desire to serve the country rather than an expectation the country should serve them.

No, more likely the Republican speaker is trying his best to blot out one of the brightest spots in Clinton's presidential portfolio, just as other political aspirants like Bob Dole tried to do before Congress passed the overwhelmingly popular idea in 1993. The true gimmick is trying to make the Democratic president look bad by criticizing something of his that has such wide appeal.

This week, Gingrich remarked in an article in Newsweek magazine that he was "totally, unequivocally opposed" to the program and that he wanted to kill it to help make way for his planned tax cuts.

If Gingrich seriously wants to look for ways to finance his tax scheme, he should consider the Small Business Administration or agriculture subsidies among the less worthy ways government spends its money.

The president is right to be proud of AmeriCorps, which currently includes 20,000 young people who are working at least 1,700 hours a year in a variety of public service projects around the country in exchange for a yearly college stipend of \$ 4,725.

Participants are getting a chance for education they might not have otherwise, are able to pay off college loans and have better options for jobs. They are receiving a good start in life, one that will help keep them away from public assistance in the future.

Just as important, they are giving of themselves, in volunteer positions in the areas of public safety, health, education and the environment. That giving spirit serves a wonderful purpose for the individuals involved and the nation as a whole.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: January 19, 1995

6TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The Times-Picayune Publishing Co.
The Times-Picayune

January 19, 1995 Thursday, LAKEFRONT

SECTION: PICAYUNE; Pg. 5A1

LENGTH: 925 words

HEADLINE: YOUTH GROUP ENCOURAGES COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

BYLINE: By Marcia Hughes

BODY:

In the next 10 to 20 years, who will be the civic and community leaders of our city?

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's population report: In 1990 we had more than 56,793 people between the ages of 17 and 24 to choose from in this community. A very optimistic picture. In the last four years, thanks to daily news stories that report high rates of teen murder, incarceration, suicide, violent crimes, addiction to drugs and the migration of young adults to areas that offer better opportunities, we have a more realistic view of our youths' situation.

Today the question is not so much who the future leaders will be but how can we guide those still of able body and mind in the right direction.

In October, The New Orleans Youth Action Corp., an offshoot of Americorps, the national youth service initiative that has been a primary focus of President Clinton's platform that calls young adults to serve their communities, officially opened its doors.

NOYAC went through a one-year pilot program at the Aquarium of the Americas and is now three months into operation at its new site, 3305 Burgundy St. in Bywater. The New Orleans public school system and 17 community organizations are singing NOYAC's praises.

The high acclaim from community organizations and activists is due to NOYAC's realizing its multifaceted mission, which includes encouraging a sense of ownership and commitment in the city's future stakeholders by having them take part in meeting important urban and environmental needs in the New Orleans area.

NOYAC's long-range potential for New Orleans and its youth is evidenced in what has already been accomplished in a short period of time. For the past 15 months, the 70 young adults recruited by NOYAC have been the much-needed extra pair of hands, eyes and ears on both community and environmental projects. Working in seven teams of 10 and 12, they have shown how eager they are to be a part of rebuilding their community and have already made a noticeable impact where they have served. Non-profits and city agencies such as Christmas in October, My House, Habitat for Humanity, Bayou Sauvage, Louisiana Nature & Science Center, Parkway Partners, New Orleans Department of Sanitation, Mid-City Green Project Inc., Desire Community Housing and teachers at E.D. White Elementary and Annex, and Bauduit Elementary have been the beneficiaries of the NOYAC initiative.

The Times-Picayune, January 19, 1995

Described as sort of an urban Peace Corps by Jennifer Cumberbatch, NOYAC executive director, NOYAC borrows some of its best aspects from the Peace Corps, the international organization established in 1961.

Local recruits participate in a rigorous selection process and are required to commit to a predetermined length of service in exchange for the benefits they receive and take part in experiences that not only change their lives but also change the lives of others.

NOYAC was designed to give youth between 17 and 23 the opportunity to do service at home. There are no degree requirements, and the program helps the recruits further their education by depositing money into a special account that goes directly to the school of their choice at the completion of a one-year commitment.

Shortly after the pilot program's September opening, NOYAC attracted more than 300 applicants. Applicants were asked to complete an extensive application that asked questions about their perception of environmental issues facing the community, volunteer experiences and their ability to make a year's commitment.

Based on the content of their applications, potential recruits were invited to the first of two personal interviews with the recruitment committee. If able to make the required one-year commitment to the program, they were invited to a final interview where they signed contracts, agreed not to use drugs or alcohol and took Clinton's oath to uphold community service standards.

"Because our recruits come from different backgrounds, we use the recruitment process to get a feel for where they are," Cumberbatch said. "For instance, critical issues about environment are perceived differently. Someone living in the inner city will focus on teen pregnancy, poverty, etc . . . as opposed to someone who has never had that experience. While many applicants were attracted by weekly stipends and funds to further their education, they could not commit for a year."

For many participants, Cumberbatch said, "It is the first time they have an opportunity to interact on different levels with people of different races. It is just wonderful to see the wall come down."

Because facilitating growth and leadership skills are among NOYAC's primary goals, key aspects of the program include scheduled group discussions, peer tutorial support for recruits at lower educational levels and an opportunity for young adults to take part in defining and redefining their current and future environments.

Even with its potential for our city's youth and rave reviews from community organizations, NOYAC still has to prove itself in 1995. Though a \$316,000 matching grant from Americorps was instrumental in getting the program started, NOYAC is \$150,000 away from being financially sound. To receive money in coming years NOYAC must be supported by the community.

To make a donation or for more information on The New Orleans Youth Action Corp., contact Jennifer Cumberbatch at 947-6628.

If you have news for Downtown Diary, write to Marcia Hughes at P.O. Box 51854, New Orleans, La. 70151-1854.

5TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The Times Union (Albany, NY)

January 17, 1995, Tuesday, THREE STAR EDITION

SECTION: MAIN, Pg. A4

LENGTH: 567 words

HEADLINE: Clinton lashes back on national service

BYLINE: STEWART M. POWELL; Times Union Washington bureau

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

President Clinton and White House aides on Monday pounced on House Speaker Newt Gingrich's brief criticism of the Peace Corps-style national service program to highlight differences between the administration and the Republican leader.

Clinton vigorously defended the \$ 590 million program in an open-air address in Denver, Colo., and said his effort to hire a total of 100,000 young people by 1997 to work in community service is the "one achievement I could say I was most proud of" in the first two years in office.

Clinton was responding to a two-sentence quotation from Gingrich that was published in Newsweek magazine Monday.

"I am totally, unequivocally opposed to national service," Gingrich was quoted as saying. "It is coerced volunteerism It's gimmickry."

The President, in a speech commemorating Martin Luther King Jr., warned that the new GOP-controlled Congress "may move to abolish" the four-month-old program to "save money to pay for tax cuts."

Eli Segal, head of the national service program known as AmeriCorps, and senior White House aides challenged Gingrich as well.

The national service program, modeled after John F. Kennedy's Peace Corps, helps participants pay for college by providing educational grants of \$ 10,000 a year for up to two years to augment the minimum wage salary they earn by working on government-sanctioned social welfare projects.

The Clinton administration program handily cleared the Democratic-controlled Congress in 1993 with the backing of 26 Republicans in the House and seven Republicans in the Senate. At the time, Gingrich made favorable comments about the program, though he expressed some doubts, also.

Segal, the administrator of the program, told reporters Monday: "We think its the kind of investment that the American people will not only tolerate but ultimately delight in."

The Clinton administration also Monday denounced a major element of the House Republicans' welfare bill, which would replace most federal food and nutrition

programs with cash grants to be administered by the states.

The administration said the Republican proposal would cut at least \$ 5.2 billion almost 13 percent from the \$ 40.8 billion that otherwise would be spent on food assistance next year.

In a report analyzing the bill, the Agriculture Department said on Monday that the Republican proposal also would eliminate "all uniform nutrition standards" now set by the federal government for school lunches, the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, and other food programs. The programs were developed in response to evidence of malnutrition documented by the government over the last half century and many studies suggest that they have improved the diets and nutritional status of low-income people, the report says.

The welfare changes are in the proposed Personal Responsibility Act, one of 10 bills introduced by House Republicans as part of their "Contract With America." The bill authorizes a lump sum payment of \$ 35.6 billion from the government to the states for food assistance next year.

The Agriculture Department said 42 states, including New York, would lose money under the proposed Republican formula for distributing the food assistance money and eight states California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, Utah and Wyoming would gain.

LOAD-DATE-MDC: January 19, 1995

~~DCSvet Corp~~
PAGE 11

12TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 News World Communications, Inc.
The Washington Times

January 27, 1995, Friday, Final Edition

SECTION: Part C; METROPOLITAN TIMES; MARYLAND NEWS; Pg. C7

LENGTH: 586 words

HEADLINE: Corps puts tutors in schools ;
Federal money, opportunity to serve lure 35 college students as role models

BYLINE: Mara Stanley; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BODY:

David Darnell Thomas needed a role model when he was in middle school. Now he wants to be one.

Mr. Thomas, a Bowie State University student, is one of 35 students from Bowie State, the University of Maryland at College Park and Anne Arundel Community College who will tutor Maryland high school and middle school students in exchange for up to \$4,725 for their college educations.

"But I would have done it for free," said Mr. Thomas, a freshman criminal justice and sociology major. "I look at myself as being a role model."

Because of a mentor, "I received the help, and it made me an all-around better person," he said. "I want to give back to the community."

Mr. Thomas will volunteer at a Camp Springs school starting Monday. He said the money for college is a plus.

Maryland Students Taking Academic Responsibility for Tomorrow (MSTART), scheduled to be launched today with the swearing-in of its volunteers, is the sixth Maryland-based project funded by the AmeriCorps, the national service program Congress passed in 1993 to give college money in exchange for community service.

President Clinton touted the program, a campaign promise, during his State of the Union address Tuesday. He has pledged to have 100,000 volunteers serving by 1996.

But congressional Republicans have threatened to end funding for the AmeriCorps, which is budgeted at \$500 million in fiscal 1995, saying it makes people dependent on the government for an education.

More than 850 AmeriCorps members are in Maryland's six programs, said Marilyn Smith, executive director of the Governor's Commission on Service.

At least 575 AmeriCorps members work on 12 nationally directed programs in the state, she said.

(File)
National
Clips

The Washington Times, January 27, 1995

In the District, 23 members tutor students for the D.C. Service Corps. Two more AmeriCorps programs are in the works, said a spokeswoman from the Commission of National and Community Service.

In Virginia, four AmeriCorps programs are operating, and three more are planned. Members tutor students and renovate public housing, said a Virginia Office of Volunteerism spokeswoman.

More than 20,000 18- to 25-year-olds are serving full or part time in 300 AmeriCorps programs nationwide. Full-time members receive a living allowance, health care, child care when needed and an education award of \$4,725.

Maryland AmeriCorps members work on programs ranging from the Community Assisting Police in Silver Spring, in which participants educate senior citizens on crime prevention, to the Baltimore Home Corps, in which 22 members help homeless people find housing.

AmeriCorps members working with the Montgomery County Community Year program renovate housing for the homeless and serve as tutors for the Association of Retarded Citizens. About 250 work for the National Civilian Community Corps and help with disaster relief and environmental projects.

"I'm interested in service and serving my community," although the money will help, said Kimberly Gibson, a senior at Bowie State who will participate in MSTART.

MSTART participants will work in 27 schools in Prince George's, Anne Arundel and Charles counties, said program Director Jane Stokes.

"These students will be going into the schools and tutoring. They will also act as role models," Mrs. Stokes said. AmeriCorps members also will supervise high school students who are tutoring elementary and middle school students.

GRAPHIC: Photo, Natalie McDaniel, Todd More and Robert Chang (right) move donated furniture in Montgomery County., By Daniel Rosenbaum/The Washington Times

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: January 27, 1995

4TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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Chicago Tribune

January 30, 1995 Monday, NORTH SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 1287 words

HEADLINE: ZEAL TO CUT THE BUDGET MAY BURY AMERICORPS

BYLINE: By Carol Jouzaitis, Tribune Staff Writer.

BODY:

After graduating from law school several years ago, Jennifer Weiss was recruited by a prestigious Chicago-based law firm to work on corporate bankruptcies.

"I was making a lot of money. But I dreaded waking up in the morning," Weiss recalled. "I was stuck in a library researching detailed legal issues, making money for corporations. I never saw a client. I felt like I wasn't contributing to anything worthwhile."

Looking to help ordinary people with their legal problems, Weiss signed up in October with AmeriCorps, President Clinton's "domestic Peace Corps" now hotly disputed by Republicans.

It pays her \$15,000 a year, one-fifth the salary she made at the law firm, to provide free legal aid to low-income, battered women in Chicago, while also giving her a tuition voucher worth \$4,725 to work on a master's degree.

On her way to a Cook County courtroom to meet a client whose husband tried to choke her, the 28-year-old Weiss personified the youthful energy and idealism Clinton wanted to tap when he made a campaign pledge to start a national service program.

While hurrying to get the woman an order of protection, Weiss said her AmeriCorps paycheck "doesn't even pay my mortgage. I get by on my savings and with help from my family. But I enjoy this work. I'm happy now."

With the same pen President Kennedy used in creating the Peace Corps 30 years earlier, Clinton signed the AmeriCorps legislation in September 1993. Congress authorized \$1.5 billion to fund the program in 1994-97.

However, House Speaker Newt Gingrich and other Republicans, scouring the budget for places to cut, want to eliminate AmeriCorps, which received \$580 million in federal funds this year. They've criticized it as a feel-good gimmick that expands the bureaucracy and undermines voluntarism.

Clinton sprang to the program's defense last week in his State of the Union message, insisting that AmeriCorps is "citizenship at its best." Signaling her support during the televised speech, Hillary Rodham Clinton made sure four AmeriCorps members got highly visible seats behind her.

AmeriCorps' mere existence received little notice until Gingrich began attacking it. Yet through aggressive recruiting at schools and community centers, it has signed up 20,000 members, more than the Peace Corps had at its zenith.

While the Peace Corps sends volunteers overseas, AmeriCorps participants enlist to work on domestic projects for one or two years, receiving a modest living stipend-usually the minimum wage-health benefits and educational awards worth \$4,725 each.

They are "helping people person-to-person in local grass-roots volunteer groups, solving problems and earning some money for their education," Clinton said in the State of the Union address.

AmeriCorps supporters say that by doing work on public safety, health, education and environmental projects, participants are addressing national problems, learning the value of community service and acquiring leadership skills.

Their tasks, tailored to local needs, run a wide gamut, from immunizing poor children in Texas to stocking Pacific Northwest rivers with salmon to planting medicinal trees in Hawaii and working as reading tutors in Massachusetts.

Of 350 corps units located around the country, two-thirds are run by various local organizations-police departments or community groups, for example.

The others are sponsored by national non-profit groups such as Habitat for Humanity, which builds low-income housing, and Teach for America, which recruits recent college graduates to teach in poor neighborhoods.

For example, Weiss works for Project Safe, a partnership between the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago and the Washington-based National Service Legal Corps.

With the project's help, the woman whose husband tried to strangle her obtained an order from Cook County Circuit Court forbidding him from coming near her for two years. Afterward, the woman, named Theresa, moved back into her West Side home and Weiss filed divorce papers on her behalf.

"This is very important work because victims of domestic violence are some of the most powerless individuals of our society," said Patricia Connell, Project Safe's supervising attorney. "They take more attention than the (legal) system can ever hope to give them."

The project got a \$37,500 AmeriCorps grant last fall to help support two lawyers, a paralegal and a social worker. In addition to serving 20 clients, they regularly visit hospitals to advise medical staffs about detecting victims of domestic violence.

AmeriCorps will provide another \$23,600 in educational awards to the Project Safe corps members, which can be used for paying school tuition or loans.

While corps members sometimes are referred to as "volunteers," conservatives have been quick to point out that they aren't volunteering because they are compensated for their efforts.

It "pays 20,000 young people to do what 2.9 million others their age already do free of charge and without reward, save the gratification inherent in voluntarism," said Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), one of AmeriCorps' biggest critics.

Grassley said the program is too expensive, costing more than \$30,000 per member a year. Five college students could receive federal tuition grants for the annual cost of a single participant per year, he said.

But AmeriCorps' officials insist that the federal, per-member cost is less than \$19,000, including the tuition award. Eli Segal, a top White House aide and the program's chief executive, argued that the program leverages the federal investment with local contributions, which corps units are required to raise.

Project Safe, for example, has received \$120,000 from the Legal Assistance Foundation and the Chicago Bar Foundation. It also got a lawyers' trust fund to donate computers.

With AmeriCorps funding, the Boston-based service program City Year has expanded to Chicago. Five City Year teams have been involved in various projects, including rehabilitation of a former drug house on the West Side for low-income housing.

Dan Saunders, 20, of Oak Park, said he was sitting in a park last summer, when several AmeriCorps representatives recruited him.

"They asked me if I could use some money for college and I thought it sounded like a good thing to do," Saunders said.

With City Year, he spends mornings installing drywall at the construction site and afternoons working with children at a Cabrini Green youth center.

While City Year's philosophy of mixing middle-class and disadvantaged, at-risk youths is a broadening experience for many, it doesn't guarantee success for everyone. One of Saunders' fellow corps members was a high school dropout who was dealing drugs when he joined AmeriCorps after hearing about it at a Humbolt Park YMCA.

In December, the recruit said he had given up gang activities and was studying to complete his high school degree with City Year's help.

But a few weeks later, struggling to make ends meet on his \$600-a-month stipend, the recruit was dismissed by City Year for too many unexcused absences.

Despite Republican criticisms, strict attendance rules and other controls built into AmeriCorps have made it one of the best-managed federal programs, said Charles Moskos, a Northwestern University professor and AmeriCorps advocate.

While some Republicans would relish the opportunity to undo a Clinton program, AmeriCorps' administrative efficiency may be beside the point since the fledgling program has had little time to show many tangible results.

"Would anyone miss the AmeriCorps volunteers if they were gone?" Moskos asked. "No one knows yet."

4TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press

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January 27, 1995, Friday, PM cycle

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 479 words

HEADLINE: There They Are, Miss Americas

BYLINE: By JOHN CURRAN, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: NEW YORK

BODY:

There she is. There she is. There she is

It was a walk down memory runway Thursday as nine Miss Americas from the 1930s through 1990s swapped stories and tearful reminiscences to celebrate the pageant's 75th anniversary.

They called each other "sisters," testified to the power of the crown and obediently took commands from a horde of photographers and camera crews as they cut an anniversary cake.

Reigning Miss America Heather Whitestone cried. Jean Bartel (1943) couldn't stop talking. Phyllis George (1971) called her reign "the ultimate risk."

All agreed on one thing: "Miss America opens doors like nothing else in life," as George said.

Pageant organizers took advantage of the gathering to unveil a series of changes in this year's event, including a cyberspace venture to put contestants in touch with users of the America Online computer service.

Other initiatives include the formation of a Miss America Foundation to aid social programs for women, and a partnership with President Clinton's Corporation for National Service to encourage Americans to do community service.

None of the changes, however, was as significant as last year's decision to jettison the spiked heels traditionally worn in the bathing suit competition. Officials didn't say whether the heels would return this year.

The Miss America pageant began in 1921 as a bathing suit contest on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City. It was conceived by civic leaders eager to get people to stay at the Jersey shore past Labor Day.

Sixty-eight winners, 14 U.S. presidents and three wars later, the pageant is still stung by criticism that it patronizes women by parading them in front of a national television audience in swimwear.

The Associated Press, January 27, 1995

Some of the former Miss Americas referred to the issue. Bartel said she didn't want to enter the pageant when she was a second-year student at UCLA because it was too "cheesecake."

But others said the contest transcends objectification.

Jacqueline Mayer (1963) said competing gives women confidence and builds self-esteem. She credited the poise and determination she developed as a contestant with helping her through a 1970 stroke that left her partially paralyzed.

Whitestone, deaf since age 1, fought back tears as she talked about a young girl her dance teacher recently met. The girl said she idolized and was inspired by Whitestone.

"Miss America is not just for Miss America," Whitestone said. "It's for everybody in this country."

Also present were Lee Meriwether (1955), Kaye Lani Rae Rafko (1988), BeBe Shopp (1948) and Kimberly Aiken (1994).

The oldest former Miss America was Marian Bergeron (1933), who served two years because the Depression canceled the pageant in 1934. She objected when pageant head Leonard Horn alluded to her as "history."

"I'm not exactly part of history yet," Bergeron said. "I'm still working on it."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: January 27, 1995

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January 27, 1995, Friday

SECTION: State and Regional News

LENGTH: 414 words

HEADLINE: AG SECRETARY LAUDS AMERICORPS CONTRIBUTION TO FLOOD RECOVERY

DATELINE: DAVIS, Calif., Jan. 27

BODY:

Acting Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger will visit today with AmeriCorps members helping on flood recovery efforts. Rominger is recognizing the role played by the young people in restoring the flood-ravaged landscapes of an Indian Reservation and a national forest in San Bernardino County.

Twelve AmeriCorps members with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will join counterparts with the U.S. Forest Service (FS) in meeting with Rominger.

In addition to the work in San Bernardino County, NRCS AmeriCorps members are finding useful roles throughout the state:

HUMBOLDT: One AmeriCorps member is helping local community members access available flood assistance information.

LOS ANGELES/VENTURA/ORANGE: Five AmeriCorps members have been sandbagging in Laguna Beach, Pasadena and Ventura counties. A Lancaster team is working with the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) on a flood mitigation plan.

MARIN: Two AmeriCorps members are claybagging (no sand available) to reinforce a failing levee in Lakeville.

SAN BERNARDINO: Seven NRCS AmeriCorps members are helping tribal leaders on the Morongo Indian Reservation where floods have sent heavy mud flows into homes on the reservation. The members are surveying and documenting the damage and collecting historical information to help design solutions for keeping the mud out of homes.

SONOMA: Two AmeriCorps members are going door-to-door to explain a proposed flood restoration project to landowners and to ask for their participation.

STATEWIDE: One AmeriCorps member will be assisting biologists to identify threatened and endangered species present in areas where the NRCS is assisting in flood rehabilitation. This information will help the biologists design flood programs that won't harm habitat.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS: A 12-member AmeriCorps CCC crew will be working out of the NRCS Red Bluff office on creek restoration needed in the aftermath of the floods.

The AmeriCorps program is President Clinton's national service initiative to provide critical community assistance in exchange for a small stipend and a voucher to help members further their education.

CONTACT: Anita Brown, State Information Officer of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, 916-757-8241

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Katherine Gibney (202) 720-4369
Joel Berg (202) 720-6350

GLICKMAN ANNOUNCES RECRUITMENT FOR SECOND YEAR OF AMERICORPS/USDA

WICHITA, KAN., Aug. 14, 1995--Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is beginning recruitment nationwide for AmeriCorps members for its 1995-96 national service program.

"Our inaugural year was overwhelmingly successful in achieving concrete results in boosting rural development, combating hunger, and improving the environment," Glickman said.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program passed with bipartisan support by Congress, engaged 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds during 1994-95--1,200 of which were sponsored by USDA. AmeriCorps members perform service that meets critical community needs in return for an award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profits organizations.

Over the past year, USDA ran three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team. "Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations," Glickman said. "All projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility."

The exact number of AmeriCorps/USDA members for the upcoming year will be determined following final action on congressional appropriations to USDA.

For information on applying to the AmeriCorps/USDA program, call 1-800-883-4183. Applicants must be 17 years or older.

#

A Week in the Life of An Americorps Member

MONDAY: Newspaper article completed and submitted to local newspaper editor.

TUESDAY: 150 mile round trip along Highway 10. Observed Eco-Challenge race start at 7 AM on San Rafael Desert. Visited with Clawson farmer, Bob Riley, to gather information on possible future news articles. Then on to Moore to interview Orvel Allen, a third generation farmer in Emery County. Next went to Emery to the Humus Plant, Miracle Rock Mine, Inc. and interviewed Dave Taylor, the owner. Made arrangements for a tour of his mine site next month. Back to Ferron and visited with Florence Petty, a cousin to Lloyd and Floyd Behunin, 70+-year old brothers, who operate a second generation fruit farm. She called and made arrangements for me to interview them next week. Ate a quick lunch and then to the Ratite farm in Castle Dale. Mrs Israelsen gave me a tour as I interviewed her. Went to the court house and visited with Rose Ann Filmore, the County Economic Development Director, about future projects. Called Carol Ware concerning service projects in Emery County during "Take Pride in Utah" week. Visited with Dennis Worwood, Utah State University Extension Agent, about farming practices in Emery County. Got some super leads. Went to Huntington for meeting with Sherri Gordon, to finalize our arrangements for our coal mine tour Thursday. Then back to office in Price where I made some follow-up calls concerning our service project tomorrow. Home by 5:30.

SATURDAY: Pulled a stiff body out of bed, ate breakfast and drove to Blanding to the newly acquired San Juan Food Bank building. We, nine of us, commenced to move things out of the building and clean the walls preparatory to painting the entire four rooms and bath. We pitched in with fervor and completed the task by 3 PM. Drove the 170 miles back home.

Comments on Week's Activities

This week has been a source of great satisfaction to me of tasks met and completed. Much has been gained personally. My knowledge expanded, friendships increased, self-confidence is more durable and my resolve to serve more resolute. Above all it was fun!

Whenever I travel through Wellington I will observe with pleasure and a sense of pride the beautiful landscaping accomplished by a determined, friendly team of volunteers. A monument to the dreams and efforts of City Treasurer, Kent Powell and all those that were involved.

As I travel along US 191 I will be more cognizant of the efforts of those worthwhile citizens who willingly clean up America's roadways, roadways littered by thoughtless or uncaring persons. Beautiful scenery such as that in the vicinity of Wilson's Arch is marred by carelessly tossed garbage along it's way. I take satisfaction in my efforts as a team member to have helped clean a portion of that area. I, however, feel saddened knowing that in a short time our efforts will eventually be covered again with human-caused litter. I have hope that some

observers of our efforts will be less careless from now on.

The San Juan County Food Bank building was an effort with a purpose. This project, while not directly putting food into the mouths of the needy, will be a more pleasant place to work and store food in, and more pleasing on the eyes of those who enter it.

Contributions that have a lasting effect are the most gratifying. I feel that setting such an example of involving oneself in public service will cause thoughtful people to eventually adopt service into their lifestyle. This is our (Americorps) purpose, to get things done.

Americorps is for America and I'm proud to wear both labels, Americorps\American!


Submitted by Eldon Miller

1 (801) 637-5032 X 432

Price, Utah Team member

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April 10, 1995

SECTION: NATIONAL DESK

LENGTH: 1774 words

HEADLINE: Transcript of President Clinton's Remarks to Americorps Volunteers
April 7

CONTACT: White House Press Office, 202-456-2100

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, April 8

BODY:

Following is a transcript of President Clinton's remarks to Americorps volunteers April 7:

Fair Park
Dallas, Texas

3:15 P.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Let's give Alexis another hand. Was she great, or what? I don't think there is much more for me to say. (Laughter.) She said it all, and she said it well. Congratulations. Thank you for your example. (Applause.)

I want to say, also, a special word of welcome and thanks to your Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. (Applause.) We have been friends now for over 20 years. And I'm sure that when we first met, well, I thought she might be in Congress some day, but I'm sure she never thought I'd be President. (Laughter.)

I want to thank all your -- the local leaders for being here. We have people from the City Council and from the County Commission and from the State Legislature. And we have Mrs. Rouse (phonetic), who's on the State Commission for AmeriCorps. And Texas has been so supportive of AmeriCorps. (Applause.)

The Dallas Youth Service Corps is doing a great job here with the Greater Dallas Community Services Community of Churches and other AmeriCorps programs. But I want to tell you something you may not know. Texas has the largest number of AmeriCorps volunteers of any state in the country. (Applause.) You have people who are walking a police beat, teaching kids, building homes, helping seniors, cleaning up litter, immunizing children -- doing all kinds of things to make this state and these communities and our children stronger and better for the future -- and earning money for education, as well.

I want to say a special word about this group. I didn't have a chance to ask everybody their story, but I can tell you just from the biographies I got walking down the block here, this is what I had in mind when we started AmeriCorps. I have met one person here who got off welfare to work in AmeriCorps, and got a GED, and several others said they had gotten their GED. I met one person here who's done part of a college education and is going to use the AmeriCorps money to help pay for those college loans to get the college education. I met one person here who was born to a mother on welfare and was a Head Start child who is a college graduate who came all the way to Texas to help people who were like her

when she was a little girl. (Applause.)

When I started this national service program with the idea of giving our young people a chance to serve in a domestic Peace Corps, just like the Peace Corps, was when I was a young man, except I wanted it to also be like the G.I. Bill. My idea was that we needed more people to go to college, but we needed more people to relate to each other across racial and income and political lines. And if we had a national service project where people could do whatever folks in the community needed done -- not what some bureaucrat in Washington would decide, but what people in the community needed done -- and if they could do it without regard to their race, their income, their background, just if they were willing to serve and they wanted to earn some money to pay for college education, or to pay for their further education, then we had a chance to get the American people together.

Everywhere else, the American people -- somebody's always trying to divide us from one another. They're always trying to get us to fight. They're always publicizing our fights. AmeriCorps is about getting people together, doing grass-roots work, earning money for education by serving your community. And all of you are doing it. I am very, very, very proud of you. (Applause.)

As you know, and as Alexis said, there's been some controversy about the AmeriCorps program. And there are some people who say, well, we have to cut the deficit and we have to cut some spending, so we ought to cut that because it's new, or we ought to cut that because it's inefficient. Well, it's not inefficient. You've got 20,000 young people out here working all across America for a minimum wage, working like crazy, and earning some money to go to college just like they would if they were serving in the military. The people who are serving in the military earned the G.I. Bill. They're eligible for up to \$30,000 in benefits. But letting people earn enough for two years worth of benefits at about \$4,700 a year, that's not too much to pay to give young people the privilege of service and the energy and the opportunity to work with other people in other ways. (Applause.)

There are people who say that any national program is too bureaucratic. There is no bureaucracy here. These programs in Texas were funded by competition. People have to compete for these projects and compete for these slots. And nobody get it unless they're doing a good job.

Then there are people who say that if we actually give young people the opportunity to work full-time in volunteer work and pay them a minimum wage and then let them earn some money to go to college, somehow that will discourage all the other volunteers. Well, look around here. I don't think that's a very good argument. All you've got to do is look around to see that that is not true. (Applause.)

There is plenty of work to be done in this country, folks. And the government cannot do it all, and it cannot be all paid for. It's got to be done by community service groups. And you're a part of that. (Applause.)

And there are people in our country who have dreams and aspirations and who have personal problems, and they can't be solved by some high-flown program. They have to be solved by people who make a decision to change their lives, just like all these young people behind me and all of you out there with your AmeriCorps tee-shirts. But it helps to change your life if you know there's somebody pulling for you, somebody giving you a chance to serve and somebody giving you a chance to get a good education so you

can have a good future. That's what AmeriCorps is all about. We ought to keep it. We ought to stand behind it and we ought to keep going. (Applause.)

You will find this hard to believe, I bet, but when I was your age -- most of you -- when I got out of high school, our country had a lot of problems. The racial problems were more severe than they are now. And we were involved in a Cold War with what was then the Soviet Union. And we didn't know for sure that there would never be a nuclear war. And now, for the first time since atomic bombs have been made, there are no nuclear weapons pointed at the American people by the Russian people. I am proud of that.

But this age and time has its own problems. If anybody had ever told me that we'd have as many children born out of wedlock, I wouldn't have believed that. If anybody had every told me we'd have as many single mothers raising little children in poverty, I would not have believed that. We have new problems and new challenges. And the only answer to it is for people in the community to take responsibility for themselves and for each other, and to have the chance to pull themselves up and work their way out. What did you say? That you wanted a hand up, not a hand down. That's a good a way to say it as I can imagine. That's what AmeriCorps is all about.

This is a very great country and there is nothing we face that we cannot do. But we're going up or down together. And if we're going up together, we're going to have to make sure everybody -- everybody has a chance to get a good education, because in a world economy, what you can learn determines what you can earn. And we're going to have to remember that whatever we do, and how ever busy we are, and whatever else we've got on our mind, we need to take some time out to serve; to be citizens; to work together to solve our common problems.

Don't you feel better at the end of every day, after you work and you do something for somebody else? (Applause.) When you go home at night, aren't you proud of it? (Applause.) And aren't you making friends with people who are different from you that you would never have know otherwise? And don't you think that will stay with you all your life?

I just want you to make the most of your life that you can, solve as many problems in this community as you can, get that education and stay with AmeriCorps. I'll stay with you, and together we can save it.

God bless you. Thank you. (Applause.)

END 3:30 P.M. CDT

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Joel Berg (202) 720-6350
Jim Loftus (202) 720-4623

USDA TO RUN AMERICORPS NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, June 20--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will run 42 different AmeriCorps projects that are designed to fight hunger and improve nutrition, preserve national forests and improve community environmental quality, promote rural development and increase rural water delivery, and boost ongoing flood-relief efforts in the Midwest.

The USDA program, funded in part by a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), will be the largest single federal agency component of the President's national service initiative.

"President Clinton has made it clear to members of his Cabinet that national service is one of his top priorities, and I am especially pleased that USDA will be playing a key role in the AmeriCorps program," said Espy. "The USDA projects will fulfill the President's vision that national service bring together citizens of varied backgrounds to perform services vital to their communities."

Espy announced that beginning this September, USDA will place 1,200 AmeriCorps national service participants throughout urban and rural America. The participants in these projects will be placed in 32 states, representing every region of the country.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of Americans to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs. Participants in the program will work for a year earning a stipend of at least \$7,500, and then receive an educational voucher worth \$4,725.

Americans 17 years of age or older may apply for the USDA programs by calling 1-800-880-4183.

"Grounded in the mainstream values of community, responsibility, and opportunity, national service makes sense because it meets multiple ends," Espy said. "It is good for the participants who benefit from their increased ability to attend college or vocational school, good for the communities which benefit from their service and good for the country which benefits from a renewed civic spirit. Moreover, the program is good for USDA because it gives us new ways to boost our mission areas of fighting hunger, protecting the environment and rebuilding rural America."

CNCS is an independent federal corporation created by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. Its purpose is to administer national service programs and provide funding on a competitive basis for national service programs that address the nation's education, human, public safety and environmental needs.

-more-

Under provisions that are unique to that Act, federal agencies are empowered to compete against each other in a competitive grant process to obtain funds from CNCS. The White House announced today that, as a result of the first year of this process, CNCS had awarded USDA 1,200 AmeriCorps slots and \$2.6 million in operating funds. Funds for the Department's program will also be provided from existing USDA programs and from non-profit organizations that serve as partners at individual sites.

The USDA AmeriCorps projects reflect a new emphasis on cooperation among USDA agencies. USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Food and Nutrition Service, Forest Service, Rural Development Administration, Rural Electrification Administration, and Soil Conservation Service will play significant roles in managing this program.

The Anti-Hunger projects will be at five sites--two rural and three urban--with high levels of hunger and poverty. The projects will work to reduce the number of citizens suffering from hunger and improve the nutritional content of family diets. This program has been designed, and is to run, as a unique partnership between USDA, youth service corps and local anti-hunger groups.

The environmental projects will occur at 32 rural and urban sites in 21 states. The goals of the projects are to help solve local environmental problems, protect local watersheds, repair and upgrade community facilities, promote sustainable agriculture, conduct environmental education seminars, and preserve and restore national forests.

The rural development projects will engage generally older participants, who are college graduates and professional school graduates, in work in 10 pilot regions throughout America. Participants are to help communities protect watersheds, improve housing, promote economic development, boost sustainable agriculture, and aid the Clinton Administration's Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community initiative. Special disaster-relief projects will also be run in the eight Midwest states most impacted by last summer's record flooding.

-more-

USDA AMERICORPS SITES
(To start operation September 1994)

ANTI-HUNGER -

- #1 Vermont, state-wide
- #2 District of Columbia
- #3 Milwaukee, Wis.
- #4 Mississippi Delta, Miss.
- #5 Los Angeles, Calif.

PUBLIC LANDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT -

- #6 Western Kansas
- #7 Western Oklahoma
- #8 Texas Coast
- #9 Atlanta, Ga.
- #10 Boston, Mass.
- #11 East St. Louis, Ill.
- #12 New Jersey, state-wide
- #13 District of Columbia
- #14 Chicago, Ill.
- #15 Portland, Ore.
- #16 San Bernadino National Forrest, Southern California
- #17 Six Rivers National Forrest, Northern California
- #18 Olympic National Forest Washington State
- #19 Rogue River National Forest, Southern Oregon
- #20 Arizona, state-wide national forests
- #21 Bienville National Forrest, Miss.
- #22 Green Mountain National Forest, Vt.
- #23 White Mountain National Forest, N.H.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT -

- #24 New England (Maine, Vermont, Northwestern New York)
- #25 Appalachia (Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia)
- #26 South Carolina, state-wide
- #27 Mississippi Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi)
- #28 Great Lakes (Michigan, Ohio)
- #29 Minnesota, state-wide
- #30 Texas Colonias
- #31 Four Corners (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah)
- #32 Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Washington)
- #33 California, state-wide

FLOOD RELIEF -

- #34 Illinois
- #35 Iowa
- #36 Kansas
- #37 Minnesota
- #38 Missouri
- #39 Nebraska
- #40 North Dakota
- #41 South Dakota
- #42 Wisconsin

Call Joel Berg at (202) 720-6350 for information on specific sites.

News Release

Contact:

Bettye W. Oliver (601-965-5460)

George E. Irvin, Sr. (601-965-4316)

AMERICORPS MEMBERS RENOVATE HOME OF ELDERLY WOMAN

U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Rural Economic and Community Development (RECD) AmeriCorps Members are playing a key role in renovating the home of a disabled Hinds County Senior Citizen, announced George E. Irvin, Sr., RECD State Director. " Ms. Dorothy Coffee, a 64 year old disabled woman, received a grant totaling \$6500 from RECD for repairs to remove health and safety hazards from her home", said Irvin. The renovations are the results of the efforts begun almost ten months ago of AmeriCorps members Charlet Meredith and LaDonna James.

The members first met Ms. Coffee in April of 1995. The AmeriCorps team was interested in performing minor repairs to a home in rural Mississippi as part of 1995 National Day of Volunteering.

Ms. Coffee had applied for a loan through RECD in 1992 but was ineligible because of lack of income and the location of her home. Meredith knew that Ms. Coffee's home would require more than time and funds than were available to the team for the National Day of Volunteering, but was determined to see the necessary repairs completed.

Meredith researched the file on Ms. Coffee and found that County lines had been redrawn since the time Ms. Coffee had made her application and her home was no longer out of the RECD service area. "Once we knew that Ms. Coffee was in an area where we could help her, the problem was how to go about doing it. If Ms. Coffee applied for another loan, she would again be turned down on the basis of her income", Meredith said. I went back to the RECD procedures for grants, and found out that the homeowner had to be 62 years of age with very little income.

Harris Building and Roofing Company in Hazlehurst, MS secured the bid for renovations. George Harris, owner of the construction company, surveyed the home and estimated that the necessary repairs would exceed \$13,000. In order to work within the grant, Mr. Harris could only eliminate extreme health hazards. Harris agreed to work with the AmeriCorps members to maximize repairs to the Coffee home. AmeriCorps members were able to maximize Ms. Coffee's grant by recruiting volunteers for extra labor and acquiring materials that were not included in the contract.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

For immediate release
July 28, 1993

Contact:
Joel Berg
202/720-4623

ESPY ANNOUNCES \$842,000 IN GRANTS TO KANSAS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy announced today that USDA's Extension Service assisted in obtaining \$842,000 in funds for a project in Kansas to develop a national service health care model in rural areas and a project in Lawrence to implement an after-school program.

"These grants, totaling more than three quarters of a million dollars from the Commission on National and Community Service, will provide a big boost for the State of Kansas," Espy said. "This is a perfect example of the kind of public/private partnerships that will be created and bolstered by the President's national service plan."

Continued Espy, "Working together with land-grant universities, USDA's Extension Service will forge a powerful union to provide youth service opportunities throughout this country. My Department will take every step possible to help President Clinton create a national service system that promotes community, opportunity, and responsibility."

With a grant of \$800,000 to the Topeka Extension Service, emergency medical services and Extension Service 4-H offices in several Southeastern Kansas counties will establish service corps that train "first responder" volunteers who provide initial medical care before emergency vehicles arrive. Participants also will manage health education and immunization programs.

In Lawrence, \$42,000 was awarded to implement an after-school child care program. As an increasing number of Kansas families move from single to two-wage earner status, the need for after-school care increases. Extension 4-H offices will develop and manage the program for elementary school children. A teacher will provide oversight, working with youth and senior citizen volunteers who are recruited and trained by 4-H.

CNCS also awarded funds to projects in Missouri, Michigan, and New Mexico, totalling \$1,684 million in funding for Extension Service-related service projects.

Federal officials tour projects

Jim Gilliland, the USDA General Council, paid a brief visit to Kentucky recently and stopped by an AmeriCorps site in Mt. Vernon.

While in Mt. Vernon Mr. Gilliland visited Ashlee's House, a local homeless shelter with which local AmeriCorps member Robby Phillips has

been assisting. Gilliland, along with Craig Cornwell from the USDA Office of General Council, Tom Fern, the RECD State Director, Louis Elliot, Kentucky RECD AmeriCorps Project Director, and Rusty Chevront, Field Representative for Senator Wendell Ford, spent the morning of April 10, 1996 touring Ashlee's House. Ashlee's House has been developed and operated by Daniel Boone Development Council, Inc. in conjunction with Kentucky Housing Corporation funding. Gilliland's purpose for visiting Ashlee's House and Town Hill Rental Project was to review Daniel Boone Development Council, Inc., an AmeriCorps host agency. Mr. Gilliland was impressed with both projects and the tremendous amount of leveraging and community involvement that was taking place in the area to make the projects a success.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bi-partisan support from Congress, that engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training, or gradu-

ate school or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with state and local governments and non-profit organizations.

The United States Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states, composed of approximately 1350

members: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations, like Daniel Boone Development Council, and all projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity and responsibility.

The USDA Rural Development Team in Kentucky began serving in southeastern Kentucky in 1994 with nine members located at different sites. In 1995, that number grew to 14 members throughout the state. In addition to local AmeriCorps member Robby Phillips, Paula Hill, who is also assigned to Daniel Boone Development Council, and three other AmeriCorps members-Rebecca Davidson, Burnam Hudson and AmeriCorps Leader, Laura Duncan-



Shown above are front row from left: Rebecca Davidson and Burnam Hudson. Back row from left: Tom Fern, Robby Phillips, Jim Gilliland, Paula Hill, Loui Elliott, Rusty Chevront, Laura Duncan.

were present for Gilliland's visit.

The event was also attended by Buzz Carloftis, Judge Executive of Rockcastle County; Doug Arnett, Deputy Judge Executive of Clay County and Director of Flat Woods; Mark Aufferman and Tiffany Marthaler from Kentucky Housing Corporation; Peggy Jackson, KACA;

Sharon Ross, Kentucky Housing Foundation; Betty Carter, County Coordinator of Daniel Boone Development Council; Nancy Meadows, Daniel Boone Development Council; Ken Arterburn, RECD; LuEd Nielsen, manager of Ashlee's House; Albert Robinson, State Senator and other local and state officials.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1996

Volunteer Week: BG Repair Affair one of the events

By BRIAN WILKERSON

The Daily News

President Clinton has dedicated this week as National Volunteer Week, urging Americans to help others, and southcentral Kentuckians are joining the effort.

There are several events planned in the region, all of which are tied to the federal service program AmeriCorps.

On Friday, 14 AmeriCorps members will converge on the west side of Bowling Green to participate in Repair Affair, which will refurbish the outside of four homes.

Lisa Hines, an AmeriCorps member who works for Operation PRIDE, one of the agencies sponsoring the event, said it was a coincidence this project coincided with National Volunteer Week. The timing was "perfect," she said.

The 24 members of Service Learning Impacting Children's Education, an AmeriCorps project in the Franklin-Simpson school system, on Wednesday will paint a barn used by 4-H and FFA students at the county fairgrounds.

"It'll be a nice day," program Director Mike Houston said. "We plan on doing a cook-out as part of our day out there."

Houston encouraged others to join them. "We'll take any help we can get," he said.

This weekend, the Franklin-Simpson program will bring together senior citizens and elementary school students to learn more about quilting. A quilt will be made using blocks made by AmeriCorps members and students.

There are more than 200 AmeriCorps members in Kentucky. Their projects include promoting literacy in schools; working with victims of domestic violence; and helping clean up communities.

Release No. 0348.95

Joel Berg (202) 720-6350
Katherine Gibney (202) 720-4369

AMERICORPS/USDA MEMBERS SET EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES NATIONWIDE

WASHINGTON, April 21, 1995--U.S. Department of Agriculture AmeriCorps members today planted a garden across from the White House to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Earth Day, while AmeriCorps/USDA members nationwide will commemorate the April 22 event with projects in their own backyards.

Paul Johnson, chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, said that seventeen AmeriCorps members from Maryland and the District of Columbia, sponsored by NRCS and USDA's Agricultural Research Service, planted a Native American Heritage Garden with indigenous plants from throughout the country on a plot on the Ellipse, south of the White House. The garden is part of an Earth Day Program sponsored by Native Americans.

Visitors to the garden will receive a packet of heirloom seeds and information on the indigenous plants, the Native American heritage of conservation, and current conservation efforts. Callers may dial 1-800-THE SOIL to order a free action packet on current conservation practices.

A sampling of AmeriCorps/USDA Earth Day events being sponsored around the country follows:

- * In Marion, Va., AmeriCorps/USDA members will present a guidebook they wrote for a new Tree Identification Lab--which is an interpretive trail on the banks of the Middle Fork Holston River--to the Marion community during an April 22 ceremony;

- * In Cloquet, Minn., AmeriCorps/USDA members will plant approximately 5,000 trees at three sites with the assistance of about 200 community volunteers on April 22; and

- * In Kingsport, Tenn., AmeriCorps/USDA members today created and set up two displays to inform the public about an upcoming Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program in Kingsport.

AmeriCorps is a national service program, created by President Clinton and passed with bipartisan support from Congress, that engages diverse groups of Americans in performing critical service to meet community needs. In return for their service, AmeriCorps members receive educational awards that can be used to pay for college, graduate school, or job training. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in community-based partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

-more-

USDA is running three types of AmeriCorps teams, composed of approximately 1,200 members, in 38 states across the country: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team.

"All the AmeriCorps projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility," Johnson said.

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NEWS

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of
Communications

News Distribution
Room 506-A
Washington, D.C. 20250

Release No. 0353.95

Joel Berg (202) 720-6350
Katherine Gibney (202) 720-4369

AMERICORPS/USDA MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN "NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE"

WASHINGTON, April 24, 1995--AmeriCorps/USDA members in Farmington, N.M. will clean up a site on a ranch for disadvantaged youth--for future construction of a petting zoo designed by an AmeriCorps/USDA member--on Tuesday, April 25, as part of their observance of "National Day of Service."

Through this activity, the AmeriCorps/USDA members are joining their AmeriCorps counterparts in special community service projects nationwide on that date.

National Day of Service is being jointly sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Youth Serve America, and the Points of Light Foundation during National Volunteer Week, April 23-29.

"The National Day of Service is intended to highlight how AmeriCorps projects work cooperatively with community volunteers," said Joel Berg, director of National Service for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Navajo Nation AmeriCorps members and VISTA Volunteers will join the AmeriCorps/USDA members on that date at Our Ranch, a non-profit facility in New Mexico that provides opportunities for disadvantaged youth through horsemanship and outdoor activities.

Here are some of the community service activities planned for Tuesday by AmeriCorps/USDA members:

- * In Des Moines, Iowa, 25 AmeriCorps/USDA members will join with about 150 of their colleagues at a downtown housing project to clean the apartments of elderly and handicapped persons, landscape the grounds, and reorganize the library and thrift shop.

- * In Wellington, Utah, AmeriCorps/USDA members--along with the city's mayor, Paul Clark--will landscape the grounds in front of the newly remodeled city building.

- * In Santee, S.C., AmeriCorps/USDA members and Santee residents will unite in a project to beautify the town.

AmeriCorps is a national service program, created by President Clinton and passed with bipartisan support from Congress, that engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs. In return for this service, AmeriCorps members receive awards to help pay for higher education, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

USDA is running three types of AmeriCorps teams, composed of approximately 1,200 Members: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team. The USDA program has projects in 38 states, many of which are sponsored by community-based organizations. "All AmeriCorps projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility," said Berg.

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NEWS

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Coconino National Forest
2323 E. Greenlaw Lane
Flagstaff, AZ 86004
(602) 527-3600

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 23, 1995

CONTACT: Raquel Romero
527-3490
or
Jerry Chavez
779-7658

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SERVICE TO VISIT FLAGSTAFF

(Flagstaff, Ariz...) Joel Berg Director of National Service for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be visiting Flagstaff Fri., Aug. 25.

Berg will be working with AmeriCorps Members building a new trail on the Peaks Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest, Fri. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. He will also attend a meeting with community leaders at the Greater Flagstaff Economic Council (1300 S. Milton, suite 125) at 2 p.m. They will be discussing the benefits of AmeriCorps to Flagstaff, the creation of jobs, emergency services for rural communities, strategic partnerships, and Revolving Loan Program funding.

Berg is responsible for overseeing 1200 AmeriCorps Members serving in USDA anti-hunger, environmental and rural development projects in 33 states. This is the largest-single component of the AmeriCorps national service program.

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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

RARE

Resource Assistance for Rural Environments

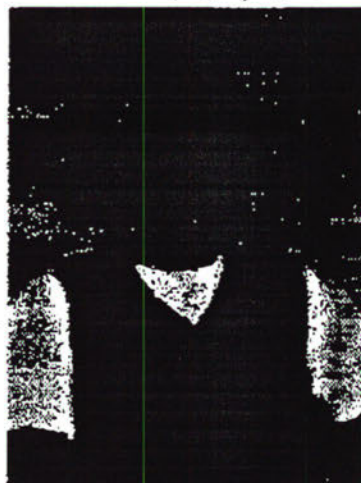


Profile

Resource Associate, Larry Vasquez

Larry Vasquez began his graduate work in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Oregon in Winter 1992. Prior to entering the PPFM program, Larry received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography from U.S.C.

He has also worked in planning and community development for the City of Visalia, one of the fastest growing cities in the Central Valley agricultural region of California.



Larry has professional experience in several areas of planning, including local economic development, land use, long-range planning, and transportation planning. In addition, he also holds a teaching credential for elementary and middle school instruction and also participated in a language exchange program in Seville, Spain which provided an opportunity to work with Spanish government agencies involved in economic development activities.

However, the work in Spain is not Larry's only experience with planning work outside the United States. In 1993, he

traveled to the south Pacific to participate in the U of O Micronesia and South Pacific Program.

While overseas he worked with the Yap State Office of Planning, Budget and Statistics on two projects; a site plan and design for a state museum and library complex, and an existing land use survey project. In addition to these efforts, Larry also provided planning assistance to the Yap State Historic Preservation Office in development of a cultural preservation plan.

With a strong interest in language, traveling, politics, and sports Larry spends his free time involved in community service activities, perfecting his foreign language skills, and enjoying a variety of outdoor sports and travel.



Community Service Day At Randolph Union High

All seventh grade students at Randolph Union High School participated in a Community Service Day on Thursday, May 30. The AmeriCorp Vermont Fire Technical Support Team guided the fun and education through Sharon Borchardt's English class. Team members Brian Picotte, David Main, and Sharon Quinlan work out of the George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development Council office in Randolph.

Each of the five sessions started with a globe beach ball toss showing how much of the earth is covered by water. By the end of this "sand and surf" game the kids understood that only .00003% of water is available for use by all humankind. Next the kids moved to a dry hydrant display which demonstrated the importance of installing these hydrants into ponds, lakes, and streams for fire protection. The team ended their presentation by simulating a water shuttle. The students were divided into teams of 10 and were given hats as uniforms. The teams picked up empty buckets and ran through a road course to a small pond of water. Each team member scooped up water with their buckets then dumped the water into a tub (which represented a fire department's dump tank). The demonstration helped the kids understand that if water is not readily

partments in reducing the risk of available to fire departments they must use water shuttles to get water to a burning structure.

RUHS's seventh graders are required to do a community service project. The AmeriCorp team was invited to the school so that they could explain why they were in service. Each Tech Team member talked about the importance of service projects to the vitality of communities. AmeriCorps Team's mission is to assist local fire departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life and property, and to improve the safety and welfare of the community. To accomplish their mission the team helps fire departments identify water sources, design dry hydrants, and coordinate fire protection water supply plans. They also assist fire departments with fundraising, funding resource information, and with public relations.

Sharon Borchardt, seventh grade English teacher, summed up the day saying, "The AmeriCorps Team provided hands-on experience and a visual demonstration that engaged the kids. They not only had fun, but learned about water conservation and the importance of water to fire departments. This team is a great example of people giving back to their communities to meet real human needs," concluded Borchardt.



Brian Picotte, AmeriCorp Vermont Fire Technical Team member, demonstrates how much water covers Earth with a "sand and surf" globe exercise.



Kimberly Gundler, project leader for the AmeriCorps group that designed and built the Blythewood Middle School nature trail, explains to faculty members why the site was ideal.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT WALTON/SPECIAL TO THE STATE

Blythewood blazes a trail

By CECE VON KOLNITZ
Special to The State

Behind the new Blythewood Middle School, students can cross three habitats in five minutes.

The sandhill, piedmont and wetland areas behind the new school building are a part of a new nature trail, a half-mile course that snakes around oak trees, wild flowers and piles of turkey caps left by wild turkeys.

The trail was laid out and cleared by a Winnsboro-based AmeriCorps rural development team.

"Our teachers are just thrilled," said Jo Hecker, principal of the Richland 2 school,

which opens this fall. "It will be a real valuable resource, something to put in the teachers' hands."

"You don't have to take a field trip. You've got the field trip right here," Hecker said.

Hecker met Friday with the AmeriCorps team for a "hand-off," where the team's project leader Kim Gundler led Hecker and other administrators from the school on a tour of the new trail. The team finished the project in two weeks.

Gundler showed the group some possible sights where the school could build outdoor classrooms.

"You've got a great sight for studying and labs," Gundler said.



Karen Kinard, left, and Monique Thomas are AmeriCorps volunteers who helped construct the trail.

The team also provided the school with a "resource plan," containing lists to help teachers plan classes they can hold on the new trail.

The plan includes the names

of businesses and individuals in the community willing to help science teachers and a list of plant life teachers can show stu-

PLEASE SEE **TRAIL** PAGE 8

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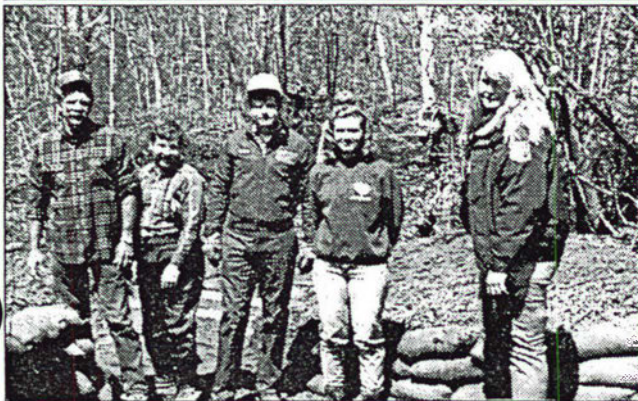
Quarterly



Bulletin

Volume 8, Number 1
Spring 1996

South Carolina's Home for Children



AmeriCorps volunteers and U.S. Forest Service personnel sandbag the old cow tunnel as phase one of the Interpretive Trail gets going at John de la Howe School. From left, Dan Johnson, team leader, Davis Holcombe, AmeriCorps volunteer, David Wilson, project leader, AmeriCorps volunteer Angie Paulus and Shrie Ramie, U.S. Forest Service.

AmeriCorps Trail Blazers Team Up with U.S. Forest Service to Clear de la Howe Nature Trail

by: June Wininger, Editor
The Sun Newspaper
Savannah Lakes Village

The brainchild of a handful of McCormick County citizens representing National, State, County, Town and area organizations have pooled their collective energies to open an Interpretive Trail through John de la Howe property, U.S. Forest Service and Corps of Engineers land.

The project will provide environmental education as well as a recreational trail for children and adults as they learn about forestry resources and management through interpretation. Walking the two-and-one-half miles of trail through pristine forest land with stands of maple, pine, oak, cherry, and yellow poplar, they will observe nature in the rough. Wildlife habitats, forestry management practices, wildflowers and grasslands already in place in the acreage ac-

commodating the trail will make the walk an adventure for children and adults alike.

The old cattle tunnel, and deer paths have been incorporated to make the experience as inviting as possible. There may be plans in the future for handicapped access.

Beginning behind The Barn, it makes a loop and goes to campus and through Quailwood Park, for phase one and two. Phase three will take it to the John de la Howe tomb area, but will be put on the back burner until the first two are well underway.

Seasonal as well as interpretative and trailside signs will inform about special sites, safety and direction information.

The four-member AmeriCorps team started clearing the

first week of April. Project leader, David Wilson, Angie Paulus, David Holcombe, and Dan Johnson, team leader, working together with Shrie Ramie of the U.S. Forest Service and her team, have cleared brush, built bridges over creeks, hacked away at roots and branches in record time.

The most impressive feat, however, was digging several thousand cubic feet of silt and other material out of the old cattle underpass leading from The Barn under Highway 81 to the de la Howe campus on the other side. With shovels and wheelbarrows, the team broke through the tangle of vines, underbrush, and weeds to clear access to the tunnel then to shovel out to the far end.

Railroad cross ties were planted for steps coming down the path and sandbags were filled to prevent erosion back into the old cattle walk which dates back into the 1930's as close as anyone can judge.

Who are the young people and some not so young who devote 1800 hours each year to AmeriCorps projects? They are

people with a mission, to assist in environmental education, community outreach, water quality assessment, 911 mapping, grassland surveys, and basically helping rural communities to help themselves by coming up with long term solutions to everyday problems.

Angie Paulus, of Abbeville, South Carolina who has an English degree, was in the trenches with everyone else during this particular project. She at one time thought she would join the Peace Corps, then realized she could participate in Bill Clinton's challenge closer to home. "I believe that through our combined efforts we can establish a new precedence of life in America, where people care enough about each other to volunteer their services to make a difference in the lives of others," she stated.

The volunteers are excited that McCormick County has conceived the project and enjoy their role in getting it underway.

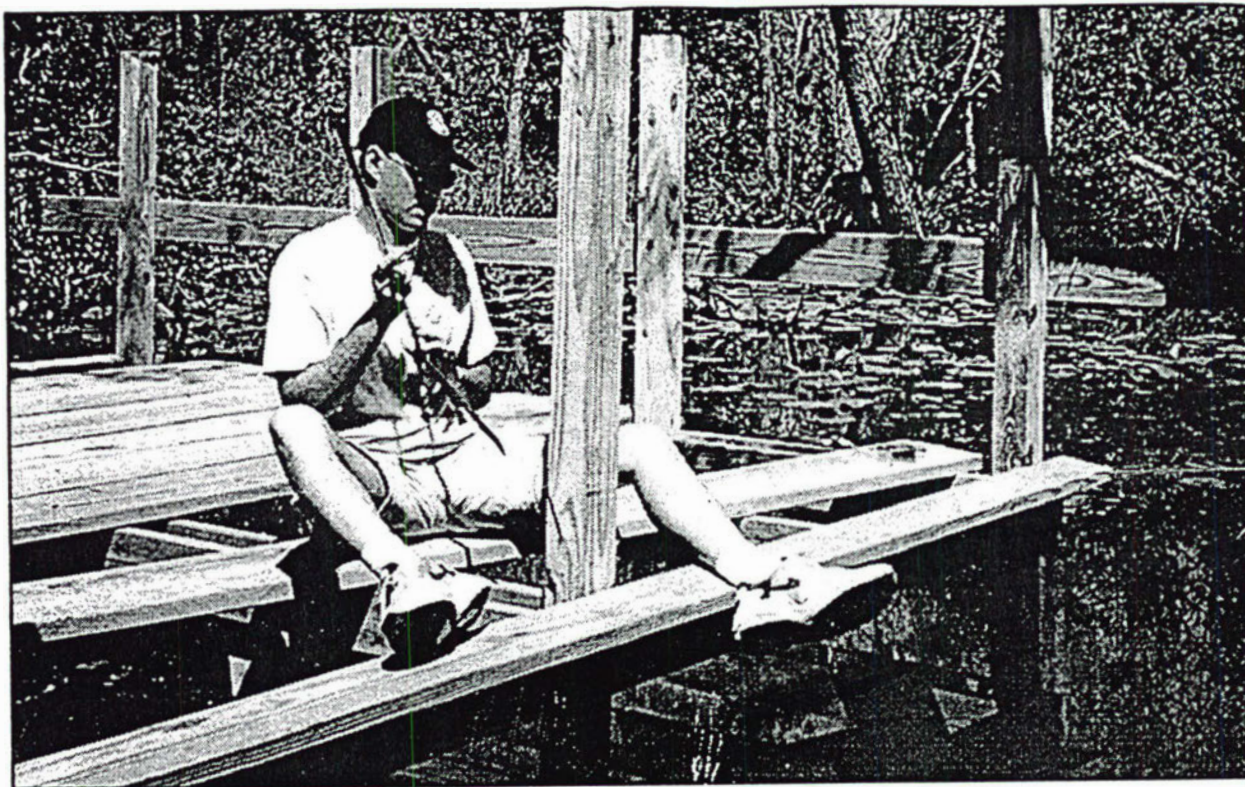
"What better way to utilize the timber lands of the county with John de la Howe School as a host for guided nature walks and outdoor education," stated team leader Dan Johnson.

Wallace Wood, of the Clem-

son University Cooperative Extension Service and Chamber of Commerce Director Nancy Lindroth, conceived the project in July 1995 and have attended many meetings since that time. At a brainstorming session in March, 1996, they were joined by John Shifflet, Linda Kidd and Don Ross of John de la Howe School; Frank Love of the Natural Resources Conservation Service; Tom Adams and Bob Martin of Savannah Lakes Village; Jimmy Sanders, Ninety Six Resource and Development Commission; Jimmy Walters, South Carolina Forest Commission; Shrie Ramie, U.S. Forest Service; and Bill Fleming, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. The list of supports grows as the news spreads.

Funding for the project will be made available through Clemson University and the U.S. Forest Service initially, with other sources to be explored as the project continues.





AmeriCorps member Erik Greene works on an observation deck that extends into the pond behind Macedonia Elementary School in Blackville.

AmeriCorps develops Blackville wetland

Sam Featherstone

The People-Sentinel

Thanks to a four-member AmeriCorps team, Barnwell County students will be able to get a little closer to nature.

An AmeriCorps team recently spent two weeks in Blackville to develop a wetland area where students can get hands-on learning.

AmeriCorps is a national organization founded by President Clinton in 1994. It is designed to improve the quality of rural life in the U.S. AmeriCorps teams travel wherever their services are needed, tackling a variety of projects.

The team built an observation deck and an outdoor classroom at the wetland, which is located behind Macedonia Elementary School. The five-acre wetland consists of a pond and a system of

walking trails.

"Our goal for the wetlands project is for kids to get hands-on learning rather than just reading out of a book," said Brenda Nettles, who heads the Blackville Talented and Gifted program. "Students can learn about wildlife in the classroom, then come out here and actually see it. And it's not just for Blackville schools; we encourage everyone to use it."

The observation deck, which is 10 feet long and 10 feet wide, is at the edge of the pond.

The outdoor classroom is located near the pond and consists of six benches and a lectern for teachers. The area seats 30 students.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) sponsors the South Carolina AmeriCorps rural development project.

The S.C. corps' 20 members are divided into five teams of four. The groups are based in Greenwood, Darlington, Florence, Winnsboro and Walterboro.

The Walterboro team of Kim Duffy, Doug McLean, Meridith Mauldin and Erik Greene performed the Blackville project.

A group of Blackville teachers saw potential to develop the area two years ago. They named the area Macedonia Aquatic Research Scientific Habitat (M.A.R.S.H.).

Blackville did not have to buy the property; it is located on school grounds.

At one time, the area was part of a plantation called Fairmont, which was built in the late 1700's.

A dedication ceremony on May 30 will mark the official opening of M.A.R.S.H.

Trees get high-tech help

By LOLITA HUCKABY
Gazette staff writer

Beaufort's trees are getting some high-tech help.

Through a \$10,000 grant from the S.C. Urban and Community Forestry Council, the city has undertaken an intensive inventory project that will result in a computerized listing of all trees in public rights-of-way and public parks.

The computerized program will also list the condition of the trees and potential maintenance problems.

"When it's all said and done, everyone's going to be amazed at what kind of information we have on hand," said Dennis Haigler, director of the city's parks and trees department.

The inventory will help city public works crews establish a tree maintenance schedule and set priorities for

plantings, said Haigler.

The initial inventory work began three weeks ago with the help of college students through the AmeriCorps program. The students received a week of training to enter data in handheld computers and have been combing the streets of Beaufort ever since.

"It's been an interesting experience. At least we got to work outside," said Meredith Mauldin, one of the four students working on the program.

When the AmeriCorps contract with the city expires after four weeks, Haigler hopes to recruit volunteers to complete the inventory.

The inventory will also help the city collect damage insurance, in the event of a hurricane and major damage occurs to the community trees, he said.

"It's all part of having an ongoing urban forestry management program," said Haigler.

Tree inventory



Bob Safah/Gazette

Merridith Mauldin, left, enters data into a hand-held computer as Doug McLean measures the diameter of an oak tree Thursday morning on Pigeon Point Road. The Americorps volunteers are taking part in inventorying Beaufort's tree population into a computer.



Photos submitted

DONATING THEIR TIME. Colleton Soil and Conservation District Commissioner Cleveland Hiott, far left, assists Joe Ben Ackerman, center, and an Americorps volunteer in building a shelter for the Cottageville Elementary School's Outdoor Learning Center. A carpenter, Ackerman donated his skills and time to build the shelter.

Cottageville Elementary gets outdoor classroom

Cottageville Elementary School students will be learning in a new classroom this year. A classroom which is the most natural place under the sun to see each subject in a new light whether its English, mathematics, science, history or music.

For the past year, Principal Daniel Green and fourth grade teacher John Cobb have been developing a small wooded area behind the school into an outdoor learning center. The local conservation district and the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land Resources and Conservation Districts Division have taken an active role in assisting the school with this project.

Chairman Marion Rizer of the Colleton Conservation District states, "The Board has a very strong commitment towards environmental education. We are constantly seeking out ways to initiate a deeper understanding and appreciation of natural resources among our future leaders. Assisting in the development of outdoor classrooms is one tool we use to meet this objective."

The outdoor classroom is a "living project" that Cottageville Elementary School will continue to develop in the future. The one-acre site currently consists of a nature trail that meanders through a mixed hardwood pine forest that provides habitat to a number of wildlife species. Lowcountry Resource Conservation and Development (PC&D) Council provided Project Coordinator Steve Edwards and a four-member Americorps team consisting of Sherell Stevens (Project Leader), Meredith Mauldin, Doug McLean, and Eric Greene to assist the school. Americorps is a national community-oriented service.

The Americorps team built two small amphitheaters, a shelter and developed a master plan. The Colleton Soil and Water Conservation District purchased the majority of the lumber needed through local business Dean Building Supply, and provided assistance through district employee Judy Reeves.

Former Cottageville student and carpenter, Joseph Ackerman donated his time and expertise in building the shelter which made this part of the project possible. Cary Dandridge, one of many parents involved in the project, designed the plans for the shelter. Brooks Sign Company of

See **CLASSROOM**, page 9



TRYING IT OUT. Americorps volunteers and Colleton Conservation District employee Judy Reeves try out the new amphitheater, built by Americorps for students to have a classroom setting in a natural environment. From left are Eric Greene, Meredith Mauldin, Sherell Stevens, Reeves and Doug McLean.

Classroom

Continued from page 8

Charleston donated a sign that proudly boasts "Cottageville Elementary Eagle Nature Trail".

Teacher John Cobb states, "This project was made possible through

the assistance of so many diverse individuals and groups within and around Cottageville. I have taught lessons on natural resources to my students for years. I came to realize we had this fantastic resource in our very backyard. It's become my personal ambition to see that it reaches its fullest potential for my students and those to come."

A Classroom Without Walls

"Nature has knowledge of all things."

Education is a never ending process. Much time and money has been spent in efforts to determine more about how we really learn. Educators now know that we learn by using all of our senses not just eyes and ears. In this "hurry up" modern world, people have begun to develop an appreciation for the beauty of our world and the vast amount of knowledge that can be found within the inter-relationships of nature. For adults and students as well, a unique learning opportunity can be experienced during a woodland hike. Regular school curriculum classes such as: Math, Science, History and many others can be incorporated into an outdoor lesson. These academic lessons become new and exciting.

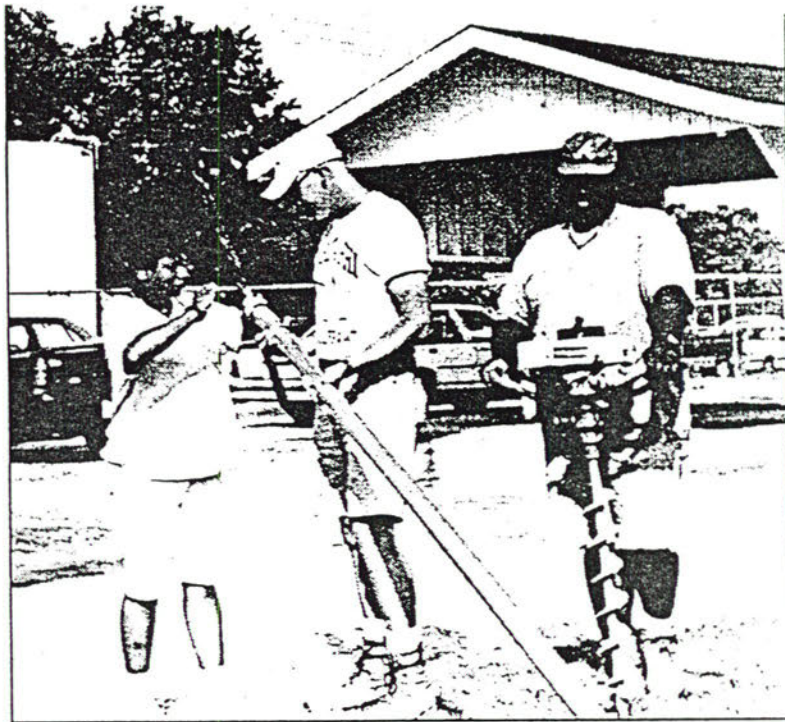
The students at Forest Acres Elementary will soon enjoy an improved outdoor classroom. For the last two years, Betty Woodham, Fifth Grade Teacher,



NRCS Americorp workers assemble raised bed gardens at the Forest Acres Elementary School in Easley.

has been concentrating on further development of the school's outdoor classroom. The classroom is being developed within a wooded area that contains a small stream. A walking trail provides students with a retreat into the woodland setting. Signs posted along the trail draw attention to various kinds of plants and wildlife habitat. Recently, Americorp (NRCS) workers have been lending a hand: seeding, mulching and building raised bed gardens. This specialized group of people helps with various community projects.

Students returning in the fall will enjoy using this improved nature area.



AMERICORPS TEAM—Pictured are Joan Bethea, John Morgan, and Wilbert Kennedy of Americorps assembling an E-911 street sign.

The team will complete their sign posting project on Friday, June 14.

AmeriCorps Team Places E-911 Street Signs

By Betsy Finklea

A Darlington-based AmeriCorps team, which has been working closely with the Dillon County E-911 office, will conclude a ten day sign posting project on Friday.

The team, sponsored by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, includes Joan Bethea of Marion County, John Morgan of Society Hill, Wilbert Kennedy of New Zion, and Chris Bever of Florence. They have placed nearly 40 E-911 street signs a day in the local area and hope to put up approximately 300 signs before the project is finished, according to Bever.

Signs placed in the area have been matched up with E-911 maps. Team members do everything from digging the hole to assembling and putting up the sign.

"From an emergency services standpoint, the placing of the signs is the most important part," said Morgan, who explained that emergency workers need signs in order to find people who need help.

"Dillon County has been fortunate to have this team work with us," said Patricia Miller, E-911 director. "I'd like to thank them for all they have done."

AmeriCorps is a "domestic peace corp" which allows "people of all ages to serve the community," said Bever.

Participants must possess at least a two-year college degree and receive an education award and a living stipend for 1700 hours of service. This team, which is closely approaching completion of their 1700 hours, works through the Pee Dee Resources Conservation Development Council.

The Council helps the team get a project. They study it and see as a team what they can do. The team has been focusing on projects in four areas: public safety, environmental education, community outreach, and community economic development, said Bever.

The team worked in Dillon in October and November on address verification with E-911. They have also worked on E-911 projects in Darlington, Marlboro, Marion, and Chesterfield counties.

"We can appreciate the effort that has gone into getting E-911 from ground zero to being operational," said Bever, who explained that the group is now recruiting. For more information on how to become a volunteer, call (803) 253-3977.

JUNE 6, 1996

Cheraw addresses need upgrade, volunteers say

By Stephen Guilfoyle
Chronicle Staff

If you live in a house that's numbered under a 100, you may soon have to get a change of address card.

Cheraw Town Council heard Friday from a group of college kids and graduates who looked at the way houses are numbered in town, and they found a few areas that need to be fixed.

Chris Bever, a member of Darlington Americorps, a group created as part of President Clinton's "national service program" plan to have college kids work to pay back their student loans, told Town Council at its briefing on Friday that there are areas around town that are numbered under 100, which is the usual starting point in house numbering schemes.

Bever's particular group has been doing projects all over the Pee Dee region. It recently put in a nature trail that starts at Chesterfield High School.

He said Cheraw should consider bringing its house numbering system up to date.

"What we found in examining the current system is there is no system," he said. "There is no real order."

A uniform system would help law enforcement and safety officials know exactly where an emergency was happening.

Bever and his team also found streets without any houses on them that had names, where others with two houses had neither names nor numbers. Some roads split, but both sides keep the same name, he said. On some streets, the even and odd numbers are on the wrong side.

"Some streets start with 60, 70," he said. "Some start with 700 or 800."

He gave Town Council a map marking problem streets, and suggestions to fix them, including provisions for new houses where there may be one house on one large lot.

"Every 50 feet, you get a new number," he said.

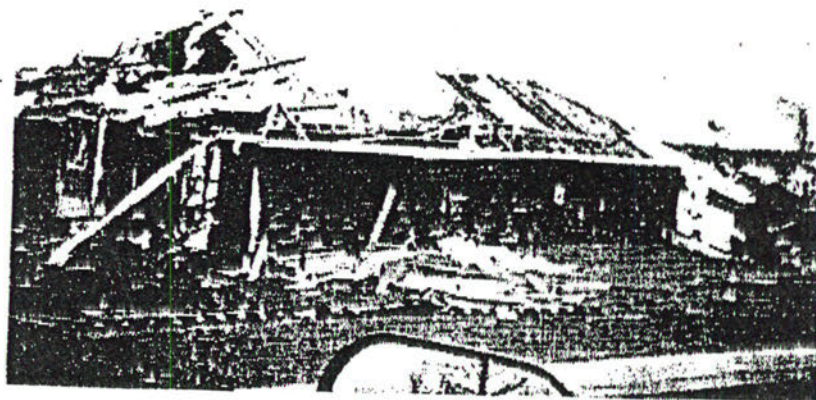
Another problem, he said, is that most businesses in town do not have visible numbers, which he said was baffling.

Cheraw Administrator Bill Taylor and Mayor Andy Ingram both questioned Bever about ways that other towns have handled street naming and house numbering projects, since he said that is something he has done numerous times in his two years with Americorps.

Some people got upset in other towns where numbering changes were implemented. But he said it is a safety issue, and will fit right into an enhanced 911 system if the town or county ever implement it.

One member of his team is on a rescue squad in Society Hill, and being able to find a house even if you are unfamiliar with an area, because of a uniform street numbering plan can "shave 20 seconds off of response time," Bever said.

Bever is attending the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg. Other members of his team include John Morgan of Society Hill, a '94 graduate of Clemson; Wilbert Kennedy of New Zion, S.C., who attended Morris College in Sumter, and Joan Bethea, of Latta, S.C., a Coker College graduate.



AMERICORPS AIDS TORNADO VICTIMS ... The house pictured above was just one of many that received damage from a tornado that hit the Fort Smith\Van Buren Communities recently. The local Americorps team recently traveled to the communities to aid the tornado victims. The tornado did massive damage that caused four deaths and destroyed over 200 homes. The Americorps team from Holly Grove left on Tuesday, April 23 and worked through Friday, April 26. The team made a vital impact to the victims by providing community service to over 200 families. They worked together and gave major leadership by moving debris from damaged houses and streets. Members of the local Americorps team are Linda D. Knox, Gloria Wiley, Leroy Foster, James Stewart, George Phipps, Jr., Wayne Beadles, Aeric Cole, Willie Clayborn and Jana Coleman.

GOOD DEEDS

● Sixteen Arkansas AmeriCorps members are assisting in Van Buren's tornado cleanup effort. Led by Bruce Leggitt, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service program manager for Arkansas, Americorps members have been working side-by-side with NRCS engineers and regional staff from the Fort Smith office, and city of Van Buren personnel.

Lodging overnight at Fort Chaffee, AmeriCorps members have been removing limbs from trimmed trees, raking areas close to roadways, and shoveling, piling and loading debris into dump trucks. Much of their work has been in Van Buren's Cedar Creek residential area.

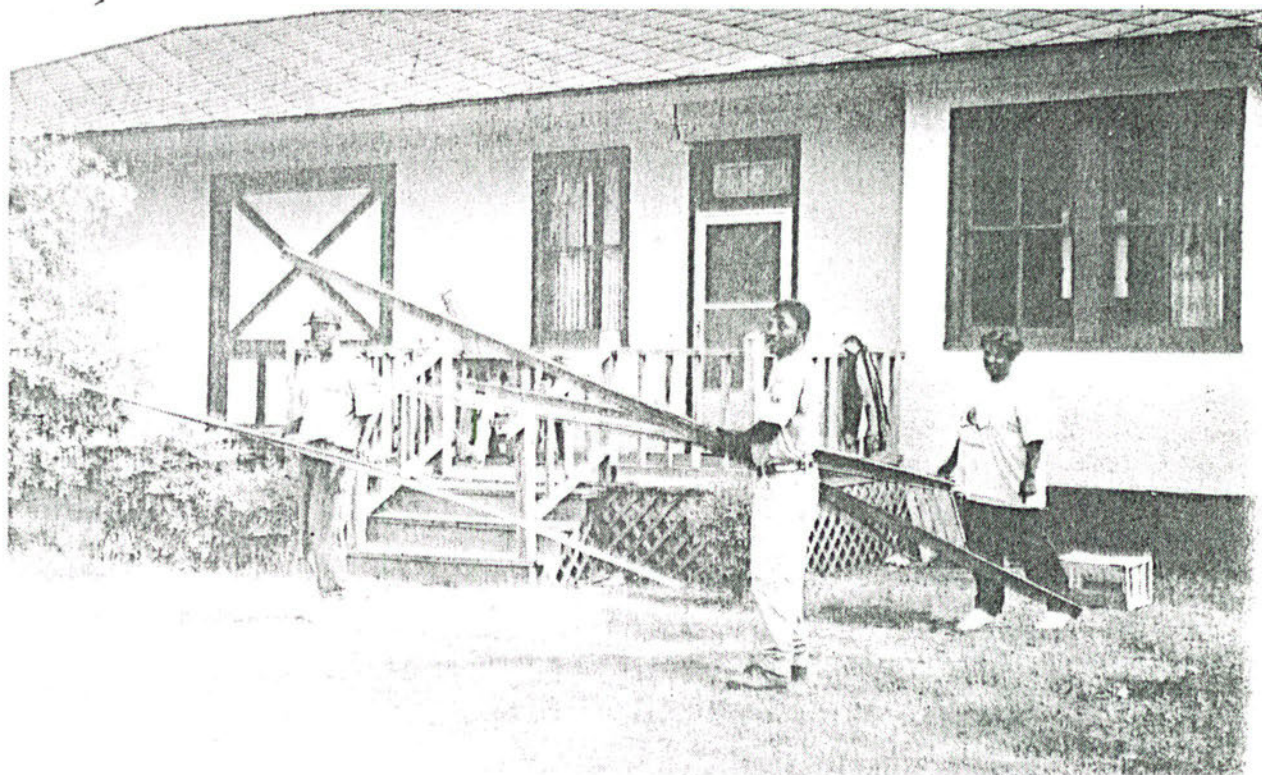
Leggitt said AmeriCorps was asked to participate by NRCS State Conservationist Tom Wehri. AmericaCorps is President Clinton's domestic peace corps, a national service program.



TREES FOR THE FUTURE... Members of the Americorps program gathered in Holly Grove Wednesday morning to plant trees along the boundary lines of the site for the new apartment complex, Cottonwood, on Highway 17 in Holly Grove. The Arkansas Forestry Commission donated 90 red oak, white oak, and willow oak seedlings to the project. After the trees were planted, Terra International donated the use of their water truck for initial watering. Those helping to plant trees included: Jana Coleman, Patina White, Kim Warfield, Wayne Beadles, Willie Clayborn, Eugene McKinney, Lita Moore, Harrison Locke, and Tonya Mills of the Rural Development Americorps; Diane Knox, Aeric Cole, George Phipps, and James Stewart of the Environmental Americorps; and supervisors, LaKasa Wyatt of AFLDC, Bruce Leggitt of NRCS, Celia Roark, Linda Messenger, Barbara Mitchell of RECDS, and Jerry Mitchell of NRCS. Vance Dillion of the Arkansas Forestry Service instructed the group on how to properly plant the seedlings.

PHOTO AT RIGHT: The wood pellet demonstration held at James' Service Shop on Tuesday. Pictured around the pellet grill are (l to r) Bruce Leggitt, coordinator for the Central Arkansas RC&D; Michelle Ross, with AmericaCorp; C.L. Turner and Rose Golleher.





AMERICORPS AT WORK... Members of the Americorps program in Holly Grove have been working this week cleaning up at the Bent Rail property. Members cleaned around the outside of the property and later in the week cleaned inside including washing windows. Helping in the clean-up effort is from left: George Phipps, James Stewart, and Diane Knox.