

FOIA MARKER

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OA/ID Number: 14865

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Saturday, July 3, 1999

Stack:

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Row:

40

Section:

5

Shelf:

2

Position:

1



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
31ST AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING (USAF)

*No coin
received -
Potus does have
a collection -
respond?*

22 Jun 99

MEMORANDUM FOR PRESIDENT CLINTON

FROM: 31 MXS/LGMC
Unit 6235, Box 130
APO AE 09601-6235

SUBJECT: Welcome to the Accessories Maintenance Flight

1. On behalf of the men and women of the Accessories Maintenance Flight, I would like to welcome you and your entire staff to Aviano Air Base, Italy. It is an honor for us to host you during your brief visit here.
2. If you have a coin collection from military units, we would be happy to offer you a 31st Maintenance Squadron "Griffin" coin for a presidential coin.
3. Finally, thank you for taking the time to come out to Aviano and personally speak to the ALLIED FORCE warriors stationed and deployed here. We hope you enjoy your stay.

Very Respectfully,

DAVID A. BOLES, Capt, USAF
Accessories Maintenance Flight Commander

*NSC 7/3
To Burkhardt
for reply?
Yes ☒ No ☐
if deemed necessary CP*

THE PRE
7-3-99
Marie/Brend
This is good
Do reply
BOL

Rustin Levenson
13291 Old Cutler Road
Miami, Florida 33156
305-665-4457

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original
for reply

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Podesta

June 14, 1999

Dear Bill and Hillary,

Just a note to thank you for the wonderful evening as a prelude to the Wellesley Reunion. It is always special for our class to get together and the White House provided an unforgettable backdrop for us. I'm enclosing a few snaps for you.

I had an opportunity to see you both on Diane Sawyer's program on ABC the next morning on the subject of youth and violence. Since my husband invented the TV Allowance, we have had a unique opportunity to talk to thousands of parents who are concerned about the effects of television on their children. I wanted to share some of our insights with you in the hope that they would be useful.

It is agreed that the violence on television and in video games is gratuitous and reprehensible.

* What is not always considered is the amount of time children (and parents) spend pursuing these activities. I have come to believe that this presents one of the most serious social problems facing America today. According to a Texas Instruments study, the average third grade child watches television 1170 hours a year. This is significantly more than their 900 hours of third grade class time. Articles on the effects of excessive television time mention lowered grades and reading ability, obesity, increased attention deficit disorders, and social isolation. Researchers at Stanford University and the University of Buffalo have used the TV Allowance in studies of the effect of television time on children. Although the studies are not yet complete, they confirm the observations above.

A few anecdotes from our experience with the TV Allowance are as convincing as the researcher's evidence. A few years ago we were on the Oprah Winfrey Show. Oprah had removed televisions from varied households for six weeks and had the participants report on their TV-free experiences. Universally, families and roommates described increased communication and interaction. Board games were dusted off, reading increased, creative projects were initiated, and people talked to each other.

In addition to violence on television, lack of communication with parents has been cited as a contributing factor to youth violence. There is no question that less television leads to increased family communication.

There are other quotes that stick in my mind from over the years. One fifteen year old girl said,

7/5
To Burkhardt
for reply?
yes ☒ No ☐
cp

Paris made & sent.

"I feel better about myself because I can remember what I did yesterday, not just watch TV." Illustrating how deeply TV is part of the household is the mother who queried, completely puzzled, "What will my kids do if they don't watch TV?" My own son, for whom the first TV Allowance was designed using Radio Shack parts and Legos, was at first furious with the limits of the device. However, within months I heard him turn on the TV, flip through the channels, and complain, "This isn't worth my time." What an epiphany for an eight year old!

- ✧ I feel that the V-chip, though well intentioned, may only give the media license to increase violence, by giving an excuse to abdicate responsibility. As in, "If you don't like our programming, get a V-chip."

Anecdotal experience has been that when TV time is limited, the children's show selections are mainstream, less violent, programs. Many families have reported that when TV time is limited and children are required to choose programming, it is the end of professional wrestling, MTV, and late night shows.

A device that limits TV and Video game time, built into TV sets, would encourage parents to set limits on TV time. I believe that the result would certainly be less violence viewed, along with a bonus of increased family communication, raised self esteem, and positive social and academic achievement for children. Reducing TV time would seem almost too simple a solution, except over the last eight years, I have seen it work.

~~I hope these insights are helpful to you as you endeavor to resolve the problem of youth and violence. We will be in Washington the last week in July and would be happy to meet with you to discuss this further.~~

Again, thank you for a memorable reunion, and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Rustin Levinson

Levenson
13291 Old Cutler Rd
Miami FL 33156



Bill & Hillary Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C.

20300/0001

