

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Staff Secretary

Series/Staff Member: Sean Maloney

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 14867

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Monday, September 13, 1999

Stack:

S

Row:

40

Section:

5

Shelf:

2

Position:

3

9.13.99

Podesta / Bucci

- Take a transcript
- write up some up
to highlight some information
Hort

Pr

Copied
Podesta
Reed

9-13-99

Tale of Two High Schools: An Object Lesson

Chicago-Area Students Witness How Disparities Affect Education

By WILLIAM CLAIBORNE
Washington Post Staff Writer

CHICAGO, Sept. 10—Three busloads of students from a down-at-the-heels, 90-year-old high school in Chicago's South Side and their teenage counterparts from a new, \$62 million state-of-the-art school in the wealthy suburb of Naperville had a close encounter today with an adage from legendary songstress Sophie Tucker:

"I've been poor and I've been rich, and I can tell you that rich is better."

The two groups of students, spent the day touring each other's facilities and getting a close-up lesson in the inequities of educational funding. In other words, seeing how the other half lives.

Orchestrated by Jesse L. Jackson and his Rainbow-PUSH Coalition, the event was designed to throw a spotlight on the huge disparities that exist around the country between the quality of public education delivered to poor students vs. that showered on the rich. While most of the national education debate has focused on taxpayer-funded vouchers for private schools, the more immediate concern in many communities is how to address what many argue is the unfairness of having children in one part of the city get a far better education than those in another. The amount of funding in suburban school districts, Jackson argues, is often three times higher than that in inner-city neighborhoods.

For the mostly white, well-off students at Naperville's Neuqua Valley High School, about 35 miles southwest of the city, the eye-openers from their visit to Harper High School in the economically depressed Englewood neighborhood were the peeling paint in a food service classroom, a science laboratory devoid of water or gas connections and any visible sign of chemistry equipment, a music room without soundproofing or uniforms for the school band, a gymnasium with dilapidated bleachers and a computer room without connections to the Internet.

"I just want to cry," said Lauren Drane, a 16-year-old junior from Neuqua Valley, as she walked through the dimly lit corridors of Harper High with her classmates. "This is so out of this world, I can't believe it. I'm just so lucky to have what we have."

But she was no less astonished than Sarreka Walker, 15, an African American sophomore at Harper High School, upon seeing the Neuqua Valley school's three gleaming new gymnasiums, two Olympic-sized swimming pools, elaborately equipped laboratories and lavishly appointed music rooms and

computer centers.

The 2,500-student school, situated on a landscaped, 50-acre campus, has a 12-court tennis complex, fitness rooms with row upon row of exercise equipment, and even a functioning bank for use in business and economic courses.

It has a handsome new stadium for its Wildcats football team; Harper's athletes have to walk more than a mile to a city park for daily practice.

"In some ways it makes me jealous, because Harper is a very old school and they have more materials to help them succeed in life," Walker said. "I can't feel angry with them if they happen to have this advantage, but I sure can see myself in a school like this."

But the inequities between Harper High, whose enrollment is 99.3 percent black, and Neuqua Valley, which is 85.6 percent white, go beyond the physical plants, Jackson stressed in an interview while riding in a school bus between the two schools.

At Neuqua Valley, almost 94 percent of seniors graduate, compared to 52 percent for Harper High. Chronic truancy is 12 percent at Harper and zero at Neuqua Valley. And only 1 percent of Harper's students who took the standardized proficiency test last year exceeded the state average in reading. Thirty-seven percent of Neuqua Valley 10th-graders did.

Most telling of all, instructional and operating expenditures per pupil are nearly \$2,300 more at Neuqua Valley than at Harper High, according to school officials.

The inequity in funding here is typical of imbalances across the country that have contributed to wide gaps in the quality of education between city and suburban schools. The annual per pupil expenditure in some suburban schools exceeds \$15,000, Jackson said, while many city school districts spend less than \$5,000 per student.

Jackson said the gap in education between city and suburban schools is wider than before the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision in 1954 overturning separate but ostensibly equal schooling and the integration of Central High School in Little Rock in 1957.

As Sarah Monahan, 16, a Neuqua Valley junior, searched in vain for chemistry equipment and dissecting tables at Harper's science class lab, the reality of what inner-city students face began to sink in. She looked even more uneasy when Harper science teacher David Finke gamely told the students, "We make do with what we have by making supplies out of simple materials. You don't necessarily need a gas line in the lab to

learn about science."

"We have so much more. It's not fair," Monahan said. When asked why she thought her school was so much better equipped, she replied, "Well, in the suburbs, the parents just have more money. The kids are just more privileged, I guess."

Jackson said administrators at Harper High have tried hard to make their school more attractive with fresh paint, new lockers and other cosmetic improvements within a limited capital budget. But, he said, "You can't paint a new lab or a decent band room, and you can't paint decent textbooks and computers that work."

He was critical of federal and state education policy which, he said, favors "faddish" solutions such as school vouchers to send some students to private schools, or charter schools operated with public funds.

State Rep. Monique Davis (D), who joined the tour, said she would call for a special session of the state legislature to debate the issue of inequities in school funding. "It's unfair for some kids to start out in such a competitive world with such an obvious disadvantage. We've got to change the way we fund education."

Before the end of their long day of rude awakenings, the students were talking earnestly about starting a student exchange program, and some Neuqua Valley music students said they wanted to share their band room and some of their equipment with the Harper students.

Jackson said he was touched by the interaction between the students that he saw and overheard along the way. But looking out a school bus window at boarded-up slum dwellings as the group drove through Englewood, Jackson said wearily, "There's no doubt in my mind that this area has been red-lined for capital... and when you cut off capital, it affects everything."

The Washington Post
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1999

9.13.99

Podesta
Memo to Process
when / return
FX

Copied
Podesta

The New York Times
Sunday, September 12, 1999

9-13-99

The Many Media Voices of a Few Merged Masters

By STEPHEN LABATON

WASHINGTON -- If the media and telecommunications giants have their way, decades' worth of federal rules designed to guard the marketplace of ideas may soon fall, all in the name of the Internet.

In the past few days, top executives from four of the information industries' largest corporations -- Viacom, CBS, AT&T and MediaOne Group -- have asked the government to give them a break from tight restrictions intended to prevent cable and broadcast television from falling into too few hands.

The theory behind the rules is that, in allocating a limited spectrum of communications frequencies, the government must insure that there are enough different voices, opinions and news gatherers to keep its citizens informed.

Never before has a corporate merger threatened to exceed the current limits on concentration of media ownership. But two of this year's biggest deals -- Viacom's acquisition of CBS, announced Tuesday, and AT&T's pending purchase of MediaOne -- cannot be completed without either changes in the rules or significant divestitures.

Hoping to avoid selling assets that could be combined profitably, top executives of the companies told the Federal Communications Commission last week that the concentration rules are now archaic -- obsolete in an Internet world that unshackles producers of programming from old economic restraints and assures diverse voices and original content.

"There is no question that that rule is no longer relevant in a broadband Internet world," Mel Karmazin, chairman and chief executive of CBS, said of the regulation that would force Viacom and CBS to sell some stations to stay within caps limiting a company to stations serving 35 percent of the nation's homes.

A remarkably similar position was articulated to challenge similar rules governing cable TV systems. To replace regulations left unenforced after an adverse court decision seven years ago, the FCC had been prepared to issue new rules this week, but postponed them for at least a month after fierce lobbying from AT&T.

"Very significantly, the market has changed," said James Cicconi, general counsel and head of government relations for AT&T, which with the MediaOne acquisition will become the nation's largest cable company. "The government should now take a look at whether the original rationale of the rule is still valid -- namely, the ability to bottleneck programming."

What's the answer? Has the Internet indeed promoted new and original voices to the point that traditional concerns about diversity of content can be abandoned? Or -- despite the easy, low-cost access it provides to a cybermarketplace of ideas -- is the Internet quickly coming to be dominated by a handful of big corporations, just like television, radio, the movies and newspapers before it?

Some critics are concerned that the arguments put forward in favor of media mergers confuse content with delivery -- that while there may be many new channels being created to deliver information, there is remarkably little original information being gathered or produced.

At bottom, these analysts say, media companies are making claims for a diversity that simply doesn't exist.

"The same big players are every bit as keen on swallowing the Internet as they have the traditional media," said Mark Crispin Miller, director of the Project on Media Ownership and a professor of media studies at New York University. "The consensus is that

the Internet is getting less diverse and more homogenized as it becomes more commercial."

Certainly, trends in the older media are hardly reassuring for the Internet.

The declining number of American newspapers is an old story. Where a half century ago there were some 2,200 daily newspapers, there are now about 1,500; more importantly, most cities have only one.

Radio has fallen on even harder times. While it used to be that many stations in even mid-sized cities had their own reporters, that has become the rare exception. Instead, most stations rely on the same handful of national and local news services.

Metro Networks, a Houston-based company that supplies traffic, weather, and sports reports to about 1,700 radio stations, has lately become a huge new presence in radio news, often supplying coverage to many stations in one market, sometimes with the same reporters appearing on several stations under different names to give the appearance of competing, exclusive reports. In New York, for example, Metro works for 41 stations.

While the number of television stations has grown sharply, from 96 in 1950 to 1,216 this year, studies show consistently that they give local news short shrift. "There is actually more local news than there used to be," said Janine Jaquet, research director for the Media Ownership Project. "The flip side is that a lot of this stuff is coming from fewer sources."

Many stations rely heavily on wire-service offerings, syndicated features and the kind of crime and violence stories that they -- and their competitors -- can cover easily by listening to a police scanner, and neglect other topics.

"A principal accused of child abuse makes the news; general problems in education don't," said Paul Klite, executive director of the Rocky Mountain Media Watch, a Colorado organization that studies news content around the nation.

The television industry points to cable as evidence that new media give rise to new sources of information. C-Span brings live congressional proceedings into cable subscribers' living rooms, and three 24-hour news and information channels -- CNN, MSNBC and Fox News -- vie for viewers' attention. Moreover, cable systems in a growing number of cities and regions are now offering 24-hour local news channels that some analysts say are bringing original reporting to their areas.

Still, some of cable's early promises of diversity have gone largely unfulfilled. In exchange for their local monopolies, for example, many cable companies vowed to serve the public interest by devoting channels to such civic-minded topics as local government, education and the arts. But in many cities, critics say, public access programming is mediocre at best.

"The public access channels on cable are virtually entirely unused," said Lawrence Grossman, the former president of both NBC News and PBS, at a Fordham Law School symposium earlier this year on the impact of large media mergers. "The last I saw, 18 percent of public access education and government channels were being used. And when they are used, they are virtually unwatchable."

Some viewers prefer a camera's unmediated broadcast of a city council meeting to a reporter's filtered account. But analysts say neither public access programming nor cable TV's heated chat-show debates substitute for original investigative reporting, or even the pedestrian but thorough coverage of public affairs once provided by local and national broadcasters.

"What you've got is a huge diminution of the number of voices providing information that is necessary for an informed citizenship, and the Internet doesn't change that," said Andrew Jay Schwartzman, president of the Media Access Project, a Washington group that promotes diversity on the airwaves.

9-13-99

"It certainly reduces the barriers to organizing and to discourse. That's important for democracy," he said. "But it's no replacement for journalism and news gathering."

By all accounts, the Internet was supposed to break the mold of the older technologies by offering a vast new array of voices and opinions. And indeed, a rich cast of original content of varying degrees of usefulness now flows from the Internet, from The Onion and Salon to Matt Drudge.

But while experts are divided over what the Internet may look like in the future, many agree that the most popular Web sites -- all controlled by commercial interests -- are already beginning to look alike.

"The notion that technology will create competition and new voices, and so we don't have to worry about these companies getting bigger, is false," said Robert W. McChesney, a professor of communications at the University of Illinois and author of a new book, "Rich Media, Poor Democracy" (University of Illinois Press, 1999).

McChesney maintains that powerful economic forces will inevitably lead to the domination of information on the Internet by today's media giants.

First, he said, because they have the newsrooms and production studios, the big media companies already control the means of producing the Internet's content. Even wealthy companies like Microsoft, he noted, have found it difficult to compete.

Second, McChesney said, established media companies already have both brand names that will attract viewers and relationships with advertisers.

Third, it is the established companies, he said, not the start-ups, that have the wherewithal to invest in the Internet for the long term, swallowing heavy losses for a few years in the hope of gaining longer-term profits.

And in any event, his research shows, about half of the venture capital provided to Internet start-ups is coming from established media companies. So they are likely, he said, to have a big interest in many of the new Internet companies that survive.

Other experts, of course, are more optimistic, seeing the Internet as a powerful forum for diverse and informative voices.

Andrew L. Shapiro, a senior adviser at the Markle Foundation, has recently written a book titled "The Control Revolution: How the Internet is Putting Individuals in Charge and Changing the World We Know" (Century Foundation/Public Affairs, 1999).

He points to what happened in December 1996 when Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav leader, shut down an independent Belgrade radio station, Radio B92, which had regularly aired news of protests against his regime. The station rerouted its programming to the Internet, where it was available to computer users in Serbia and around the world.

"That was an outstanding example of how human rights advocates can use the Internet in ways they could never use television or newspapers to get around a thug like Milosevic," Shapiro said.

"It's certainly true that a lot of things that happened with cable, television, and radio -- that have led to the dumbing down of content -- are now happening on the portal sites," he continued. "But I'm still optimistic. A lot of it will take steering people to the appropriate content: away from the commercial portals to the more diverse sites."

While there will almost certainly be congressional hearings on the Viacom-CBS merger, there has been far less hand wringing among lawmakers about the recent information industry deals than there used to be even just a decade ago, when the trend of mega-media mergers began to take off.

Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., who was the only senator to openly

criticize the Viacom-CBS deal for its possible effects on public discourse, said that the politicians' silence was a clear reflection of both Washington and media economics. There is no lobby these days for media populism.

"When you look at the mix of money and politics, it's all on one side," Wellstone said. "The political dialogue and political imagination is set within a narrow parameter."

END

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

9-13-99

The New York Times
Sunday, September 12, 1999

Airlines Prepare to Disclose Pledges of Customer Service

By MATTHEW L. WALD

WASHINGTON -- The major airlines will disclose this week exactly what pledges of customer service they are making as part of a voluntary program they agreed to earlier this year to stave off federal legislation on passenger rights.

Each airline is supposed to tell the Transportation Department by Wednesday how it will implement the voluntary plan. David Fuscus, a spokesman for the Air Transport Association, the big airlines' trade group, said that the airlines would probably post their plans on their Web sites soon. The promises are to take effect on Dec. 15.

Consumer advocates say they hope the plans will help travelers learn about their rights, even though some of the rights are not new.

A new study by the General Accounting Office says that many of the guarantees the airlines are expected to offer are already required by other laws, or are practices that are widely followed in the industry.

Other guarantees, while offered voluntarily, would become legally enforceable if published by the airlines, the GAO said. The agency, an investigative arm of Congress, solicited an opinion from the Transportation Department, which regulates airlines. The Transportation Department said that failing to fulfill such promises -- concerning issues like offering the lowest available fare to a customer shopping for tickets, or responding to customer complaints -- would be an unfair trade practice.

By law, airlines must have copies of their legally binding contracts of carriage, the fine print that backs up an airplane ticket, available for inspection at ticket counters, but "most consumers don't even know what that is, or even ask for it," said one expert, Laurie J. Berger, the editor of the Consumer Reports Travel Letter, published by Consumers Union.

Earlier this year, some lawmakers tried to write this kind of guarantee into a new law, but the airlines sidestepped that move by telling Congress they would act voluntarily.

The new GAO report, scheduled to be released on Monday, compares the voluntary agreement, announced in June by the Air Transport Association, with contracts of carriage and with pertinent federal statutes and rules. It found that many of the new promises were not mentioned in the contracts of carriage, a point that had been raised by passenger rights advocates, who questioned whether the voluntary agreements are enforceable.

"If it is in the contract of carriage, a passenger can clearly bring a breach of contract case if a violation of the contract occurs," said a senior lawyer at the GAO, David K. Hooper.

But, Hooper added, "if they hold out a promise and renege on that promise, the Department of Transportation can go after them under unfair and deceptive trade practices statute."

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., who favored legislation and requested the GAO report, said he was unhappy with the airlines' being allowed to write their own rules.

"What we've got here is scattershot gobbledygook," he said in a telephone interview on Friday. "Some airlines will do a better job than others, but it's going to take months to sort all of this out."

Among the 12 voluntary measures, the airlines are promising to make every reasonable effort to return checked bags within 24 hours. The issue is not addressed in contracts of carriage, but the Transportation Department said it would be unfair and deceptive

not to deliver bags in a "reasonable" period of time, the GAO reported.

Under the customer service commitment, airlines are also promising to disclose policies for accommodating the disabled. But federal regulations already provide specific guarantees, the GAO noted. The airlines are also promising to establish a policy for carrying children without their parents. Contracts of carriage already specify the minimum age for unaccompanied minors (5 years old) and set conditions for nonstop and connecting flights, the GAO said.

Airlines are also promising to inform customers about delays, cancellations and diversions in a timely manner. The issue is not addressed in the contracts of carriage, the GAO found. But the report said that according to the Transportation Department, it would be an unfair practice to say that a flight was canceled because of weather or mechanical breakdown if it was actually canceled for economic reasons like a lack of passengers.

Some items in the customer service plan are new, like allowing customers to hold a reservation while they shop for better deals.

Wyden said that the voluntary commitments left out some rights he would like to establish for fliers. "The one that concerns me the most is, if you call this afternoon and they're overbooked, they won't tell you that before they sell you a ticket," he said.

END

Copy
 Podesta

9-13-91

an attempt
to stay out of
of him -

who to?

9-13-99

Cover - Interviewing
Fry ~~for~~

Copied
Sperling
Podesta

9-13-99

Working Their Way Up

Economy's Expansion Has Lifted Those on the Bottom Rung, but Will Gains Last?

By TIM SMART, STEPHANIE STUGHTON
and PETER BEHR
Washington Post Staff Writers

Victoria Romero has taken home paychecks from plenty of employers over the past decade.

Jobs at Wendy's, in a Giant Food mail room and at an art supplies store in Montgomery County that went belly up all paid near the minimum wage. The jobs served as stopovers as Romero swung back between work and welfare.

"Not enough money to take care of a tick," said Romero matter-of-factly.

But the check Romero received about 18 months ago was different. Imprinted with the Statue of Liberty, it was the first of many such checks she has brought home from a job as a

receptionist at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, work that pays more than \$100 a week above what she's ever earned before. More importantly, in her mind, it represents hope for a different future, one in which she has a career—not just a job.

"It feels so good to have a job, to be able to take care of yourself and take care of a loved one," said Romero, 34, who has a 17-year-old son. "It's just a good feeling."

Romero is a singular image on a broader landscape, one individual whose life has been changed by the most durable economic expansion in history. For the first time in many a decade, the promise of "a rising tide lifts all boats" is beginning to ring true with some of those at the bottom of the economic ladder. And while no one can predict when the current boom will end, some experts say there are trends at work in the economy that could make the current employment gains among the bottom rung long-lasting.

That would be a welcome development. Even with the recent gains, the poorest fifth of the population is getting 9 percent less after-tax income than it did in 1977, and real economic gains still elude some of the country's most impoverished areas such as Appalachia and the inner cities. Many experts worry that the technology-driven economy is becoming bifurcated, with huge wealth available to Internet-savvy workers but precious little for those who lack even a high school diploma.

Still, others say the environment has improved markedly from just a few years ago.

"I think we're seeing prosperity that is more broadly shared," said Labor Secretary Alexis M. Herman. "There's some indication people are getting better-quality jobs."

Herman said employment gains for workers historically left out in boom times benefit all of society, helping keep people away from lives of crime and encouraging greater consumer spending that keeps the economy humming along.

"I always say the best crime prevention strategy is a job," Herman said.

The monthly unemployment rate for all workers has hovered around 4.2 percent and 4.3 percent since March; it was 4.2 percent in August. While that is an impressive gain from the 7.3 percent rate in January 1993, when President Clinton took office, it pales beside the drop in unemployment among blacks during the same period—from 14.1 percent to 7.8 percent. Among black teenagers, a group that has always suffered high unemployment rates, the decline has also been dramatic. Black teen unemployment was 40.5 percent in January 1993. Last month, it was 28.6 percent.

People of Hispanic origin have also seen considerable improvement. Their rate of unemployment has fallen from 11.3 percent in 1993 to 6.6 percent today.

That's been a benefit to Amilcar Aleman, an El Salvadoran immigrant who fled his native country during its war in the 1980s, settling first in California. The son of farmers spoke little English and his shyness limited his ability to pick up the new language.

When he moved to Rockville in 1990, as a 15-year-old boy, Aleman chose not to go to school and instead took a series of low-paying jobs. He cleaned the theaters at Wheaton Mall and bused tables at local restaurants.

In 1995, he got a break at the Silver Diner. Aleman was working as a cook at both the Silver Diner in Rockville and at a nearby seafood restaurant. To retain its hard-working employee, the diner agreed to match his combined wages at both restaurants. Then, the chain began promoting him. Now, he works as the kitchen manager at the Falls Church diner, earning about \$45,000 a year in salary and bonuses. And today, his employer is prepping the 24-year-old Aleman for a store manager position, having paid for his English-language classes, and is helping him obtain permanent U.S. residence.

"Companies have now focused much more dramatically on identifying jewels in the rough and investing in those guys and their leadership, language skills, people skills and education," said Patrick Miskell, senior vice president of human resources for Rockville-based Silver Diner Inc.

"Not everyone comes to you with the skills you want," Miskell said. "If they have the right personality, you can teach them the rest. That has been a lesson for us and other companies: Stop looking for perfection. You cannot train attitude."

Aleman says his life has improved dramatically along with his work history. He once took buses or relied on friends for rides; now he leases his own Honda Civic. He had shared a two-bedroom apartment with six people; now he lives in a rented house with his sister and brother.

But he remains cautious about spending too much money despite the progress he's made in the vibrant economy.

"I am still afraid," Aleman said. "I have a job today. How about tomorrow? You never know what will happen."

As Aleman's experience shows, the long expansion has yielded not only declines in joblessness, but equally

impressive gains in income. In the past three years, wages have risen 5.6 percent for all workers after adjusting for inflation. Those in the bottom 25 percent of the income distribution, though, have seen wage gains of 7.5 percent in the same period while those at the very bottom, the lowest 10 percent, have seen their income jump by 9.1 percent. Blacks and Hispanics, likewise, have enjoyed even stronger percentage gains in income.

Economists say the gains occurring among the lower ranks of the labor force are the result of several factors, including changing demographics, governmental policies such as tax credits for lower-paid workers and welfare-to-work programs, as well as overall changes in societal attitudes toward drugs and crime. But the single most important reason for the improvement at the bottom is the continued economic expansion, which has sucked up into the work force just about every available worker with even the barest of skills. One additional explanation: a huge explosion in the prison population during the 1990s, which has removed some potential workers from the labor force.

But underlying all of these forces is the powerful effect of changing demographics. From 1960 to 1978, the percentage of workers in the labor force under 25 ballooned, reflecting the so-called baby boom, but that wave is now ebbing. In a forthcoming article in the Brookings Review, Harvard economist Lawrence Katz contends that unemployment rose by slightly more than two-thirds of 1 percent from 1960 to 1979 because of changes in the age structure of the work force, then dipped by a roughly similar amount from 1979 to 1998.

The aging of the baby boomers and the impending retirement of many of them could lead to continued tightness in the labor markets, many economists argue, reinforcing some of the gains in employment and income that are now being felt throughout the economy.

This continued strong demand for employees—about 19 million new jobs have been created since the beginning of the Clinton administration—has led many companies to hire and train people with less education and fewer work skills than in the past. That has pushed up incomes among workers in the bottom fifth of the income ladder at rates not seen in decades.

"The people getting in now are in the service sector," said Greg Irish, director of the D.C. Department of Employment Services. "They're changing beds, working in fast food places. Those industries have a shortage of labor so they're willing to take them."

But Irish said he is less certain of whether these workers will remain employed if and when an economic downturn arrives.

"What happens when it slows down?" Irish asked.

Guar
is this true?

The Washington Post

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1999

1/2

9-13-99

It's this upward mobility that may be the lasting hallmark of the 1990s economic boom. Huge demand for high-tech workers and people with advanced college degrees has drawn workers up through the ranks. As companies poach one another's best workers and lure the best and the brightest with fat salaries, stock options and other benefits, they create new openings for workers further down the ladder. Eventually, even those with minimal skills and work histories find themselves in demand.

That's what happened to Gregory Scarborough, 44, of Temple Hills.

Scarborough had worked as a security guard and before that, as a supervisor of landscaping crews. "Security work was okay, but I wanted to get outside of that," he said.

One of his security assignments last year took him to a telecommunications installation site in Rosslyn, where chats with technicians brought back memories of one of his father's favorite hobbies, tinkering in the basement with television and radio sets.

Scarborough began wondering how he could get a similar job. At the suggestion of a technician, he enrolled in a training program for starting telecommunications technicians run by Capital Commitment, a private, D.C. job training program supported by the region's leading telecommunications firms.

Soon after graduation from the six-month course, which cost him \$575, Scarborough landed a job with a new information technology company in Bowie, L.B. Price Communications. Scarborough now works alongside technicians from Bell Atlantic Corp. and other major telecommunications companies on central telephone company switching networks.

Scarborough declined to say what he now makes, but starting salaries in the technology field are certainly higher than those for security guards and landscapers. What's more, Scarborough now believes he has grabbed a rung on the career ladder for the first time in his working life.

In some cases, employers have no choice but to take workers with fewer skills than they would like—or have historically demanded of applicants. The pool of available labor is just too tight.

Such is the case around Detroit, according to Steve Armstrong, who runs the local office of temporary services company Kelly Services Inc. Armstrong supplies workers on a contract basis to fill vacancies in customer service, manufacturing and retail.

"Several years ago, the available work force had more skills than today," Armstrong said. "These people, if you are talking about people who are breaking a chronic chain of unemployment, they have a desire to work but lack a lot of hard skills."

Armstrong said that puts additional burdens on companies and services such as his to work more with job applicants and potential employees. At Kelly, for instance, Armstrong uses an interactive CD-ROM that helps customer-service call-center workers learn basic communications skills.

How all of these new and now upwardly mobile workers will fare when the economy inevitably slows remains to be seen. In private, some employers say a recession would allow them to replace their least desirable employees—the rude salesperson, the employee who shows up late and the cashier who gabs on the phone.

But such comments are the exception. In an economy that has produced low unemployment and low inflation, the main concern among employers nowadays is how to find workers, not how to lay them off.

And that's good news for people like Victoria Romero, who, more than any statistic, can capture the essence of the improved economic life for lower-tier workers.

"I didn't want to be 30, 40 years old asking people if they wanted fries with their shake," she said. "I knew there was something more for me."

"Some of these people will be immediately laid off because they don't have the skills. We have people coming to us for jobs who are not skilled, who can barely read and write."

While the changing demographics and other factors have converged to improve the employment picture during Clinton's tenure in the White House, liberal critics have said his administration could have done even more in these best of times by focusing directly on helping those in poverty.

Indeed, the picture is still brightest for the better-educated—and for white men and women, compared with blacks and people of Hispanic origin. But this economic expansion is reaching deeper into society than that of the 1980s, which largely benefited the most well-off segments.

"The tight labor market helps those folks that are most employable, college-educated and skilled workers," said Mark Vitner, economist with First Union Capital Markets in Charlotte. "But it really opens up a whole world of opportunities. Companies are taking a chance on people and training them."

While the last hired may be the first fired, as is usually the case during economic downturns, Vitner and other economists said the plethora of training programs now being used by employers means some of these new entrants to the workplace will be better positioned to weather any economic storm.

"Once you get someone into the work force, they become somewhat skillful," he said.

The Washington Post

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1999

2/2

9-13-99

Podesta
Academy
Columbia
Ther. 1-22

copied
Podesta

9-13-99

The New York Times
Sunday, September 12, 1999

Possible Encephalitis Cases Rise to 89, but Only 9 Are Confirmed

By PAUL ZIELBAUER

As residents of the five boroughs geared up for a weekend of pesticide spraying, the number of possible cases of St. Louis encephalitis, the mosquito-borne viral disease, rose to 89 in the city on Saturday, with 31 added since Friday, city officials said. The number of confirmed cases remained at nine.

Only one of the 31 cases is considered "probable," in which the likelihood of infection is greater than 50 percent, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani said in a news conference at City Hall on Saturday. All the other new cases fall under either the city's "suspected" category, in which the chances of infection are about 1 in 10, or "low probability" category, in which there is almost no chance of finding encephalitis, the Mayor said.

"At this point the situation as it existed yesterday is pretty much the same," Giuliani said. "We don't have any more definite cases. We do have one more probable case."

Three people have died of the disease since last week, when city officials first became aware of the outbreak. Eight of the nine confirmed cases of encephalitis, a swelling of the brain that can be fatal, especially in babies and the elderly, were in Queens. One case was found in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn.

To fight the spread of the disease, the city began a weekend-long land and air insecticide bombardment of mosquitoes Saturday evening in sections of all five boroughs. Airplanes and helicopters sprayed the insecticide malathion over the eastern half of the Bronx, southwestern Queens and a section of Staten Island between 5 and 9:30 P.M. Saturday.

Trucks roaming through sections of Brooklyn, including the downtown area and Brooklyn Heights, were scheduled to spray a different insecticide, resmethrine, between 11 P.M. Saturday and 6 A.M. today.

Starting at 5 P.M. today, aircraft will spray over northern and eastern Queens, Roosevelt Island, Wards Island and Randall's Island, and northern Staten Island. Trucks will spray throughout Central Park between 11 P.M. tonight and 6 A.M. tomorrow, according to the city's schedule. Midtown and lower Manhattan will be sprayed by trucks starting at 11 P.M. tomorrow, although Times Square may be spared until Tuesday, officials said.

In all, the city's Office of Emergency Management is using 11 trucks, 5 helicopters and one airplane, which will be used solely over Staten Island.

By Tuesday, according to maps distributed to reporters on Saturday, every inch of New York City will have been treated. But the Mayor and city health officials stressed that neither spray is dangerous to humans.

"It's very, very unlikely that anyone would have any health effects of any concern, even if they were directly under the spray," said Dr. Bob Hoffman, the director of the New York City Poison Center, speaking at the news conference. "People should really feel comfortable with this."

Mayor Giuliani hammered home his own reassurances, pointing out that very few mosquitoes actually are thought to carry the encephalitis disease, and reassuring the public about the sprays, which he noted were being used in small concentrations.

But not everyone was reassured. The Manhattan Borough President, C. Virginia Fields, went to 125th Street and Lexington

Avenue Saturday afternoon to respond to what she said was a flood of calls to her office from residents worried about plans for the nighttime spraying of all of Manhattan north of 110th Street.

Dozens of shoppers at the Pathmark store on that corner came by to pick up fliers detailing precautions to take during the spraying and how to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Most said they were more concerned about the pesticides than about the mosquitoes.

Ms. Fields said that she had been assured by city officials and toxicology experts that the pesticide would not hurt anybody.

"But of course this is an issue in question that has been raised and continues to be raised by people in the community," she said.

END

9-13-99

The New York Times
Sunday, September 12, 1999

END

2d Death Confirmed in E. Coli Outbreak Near Albany; 60 Are Hospitalized

By THOMAS J. LUECK

New York state and local health officials confirmed on Saturday that a 79-year-old Gansevoort man was the second person to die in an outbreak of E. coli bacteria infections in the Albany area.

The authorities also raised the number of people hospitalized with the illness Saturday to 60, two more than on Friday, according to the state Health Department.

Although almost all of the cases have been linked to the contamination of a well at the Washington County Fair in Greenwich. The authorities said that four people had become ill since Friday after attending the Schaghticoke Fair in Rensselaer County, and E. coli infections were suspected.

John Signor, a spokesman for the State Health Department, said investigators had determined that two food vendors had moved their booths from the fair in Washington County to the one in Rensselaer County, and may have carried contaminated well water with them.

"If you have not had symptoms of the infection yet, you probably are not going to get them," Signor said. "The peak has passed."

He said the main threat of infection had been from well water drawn at the Washington County Fair on Sept. 1, and since the strain of E. coli involved, O157:H7, has an incubation period of nine days, few more infections were expected.

With health officials on high alert in much of upstate New York, residents of Phoenix, an Oswego County village 135 miles east of Albany, were advised Saturday to boil drinking water after inspectors found E. coli in a test of school water fountains. No illness was reported.

Signor said state officials believed that the contamination in Phoenix was unrelated to the outbreak around Albany because the two were separated by great distances, and because isolated cases of E. coli contamination are common across the nation, with about 20,000 reported annually.

Still, state health officials, assisted by several local agencies, continued to monitor the outbreak near Albany Saturday and to warn people of the symptoms of E. coli infection, which include diarrhea and abdominal pains.

Signor said the initial cause had been identified as a combination of heavy rain on Aug. 26 and the proximity of the Washington County well to a farmyard containing cows, manure and an area being excavated.

He said the well, which had been tested by health inspectors as recently as June, had been contaminated by runoff from the rain, which carried bacteria from the manure into the well water.

He said the two vendors who may have transported some of the contaminated water to the Schaghticoke Fair "would not have done so intentionally." Nonetheless, he said people who suffer symptoms of E. coli after having attended the fair in Rensselaer County should consult their doctors, particularly if they consumed food or drinks from either of the two vendors — O'Sullivan Crows Enterprise Taco Stand or S&W Caterers, which sells lemonade, coffee and ice cream.

But Signor said the four people in Rensselaer County might not have contacted E. coli infections at all, but "just happened to get diarrhea."

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 7, 1999

Dear Mr. President:

My name is John Wertman, and I was recently hired as a member of your correspondence staff. I'm honored to be at the White House, and I treasure each day that I get to work for the American people.

As you may remember, I wrote a report last summer on the history of your "azure" presidential stationery. Since I wrote the essay, I have taken an interest in all types of presidential paper. I am currently studying the history of your correspondence cards with the help of the Calligraphy Office, and I'll be sure to pass a copy of my findings along to Mrs. Currie for your attention when it's completed.

I recently acquired a few sheets of stationery that President Truman used aboard his airplane. They are headed "The Flying White House," and they are by far the most colorful examples of chief executive writing paper that I've come across. Knowing of your interest in presidential memorabilia, I thought you might like to have a sheet. Thank you for your time and attention. Best wishes in the coming days, sir.

Sincerely,

John A. Wertman

9-9-99

Send to Burkhardt?

Yes ☒

No ☐

KEEP ON
FILE
[initials]

THE WHITE HOUSE

Interview regarding POTUS 99 SEP 9 PM 5:26
correspondence: 10/15 minutes max

John Wertman

x 6-5509

OE0B 97

Thank you!!

THE WHITE HOUSE

Assistant to the President and
Staff Secretary

9/13

JOHN -

THE GUY WHO GAVE THIS
STORY TO THE POST,
DOUG KENDALL, WAS MY
ROOMMATE IN LAW SCHOOL.
HE'S EAGER TO BE HELPFUL
IN ANY WAY HE CAN.
FYI.

- SEAN

SEND
TO
PODESTA
—

Judges Rule on Firms in Their Portfolios

Appeals Jurists Attribute Participation to Innocent Mistakes

By JOE STEPHENS
Washington Post Staff Writer

A 1

A number of federal appellate judges have ruled on cases involving companies in which they own stock, despite a federal law designed to prevent judges from taking part in any case in which they have a financial interest.

An examination of financial disclosure reports and federal court records shows that in 1997 eight appeals court judges took part in at least 18 cases in which they, their spouses or trusts they helped manage held stock in one of the parties. The stock ownership ranged from a few thousand dollars to as much as \$250,000.

In interviews, the judges acknowledged that they should not have participated in the cases but stressed that their stock interests did not affect their rulings. The judges, who include some of the nation's best-known jurists, attributed their participation in the cases to innocent mistakes or memory lapses about their financial portfolios.

"It's embarrassing; I should have been more alert," said Judge Alex Kozinski of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in California. "I certainly am going to try to be more careful."

Some of those involved in the cases also were upset to learn about the stock. Judge Alice Batchelder of the 6th Circuit in Ohio improperly sat on a case involving Wal-Mart Stores Inc. even though her husband held up to \$50,000 worth of stock in the company. Batchelder and two other judges ruled the discount-store chain could not be held responsible for selling Wayne Brashear's 19-year-old son a .357 Magnum revolver, which he later used to commit suicide.

"It leaves a pretty bitter taste," Brashear said of the judge's actions.

Batchelder explained that, until contacted by a reporter, she did not realize her husband's retirement account owned stock in Wal-Mart and other companies. She said she should have withdrawn from Brashear's appeal and four other cases.

"I'm extremely chagrined to discover it," she said. "The error is mine."

The conflicts were uncovered by Community Rights Counsel, a public-interest law firm that concentrates on land-use issues. The group reviewed 1997 personal financial disclosure reports, the most recent available at the time, filed by the approximately 150 active federal appeals court judges, and checked the holdings against computerized records of cases in which the judges participated. It provided the material to The Washington Post.

"Our findings represent the tip of the iceberg, and there are likely hundreds of similar cases to be found throughout the fed-

But David Sellers, a spokesman for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, said the conflicts involved a surprisingly small percentage of the roughly 52,000 cases that passed through the nation's appeals courts in 1997. He also questioned why seven of the eight judges cited by the group were named by Republican presidents.

Kendall said he scrutinized all judges equally. He said his study understated the probable number of conflicts because it did not include cases handled by judges who have taken retired status and did not include an exhaustive search of corporate subsidiaries.

In interviews, the judges said their rulings in the cases were unlikely to affect their stock values. In some cases, in fact, the judges ruled against the companies' interests. Even so, they acknowledged that they should have withdrawn from the lawsuits to prevent a conflict.

"I accept the responsibility. I shouldn't have sat on those cases," said Judge Morris Arnold of the 8th U.S. Circuit in Arkansas. "I regret the mistake happened and I'm going to work to see it doesn't happen again."

Arnold took part in one lawsuit involving General Electric and another involving a General Electric subsidiary while his wife owned company stock worth up to \$50,000. He said he overlooked one conflict because the case had dozens of litigants. In the other, he said, he did not recognize that General Electric Capital Corp. was a subsidiary of General Electric.

Some judges said their spouses or investment managers bought the stocks without immediately notifying them. Others said the companies' names became lost in a long list of litigants or that they were confused

by the names of subsidiaries and affiliated corporations.

Federal appeals court rules require corporations to provide a list of all parent companies and related entities in order to prohibit precisely such conflicts.

Federal law requires that judges remove themselves from any case in which they know they or their spouses have a financial interest, no matter how small. Even a \$1 investment violates the statute. Federal law also directs judges to keep abreast of what they own so that they may immediately resolve any conflicts that arise.

Evidence of the conflicts was not news to one judge, Laurence Silberman of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Silberman said he identified a series of conflicts in early 1998 and sent letters reporting the problem to the lawyers in three cases. At the same time, Silberman withdrew from hearing an appeal in one of the most closely watched cases in recent years—the U.S. Justice Department's antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft Corp.

Silberman said he had no ownership in Microsoft or the companies involved in the other cases. But after his brother-in-law died suddenly in 1997, Silberman explained, he became a trustee of the Gaull Marital Trust, which owned a variety of stocks, including up to \$100,000 in Microsoft.

In his letters, Silberman noted that his "participation was in violation" of federal ethics laws.

In 1997, Silberman received \$15,000 for teaching at Georgetown University Law Center and was one of three judges who ruled in Georgetown's favor in a case accusing the university hospital of medical malpractice. Silberman said it was "absurd" to think he should remove himself in that situation, noting the hospital and law school are separate entities. Legal ethics experts said he was not required to dis-

qualify himself.

In cases handled by the other judges, lawyers and litigants were not warned about the conflicts. For example, attorney Paul Bennett of San Francisco said he was surprised to learn that Judge Kozinski owned General Motors stock.

Bennett represented eight railroad workers who claimed their hearing was damaged by noise from locomotive engines manufactured by General Motors. Kozinski led a three-judge panel that rejected his argument, which Bennett said could have led to a national class-action suit against General Motors if it had been successful.

"It's disturbing that people say they don't know what they own," Bennett said. "If I had a different panel of judges, who knows if I would have won?"

Kozinski explained that midway through the case his wife bought 95 shares of stock, worth less than \$15,000. The judge learned of the purchase later, he said, and never connected it to the lawsuit.

"We will try harder from now on," Kozinski said. "We do take this very seriously."

Some members of Congress argue that, to help the public quickly identify such conflicts, lists of stocks held by federal judges should be easily available to the public. In March the Judicial Conference rejected a plan to have judges post "recusal lists" at local courthouses, citing security and privacy concerns. Judges also said that such lists already are available to anyone willing to fill out a request and wait several weeks.

Kendall and other critics point out, however, that each request results in a warning to the judge about who is examining his fi-

nances. They said few lawyers and litigants would risk angering the judge who will decide the outcome of their case.

The Environmental Working Group, an environmental watchdog organization, wrote to Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist last week urging him to improve the disclosure process, including posting the forms on the Internet. "Litigants and citizens' faith in the judicial process is severely eroded by these conflicts," said the letter by vice president Mike Casey.

Judge Arnold called it a good idea to make judges' financial disclosures more readily available to the public.

"I understand why some people would be reluctant" to check the reports if they know their inquiries will be reported to the judge, Arnold said. "If it's a matter of public record, it's a matter of public record, and people ought to be able to look at it."

2/2

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

9-13-99

The New York Times
Sunday, September 12, 1999

Pardons: Having to Say You're Sorry

By DAVID JOHNSTON

WASHINGTON — The presidential power to issue pardons and reprieves represents the ultimate Constitutional act of forgiveness — unreviewable and absolute. But as the outcry over President Clinton's offer of clemency to 16 Puerto Rican nationalists demonstrates, it is not immune from second-guessing.

Last week, Mr. Clinton's decision came under heavy political attack from Republicans and Democrats. The House of Representatives voted 311 to 41 to condemn the leniency grant, with 93 Democrats crossing party lines to endorse the Republican-sponsored measure.

Mr. Clinton denied that his decision had been influenced by the political ambitions of the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is weighing a bid for a Senate seat from New York. Mrs. Clinton had sided with her husband's opponents to urge him to rescind the sweeping offer of leniency, saying that after three weeks they had had enough time to meet the conditions that they renounce violence and abide by parole restrictions. Mr. Clinton, saying he acted independently, set a deadline, and by the weekend 14 of the nationalists had accepted the offer.

Critics of the Clintons viewed the entire episode as an effort to maneuver votes in Mrs. Clinton's behalf among New York's 1.3 million residents of Puerto Rican descent.

In a news conference, Mr. Clinton suggested that his grant of leniency should be viewed as a routine matter, one he never discussed with his wife.

But the offer appears to be far from routine for Mr. Clinton. He has granted fewer clemency petitions — including commutations of prison sentences or pardons for past crimes — than either of his Republican predecessors, Presidents George Bush and Ronald Reagan.

The number of Presidential clemencies has steadily declined since World War II, particularly since the Ford Administration as the intensity of partisan political debate over fighting crime has heated up. "Mr. Clinton's record in clemency matters reflects a trend that began during Ronald Reagan's Presidency," said Margaret C. Love, the pardon attorney at the Justice Department from 1990 to 1997. "It had been very much an operational part of the criminal justice system. Now clemency has been taken hostage in the war on crime."

Clemency grants plummeted further during Mr. Reagan's first term, when a change in Justice Department procedures effectively placed control of pardons and commutations in the hands of prosecutors, including Rudolph W. Giuliani, who was then an Associate Attorney General. As Mayor of New York and a likely opponent of Mrs. Clinton in the Senate race, Mr. Giuliani has been an outspoken critic of Mr. Clinton's offer to the imprisoned Puerto Ricans.

s. Love said that during the Clinton Administration, the White House has relied less on the Justice Department's recommendations in clemency cases and more on its own judgment of a case's merits.

Historically, there is little incentive to grant clemency.

"As a general rule, there's nothing in it for a President or an Attorney General to do anything for anybody," said John R. Stanish, who was a pardon attorney under President Carter. "They can only be humiliated or embarrassed."

Mr. Clinton's offer of clemency to the imprisoned Puerto Ricans on the condition that they renounce violence was unusual but not unprecedented. Conditional clemency is rare, though not unheard of. When President Carter commuted the bank robbery sentence of

Patricia Hearst in 1979, she was required to agree not to take part in militant politics. When President Nixon commuted Jimmy Hoffa's racketeering sentence in 1971, the labor leader had to agree to refrain from union activities.

Mr. Clinton's offer represents the first time a President has granted conditional clemency to prisoners convicted of crimes related to terrorism, though none of those offered clemency were directly responsible for deaths or injuries.

Most were members of the F.A.L.N., the Spanish acronym for the Armed Forces of National Liberation, a militant independence group believed to be responsible for scores of bombings in the 1970's and 1980's, including attacks that killed six people and wounded many others. Their original sentences ranged from 35 years to 90 years in prison.

Clemency applications have piled up during the Clinton Administration. While Justice Department records of the 3,042 clemency petitions filed during Mr. Clinton's Presidency do not distinguish between serious and frivolous or repetitive requests, they show that Mr. Clinton has reduced the sentences of only three people.

Two of these people, Jackie Trautman of Ohio and Johnny Palacios of Florida, were convicted of drug offenses. A third man, Ernest C. Krikiva, was a Nebraska hog farmer who had convicted of perjury in a bankruptcy proceeding and had won the support of family farm groups.

Justice Department figures show that, as of April, 884 people had filed petitions for commutations that were pending, waiting to be acted on by the Justice Department and the White House. It remains unclear how the cases of the 16 Puerto Rican militants were culled from these requests — although their supporters, including Mr. Carter and retired South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu had been advocating their release for years.

Mr. Clinton explained his decision by saying the sentences were much longer than those they would have received under the more recently enacted Federal sentencing guidelines for crimes committed after 1987.

Most of the imprisoned nationalists were convicted of offenses like interstate transportation of firearms or armed robbery and were not accused of explicit terrorist acts, even though law enforcement officials have said their crimes were meant to support the violent activities of a militant group.

END

THE PRESIDENT

9.13.99

Podesta - see marked plan
This is abstract
& extensive -
BC

copied
Podesta

9-13-99

A Kindergarten Crowd

47 Share Classroom in Prince George's

By DAVID NAKAMURA
Washington Post Staff Writer

Teacher Michelle Mayfield wonders each day how to best fit her students into her classroom at Flintstone Elementary School so they have enough space to learn comfortably.

On the plus side, kindergartners tend to be very small. On the down side, she has 47 of them.

Here they were yesterday morning crammed in the 38-by-25-foot room: groups of six seated at seven tables and five more at individual desks, fidgeting in their 47 tiny seats as Mayfield tried to teach them to use, of all things, 47 pairs of miniature blunt-nosed scissors.

"Before you get your scissors," Mayfield began, "I want you to practice..."

But she was cut off by a chorus of chatter: "I want blue ones." "I want green ones." "I want pink."

She tried again but was interrupted: "Can I wash my hands, Miss Mayfield?"

"This is ridiculous," Mayfield said later. "They can't learn with that many. On the first day, one girl had to go home sick because she wasn't used to all the people."

Crowded classrooms are a problem in schools throughout the Washington region, but on this day, in this Oxon Hill classroom, the conditions had reached near overload.

Not that officials weren't concerned. School board members got an earful from angry Flintstone parents at a board meeting Thursday night. But the issue is a complicated one in Prince George's. Although the county is building 13 to 26 new schools in the next six years, County Executive Wayne K. Curry (D) is-

sued a moratorium on buying any more \$35,000 trailers so that all construction funds can be devoted to the new buildings.

So, officials say, they are scrambling to move some of the system's 420 trailers from less crowded to more crowded schools. It's a stopgap measure that is complicated by the fact that 40,000 of the district's 133,000 students switched schools this year because of boundary changes or other reasons.

"We basically try to rank schools from the most overcrowded to the least," said Bill Greene, the system's director of pupil accounting. "We worked all summer on it because when we take away the [trailers] from a school, that means forever."

But the school system's planning office long has been criticized for not being accurate enough in its estimates of school enrollment. Mayfield said she was expecting 35 kindergartners, but

46 showed up on the first day. Another student arrived yesterday.

"Imagine having to take attendance 46 times or having to figure out which of the 46 children needs to buy a lunch," Kathy Fouts, another Flintstone teacher, told the school board Thursday night, as parents held signs that read "46." "Maybe you want to be a substitute in there for a day?"

Darrell King, whose daughter K'Linn is in the class, said: "It's ridiculous. There's no way they can teach 46 children at the same time. They must be overwhelmed."

Flintstone has a building capacity of 506 and a current enrollment of 683. Four trailers behind the building accommodate some of the overflow, but officials had to convert the music room and the computer lab to classrooms.

Complicating matters is that Flintstone is a magnet school with a Montessori program, whose classes are capped at 25 students.

Officials say relief is on the way.

Two trailers are due at Flintstone on Monday, said Tony Liberatore, supervisor of support services. A second kindergarten teacher is helping Mayfield and will be able to take over a class of her own when the trailer arrives.

"The trailers probably will come from somewhere else that needs them," said school board Chairman Alvin Thornton (Suitland). It's a painful thing, but at some point, we have to stop talking about it as a school here or a classroom there, and use it as a point to talk in terms of a systemic issue."

Until help arrives, Mayfield will do what she can. After a bit of prodding yesterday, her students raised their scissors in the air, and 47 voices said in unison: "Open, close. Open, close."

Mayfield exhaled a big sigh and paused to pick up a piece of brown construction paper. She started to speak again, but it was too late.

"I want blue." "I want green." "I want..."

The Washington Post
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1999

THE

9.13.99

Podesta/Breed

Ross site in

teacher/school construction

done

~~PK~~

copied
Podesta
Reed

9-13-99

The New York Times
Sunday, September 12, 1999

Denver Teachers Accept Plan Linking Pay to Performance

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER -- The city's teachers union has approved a two-year pilot program -- the first of its kind in the nation -- to tie teachers' pay raises to how well students do on tests.

"It's an experiment, and I think it's worth the experiment," said Laurie Bourg, a fourth-grade teacher who voted for the pact.

The program, proposed by the Denver Classroom Teachers Association, will involve only a small group of volunteers at first. At the end of the two years, a decision will be made on whether to expand the program to all teachers.

"The teachers of Denver have decided to give it a try," said Becky Wissink, union vice president. She would not give totals from Friday's vote.

"From teachers' perspective, the real value of this pilot is that they can be involved from the ground up in the design, implementation and evaluation of the study," said teachers union president Andrea Giunta.

The next step is the appointment of a design team that will create and oversee the study.

Many teachers are now asking how classroom performance can be measured, especially when so many variables are out of their control.

"I was in the printing business for 15 years, and you can't run schools like a business," said Roxanne Rhodes, a high school social studies teacher. "If I bought paper in my printing business and it wasn't up to quality, we could send it back. You can't do that with students."

In Denver and many other districts around the country, teachers automatically get raises based on length of service.

Some districts around the country have offered merit increases or bonuses, but they base the decision on schoolwide achievement or factors such as a teacher's work outside the classroom.

The Denver program, in contrast, would reward teachers for how well the children do in their individual classrooms.

The participants in the pilot program would get bonuses, rather than raises. However, if the program is enacted permanently, the teachers whose students do well will be rewarded with actual salary increases.

Their pay would not be docked if their students didn't measure up.

"This program is truly different. It's not a bonus. If it's enacted in two years, it changes where you are in the salary schedule based on student achievement," said Kathleen Lyons, a spokeswoman for the National Education Association, the nation's largest teachers union with 2.4 million members.

Starting teachers in Denver make \$30,000. The top salary, which requires a doctorate, is \$60,362.

About 450 of the district's 4,300 teachers in 12 elementary and three middle schools would volunteer for the pilot program. Teachers who want to volunteer must get the support of their principal and 85 percent of the other teachers in their school.

The volunteers would be divided into three groups, which would

measure student performance differently. One would use students' scores of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. Another would use scores on a standardized test created in the district. The third would somehow test how much students improve after their teachers have taken classes to enhance their skills.

Over the past year, Denver schools reported higher test scores among white students. But minority scores lag behind, and the 67,000-student district is under pressure from the federal government to reduce the gap between whites and minorities.

Last spring, five of 11 grades failed to meet the reading average on the Iowa Tests. Five years ago, not one grade level was above the average.

END

THE ...
9.13.99

Brend
Autentica
Box

copied
Reed
Podesta

9-13-99

Reed
fy - ~~JS~~

Copied
Reed
Podesta

9-13-99

Chartering a Course

Students Settling Into Works-in-Progress

By VALERIE STRAUSS
Washington Post Staff Writer

Undeterred by workmen installing windows and sawing wood two floors below, Lei Kendale got on with the business at hand: Teaching his new fourth-grade students the "Code of Civility" they were expected to honor.

Pointing to the blackboard, he asked the uniformed boys and girls, "What's the word?" then snapped his fingers. "Responsibility!" they answered. He moved to the next word, snapped again and the response came back louder, "Respect!" And so it went this week in the opening days of the new Robert Louis Johnson Arts & Technology Academy Public Charter School for kindergarten

through fifth grade in Northeast Washington.

Across town, at the Booker T. Washington Public Charter School for Technical Arts in Northwest Washington, the construction work was closer and louder. With the buzzing of electric saws filling the air in the partially built room, 22 teenagers sat in chairs with no desks as they began a high school program of traditional subjects and training in the construction and building trades.

The schools—both works-in-progress—are two of 10 public charter schools opening this and next week in the District. They join 19 others already in operation, part of a public education move-

ment that advocates say will have a profound impact on education in the nation's capital.

The District, where two charter schools began operating in fall 1996, now has the fastest-growing charter school movement of any city in the country. With a congressional mandate that allows 20 new schools to open each year, proponents say it may not take long before the number of independent charter schools comes close to rivaling the city's 145 traditional public schools, which serve about 71,000 students.

There are more than 1,100 charter schools across the country, with some 250,000 students. There were about 3,500 students in D.C. charter schools last year, and supporters say enrollment could double this year.

The learning-amid-construction atmosphere is typical of new charter schools, which operate with public funds, are free to students and enjoy a great deal of autonomy.

Proponents say that such schools offer parents an option within the public system and will force traditional schools to improve to keep students. Opponents say charter schools drain resources from traditional schools, making it difficult for them to improve.

Charter school programs in the District are diverse—so much so that they don't all have regular 180-day school years. Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School in Northwest Washington, for example, operates on a 221-day year and gives students only a month off for summer vacation. Some schools are designed for children with learning disabilities, adjudicated youths and high school dropouts. Others emphasize technology, math and science, language immersion, the arts or vocational training.

Booker T. Washington, which has about 100 students in grades 9 through 12, offers training in trades including carpentry, plumbing, electrical wiring and bricklaying as well as computer skills. It also has a night program for adults.

The school offers me a chance to learn the skills I am interested in," said Alicea Bland, 18, a senior who last year attended a charter school that didn't reopen this year. She opted for charter schools, she said, because her neighborhood public high school has no vocational training, an example of how vocational education in

the District has all but disappeared in recent years.

Students at Booker T. Washington said the first few days there were marked by disorganization, with staff members feeling their way through what many liken to the start-up of a new business. But the students said they expected improvements and were willing to take a chance on the new school.

Booker T. Washington was founded by Ed Pinkard, a construction and real estate consultant who said he wants to fill the city's vocational education gap. Robert L. Johnson was started by parents who were upset in 1997 when D.C. school officials closed their neighborhood elementary school. They won approval to open a charter school in the same building.

Both schools are experiencing the same first-year growing pains most charters face.

"I sympathize with those people just starting to open schools now because I was there a year ago," said Irasema Salcido, founder of the well-regarded Cesar Chavez high school, now in its second year and lo-

cated in the same building as Booker T. Washington.

"It is hard, impossibly hard. You can't imagine the difficulties," she said. "Now,

the second year is very different. We are not dealing with the unknowns. . . . You know what you have control over and what you don't."

Stored
in
12/1/99
1999

THE PRESIDENT

9.13.99

Reed
Fy - fullerton
BS

copied
Reed
Podesta

9-13-99

THE NEW YORK TIMES
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1999

Two Views on How to Get Johnny to Read and Think

School began this week for most students, and so has another round of debate over how it should be run.

So The New York Times posed a question to two education gurus: How can schools produce educated students?

Howard Gardner, a Harvard professor and the author of the new book "The Disciplined Mind: What All Students Should Understand" (Simon & Schuster), Gardner argues that critical thinking and analytical skills in various disciplines should be the backbone of any educational approach, and that these do not depend on studying a particular subject matter or using a core curriculum. Gardner, who is perhaps most well-known for his theory of multiple intelligence, which posits a broader kind definition of intelligence than can be measured by IQ scores, proposes a focus on a limited number of subjects. Such case studies — like the theory of evolution, Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" and the Holocaust — would teach students how to think, respectively, like a scientist, and artist or a historian.

E.D. Hirsch Jr., the author of "Cultural Literacy," (Houghton-Mifflin, 1987), is a professor of education and humanities at the University of Virginia and president of the Core Knowledge Foundation. Hirsch, whose book "The Schools We Need and Why We Don't Have Them" was published by Anchor in paperback last month, argues that to function well in society, people need a vocabulary of common information, of — facts, stories and skills that make up a shared literacy. His approach is being used in some of New York City's newest charter schools. He argues that the progressive tradition in education, which Gardner represents, has miserably failed students, particularly disadvantaged ones, and that a school combining drills and practice where needed with a demanding core curriculum will continue to produce the most successes.

Toward Good Thinking On Essential Questions

By HOWARD GARDNER

As one concerned with precollege education, I'm gratified by the attention paid to this topic over the last two decades. At the same time I have to signal my uneasiness that so much of the discussion centers on means: should we have charters, vouchers, teachers' unions, national tests etc. I think it is essential that we step back, at least periodically, and ask about the ends or aims of education. My own answer can be stated succinctly. A dozen or more years of education should yield students who can think well about the essential questions of human life: who are we, where do we come from, what's the world made of, what have humans achieved and what can we achieve, how does one lead a good life? Many people, institutions and experiences can contribute to formulating these questions and the answers. The distinct contribution of formal education is to equip students with the ways of thinking, the scholarly disciplines, that have been constructed over the years to allow individuals to think well and deeply about these questions and some viable answers.

In speaking of disciplines, I have something specific in mind. Disciplines did not always exist; they are human-created methods and structures for approaching long-standing puzzles. Historians evaluate documents and testimony to reconstruct plausible accounts of past events. Scientists generate hypotheses about how the world works, collect data relevant to those hypotheses, analyze

the data objectively and then revise or endorse the original hypotheses or theories. The arts are also disciplines: they involve clear procedures for production (how does one write a fugue, stage a ballet, render a portrait) and for interpreting the productions of others. For those inclined to dismiss the disciplines, imagine a world without such mental furniture.

By a convenient pun, the attainment of disciplines requires discipline. This is because our natural, common-sense ways of making sense of the world are non- or even anti-disciplinary. Only through years of asking questions and following well-honed strategies can we replace common-sense accounts (e.g., human beings have always existed, the best portraits are photographs) with more nuanced and grounded disciplinary accounts.

The disciplines are arguably the most important human inventions of the last two millennia. Yet their importance tends to be obscured, especially in the rhetoric-filled discourse of education. Instead, we hear a lot about facts, skills, tests and subject matter. None of these terms should be dismissed, but they attain fresh significance when they are considered in a disciplinary context.

First, skills. I know no one who opposes the acquisition of basic skills: reading, writing, calculation. One cannot even enter the disciplinary worlds unless one has mastered the three R's. Basic skills are the means for acquiring the disciplines, just as the disciplines (and ultimately interdisciplinary amalgams) provide the means for thinking well about important issues.

Next, facts. You cannot think well about a topic or question unless you have information, data, facts. However, that information should be acquired not for its own sake but as a means of finding a better answer to a consequential question. Facts can only be well used if they relate to one another in a meaningful way: otherwise, to use Alfred North Whitehead's term, they are simply "inert knowledge." Facts need the connective tissue of disciplines, or they are undisciplined, rote information.

Subject matter is typically collapsed with disciplines, but it is important to honor a distinction. One can have lots of facts in a subject without having any disciplinary understanding. Too often a person is considered a master because she or he has taken a certain number of courses, often called Carnegie units. A person understands to the extent that he or she can apply knowledge appropriately in a new situation. Only an individual in possession of disciplinary moves can do this.

Which brings us to tests, or assessments. There may be some who oppose assessments, but I am not in their ranks. Not in the least! At the same time, I reject as inadequate most of the short-answer instruments currently being adopted at the state level. These instruments may probe factual or subject-matter knowledge, but they typically fall short of probing disciplinary mastery and understanding. In life no one presents us with four choices, the last of which reads "none of the above."

I favor instruments that actually determine whether a person can think in a disciplined way. So rather than ask students to name nine Civil War battles, I would ask them to assess two historical accounts based on the same primary documents (or create their own). Rather than asking students to recall a chemical formula, I would provide them with data from an experiment and ask them to extract the regularities (and perhaps indicate which other data need to be collected next). Rather than asking students to memorize authors or lines from a poem, I would ask them to edit or complete an unfinished poem.

Every educational philosophy reflects a certain knowledge base and a certain value system. My educational regimen builds on findings from cognitive science. These findings indicate that, when young, individuals develop intuitive theories that are very powerful and difficult to eradicate. While some are on the mark, most are remote from the disciplines. Only a concerted effort over years to establish disciplinary ways of thinking can eradicate or educate the

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-13-99

unschooled mind. My own belief is that this goal is best achieved by focusing in depth on certain important topics; not only does one come to understand those topics well, but in the process one gains incipient mastery for what it is like to use the methods of a discipline.

This incipient mastery can be built upon for the rest of one's life. I am idealistic enough to believe that once individuals have genuinely understood a theory like evolution, a historical period like the Holocaust, a work of art like "The Marriage of Figaro," they will insist on commensurate understanding of other topics in the future.

Pursuing this line of reasoning, I find myself out of sympathy with a preordained canon. One can acquire disciplinary ways of thinking from a variety of topics, and it simply does not matter that much which ones happen to be used. It is more important, in my view, to use examples that are valued by the community and that come alive for students than to insist that everyone read the same play or master the same theorem or learn the same topics in science. I don't care that much if one can name the planets; one can always request that information from a Palm Pilot. I care mightily that half of the American population (and perhaps some of our recent Presidents) can't distinguish astronomical from astrological ways of thinking and that two-thirds of Americans don't see the disciplinary difference between evolutionary and creationist accounts of the origins of human beings.

In putting forth these views, I find myself at odds with much of the program put forth by E.D. Hirsch Jr. Perhaps it is possible to reconcile our work to some extent — for example, by emphasizing his "Core Knowledge" in early grades and my disciplinary focus for the later grades. I have admiration for his democratic vision, his belief in public education and his sponsoring of programs in our schools. Still I think it is valuable to put forth these quite different educational visions: one focusing on questions and on ways of thinking, the other on factual answers and on shared knowledge. The value is in part epistemological, different views of the mind's use; in part cultural, different views of an educated society.

Finding the Answers In Drills and Rigor

By E.D. HIRSCH Jr.

The most interesting debate about American education concerns why the United States has not fulfilled the egalitarian aims of schooling as well as other democracies have. The main cause of inequality in American schools, I have argued, has been the dominance of the progressive-education tradition, which has seriously misconceived itself as the guardian of social progress and democratic ideals. I hope Howard Gardner is right that my work poses a threat to the assumptions of the progressivist tradition.

If we are lucky, the end of the 1990s will mark the end of spurious connections between educational ideas and political affiliations. During the last two decades, when Democrats have controlled a school board, the district has tended to favor the whole-language method of teaching reading, to encourage the use of calculators for "math understanding" (instead of memorizing the multiplication table) and to disparage multiple-choice tests, all positions connected with progressive education but not logically with the platform of the Democratic Party.

By contrast, when a majority of school-board members have been Republican, the district has tended to favor the explicit teaching of phonics, the memorization of the multiplication table and the use of standardized tests, positions properly associated with educational conservatism but not necessarily with political conservatism. On the contrary, political conservatism, understood as the preservation of the social status quo, is best achieved by progressive educational methods.

There have been recent signs that the politics of education is belatedly becoming more sophisticated. As long ago as the 1930s, Antonio Gramsci, a brilliant Communist opponent of Mussolini, denounced the new "progressive" ideas that were being introduced into Italy from the United States. He argued that social justice required educational conservatism because only if the poor worked hard in school to accumulate the "intellectual baggage" of the rich could they earn money and wield the levers of power. Gramsci, the Communist, serving on a modern American school board, might surprise fellow board members by voting with Republicans.

So might James S. Coleman. Progressive methods failed disadvantaged students, he concluded after a decade of inquiries into the implications of his famous 1966 report, "Equality of Educational Opportunity." What people remember about his 1966 report is that schools appear to count for little in determining educational achievement, whereas family background matters a great deal. This statistical fact upset many people, including Coleman, because it dashes the democratic hope of giving all students an equal chance by simply putting rich and poor together in the same common school. If the common school does not in fact reduce the advantages of wealth and privilege, then the premises of democratic education must be re-examined.

After the Coleman report, one had a choice of two positions: one could become an advocate of compensatory education to narrow the achievement gap between groups, or one could adopt the determinist view that the schools can do little to rectify the ills of the wider society. The deterministic position, which excuses the schools for failing to reduce the test-score gap between groups, is widely held in the American educational world. But after further research, Coleman adopted the compensatory position.

Published in the '80s, that research showed that most Roman Catholic schools were better at achieving equity than most public schools. Catholic schools followed a rich and demanding curriculum, required a lot of drill and practice, and expected every child to reach minimal goals in each subject during the year. As a result disadvantaged children prospered academically, as did their advantaged peers, and the schools narrowed the gap between races and social classes.

This deeper inquiry of Coleman's started a controversy almost as fierce as the one surrounding his 1966 report. It was seen as an attack on public schools, but, as Coleman unanswerably pointed out, his findings were not limited to Catholic schools; the very same democratic results were being achieved by the few public schools that defied progressivist doctrine. Consistent with that finding is the fact that recent improvements in equity have been achieved only by school reforms that use conservative methods like drill and practice (e.g., the Success for All program at Johns Hopkins) and a demanding curriculum (e.g., the "Core Knowledge" series of books).

After so many practical failures, few educational experts overtly label themselves progressivists, but one can detect de facto progressivists by certain distinctive traits. First, there is their belief that knowledge and skill will be gained incidentally from intensive study of a few subjects. This incidental method claims, against all evidence, to achieve greater depth, as if there were a simple trade-off between depth and breadth. A claim is made under various labels and slogans such as "the project method" and "less is more" that exposure to a few complex experiences will cause understanding to occur naturally, an idea that first gained currency during the Romantic movement.

The persistent attractions of this "natural" method may possibly be explained by the vestigial Romanticism of American culture, but as Lisa Delpit observes in her book "Other People's Children," the progressivist mode of teaching has consistently failed to benefit African-American children (and many advantaged children as well).

Another mark of progressivism (and another vestige of the Romantic movement) is its criticism of an "overemphasis" on language. Emerson said: "We are shut up in schools and college

THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN

9-13-99

recitation rooms for 10 or 15 years and come out at last with a bellyful of words and do not know a thing." But as Ms. Delpit points out, these antiverbal ideas have done the most harm to the most disadvantaged students. Their greatest deficits are in vocabulary and the conventions of literate language; they make up math deficits much more readily than language deficits.

Keith Stanovich and his colleagues have shown that a score on a standardized reading test in first grade is the best predictor of 11th-grade academic achievement, a shocking indictment of present-day schools and a powerful illustration of the accuracy of standardized tests and of the centrality of verbal training for determining life chances.

Disparagement of objective tests is a third way to detect progressivists. Their hostility to tests is not surprising, given that progressive methods fail to improve test scores. Yet standardized reading tests are among the most valid and reliable assessments that exist and among the most important instruments for measuring excellence and fairness in education. To take a reading test, a student has to perform the very skill being assessed. These tests, even in their much-maligned multiple-choice forms, are highly correlated with each other and with real-world reading skills.

Competence in reading (that is in comprehension) is central to academic achievement and to participation in economic and political life. High school graduates who read well enough to get into top colleges know about 100,000 words, which means an average learning rate of more than 15 new words a day, an astonishing number attainable only by wide reading and by psychological mechanisms that are only beginning to be understood.

A broad vocabulary is an index to broad knowledge, and broad knowledge, extended over time, is the key to depth of knowledge and to a general ability to learn new things.

Since the late '60s it has been known that high literacy entails prior background knowledge over many different domains. Within a given literate culture, the most literacy-enhancing background knowledge can be identified and taught to all students. Theory predicts that teaching such a high-octane curriculum will raise everyone's reading and learning levels and narrow the achievement gap between social groups. This prediction has now been confirmed by independent researchers.

Teaching a curriculum that produces high literacy for all is a potent way of fostering the egalitarian goal of democratic education. But before we can advance toward that goal on a broad front, many progressivist ideas will have to be discarded.

END

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
9.13.99

Breed
fyx

Copied
Reed
Podesta

9-13-99

Columbine was a blip on youth-violence screen

By Jack Kelly
TOLEDO (UPI) LAURE

The slaughter at Columbine High School last spring, the worst in a string of shocking school murders, took 15 lives and tied the country in knots as it tried to figure out why, how and what to do about youth violence.

Hard to find in the clutter of emotion and solution-seeking has been some good news: While sudden acts of murder by children without prior criminal records seem to have risen slightly in frequency — from almost never to once in a while — juvenile violence overall is in decline. After soaring in the early 1990s, the rate of teen violence has dropped like a rock since 1993. It is now below the rate for 1989.

The trend is promising, and experts have learned a great deal about how to reach juveniles in trouble before they become hardcore criminals. Treatment programs that work provide young offenders with the structure, guidance, attention and love they often don't get at home.

The average age of students at the world-famous Boys Town outside of Omaha, Neb. — nearly half of whom are girls — is 14. Some are as young as 10 and some as old as 18. About four in five have problems with substance abuse. Boys

Crimes committed by juveniles have plunged since 1993

and girls live in groups of eight, in 45 family homes, each run by a couple whose full-time job is to parent the youths.

There is a television in each home even though students are kept so busy with school, homework, athletics and chores that they don't have much time to watch it. Music that glorifies violence or degrades women is not allowed.

At George Junior Republic in Grove City, Pa., 450 boys ages 9-18 live in groups of eight in family homes run by married couples, most of whom have children of their own. Rules and the daily routine are pretty much the same as at Boys Town.

"The thing that most of the boys seem to be missing is an intact family," said Richard Losasso, vice president. "We provide a family environment as much as we can."

If there is a one-word answer to the problem of juvenile crime, experts say, it is "parenting."

Gary Emmons, headmaster of the Brush Ranch School, a private boarding school in the mountains northeast of Santa Fe, N.M., agrees: "Every juvenile treatment program that works has five elements:

"First, strong positive role mod-

els, especially male role models for boys.

"Second, a highly structured environment — no rap music or gang clothes, little or no television, very little free time.

"Third, lots and lots of attention.

"Fourth, immediate, predictable consequences for inappropriate behavior.

"And fifth, opportunities to develop self-respect through genuine accomplishment."

Mr. Emmons' sentiments are echoed by youth professionals ranging from the Rev. Val Peter, executive director of Boys Town, to Maj. Scott Bowman, headmaster at Robert Land Academy, a military boarding school for unruly adolescents in Wellandport, Ontario.

Robert Land Academy considers itself successful when a boy has progressed to a higher level of education and remained there at least a year while staying clear of drugs and alcohol. By this measure, the school claims an 84 percent success rate. Tuition and room and board amount to \$17,300 per boy for a 10-month school year.

Boys Town sets a similar standard with the additional requirement of attendance at church services. Boys Town claims a success rate of 80 percent at an average

annual per-child cost of \$32,485.

Such results compare favorably with virtually every government-run youth corrections program in America. In Ohio, it costs \$63,440 a year to house a juvenile in a state facility. The recidivism rate after six months is nearly 35 percent. In Pennsylvania, the average annual cost of nine youth facilities run by the state Department of Public Welfare is \$66,087.

"Historically, we had a recidivism rate of 60 to 70 percent after 18 months. That's about the same as everywhere," said James Anderson, executive director of the Juvenile Court Judges Commission. He's working with the Pittsburgh-based National Center for Juvenile Justice to develop a system for tracking recidivism and other relevant measures, such as post-incarceration education and employment.

The residential treatment programs wouldn't be needed as much if parents, school officials and community leaders kept young people busier in the first place, according to Pueblo, Colo., District Attorney Gus Sandstrom, a former Green Beret. In 1980, he co-founded the committee on juvenile justice for the National District Attorney's Association.

One reason for the decline in the rate of violent crimes committed by young people may be the increasingly common practice of sentencing juvenile offenders as adults.

"There are a handful of kids who commit most violent juvenile crimes. If you take more of them off the street and put them away for a longer period of time, the crime rate goes down," said Peter Reinartz, chief of the family court division of the New York City law department.

"Juvenile courts have yet to figure out whether they are a social service agency or a part of the criminal justice system," said Mr. Reinartz.

Most experts believe that if society wants to teach children that it is wrong to break the law, the children must be held accountable the first time they are caught, even if the punishment is slight.

"The system lies to kids all the time," said Mr. Sandstrom, the Pueblo DA. "We tell them they're going to get in trouble if they break the law. Then the cops pick them up and give them a lecture and release. Then the first time they're taken before a judge, they get probation. They have maybe five major offenses before a judge finally slaps them. And then they ask: 'Why me?'"

• Distributed by Scripps Howard

The Washington Times
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1999

9.13.99

Podesta
Memo to make
sure Feds have docs
can we can/stored ~~for~~

copied
Podesta

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

9-13-99

THE NEW YORK TIMES
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1999

END

When Mosquitoes Bear Disease

The shocking element in the outbreak of encephalitis cases in New York City is not the size of the health crisis -- it is relatively modest and expected to remain so -- but the fact that the disease turned up there at all. These are the first cases of St. Louis encephalitis ever detected in the city. Indeed, in the 36 years that this has been a reportable disease nationwide, there had been only nine cases recorded in all of New York State, the most recent in 1978. So health authorities everywhere -- at the city, state and national levels -- were caught by surprise when a cluster of worrisome neurological cases detected in Queens were identified in laboratory tests as St. Louis encephalitis. So far there have been nine confirmed cases and three deaths, with an additional 60 or so cases under some degree of suspicion.

Nobody yet knows where the invading virus came from, as this is a devilishly difficult disease to track. The virus is typically carried by birds that can fly in from anywhere. Mosquitoes then suck blood from the birds and can transmit the virus to humans. That is what is presumed to have happened in Queens, although no one can be sure until medical epidemiologists complete their sleuthing.

Now that the virus is here, the public has good reason to take some precautions but no reason to panic. There is no need to leave the city or keep children home from school to avoid infection. The likelihood of any individual becoming ill is quite small. The chief risk is to the elderly. Those stricken in New York range in age from 58 to 87. All three deaths were in people over the age of 60.

There is no vaccine to prevent infection and no medicine that cures the disease. The only protection is to avoid getting bitten by infected mosquitoes, by staying inside at dusk and dawn, wearing protective clothing outside, or dousing oneself with insect repellent. The most likely vector, the *Culex pipiens* mosquito, is found virtually everywhere in the metropolitan area. But the overwhelming majority of mosquitoes are not infected, and the overwhelming majority of people bitten do not fall ill.

City health officials estimate, based on experience elsewhere, that even in areas where the disease has been found, only 1 in every 1,000 mosquitoes carries the virus, and even if a person is bitten by an infected mosquito, the odds of becoming ill are only 1 in 300. But each outbreak differs. In an epidemic in Dallas in 1966, the infection rate in mosquitoes reached 1 in every 167 tested. That is still a small percentage but a bit unnerving should one be caught in a cloud of, say, 167 mosquitoes.

The city seems to be taking responsible steps to control the outbreak. It is spraying mosquitoes from the air and on the ground, mostly with malathion, a pesticide that is widely used in home gardens and is more benign than most. The concentrations sprayed are fatal to mosquitoes but so diluted they pose little threat to humans. The spraying will continue until the first frost arrives and suppresses the mosquitoes.

The city has not routinely been conducting an aggressive surveillance campaign to look for the encephalitis virus in mosquitoes or an annual spraying campaign to suppress mosquito populations. The rationale, which seems sound, was that the threat was so remote it did not deserve high priority in a city with other pressing health needs.

Now that the first outbreak in the city's history has occurred, that approach will need revision. The virus can often find places to survive the winter, and outbreaks elsewhere have often been followed by another outbreak the following year. For the next few years, at least, it would make sense to monitor the birds and the mosquitoes and, at the first sign of the virus, or even pre-emptively before any virus is found, start spraying.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

9-13-99

THE NEW YORK TIMES
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1999

An Inadequate Arsenal for the Insect Invasion

By MARK L. WINSTON

If you think the current outbreak of mosquito-carried encephalitis in New York is bad, wait until you see what's coming. Global climate changes are producing warmer temperatures in northern climates, and short-term weather cycles like El Niño provide unusual opportunities for pests to extend their range northward. Here are just a few of the new pests that are moving on up, maybe to a city near you:

Killer bees, the descendants of honeybees imported to Brazil from Africa in the 1950's, have been terrorizing South and Central America and are now spreading throughout the American Southwest.

Fire ants, a hard-biting, venom-injecting insect accidentally imported from Argentina into the southeastern United States in the 1930's, are now present in epidemic proportions in southern states from California to Florida.

Olive fruit flies, originally from the Mediterranean, were discovered in California last year; they leave black olives grayish white and rotting.

And that's not to mention our current urban pests -- cockroaches, rats, raccoons and fleas -- which will only multiply, infesting urban centers, living in the warm environments in and under our buildings, feeding on refuse and transmitting diseases.

One can understand why New York City has responded to its outbreak of encephalitis by mass spraying of all its boroughs with the pesticide malathion. It was too late to do anything else.

But mass spraying is not a practical solution for the future -- we can't cover the entire northern half of the United States with a white mist every time an outbreak occurs. We need to begin planning for pest attacks now, and that means finding an alternative to chemical pesticides.

Americans use more than one billion pounds of pesticides every year to kill pests in agricultural, urban and forest environments, more than four pounds of toxic chemicals for every man, woman and child living in the United States. The side effects of this strong-arm approach are not trivial. Chronic pesticide exposure among humans has been linked to immune dysfunction, and various forms of cancer and birth defects. Monitoring and clean-up of groundwater polluted by pesticides costs \$1.8 billion annually in the United States. And a 1993 study by David Pimentel, a Cornell University entomologist, suggests that pesticides in the United States kill about 67 million birds and from 6 to 14 million fish each year.

Moreover, the more we try to control pests, the worse the situation becomes. Pests are remarkably hardy and quickly become resistant to chemical agents. For example, while malathion will probably kill most of New York's mosquitoes, there is no doubt that at least some will survive the chemical onslaught. Those mosquitoes with a gene or genes imparting some resistance to malathion could survive and reproduce at a higher rate than other mosquitoes, producing future generations that are increasingly insecticide-tolerant.

What are we to do? We need alternatives and a change in attitude. Many of us are concerned about pesticides in our food, air and water, yet we are quick to grab a can of insecticide to eradicate a harmless ant in our kitchen or some herbicide to nuke a few dandelions on the lawn. About half of pesticide use in the United States is unnecessary because it is directed at cosmetic problems

like weeds or the superficial appearance of fruit and vegetables.

To combat real problems, we need to use nonchemical, biologically based alternatives, which already have been developed. For instance, there are pheromones that disrupt the mating of the boll weevil, an insect that eats cotton plants, as well as parasites that can kill fruit-eating flies. Most biologically based techniques, however, have failed to reach the marketplace for a host of regulatory, economic and political reasons, and we need to do more to make them available.

But that won't happen unless we change our attitude toward chemical pesticides. We must try to reduce their use by 50 percent over the next 10 years. And that means understanding the difference between a deadly mosquito outbreak and the desire for a better-looking piece of fruit.

Mark L. Winston, a professor of biological sciences at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia, is the author of "Nature Wars: People vs. Pests."

END