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Subject: WJC Mail: Combating HIV/AIDS In Bahamas
Date: Thu, 10 Apr 2003 15:46:19 +0000

> Bill Clinton to visit Bahamas in AIDS fight
> By TAMARA McKENZIE
> April 3, 2003
> Guardian Staff Reporter
> The Nassau Guardian
> Bill Clinton is expected in Nassau on Friday in connection with his presidential foundation's support of campaigns to fight AIDS.
> The 42nd American president has made it a major priority of his foundation has to assist Caribbean countries in building their capacity to fight the AIDS crisis.
> Dr. Perry Gomez, director the national AIDS programme, said at a press conference at the Ministry of Health Wednesday, that the Clinton Foundation began working with the Bahamas programme last September. He said that after initial meetings in Washington, the foundation began visits to Nassau to assess the local AIDS programme to determine how to help.
> "The foundation's assistance will be principally in the area of increasing access to drug treatment. They came to assess what all we have done over the years and really to produce a grant proposal to enable them as a foundation to raise funds to assist the various countries and in this case, they started with The Bahamas."
> He said the foundation, during its "fact-finding" mission to The Bahamas, determined the "cost" of the Bahamas' local AIDS programme since its inception and what has been done. He said he and others were surprised to find out The Bahamas Government has been spending more than \$6 million annually on AIDS.
> Dr. Gomez said the Clinton Foundation wanted to help countries that were either starting or have had some success and The Bahamas fell in latter category. He said since the foundation has been working with The Bahamas, treatment of less 300 HIV patients has gone to almost 800 patients in close to five months, and that its target is to treat some 1,200 patients with a triple AIDS therapy by the end of 2003.
> Mr. Clinton is expected to speak on "The Challenge of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean" to a diverse invited audience at the Kendal G.L. Isaacs Gymnasium Friday afternoon. Principals, teachers, students from public and private secondary schools, the College of The Bahamas and youth organizations have been invited to attend.
> Members of Parliament and the Senate, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, private-sector partners, the clergy and the media will also attend.
> Mr. Clinton will make a private call on Prime Minister Perry Christie and his cabinet, and visit the AIDS clinic at the Princess Margaret Hospital.
> Posted Thursday April 3rd, 2003
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> Bill Clinton gets enthusiastic greeting at University of Florida
>
> April 4, 2003
> by Ron Word
> Associated Press
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> Former President Bill Clinton, speaking to an enthusiastic crowd of 9,000 students and community residents, said Thursday that America needs to forge alliances through understanding, rather than military force.
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> "If you believe in a security strategy - a strategy of more friends and fewer enemies, a strategy of greater cooperation and a strategy of keeping America better at home as we grow more diverse - we have to build the minds and hearts to build this kind of world," Clinton said.
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> Hundreds of students surged to the front of the auditorium as Clinton left the stage to begin shaking hands.
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> Natalie Powers, 21, of Naples, was so excited about shaking Clinton's hand that she called

her mother on her cell phone.

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> "Mom, guess what? I shook Clinton's hand," she said. "He was amazing."

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> Clinton, the 42nd president, said the Bush's administration's view of foreign policy is, "We've got the power. We've got the juice, we should do the job."

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> Clinton said his view is somewhat different.

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> "I don't think we should ever give up the right unilaterally use our military, but I think we should bend over backward to build our world in which we are sharing responsibility and sharing benefits," Clinton said.

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> He said he agrees with President Bush on getting chemical and biological weapons out of Iraq and having a strong and modernized military, and he refused to criticize Bush over the war in Iraq.>

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> "There will be ample time to debate how we got there when it's over, but as someone who has had the responsibility of ordering young men and women in uniform to combat ... we ought to let those young people, the commanders and President Bush to know that we are pulling for them and praying for them and we hope it will be over with as soon as possible.

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> "We hope it will lead to the disarmament of Iraq and the start of a new Middle East peace."

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> Clinton received a standing ovation when he was introduced and received another when he finished.

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> "I love the president. It was an amazing speech. He's my president," said Araaceliss DePac, 72, of Gainesville.

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> "I think he was concise and to the point and extremely knowledgeable," said Stephan Susan, 57, a psychology professor at nearby Santa Fe Community College.

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> But Irma Gerhard, 23, a computer science student, said, "He was disappointing. He didn't get into the issues I wanted to hear. He was too much of a politician."

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> Eric Tribune, chairman of ACCENT, the student group that sponsored the visit, said Clinton was donating his \$80,000 speaking fee to the William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Foundation, which works on projects ranging from fighting AIDS to promoting citizen service.

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> Among the speakers ACCENT has brought to UF in the past decade are former presidents Bush and Carter, Persian Gulf War Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, Iran Contra figure Oliver North, Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and feminist author Naomi Wolf.

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> Clinton: We need partners, not foes

> April 4, 2003

> by Carrie Miller

> The Gainesville Sun

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> Greeted like a rock star entering a jam-packed arena, former President Bill Clinton wasted no time Thursday issuing what he called "the challenge of the new millennium" - moving beyond today's interdependent world to an integrated community where everyone shares in the rewards and responsibilities.

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> "In an interdependent world, we can't kill, jail or occupy every potential adversary," Clinton said. "We have to build a world with more partners and fewer enemies."

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> In an hour-long address halted repeatedly by applause, the two-term president avoided direct criticism of his successor, George W. Bush, over the ongoing conflict in Iraq.

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> "There will be ample time to debate how we got there and what we should do when it's over," Clinton said at the outset of his remarks, which began about 4:45 p.m.

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> "I think we ought to want those people, their commanders and President Bush to know that we're pulling for them and we're praying for them and we hope it will be over as soon as

possible."

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> But Clinton's central message was a clear rebuke to Bush administration policies that many believe value unilateral force over multilateral diplomacy and engagement.

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> "The Bush administration . . . believes they should maximize power at home and abroad and force the changes they want and that multilateralism is often a fool's errand.

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> "We've got the power, we've got the juice, we should do the job."

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> "I am more in the other camp," Clinton said in front of a crowd of about 9,000. "I don't think we should give up the right to unilaterally (use) our military when we need to do it. But I think we ought to bend over backward to build a world where we are sharing responsibility, sharing benefits and sharing values."

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> There is grave danger in having a world that is interdependent but not integrated, Clinton said.

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> "Whether by trade or travel, by immigration or information technology, by shared cultural experiences or shared scientific endeavor, or shared vulnerabilities to terrorism, we simply cannot escape each other - like it or not, our fates are bound up with one another," Clinton said.

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> "On Sept. 11, 2001, the al-Qaeda terrorists used interdependence. They used open borders, easy travel, easy access to information technology to kill 3,100 people from 70 countries, including more than 200 other Muslims in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.">

> To begin moving toward an integrated community, Clinton said the United States should support international bodies, adhere to international treaties and increase foreign aid, trade, investment and debt relief.

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> He pointedly referred to international agreements abandoned by the Bush administration, including the Kyoto accord on climate change, the international criminal court and the comprehensive test ban treaty.

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> "People in the current administration who got out of these things are right when they say (international bodies) can make decisions we don't agree with," Clinton said. "But if you never joined anything unless you got your way 100 percent of the time, there would be no marriages in America."

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> While he has disagreements with the Bush administration, Clinton said he agrees "that we have to get the nuclear and biological weapons out of Iraq. I also think we need to have a strong and modernized military."

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> Hundreds of students surged to the front of the auditorium as Clinton left the stage to begin shaking hands.

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> Natalie Powers, 21, of Naples, was so excited about her brief encounter with Clinton that she called her mother on her cell phone.

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> "Mom, guess what? I shook Clinton's hand," she said. "He was amazing."

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> But hundreds of students and Gainesville residents were disappointed when the O'Connell Center filled to capacity before they got through the gate.

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> Among those turned away just after 4 p.m. were students who resented the fact that out-of-towners were in attendance.

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> "It's unfortunate that the students paid \$80,000 and people from Palm Beach get in before us," said UF senior Roia Taie-Tehrani, who waited three hours in line before learning there was no more room in the O'Connell Center. "I didn't get to see (President George H.W.) Bush either because it filled up."

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> Eric Tribune, chairman of ACCENT, the student group that sponsored the visit, said Clinton was donating his speaking fee to the William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Foundation, which works on projects ranging from fighting AIDS to promoting citizen service.

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> The line to see Clinton began forming at 9 a.m. and eventually stretched four and five deep on the south side of O'Connell Center past the Lemerend Athletic Center. A heavy uniformed security presence idled away the peaceful afternoon.
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> "It's very impressive to see so many people here," said University of Florida chemical engineering professor Mark Orazem.
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> Those few carrying signs were by and large Clinton supporters or Bush administration detractors. Among them: "Big Brother's Watching You and His Name is John Ashcroft," "Butter Not Bombs," "And the Republicans Said We Were Big Spenders" and "Clinton Left Surpluses for our Grandkids."
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> A solitary protester to Clinton's visit drove in from Jacksonville to hold signs accusing Clinton of causing the current war with Iraq because he did not capture Osama bin Laden.
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> "I'm a Democrat and I can't believe people are standing in line," Ann Bowden said. "This is the only place in the state where he would get this kind of turnout."
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> Before his address, Clinton attended a reception at the home of his longtime friend, President Charles Young. Four UF trustees and several vice presidents attended the wine and hors d'oeuvres reception, featuring duck quesadillas, baked Brie and stuffed portabellas.
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> Carrie Miller can be reached at [REDACTED] or 338-3103. The Associated Press contributed to this report.
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