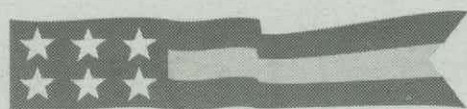


# A WOMAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE

★ ☆ ★ ☆ Clinton on the local campaign trail ☆ ★ ☆ ★

BY: Susan Ferrier

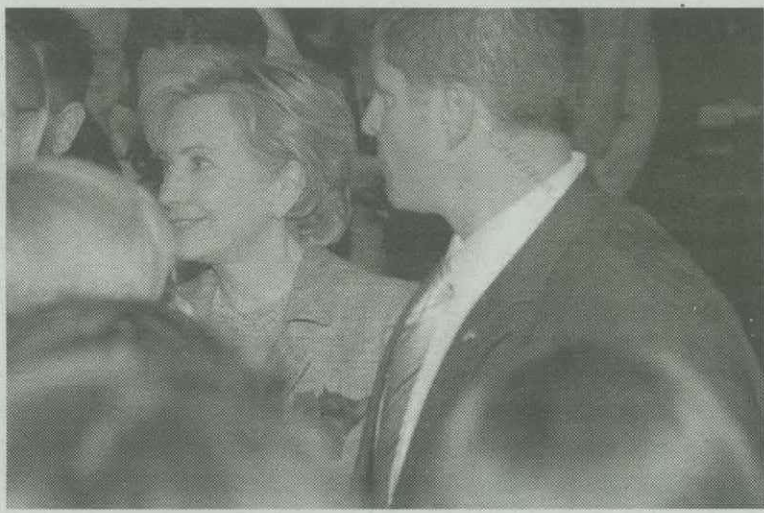


**Y**ou would have thought the Presidential election was this November, not a year from now, when a crowd armed with "Hillary for President" signs gathered for lunch in Bally's Atlantic City Ballroom on Sept. 7.

Much of the group was assembled to hear the woman they believe will be the next President of the United States—and the first female president in U.S. history—New York Senator (D) and Former First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Clinton was in town to address attendees of the 13th Annual New Jersey Democratic State Conference. Before taking the podium, Congressman Frank Pallone Jr., of the 6th District and Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Health whipped the crowd into a frenzy with remarks on universal healthcare and a definitive withdrawal date for our troops in Iraq.

Clinton made her desire to lead this country clear, telling the crowd, "I want to be the first woman President." She talked about women in their 90s who speak to her of being born before women had the right to vote, and their desire to live long enough to see a woman in the White House. I asked my grandmother, Dorothy Rimbach, born in 1920, just two months before the passage of the 19th Amendment, if she would like to see a woman in the White House. Although she does not favor Clinton, she replied, "Yes. I would like to see a woman President. I think a woman could do as good as or better



than some of these men have done." She noted that England's former Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher did a fine job governing for many years.

Buena Vista Township Deputy Mayor Teresa Kelly was also there and said "Other countries are way ahead of us," in regard to women in leadership positions. She added that she sometimes speaks with men who express apprehension about a female Commander in Chief. Kelly says these men are concerned that other countries will take advantage of the U.S. Kelly disagrees. "It is time for a woman President...women can be a calming force." Prior to hearing Clinton's speech, Kelly admits she had not resolved to back any candidate. Clinton's address convinced her to make the commitment.

As you would expect of any candidate for public office, Clinton set out to make her objec-


tives clear. Her first aim would be to restore America's leadership position within the world. And she would not wait to take office to begin rebuilding those international relationships. Clinton's assertion that "The era of cowboy diplomacy is over. We have to repair the damage of the Bush/Cheney years," was met with wild cheers from the crowd. Noting that energy, healthcare and education costs have all risen under the current administration, Clinton committed to restoring middle-class America. She spoke about lifting people out of poverty. She is as steadfast as she has always been on her position of bringing quality, universal healthcare to all Americans. She promised a positive future for all children, beginning by insuring all of America's nine million uninsured children and by providing quality and affordable pre-school and college for all. She did not speak about the funding for these programs.

Clinton also touched on issues such as stem-cell research and rebuilding the country's crumbling infrastructure. She pledged to begin increasing scientific research, including stem-cell research, and diverting the money being spent in Iraq to making America safer, a topic many in the audience could relate to as her speech came just days before the sixth anniversary of the 9/11 travesty.

The candidate closed her speech with the affirmation that, "If you are ready for change, I am ready to lead." It's up to the voters to make that declaration a reality.



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