

Exactly who is running the country?

by Alicia Hartman
Co-editor

Hillary Rodham Clinton. What does her name mean? Progress? Power? A threat?

As a prime role model for the women of the '90s, she is respected for her knowledge and character, and criticized for her involvement in the political world.

What Hillary Rodham Clinton has become after the '92 election is not the image that was presented to us during the campaign.

While campaigning alongside husband Bill Clinton for the presidency, Mrs. Clinton was the quiet, yet supportive wife prepared to become the warm and friendly "cookie baking" First Lady.

As the campaign progressed, Hillary Rodham Clinton became more outspoken and quite an influential force.

Some Democratic women feared that the public might not approve of a First Lady who was more involved in political life than her predecessors had been.

Traditionalists said that a subtle influence from the First Lady was permissible if her intentions were to enhance her husband's interests.

After all, Marilyn Quayle, Tipper Gore and Hillary Rodham Clinton with careers and college and graduate degrees, put their professional lives on hold to

further their husbands' careers.

However, a Washington Post writer said that the real test will come when a First Lady continues with her career that is totally unrelated to her husband's. This First Lady will truly be the "new" political spouse. Hillary Rodham Clinton is not this "new" First Lady just because she is more involved in political life than her predecessors. Mrs. Clinton has not resumed her law practice while her husband has been president.

Former First Ladies have set up their headquarters in the East Wing of the White House. Mrs. Clinton, though, has her office in the West Wing near senior staff members. Being close to "the boss" emits a sense of power.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is qualified to hold a high public office herself with her education and experience. She has the most power ever held by any First Lady in history, especially as the advocate for the health care reform program, the issue that could make or break President Bill Clinton.

Because Mrs. Clinton possesses so much power, she and President Clinton have been labeled "Co-presidents," and the term "Billary" has also evolved.

Conservatives call Hillary everything from a "feminazi" to a "yuppie from hell."

Several experts say that this "Hillary bashing" has resulted because the role of American

women is changing, especially with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Mrs. Clinton is a woman who has power, yet is trying to maintain a balance between her career and family.

Many men are afraid of women who have power and who hold a "man's job."



I think it's great that we finally have a First Lady who isn't afraid to speak and promote the issues she strongly believes in.

What bothers me is that she seems to have more power than Vice President Al Gore and she doesn't hold a public office. She's even more publicly active than Gore.

As a woman with such high authority in America, she is the

stepping stone in leading other women to high positions in the United States.

She is the force promoting the cause that women are just as knowledgeable as men and can hold the same jobs that men do.

During the campaign when Americans heard Bill Clinton proclaim, "Vote for one, get one free," they responded negatively.

Mrs. Clinton's image was then reverted to one of the "traditional" political wife.

Traditionally the First Lady's duties have been to showcase the President's character and run the social side of the White House.

She was to stay behind the scenes. The First Lady was permitted to carve a small niche in the political world, but she had to remember that she held the position she did because her husband was elected.

Another of the First Lady's jobs was to keep her husband aware of what the public was thinking; somewhat of a "reality check-in."

She was the model of beauty, grace and friendliness of the presidency.

First Ladies who have deviated from the traditional role and became publicly involved in their husbands' careers were severely criticized.

Mrs. Clinton has been accused of "false feminism" because she owes her position to her husband. But President Clinton owes his

position to HRC.

Hillary Rodham Clinton was the focal point that held the election together. HRC rescues President Clinton when he falls in public, and relays what he is thinking when he can't find the words.

Mrs. Clinton has engaged in some "traditional" First Lady activities. She has read numerous White House biographies and histories, hosted several dinners, and has added her own decor to the White House.

But the most important aspect of Hillary Rodham Clinton is that she has redefined the role of First Lady in several ways. As the first to have a career, she represents a generation of women who are trying to find a balance between a job and a family.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is a prime candidate for the first woman president not just because she is a woman, but because she has the education, experience and ability to communicate with the public.

Never has a First Lady received so much attention nor criticism as Hillary Rodham Clinton. But perhaps instead of commenting on *First Lady* Hillary Rodham Clinton in the year 2000, we will be addressing *Madame President* Hillary Rodham Clinton.

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The gods must be crazy

by Dave Barry
Syndicated Columnist

What's wrong with this country, aside from "light" beer, is that Americans don't know anything about foreign affairs. Your average American can't even answer basic questions about geography, such as:

1. In which direction does the Nile River flow?

2. What can the letters in "Great Britain" be rearranged to spell?

(Answers: 1. Downhill; 2. "Big Titan Rear.")

Tragically, we Americans are too busy sitting around watching worthless juvenile mind-rotting TV situation comedies such as "Dave's World" (Monday nights, CBS, check your local listings) to learn about foreign affairs. This is bad, because what happens abroad can greatly affect our lives. For example, if tensions were to mount again in the Middle East, fighting could break out, and it could escalate to, God forbid, nuclear war, and this would almost definitely affect our TV reception.

This is why today I'm going to present a Foreign News Update, starting with an important story from the Sept.

2, 1993, Times of India, sent in by alert reader Tapash Chakraborty. This article, which I am not making up, states: "Villagers of Khajuria in Ganjam district worshipped a frog on Monday to please the rain god Indra, as the dry spell continued to delay cultivation." The article further states that "a big like frog tied with a bamboo stick was carried by villagers who roamed in and around the village chanting couplets in honor of the wife of Lord Indra."

The article does not give the exact wording of the couplets. Probably they went something like:

We need rain; your wife is great

Here's a frog; let's cultivate!

The article also doesn't state whether this effort resulted in rain, but I'm sure it did. If you're a rain god, and you have people waving a frog around and chanting about your wife, you're definitely going to dump something on them.

But whether or not it worked, the point is that the villagers of Khajuria DID something about their problem. They did not just sit back and wait for "the other guy" to worship the frog. We need more of that kind of

gumption in this country. Take the economy. People have been whining about the economy for years, but nobody does anything about it. I'm not saying we could get the economy going again by worshipping a frog. Please do not take me for a total idiot. We have a huge, complex economy, and we'd need a much



larger amphibian, such as a manatee, or, if he is available, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

Speaking of frogs, many alert readers sent in an Associated Press report concerning an incident in Manchester, NH, which is not technically a foreign country, but you'll want to know about this incident

anyway, because it involves a woman who opened a bag of pretzels and pulled out a pretzel with a one-inch frog baked onto it. The AP sent out a photograph showing the actual pretzel, and sure enough, there's a frog sort of welded onto it, looking crouched and ready to hop away, except of course that frogs become very poor hoppers after being subjected to the pretzel-baking process, as has been verified in countless laboratory experiments.

My first thought, when I saw this article, was that maybe the frog had been put there on purpose. We live in an era of increasingly complex snack-food variations, such as Jalapeno Cheddar 'n' Onion Graham

Crackers ("Now With Frogs!"). But apparently that was not the case with these pretzels, so the woman took them back to the food store, which gave her a handsome baked prince.

No, seriously, the store gave her a refund, so all's well that ends well. But that does not mean we should relax, not with these alarming cheese-related developments that are taking place in England. I refer to a May 26, 1993, UPI report, sent in by alert reader Clyde E.

Morgan, which begins: "Fourteen people were injured taking part in the annual Double Gloucester cheese-rolling race." I am still not making this up. The article states that this race takes place every year, and it involves "rolling large round slabs of cheese down a hill," with individual cheeses "reaching speeds of up to 50 kilometers per hour." Last year, 27 people were injured.

The question is: What if this kind of semideadly activity catches on in this country? I, personally, am not worried, because I live in South Florida, which is extremely flat; plus, even if you could get a large cheese rolling down here, passing armed motorists would blow it to smithereens. But what if people start rolling cheeses in, say, Colorado? What if you get one of those big babies hurtling down a Rocky mountain, straight toward -- to pick a worst-case scenario -- a John Denver concert?

... friends around the campfire,

And everybody's hiiiiEEEE (SPLAT)

Is that the kind of nation you want your children to grow up in? Me, too.