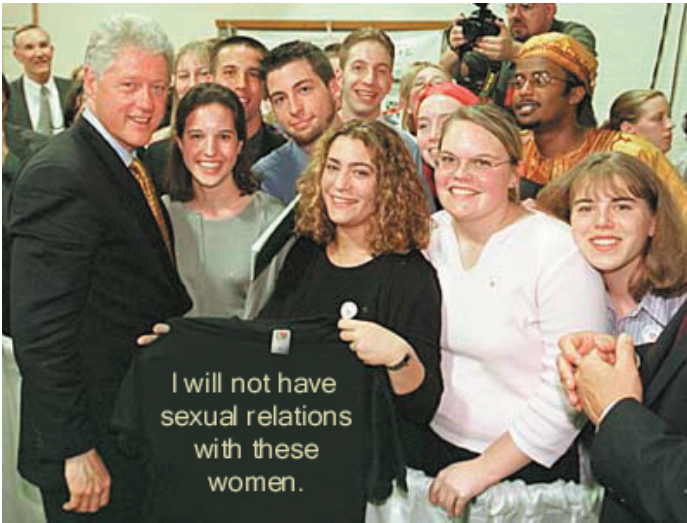


MINI NEWS

Summers Taps Bill Clinton as Student-Faculty Affairs VP



By Robert Dowling

In a bold and unprecedented move for Harvard University, lame duck President Lawrence H. Summers has named former U.S. President Bill Clinton to the newly created Vice President for Student-Faculty Affairs position. "Bill Clinton is a distinguished colleague, actually a former supervisor of mine, whose extensive knowledge of the student body makes him ideally suited for this position. I have the utmost confidence that student-faculty relations will improve markedly under Clinton's always watchful eye."

Clinton, who responded to interview questions by telephone, spoke glowingly of his new post. "First, I must say that this is an extremely exciting opportunity. If I have my way with the students and faculty, I am certain that their intercourse, both within and outside of the classroom, will become both more rewarding and simultaneously, more intimate."

Clinton's selection follows weeks of speculation regarding who Summers would choose, unhampered by the president's own recent resignation. Back in May, Summers appointed a task force charged with "selecting a candidate that would make student-faculty affairs more personal, more common, and more stimulating." One member of the task force, Harvard College sophomore Lucy Anderson, was especially impressed with Clinton's interview performance. "He spoke with such passion about wanting to serve the students' interests," she said, adding, "For several minutes during his presentation, I was deeply touched."

Effective immediately, Clinton will assume his post just as soon as he can close his law practice. When HSP asked Clinton to comment rumors that he may also be interested in the Harvard presidency, he brushed them off, explaining that he had other more important things on his mind, as he headed for a third consecutive champagne reception in his honor in Annenberg Hall.



Study: Most Seniors Confused by Medicare Benefits, World Around Them

CAMBRIDGE, MA

A nationwide survey of America's senior citizens has suggested that close to 6 in 10 seniors have almost no idea which Medicare benefits they should select. Prescription drug plans and health insurance offerings were frequently cited sources of confusion. Even more depressing, noted Jim Schlesinger, a professor at the Johns Hopkins school of Public Health and the lead author on the study, is that "nearly 7 in 10 seniors have almost no idea of who they are, where they live, or what they ate for breakfast."

During the course of the survey, researchers first attempted to establish whether seniors had a basic understanding of federal health care offerings. Next, researchers attempted to find out whether seniors had even the slightest understanding of the world around them. According to Adam Crutchfield, a co-author on the study, "We found that there was a statistically significant correlation between failing to understand one's own health care options and failing to remember one's own first name, or what century it was."

"It would appear that polling America's senior citizens is a poor means of determining whether health care offerings are, in fact, confusing," concluded Crutchfield. "My preoccupation now is whether road signs could be made less confusing," he added.

