

The original documents are located in Box 10, folder “5/13/76 - Recording for the Blind Scholastic Achievement Awards” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Recording for the Blind, Inc.

News Release

National Headquarters
215 East 58th Street
New York, N.Y. 10022
(212) 751-0860

Contact: Gilbert Field

FOR RELEASE: UPON RECEIPT

THE FIRST LADY WILL HONOR THREE OF NATION'S TOP BLIND STUDENTS

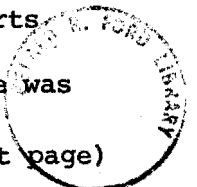
Three of the nation's highest ranking college seniors who happen to be blind will be honored in the White House on May 13th by Mrs. Gerald R. Ford "in recognition of extraordinary scholarship, determination, and intellectual vigor." The First Lady will present each with a \$500 Scholastic Achievement Award from Recording for the Blind, the voluntary organization that provides free, recorded textbooks for blind students throughout the nation. The three 1976 winners who rose above their handicap to top standing in their graduating classes are:

JOANNE T. CALLAHAN, 22, from Brooklyn, N. Y., blind since birth, who has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Latin American History and Literature from Radcliffe College of Harvard University. Joanne mastered both the Spanish and Portuguese languages and has traveled to Peru to teach in a school for the blind and handicapped. Her goal is to join an international agency devoted to advancing Latin American economics and cultural life.

STEVEN R. BLOW, 22, from Waverly, N.Y., blind since birth, is receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Hamilton College, Clinton, N.Y. Not only excelling in his major subject of economics, Steven learned to speak and write the Russian language, and has been active in every phase of a highly competitive college life. His next goal, well within his grasp, is to become a lawyer.

PAMELA F. ROTMAN, 20, from Chicago, Illinois, blind since the age of three, graduating from the University of Illinois, Urbana, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Psychology. Pamela entered the University when she was

(continued on next page)



only sixteen, carried an unusually heavy curriculum, and also studied for a semester in Israel, adjusting independently to the rigors of a new environment. She plans to go on to law school next.

Recording for the Blind, sponsor of these annual awards, supplies tape recorded educational books, free on loan, to visually, physically and perceptually handicapped students in all 50 states. Supported by contributions from the public, in the last school year, RFB delivered over 1,500,000 hours of recorded reading to 10,995 blind and otherwise handicapped users.

Sally

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: MARIA DOWNS

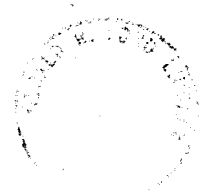
FROM: SUSAN PORTER

On Thursday, May 13, 1976 at 3:30 p.m., Mrs. Ford will present the 1976 Scholastic Achievement Awards to a group of the highest ranking blind college students in the nation on behalf of the organization Recording for the Blind. This presentation since 1959 has had White House or Vice Presidential involvement. There will be approximately 25 people attending.

The contact is Mr. Gilbert Field, (212) 751-0860 or (212) 751-0862, who has been told that your office is handling this event. I am sure Kaye Pullen will want to take a look at the enclosed materials about the organization for remarks.

Thank you.

c: BF Staff
William Nicholson
Terry O'Donnell
Sara Massengale
Mike Farrell
Rex Scouten
Staircase



THE WHITE HOUSE

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April 21, 1976

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SUBJECT: Instructions for Social Aides

EVENT: Recording for the Blind Scholastic Achievement Awards

Date/Time: May 13, 1976 (3:30) No. of Guests: 25

Uniform: Service Dress Parking: North Grounds

In-Place Time for Aides: 2:30 pm (Library)

In-Place Time for OIC: 2:15 pm (Social Office)

Duty Aide: Capt Charles H. Mead, USAF

First Family Participation: Mrs. Ford

The following Social Aides will attend:

Lt Michael F. Martus, USN
Capt Lester A. Kelly, USA
* Major David Van Poznak, USAF
Capt Robert G. Page, USMC

*Officer in Charge

Music: US Army String Ensemble w/piano in the Lobby (3:00) (East Gate)

Remarks:

mac
ROBERT E. BARRETT

for
Major, U. S. Army
Army Aide to the President

DISTRIBUTION:

Capt Kollmorgen
Maj Barrett
Capt Domina
Capt Mead

Social Office
Mrs. Weidenfeld
Secret Service
Visitor's Office
Band

Usher's Office
White House Garage
White House Staff Mess
Mr. O'Donnell
White House Police

FACT SHEET
Mrs. Ford's Office

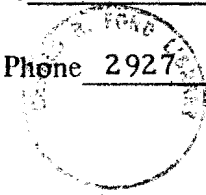
Event Presentation Ceremony/Reception/ Tour
Group Recording for the Blind, Inc. - Recipients of the 1976 Scholastic Achievement Awards
DATE/TIME Thursday, May 13, 1976 3:30 p. m.
Contact Pat Howard Phone 2927
Number of guests: Total 20 - 25 Women x Men x Children --
Place State Floor
Principals involved Mrs. Ford
Participation by Principal yes (Receiving line) (will receive informally)
Remarks required yes
Background Mrs. Ford will present the 1976 Scholastic Achievement Awards to three of the Nation's ranking blind college graduates on behalf of the Recording for the Blind, Inc.

REQUIREMENTS

Social: Guest list yes (Pat Howard will distribute)
Invitations no Programs no Menus no
Refreshments yes (coffee, tea, tea sandwiches and pastries)
Entertainment no /
Decorations/flowers yes
Music yes
Social Aides yes (few)
Dress Business suits - short dresses for the ladies Coat check ?
Other --
Press: Reporters yes
Photographers yes
TV Crews yes (?)
White House Photographers yes Color yes Mono. ---
Other --
Technical Support: Microphones yes PA Other Rooms no
Recording yes
Lights no
Transportation Group will walk over to the NW Gate from the Sheraton Carlton (should it be raining, they will come by taxi cabs thru SW Gate)
Parking --
Housing --
Other -- (Risers, stage, platforms) --

Project Co-ordinator Pat Howard Phone 2927

Site diagrams should be attached if technical support is heavy.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 12, 1976

MRS. FORD:

Event: Presentation of the Recording for the Blind, Inc. 1976
Scholastic Achievement Awards

Date/Time: Thursday, May 13, 1976 3:30 p. m.

Place: Blue Room

Number of
Attendees: Approximately 26 guests

Principals: Mr. John W. Castles, III
President of the Recording for the Blind, Inc.
Mr. Stuart Carothers
Executive Director of the Recording for the Blind, Inc.

Schedule of
Events: 3:30 p. m. Your guests will arrive through the North Portico
and will be escorted to the Blue Room.
3:35 p. m. Maria Downs will escort you via elevator to the
State Floor Hall where you will greet Mr. Castles,
and Mr. Carothers.

Maria Downs will then escort you, Mr. Castles and
Mr. Carothers to the Blue Room.

You and Mr. Castles will then walk to the south
end of the Blue Room in front of the windows
where the three recipients will be standing.

Mr. Castles will introduce you to each of the
three recipients, Joanne T. Callahan, Steven R. Blow,
and Pamela F. Rotman.

You will make brief remarks and then present the Awards and checks to Miss Callahan, Mr. Blow and Miss Rotman respectively.

NOTE: The 1976 Scholastic Achievement Awards will be framed scrolls and each check will be in the amount of \$500.00. The Awards and checks will be placed on a table nearby and a White House Social Aide will hand each of the Awards to you in the order stated above.

3:45 p. m. You will receive your guests informally and join them for refreshments.

You will then invite your guests to have a special tour arranged by Mike Farrell.

You will bid farewell and return to the Family Quarters.

NOTES: Military Social Aides will be present.

There will be open press coverage of the event.

A White House photographer will be present.

Your remarks will be recorded for Presidential Archives.

Guest list is attached.

Background information is attached.

Pat Howard

For immediate release
Wednesday, May 12, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will present three outstanding blind students with a \$500 Scholastic Achievement Award from Recording for the Blind on the State Floor at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 13.

Recording for the Blind is a voluntary organization that provides free, recorded textbooks for blind students throughout the Nation. The 1976 winners are Joanne T. Callahan, Steven R. Blow and Pamela F. Rotman.

Ms. Callahan, 22, from Brooklyn, New York, earned a B.A. from Radcliffe College in Latin American history and literature. Blow, 22, from Waverly, New York, will receive a B.A. in economics from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. Both Ms. Callahan and Blow have been blind since birth.

Ms. Rotman, 20, from Chicago, Illinois, will graduate from the University of Illinois at Urbana with a B.A. in English and psychology. Ms. Rotman has been blind since age three.

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Press pickup at 3:25 P.M.

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Press pickup at 3:25 P.M.

*Jack -
George Gordon*



For immediate release
Wednesday, May 12, 1976

1976 Scholastic
Achievement
Awards -
Cer. by Pres.
4/12/76

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Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

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Press pickup at 3:25 P.M.



Joanne Callahan Steven Blow Pamela Rotman

John
Mr. Castles
Pres. Mr. v
Stuart Carothers
Exec. Div. of
Recording for the Blind

For immediate release
Wednesday, May 12, 1976

APR 22 1976
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Office of the Press Secretary
THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, D.C. 20503

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June, 1976

Ms. Callahan, 22, from Brooklyn, New York, earned a B.A. from Radcliffe College in Latin in 1975. Blum, 23, from Waverly, New York, will receive a B.A. in economics from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. Both Ms. Callahan and Blum have been blind since birth.

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* * *

Press pickup at 3:25 p.m.



Joanne Callahan
Steven Blum
Pamela Rotman

Mr. Callahan
Mrs. Blum
Mrs. Rotman

Street Carthage

Exec. Dir. of the Blind
Recording for the Blind

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SUBJECT: Instructions for Social Aides

EVENT: Reception - White House Fellows

Date/Time: May 13, 1976 (5:30) No. of Guests: 200

Uniform: Service Dress Parking: North Grounds

In-Place Time for Aides: 4:30 pm (Library)

In-Place Time for OIC: 4:15 pm (Duty Aide)

Duty Aide: Capt Charles H. Mead, USAF

First Family Participation: The President and Mrs. Ford

The following Social Aides will attend:

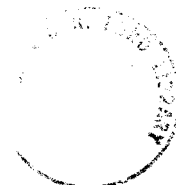
Lt Michael F. Martus, USN
Major T. M. Montgomery, USA
Major Gregory L. Sharp, USA
* Major David Van Poznak, USAF
Capt Robert G. Page, USMC
1stLt John B. Sollis, USMC

*Officer in Charge

Music: US Army String Ensemble w/piano in the Lobby (5:00) (East Gate)

Remarks:

MacCallum
ROBERT E. BARRETT
for Major, U. S. Army
Army Aide to the President



DISTRIBUTION:

Capt Kollmorgen
Maj Barrett
Capt Domina
Capt Mead

Social Office
Mrs. Weidenfeld
Secret Service
Visitor's Office
Band

Usher's Office
White House Garage
White House Staff Mess
Mr. O'Donnell
White House Police

UP-153

R B

(BLIND ACHIEVEMENT)

WASHINGTON (UPD) -- BETTY FORD SALUTED THREE YOUNG BLIND COLLEGE SENIORS AT THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY FOR THEIR "UNBELIEVABLE COURAGEOUS" ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SHOWING "GRACE UNDER PRESSURE".

"WE ARE UPLIFTED BY YOUR SUCCESS," THE FIRST LADY TOLD THE TRIO WHO EACH WON A \$500 SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM RECORDING FOR THE BLIND, A VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES FREE, RECORDED TEXTBOOKS FOR BLIND STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE NATION.

THE WINNERS WERE JOANNE T. CALLAHAN, 22, OF BROOKLYN, N. Y., BLIND SINCE BIRTH WHO EARNED A B. A. DEGREE IN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY FROM RADCLIFFE COLLEGE OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY; STEVEN R. BLOW, 22, OF WAVERLY, N. Y., BLIND SINCE BIRTH, WHO IS RECEIVING A B. A. DEGREE IN ECONOMICS FROM HAMILTON COLLEGE AND PAMELA F. ROTMAN, 20, CHICAGO, ILL., BLIND SINCE THE AGE OF THREE WHO IS GRADUATING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS WITH A B. A. DEGREE IN ENGLISH AND PSYCHOLOGY.

"WE'RE NOT TO BE PITIED," SAID CALLAHAN. "HELPED MAYBE... BUT NOT PITIED."

HER PARENTS GAVE HER A TRIP TO PERU AS A PRESENT AND SHE SAID THAT SHE HAD FOUND THAT IN LATIN AMERICA "BLIND PEOPLE HAVE AN INFERIOR STATUS. PEOPLE FEEL SORRY FOR THEM. THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH CANES AND NOT ENOUGH DOGS."

MRS. FORD TOLD THE WINNERS THAT SHE SALUTED THEM "FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE AND WHAT YOU WILL DO."

UPI 05-13 06:03 PED



N133

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BLIND STUDENTS

WASHINGTON (AP) -- FIRST LADY BETTY FORD PRESENTED \$500 SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS TODAY TO THREE BLIND STUDENTS WHO REACHED TOP STANDING IN THEIR COLLEGE GRADUATING CLASSES.

THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE SAID THEIR TRIUMPH OVER BLINDNESS WAS "AN UNBELIEVABLY COURAGEOUS THING" AS SHE SALUTED THE THREE "FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE AND WHAT YOU WILL DO."

THE AWARDS WENT TO JOANNE T. CALLAHAN, 22, OF BROOKLYN, N. Y., WHO EARNED A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY AND LITERATURE FROM RADCLIFFE COLLEGE, MASTERING BOTH SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE; STEVEN R. BLOW, 22, WAVERLY, N.Y., BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS AT HAMILTON COLLEGE, WHO LEARNED TO SPEAK RUSSIAN, AND PAMELA F. ROTMAN, 20, OF CHICAGO, WHO EARNED A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN ENGLISH AND PSYCHOLOGY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AND STUDIED FOR A SEMESTER IN ISRAEL.

05-13-76 17:25EDT



N074

R

ARTHRITIS

WASHINGTON (AP) -- FIRST LADY BETTY FORD ACCEPTED THE ARTHRITIS COMMISSION'S 1976 REPORT TODAY FROM ACTRESS ROSALIND RUSSELL AND SEVERAL COMMISSION MEMBERS.

MISS RUSSELL, HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION, IS A SUFFERER FROM THE DISEASE. THE REPORT, RELEASED LAST THURSDAY, CALLED FOR A \$99.7 MILLION PROGRAM TO MOUNT A RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND TREATMENT ASSAULT ON THE DISEASE.

IN A PRIVATE MEETING IN THE YELLOW OVAL ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE FAMILY QUARTERS, MRS. FORD MET WITH THE GROUP BRIEFLY BEFORE GOING TO A LUNCHEON FOR THE VISITING QUEEN OF DENMARK.

DR. EPHRIAM ENGELMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, CHAIRMAN OF THE ARTHRITIS COMMISSION; MRS. DELORES MELICH OF SALT LAKE CITY AND DR. WILLIAM FELTS OF WASHINGTON, MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, WERE IN THE GROUP. FELTS IS ONE OF MRS. FORD'S PERSONAL DOCTORS.

05-11-76 14:38EDT



Sightless, she envisions career in legal service

Lillian Levy
 20-year old Pamela Rotman, though sightless, she is a young woman with a vision of service through law whose high scholastic standing in college won her special recognition at the White House week.

Awarded a B.A. degree in English and psychology by the University of Illinois this month, Pamela has the distinction of being one of three of this nation's highest achieving collegians who happen to be blind.

She and 22-year old Joanne Callahan and Steven R. also 22, both from the state of New York, are the winners of the \$500 Scholastic Achievement Award of the National Council for the Blind, a voluntary organization that provides free, recorded textbooks for blind students throughout the United States. Each was presented a check for \$500 at a special White House ceremony on May 15. First Lady Betty Ford for "extraordinary scholarship, determination and intellectual vigor."

How will Pamela use her prize? She will go to defray the cost of books and other materials for her law school education which she begins this fall with a scholarship at the University of Illinois Law School in Urbana, Ill.

What field of law interests her most? "I'll probably try a little bit of everything," Pamela told *The Jewish Week*; "but I think now that family law is interesting, working with adoption, child abuse divorces."

Pamela's home is in Chicago where she resides with her widowed mother. Fatherless since the age of six, she became sightless at the age of three because of a disease that required removal of her eyes for survival. She feels that the gift of life was worth the sacrifice of sight. And there is no doubt that her indomitable will to be in the mainstream of life was fostered by her mother who insisted that her daughter go to regular school rather than a school for the blind.

Pamela's view of herself and others who are blind is, "We are not to be pitied. Helped maybe, but never pitied."

Living for Pamela is a wonderful continuing adventure and one of the greatest of her experiences thus far is the month spent last summer in Israel studying at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She took two intensive courses; and she particularly enjoyed the course in the philosophy of Judaism given by Dr. Emil Fackenheim of the Hebrew University. Her course in the pre-state history of Israel included travel to historic sites and archeological digs which was "fantastic."

The summer students numbered about 300 and "were from all different countries and all parts of America. It was like a mini United Nations where everyone worked together." One of the places Pamela had hoped to visit was the



Pamela Rotman, right, and Betty Ford.

closed for the summer.

"I hear it is very good," Pamela said; "but I still feel that blind persons should not be segregated and should go to regular schools. After all, we have to live in a world where most people are sighted; and we can't learn to do that if we are taught apart."

The experience in Israel also gave Pamela a chance to

use her Hebrew; and she hopes to go back again. Another place to which she would like to return is this capital city where budgetary considerations made it necessary to limit her visit. She visited the Smithsonian for a few hours; but the highlight was the White House where she and the other students were given a special tour and where, as Pamela put it, "We saw a lot of wonderful things."

Pamela spoke with appreciation about the First Lady and her warm welcome. "It was wonderful for such a big person to take so much time to be with us and talk to us."

Mrs. Ford also was visibly taken with her guests and their achievements and told them, "Because we all struggle with problems, we are uplifted by your success. And I salute you for what you have done and for what you will do."

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