



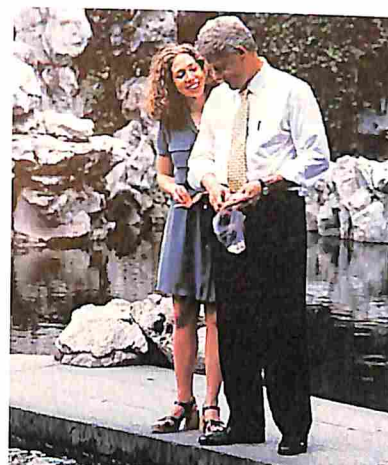
BRIAN SMITH FOR TIME

A Special Place: Albertville, Ala., is the hydrant capital (see BONUS SECTION)



ILLUSTRATION FOR TIME BY ROSS MACDONALD

Backlash: Patients unhappy with their HMOs demand their rights (see MANAGED CARE 1998)



CYNTHIA JOHNSON FOR TIME

Clinton in China: Short on substance but long on photo-ops (see WORLD)

TO OUR READERS 6

NOTEBOOK 17

JEFF GREENFIELD on slow baseball games 20

MILESTONES 21

MANAGED CARE 1998

COVER: Singing the HMO Blues 22

Take five years of busy signals, surly nurses and hospital horror stories, add a dash of Viagra sex appeal, and you have the making of a managed-care revolt

POLITICS: Once Again with Feeling 28

The private sector failed to deliver the health-care system Americans wanted, so the politicians are back with new plans

Republicans: How Faircloth became an HMO reformer 30

NATION

FLORIDA: Burned on the Fourth of July 34

A drought sparks thousands of fires in the Sunshine State

INVESTIGATIONS: A Bad Week for Ken Starr 36

Hubbell wins by hanging tough. Will that influence Monica?

SOCIAL PROGRAMS: Welfare-to-Work Is Working 38

A new focus on preparing people for jobs concentrates on teaching soft skills like showing up for work on time

POPULATION: A Big Decline in Unwed Black Moms 39

New attitudes about sex push the birthrate to a 40-year low

WORLD

CHINA: What Did Clinton Accomplish? 40

No breakthroughs, but the tourist-in-chief gets good marks for public relations and for preaching human rights

JAPAN: A Letter from Tokyo 43

Despite Washington's harping, the Japanese are reforming

BRITAIN: The Lady of the Lake 45

Diana's cult lives on with the opening of an ornate memorial

BONUS SECTION

CITIES: America's Secret Capitals 46

Bet you don't know where they have the largest number of fire hydrants in the country? Or the most deluxe recreational vehicles? Or the deepest passion for Rocky Mountain oysters? So, herewith our Baedeker to seven U.S. towns that are the best at what they do

SOCIETY, BUSINESS AND SCIENCE

RELIGION: When Women Gather to Pray 62

The female equivalent of the Promise Keepers picks up steam

What's Up with the Men? Sputtering after a bold start 63

BUSINESS: Is Boeing Out of Its Spin? 67

The world's largest jetmaker tries to put its woes behind it

PESTS: The Termites from Hell 70

A visit with the voracious insects that are eating the South

HEALTH: Deadpan Is Beautiful 72

A new wrinkle treatment paralyzes your face—that's the point

MEDICINE: Aspirin Without Angst 73

New painkillers could treat pain but avoid causing ulcers

THE ARTS

TELEVISION: Tired of summer repeats? Well, cable is ready 76

CINEMA: Marcello, Madeline and a very angry young man 78

SHOW BUSINESS: Hal Hartley strikes Fool's gold 79

MUSIC: They're still Dead; we're still grateful 81

PERSONAL TIME

YOUR HEALTH: Christine Gorman on heartburn hazards 83

YOUR TECHNOLOGY: Joshua Quittner on censorware 84

YOUR MONEY: Daniel Kadlec on estate-plan tools 86

PEOPLE: Barbra's wedding; what's behind Yoko Ono's gift 89

ESSAY: Roger Rosenblatt on playing catch 90

COVER: Photograph for TIME by Ted Thai

HYDRANT TOWN, U.S.A.
And more of America's Secret Capitals

TIME

**WHAT
YOUR
HEALTH
PLAN
WON'T
COVER...**



*MerchMart.com®
Gift Quality Vintage Magazines*

**...and what
the politicians
are scrambling
to do about it**