

will be pulled out of school, professional women will be deprived of the right to be doctors and lawyers and everything they might've been prepared to do in the past.

CL: What do you hope to accomplish with No Ceilings?

HRC: No Ceilings is a partnership that Chelsea and I started at the Clinton Foundation.... We want to gather the best data and analyze it.... I mean, if you are in a country that doesn't even give birth certificates to a significant percentage of their girl babies, how do you know what's happening? So what we want to do is say, next year, for the twentieth anniversary [of Beijing], "Here's where we are [on women's rights]." ... Here in the United States, we're going to do the same kind of measurement, but we're also well aware that there may be not as many external obstacles, but there are internal obstacles—how we convey to young women that it's OK not to be perfect. Do the best you can; be proud of who you are.

CL: In other words, how do we deal with the confidence gap?

HRC: The confidence gap!... In almost every setting, a young woman will ask me, "How would you advise a young woman today?" And a lot of it is, "Get an education," "Learn how to negotiate," things we all expect. But so much of it is, "Don't get knocked off stride because of the double standard, or because of the expectations that you think you'll never be able to meet. Really develop that confidence."

CL: You've said many times that your own approach to sexism, when you encounter it, is to just smile and keep going. But it can get pretty vile-during the 2008 presidential campaign we all remember the use of the word bitch. How do you know when you should smile and when you really have to call somebody out? HRC: There's no easy answer. I'll give you some guidelines. I have generally not responded if it's about me. And I have responded if it's about somebody else, because if women in general are being degraded, are being dismissed, then I can respond in a way that demonstrates I'm not taking it personally but I'm really serious about rejecting that kind of behavior. Now, sometimes when it is about me...you have to not just remain silent but try to figure out a proper response—again, though, not going to the place of anger and feeling sorry for yourself, because that kind of plays into the hands of the sexists.... It does take practice though, Cindi. This is not something that your average 25-year-old-well, let me talk about myself: me at 25-would have either fully grasped or been able to respond to. So I've got a lot of hardearned lessons that I can fall back on.... Back when I was going to school, I remember being in a big conference hall at Harvard and taking the Law School Admission Test...and some of the men were just rattling us.

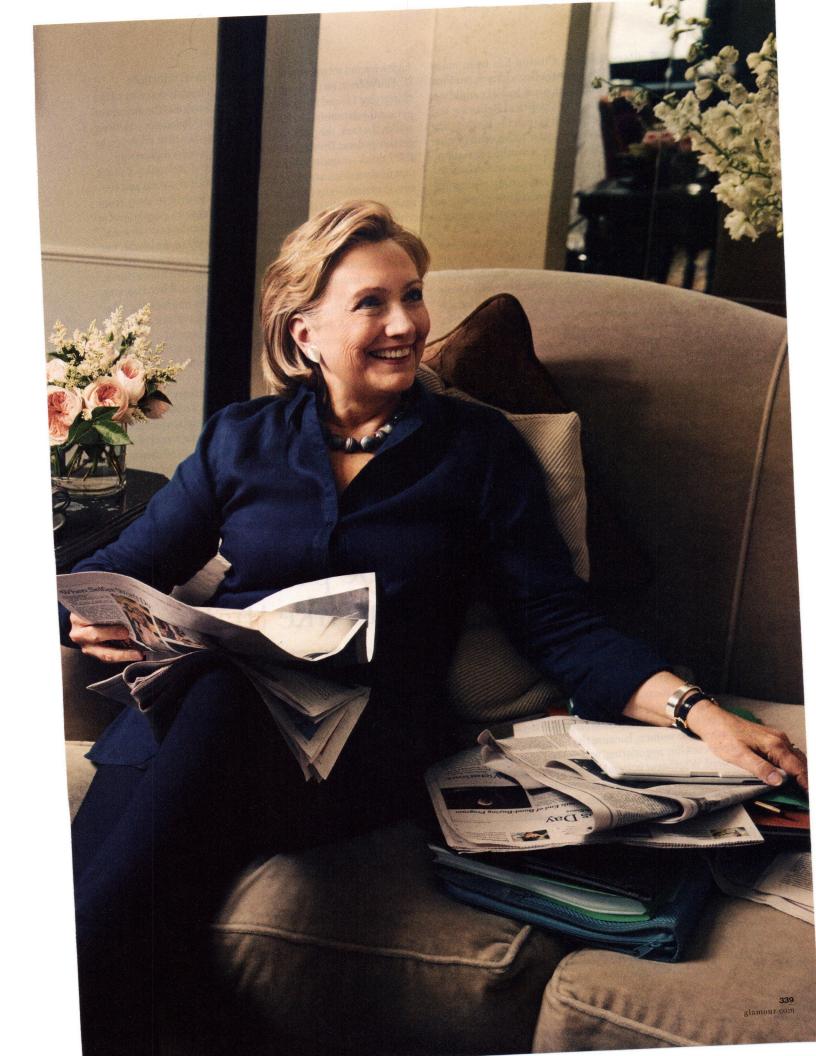
CL: How?

HRC: [Saying], "What are you doing here? You shouldn't be here." "You're taking a place of a man who could maybe get drafted and die in Vietnam." It was just really personal! Personal and pointed. So I was in that group who were kind of on the front lines of a lot of this change. I think we're in a much better place than we were, but we still have to stand up for ourselves, and stand up for each other. Women standing up for each other is critically important.

CL: You've talked a lot about the importance of young women running for office. I hear from many of our readers that they're not all that interested. They think it just looks like it's going to be incredibly difficult—a blood sport.

CL: You quote Theodore Roosevelt, who called it "the arena." That sounds like The Hunger Games! How do you persuade women this

is something worth doing? HRC: I start by saying there are many ways to be influential. I mean, you can work for politicians...or in government and make a difference.... And for young women who are interested in running for office, you just have to decide you're going to follow Eleanor Roosevelt's maxim about growing skin as thick as the hide of a rhinoceros, and you have to be incredibly well-prepared-better prepared [than a man], actually—and you have to figure out how you're going to present yourself, and you have to have a support group around you, because it can be really a brutal experience. But I think if you were to talk to women who have run, both successfully and unsuccessfully, nearly all of them would say, "You learn so much." You learn about yourself, what you're capable of doing.... And it doesn't have to all happen when you're young—I mean, one of the most powerful women in American politics is Nancy Pelosi.



Quick, Define "American Style"

It's the unofficial theme of this issue, but I'll bet your answer is different from mine, or anyone else's. And that's the whole point: These days it's all personal. Let me explain....





First of all, right now there are practically no rules.

This issue, which showcases some of the best ways American women are rocking their clothes (and their attitudes) now, features minis and maxis, beat-up farm work boots and supersophisticated city boots, outfits a CEO could wear to her IPO and ones you could smash a guitar in. This new fashion freedom is a good, good thing. To quote page 116, "you do you, boo."

Next, there's nothing more stylish than a powerful woman.

At Glamour we're into leaders who do their best-and I'm so proud that we were able to sit down with former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to hear her surprising take on what women face in the workplace today. Whether you lean left or right, whether you lean in or back, we can all learn from what she calls these "hard-earned lessons." That's another thing that's stylish: Admitting we're all works in progress.

Real life trumps the red carpet.

I appreciate a ball-gown lineup as much as the next red-blooded female (and yes, Kerry Washington, I will be waiting to see what you wear to the Emmys August 25), but the everyday chic of the streets is always just a little more inspiring. (How gorgeous is Emma Stone, far left?)

Fashion is found in any ZIP code.

This magazine may be produced in a glittery tower in New York City (10036, baby), but we're inspired by what's happening all over America, and not just in the cities. I love the fashion story editor-at-large Laura Ferrara styled on the farm she and her husband own, Westwind Orchard. It has a magically fun backstory (see page 369), and it was the perfect place to photograph all the yummy fall jackets and work boots designers sent down the runways this season.

Shoes are still where it's at.

There simply is no easier wardrobe update. On page 126 legendary personal shopper Betty Halbreich advises simple black Manolos. I go for strappy red Narcisos, left, or the equally bright Supergas on page 140. And you?

Outfit-making shoes:

narcisorodriguez.com

Narciso Rodriguez pumps