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TIME MAGAZINE AND *THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW* TEAM UP TO EXAMINE THE
HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT CRISIS IN AMERICA

TIME's Cover Story: 'Dropout Nation' to Hit Newsstands Monday,
April 10th

The Oprah Winfrey Show's 'Oprah's Special Report: American Schools
in Crisis' Will Air Tuesday and Wednesday, April 11th and 12th

A Large Majority of Americans (89%) Think the High School
Dropout Rate in the U.S. an 'Extremely Serious' or 'Somewhat
Serious' Problem,

According to TIME/*The Oprah Winfrey Show* Poll

New York - TIME magazine and *The Oprah Winfrey Show* team up to examine the high school dropout crisis in America. TIME's cover story: "Dropout Nation" will hit newsstands Monday, April 10th. *The Oprah Winfrey Show* will air a two-part special: "Oprah's Special Report: American Schools in Crisis" on Tuesday, April 11th and Wednesday, April 12th (check local listings).

The coverage sprung from a recent report that details the dropout epidemic: almost one-third of public high school students drop out in America – and nearly one-half of all African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans fail to graduate from public high school with their class. The report, "The Silent Epidemic: Perspectives of High School Dropouts," was funded by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and based on research conducted by Civic Enterprises and Peter D. Hart Research Associates.

"I'm delighted to be working on this story with Oprah, since we both agree that a poorly educated America is an America without a rich future," says TIME Managing Editor Jim Kelly.

TIME and *The Oprah Winfrey Show* have also collaborated on a joint poll. Some results include:

* A large majority (89%) of Americans think the dropout rate is an "extremely serious" or "somewhat serious problem" in America.

* If the public were grading U.S. public schools, about 3-in-5 (61%) would give them a grade of a "C" or less.

* Six-in-ten Americans (64%) think we are spending too little money on public schools.

* More than two-thirds (78%) think that lowering academic standards would be "not very effective" or "not at all effective" in keeping kids in school.

* To increase the number of children graduating from high school, almost half of respondents (45%) feel it would be a "very effective" or "somewhat effective" measure to penalize the parents of students who don't finish high school.

The Oprah Winfrey Show has an exclusive joint TV interview with Bill and Melinda Gates, founders and co-chairs of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The foundation has invested over one billion dollars to support the creation of more than 1,600 high-quality high schools. TIME and *The Oprah Winfrey Show* also highlight Shelbyville, Indiana where community leaders and administrators have placed dropout prevention at the top of their agenda.

TIME named Bono and Bill and Melinda Gates its Persons of the Year 2005.

TIME is the world's leading weekly news magazine. With 30 million readers each week, TIME reaches more Americans than any other news source. TIME.com is one of the most visited online magazines featuring breaking news, analysis and daily dispatches from TIME reporters from around the world. The site includes web exclusive photo essays and one of the most extensive searchable online magazine archives dating back to the magazine's founding in 1923.

The Oprah Winfrey Show has remained the number one talk show for 19 consecutive seasons, winning every sweep since its debut in 1986.* It is produced in Chicago by Harpo Productions, Inc. and syndicated to 215 domestic markets by King World and to 122 countries by CBS Paramount International Television. Source: *Nielsen Cassandra Ranking Report – Nov. '86 to July '99 and Wrap Sweeps, Nov '99 to July '05. Primary Telecasts Only.

The TIME/*The Oprah Winfrey Show* poll was conducted by telephone between March 28-30, 2006 among a national random sample of 1,000 adults, age 18 and older throughout America. The margin of error for the entire sample is approximately +/- 3 percentage points. The margin of error is higher for subgroups. Surveys are subject to other error sources as well, including sampling coverage error, recording error, and respondent error. Schulman, Ronca, & Bucuvalas (SRBI) Public Affairs designed the survey and conducted all interviewing. The full TIME/*The Oprah Winfrey Show* questionnaire and trend data may be found at: www.srbi.com and on www.oprah.com.

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