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In the basement with Bill

ANOTHER woman has told how Bill Clinton put the moves on her one night in a darkened corridor, saying, "Even Presidents need hugs too."

In a piece headlined "Bill Clinton Hit on My Wife," Steve Altes recounts in Capital Style magazine how his wife, Barbara, became one of the "Basement Babes" — the women volunteers who manned phones in the communications center under the Governor's mansion in Little Rock, Ark., after Clinton was elected President.

Steve Altes, a graduate of MIT and a former consultant to NASA, was in Washington on Thanksgiving, 1992, when Clinton allegedly told him over

the phone: "I just want to tell you that I sure enjoy having your wife in my basement. I don't think I can let her go."

A few days after that call, Altes claims, Clinton tried to enjoy her presence a little more.

"My wife found herself alone with him in a narrow corridor," Altes writes. "In the midst of talking business he pinned her against the wall between his two forearms, looked at her with puppy-dog eyes and said, 'Even Presidents need hugs too.' Then he proceeded to hug my wife for, as she put it later, 'an uncomfortably long time, much longer than a normal hug.'" Bar-

bara reportedly pushed the President away.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry had no comment on the allegation. Capital Style editor Bill Thomas said the magazine's staff had thoroughly checked it out.

Altes wrote "The Little Book of Bad Business Advice," and has had bit parts in several movies, including "Die Hard With a Vengeance" and "12 Monkeys." He says he was flattered by the President's attention to his wife.

"Here's the ultimate alpha dog and he wanted my woman. Of course Clinton wants every woman, which devalues the compliment."



Clinton poses with the Little Rock "Basement Babe" he is said to have propositioned after he was elected in 1992. Her face is pixilated because she is the alleged victim of a sex crime. Capital Style magazine

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By RICHARD JOHNSON
with Jeane MacIntosh
and Kate Coyne