



The Cincinnati Enquirer/Gerry Wolter

ROBIN PAGE gets a welcome-home kiss from her mother Anneliese Page of College Hill Wednesday at Greater Cincinnati International Airport.

# Survivor's Tale

## Student Tells First Ladies About Drug Experiences

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER  
and ENQUIRER NEWS SERVICES

Sixteen-year-old Robin [redacted] of College Hill, who tearfully told Nancy Reagan and 17 other first ladies Wednesday what drugs did to her life, said afterward their intense interest touched her.

"I was really impressed with how everyone was listening," Robin said. "They seemed touched and I really like that."

"In all the muddle of facts and figures, she gave it a human touch," said Jerry Rushing, director of the Milford drug rehabilitation program Straight Inc. which helped [redacted]. He traveled with her to Washington to the meeting billed as a "drug summit."

Robin told the first ladies that at 12, she was an A student. At 14, she was a drug user. She overdosed on marijuana, alcohol and amphetamines.

WHILE SHE recounted how her mother sat on her hospital bed and prayed for her life, she broke down. "I kept thinking, 'Dear God, if you just don't

let me wake up, I can't see her face again,' because I was so sick of the disappointment every time she looked at me."

She's been off drugs for two years and Wednesday she kept the rapt attention of the distinguished women, who sat at a U-shaped table in the White House and held earphones up to hear translations of her account.

Robin said she hopes to go to college and then become a stockbroker. She said she is free of drugs and "off to a good start."

All at the international drug conference applauded the Cincinnati.

"Robin was the highlight," said Rushing.

"I was really nervous at first. I kept saying to myself 'Slow down because of the interpreters.' I felt relaxed when I looked at them and saw they were interested," she said after arriving back in Cincinnati late Wednesday.

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