

Bethany Little
Associate Director
White House Domestic Policy Council

Archived By
Joshua M. Beck
November 28, 2000

Box #1

- "Education Tour"- News Articles (May 3-4, 2000)
- "Education Tour"- Trip information
- "Education Tour"- File
- Education research file
- School Safety Conference File
- School to Work File
- Vice President Term Projects
- FY-2000 Budget Appeals
- Bilingual Education File
- Test Fee- SAT and ACT
- National Governors Association File
- Whitley Phillips
- DC Charter Schools File
- Presidents Education Tour Material
- White House Conference on Teenagers
- Hispanic Follow Up File
- Hispanic Dropout Rate Information
- OCR- Jessie Jackson File
- FY-2001 Budget File
- 1999 G-8 Summit File
- Vocational Education File
- IMPACT File
- Dorthy Rich File
- Rural Education Initiative
- Kiryas Joel Village Education Situation
- After School Radio Address
- NAESP Video-remarks File
- POTUS Radio Address on Education Accountability File

ENCLOSURES FILED OVERSIZE ATTACHMENTS

18522
5 boxes filed 12/4/2000
or NAMA 15742

EDUCATION TOUR
MAY 3 & 4, 2000

NEWS ARTICLES

General Information- Bulletin's Frontrunner

Kentucky- Messenger-Inquirer

**Ohio- The Columbus Dispatch and
Washington Post**

Iowa- Quad City Times

Minnesota-Pioneer Planet

Copyright 2000 Bulletin Broadfaxing Network, Inc.
The Bulletin's Frontrunner

May 4, 2000

LENGTH: 1314 words

HEADLINE: More News On The Gore Campaign.

BODY:

Gore Using White House Aides For Campaign Work. The AP (5/3, Sobieraj) reported, "Top White House talent employed by the taxpayers is helping Democrat Al Gore write his campaign speeches, work up attacks against rival George W. Bush's budget and develop everything from crime-fighting proposals to health and education reforms." Gene Sperling, head of President Clinton's National Economic Council, and Bruce Reed, chief White House domestic policy adviser, and "scores of lower-level aides are lending their expertise -- legally, Gore's presidential campaign notes -- on their own free time." But "good-government watchdogs wince at the overlap." Center for Public Integrity director Charles Lewis said, "These guys are dropping any pretense of a separation between campaign and government. The problem here is of perception and the average American does not expect his or her taxpayer money to go toward Al Gore's campaign." The AP added that as Gore "flew to Atlanta Tuesday for an address on crime, campaign aides referred reporters' questions on the meat of that speech -- a \$500 million rehabilitation program for prisoners and parolees -- to Reed and helpfully distributed his telephone number at the White House." Sperling and "his White House staff crunched numbers for a 15-page indictment of Gore's Republican opponent's tax-cut and spending plans that concluded, on page 6, that Texas Gov. 'Bush would need to make (spending) cuts of nearly 40 percent to balance the budget.'" In addition, Sperling, former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and former White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles "reviewed drafts and gave Gore input on the major economic address he gave last week in New York, where he assailed Bush's agenda as reckless." Sarah Bianchi, who "transferred to the Nashville, Tenn.-based campaign last month, worked during the past year on Gore's health and Medicare proposals from her desk at the White House." During a February campaign trip, reporters "were handed 'Gore 2000' press releases bearing the stamp of the official fax machine in Gore's White House communications office. Campaign spokesman Chris Lehane later called it 'an inadvertent mistake by a junior staffer.'" Said Lewis, "There's a lot of this that goes on in politics. But these folks take it to a whole new level -- the Lincoln bedroom comes to mind -- in using public property for campaign ends." The Washington Post (5/4, A1, Connolly, Kessler) reported in an above-the-fold front page story, "At every opportunity on the campaign trail, Gore declares his political independence, assuring audiences he is running for the presidency 'on my own,'" but "resorting to a time-honored tradition," he "is also using the power and perks of office to craft a policy agenda, give credibility to his claims, provide a platform for a host of political pronouncements and add some intellectual and political heft to his small campaign staff." The Post continued, "There's nothing illegal about employees on the public payroll doing favors for a political campaign, as long as they do it on their own time and don't use government equipment." Brit Hume said on Fox's "Special Report" (5/3), "The AP reports that a number of White House aides, including top economic adviser Gene Sperling and domestic policy adviser Bruce Reed, are doing policy analysis for the Gore campaign. The Gore team insists their efforts are purely voluntary and that the two are still spending 40 hours a week on their regular duties."

Gore Seen As Reaching For Lost Momentum. On CNN (5/3, Inside Politics), Time correspondent Margaret Carlson said Gore is "trying to get the momentum back that he lost. Bush had a tough campaign, beat a tough competitor and got stronger. Gore, who was supposed to have a tough one, didn't, had a weak one, and came out, I think, not quite as tough as Bush did having -- you know, it's important to beat someone, and once you've done that you're a better competitor. Gore got soft. He only does well when he is engaged fully. He needed -- in some ways he kind of wooed Bush out, gets Bush to do some things, and then comes back on them, because that's the way he operates best." Weekly Standard writer Tucker Carlson added, "I think (it is) not just important to beat someone, but to squash him, you know, to grind him under heel like a cigarette butt. I mean, that is -- if there is one lesson in the primaries, it is that attacking works. I mean, Bill Bradley was just demolished by Gore when Gore went after him, and I think John McCain was fatally wounded in South Carolina because Bush hit him so

hard. Negative campaigning works. It always has, and we've learned the lesson again."

Clinton's Education Tour Partly Designed To Help Gore. The New York Times (5/4, Goodnough) reported, "President Clinton visited an elementary school" in Wensboro, KY, "today to read 'Charlotte's Web' with fourth graders and promote his latest plan to help states turn around failing schools." The school "was Mr. Clinton's first stop on a two-day tour of public" meant to "draw attention to his proposals to hold failing schools more accountable, increase school construction, open more charter schools and improve teacher quality." The Times added, "With only eight months left in the White House, Mr. Clinton is eager to emphasize what he thinks of as his legacy in education, one of his pet issues in his more than two decades of public service." He is also "hoping to draw attention to Vice President Al Gore's education proposals while at least indirectly criticizing those of Gov. George W. Bush of Texas, the likely Republican presidential nominee." The Washington Post (5/4, Babington) reported that **Clinton's "education tour"** happens to hit four states considered battlegrounds in the presidential race: **Kentucky, Iowa, Minnesota and Ohio**. Some Republicans accused the president of picking the sites to help Gore's campaign, a charge the White House denied."

Wall Street Journal Praises Gore Proposal On Illegal Drugs. The Wall Street Journal (5/4) praised Gore in its editorial today, writing, "Al Gore gave a campaign speech on crime Tuesday, and we have found within it something worthy of discussion and support. It is Mr. Gore's views on illicit drugs." Gore "put his finger on the relationship between drugs and crimes committed in the U.S. It is criminals; more precisely, it is prisoners. He points out that two-thirds of all prisoners get arrested within three years of release. Many are drug users. Mr. Gore proposes expanded drug treatment, a phrase much heard over the years from liberals." The Gore proposal, "whatever its provenance, recognizes one of the few obvious realities of current drug policy: Nothing else has worked. Testing and control sounds to us like something that deserves a chance."

Vieques Raid Could Hurt Gore With Puerto Rican Voters. The Washington Times (5/4, Cain) reported, "Vice President Al Gore faces the prospect of another federal raid that could anger the Clinton administration's Hispanic supporters." Puerto Rican "politicians from New York and Illinois, home to large concentrations of Puerto Ricans, are urging the Clinton administration not to evict the protesters."

Gore-Gephardt Ticket Floated. On CNN (5/3, Inside Politics), Chicago Sun- Times columnist Robert Novak said, "This is going to sound crazy, but it was given to me by a very senior official and a very serious official in the Clinton Administration, who volunteered the information, but he said the strongest ticket to bring in a -- Al Gore as president (and) a Democratic House would be Dick Gephardt, the House Minority Leader. Now, Dick Gephardt wants to be speaker of the House. He doesn't want to carry the House and give it to somebody else. But for somebody high in the Clinton Administration to say that, I thought it was worth reporting."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 4, 2000

FOCUS™

Search: General News;Clinton Education Tour and Kentucky and Ohio and...

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

Example: House of Representatives

FOCUS

Copyright © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group. All rights reserved.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

GENERAL INFO

Divider Title: _____

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

Kentucky

Divider Title: _____



Internet Directory

Mind it.

Clinton Education Visit

messenger-inquirer.com



►Subscribe ►Search ►Help ►Feedback ►SiteMap

Related Links



Clinton hails Audubon as school to emulate

4 May 2000

By Steve Vied
Messenger-Inquirer



As he stood Wednesday in a school that has not let poverty prevent it from being one of Kentucky's highest performing schools, President Clinton urged that the techniques used within its walls be spread across the nation.

"I wanted to come here because I believe so strongly that we can have this kind of educational excellence for every child if we can do the things that you do here," Clinton said.

Clinton, speaking at Audubon Elementary School on the first stop of his two-day, four-city "Education Reform" tour, said Audubon is an example of what a district and a school can do when high standards are set and schools are held accountable.

"Don't tell me all kids can't learn," he said. "They can learn. Income is not destiny. You have proven kids can succeed."

More than half of the 450 students at Audubon qualify for free or reduced-price meals, making it what is known as a Title I school. But Audubon is also the state's 18th-highest performing elementary school.

"That is truly amazing," Clinton said.

Clinton said turning around low-performing schools is the country's great challenge of the of the 21st century. He said the nation's strong economy presents the opportunity to get the job done.

"This is the best chance in our lifetimes to deal with our biggest challenge," he said. "We can do this. We can give all kids a world-class education. If not now, when in the world will we get around to it?"

Twenty years of serious efforts at school reform provide the know-how to achieve student success.

"We know what works," he said. "We know now what the basic things you have done are. There's no excuse not to do it."

Invest more and demand more is the basic recipe, Clinton said.

"We shouldn't declare kids a failure when the system doesn't work," he said.

"When we were cutting spending like crazy, we still doubled spending on education and we've also worked to reduce class size."

Before he launched into his remarks, Clinton passed out compliments to those around him, starting with Gov. Paul Patton.

"I was a governor for 12 years and served with 150 governors," he said. "Since I've been president, I've known a hundred or so more. He's one of the best I've ever seen."

He then turned to former U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford, sitting to his right on the front row with his wife, Jean.

"We miss you in Washington," Clinton told Ford. "I had to be funny last Saturday night (at the annual White House correspondent's dinner). They don't laugh enough since you left."

Clinton seemed genuinely impressed with Karen Cecil, whose three daughters are current or former Audubon students (Mandy, 17, Natalie, 15, and Emily, 10). Cecil introduced Clinton in eloquent fashion while quickly and effectively outlining the ingredients of a successful school.

"You should put her on the road to promote the district," Clinton told the crowd, which included a large section of school district teachers and staff.

Cecil attributed Audubon's success to parental involvement, increased availability of computer technology and increased accountability through site-based decision making.



President Bill Clinton talks with Audubon Elementary School fourth-grader Emily Cecil, 10, right, as her older sister Mandy Cecil, 17, watches after Clinton's address on education Wednesday at Audubon Elementary School. Their mother, Karen Cecil, introduced President Clinton to the crowd. Photo by Gary Emord-Netzley, M-I

"By vesting parents, teachers, school administrators and the community, we are held accountable for the quality of our schools and as a result, we are getting a better education for our children," Cecil said.

Cecil said she only has to look at her daughters to measure the progress of Audubon Elementary.

"Today my girls are receiving a top-notch education to prepare them for whatever life has to hold has to hold for them," she said.

And Audubon Principal Diane Embry, who introduced Patton, also received high marks from the president.

As Embry beamed from her chair on the speaker's platform, Clinton said, "I can be in a school five minutes and tell if it is doing well or not. You never have a great school without a great principal and obviously you have a great principal."

Clinton called on Congress to support his \$250 million Education Accountability Fund, which provides resources to help states and localities turn around failing schools.

"It requires states to do what Kentucky has done -- identify low-performing schools, set standards, empower parents and make schools accountable," he said.

He also asked for an investment of \$1 billion for after-school and summer school extended learning opportunities for extended learning for students who need help. Such programs have been a mainstay for a decade in Kentucky under the Kentucky Education Reform Act.

"If we can get a billion dollars, we can provide summer school for every student in every poor and low-performing school in the United States of America," he said. "It's very important. We must do what Kentucky is doing."

The success of schools like Audubon stands in contrast to many other schools, Clinton said.

"We're here celebrating, but there's a whole lot of schools in America that fail to give the education you give at Audubon," he said. "That's bad news for them and for the rest of us. It's not just what you know, but your capacity to learn."

*Steve Vied, (270) 691-7305
sVied@messenger-inquirer.com*

► [Back to Top](#)

► [Send a letter to the editor](#)

► [Subscribe](#) ► [Search](#) ► [Help](#) ► [Feedback](#) ► [SiteMap](#)

Send your comments or suggestions about local news coverage to news@messenger-inquirer.com

[Home](#) | [U.S. & World](#) | [Kentucky](#) | [Indiana](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Columnists](#) | [Community](#) |
[Perspective](#) | [Business](#) | [Agriculture](#) | [Education](#) | [Religion & Values](#) | [Your Health](#) | [Good](#)
[Times](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [Home & Garden](#) | [Food](#) | [Special Archives](#) | [Weather](#) | [The AP Wire](#)

[Classified Ads](#) | [Voice Personals](#) | [Advertising](#)

[About the M-I](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Search](#) | [Help](#) | [Feedback](#) | [SiteMap](#)

©2000 Messenger-Inquirer



Internet Directory

**Advertise
here.**

Clinton Education Visit

messenger-inquirer.com



[►Subscribe](#) [►Search](#) [►Help](#) [►Feedback](#) [►SiteMap](#)

[Related Links](#)

THE
CORE

Clinton a quick study in Audubon classroom

4 May 2000

By Steve Vied
Messenger-Inquirer

As they waited for President Clinton to appear, the 19 students in Crystal Davidson's class of third- and fourth-graders fidgeted and squirmed Wednesday morning at Audubon Elementary School, fighting a losing battle to be still.

Who could blame them?

Scrunched into one corner of the room were 20 or more photographers, reporters and people carrying television cameras and boom microphones. If that wasn't enough, Davidson kept a nervous watch on the door, which was flanked on one side by an unsmiling Secret Service agent.

As the minutes crawled by like inchworms on a Sunday stroll, the level of anticipation only grew. Finally, the door opened and the president of the United States walked inside, smiled and said hello.

"Hello," the children responded.

"How are you?" the president asked.

"Fine."

"Have you been reading Charlotte's Web?"

"Yes."

"Have you ever seen the movie?"

"Yes."

"Great!"

Then, as the cameras clicked and videotape rolled, Clinton listened as Davidson explained the classes' reading exercises and their interest in Chapter 11 of "Charlotte's Web," titled "The Miracle." Clinton, who once taught at the University of Arkansas, offered to read a few paragraphs and invited each child to read a few paragraphs back to him.



Audubon Elementary School third-grade student Billy Smith, 10, reads from the book, *Charlotte's Web* as a host of local and national media record the event on Wednesday in Crystal Davidson's third and fourth-grade class at the school. Photo by Gary Emord-Netzley, M-I

"The next day was foggy. Everything was dripping wet," Clinton began. As he read, Davidson and all 19 students followed along in their own copies of the E.B. White classic. After a minute or two, he stopped and the children began reading aloud one at a time. When a child stumbled over a difficult word (the book is a children's classic but the language is rich), Clinton smiled and took the opportunity to explain the meaning of some of the words.

"What does 'exertion' mean?" Clinton asked the children. One child said it had to do with being tired. As teachers do, Clinton agreed, but offered a truer definition.

"It's a fancy word for effort," he told them.

Later, the president, with the children listening with great exertion of their own, instructed them in the meaning of "bewilderment."
"It's a little like wonder, but it's strange, too," he explained.

Allowing 19 children to read even a few paragraphs apiece takes a while, but Clinton showed no lack of patience with his young charges. Later when he delivered a speech to a capacity crowd in the school's gym, he praised not just the reading ability of the children, but seemed very pleased to learn that Davidson was hired with money under a Clinton educational initiative to reduce class size by hiring additional teachers.

"I didn't think of you as a Clinton teacher," Clinton said, turning to look at a smiling Davidson. "But I'll take it any day of the week. Every child read to me. Some had a little more trouble than others, but everyone was into reading and obviously had had individual attention. You can't do that with 40 kids in a class. And I'm glad people like Crystal Davidson want to be teachers."

Steve Vied, (270) 691-7305
sVied@messenger-inquirer.com

► [Back to Top](#)

► [Send a letter to the editor](#)

► [Subscribe](#) ► [Search](#) ► [Help](#) ► [Feedback](#) ► [SiteMap](#)

Send your comments or suggestions about local news coverage to news@messenger-inquirer.com

[Home](#) | [U.S. & World](#) | [Kentucky](#) | [Indiana](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Columnists](#) | [Community](#) |
[Perspective](#) | [Business](#) | [Agriculture](#) | [Education](#) | [Religion & Values](#) | [Your Health](#) | [Good](#)
[Times](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [Home & Garden](#) | [Food](#) | [Special Archives](#) | [Weather](#) | [The AP Wire](#)

[Classified Ads](#) | [Voice Personals](#) | [Advertising](#)

[About the M-I](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Search](#) | [Help](#) | [Feedback](#) | [SiteMap](#)

©2000 Messenger-Inquirer



Internet Directory

**Advertise
here.**

Clinton Education Visit

messenger-inquirer.com



►Subscribe ►Search ►Help ►Feedback ►SiteMap

Related Links

**THE
CORE**

Clinton gets high marks

**Nation's leader reads with kids, schmoozes with
Moonlite diners**

4 May 2000

**By Keith Lawrence
Messenger-Inquirer**

The whump-whump-whump of helicopter blades echoed through the hallways and classrooms of Audubon Elementary School at 10:38 a.m. Wednesday.

Children's eyes widened. And a squeal rose from one classroom. Someone was no longer able to contain the excitement that had been building for a week.

The president of the United States was actually landing his helicopter on the lawn.

For the first time since 1948, when President Harry S Truman stopped at Union Station for a whistle-stop campaign speech, the President of the United States was in Daviess County.

But Bill Clinton had come to stay awhile.

He would spend nearly three hours at the school -- reading "Charlotte's Web" with third- and fourth-graders and talking about his education plan with 300 community leaders -- before heading for the Moonlite Bar-B-Q Inn, where he spent nearly 40 minutes shaking hands, talking to people and posing for pictures.

Clinton never got time to eat, Pat Bosley, a restaurant spokesman said. So the staff fixed him two sampler platters to go -- including Owensboro's traditional barbecued mutton.

Hundreds of people lined Parrish Avenue outside the restaurant hoping to catch a glimpse of Clinton as his limousine drove past.

About 30 staff and family members from Audubon Area Head Start held signs thanking the president for his support of education.

**THE
CORE**

"We just want him to know how much we appreciate him," said Sally Whitehead, a former teacher at Audubon, who now works in the Head Start office.

Dwight Beckhart, credit manager at the Heilig-Meyer furniture store next door, stood beneath the store's marquee, which read, "Welcome President Clinton."

"He looked at me as he went by," Beckhart said. "I waved at him and he waved back."

Even as a thunderstorm rolled through the area minutes later, 20 or more people huddled under umbrellas hoping to catch a glimpse of Clinton as he left the restaurant.

Nearly four hours earlier, as he walked from Marine One, the helicopter that had ferried him to Owensboro from Fort Campbell, Clinton put on a baseball cap with the Daviess County Schools' "It's About Kids" logo.

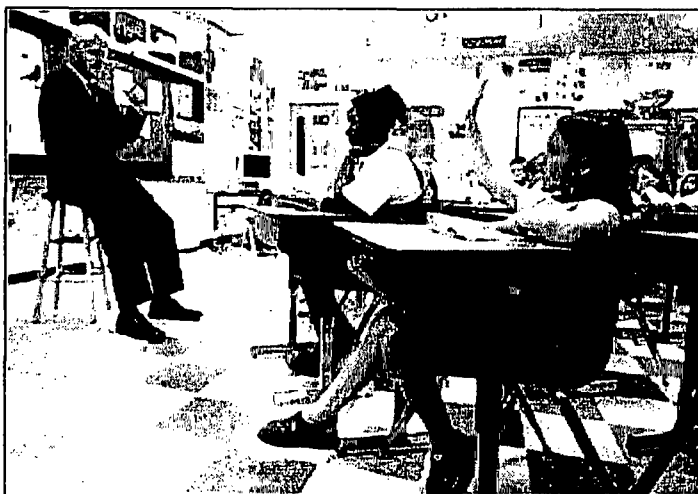
"I was surprised at how tall he is," said Sandi Boswell of Sorgho, who was among those greeting him. "He's a lot bigger than he looks on TV."

Nine television trucks were beaming live coverage of the event to Evansville, Louisville, Lexington and Carbondale, Ill.

Television cameramen swarmed over the playground west of the school to record the president's arrival.

Half a century ago, this was Slabtown -- a coal camp lined with the cabins of miners who toiled in the underground mines in Bon Harbor Hills across U.S. 60 to the north.

But not even ghosts of Slabtown remain today.



President Bill Clinton talks with students in Crystal Davidson's third and fourth-grade class at Audubon Elementary School Wednesday. Photo by Gary Emord-Netzley, M-I

Houses in Graystone Estates, the subdivision south of the school, start at \$130,000 and quickly escalate to \$190,000.

An estimated 200 people cheered from back yards there as Marine One touched down.

But despite the affluence of the neighborhood -- and the newness of the 8-year-old school -- Audubon was selected for the presidential visit because it is a high-performing "high-poverty" school.

It serves most of northwestern Daviess County and part of western Owensboro, not just its neighborhood.

State officials said more than 60 percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, yet the school ranks 18th in the state in its performance on tests.

Clinton told the crowd in the gym that the school has gone from having 12 percent of its students exceeding state standards in writing to 57 percent, from 5 percent to 70 percent in reading and from zero to 64 percent in science.

"Income is not destiny," he said.

Karen Cecil, a parent chosen to introduce Clinton, attended Stanley Elementary School -- Audubon's predecessor -- and three of her children have attended or now attend Audubon.

She credited parental involvement for the school's success.

Clinton also praised Principal Diane Embry. "You never have a great school without a great principal," he said.

In Crystal Davidson's third- and fourth-grade classroom, Clinton

read passages from the chapter, "A Miracle," in E.B. White's 1952 children's classic, "Charlotte's Web" -- a book that was published the year Clinton started elementary school.

It tells the story of a pig named Wilbur who is saved from the slaughterhouse by a spider named Charlotte. The pig gets credit for being smart, when it's really the spider who does all the work.

"I may recommend that book to Congress," Clinton joked.

He told the crowd, "Every one of the 19 students in that class read to me. You can't do that with 40 kids in a class."

Davidson was hired with federal funds through a Clinton program designed to reduce class sizes. When Embry referred to her as a "Clinton teacher," the president smiled and blushed.

"I didn't think of you as a 'Clinton teacher,'" he told Davidson, a first-year teacher from Reidland. "But I'll take it any day."

U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley said, "It's appropriate that this school is named for (artist) John Audubon. The students have learned to soar like Audubon's birds."

Gov. Paul Patton, Lt. Gov. Steve Henry, former U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford and former Kentucky Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. attended the event.

Clinton said he had known about Owensboro since he was a teen-ager. "My next-door neighbor in 1961 was the minister who married Wendell and Jean Ford," he told the crowd.

Ford said the Rev. W. L. Yeldell, then-pastor of Yellow Creek Baptist Church, performed their marriage ceremony on Sept. 18, 1940. "He (Yeldell) married a Daviess County girl named Boswell and moved away a few years later," Ford said.

Clinton spoke without notes for half an hour, in a conversational tone, telling the crowd about the successes American schools have seen and the challenges that lie ahead.

"The average school," he said, "is 40 years old. The average inner-city school is 65 years old. And there are schools in New York City that are still heated by coal."

Morton Holbrook of Owensboro has seen all 13 presidents of the past 75 years -- from Calvin Coolidge to Bill Clinton.

Holbrook, former chairman of the Kentucky Higher Education Council, called Clinton's speech "marvelous."

"He really knows what he's talking about," Holbrook said.

Nick Brake, director of assessment for county schools, said children had been excited all morning.

"They got to walk through the metal detectors," he said. "And

we're bringing bag lunches to their classrooms today. They were excited about that too."

The cafeteria was turned over to the national news media.

Henry, an Owensboro native, said he was called by a White House speech writer to provide information about the city for the president.

"I told him about the tornado," Henry said. "He used that and a lot of what I told them. But he didn't have time for everything."

Henry said he had worked behind the scenes to make sure Owensboro was the Kentucky city chosen for the visit.

Even Republicans were happy to see Clinton in Owensboro.

"He's the president of the United States," said state Rep. Mark Treesh, R-Philpot, who shook hands with Clinton twice. "Anytime you can get this kind of attention for your community, it's great."

Rep. Brian Crall, R-Owensboro, said, "It's a tremendous honor having the highest official in the land recognize one of the best school systems in the country. It's a great day for Owensboro."

U.S. Rep. Ron Lewis, R-Cecilia, sent out a news release thanking Clinton for visiting Owensboro.

"Any time a president visits a community, it is an honor," he said.

But Lewis said he disagrees with Clinton on the best way to spend federal education funds. Lewis favors giving more control to states and local communities.

At the end of his speech, Clinton left the platform to shake hands with Ford and then worked his way across the gym, shaking hands with anyone who could reach him.

Three women stood on chairs in the back of the room waving.

"He waved back," one of them screamed.

Keith Lawrence, (270) 691-7301
kLawrence@messenger-inquirer.com

► [Back to Top](#)

► [Send a letter to the editor](#)

► [Subscribe](#) ► [Search](#) ► [Help](#) ► [Feedback](#) ► [SiteMap](#)

Send your comments or suggestions about local news coverage to news@messenger-inquirer.com

**[Home](#) | [U.S. & World](#) | [Kentucky](#) | [Indiana](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Columnists](#) | [Community](#) |
[Perspective](#) | [Business](#) | [Agriculture](#) | [Education](#) | [Religion & Values](#) | [Your Health](#) | [Good](#)
[Times](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [Home & Garden](#) | [Food](#) | [Special Archives](#) | [Weather](#) | [The AP Wire](#)**

[Classified Ads](#) | [Voice Personals](#) | [Advertising](#)

[About the M-I](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Search](#) | [Help](#) | [Feedback](#) | [SiteMap](#)

©2000 Messenger-Inquirer



Myyellowpages.com

**It's your
business.**

Daviess County

messenger-inquirer.com



► [Subscribe](#) ► [Search](#) ► [Help](#) ► [Feedback](#) ► [SiteMap](#)

Audubon settles down after big day

5 May 2000

By Steve Vied
Messenger-Inquirer

As best it could, Audubon Elementary School returned to normal Thursday.

The helicopters were long gone. For the first time in a week, no Secret Service agents roamed the halls and no police patrolled outside.

Most of all, President Clinton had left the building.

Clinton made a historic visit to Audubon on Wednesday, first leading the students in Crystal Davidson's class in a reading session and then, during a speech to several hundred people gathered in the gym, holding up Audubon as an example to the entire nation of a school that excels despite the low-income status of more than half of its students.

By the end of the school day Thursday, Audubon Principal Diane Embry was running out of steam.

"I've been very tired all day long, and I'm still trying to really believe it wasn't a dream," Embry said. "Everybody in the community felt the adrenaline. The students came in quiet and subdued. They were tired. They felt the adrenaline, too."

There were numerous reminders of the president's visit, however. Many students and staff brought in pictures that were taken Wednesday, and the Century 21 Partners real-estate office purchased 400 copies of Wednesday's Messenger-Inquirer and had them delivered to the school. The front section of the paper had nine stories and 13 photos relating to Clinton's visit to the school and the nearby Moonlite Bar-B-Que Inn.

"I had the students in Miss Davidson's class sign my copy, since

Related Links

► [Obituaries](#)

► [Records](#)

**U.S. &
World**

Kentucky

► [Daviess
County](#)

► [Hancock
County](#)

► [McLean
County](#)

► [Muhlenberg
County](#)

► [Ohio County](#)

Indiana

► [Perry
County](#)

► [Spencer
County](#)

Columnists

► [Dan Heckel](#)

► [Keith
Lawrence](#)

► [Lora
Wimsatt](#)

they are all celebrities now," Embry said.

Embry spent part of Thursday at a Daviess County Public Schools staff meeting, where the prime topic of conversation was Clinton's visit.

"People are still glowing," Embry said. "I know we are at Audubon."

Davidson's students spent the better part of an hour reading the Messenger-Inquirer, which featured a large photo on the front page of Clinton sitting on a stool in their classroom.

Davidson, a rookie teacher, admitted that Thursday was a bit of a letdown.

"Today has been a different day, so different," Davidson said. "It was really quiet around here. It's the first day without a lot of people in the building. It was a complete turnaround today. It was a little sad. We have fun here at Audubon, but not like (Wednesday)."

Ever mindful of teachable moments, Davidson put the president's visit to good use.

"We did use the president's visit to our advantage," she said. "We wrote a personal narrative, so we did get something accomplished. We talked a lot and tried to get them settled in."

Some of Davidson's students concluded that Clinton was a pretty regular guy.

"A couple decided he's just a normal person, and it made them think they can do whatever they dream to do," Davidson said. "He was really down to earth. It was a good opportunity for them to see the way he was."

Personally, Davidson was still feeling the emotional impact of Clinton's appearance in her room.

"As I sat down on my stool this morning, I thought 'Just yesterday the president was here,' " she said. "When I go home to Paducah I'll have lots of stories to tell. It was a great experience."

Daviess County schools Superintendent Stu Silberman said he was exhausted Thursday after several 15- and 16-hour days preparing for the president -- not to mention the teachers and staff who also put in long hours.

But the most difficult part of the whole event wasn't a physical chore, Silberman.

"The hardest thing was deciding how to get 90,000 people into that gym," Silberman joked.

The school distributed at least 50 invitations to see Clinton's speech to various school personnel and local and state leaders.

The district actually ended up with more invitations than that, but Silberman said he wasn't sure of the exact number. That was another thing that was hard to deal with: everything was in flux until the last minute, he said.

"Early on, things changed by the day," Silberman said. "Then they started changing by the hour."

The district, for example, had planned to feed the president at Audubon, Silberman said, but those plans were eventually canceled in favor of a quick trip to Moonlite Bar-B-Q Inn.

Silberman said the district will use Clinton's visit to "springboard to a higher level."

"After that kind of affirmation, raising the bar higher is easier to do," Silberman said.

Reporter Mark Cooper contributed to this story.

Steve Vied, (270) 691-7305
sVied@messenger-inquirer.com

► [Back to Top](#)

► [Send a letter to the editor](#)

► [Subscribe](#) ► [Search](#) ► [Help](#) ► [Feedback](#) ► [SiteMap](#)

Send your comments or suggestions about local news coverage to news@messenger-inquirer.com

[Home](#) | [U.S. & World](#) | [Kentucky](#) | [Indiana](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Columnists](#) | [Community](#) |
[Perspective](#) | [Politics](#) | [Business](#) | [Agriculture](#) | [Education](#) | [Religion & Values](#) | [Your Health](#) |
[Good Times](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [Home & Garden](#) | [Food](#) | [Special Archives](#) | [Weather](#) | [The AP Wire](#)

[Classified Ads](#) | [Voice Personals](#) | [Advertising](#)

[About the M-I](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Search](#) | [Help](#) | [Feedback](#) | [SiteMap](#)

©2000 Messenger-Inquirer

**Myyellowpages.com****It's your
business.****Clinton Education Visit****messenger-inquirer.com**[►Subscribe](#) [►Search](#) [►Help](#) [►Feedback](#) [►SiteMap](#)[Related Links](#)

Student says it's 'a day I'll never forget'

President is a hit with Audubon class*4 May 2000***By Mark Cooper
Messenger-Inquirer**

Latanya Carter doesn't know much about politics. She can't give you details about President Bill Clinton's education policy, nor does the 10-year-old have an opinion about how to improve schools in America.

But like other students at Audubon Elementary School who had a close encounter with Clinton on Wednesday, Carter won't easily forget Clinton's physical presence.

"I thought he was cute," Carter said. "My grandmother did, too."

Carter was among the 19 third- and fourth-graders in Crystal Davidson's class who met the president face-to-face during a reading session at the school.

Kyle Gardner, 10, found himself in shock to be in the same room as the world's most powerful man. Clinton's charm, however, soon put him at ease, he said.

"All of my nervousness popped out of me," Gardner said.

Clinton listened as the children read the chapter in "Charlotte's Web" that describes how the spider tries to save the life of a pig by weaving a message in her web.

Megan Hicks, 11, said she had trouble reading the word, "bewilderment."

"He explained it to us," Hicks said.

Another student, Tyler Brown, 10, wrote a poem especially for the

president that used the letters in "president" to describe Clinton as, among other things, as "respectful," "energetic" and "dignified." The class also presented Clinton with a card they had made for him.

Davidson, who is ending her first year as a teacher, said she was concerned that her students would clam up when face-to-face with Clinton.

"He worked well with the students," said Davidson, 22. "I thought they might be a little intimidated, but they were great."

The visit has inspired Jameka Calhoun, 10, to become the nation's first woman president so she can "help people and give the homeless money," she said.

"I want to give speeches and inspire other children," Calhoun said.

Davidson believes that Clinton's visit can be a life-changing event for many of her students.

"I think they got such an impact from Clinton," Davidson said. "They realized that he's just a person and that they can achieve high goals themselves."

As for her, Clinton wasn't nearly as intimidating as all the reporters that followed the president throughout his visit, Davidson said.

"I was still a little scared with all the cameras," Davidson said.

After his speech, students crowded against the ropes to shake Clinton's hand as he made his way to a waiting limousine.

"This is a day I'll never forget," said Tony Horn, 11. "This is the best day."

But the students won't really recognize the magnitude of Clinton's visit until they are older, said Terry Davis, a fifth-grade social studies teacher at Audubon.

"They don't realize it today, but they are privileged to have this honor," Davis said.

"It will be something they'll always remember," Davidson said, "but I don't believe it's set in with them yet. They're still kids."

A few hours after Clinton's helicopter lifted off, Audubon Principal Diane Embry said she was still lightheaded from the encounter. The school will follow up Clinton's visit with plenty of thank you notes and letters from the students, she said.

"It's kind of overwhelming, still," Embry said. "It's like a dream almost."

Davidson said her class now has "a lot of thanking to do" this week, including thanking other teachers at Audubon who helped Davidson prepare for Clinton's visit.

The students, who will visit Frankfort next week, will also use Clinton's visit to write their first personal narrative piece for their writing portfolio, which will be due next year, Davidson said.

"This has been a great opportunity to study government," Davidson said.

Mark Cooper, (270) 691-7295
mCooper@messenger-inquirer.com

► [Back to Top](#)

► [Send a letter to the editor](#)

► [Subscribe](#) ► [Search](#) ► [Help](#) ► [Feedback](#) ► [SiteMap](#)

Send your comments or suggestions about local news coverage to news@messenger-inquirer.com

[Home](#) | [U.S. & World](#) | [Kentucky](#) | [Indiana](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Columnists](#) | [Community](#) |
[Perspective](#) | [Business](#) | [Agriculture](#) | [Education](#) | [Religion & Values](#) | [Your Health](#) | [Good](#)
[Times](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [Home & Garden](#) | [Food](#) | [Special Archives](#) | [Weather](#) | [The AP Wire](#)

[Classified Ads](#) | [Voice Personals](#) | [Advertising](#)

[About the M-I](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Search](#) | [Help](#) | [Feedback](#) | [SiteMap](#)

©2000 Messenger-Inquirer

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

Ohio

Divider Title: _____

Some people need a mortgage with a

Ohio's Greatest Home Newspaper

The Columbus Dispatch

School helps Clinton make his case

President praises Eastgate's academic 'turnaround'

Friday, May 5, 2000

By Joe Hallett
Dispatch Politics Editor

As President Clinton worked his way down a corridor, shaking hands with each of the 195 students at Eastgate Elementary School, Dwayne Logan finally got his turn.

"I told him he's a very good man and I would like to have him be the president for the rest of my life," the 10-year-old fourth-grader said.

As much as Clinton might share that wish, it won't happen.

But in his eight remaining months in office, Clinton signaled yesterday, he intends to use the bully pulpit to improve schools, badgering Congress to pass his education budget and heralding communities with school programs that work.

Winding up a two-day, four-city education tour in Columbus -- his first visit to the city in nearly four years -- Clinton heaped praise on Eastgate, calling it a "turnaround school" for its dramatic improvements in student reading and math scores.

The president said the predominantly black school on the East Side had put federal education dollars to good use by reducing class sizes, providing mentors to first-year teachers and offering after-school tutoring.

"You have proved that with the right tools and with the right ideas, you can do what needs to be done," Clinton told an audience of about 225 packed into the school's small, sweltering gym.

Clinton spent more than three hours in the city and was in no hurry to leave. After greeting the children and participating in an hourlong roundtable discussion, he lingered for about 45 minutes to shake hands and chat with all who approached.



Eric Albrecht / Dispatch

Students welcome President Clinton to Eastgate Elementary School. Clinton made the East Side school the final stop on his two-day, four-city trip to promote his education ideas, including a \$4.5 billion increase in federal education spending.

Related stories:

Onlookers display views in signs of the times
Barbara Carmen: Clinton brings right message at wrong time

Teachers, children and their parents were thrilled.

Youseff Inman said his three children -- twin daughters Adina and Addi, 7, in first grade and a son, Menelik, 9, in third grade -- were excited.

"That's all they talked about," Inman said. "We had to go through several changes with their clothes -- from long sleeves to short sleeves and back."

George Hill, a special-education teacher, said he tried to prepare his students.

"I pulled up Clinton's Web page so they could see who he was," he said. "The main question was, 'Is he rich?'"

Clinton addressed the matter of wealth -- the nation's, not his -- in the roundtable discussion with Mayor Michael B. Coleman; Rosa Smith, superintendent of Columbus Public Schools; and seven other panelists.

With the economy roaring, he said, Congress has an obligation to pass his proposed budget, which includes a \$4.5 billion (12 percent) increase in education funding.

"What are we going to do with this prosperity? If we're not going to do this now, when in the wide world are we going to do it?" he said.

While Clinton advocates more charter schools -- public schools created by parents and teachers and exempt from most state regulations -- the GOP-controlled Congress wants federal funding of vouchers for poor families to send their children to private or parochial schools.

Chris Paulitz, spokesman for the Republican National Committee, said Clinton and Vice President Al Gore oppose vouchers because they are beholden to teachers unions.

"Clinton and Gore have held minority students in poor communities hostage by not allowing school choice," Paulitz said.

But at Eastgate, the president found evidence that stronger federal support for public schools pays dividends. Federal dollars have helped the school reduce classes sizes in grades one through three to an average of 15 students and make other improvements.

The results have been impressive. Sixty-six percent of Eastgate fourth-graders passed the writing test, compared with 64 percent statewide.

The success rate on the state reading test rose from 9.5 percent in 1998 to 45.4 percent last year, and in math, from 9.5 percent to 30.3 percent.

"It's not like we don't know what works," he said, calling on panelists to describe the benefits of federal programs.

Heather Knapp, hired at East Linden Elementary School last year with the help of federal-class reduction funds, said smaller classes have helped her assist a large number of immigrant children who have trouble speaking English.

"I'm able to give one-on-one time helping them assimilate into American culture," she said.

Shirley Goins, a sixth-grade teacher at Monroe Traditional Middle School, said a school-uniform policy she helped institute has helped students better concentrate on their studies.



President Clinton told a roundtable group that economic prosperity should mean more money for schools. "If we're not going to do this now, when in the wide world are we going to do it?"

"When you all look alike," Goins said, "you don't waste time worrying about what somebody else is wearing."

Dispatch Staff Reporter Ruth Sternberg contributed to this story.

[HOME](#) | [SPONSORED EVENTS](#) | [CLASSIFIEDS](#) | [ONLINE YELLOW PAGES](#) | [SUBSCRIBE](#) | [CONTACT US](#)

Copyright © 2000, The Columbus Dispatch

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

Iowa

Divider Title: _____

Copyright 2000 The Washington Post
The Washington Post

View Related Topics

May 4, 2000, Thursday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A08

LENGTH: 700 words

HEADLINE: School's In on Education Reform; Clinton Opens Two-Day, Four-State Swing to Push Proposals

BYLINE: Charles Babington , Washington Post Staff Writer

DATELINE: DAVENPORT, Iowa, May 3

BODY:

There was a time when the federal government had little to do with public education, leaving it mainly to local school boards, county officials and state legislators.

But the public's rising concern about poorly performing schools--along with the waning of other issues since the end of the Cold War and the start of a long economic boom--have pushed education to the front burner of national politics. Both of the leading presidential candidates have made it central to their campaigns, and President Clinton today launched a two-day, four-state "School Reform Tour" to highlight his proposals for federal funding of school construction, teacher training and other initiatives.

Meanwhile, the Senate took up an education debate this week that some legislators say is more likely to produce fodder for the election campaign than an accord the Republican-led Congress will pass and Clinton will sign. Both parties in Congress support increased federal spending on public education, as do Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, and Vice President Gore, the Democratic candidate. But they differ on how the money should be controlled and spent, and that dispute has scuttled past efforts to enact major education legislation.

Republicans generally want a more limited federal hand in public education, preferring to allow local school districts to decide how to attack problems. Many Democrats want to channel federal funds--which account for 7 percent of all public education spending--to specific programs such as reducing class sizes.

Clinton is emphasizing a different theme at each stop, and today's topics were turning around low-performing schools and boosting school construction and renovations. In Owensboro, Ky., the president toured Audubon Elementary School, where only 5 percent of the students showed proficiency in a statewide reading test in 1994, and none in science. Today, those figures are 70 percent for reading and 64 percent for science.

Audubon was among the targets of Kentucky's 1990 "standards-based" school reform program, which included using federal funds to hire extra teachers and reduce class sizes. After reading portions of "Charlotte's Web" to Crystal Davidson's third- and fourth-grade students, the president addressed several hundred adults in the school auditorium, citing Audubon and Kentucky as national models.

He said the state decided 10 years ago to "set high standards" and hold schools accountable "with real consequences" if they failed to meet those standards despite receiving state and federal help. The tactics in some schools included replacing principals and giving parents the right to shift their children to other public schools, he said.

"The results have been truly extraordinary," Clinton said. "I believe so strongly that we can have the kind of educational excellence we need for every child in the country, if people will take the basic things you've done here and do them."

Clinton praised Gore three times in the speech, and made clear he sides with the vice president on a key issue: The government, he said, should not "take money away from the schools as vouchers" for private education. He urged Congress to pass his legislative package on education, which calls for higher federal spending on low-performing schools, school construction, after-school programs and summer education efforts in low-income areas.

Clinton's education tour happens to hit four states considered battlegrounds in the presidential race: **Kentucky, Iowa, Minnesota and Ohio**. Some Republicans accused the president of picking the sites to help Gore's campaign, a charge the White House denied.

Congressional GOP leaders would let as many as 15 states establish federally funded charter schools with substantial leeway to spend the money as they please, provided they promise to improve low-performance schools. Clinton also favors more federally funded charter schools, but he would place tighter controls on them.

From Owensboro, Clinton traveled to Davenport where he pushed his plan for increased spending on school construction in a speech at Central High School, built in 1904.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 04, 2000

FOCUSTM

Search: General News;Clinton Education Tour and Kentucky and Ohio and...

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

Example: House of Representatives

FOCUS

About LEXIS-NEXIS | Terms and Conditions | What's New
Copyright © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group. All rights reserved.



**BMW
7 SERIES**

Kimberly Imports
625 W. Kimberly Rd • Davenport, IA
319-391-8300



HOME | NEWS | LIFESTYLES | BUSINESS | COLUMNISTS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | CLASSIFIEDS | SPECIAL SECTIONS | WEATHER | OBITUARIES

NAVIGATION

LOCAL NEWS
NATIONAL NEWS
IOWA / ILLINOIS
OPINION
E - THE PEOPLE
QC2K
WEATHER
OBITUARIES
LETTERS TO EDITOR

ONLINE TOOLS

Site Map
How to Advertise
Subscriptions
Sponsor Directory



PRESIDENTIAL



VISIT 2000

Complete coverage from our 11 member
Clinton reporting team.

Last updated on:

Thu May 4 11:41:20 CDT 2000

Presidential visit: Quad-Citians assess Clinton legacy

QUAD-CITY TIMES -- May 3, 2000

Your e-mail on Clinton's legacy

"I hope that his legacy won't all be focused on the Monica Lewinsky situation, and I think unfortunately part of it will be," said Clinton Mayor LaMetta Wynn. "But I think he has done so much for our country in the fact that he has put very, very responsible women and minorities in high positions. I'm sure that this is not because of a quota of any kind, but I do think he has found very good people to put in these positions, and I think we all should be proud of him for that.

"We're doing especially well right now as far as our jobs, and I think he's worked very hard for education issues. I think we could have a little more done for health issues, but I think education and the welfare of our people he has addressed very nicely, and I hope those things will be a part of his legacy."

Moved to center

Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller, a Democrat, said Clinton should be credited for economic growth, a decline in crime and his impact on the Democratic Party. "He really has moved the Democratic Party into the center, into the mainstream," said Miller, who is serving his fifth term as attorney general. "That's where elections are won."

Pro-abortion label

"I think his legacy is that he is reflective of the Democratic politic in that abortion be legal, safe and rare ... the Democrats, along with Clinton, have done everything to see that abortion is not rare," said the Rev. Rudolph T. Juarez, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Davenport. "To me this is a negative reflection on his presidency because I see it as a lack of willingness to defend the most vulnerable in our society.

"Other than that, as far as moral questions go ... well, I think the actions speak for themselves.

"The great distressing point for me is that he is representative of the Democratic policy we have in our country on the pro-life issue. In my mind, he will go down as a pro-abortion president."

**See Photo
Preside**

The Presidential Itinerary:

- 5:05pm
the Qu
Interna
near M
- 5:45 p.
tour of
Centra
- 6:15 p.
Address
Centra
Admis
invitati
- 7:45 p.
from th
Interna

Other C



Bill W



Barb

Lost opportunities

"I think his legacy is going to be one of opportunities lost," said Bettendorf Chamber of Commerce President Scott Tunnickliff. "His term could have been marked with tremendous progress in globalization of a strong economy and instead was wasted with efforts to do battle with persons equally small-minded, who placed his public disgrace and failure above the good of the country."

He said the public scrutiny of Bill Clinton's life could have a chilling effect on others considering public service at a time when that service is needed most.

"With world-scale mergers and acquisitions, we're seeing the decision-making capacity within a community somewhat diminished," Tunnickliff explained. "This is a time when, more than ever, citizens are needed to get actively involved in the governmental process to help enhance their community. A lot of people, I think, are hesitant because of the scrutiny and the loss of privacy and the sacrifices they'd have to make for family."

"It's stupid to lay all of that at one person's feet. Certainly the people pursuing him are at fault as well. The irony is that presiding over a strong economy as they did, enabled them to, if they chose, make some outstanding progress in terms of addressing the budget, long-term health care needs and expanding the free-enterprise system into second- and third-world markets. It's kind of amazing that we were able to achieve what we have."

Brazen dishonesty

Kayne Robinson, chairman of the Republican Party of Iowa, argues that Clinton's legacy will be far less positive.

"It seems to me the thing that a lot of people are going to remember is the brazen, in-your-face dishonesty. There were many examples in which the entire country knew what he was saying wasn't true, and he would get up with a sly smile on his face and say, 'I did not have sex with that woman.'"

Reduced class sizes

Pleasant Valley School Superintendent Dale Barber said federal class-size reduction and school technology initiatives have been among the educational highlights of the Clinton administration.

Under one program, school districts that meet financial guidelines can receive government credit for expenses related to new technology. Although Pleasant Valley has not qualified for much financial assistance under the program, Barber credits the Clinton and Gore bully pulpits with making Internet access a high-profile issue in education.

More direct benefit to Pleasant Valley schools has come from federal class-size reduction funds, which, combined with state class-size reduction money, has allowed for smaller K-3 classes and a new first-grade section this year at Riverdale Heights Elementary.

Still, in education funding, most federal funds are funneled through state governments before reaching local schools, while education mandates may be passed directly to school districts.

"The federal government has a great deal of impact on what we have to do, but in terms of actually doing it, very little is done there," Barber said.

More cops on the street

Clinton pledged during his 1992 presidential campaign to put 100,000

more police on the street, an initiative that has affected police departments throughout the country.

In LeClaire, a sixth police officer and full-time police records clerk were hired thanks to federal COPS More grants. But after three years, the grants expired and the small city this winter was thrown into a budget crisis for the 2000-2001 year, in part because of the now-unfunded police department positions.

Eventually, the budget was balanced by shaving line items for such expenses as vehicle fuel and equipment maintenance throughout the city, and increasing the revenue anticipated from traffic tickets and other fines.

Still, LeClaire Police Chief Jim Pfeiffer does not resent the temporary nature of the federal assistance.

"It was a little bit of a challenge based upon the budget and so forth," he said. "It helped us a lot naturally using the seed money to get the program going. It gave the cities the responsibility to continue the program after the funding ran out, which we did."

LeClaire police calls have increased from about 900 to more than 5000 a year since officer Todd Johnson joined the department, he said.

"The community is growing quite a bit. Our responsibilities are continually increasing," Pfeiffer said. "He's done a great job for us. We certainly needed him."

He said he is unaware of any departments that had to terminate officers when the supporting grants ended.

In Bettendorf as well, five new officers were hired over the years thanks to federal grants, allowing the department to add a fourth beat where there had previously been three and put a police liaison officer at Bettendorf Middle School. A sixth grant is expected this summer.

Chief Phil Redington said Bettendorf was able to fund the positions as the seed money ran out, but the funds did help the city manage growth it would otherwise have had to pay for on its own.

Charisma vs. humanity

"President Clinton has skills for shaping and guiding government to provide for the people of the nation and the world and the charisma to rally people with him," said Rev. Ginger Anderson-Larson, the pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Davenport. "And he has the same brokenness we all have in human character in which self and its desires are so easily shifted into the center and others are disappointed, victimized and or hurt by it."

An international legacy

"I think as a president he has done great things. He has basically, through his leadership, brought about the best economic times we have ever had," said the Rev. Rogers Kirk, pastor of Third Missionary Baptist Church, Davenport.

"I think he has stood for fairness. I think when the country looks back in retrospect, they will find he has been a president who has been concerned about peace. He has gotten involved in a lot of the peace initiatives all over the world, specifically, over in the Middle East and over in Northern Ireland. The (rest of) the world has given him accolades for that. We in America have not given him the credit for leading those initiatives. Other nations have applauded him for taking the stand he has on world peace.

"I think if there are any negatives in his presidency, it would be the scandal he had to endure. If we take that and put that aside, I think he

rates up there as one of the greatest presidents the United States has ever had."

A trickle-down recovery

"I think he's been one of the best presidents I've ever seen, the best since FDR as far as unemployment being so low and inflation being so low and the stock markets doing so well," said Krish Mohip, 22, Clinton, a Mount St. Clare College senior and former Clinton City Council candidate in November.

"The economy is just booming. I think it's just beginning to recover from Reagan's era of trickle-down economics. I also think he's tried to do a lot for education, more so than any president I can remember in recent past. So if he could run again, I'd vote for him."

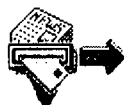
Conscious of Americans cries

"I think he's a man of integrity in the way he runs the country. I think he's very conscious of the cries of the people of America," said the Rev. Anthony Johnson, pastor of Pentecostal Apostolic Faith Church, Davenport:

"With all that he has to deal with, he tries to meet the demands and he tries to live up to the call of the office.

"I think whoever receives the baton from him will not have to lay another foundation. They can just build on top of the foundation that has been laid."

By Chris Youngquist, Barb Arland-Fye, Kay Luna, Char Bielema and Todd Dorman



E-mail this story to a friend.



See Photos of the President's Visit

[top of page]



BMW
7 SERIES

Kimberly Imports

625 W. Kimberly Rd. • Davenport, IA
319-391-8300



For

Site

HOME | NEWS | LIFESTYLES | BUSINESS | COLUMNISTS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | CLASSIFIEDS | SPECIAL SECTIONS | WEATHER | OBITUARIES

NAVIGATION

LOCAL NEWS
NATIONAL NEWS
IOWA / ILLINOIS
OPINION
E - THE PEOPLE
QC2K
WEATHER
OBITUARIES
LETTERS TO EDITOR

ONLINE TOOLS

Site Map
How to Advertise
Subscriptions
Sponsor Directory



PRESIDENTIAL



VISIT 2000

Complete coverage from our 11 member
Clinton reporting team.

Last updated on:
Thu May 4 11:41:20 CDT 2000

Editorial: President says 'The time is now' to fix schools

QUAD-CITY TIMES - May 4, 2000

It's no secret why President Clinton chose Davenport Central High School as the backdrop for Wednesday's speech about the nation's school infrastructure needs.

Central High School represents all that is good - and some of what is lacking - in public education today. It is, as the president acknowledged, "a beautiful old school," one that was built for the future back in 1904. But today, like many schools, it is overcrowded and technologically out of date.

Local residents have done their part by approving a 1 percent sales tax that is funding a 10-year, \$120 million program to renovate and repair school buildings throughout the district. More than \$4 million will be spent at Central, which has inadequate ventilation, serious wiring problems and other structural issues.

But more needs to be done. And with the United States falling behind so many other countries in the area of education, it's time the federal government began to provide some of the funding our schools so desperately need. Schools that don't perform, after all, have a direct effect on our nation's economy and our ability to compete in a global marketplace.

Even Clinton's detractors agree with the president that American schools need to be brought up to date and that the federal government should play a role in making that happen. The only question is how and when - and the president addressed both of those points in his speech at Central.

The Clinton plan would award tax credits to states and cities for the construction and modernization of 6,000 schools. It also would provide school construction funding that would enable states and school districts to make emergency repairs on an additional 5,000 schools per year. Republican leaders are arguing in favor of block grants that would enable the states to decide how federal money is spent.

The philosophy behind the GOP proposal - more local control - is sound, but it's highly unlikely that the current Congress would ever commit to providing increased funding for schools beyond the next several years. And barring such a commitment, school districts would

See Photo
President

The President's Itinerary:

- 5:05pm the Qu Interna near M
- 5:45 p. tour of Centra
- 6:15 p. Address Centra Admis invitati
- 7:45 p. from th Interna

Other C



Bill W



Barb

be well advised to spend any federal infusion of cash on infrastructure needs rather than ongoing programs with recurring costs that would then be passed on to local taxpayers.

Regardless of which plan is enacted, the American public is fortunate that this increased willingness on the part of the federal government to pay for school improvements comes now, during a period of sustained economic prosperity. At this point in history, we have not only the desire to make our schools better, but the means to do so. It's an opportunity that won't last forever. We need federal reinvestment in America's schools and we can't afford to wait.

As the president said, "The time is now."



E-mail this story to a friend.



See Photos of the President's Visit

[top of page]



**BMW
7 SERIES**

Kimberly Imports
625 W. Kimberly Rd - Davenport, IA
319-391-6300



For

Site

HOME | NEWS | LIFESTYLES | BUSINESS | COLUMNISTS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | CLASSIFIEDS | SPECIAL SECTIONS | WEATHER | OBITUARIES

NAVIGATION

LOCAL NEWS
NATIONAL NEWS
IOWA / ILLINOIS
OPINION
E - THE PEOPLE
QC2K
WEATHER
OBITUARIES
LETTERS TO EDITOR

ONLINE TOOLS

Site Map
How to Advertise
Subscriptions
Sponsor Directory



PRESIDENTIAL



VISIT 2000

Complete coverage from our 11 member
Clinton reporting team.

Last updated on:

Thu May 4 11:41:20 CDT 2000

Clinton to students "The problems you have here are by no way unique"

By Ann McGlynn, QUAD-CITY TIMES - May 4, 2000

Mike Shupe's 25 anatomy and physiology students waited eagerly. They were psyched. President Clinton was coming to their classroom in their high school.

He walked in the door. There was an audible gasp. It wasn't an ordinary gasp. It was an oh-my-gosh-the-president-is-in-our-classroom gasp.

The president of the United States of America simply said, "Hello."

Clinton toured Davenport Central High School before addressing a crowd of about 3,000 in its sweltering gymnasium Wednesday evening. He met students and staff in a part of the school basement affectionately known as The Dungeon, saw the boys' locker room and the cafeteria. He made his way up five flights of steps to take a peek at the fifth-floor library. Then it was on to the sixth floor to visit Mike Shupe and Mark Richter's science classrooms.

Shupe showed Clinton the awkward electrical outlets and the sole natural gas valve in the front of his classroom. He also pointed out a detailed drawing of the human skin hanging on the bulletin board. Someone signed their name to the drawing in 1918.

Also, Shupe explained that the cabinets which have been in the room since the school was built 96 years ago probably will stay when the building undergoes a \$4.4 million renovation.

The students listened quietly. The president liked Shupe's idea.

"There are some extraordinary characteristics in these old buildings," he said. Clinton also noted that a school building such as Central could not be built today because it would be too expensive.

While Central has problems, the president said there are schools around America with worse troubles. He made note of one in New York City that still has a coal-fed furnace.

"The problems you have here are by no way unique," he said.

See Photo
President

The Presidential Itinerary:

- 5:05pm the Quad City Internationals near M
- 5:45 p.m. tour of Central
- 6:15 p.m. Address Central Admissions
- 7:45 p.m. from the Internationals

Other Clinton



Bill W



Barb

Clinton stopped next in Richter's physics class before walking down a hallway lined with old oaken lockers that have been in the school since it opened.

Clinton took time to examine the lockers on the sixth floor, which are the only ones in the building that haven't been painted or replaced. Senior Kelly Witt, who led Clinton on the tour, told him students don't actually like to have a locker on the sixth floor despite their beauty.

"It's a haul to get up here," she said.

Witt was the first person from Central to shake the president's hand when he arrived.

They chatted about what will be done at the school with the \$4.4 million. Clinton asked a few questions. Witt sheepishly admitted that she got his autograph after all was said and done.

"He had this charisma about him," she said. "Even when the press wasn't there, he was the same guy."

"It was the highlight of my four years at Central," she added.

Ricky Harris greeted the president when he arrived in The Dungeon. He was the second Davenport Central person to shake Clinton's hand.

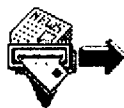
"That's when the butterflies started," he said.

The president asked which school Harris will attend next year and what he will study. The teen will major in dramatic arts at Tennessee State University.

"He's really nice," Harris said of Clinton while sitting in the bleachers before the speech.

Shupe, the teacher who showed off his classroom to Clinton, agreed with Harris. The teacher's thankfulness for the president's visit was just as humble as Clinton's simple "Hello" upon his arrival in the classroom.

"We really appreciate him stopping by," Shupe said.



E-mail this story to a friend.



See Photos of the President's Visit

[top of page]


**BMW
7 SERIES**
Kimberly Imports
 626 W. Kimberly Rd • Davenport, IA
 319-391-8300


HOME | NEWS | LIFESTYLES | BUSINESS | COLUMNISTS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | CLASSIFIEDS | SPECIAL SECTIONS | WEATHER | OBITUARIES

NAVIGATION

 LOCAL NEWS
 NATIONAL NEWS
 IOWA / ILLINOIS
 OPINION
 E - THE PEOPLE
 QC2K
 WEATHER
 OBITUARIES
 LETTERS TO EDITOR

ONLINE TOOLS

 Site Map
 How to Advertise
 Subscriptions
 Sponsor Directory

PRESIDENTIAL

VISIT 2000

 Complete coverage from our 11 member
 Clinton reporting team.

 Last updated on:
 Thu May 4 11:41:20 CDT 2000

President brings promise of federal help for local schools

By Ed Tibbetts, QUAD-CITY TIMES - May 4, 2000

He was the first president ever to visit Davenport Central High School, and when President Clinton came here Wednesday, it didn't seem to matter to the 3,000 people in the sweltering gymnasium that he was holding up the 96-year-old building as an example of the nation's ailing educational infrastructure.

Instead, the people sitting on metal chairs and benches enthusiastically greeted the president, who acknowledged the building's failings but went on to praise the district for raising local money to fix the problem. He then urged Congress to get into the act.

Clinton came to Davenport as part of a four-stop, two-day tour to push his education plan as the Senate debates reauthorization of a primary piece of legislation that funds a plethora of education programs. The other stop Wednesday was in Kentucky to talk about turning around schools that are not performing.

He will be in St. Paul, Minn., and Columbus, Ohio, today.

One of Clinton's signature proposals is to use federal money to fix up school buildings, and he toured Central on Wednesday to highlight the need for modernizing schools, particularly when times are good economically. "I hope America will see this problem, this opportunity through you and your school, Clinton said. "If we can't do this now ... we'll never get around to it."

Noting that when it opened in 1907, Central was called a "high school for the future," he said that the community and district had grown and the school had not kept up. "I want every single school in America to be a high school for the future," he said. "You need it, you deserve it."

Clinton said that in Philadelphia, the age of the school buildings average more than 65 years and in New York, some buildings are still heated by coal fired furnaces. In fact, the lack of air conditioning in Central High School on Wednesday lent a sort of unintentional weight to the president's words as more than one person wiped sweat from their brow as they waited for the president to arrive.

A National Education Association report, released Wednesday and cited by Clinton at Central, said the nation's schools need \$322 billion

 See Photo
 President

The President's Itinerary:

- 5:05pm the Qu Interna near M
- 5:45 p. tour of Centra
- 6:15 p. Address Centra Admis invitati
- 7:45 p. from th Interna

Other C

Bill W

Barb

in infrastructure and technological improvements, \$3.8 billion of it in Iowa and \$11.3 billion in Illinois. Clinton has proposed spending \$9 billion over the next five years to fix up schools, plans that aides say will leverage about \$20 billion per year in improvements.

Republicans in general, and particularly in the Senate, have criticized the plan, saying such decisions should be left to local school boards. Instead, Senate Republicans have proposed sending more money to local districts in block grants. They have proposed more modest federal subsidies for school construction.

A Davenport school board member, Steve Imming, said that state and federal money isn't always the answer. As an example, he cited a state grant that paid for computers but did not fund ongoing maintenance costs, money the district had to come up with. Still, he added, "If things are left wide open, buildings don't get fixed."

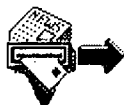
Interestingly, Davenport is one of those communities that has taken the initiative to fix its own buildings, though officials say it isn't enough and it only came after years of failed bond proposals.

The penny sales tax voters approved last year will fund \$10-12 million per year in improvements. While Clinton held up Central as part of his national campaign to highlight failing school infrastructure, the reason it didn't bother students or school officials is because of that.

"We're doing something about it," Superintendent Jim Blanche said.

The president's speech lasted only about 15 minutes, after which he stepped from the lectern and worked the crowd, shaking hands as if he were a candidate rather than a two-term president in his last months in office. Clinton mentioned the two trips he made here during his first presidential campaign in 1992 and at one point said, "I love this community."

The school apparently shared Clinton's affection. He received a resounding welcome, and, Central's senior class president - who earned no small amount of applause himself - said that it was a day students will remember. "This is a part of everybody's life. Something we'll write down and remember, take out newspaper clippings," said Ricky Waters, 17. "There's a lot of excitement."



E-mail this story to a friend.



See Photos of the President's Visit

[top of page]

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

Minnesota

Divider Title: _____

<ADVERTISEMENT>



PIONEERPLANET

YELLOW PAGES

CARS.COM

CAREERPATH

HOMES/RENTALS

Published: Friday, May 5, 2000

STORY OPTIONS

- [E-mail to a friend](#)
- [Print this article](#)

[PioneerPlanet: front](#)[News](#)[Business](#)[Sports](#)[Entertainment/Just Go](#)[Living](#)[Tech](#)[Water Cooler](#)[Special Reports](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Site index](#)

President's pep rally

Greeted warmly at St. Paul's City Academy, Clinton praises Minnesota for striking the 'right balance' in its charter school law.

KRISTINA TORRES STAFF WRITER

President Clinton on Thursday lauded Minnesota's pioneering support of charter schools, saying the state that passed the nation's first charter school law in 1991 "struck the right balance" in encouraging growth while holding schools accountable.

"We should build the level of accountability you find here in the charter school system into all the schools in our system," he told more than 200 people crowded into the gymnasium of City Academy, which opened in 1992 on St. Paul's East Side as the nation's first charter school. "We now have enough evidence that the charter school movement works if it's done right, as it has been done here."

Clinton broke no new ground Thursday. His visit -- which came during a four-city, two-day tour to promote school reform -- was mainly congratulatory. He did, however, announce the release of about \$137 million in grants to support new and existing charter schools.

He also said he would ask U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley to develop guidelines for employers and faith-based groups to encourage their involvement and support of charter schools.

"While charter schools have to be nonsectarian, there is a role, a positive role, that faith-based groups can play," Clinton said. "And employers, we find around America, increasingly are willing to provide space and other resources to help charter schools get started."

Clinton, who spent the night at downtown's St. Paul Hotel, made no public appearances before leaving at 9:07 Thursday morning for the school.

There, he spoke for about 30 minutes, then carried on a 40-minute online chat -- touching on everything from school uniforms to community service -- with students across the nation.

The Clinton visit gave Minneapolis teacher Gary Sipes a chance to usher in the president with a version of "Hail to the Chief" on the electric piano. Asked whether he'd ever performed for a president, Sipes replied, "No . . . president of the PTA."

Clinton was introduced by 1994 academy graduate Tom Gonzalez.

"You could say I was slipping through the cracks," said Gonzalez, who was born in Mexico City and said he struggled at several schools before going to the academy, where his girlfriend, now wife, attended school.

"It's fantastic that he's able to come down here and show these kids they're doing a great job," Gonzalez said after the speech.

Clinton also briefly met with Gov. Jesse Ventura, then made a noontime lunch stop in Minneapolis before flying out of the Twin Cities about 1:30. He visited a Columbus, Ohio, elementary school in the afternoon to talk about school changes such as reduced class sizes and mentoring and peer review for teachers.

In St. Paul, charter schools took center stage.

The issue isn't new to Clinton, who has been talking about school issues since he was governor of Arkansas in the 1980s. During his 1992 presidential run, when City Academy was the sole example, he publicly supported the idea of charter schools.

"Most people thought I had landed from another planet, because most people hadn't been here," he said.

Since then, the number of charter schools either open or approved to open in Minnesota has grown to 64. Some 1,700 charter schools have opened across the nation, and 36 states and the District of Columbia have passed charter school laws. Clinton has called for 3,000 by 2002.

"We've been careful over the years to stop and evaluate charter schools and make sure they're on the right path," said state Sen. Ember Reichgott Junge, who authored Minnesota's groundbreaking law. "They're small, they promote involvement, there is a real focus and almost a labor of love in the way they work."

Clinton cited survey results that show parents of students who attend charter schools think their children do better academically. He noted that charter schools are as racially and economically diverse as regular public schools. In Minnesota, they're more diverse than average.

"Now, does that mean every charter school is a stunning success? No," he said. "The idea behind the charter schools was never that they would all be perfect, but that because they were unlike traditional schools, they had to be created with a charter and a mission that had to be fulfilled."

``If they were not successful in that mission, they could be shut down or changed or the children could go somewhere else."

Clinton also noted the diversity in state charter laws.

``Some states have laws that are so loose that no matter whether the charter schools are doing their jobs or not, they just get to stay open and they become like another bureaucracy," he said. ``Even worse, some states have laws that are so restrictive it's almost impossible to open a charter school in the first place."

Which brought Clinton back to Minnesota and City Academy.

The state allows districts, combined districts, universities, colleges and itself to sponsor charter schools. But no charter school can go longer than three years before it is reviewed for renewal.

``It's really up to the sponsors to take a look at the charter school proposal, the curriculum, student population, the financial plan," said Becky Montgomery, school board chairwoman for St. Paul schools, the district that sponsored City Academy.

Charter schools can go far with a good proposal and good leadership, she said. Former Mayor Jim Schiebel said City Academy, which opened during his time in office, had those qualities to begin with.

``The leadership was competent and dedicated to making the school work for everyone," Schiebel said. ``I thought it was going to work."

Schiebel, Montgomery and Junge were among dozens of dignitaries crowded into the gymnasium, including U.S. Rep. Bruce Vento, Mayor Norm Coleman, Lt. Gov. Mae Schunk, St. Paul schools Superintendent Pat Harvey and Minneapolis schools Superintendent Carol Johnson.

But their presence paled in comparison of the school's students and faculty, who dressed in white shirts emblazoned with ``Presidential Visit 2000."

Teachers handed out disposable cameras. After his Web chat, Clinton stuck around long enough to pose for pictures and sign the shirts of every student and staff member who asked.

``I'm proud," said 17-year-old Amy Follmer. ``It's such an honor to have him at our school."

Clinton's visit was not open to the public, and yellow police tape wrapped around stop signs, trees and chain-link fences, blocked access to the school in the immediate area.

Still, about 200 spectators were on hand for Clinton's arrival just before 9:30. Among them, a smattering of protesters opposing federal education efforts, the Profile of Learning -- Minnesota's graduation rules -- and the use of federal money to stop drug traffic in Colombia.

About 30 spectators got lucky when, just before noon, a departing Clinton left his limousine to shake hands with a crowd gathered on the corner of Case and Jessie streets -- about a half block from the school.

"I didn't think we'd be able to get that close," said Robert Chavez, a neighbor who shook Clinton's hand. "He felt like an everyday person."

At the invitation of Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, Clinton stopped for lunch at Sallie's Southern Soul and Creole Restaurant before flying out of the Twin Cities on Air Force One.

[Help](#)

[News Archives](#)

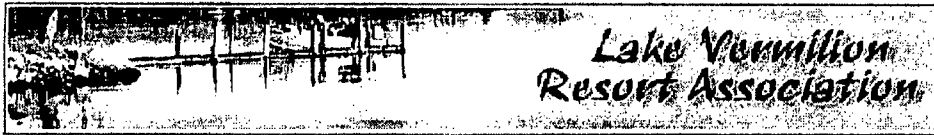
[Feedback](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Staff writers Judith Yates Borger, Leslie Brooks Suzukamo, Paul Tosto and John Welsh contributed to this report. Kristina Torres, who covers education and school choice issues, can be reached at ktorres@pioneerpress.com or (651) 228-2120.

© 2000 PioneerPlanet / St. Paul (Minnesota) Pioneer Press - All Rights Reserved
[copyright information](#)

<ADVERTISEMENT>



PIONEERPLANET

YELLOW PAGES

CARS.COM

CAREERPATH

HOMES/RENTALS

Published: Friday, May 5, 2000

STORY OPTIONS

- [E-mail to a friend](#)
- [Print this article](#)

Warm hellos from St. Paul kids

Teen-agers were pleased to get the presidential seal of approval. And the historical nature of the day came through clearly.

JOHN WELSH STAFF WRITER

He posed for pictures until the last person lined up in the gymnasium was satisfied. He signed books, scraps of paper and the shirts on the backs of teachers and students. He answered their classmate Amy Follmer's question about education before a live national audience.

But maybe most important for City Academy students like Sarah Sargent, President Clinton's visit to the small charter school on St. Paul's East Side represented a seal of approval like none other.

"Just him knowing that we're here is the coolest thing," said Sargent, 17. "If it weren't for City Academy, I wouldn't be in school. It's nice that he acknowledged us."

For more than two hours Thursday, Clinton made City Academy the focus of his attention, and the school's students responded with warmth and a sense of gratitude.

It wasn't a traditional pep rally, but the importance of the morning wasn't lost on students, as some jockeyed during Clinton's speech for a good place to take a picture with the disposable cameras teachers had given them.

"I was impressed," said student Ying Lor, 18. "It meant a lot."

Clinton made City Academy a part of his two-day education tour because of its status as the first charter school in the nation.

"When I started running for president, there was a grand total of one charter school -- you. You were it," Clinton said. "I wanted to come here today because of what you've done, because you've proved that charter schools are a good idea."

During his 20-minute speech, he demonstrated several times that he was familiar with City Academy's story and the people behind it. He singled out Tom Gonzalez, a 24-year-old City Academy graduate who is now a project manager at US Bank and continues

- ✓ [PioneerPlanet: front](#)
- ✓ [News](#)
- ✓ [Business](#)
- ✓ [Sports](#)
- ✓ [Entertainment/Just Go](#)
- ✓ [Living](#)
- ✓ [Tech](#)
- ✓ [Water Cooler](#)
- ✓ [Special Reports](#)
- ✓ [Classified Ads](#)
- ✓ [Site index](#)

to work with students, and he praised the school's co-director, Milo Cutter, who was named by Education Week as one of those who shaped American education in the 20th century.

“There are a lot of people here in this room who have devoted a lot of their lives to trying to help young people in trouble,” Clinton said.

After the speech and departure of many of the assembled dignitaries, Clinton participated in an Internet forum from City Academy. Answering a dozen of the 10,000 e-mailed questions for the event, Clinton spoke into a microphone and his words appeared on the Internet about 30 seconds later. He was talking to a national audience, but he made City Academy students feel as if he were talking to them alone.

City Academy's students are primarily 15 to 21 years old. Many go to the school after not succeeding in a traditional high school setting. With a low teacher-to-student ratio, the school specializes in giving individualized attention. During its eight years, the school has had 500 students and more than 200 graduates, with most of them going on to a post-secondary education.

Students said they've heard their school called a “drop-out school.” Others said that few people know what charter schools like theirs are all about.

But on Thursday it was different, as they shared their gym with the president and a dozen state legislators, a state Supreme Court justice, the mayor of St. Paul, and reporters from the national television networks.

[Help](#)

[News Archives](#)

[Feedback](#)

“It was awesome. They were actually talking about our school,” said David Vang, 17. “I can't find the right words, but it was like a dream.”

[Back to Top](#)

John Welsh can be reached at jwelsh@pioneerpress.com or (651) 228-5432.