

the Internet, was eager to help, because he says he's "appalled at the state of education in this country."

In his first e-mail to Ms. Diaz, he took a tough line: "I can tell by your home pages that you have a good base to build upon, yet you lack the self-discipline and perhaps the confidence needed to do quality work. You may think it doesn't matter but I assure you it does."

"I was so shocked," Diaz says with an indignant smile. "I was like, how dare this man!" But soon the two found common ground. They both have a passion for the "Dune" science-fiction books. He was a finance major in college. She's an accounting major.

DeMan encouraged her to write drafts of her papers. "I told him I didn't like rough drafts," she recounts. "But he told me I had to organize my thoughts. He said I have to be consistent." Soon she began rewriting already complete papers.

Then in one e-mail he wrote: "I liked your composition. Well done!"

"That meant a lot to me," she beams. "I worked hard for that."

When Diaz's English class ended last spring, she and DeMan lost touch. Neither ever knew much about the other.

"I came on strong, and ... she improved, that's the important thing," DeMan says.

Targeting key interests

One key to successful mentoring is leveraging a student's interests. Sitting in her office cubicle in Boulder, Colo., Mary Jones got connected to a troubled high-schooler in rural North Carolina.

This Hewlett Packard software engineer and mother of three had a tough task. The student, whose name Ms. Jones prefers not to use, was described by her teacher as shy, not gifted, and afraid of computers. With gentle encouragement and a touch of humor, Jones waded in.

She asked what the girl wanted to do after high school. "Open my own jewelry store," came the reply. It was the perfect opening.

"If you're going into business, you're going to have to know how much to charge, and how much profit you're making," Jones wrote. "Math helps you figure this out."

She also encouraged her to write more clearly, "so when you want to buy gold chains from a business in India, you can write a formal request." Before working with Jones, the girl rarely smiled or

talked in class. Now she was the resident expert in computer class - because she could ask her mentor tough questions. Her grades soared - from D's in English and math to A's and B's.

Mentors can also give career advice. Alex Kopperud, a senior at Colony High School in the remote town of Palmer, Alaska, had mulled over a career as a lawyer. "But if I could do what I really wanted, I'd be an outdoor photographer," he wrote his mentor.

"Hey, you don't have to compromise," came the reply from David Neils, a Hewlett Packard employee in Fort Collins, Colo. With Mr. Neils's help, Kopperud is putting his pictures from a trip to Mt. Marcus Baker on the Internet.

Neils also got Kopperud to write to two prominent photographers, Gaylen Rowell and George Weurthner, who agreed to offer advice.

"I was amazed they would sit down with a grubby little Alaskan like me," Kopperud says.

For Neils, that was a great reward: "A student's life is different on the other side of the planet because I took 12 minutes a day." ■

9. Associated Press

05-22 11:12a

Clinton comes to West Virginia to promote education goals

By DAVID SHARP
Associated Press Writer

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. (AP) - West Virginians rolled out the red carpet today for President Clinton's scheduled visit to promote his education goals.

Along the route that will take him from Benedum Airport to Robert C. Byrd High School, state police, Secret Service and other officers were stationed about every 100 yards.

Signs along the route greeted Clinton, including one from a Harley Davidson motorcycle shop.

A church sign told Clinton that its congregation would pray for him. Across the street, an automotive company's sign asked the president if he needed his tires rotated.

Many West Virginia officials past and present gathered at the airport late this morning, including former Gov. Gaston Caperton, Secretary of State Ken Hechler and Public Safety Secretary Otis Cox.

Others were simply travelers.

Gayle Harrah was returning to her home in Grover Beach, Calif., after visiting her brother Jim Seaton, a professor and cross-country coach at Alderson-Broaddus College.

Ms. Harrah said she "upset the little guy at the counter over air space."

On Wednesday, "He said we couldn't fly out if President Clinton was in our air space. I said, 'What about OUR air space?'"

Ms. Harrah's plane was scheduled to leave before the president arrived, but she said, "we might just pass him" in the air.

"I've got my camera. I'm ready."

The high school hosting Clinton's visit has at least one computer connected to the Internet in each classroom, one of the objectives Clinton outlined in his State of the Union address.

And 85 percent of the schools in the state will have Internet access by the end

of next month, with the rest expected to come online by year's end, said state schools Superintendent Hank Marockie.

"No other state can match our record. No other state can match school spending," Marockie said.

Clinton's visit to promote his education agenda follows West Virginia's decision to join North Carolina, Michigan and Maryland in adopting his proposals for national standards.

The president has proposed tests in the fourth grade for reading and in the eighth grade for math.

West Virginia already requires testing at each grade level, so the state will simply substitute the national tests during the fourth and eighth grades, Marockie said.

"It's a natural fit for the president's proposal and our testing program," he said.

Other goals of the president include modernizing school buildings and

making sure there is a talented teacher in every classroom. He also wants to expand the Head Start program.

The state has boosted its teacher salaries from 49th in the nation to 32nd from 1990-95, and no other state has matched West Virginia's commitment to staff development during that period, Marockie said.

The state also pumped \$900 million into capital improvements since 1989, meaning about 70 percent of public school students in West Virginia are in new or renovated schools, he said.

Robert C. Byrd High School, built on a former strip mine in a hollow, will be used by the president as a model in preparing students for the 21st century.

The \$24 million school boasts 10 computer labs, the state's only "virtual reality" lab and Internet access that allows students to go anywhere in the world, said Chester Hall, director of

technology.

"We're not up in the hollow in the strip mine. We're anywhere in the world we want to go," he said.

Although not all students will receive classes on virtual reality, all are expected to graduate with some grasp of computers, and up to 70 percent of graduates go on to college.

Rebekah Squires, a student who helped put together the school's virtual reality tour, plans to study accounting at West Virginia University before going to law school.

But her computer training will come in handy regardless of the field she ultimately enters.

"No matter what job you go into, there are going to be advantages of using a computer," Squires said. "You can't live day-to-day and be totally computer illiterate."

Sophomore Nathanael Wentz agreed.

"Just about any field you're going to go into, you're going to use a computer," Wentz said. "Just being familiar with the computer in the workplace is tremendously useful."

Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., said the focus on computers is not misplaced. Six out of 10 jobs will require workers to know how to use computers by the year 2000, he said.

Rockefeller announced a \$2 million Department of Education grant for computers, software and training for teachers on the eve of Clinton's visit, the first by a sitting president in Clarksburg in 45 years.

"The bottom line of all of this is how well children do," Marockie said. "The children in West Virginia are demonstrating they are achieving at the top of the levels in reading and mathematics." ■

TRADE

10. Chronicle of Higher Education -- Academe Today

May 22, 1997

Only One Black Student Has Accepted Admission to U. of Texas Law School

By KARLA HAWORTH

Only one black student has accepted an offer of admission to the University of Texas at Austin law school so far this spring, compared with about 40 last year.

The school's dean blamed the drop in acceptance by black and Hispanic students on a federal court's decision last year that banned the consideration of race in Texas admissions.

Enrollment figures will not be official until the start of the fall term. But by this time last year, the law school had received many more tuition deposits from black and Mexican-American students, said M. Michael Sharlot, dean of the law school. Over the last decade, he said, the school has enrolled 30 to 40 black students and 40 to 60 Mexican-American students a year in entering classes that have averaged 500 students.

As of Wednesday, he said, only one black student had remitted the deposit that guarantees a place in the class. Only

14 Mexican-American students had reserved places in the class, Mr. Sharlot said.

In contrast, the number of Asian-American students who have reserved places has risen. Last year, Mr. Sharlot said, about 30 Asian-American students enrolled. This year, 41 have indicated that they would enroll.

Mr. Sharlot called the drop in black and Hispanic students a "disaster" for the University of Texas, which has been a leader in producing minority lawyers.

"This is the same pattern I think you'll find at Berkeley and U.C.L.A. and other schools that are operating under a ban of race-conscious affirmative action," Mr. Sharlot said.

Indeed, the University of California at Berkeley last week announced that the number of minority students offered admission to its law school, known as Boalt Hall, had plunged. The pool of black admittees fell to 14 from 75 last

year. Offers of admission to members of other minority groups, including Hispanic and American Indian students, declined as well.

Officials at the Universities of California and Texas blamed the sharp drops on policies banning affirmative action. In June 1995, the University of California's Board of Regents banned the consideration of race in decisions on contracting, hiring, and admissions throughout the nine-campus system. In March 1996, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit struck down the affirmative-action admissions program at the University of Texas at Austin's law school.

Aggressive efforts at recruitment may help increase the enrollment of minority students next year, Mr. Sharlot said. "But obviously, the only true solution is for the Supreme Court to take a case and announce a rule that would be of national application," he said.

problems with the budget. He predicted the budget would sail through Congress when the two chambers resume work in a week. "The budget is essentially a done deal," he said. "This will be approved."

An aide to Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete V. Domenici (R-N.M.) agreed, saying: "I don't see any hurdles to final passage. . . . It's a Kansas highway from here."

The budget plan forged by the White House and GOP leaders would eliminate the deficit by 2002, cut Medicare by \$115 billion and provide \$85 billion of net tax cuts over five years.

"We'll give our country the first balanced budget we've had since the 1960s," said Clinton, cheering lawmakers on from an airport rally in Bridgeport, W.Va. "It's high time and I'm proud of it."

As they rushed to try to complete work on the agreement before the recess, House and Senate GOP leaders have had to navigate past scores of potentially lethal land mines. One of the last real threats to the deal, an amendment offered

yesterday by Sen. John W. Warner (R-Va.) adding \$12 billion for highway construction without offsetting cuts, was defeated, 51 to 49.

Domenici and Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg (N.J.), the ranking Democrat on the Budget Committee, chastised Warner for promoting a highway spending amendment that exceeds the spending limits of the budget deal. Warner argued that there was plenty of money available in the highway trust fund that ought to go for additional highway construction instead of other government programs.

"Congress looks upon that trust fund as a pot of poker chips and put them wherever they want," Warner said.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Bud Shuster (R-Pa.) led a similar effort in the House earlier this week that the leadership and the White House warned would breach the budget deal and set back the effort. After a long night of debate, the House rejected the Shuster measure early Wednesday morning, 216 to 214, before

passing the budget.

The Senate yesterday also voted 56 to 43 to reject an amendment by Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-Ill.) that would have spent \$5 billion more for school repairs. Clinton proposed a similar idea in his State of the Union address but scrapped it in budget talks.

Some Republicans have complained that the Democrats have forced GOP lawmakers to defend the budget agreement by casting unpopular votes that may be used against them in the next election. "All I can think is they're trying to get votes that don't mean a thing and look bad for us in the elections next year," said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Tex.).

On Wednesday, Lott insisted that Clinton provide Republicans with political cover in defeating an amendment to expand health care coverage for low-income children that Lott declared was "a deal-breaker." Eight Democrats subsequently joined with the Republicans to turn back the amendment. ■

7. The Wall Street Journal

05/23/97 Page A1

Washington Wire

A Special Weekly Report From The Wall Street Journal's Capital Bureau

By Ronald G. Shafer

FALLOUT SPREADS from rulings barring college minority preferences.

At Texas A&M, blacks' applications and admissions are both down 13% from a year ago after a court ruling in the federal Fifth Circuit in New Orleans. Houston's Rice University says that without special scholarship aid, more accepted minorities decide not to attend.

The share of blacks in a University of Maryland scholarship program is down by half since a similar ruling by another court two years ago. Though that ruling mainly affected Maryland, the American Council on Education says it is sure some colleges in the same circuit also "made accommodations to it."

The next test may come in a suit filed

against the University of Washington; a white woman turned down for law school complains that minorities with lesser qualifications are accepted.

"The Justice Department is looking for appropriate opportunities to challenge" the Fifth Circuit ruling, says **Leslie Thornton, the Education Department's incoming staff chief.** ■

8. The New York Times

05/23/97; Edition: Late Edition - Final; Section: Section A; National Desk; Page 20, Column 1

In a School Gym, Professor Clinton Presides

By JAMES BENNET

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. May 22 — Equipped with a passage from "Charlotte's Web," a mathematical word problem and his studiously fatherly manner, President Clinton played teacher

in a high school gymnasium here today, leading a handpicked crowd through a seminar on his proposals for improving education.

In answer to questions from his audience, Mr. Clinton endorsed

extending the school year, provided such a change was affordable. He also embraced the idea of applying a V-chip to the Internet, to protect children from information objectionable to their parents. Such technology will soon be

applied to television sets, and the White House said application to home computers was in development.

Returning to the town-hall format he built upon during the 1992 campaign, Mr. Clinton spoke before about 160 business and academic leaders, along with a smattering of children, seated on staggered platforms arranged in a horseshoe.

He devoted most of his presentation to his plan for voluntary national testing of the English skills of fourth graders and the math skills of eighth graders. West Virginia and Massachusetts announced today that they would adopt the tests by 1999, bringing the number of participating states to five.

"It's scary," Mr. Clinton said in explaining one reason why some people oppose his tests. But, he said, "this is not an instrument of failure, it's an instrument of accountability and a pathway to success."

The President, though still recovering from his two-month-old knee injury, did not seem to need his glossy black cane as he walked the gym floor, gesturing broadly to point at charts displaying sample reading and math questions.

But as he sat occasionally in a gray swivel chair to entertain questions, he struck a thoughtful pose by folding his hands and resting them at the top of the cane, where it bends like a shepherd's crook.

Mr. Clinton has often been accused of

adopting the techniques of Oprah Winfrey or Phil Donahue. But, as his session today illustrated, such comparisons are inapt: far from seeking conflict or unscripted, powerful emotion, the ratings fodder of daytime television, he aims for an atmosphere of amiable conversation as banks of television cameras record it.

The dozen questions today were all friendly. Referring to his testing plan, Mr. Clinton's first questioner asked him "how we as educators and parents and community leaders can help you address this important initiative."

To illustrate the texts that pupils might be tested on, Hannah Gale, a fourth grader from a nearby school, read from "Charlotte's Web" a passage in which the spider contemplates tricking a farmer to save a pig. "People are not as smart as bugs," Hannah read.

In response to another question, Mr. Clinton said he liked the idea of a standardized test before graduation from high school, as part of a broader effort to insure that students know the basics.

The President said he had come to West Virginia to highlight the state's progress in raising the math performance of its students. And he called West Virginia "the nation's leader in putting technology in schools."

To underscore that point, he made his remarks at Robert C. Byrd High School, named for the Senator who has brought

so much Federal money to his home state. The \$24 million school, which opened in January 1996, has at least one computer per classroom, seven computer laboratories and a virtual-reality lab, students said. Sharing a plateau among steep green hills with a stadium and several tennis courts, it serves more than 1,000 students from two former high schools.

Mr. Clinton had previously advanced his testing plans in speeches to state legislatures. But his aides seemed delighted with today's town-hall approach, which they said better reaches parents and teachers. The forum was broadcast on public television stations around West Virginia and was transmitted over the Internet.

Mr. Clinton was the first incumbent President to visit Clarksburg since Harry S. Truman, and hundreds of residents lined the motorcade route to the high school to welcome him. American flags dangled outside small clapboard homes.

"We Pray for You," declared the red-brick Evangel Baptist Church in its sign welcoming the President, while a Midas shop lauded his prized Ford: "Bill, Dig Your Mustang."

On the way back to the airport, Mr. Clinton, who said he was "deeply touched" by the crowds, stopped to greet children along his route.

04:32 EDT May 23, 1997■

9. Associated Press

05-22 2:20p

Clinton says two more states participating in national testing

By SANDRA SOBIERAJ Associated Press Writer

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. (AP) - Rejuvenating his campaign for national education standards, President Clinton today endorsed national competency tests for high school graduates and enlisted two more states to participate in rigorous math and science testing.

"We have to do this for the whole nation ... not federal government standards, but national standards," Clinton said.

He opened a town-hall style meeting at Robert C. Byrd High School by announcing that Republican governors in West Virginia and Massachusetts had

committed to national standards and testing. The tests for fourth-graders in reading and eighth-graders in math will begin in the spring of 1999.

"From West Virginia to Nevada, from Washington State to Florida, from Maine to Arizona, math is the same. The need for basic reading skills is the same," the president said.

Asked by a local high school student whether students should have to pass a national exam in order to graduate from high school, Clinton replied: "I basically believe it would be a good thing if you had a standards exam - not one you have to make a certain score on, but one you have to show a certain competency on to

move to different levels of education."

He said the test should be given in the 11th grade. "Start early and give everybody more than one chance" to pass, Clinton advised.

Waylaid by budget talks and foreign travel, Clinton has not made a major push for national achievement standards - which he outlined in his State of the Union speech as a priority - in more than two months.

"We're thrilled that he's back on the bully pulpit on this. One of the best things that can happen to this movement is to have a president who's solidly behind it and has concrete ideas on how to get it done," said Donna Fowler,

spokesman for the 940,000-member American Federation of Teachers.

Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina and schools run by the Defense Department had earlier committed to Clinton's program of voluntary

performance standards and testing -

California's elected superintendent of public schools has also endorsed the testing, although the governor and state legislature, which must approve the program, have signaled resistance.

Fowler said that despite Clinton's distractions, the national drive remained on track: "We would be thrilled if all the states jumped on board right away but I think that's so unrealistic. ... The test isn't even ready yet." ■

10. Associated Press

05-23 8:55a wdcjrn

Clinton Visit-Glance

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. (AP) - President Clinton endorsed longer school years, saying the United States has the shortest school year of any major industrialized country except Belgium.

Clinton made the remarks during an education town meeting Thursday at a high school named after the state's political dean, Democratic Sen. Robert C. Byrd.

Extending the school term is a "very unpopular" idea, the president acknowledged.

But he said, "On balance, I think it would be better if we had a slightly longer school year."

He said students in East Asia and Germany can study subjects in greater depth and retain more because they're in school longer each year.

The president's audience was friendly and asked easy questions.

Clinton was the first president to visit this community since Harry Truman in 1952. Hundreds of people gathered at roadside on a sunny spring afternoon to wave as the president's limousine rode past.

Twice on the drive to a campaign-style airport rally, Clinton had his motorcade stop so he could shake hands with supporters who lined the sidewalks.

Moving around a high school gym like a talk show host, Clinton answered

questions from educators and parents.

He said there was "a serious potential problem" in protecting children from ill-suited material on the Internet. He suggested the remedy may be something like the v-chip being developed to screen television programs for violence and adult programs.

Asked by a local high school student whether students should have to pass a national exam to graduate from high school, Clinton replied: "I basically believe it would be a good thing if you had a standards exam, not one you have to make a certain score on, but one you have to show a certain competence on to move to different levels of education."

He suggested the test might be given in the 11th grade. "If you did it in the high school before graduation, I think we would have to start it early and give everybody more than one chance to pass," he said.

On the idea of keeping schools open for more of the year, Clinton said there are problems with the idea, such as how you pay for it. Another issue is that some schools are not properly air conditioned. Yet, he said, "I think on balance it's a good thing to do."

White House spokeswoman Ann Lewis hastened to add later that Clinton feels it is an idea worth considering. It is "not something that we are wholesale recommending but he does think it ought to get serious consideration."

Clinton also endorsed high school competency tests, saying there is a growing national consensus behind his call for national testing of math and reading skills. But he acknowledged there are apprehensions as well. "It's scary. It's personal. You're afraid. What happens if you take it and you don't do very well."

However, he said, "We're not necessarily trying to identify the specific score of every student but we want the schools and the classes to see how they're doing so they can lift the students up."

Clinton opened the program by announcing that Republican governors in West Virginia and Massachusetts had committed to national standards and testing. The tests for fourth-graders in reading and eighth-graders in math will begin in the spring of 1999.

"From West Virginia to Nevada, from Washington State to Florida, from Maine to Arizona, math is the same. The need for basic reading skills is the same," the president said.

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11. Washington Times

May 23, 1997

Clinton offers another one for the books

By Paul Bedard THE WASHINGTON TIMES

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. resident Clinton is on another major campaign, a campaign key advisers say

may be his most important ever: building a legacy that can withstand the tarnish of scandal.

The latest stop in this post-re-election

drive occurred here Thursday at Robert C. Byrd High School, where Mr. Clinton held a campaign-style town-hall meeting and boasted to adoring supporters that he's delivered on his promises, especially

in education.

"It can be the greatest moment of human promise in all history," Mr. Clinton said of the impact of his programs.

As he did May 18 at Baltimore's Morgan State University with a pledge to foster an AIDS vaccine, Mr. Clinton Thursday urged programs over which he has little control or to which he has committed no new funds. The proposals are popular and image-enhancing.

For example, he advocated a parental chip to block violence and sex on the Internet and spoke out on such locally regulated issues as school arts budgets, year-round schooling and graduating exams in high school.

He came to Clarksburg to announce that West Virginia and Massachusetts have joined Maryland and two other states in adopting math and reading standards.

The 37-minute flight to this mountain town was the result of a dual strategy mapped out by aides and outside advisers to convince historians he's been a successful chief executive who has kept promises and to offset the effects of the Whitewater and fund-raising scandals.

"He feels he's really accomplished what he set out to do, and he feels undervalued by you," Dick Morris, a part-time Clinton political adviser, told reporters. "He's spelling out his legacy that will surely rival Truman's."

"What he's doing is trying to keep his poll numbers up, his image up, his

reputation up," said another adviser, former Rep. Tony Coelho, now an investment consultant. "It's good for him to be building his case for damage control."

Mr. Coelho said the Clintons continue to believe they are innocent of any crimes but realize the need to keep their agenda before the public so reports on scandals don't swamp the successes.

With each speech, the president crows about growing the economy, curbing crime, expanding NATO and increasing education benefits in an effort Democratic analyst Ted Van Dyk calls "building political capital."

In an interview, Mr. Van Dyk said, "The president has got to make some deposits of political capital because there's going to be some withdrawals" to fight the Whitewater and Democratic fund-raising scandals.

West Wing aides, meanwhile, said Mr. Clinton is laying the groundwork for positive accounts of his administration by supporters, journalists and historians.

"We're taking stock of what we've done," a senior administration official said.

Mr. Clinton stepped up this effort amid reports his leadership has been tentative and taken what Mr. Morris called a "bite-sized approach" to the nation's ills.

"We think we've done a good job and want people to notice," a Clinton aide said.

That's the pitch Mr. Clinton has made

to his audiences for weeks.

The president told Democratic donors this week, "We can look at the last four years, and we can look at the last four months and understand that as a country our problems are like the problems of any other human endeavor: They yield to effort."

At another ceremony, Monday's address to the Young President's Organization, he said, "I think it's hard to argue that we're not moving in the right direction."

Mr. Morris said the president, while poor at "conceptualizing," is a good performer who should use his talents to tout his successes if he expects positive histories years from now.

"He's like an impressionist painter. You don't see the broad picture until you step back, and he has to do that for the public," Mr. Morris said.

But Mr. Morris said that moving now to promote a legacy threatens to make Mr. Clinton a lame duck earlier than usual.

"He might end up like Reagan in the last two years. He'll have what he wants done by then, and he may be vulnerable to scandal," Mr. Morris said.

But in central West Virginia, Mr. Clinton and his ideas reigned Thursday. Signs screaming "Welcome Mr. President," "Honk if you're the president" and "We pray for you" dressed up dozens of businesses, churches and homes in Clarksburg and neighboring Bridgeport, where Mr. Clinton's DC-9 landed. ■

12. Los Angeles Times

* 05/23/97; Edition: Home Edition; Section: National Desk; Page A-16

Balanced-Budget Deal Weathers Attack, Nears Senate Approval Congress: Vote is expected today, ending a crucial test of milestone agreement. After recess, differences with House version must be ironed out.

By JANET HOOK
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON — Fending off efforts to rewrite a finely wrought budget agreement, the Senate on Thursday neared approval of a resolution that calls for eliminating the federal deficit, providing substantial tax cuts and

imposing new spending restraints on Medicare over the next five years.

Approval of the resolution, expected this morning, will mark the end of a bumpy road test of the budget agreement announced by President Clinton and GOP leaders in early May. It has weathered contentious debates in both

the House and Senate, where its defenders have managed to narrowly defeat efforts to rewrite the budget to pump in more money for highways, schools and other politically popular programs.

The budget resolution, which represents an important milestone in

NATIONAL

1. The New York Times

05/23/97; Edition: Late Edition - Final; Section: Section A; National Desk; Page 20, Column 1

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04:32 EDT May 23, 1997■

2. The Washington Post

05/23/97; Edition: FINAL; Section: A Section; Page A13

Promoting Internet Links for All Students, Clinton Suggests 'V-Chip'-Type Limits

By Peter Baker

Washington Post Staff Writer

CLARKSBURG, W.Va., May 22 — First it was steamy television. Now it's smutty computer imagery. As he pushes to wire every public school to the Internet, President Clinton said today he wants to develop a "V-chip"-style device that would block out pornography and other material inappropriate for students.

At an education town meeting beamed from here around the world via the Internet, Clinton told a parent worried about what his child might be exposed to that he shared the concern and said his administration was working to develop technology to screen out "a lot of things on there that we wouldn't want our children to see."

"I think that is the answer, something like the V-chip for televisions," Clinton said. "And we're working on it. I think it's a serious potential problem myself."

Yet the president hastened to add that such concerns should not be used as an excuse for not following through on his goal of linking every classroom to the global computer network by the year 2000. "Let me say it would be a serious potential problem if they were not in the schools," he said. "Because the kids are normally under supervision, you have a far less likelihood that the Internet will be abused or that the children will be exposed to something they shouldn't see during the school hours . . . than at home."

Clinton's remarks came during his

first town meeting of his second term as he returned to the road to promote his education program. Chatting with a specially selected crowd in the auditorium of Robert C. Byrd High School here, Clinton announced that West Virginia and Massachusetts have agreed to adopt his plan for new standardized tests and he offered rhetorical support for a longer school year if localities can afford it.

The television V-chip became a major thematic element in Clinton's first-term agenda, partly because it helped him co-opt the family values issue from Republicans and partly because it came to symbolize his scaled-down approach to domestic policy in a period when, as he declared, "the era of big government is over."

But the V-chip is easier promised than delivered. So far it has yet to become available for televisions and the rating system devised in advance to accompany it has run into a torrent of criticism for being too vague. Creating a foolproof V-chip for the Internet would be infinitely more complicated because virtually anyone can post material on a Web site.

"A V-chip is a simplistic thought that just isn't going to be appropriate," said Gary Arlen, president of Arlen Communications, a Bethesda-based research firm specializing in information technology. "Adding a so-called V-chip in a world where there are hundreds of thousands of content suppliers — not just

a few dozen television broadcasters — and getting each of them to monitor its material . . . would be not only unmanageable but unthinkable."

In recent years, a number of commercial software programs have hit the market catering to parents looking for help, including SurfWatch, CyberPatrol, CyberSitter and NetNanny. These programs generally prevent users from gaining access to sites deemed sensitive because of certain key words like "sex" or "drugs" or through one of several rating systems. In some cases, companies add specific sites discovered by their programmers or customers and update them regularly.

However, while manufacturers believe they screen out the vast bulk of objectionable material, such programs cannot block everything a parent or teacher might want. And they have led to unintended consequences, such as the early versions that blocked sites dealing with breast cancer because of the word "breast" or one that even screened out the White House Web site because it used the word "couples."

Marc Kanter, vice president for marketing of Solid Oak Software Inc., of Santa Barbara, Calif., said its CyberSitter program blocks out tens of thousands of sites and provides considerable protection for parents. But he added, "There's absolutely no way that any filtering program will ever get 100 percent of the material out there." ■

3. The Washington Post

05/23/97; Edition: FINAL; Section: A Section; Page A06

House Leaders Delay Final Budget Vote; GOP Decision Is Linked to Dispute on Separate Disaster Aid Bill

By Eric Pianin

Washington Post Staff Writer

Republican leaders last night abandoned efforts to complete work on the bipartisan balanced budget plan before the Memorial Day recess — another sign of the difficulty facing the White House

and the GOP in writing their accord into law.

The House approved the complex budget blueprint shortly before dawn on Wednesday, after GOP leaders put down a rebellion of Republicans and Democrats seeking more in highway

spending that threatened to breach the budget deal. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) intends to bring the plan to a vote this afternoon, after also struggling to fend off bipartisan amendments with the potential for derailing the agreement.

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Charleston Daily Mail

May 22, 1997, Thursday

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HEADLINE: CLARKSBURG SHINES FOR PRESIDENT

BYLINE: DAVID SHARP

BODY:

CLARKSBURG - West Virginians rolled out the red carpet today for

President Clinton's visit to promote his education goals.

"I think this is a once-in-a-lifetime thing," said city resident Joe Chiado.

"I'm 46 years old and I haven't seen a president come here that I can remember," he said. "And he's coming here for a good reason, education not just to canvass votes or for political reasons."

The city hoped to put on a better face than its last national exposure in October, when seven men with militia ties were accused in an alleged plot to destroy the \$ 200 million FBI center in Clarksburg.

"This is going to show people the bright side of the city of Clarksburg and West Virginia," said Mayor Tom Flynn. "Some of the details that came out were embarrassing, particularly when one of our city employees was allegedly involved in those activities."

Clinton arrived at Benedum Airport in Bridgeport at 12:06 p.m. He walked slowly with a cane down the steps of Air Force One. Governor Cecil Underwood was the first to greet him, followed by first lady Hovah Underwood.

Along the route that will take him from the airport to Robert C. Byrd



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High School, state police, Secret Service and other officers were stationed about every 100 yards.

Signs along the route greeted Clinton, including one from a Harley Davidson motorcycle shop.

A church sign told Clinton that its congregation would pray for him. Across the street, an automotive company's sign asked the president if he needed his tires rotated.

A sign on a bicycle rack at the airport read, "You are now entering wild, wonderful, W.V."

Many West Virginia officials past and present gathered at the airport late this morning, including former Gov. Gaston Caperton, Secretary of State Ken Hechler and Public Safety Secretary Otis Cox.

Others were simply travelers.

Gayle Harrah was returning to her home in Grover Beach, Calif., after visiting her brother Jim Seaton, a professor and cross country coach at Alderson-Broadbush College.

Harrah said she "upset the little guy at the counter over air space."

On Wednesday, "He said we couldn't fly out if President Clinton was in our air space. I said, 'What about OUR air space?' "

Harrah's plane was scheduled to leave before the president arrived, but she said, "we might just pass him" in the air.

"I've got my camera. I'm ready."

On a temporary stage at the airport, Underwood surveyed a podium where he was to speak prior to Clinton's departure. Nearby, the Robert C. Byrd High band practiced.

At the high school, the gymnasium was transformed into a setting for a town meeting, with chairs on three sides and two large screens set up for computer demonstrations.

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Charleston Daily Mail, May 22, 1997

Robert Kittle, superintendent of Harrison County schools, made many of the arrangements for the town meeting, which he was scheduled to moderate.

He also has had to prepare for the funeral of his mother, Ruth, 84, of Flemington. She died Monday.

After the town meeting, Kittle planned to go to the funeral home.

"I've had a tough week," he said.

Kittle said Clinton has the right ideas on raising national standards for education.

"If we don't raise the standards, public education is not going to exist. We cannot continue to teach mediocrity in this country," he said.

The high school has at least one computer connected to the Internet in each classroom, one of the objectives Clinton outlined in his State of the Union address.

And 85 percent of the schools in the state will have Internet access by the end of next month, with the rest expected to come online by year's end, said state school Superintendent Hank Marockie.

Clinton's visit to promote his education agenda follows West Virginia's decision to join North Carolina, Michigan and Maryland in adopting his proposals for national standards.

The president has proposed tests in the fourth grade for reading and in the eighth grade for math.

West Virginia already requires testing at each grade level, so the state will simply substitute the national tests during the fourth and eighth grades, Marockie said.

"It's a natural fit for the president's proposal and our testing



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program," he said.

But not everyone agrees with the goals.

Mary Ann Rohr, a former teacher and leader of Citizens for Preservation and Restoration of the Family, was to stage a protest earlier today at the rest stop one mile north of the Meadowbrook Road exit on Interstate 79.

Rohr and as many as 50 protesters will be peacefully objecting to what he is saying, she said.

"We just don't like the federal government taking our schools over; we think they should be local, state schools, not federal schools," Rohr said.

Clinton is expected to discuss national standards and national testing. Rohr dislikes that, along with school-to-work programs, she said.

But mostly she dislikes the federal government getting involved in the first place. She said the 10th Amendment to the Constitution forbids Congress from sticking its nose into any responsibility not spelled out in the country's master document.

LOAD-DATE: May 23, 1997

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