

Mike—
Thought you
might get a kick
out of some of
these clips a friend
on mine from WVa
gave me Cynthia

Spectators agree: long wait 'worth it'

by Tim Langer
STAFF WRITER

They lined the street from Route 50 to Route 98 and waited. All they got for their time was a glimpse of the Clinton profile and a presidential wave through the tinted limousine glass.

But most of the spectators along Buckhannon Pike in Clarksburg said seeing the president was well worth the wait.

"It's the chance of a lifetime," said Rosemary Castellana of Clarksburg, waiting with her daughter, Michele, at the corner of Buckhannon Pike and East Main Street.

Brenda Conley of Clarksburg said it was the chance of a lifetime for both herself and her daughter, Lauren, resting in a baby stroller.

"We'll be able to put in her baby book that she saw the president when she was nine months old," Conley said.

Paul Veltri II, a little older at age 8, will remember the presidential visit himself. He got to shake the president's hand.

Paul was waiting with his grandparents in front of the Mountaineer Mart on Buckhannon Pike when the presidential motorcade stopped and Clinton got out of his limo and started shaking hands.

The St. Mary's second-grader said the president asked him, "Do you like school?" To which he responded, "Yes, I do."

Like many others along the motorcade route, Ralph Cathell had his camcorder with him to capture the event.

"It's never really happened in Clarksburg before," he said. "It's pretty interesting to see a president in your hometown. It's



AP Photo

GREETINGS - President Clinton shakes hands with Bridgeport citizens Thursday.

something you can tell your children about."

Cathell had a bit of bad luck, however.

"We wanted to get it with the camcorder," he said, "but the battery's dead. Of all the timing."

Other spectators were less excited.

Thirteen-year-old "Bub" Martin, waiting with his friend Shawn Sears, said they were there "just to have something to do."

Marvin Marsh, waiting near the Buckhannon Pike-East Main Street intersection, said he didn't plan on waiting for the motorcade.

"I was on my way home from work when I got stopped in the traffic," he said. "So I

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(Continued from Page A1)

decided to come up and see the president go by."

His car was in a line of cars backed up to the Goff Plaza Bridge on East Main. Police blocked off every intersection on Buckhannon Pike for the motorcade.

Jim Kelley didn't bother getting out of his truck. He had to wait about 20 minutes in the East Main Street traffic jam and said he "planned to take the country way" to his home in Bridgeport because of all the blocked-off roads.

There were some protesters along Buckhannon Pike, with several "Stop Abortion Now" and

"Stop Partial-Birth Abortions" signs in the crowd.

But most of the spectators seemed to be Clinton supporters, cheering and applauding when the motorcade appeared.

Ella Grace Spears of Haymond Highway was waiting with a small American flag.

"I'm a Clinton supporter, sure. I'm a very patriotic patriot," she said.

Perhaps Mark Patterson of Clarksburg put it best. He said he was there with his camera "just because it's the president."

Clarksburg
5/23/97
Pg A-1

Clinton tells students: 'I love this school'

by Jeff Toquinto
STAFF WRITER

When Robert C. Byrd High School Student Body President Dan Phares introduced President Clinton to students at the Robert C. Byrd High School auditorium on Thursday, the audience erupted in cheers.

After delivering his town-hall meeting to 160 selected students, administrators, community leaders and parents inside the school's gymnasium, the president stepped down the hallway into the auditorium. Inside, several hundred students had watched the meeting via the Internet and a closed circuit feed and had managed to keep themselves contained.

However, that would all change. The entire student body leapt to their collective feet when Clinton appeared on stage.

Stepping from behind a curtain, Clinton shook hands with Phares and a few others and then offered brief remarks.

"I'm glad to be here," Clinton said. "I didn't have an auditorium this nice when I went to school.

"I love this school."

After his opening remarks, Clinton encouraged those in attendance to stay up on their education and take advantage of the opportunities in front of them.

"We're not only about to enter a new century, but a new millennium," Clinton told the students.

"You're entering a period of American history different in many ways from the past."

Following his comments, Clinton stepped from the stage and personally greeted hundreds of students and faculty members before heading back to Beneditum Airport. The students were slap-

ping high fives and talking excitedly following his departure.

Principal Leon Pilewski said Clinton's post-forum visit was tremendous.

"It doesn't get any better than this for the kids," said Pilewski. "The kids were so attentive. They truly enjoyed his visit."

Clinton backs longer school year

Blue...
Walter
5/28/94
RG
A.1

CLARKSBURG (AP) — President Clinton endorsed longer school years and high school competency tests Thursday as West Virginia and Massachusetts joined his campaign for national education standards.

Extending the school term is a "very unpopular" idea, the president acknowledged. But he said the United States has the shortest school year of any major industrialized country except Belgium.

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

He said students in East Asia and Germany, for example, can study subjects in greater depth

and retain more because they're in school longer each year.

The president came to the rolling hills of north-central West Virginia for an education town

meeting at a high school named after the state's political dean, Democratic Sen. Robert C. Byrd. The audience, handpicked by the school superintendent and politi-

cal leaders, 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.

Clinton...

Continued from A-1

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 considera-

tion."

Clinton said there was 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.

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.

Clinton, A-3

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Amanda Walker meets Clinton

Daily News
5/28/97
A7 5-A

By CARLA DIFONZO
Staff writer

WELLSBURG — Brooke High senior Amanda Walker said it was a moment she'd never forget.

"We're all waiting in the gymnasium for a long time, after spending two hours with the president's security guards," she said. "And then finally President (Bill) Clinton arrived ... We could hardly believe it."

Walker, along with Derek Courtney of Fairmont, were the only two students in West Virginia to receive the Presidential

Scholar Award. Because of this special distinction, they were chosen to meet Clinton, who was on hand Thursday in Clarksburg for a town meeting to discuss his education plan.

"At one point, a moderator allowed people from the audience to ask the president questions," she said. "I was going to ask him about the Wheeling-Pitt strike and what he thought about it. But I wasn't picked to ask a question."

Although she didn't get to ask the president a question, Walker wasn't disappointed. As far as she

is concerned, the chance to meet President Clinton was one of the most exciting moments in her life, especially when she got to shake his hand.

"I couldn't believe it," she said. "It was amazing. He walked in and began to shake hands. Then he got to me, shook my hand and said, 'Hello Amanda.'"

"I couldn't believe he called me by name," she said, laughing a bit. "But then I realized I had my name tag on."

Walker will visit the White House in June to receive a Presidential Medallion. She is one of

only 141 presidential scholars this year nationwide.

Walker said she's looking forward to going to Washington and the fact she's allowed to bring along one of her teachers.

"I chose my English teacher, Shirley Cuomo," the Brooke High senior said. "She helped me to become a better writer and to appreciate the humanities during a year when I had mostly math and science courses."

Amanda is the daughter of David and Peggy Walker of Wellsburg.

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Crowd braves hot sun for chance to meet President Clinton

by Troy Graham
STAFF WRITER

Immediately after President Clinton's motorcade left Benedum Airport for Robert C. Byrd High School, the KCI Aviation hangar doors opened and a flood of people began jockeying for the best view of the podium where the president would speak.

The people would wait more than three hours for Clinton to return to the airport. Though the crowd got thicker and thicker, and the sun got hotter and hotter, the people remained patient.

For most it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the nation's leader, worth waiting through anything.

For Big Elm Elementary School teacher Janet Dotson, it was more like fate that brought her and her mother, Luvon

Greaver, to see the president.

"She had a dream about it (meeting the president) last night and then I surprised her with two tickets today," Dotson said.

Nel Elder, from Grafton, attended mainly for her three grandchildren, ages seven, five and 10-months-old. Her seven-year-old granddaughter, a Hepzibah Elementary first grader, was particularly excited, she said.

"I don't necessarily like Clinton," Elder added while feeding her baby grandson. "I came here because he's the president."

Fairmont Mayor Nick Fantasia, who said he saw then-Gov. Clinton in 1988 at a Jefferson-Jackson dinner, was excited by the national exposure of the president's visit.

"Two hundred million people will get at least a small glimpse of north central West Virginia and they will see the technology cor-

ridor is alive and well," he said.

Senator Mike Ross, D-Randolph, also lauded the exposure.

"It's a great event for the state of West Virginia. It's great for the economy," he said.

Ross expects the impact of the visit to fan out into all of Harrison's surrounding counties.

Some of those attending the Benedum rally were old hats when it came to presidents.

Fairmont resident Frank Pulice remembers attending John Kennedy's inauguration in 1961.

Clarksburg
Export/Highway
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"About 40 of us caught the train in Grafton and went as a group," he said.

A few years later, Pulice and three others from Fairmont went to Kennedy's funeral, he said.

H. Laban White, a long time Clarksburg resident, and former Speaker of the House of Delegates from Harrison County, remembers going to the White House to meet Calvin Coolidge. His aunt, who was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution,

was invited by the first lady, who was secretary of the DAR.

"I've seen every president since Coolidge," he said.

However, not everyone was impressed by the presidential visit.

Bridgeport High School ninth grader Brian Meredith and his friends spent part of the afternoon playing cards on the hangar floor.

Meredith said they'd check out the president "eventually" because "the game won't last that long."

RCB site of first forum on Internet

by Gail Marsh
STAFF WRITER

Thanks to Bell Atlantic and the latest technology, President Bill Clinton's town meeting at Robert C. Byrd High School was linked up to the Internet.

According to Don Molter, area manager of Bell Atlantic, the White House told him "this was the first time that a major presidential address was being broadcast live on the Internet."

"We have a home page that was created by the NASA Classroom of the Future at Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling," Molter said. "People that view the home page have the opportunity to select audio and video, or they can select audio only."

The NASA classroom and the transfer center at the Wheeling site captured the satellite broadcast from West Virginia Public Television, digitized the signal and sent the audio and video directly to the Internet, Molter said. The signal lagged behind by about 10 seconds.

The area manager was joined by Ron Aylestock, senior engineer, and two technicians who had all been working for many hours at RCB to prepare for the town meeting. By the time the wiring and phone lines were installed to support the Internet and allow satellite feed for other media, more than 22,000 feet of cable had been laid and more than 200 phone lines were in operation.

The team did their first test run on Tuesday evening and did a double check on Thursday morning. They remained at the school site "in case anything goes wrong," Molter said. By all later reports, the home page was a complete success.

"This is as high-tech as you can get. We did all this on a request from the White House advance team," Molter said.

Clarksburg
Exponent/Telegraph
5/28/97
eg B-6

Centenarian gets presidential kiss

by Tim Langer
STAFF WRITER

106-year-old Blanche Austin got a kiss from the president.

Austin and three other residents of Clarksburg Continuous

SEE KISS, A6

KISS

(Continued from Page A1)

Care Center were seated behind the podium when President Clinton spoke at Benedum Airport Thursday. When he was finished speaking, the president stepped off the podium to shake hands in the crowd.

But he went a little further for Austin, kissing her on the cheek and telling her she looked better than he did.

"It was a thrill. I didn't know that he was so good looking," Austin said this morning.

Clinton was the fourth president Austin has seen in her lifetime. The others were Grover Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson.

Austin was born May 5, 1891.

"Blanche is just amazing," said Linda Wolfe, director of social services at Clarksburg Continuous Care. "She's so alert. She amazes me every day."

Continuous Care residents Gladys B. Corder, 87; Virginia Husk, 87, and Lena Mitchell, 82, got to shake hands with Clinton. It was the second presidential encounter for Husk, who also saw Harry S. Truman.

All the women are in wheelchairs, and getting them through airport crowd to the handicapped seating section was difficult, Wolfe said. Continuous Care personnel asked a Secret Service agent for help, and instead of taking them where they asked, he led them right behind the president's podium.

"They're still excited about it," Wolfe said this morning. "It was a great experience for all of them."

Smith Ambulance provided transportation for the four.

Clarksburg
Telegram
5/23/97
001

West Virginia Turns Out for Clinton

Guests Found Conditions Troublesome

By JENNIFER BUNDY
Associated Press Writer

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. (AP) — Fairmont's Hazel A. Brown showed up to see President Clinton on his trip to Harrison County, just as she had gone to see first lady Eleanor Roosevelt some 40 years earlier in nearby Lewis County.

Mrs. Brown, now 72, came away impressed with Mrs. Roosevelt. She reserved judgment on Clinton.

From where she and many others stood at Bridgeport's Benedum Airport on Thursday, Clinton was a tiny figure at a podium, and his comments drifted away in a constant buzz from a crowd of more than 5,000.

"I heard him say, 'Thank you, West Virginia,'" Mrs. Brown said. "That was about it. But I taped it on my VCR, so I'll go home and watch it."

Still, Mrs. Brown considered the day a success. So did Mary Helen Shields, who had a big supporting role in Clinton's town

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Guests—

Continued From Page 1

forum at Clarksburg's Robert C. Byrd High School.

Miss Shields, a Robert C. Byrd High senior who introduced Clinton, was nervous about her role. It showed as she briefly burst into nervous laughter awaiting her big moment.

But with the spotlight on, she was nearly flawless. She said the president helped calm her down, and so

did her grandfather, Russell Bonas-so.

"He's just a man, just like you and I, except he's the president," Bonas-so told her.

Miss Shields' classmate, Jeff McClain, learned the same lesson later in the day, about 5 miles away at the airport. Clinton came within a few feet of McClain and other Robert C. Byrd band members just before boarding Air Force One to leave.

"He's a human being, just like

anybody else," McClain said. "The only difference is he runs the country. I don't."

The trip was the first to Clarksburg by a president since Harry Truman came to the Harrison County city nearly 50 years ago.

The atmosphere was charged prior to his arrival: The newspaper blared a welcome, greeting signs were posted on several businesses and police were stationed about every 100 meters.

Thousands greet president at Benedum

By Debra Minor Wilson

STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — It was SRO for FOB.

At Benedum Airport, President Bill Clinton was wildly greeted by a throng of about 12,500.

These Fans of Bill cheered, photographed and just plain gawked at the tall,

silver-haired president. They had endured more than three hours standing on the hot airport tarmac in a bright spring sun, packed so tightly together they cast only one shadow.

Arriving behind schedule and aided by a cane, the commander-in-chief edged gingerly down the ramp of the smaller, military version of Air Force One. The 5,200-

foot runway at Benedum Airport was too short for the larger converted Boeing 747.

He immediately left by motorcade to Robert C. Byrd High School for an education town meeting, returning to the airport to address the crowd... again behind schedule.

Despite the extra wait, in spite of sun-burned scalps and throbbing feet, regard-

less of long porta-potty lines and short standing space, most spectators acted as if the hours in the sun were worth seeing an incumbent president in their neck of the woods.

Gov. Cecil Underwood — speaking for the state and national dignitaries accompanying the president — urged the crowd to give “a loyal Mountaineer greeting to the

president of the United States” and the audience loudly obeyed.

The Republican governor then prefaced the president's address by pledging his support to Clinton's education program.

“We are striving hard to reach a level of excellence in education across the state,” he

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told the crowd.

“Under Gov. Gaston Caperton's leadership, we installed computers in all classrooms from K to grade six,” he said, adding that the job will be finished when all schools up to grade 12 have computers that are hooked up to the Internet.

Underwood joins the Republican governor of Massachusetts in committing to national standards and testing. Tests for fourth graders in reading and for eighth graders in math will begin next spring.

Sens. Jay Rockefeller and Robert Byrd and other members of the congressional delegation could not attend the ceremony because of legislative meetings in Washington, D.C., the governor said before reading a message from Byrd.

From tiny babies to the elderly, waving flags or holding welcoming signs, dressed in suits or blue jeans and T-shirts — the crowd became one long cheer when President Clinton hobbled to the podium.

He won the crowd's heart when he called Robert C. Byrd High School “amazing.”

“I hope you're as proud of your state as I was when at Robert C. Byrd High School,” which he called a “testament to the dedication in education and excellence in opportunities for the education of every

child in West Virginia.”

His message was simple: Educated children mean a brighter future for the country.

Compared with four years ago, he said, there are 12 million more new jobs in the country; the unemployment rate has declined by 24 percent, the inflation rate by 30 percent and inequality in working Americans by more than 30 percent. The crime rate is lower and the welfare rolls are the lowest in 50 years, he said.

“Our country is moving in the right direction. But there's more to do.”

Today, information travels around the world in the flash of a

second. Borders no longer protect against terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

Every child in “every hill and holler in West Virginia” will need a world-class education to make the most of the 21st century, the president said.

Every child should be able to read by age 8, have access to the Internet by age 12 and have the opportunity to attend college.

“This depends on whether every adult keeps on learning for a lifetime,” he told the crowd. “These are the things driving my administration for these four years.”

He vowed to increase funding in education “because education affects the future of the young people in this state.”

While in the motorcade back to the airport, he had stopped to say hello to some young people, he said. “I was deeply touched to see you supporting the future of our country and its young people.”

Now it's time to stand behind a common goal, he said, “to raise the standards in education to the highest in the world, to believe that every child can learn and to commit to a future more brilliant than our glorious past... by one child at a time.”

Time
WV
5/23/97
pg 1-A

Excitement everywhere at RCB

By Alecia Sirk

BRIDGEPORT REPORTER

CLARKSBURG — Jennifer Brown, 11, a student from Bridgeport's Simpson Elementary School, sat straight-backed in her folding chair, feet on the floor, hands in her lap.

She mouthed her question for President Bill Clinton over twice and silently assured herself that she was ready.



Clinton

Others fidgeted, giggled or talked to those seated on their left and right. The atmosphere of the Robert C. Byrd gym frizzed and crackled with nervous energy.

Galloping classical music did lit-

tle to soothe the crowd of Harrison County students and residents anxiously awaiting the arrival of the president.

Starting at about 12:30 p.m., the meeting area — half of the RCB gym — swelled with guests, White House employees, media, and a range of anxious emotions. The president's arrival marked the biggest event in many individuals' lives.

But he was late.

The travelling press rolled in, marking the final moments before Clinton's appearance. The veterans grumbled amongst themselves about an event that was, for them, all in a day's work:

"He's nine minutes late."

"He's always late."

"You could set your clock by Reagan."

But then the classical music cut out and a voice piped in the arrival of West Virginia Gov. Cecil

Underwood and Secretary of Education Richard Riley.

When RCB senior Mary Helen Shields stepped to the podium, she confirmed the feelings of the crowd: "Mr. President, this is the most exciting moment of my life."

The crowd didn't care if the president ran 15 minutes behind. Clinton was in Clarksburg.

Faces beamed at the casual guest of honor, who leaned lightly on a black cane and signaled for the crowd to be seated.

When her chance arrived, Brown made sure she was the first student to address the president, her hand jutting above the others as Harrison County School Superintendent Robert Kittle opened the floor for questions.

Brown queried the president about his plans for keeping the arts alive in education. Clinton answered her question at length. After the forum, she said his sincer-

ity impressed her.

Other questions were easier, like the one posed by Ashby Hardesty. "I was wondering if you use the Internet in the White House?" he asked.

"We do. But my daughter uses it more than I do," Clinton said, earning a knowing laugh from parents in the audience.

The president moved back and forth across the padded black floor which also served as a visual aid for his administration's educational issues.

In the center was a stool — to relieve his mending knee — and two bottles of water, both of which the president emptied under the heat of the stage lights.

But each question received an answer and each comment received the president's full attention.

Please see RCB

Page 2A

Bridgeport High School senior and National Merit Finalist Jeremy Thompson was one of three participants chosen to formally address the president. Thompson commended the teachers he had in his early education, a thought that impressed the president enough that he referred to it twice during the meeting.

Thompson took that opportunity to give the president a red-and-white tassel, a memento of the 1997 BHS graduating class that Thompson leads academically as valedictorian.

Handwritten notes in the top right corner: "Jeremy", "WV", "5/23/97", and "R91-A".

Bluefield
Daily Telegraph
6/1/97
A-1

'He took the time to say my name'

Student likes what she hears during Clinton's visit to state

By BILL ARCHER
of the Daily Telegraph staff

WELCH - When the president came to West Virginia a couple weeks ago, shaking his hand and hearing him call her name was probably about the last thing on the mind of Mount View senior Keisha Riley. But that's what happened.

Mariah Casey of Gov. Cecil Underwood's office contacted the Mount View guidance counselor on Tuesday, May 20, to inform Riley that she was invited to attend a Town Meeting with President Bill Clinton at Robert C. Byrd High School in Clarksburg on Thursday, May 22.

"When she came back the next morning, she said her parents couldn't take her on Thursday," Mount View assistant principal Barbara Smith said. "Keisha called the governor's office and said she couldn't get a ride, so the governor called the county to ask if I could take her."

The unlikely sequence of events continued through the next day. Smith, her son Edmond, 11, and her mother, Gracie Thompson, travelled with Keisha to Clarksburg. "When we got there, a man said: 'We have no rooms.' I told him I had heard that before in church."

After some searching, the group found a motel. After an uneasy night, they went to the high school

to meet the president.

"It was nice," Riley, 18, the daughter of Kenny and Gretta Riley of Northfork said. "He gave a good speech on education. It was a very good speech."

Riley was told to bring one prepared question to ask the president. Of the group of about 160 students, Riley was the only one from southern West Virginia.

"My question was: Being from a disadvantaged area like McDowell County, how can you help students who want to attend college be able to go?" Riley said. "I know several students who want to go to college, but just can't afford it."

Student. A-3

Student...

Continued from A-1

The president only had time to field a few questions and Riley's wasn't among them. Still, his staff told her to give them her prepared question, and he would take it back to the White House and answer all of them.

Although he couldn't get around to answering all the questions, he took time to visit with all the students. "He said 'Hi Keisha' to me," Riley said. "I had a name tag on, but just the fact that he took the time to say my name and say it right - that meant a lot."

A National Merit Scholar, Riley plans to study Psychology at Concord with intentions of specializing in children's psychology.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Before we go lavishing ourselves with too much praise for the Clinton visit, we might consider those for whose benefit the president was supposed to be here - the children. While reporters have carefully culled out the less-than-positive comments from onlookers and participants, there was much left to be desired.

Although there were students from every Harrison County school invited to attend the Bendum Airport festivities with their principals, there was no section designated for them to stand.

You would think that mature adults would have a little respect for our student population, but take into account the 10-year-old girl whose brand new white shoes were turned black because she was repeatedly stepped on by adults whose attention was focused entirely on the president instead of giving just a little heed to where they were walking.

She was lifted up by her grandfather to take a photograph, but never even got to see Mr. Clinton because of adults who felt they had to barge in front of her.

And what about the Lincoln High School Show Choir which was forced into the barricade by adults who not only surged toward Mr. Clinton from behind them, but also poured over the choir's risers, nearly coming down on top of the performers?

It doesn't say much for the refinement of the citizens of this area when children are, in essence, abused by self-seeking adults. My child was one of those show choir members who was shoved against the barricade by the force of the crowd and nearly had his breath mashed out of him.

To cap it all off, Mr. Clinton acknowledged the show choir, but chose to spend 20 or so minutes after his address shaking hands instead of taking a few minutes to listen to at least one number from them or the RCB band. Both these groups had practiced hard in anticipation of performing for our nation's top official.

Adults walking all over students, the ground covered with litter, canned music played with overbearing repetition; it wasn't much more than organized chaos. But lest I forget my manners, I want to thank those adults (and students) who behaved responsibly.

As president of West Virginians for Life, I would like to thank all people who contacted Senator (Robert C.) Byrd and asked him to support the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act (HR 1122).

On May 20, Senator Byrd was one of 64 senators who voted for the ban on partial-birth abortions. While the ban passed, the vote was three votes short to overcome an anticipated veto by President Clinton.

The bill bans partial-birth abortions, defined as "an abortion in which the person performing the abortion partially vaginally delivers a living human fetus before killing the infant and completing the delivery." The bill will allow the procedure to be performed to save the life of the mother, if no other medical procedure could save her.

President Clinton states he will veto the bill because it does not have an exception to allow the gruesome procedure to be performed when a woman's health is threatened.

Harriet C. Wilkes
68 Station St.
Shinnston, W. Va. 26431

However, the legal definition of health, as defined by the U.S. Supreme Court, is "in the light of all factors - physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman's age - relevant to the well being of the patient. All these factors may relate to health."

Because of this definition by the court, a "health" exception would have allowed partial-birth abortions for any reason.

Senator Rockefeller did not support the ban on partial-birth abortions. He supported the Daschle Amendment, which was an attempt to limit the ban to the third trimester.

Since Ron Fitzsimmons, executive director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, stated that partial-birth abortions are primarily performed on healthy infants of healthy mothers in the fifth and sixth months of pregnancy, not in the third trimester, the Daschle Amendment would not have stopped any of these partial-birth abortions.

Charlotte S. Snead, M.S.W.
President
West Virginians for Life
Weston, W. Va. 26452

Unkown
Telegraph
8/2/97
JG 4A

Clinton Spotlight Shines on W.Va.



Harrison County fourth grader Hannah Galey participated in Clinton's presentation by reading a passage from the book "Charlotte's Web." The passage was part of a test to show the level of reading comprehension in fourth graders.

Man Detained for Threat

CLARKSBURG (AP) — A 47-year-old Clarksburg man who threatened to kill President Clinton has been ordered to undergo psychiatric evaluation at a federal facility.

Roger Keith Elliott was charged Thursday during Clinton's afternoon visit to Harrison County, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

Elliott was arrested at his home by Clarksburg police and the Secret Service after he called 911 to make the threat, a spokeswoman for U.S. Attorney Bill Wilmoth said.

The nature of the threat and Elliott's motive were unclear, she said.

Wilmoth's office could not say whether Elliott's home was searched or whether any weapons were found.

Authorities would not say where Elliott was taken after his initial appearance in Elkins before a federal magistrate.

The maximum penalty for making a threat against the president is five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

By WAYNE TOWNER
Sentinel Reporter

CLARKSBURG — West Virginia's schools, and Robert C. Byrd High School in particular, were in the national spotlight Thursday as President Bill Clinton visited the one-year-old school to hold an Education Town Meeting.

Clinton, the first president to visit Clarksburg since Harry Truman in 1952, spoke to a crowd of 160 parents, students, teachers, business and community leaders and elected officials at the high school. He also made brief remarks to a crowd of several thousand West Virginians at Benedum Airport in Bridgeport later in the day before boarding Air Force One to leave.

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Clinton held the town meeting to promote his call for national education standards and tests. He has called on every state to adopt high national standards and tests in fourth grade reading and eighth grade math in order to make sure that every student masters those basic skills.

The new tests will be based on the widely used National Assessment of Education Progress and will measure individual student performance against widely accepted standards used by NAEP.

In his opening remarks Thursday, Clinton praised the work of West Virginia's teachers and leaders over the past several years. West Virginia has demonstrated substantial improvement in fourth and eighth grade math during the 1990s. The state is tied for the third highest state improvement at both grade levels on NAEP, he said.

Wood County Schools Superintendent Dan Curry said he supports the idea of national education standards and tests. Curry did not attend the education town meeting in Clarksburg, but followed press reports on the event.

Given the fact that more comparisons are being made these days comparing the education systems of the United States and other countries, it is important to have information on national standards, Curry said. He doesn't believe having national standards would result in interference from Washington in schools.

"I would like to know how students in Wood County are doing compared to others across the country, but that is difficult because there is no uniform testing standard at this time," Curry said.

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Cont.

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● Clinton

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Clinton also said West Virginia is also a leader in the use of technology in schools. In a program started by former governor Gaston Caperton and supported by Gov. Cecil Underwood, West Virginia is close to having computers in every elementary school in the state. Forty percent of the schools in West Virginia are now connected to the Internet and the plan is to reach 85 percent this year, Clinton said.

Curry commented that technology is playing a larger and larger role in education and schools like Byrd are in the forefront of that movement.

Wood County has a good technology program but there is more to using technology to improve education than just putting computers in the classrooms, he said. Newer schools like Byrd have been designed and built to take full advantage of the use of technology in education.

Wood County has received good funding for technology from the state and others over the past several years but little local money has gone for that purpose. That might need to change in the future if Wood County is going to meet the pace set by Byrd and other newer schools, he said.

During the town meeting, Clinton announced that West Virginia had joined with

Massachusetts and several other states Thursday by signing onto the President's national standards and testing proposal for fourth grade reading and eighth grade math.

Clinton said there was a growing national consensus behind his call for national testing of math and reading skills. But he acknowledged there are apprehensions as well. Some are concerned that the federal government is trying to take over and set education standards but that is not what he is trying to do, he said.

"On another level, it's scary. It's personal. You're afraid. What happens if you take it and you don't do very well," he said. "However, 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 spent over an hour answering questions from educators, officials and students during the town meeting. In answer to one question, Clinton said he supported longer school years.

Extending the school term is a "very unpopular" idea, but the president said the U.S. has the shortest school year of any major industrialized country except Belgium.

Students in East Asia and Germany, for example, can study

subjects in greater depth and retain more because they're in school longer each year, he said. "On balance, I think it would be better if we had a slightly longer school year," Clinton said.

The president also supported the idea of a national exam to graduate from high school which might be given in the 11th grade to allow more than one chance to pass. "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 said.

Clinton also expressed concern over continued cuts in funding for arts and music classes in many schools. "There's an alarming decline all over America in the arts and music program. And, I might say, in the athletic programs, apart from the big-school teams," he said.

During Clinton's trips to and from the high school, 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 in Clarksburg and Bridgeport.

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Student offers president hometown hospitality

BY JILL ZEGER
REGISTER-HERALD REPORTER

CLARKSBURG — In Zach Stirb's last six weeks at Robert C. Byrd High School, he appeased the huffy White House press corps, took orders from a Secret Service agent known only as "Sir" and became a father. After that, graduation may be anti-climatic.

Stirb captured Thursday's presidential address on video for Bailey, his 6-week-old son.

Stirb was reporting on the

once-in-a-lifetime event for his school newspaper, where he is senior writer, and for a Shinnston weekly.

He was one of about a dozen RCBHS students selected to help prepare the school for President Clinton's arrival. His job included being a runner for ABC News.

The straight-forward senior said the 45 White House press corps members who attended might learn something of West Virginia manners.

Wolf Blitzer, CNN senior correspondent, was one of the nicer members, he added.

A Secret Service agent gave Stirb and his fellow volunteers jobs to do around the school, such as setting up bleachers.

Stirb said he just remembered

a large man in a suit who told him how other Secret Service agents slept in camouflage on the hill behind the school Wednesday night.

"He told us to call him 'Sir,'" Stirb said.

Agents had him practice walking through the president's entrance into the gym several times.

He said agents had some difficulty preparing because of the gym's layout.

But the work was preferable to sitting in the auditorium for the day and watching the meeting on closed-circuit television, he added.

Stirb said if he had been able to

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ask Clinton a question, it would have been about funding for scholarships.

"He says anybody who wants to go to college can, but around here, that's not true," Stirb said.

Fatherhood meant making educational sacrifices, and he tried to help where he could, he said.

This new role meant he would study pre-law at Fairmont State College instead of West Virginia University, where he had planned to go.

Stirb said most of the RCBHS students wanted to know if Clinton favored year-round schooling, a question that an adult asked during the meeting. His cohorts were

against the measure, he said.

Most students had questions prepared.

Katie Cook, a student at Linsly School in Wheeling, was concerned that social learning receive equal attention to technology in school.

A Grafton High School senior also was concerned over the growing role of technology, but was afraid music and arts would be overshadowed.

Funding for technological upgrades and physical building improvements were on the minds of a South Harrison High School student and a Lumberport Middle student.

Still, some students were rather blasé about the visit.

Three boys interviewed from an out-of-county high school said they had no questions and didn't know why they were selected.

But they agreed it was better than another day of school.

Promotion of agenda begins in Clarksburg

By SHANNON MARTZ
The Herald-Dispatch

CLARKSBURG — President Clinton used a jewel in West Virginia's scholastic crown Thursday to shine light on his call for rigorous national math and reading standards.

Clinton endorsed an array of programs and possibilities to improve education and make students competitive with their international peers. He discussed everything from funding for computers and software to more funding for pre-school programs to lengthening the school year to help students meet higher academic standards.

"I stress the importance of national standards because of the great progress you are making here," Clinton said during a town meeting at Clarksburg's Robert C. Byrd High School. "We want to follow your example for the whole nation.

"I like to believe that our children are as gifted as any anywhere. If we give them high standards, they will meet them."

Clinton's visit to promote his education agenda follows West Virginia's decision to join North Carolina, California, Michigan and Maryland in adopting Goals 2000, his proposals for national standards.

Clinton conducted his Presidential Town Hall Meeting under the scoreboard in the gym of the school, a \$22.4 million, state-of-the-art facility funded by the voters of Harrison County in a September 1991 bond issue.

Built on a former strip mine, the school houses the only virtual reality computer lab in a state school and 10 computer labs. School officials said these advances help up to 70 percent of graduates go on to college.

Before an invitation-only audience of 160, Clinton briefly outlined a series of proposals incorporated in the budget Congress currently is debating. The education section of the Clinton budget marked the biggest increase in education spending in a generation, with a \$35 billion package of tax deductions and credits for college tuition and extra money for

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literacy training, pre-school funding and job training courses.

It is the largest increase in higher education funding since the G.I. Bill, which assisted veterans returning from World War II and subsequent wars in attaining their higher education goals.

Clinton gave a shorter speech with a similar theme at Benedum Airport in Bridgeport later Thursday afternoon before a crowd of at least 12,000.

The president proposes a little something for everyone:

- For college students and their parents, he offers tax credits for the first two years of college tuition and further incentives for subsequent years. He also proposes expanding the guidelines for Pell Grants, allowing upwards of 300,000 more students nationally to be eligible for financial aid.

- The goal is to make two years of college as universal as a high school diploma," he said.

- For college graduates, he proposes a plan that would allow them to pay back student loans as a percentage of their income, rather than at a flat rate.

- For young children, he proposes to increase funding for Head Start.

- For vocational education students, Clinton renewed his commitment to the School to Work program.

- "The reason I pushed School To Work is because I saw too many students in vocational education not getting the skills they needed because their education was outdated," Clinton said. "The division between vocational education and academic education in the real world is an artificial one."

- For students, Clinton called for 1 million reading volunteers to help ensure that every eight-year-old can read independently.

- "Most important in the development of national standards is the evaluation of how those standards are met," Clinton said. "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."

To do that, said Monore Elementary School parent Janet Stephens of Huntington, parents and teachers must make reading fun. Because to be better readers, Stephens said, students simply need to read more.

"We need to make it fun, to make them love reading," Stephens said. "Don't make it a job or a chore."

That's how Stevens' son, Philip, a second-grader, and daughter, Danielle, a fifth-grader, got their love of reading.

"They love going to the library," their mother said. "It's some place they can go where they're important."

When the question-and-answer period began, Clinton took to a stool in the center of the room, swiveling left and right to answer questions from state education officials, teachers, parents and students.

Clinton said there are two impediments to implementing national standards. One is the perception that standards will equate to the federal government commandeering the nation's education system.

The other is fear.

"It's scary," Clinton said. "And what happens if you take it (the standardized test) and don't do very well?"

Handwritten:
Despatch
5/28/97
RT-1-A

Center repairs funded

Bluefield
Daily Telegraph
5/28/97
JJ A-1

'We had people all over the place' for Clinton visit

By JIM TERRY
of the Daily Telegraph staff

BLUEFIELD — Gov. Cecil Underwood, after arriving some 45 minutes late for a reception at the Bluefield Area Arts and Crafts Center, said he understood "why government costs so much."

The governor, who was in Clarksburg earlier in the day to welcome President Clinton to the Mountain State, said there were about 115 state troopers on duty when the president arrived.

"We had people all over the place, there were limousines, police everywhere," the governor said. "I was told that as the motorcade went from the airport to the (Robert C. Byrd) school where Clinton spoke, the crowds were among the largest the president ever had when he arrived for town meetings like this one."

Underwood described the time with Clinton as "a great day. Anytime the president comes to your state, it's a great day."

We had...

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In Bluefield, some of those who had been waiting at the arts and crafts center left before the governor arrived.

He originally was due at the center at 4:30 p.m., but arrived shortly before 6 p.m.

"I'd like to thank you for waiting," he told those still there. "I'm late here because the president was late."

He said the day was a good one for West Virginia in general and for education in particular.

Asked about President Clinton's push to raise the national standards for education, Gov. Underwood said, "I'm very supportive of it."

He said West Virginia already

does some of the things Clinton is espousing in his education program.

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

Underwood said West Virginia already requires testing at each grade level, and that the state simply would substitute the national tests during the fourth and eighth grades.

West Virginia has joined North Carolina, Michigan and Maryland in adopting President Clinton's proposals for national standards.

"We're very proud of where education is in this state," Underwood said, "but at the same time, we appreciate what the president is doing."

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WJU Computer Linkup 'Perfect'

NASA tie to Clinton town meeting clear step into future

By THOMAS JEWELL
The Intelligencer Staff

Officials with NASA's Classroom Of The Future at Wheeling Jesuit University were pleased with Thursday's computer linkup of President Clinton's town meeting in Clarksburg.

What proved to be a banner day could pave the way for future experimental work with the Internet II that is being developed.

"It came off perfectly," Dan Miller, director of NASA/COTF said of Thursday's "stream" broadcast. "We were notified just last Thursday, and we didn't even have the hardware. So a lot of things happened in that time."

At the event, Clinton made note of the technological advances taking place in West Virginia, then went on to point out that his town meeting

was being broadcast over the Internet.

That was where WJU came in, having provided the linkup to "stream" the audio and video onto the World Wide Web.

"There were people tuning in from as far away as the Netherlands, Japan, Germany and Denmark," Miller said, commending the efforts of Nitin Naik, COTF director of support services; Don Watson, manager of video production; and Chuck Winshel, computer network manager.

To receive transmission, Internet users were accessing the "server" at WJU's Center for Educational Technology.

Records showed that nearly 3,000 Internet users tuned into the hour-long broadcast Thursday, which worked out to 95 percent of the system's connection capacity.

"This demonstrates the response and the success of the broadcast," Miller said. "At the same time, our computer was only operating at 6 percent of its overall capacity, which shows that we have much greater capabilities."

These could very well come into play as the Internet II is developed, a project involving NASA and five other federal agencies. It should be going on line in 18 months to two years.

"Internet II is going to change the way we do business, because it will operate 1,000 times faster than today's T-1 business connection," Miller said. "At the Classroom of the Future, we hope to become involved in the Internet II experiments, and we think that today's demonstration will help us to do that by showing that we have the capabilities."

Clinton returns to W.Va.

■ Clarksburg town meeting address touches on educational standards, technology

By JILL ZEGER
REGISTER-HERALD REPORTER

CLARKSBURG — Technology stole the stage Thursday at President Clinton's first town meeting in two years, from achieving an Internet first to cakes catered with computer-

enhanced presidential images.

As in past speeches, Clinton touted the state's advancements in education during the address at Robert C. Byrd High School.

"West Virginia is the national leader in putting technology in the schools," Clinton said.

Clinton noted the number of computers in the state's classrooms and that his talk was the first presidential address carried live on the

Internet.

"So you're in cyberspace," he explained.

But during the address, he chuckled that Vice President Al Gore and the Clintons' daughter, Chelsea, have greater familiarity with the Internet.

The meeting was at the 18-month-old Robert C. Byrd High School, which features a virtual reality lab among its five computer labs. The \$22.4 million school was built on a former strip mine in a hollow.

Donald Molter, a manager for Bell Atlantic's West Virginia division, said more than four miles of cable and 200 telephone lines were added for this one-time event.

Phillip Podesta, owner of Phillip's Restaurant, Catering and Banquet Hall in Clarksburg, said one cake being sent back to the White House features the images of Hillary and Chelsea Clinton.

Podesta, 33, catered the

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event for the 45 White House press corps members and included cakes and cookies from Bonnie Belle's Pastries in Nutter Fort.

The former cook at The Greenbrier said the 50-year-old family business created the images by scanning in Clinton family photographs into a computerized decorating machines.

Although technology surfaced frequently in the meeting, educational standards was still Clinton's main topic.

Clinton has advocated national reading and math tests for fourth- and eighth-grade students, which the West Virginia Board of Education voted to use in March.

Currently, eight other states and schools run by the Defense Department use these tests.

State schools Superintendent Hank Marockie said after the meeting the tests wouldn't be any more expensive than current tests used statewide.

The state's curriculum already is geared to these exams, he added.

A sample question from each test was projected on a screen behind Clinton.

He contrasted the percentage of correct answers by nation and showed that American children scored lower overall than other industrialized countries.

Robert Kittle, Harrison County schools superintendent, picked out people to ask questions from the 160 selected to attend — a departure from some past town meeting formats.

Several questions echoed concerns voiced earlier over the implementation last year's state Senate Bill 300, or the Schools-to-Work measure.

Those audience members asked about funding and the future of programs they feared might fall by the wayside in the rush to implement technology, such as gifted programs and writing skills.

Educational leaders, from unions to state school board members to students, said they left with positive impressions of the speech.

The president walked with a cane following a March accident where he damaged some tendons and ligaments in his leg during a fall.

Clinton paused at one point during the question-and-answer period, tucked at his pants leg and commented he

was adjusting his leg brace.

Julia Green, White House spokeswoman, said Clinton traded his crutches for the cane last week.

Clinton spoke at Benedum Airport in neighboring Bridgeport after the meeting and returned to the White House.

Across Clarksburg, the number of "Welcome Clinton" signs on businesses almost equaled the brigade of fire trucks and law enforcement vehicles that converged on the city of about 18,000.

Small-town friendliness ran rampant. There was the "Hey President Clinton, we'll tint your limo for free" sign in neighboring Nutter Fort.

And another welcome sign was sandwiched on the Greenbrier's motel and restaurant marquee between "all-you-can-eat-spaghetti" and "new efficiency units."

For West Virginia, a state that leads the nation in the use of technology in the classroom, what the president asks is not out of reach.

West Virginia already conducts standardized testing at every grade level, and participated in the National Assessment of Educational Progress last year, said Cabell County Assistant Superintendent Bill Smith.

"What it might mean for us is for the federal government, it would give them a way of gauging how well we're doing as a nation," Smith said. "(Now) every state gives different tests."

Still, the idea of standards set at the national level gives pause to people like Huntington High School English teacher Rosemary Grant, who wonders if standards would be better set by states.

"Of course, the con of that is you may get back to some of the kinds of inequities we've had," Grant said. "There's no question we need to do a better job in education. And I think the job is getting done, we're just now in the middle of it."

Grant points to the county's recent efforts in strategic planning as evidence of that incremental progress.

"It's more of a problem knowing what they need to know to compete in a global economy. Every time you get a new computer program, in five years it's obsolete."

Simpson Elementary School fifth-grader Jennifer Brown of Clarksburg had a long chat with the president about arts education. He told her at the federal level there were limits to what could be done to fund arts education.

"He said that lots of times parents don't support the arts and principals see that and so they don't think it's important," Brown said. "Then they see there is more support for athletics and in the process of lifting up athletics, we lose funding for the arts. And funding is everything."

For students like Huntington High School senior Cicely Garrett, who plans to go to Georgetown University, the idea of tax credits to offset the cost of tuition is a tremendous help.

"The cost of education is getting so expensive and you pretty much need a college degree to get a job," Garrett said. "It seems almost like punishment sometimes."

Garrett also agreed with the president's proposal to allow college students to earn credits for service work in the community or use such efforts as part of their work-study program.

"Sure, I think you go to college to learn more than what's in your textbooks," Garrett said. "I've always heard when you work for your education you appreciate it more."

Herald
Dispatch
5/23/97
Bg1-A

Residents' pride boosted by visit

By MARK TRUBY
The Herald-Dispatch

CLARKSBURG, W. Va. — Anticipation, wild rumors and a few frenzied days of preparation preceded President Clinton's arrival Thursday to the rolling hills of northcentral West Virginia.

But when the moment finally arrived, the four-hour presidential visit was as smooth as Air Force One's 12:05 p.m. landing on Benedum Airport's shallow runway.

The president, wielding a walking cane and flashing his best "aw shucks" grin, was greeted with squeals and applause from the airport crowd before he was whisked off by motorcade.

Minutes later, he arrived at Robert C. Byrd High School, a modern beauty from the designers of the new Cabell Midland and Huntington high schools.

It was a brief visit for the crowd which gathered at Benedum Airport under Thursday's brilliant blue sky, but it was also a signal that better days are ahead for

Clarksburg, residents said.

Thursday marked Clinton's sixth visit to West Virginia since 1992 and his fourth since he became president. Clinton visited Huntington last August to kick off his five-day train trip to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

"This is an unbelievable boost for this area," said James Sinclair of Clarksburg. "We needed something like this to take pride in."

In 1987, the Anchor Hocking glassware plant closed, putting hundreds out of work. Soon after, The Wall Street Journal wrote a story chronicling the demise of this "hardscrabble river town" at the hands of foreign competition.

Last Oct. 11, all three major networks began their news programs with the arrest of seven members of the Mountaineer Militia. All were accused of plotting to blow up the \$200 million FBI fingerprint identification complex in Clarksburg.

On Thursday, Clinton held up

Clarksburg as a example in improving education and its dedication to a common goal.

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"I hope you are as proud of the people of this state as I am," Clinton said. The president had little to worry about on that note.

Across Clarksburg and Bridgeport, people were swept up in Clinton's visit, from the telephone workers who rolled out four miles of cable, to the students called upon for questions, to the restaurateur who made pepper-

oni rolls for the president's motorcade.

They dressed the area in stars and stripes, bunting and banners, signs and posters.

The visit was marred only by the arrest of a Clarksburg man who allegedly called 911 and threatened the president.

Crowds lined the motorcade's route from the airport to Byrd High and back again. Clinton, succumbing to his well-known love of mingling with common people, ordered an unscheduled stop in front of the Mountaineer Mart outside Clarksburg.

He spent the next few minutes conducting a hand-shaking, baby-kissing

tour de force that left the crowd giddy.

"I can't believe the president stopped his motorcade in front of my house," Wayne Gibson said. "I shook hands with him and thanked him for all he had done."

Such gestures seem to be as natural for Clinton as expounding on policy matters.

"Hi, beautiful baby!" Clinton said, shaking the tiny hand of 3-month-old Christian Taylor Munnelee during an unscheduled stop in Bridgeport.

At the Presidential Town Hall Meeting in the converted Byrd High gym, Clinton seemed at ease leading a lively give and take with the crowd of 120

adults and 40 students.

To illustrate the type of question a student might encounter on a reading standards test, Clinton called upon 10-year-old Hannah Galey to read a short passage from E.B. White's "Charlotte's Web" that had been projected onto a large screen.

Galey came through flawlessly.

Clinton gave a thumbs-up sign while she read. As she finished, he laughed and said, "That's wonderful. That's great. You are great."

Mary Helen Shields, an 18-year-old senior at Byrd High, introduced Clinton, telling the audience, "This is the most exciting moment of my life."

Herald
Dispatch
5/28/97
871-A

Mr. President

When 11-year-old Jennifer Brown stood up yesterday at the education forum, she didn't know what to expect. She was just about to pose a question to the president of the United States.

Her concern was over cuts in funding for music and drama classes. And she wanted to know where Bill Clinton stood on the issue. The president looked her directly in the eye and said he, too, was alarmed by the decline in funding for the arts and music in the nation's schools. He said it was a serious mistake to make such drastic cuts.

After the event, Jennifer was elated. "I didn't expect him to talk directly to me like that. I was wondering if he was going to support what I was saying."

Jennifer has a definite dream. She wants to one day end up on Broadway. She wants to act, sing and dance. And she feels cuts in education funding for the arts can be an impediment.

When the forum was over the president came over and talked with the students at length. He told Jennifer that it's up to the parents to show an interest in the arts and to press local school boards to provide adequate funding.

Jennifer came away from this experience quite impressed. "He was a nice guy. Very warm. He cared about what I thought."

Bill Clinton impressed a lot of people on Thursday. He moved easily about the gymnasium, despite his fragile knee. He answered a wide range of questions - rehearsed to a certain extent, to be sure - from extending the school year ("On the balance, it's a good thing to do.") to tax credits for college tuition ("Our goal is to make the first two years of college as common as a high school education.")

It was a well prepared program complete with full-color graphics and a math lesson from the president (you had to figure out how many miles a car could travel on a full tank of gas). The forum was a slickly produced show for television, but it was more than just a "dog and pony show" as former state GOP chairman John Raese called it.

"We do not feel the entire education system should be changed, except for tweaking it a little bit and getting back to basics in education," said Raese.

That's what the president spent 90 minutes talking about. He wants to make sure fourth graders know how to read and eighth graders are proficient in math. He says students should spend more time in class and be tested in the eleventh grade to see if they can pass high school. If that's not getting back to basics, what is?

Here was the president, in Clarksburg, praising our schools, encouraging our students and saluting our teachers for helping to make West Virginia a leader in education. And suggesting ways that we can do even better. Some dog and pony show.

As for Jennifer Brown, she may still be contemplating this morning whether or not to wash her hand - the one that shook the president's hand. She left Robert C. Byrd High School yesterday feeling that she has a president who listens to what she has to say.

James Logue

Clarksburg
Exponent
5/23/97
88-4

Students have praise for the president

But many questions unanswered

by Gail Marsh
STAFF WRITER

The students who were permitted to ask President Clinton questions during the town hall meeting were obviously well prepared.

Jennifer Brown, 11, a fifth-grader at Simpson Elementary School, voiced her concern to the president about the loss in funding for



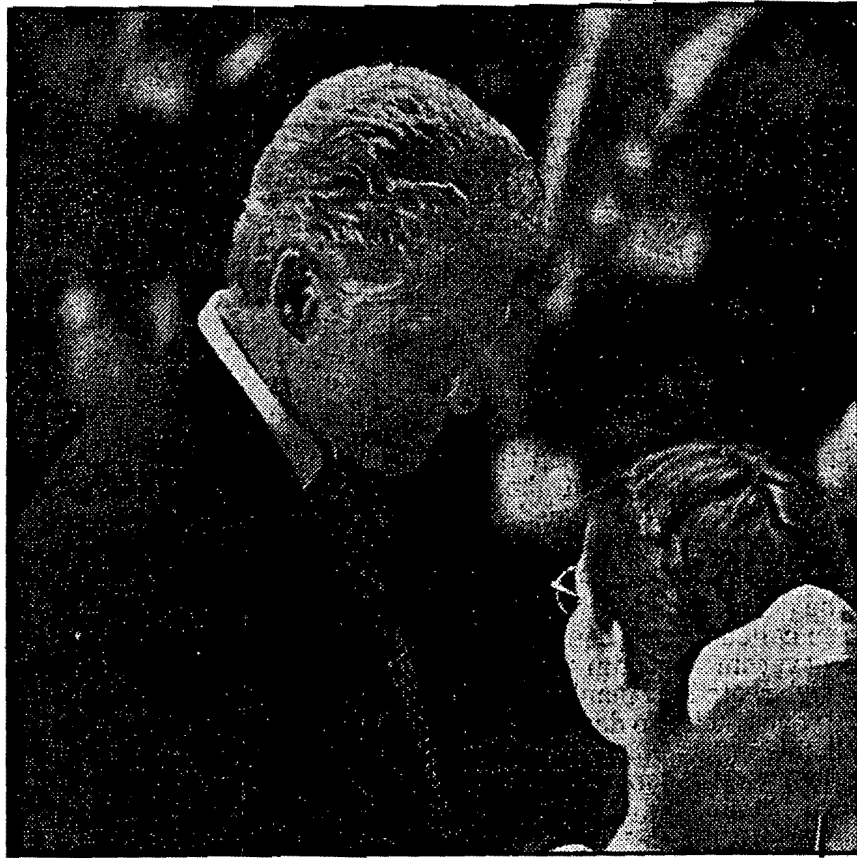
Brown

the arts. Clinton agreed there had been an alarming decline in support for the arts and he hoped to see this reversed. While shaking hands after the meeting, the president spent a few minutes face-to-face with Jennifer to reiterate his stand.

"What he said to me is that schools often take their cues from the parents and what programs they support," Brown said. "If parents are strong supporters of sports, then in the process of lifting up the athletic department, funding for the arts often drops off."

When asked if she was satisfied with the answer she received, Miss Brown had nothing but praise for Clinton.

"Yes, he gave me a satisfactory answer. I can't begin to explain what this has meant to me, to shake hands and talk with the president of the United States," the very elated fifth-grader said.



Staff photo by Steven Wayne Rotsch

President Clinton spends a moment with Jennifer Brown, who had earlier questioned him on funding for the arts.

"He said he doesn't believe parents support the arts enough and he says that's not really in his control, but he promised to do all that he can to influence that. It's been an honor to talk with him," she said.

Carol McDonald, a fourth-grader from Lost Creek Elementary School, said "his talk was nice but he didn't get to some of the things I wanted to talk about." "He talked about expanding the Head Start program and that's good, but he didn't touch on a plan for safe and drug-free schools," she said. "Although, we kind of already have that in this area," the student said.

Kristen Moore, a sophomore from Bridgeport High School,

and a straight-A student, felt Clinton's education platform addressed one of the country's most important issues, the future of our youth.

"It was really interesting. He addressed many important issues looking at education," she said. "Kids are the future and if they don't get proper education, I agree with him that the country will decline."

Olivia Hill of Washington Irving Middle School, also an A student, was one of many students who would have liked to have addressed the president.

"He answered questions well, but I wish students could have asked more questions."

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STUDENTS

(Continued from Page A1)

"He spoke about renewing American values in the school. I would have asked him what basis would be used to implement those values. Also, he said dedicated and talented teachers were needed in each classroom. How would the teachers be assessed? What improvements would be made for their teacher's requirements?" she asked.

Many questions remained unasked and unanswered. Deizune Mosby, a senior at Morgantown High School, was impressed with the casual atmosphere of the town meeting, but she left wanting to hear more.

"I thought it was great and I was really impressed with the format. It wasn't formal, it was

like having a conversation about important issues with someone you've known for a long time. Also, I thought it would all be kind of snooty, but he was really personable and friendly. If I had gotten to ask a question, I was going to ask what was going to be done to aid students not proficient in English, such as those having trouble with grammar, spelling, etc."

Unkshury
E. Spence
5/28/97
BG-A-1

Attentive audience privy to president's education stance

by Jeff Toquinto
STAFF WRITER

With a smile on his face and a cane at his side, President Bill Clinton brought his national education campaign to Harrison County and Robert C. Byrd High School on Thursday.

Walking with grace in defiance of a bum knee, the president received a boisterous ovation. Clinton, sporting a gray suit, yellow tie and down-to-earth demeanor, was at-ease with the throng of people situated inside of the school's gymnasium.

Not long after Robert C. Byrd student Mary Helen Shields formally welcomed the president to West Virginia and her high school, the President welcomed the Mountain State into the fold of states sponsoring rigorous math and reading testing.

In his initial statements at the town hall meeting on education, Clinton announced that Governor Cecil Underwood had committed to national education standards and testing set up in his Goals 2000 plan. By the

(Continued from Page A1)

spring of 1999, all fourth graders will be tested in reading and all eighth-graders in math under the format.

"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," Clinton said.

Along with West Virginia, Clinton told those in the audience that Massachusetts' governor has also agreed to his voluntary performance standards and testing program.

The two states join Maryland, Michigan and North Carolina as ones committed to Clinton. Also, schools run by the Defense Department are in the fold.

The performance standards and testing programs were among many topics the president covered during the near 90-minute long forum on Thursday.

West Virginia University President David Hardesty asked the president the difficulties in adopting the new standards. Hardesty said it would require "changing a lot of things" and wondered what roadblocks might be encountered.

"There are only two barriers," said Clinton. "One is political and one is personal."

The personal matter, said Clinton, rests solely with being afraid of how the tests will come out.

"It's scary. It's personal. You're afraid," Clinton said. "What happens if you take it and you don't do very well."

The political one, he said, rests with fears that Goals 2000 will nationalize education.

The bulk of the resistance comes from conservatives. Many feel that it takes educational decisions away from the schools and parents.

"I think people say 'I don't want the federal government telling we what to do,'" said Clinton. "That's not what this is about."

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

Clinton had words of praise

for West Virginia's teachers and administrative personnel for its "aggressiveness in equipping elementary schools with computers" and other areas of progress. But, he said West Virginia went one step further.

"You also are showing that you can raise standards," Clinton said.

Clinton
Exponent
5/23/97
R1 A-1

Clinton, however, talked about issues other than the national education standards. In fact, he hinted at favoring a longer school year and even high school competency tests.

When asked by a member of the audience about making the year longer, Clinton said the United States, with the exception of Belgium, has the shortest school year of any major industrialized country. He conceded that the notion would be an "unpopular" one.

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

On the subject of a competency test for high school students, Clinton gave an endorsement. He also emphasized the test wouldn't be a one-shot deal.

"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," said Clinton. "... I think we would have to start it early and give everybody more than one chance to pass."

Clinton, who emphasized the need for technology in the classroom and avenues available on the Internet, said there were potential problems with vulgar material on the information highway. He suggested new screening procedures could help, but he feels the Internet is still necessary.

"Not having the Internet in the classroom would be a big problem," the president said.

Following his meeting, Clinton talked with representatives in the audience for nearly 20 minutes. He followed his departure with a brief visit to RCBHS's auditorium to meet with the rest of the school's student body.

Army shares goals for America's young people

President Clinton spoke in Clarksburg Thursday concerning his Call to Action for American Education. His efforts to enhance education in America are not solely confined to the civilian world. In his capacity as Commander in Chief of our military forces, Clinton is helping many young people advance their educations.

This spring, the Army increased educational benefits in three of its premier programs - the Army College Fund, the Montgomery G.I. Bill and the College Loan Repayment Program.

"These programs were great opportunities for young people interested in higher education even before the recent increases," said Lieutenant Colonel Thomas

C. McCarthy, commander of the Army's Pittsburgh Recruiting Battalion which includes recruiting stations in Bridgeport, and several other northern West Virginia cities. "And with college expenses continually escalating, we're glad to be able to keep with rising costs."

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Clinton impresses friends, foes

President's down-to-earth demeanor appreciated

by Jeff Toquinto
STAFF WRITER

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Walking with grace in defiance of a bum knee, the president received a boisterous ovation. Clinton, sporting a gray suit, yellow tie and down-to-earth demeanor, was at ease with the crowd of people inside the school's gymnasium.

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West Virginia University

(Continued from Page A1)

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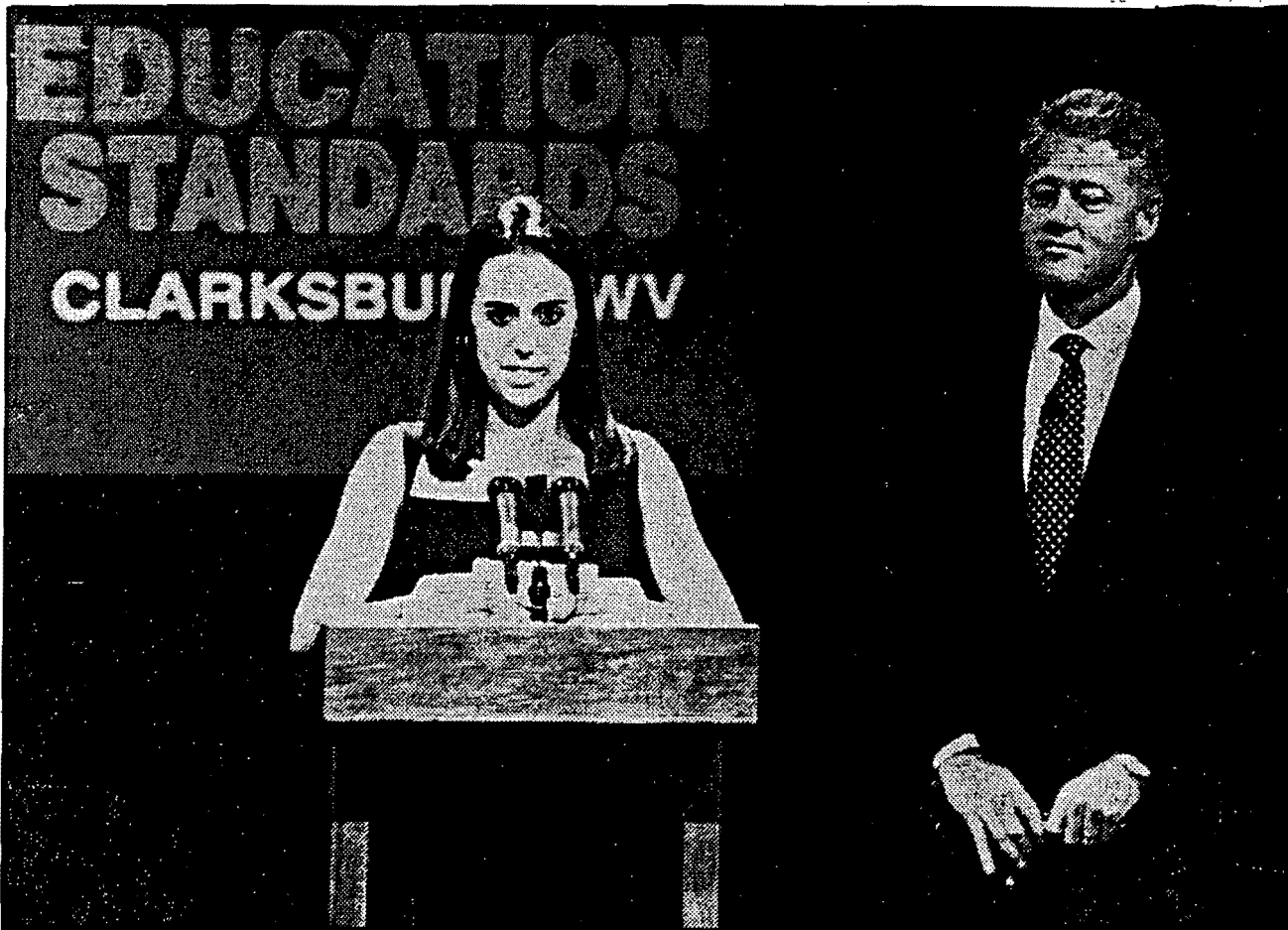
Clinton had words of praise for West Virginia's teachers and administrative personnel, for the state's "aggressiveness in equipping elementary schools with computers" and for its other areas of progress. But he said West Virginia has gone one step further.

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Clinton also talked about

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PRESIDENTIAL WELCOME



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Robert C. Byrd High School student Mary Helen Shields welcomes President Bill Clinton to her school before the start of Clinton's town hall meeting on education in the RCBHS gym.

other issues. He hinted at favoring a longer school year and even high school competency tests.

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Following his meeting, Clinton talked with representatives in the audience for nearly 20 minutes. He then made a brief visit to RCBHS's auditorium to meet with the rest of the school's students.

Area turnout great for visiting president

Today we honor the Harrison County residents who turned out in huge numbers to greet President Bill Clinton Thursday following his 12:06 p.m. arrival at Benedum Airport in Bridgeport.

Although it has not occurred for half a century, the residents of Clarksburg and north central West Virginia who converged on the "Jewel of the Hills" to catch a glimpse of the chief executive demonstrated to their president that they knew how to behave during this historic occasion.

A maximum number of people were on hand at the airport for his nearly 20-minute-late arrival at Benedum.

With little delay, the motorcade carrying the president and his entourage wended its way along Route 50 and, upon reaching its interchange with Joyce Street where it turned southward, another large group of people showed up to greet President Clinton, who smiled and waved to many who had never seen an incumbent president before.

Throngs crowded the sidewalks on Buckhannon Avenue as the motorcade proceeded toward Buckhannon Pike and on to the Route 98 intersection in Nutter Fort, where even more anxious Harrison Countians were waiting for their perhaps once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Clinton reached his destination, the virtually new Robert C. Byrd High School. The 160 individuals selected to be present for the town hall meeting on education were already assembled in the gymnasium and ready to hear his comments on his recommended standards of education for entering the 21st century.

Harrison County Superintendent of Schools Robert E. Kittle opened the town meeting by introducing Governor Cecil Underwood and his wife, former Governor Gaston Caperton and a number of other dignitaries who were in attendance. Kittle was present for the school event despite the fact that his mother passed away earlier this week.

He then introduced Mary Helen Shields, a senior at RCBHS who was recently chosen "Miss Eagle" by her fellow students. Miss Shields then was given the honor of introducing President Clinton. A better job of doing this could not have been done for the occasion by a seasoned orator.

Absent from the gathering were members of the congressional delegation from the Mountain State, who remained in Washington Thursday for a crucial vote on the balanced budget.

Following Clinton's comments, response in the form of questions from the audience reflected the intelligence of students, educators and public officials alike.

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And we hail the president for his mastery at explaining his various goals for bringing American educational standards up to the levels he is recommending.

The motorcade's trip back to Benedum Airport demonstrated no less enthusiasm for the city's famous visitor with the highways and streets still lined with individuals who simply wanted to wave to and perhaps be recognized by a sitting president.

Crowds back at Benedum Airport had not thinned out upon the procession's return to the airport, where the president delivered brief remarks to the many who had been gathered for hours.

Throughout the day, many of those unable to physically show up for Clinton's visit viewed the town hall meeting on West Virginia Public Broadcasting and local television stations.

Thursday's events have earned a special place in the history of Clarksburg, and all those people who made them a success are to be commended.

Robert F. Stealey

Thousands wait hours for glimpse of president

by Troy Graham
STAFF WRITER

The scene was set on the ground at Benedum Airport.

Limosines, vans, police and Secret Service agents littered the tarmac. An enormous American flag was displayed along with signs from area schools welcoming the president to Clarksburg. The podium with the characteristic presidential emblem waited to broadcast Clinton's words.

In the Benedum terminal, The Galley restaurant was packed with on-lookers, hoping to catch a glimpse of the nation's leader, and behind the closed doors of the KCI Aviation hangar stood thousands of people who would wait over three hours to hear the president speak.

The first plane landed and the national media got off and began setting up. Another plane landed and White House staff members walked across the runway.

Finally, just after noon, it appeared on the horizon. The man all of northcentral West Virginia had been waiting for was about to land in Harrison County.

Television and newspaper media from around the state scrambled to get the first shot of President Clinton as his plane circled the runway and came to

rest just behind the Benedum terminal.

A reception line of state dignitaries, led by Governor Underwood and his wife, Hovah, lined up to greet the president.

At last, after a week's worth of anticipation, President Clinton, cane in hand, gingerly descended the stairs from the plane.

The president was followed off the plane by national Education Secretary Richard Riley

and former Governor Gaston Caperton, and was greeted by Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin, Speaker of the House of Delegates Bob Kiss, Treasurer John Perdue, Secretary of State Ken Hechler, Bridgeport Mayor Carl Furbee and others.

"It was exciting to meet the president and shake his hand," Furbee said. "He seems to be moving pretty well on his bad leg."

However, just as quickly as the county caught its first glimpse of President Clinton, he was gone, whisked away in an enormous 33-vehicle caravan that carried him to Robert C. Byrd High School.

Was the area's first encounter with the president a let-down? Not really, according to Jason Brown, a Simpson Elementary fourth grader selected to report on the event for the Disney web site.

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Press Corps gets a noonday feast

by Gail Marsh
STAFF WRITER

The main show may have been in the gymnasium, but a sideshow in the long hallway also garnered a great deal of attention.

Visitors to President Clinton's town hall meeting at Robert C. Byrd High School Thursday afternoon were asked to enter a side door, walk through a metal detector in the hallway and take a left into the meeting place. One couldn't help but notice the abundant display of food overflowing the tables along the narrow area, set up by a local caterer for the White House travelling press corps.

Philip Podesta, owner of Philip's Restaurant and Catering in Glen Elk, said he was approached by a Washington advance team earlier in the week.

Podesta pulled out all the stops for the president, down to the gigantic floral centerpiece surrounded by several types of fruits and his signature chocolate-dipped strawberries. Three pasta dishes, salmon, shrimp and roast beef hors d'oeuvres, five kinds of cheeses, pizzas, six vegetables, five pickled items and a multitude of desserts graced the immaculate tables. Five staffers were on hand to assist with serving the more than 80 Washington press members. It was apparent they were well pleased.

"We haven't had food this good in more than five years," one staffer said. "We all give the food two forks up," he said.

Podesta was also pleased with the display.

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Chapman
Telegraph
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President earns kudos from students

by Gail Marsh
STAFF WRITER

The students who were permitted to ask President Clinton questions during the town hall meeting were obviously well-prepared.

Jennifer Brown, 11, a fifth-grader at Simpson Elementary School, voiced her concern to the president about the loss in

funding for the arts.

Clinton agreed there had been an alarming decline in support for the arts and said he hoped to see that reversed. While shaking hands after the meeting, the president spent a few minutes face-to-face with Brown to reiterate his stand.

"What he said to me is that schools often take their cues from the parents and what pro-

grams they support," Brown said. "If parents are strong supporters of sports, then in the process of lifting up the athletic department, funding for the arts often drops off."

When asked if she was satisfied with the answer she received, Brown had nothing but praise for Clinton.

See KUDOS, A6

KUDOS

(Continued from Page A1)

"Yes, he gave me a satisfactory answer. I can't begin to explain what this has meant to me, to shake hands and talk with the president of the United States," the elated fifth-grader said.

"He said he doesn't believe parents support the arts enough and he says that's not really in his control, but he promised to do all that he can to influence that. It's been an honor to talk with him," she said.

Carol McDonald, a fourth-grader at Lost Creek Elementary School, said "his talk was nice but he didn't get to some of

the things I wanted to talk about."

"He talked about expanding the Head Start program and that's good, but he didn't touch on a plan for safe and drug-free schools," she said. "Although, we kind of already have that in this area."

Kristen Moore, a sophomore at Bridgeport High School and a straight-A student, said she felt Clinton's education platform addressed one of the country's most important issues - the future of our youth.

"It was really interesting. He addressed many important issues looking at education," she said. "Kids are the future and if they don't get proper education, I agree with him that the country will decline."

Miller
Mountain
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Clarksburg Man Charged for Threat To Kill Clinton

A Clarksburg man who threatened to kill President Clinton was tracked through his 911 call and arrested Thursday.

Roger Keith Elliott, 47, who called 911 and threatened to kill Clinton, was arraigned in Elkins before U.S. Magistrate David Core Thursday afternoon and was assigned to a federal institution to await psychiatric evaluation.

He was arrested without a warrant for knowingly and willingly making threats to take the president's life, a felony. Core said the bureau of prisons would choose the institution in which Elliott's mental competency would be evaluated.

Core said Elliott's initial case was a question of competency. Elliott's

medical prescriptions apparently ran out, but Elliott's doctor is reportedly on vacation. One of the prescriptions is Prozac, a drug typically prescribed to treat depression or obsessive-compulsive disorder. Core agreed for Elliott's caretaker to make arrangements to get his medication to him.

Wearing a faded black baseball cap, gray vest jacket and white T-shirt, Elliott said little at the hearing and sat with his head lowered. He told Core he would accept Elkins attorney Stephen Jory as his legal counsel and spent the rest of the hearing in silence.

The maximum penalty for threatening the president is five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

'Going to Clarksburg' meant seeing the President 10-year-old Grafton girl comments on Clinton visit

By Jodi E. Hollingshead

for the Mountain Statesman

As you probably already know, President Clinton came to Clarksburg Thursday, May 22. His plane was supposed to arrive just before noon at 11:45, and it did. He went to Robert C. Byrd High School for a town meeting, talking about future education. Hundreds of people gathered there to hear him speak and to ask questions that have been on their mind.

But even thousands were at Benedum Airport to hear him speak again, that is where I was. They waited for hours and hours, and he finally came.

I saw many people doing many different things while they were waiting, from just standing around to playing tag. Lots of schools were there, including 16 kids from my own, Taylor County Middle School. I could tell that all ages were getting just a little impatient.

Some people were estimating how many people were at the airport. Their guesses were anywhere from 3,000 to 10,000. I would have to go with about 10,000 or more.

For many, including me, it was a once in a lifetime experience. Even though all I could see in the distance was his tiny gray head, when you're almost 11 year old, it's a lot just to say that you were in the same place as the President of the United States of America. Some kids won't even get to see his head in their whole life. I have gotten to see Richard Simmons and Gaston Caperton in person, but nothing and nobody as important as Mr. Clinton.

When I got to the airport, I felt like I hadn't seen so many people in all of my life added together! Except for when I went to a Mountaineer football game. It was extremely crowded.

One of our friends who went tried to get us decent seats, but it was impossible. That's how packed it was!

We finally found a spot where we could see the podium. We couldn't breathe, so like lots of other people, we moved to the back where most of the schools were. After waiting for two hours, we finally heard a voice saying, "The President will be here shortly.", and everyone stood up.

While I was waiting, I saw the people on News 12, April Kaull, Bill Clack, and Rebecca Taylor. So not only did I see lots of important people, I saw the people I see on the news every day! People were listening to the music that was being played while others were sleeping and reading. I don't know how they did it in all the hustle and bustle of the crowd.

There were people from all states, Tennessee, Florida, California, and more. The President talked about just what he did at the high school — future education. I didn't hear all of his speech because every time I found a spot to see, another child got up on daddy's shoulders. So we went back to the bus.

This experience was special to me because I live in the small town of Grafton that hardly anybody knows about. Which means that I don't exactly get to do the things a ten-year-old does in L.A.! I am lucky though, that I got to see the Pres. Like I said earlier, it was quite an experience that I can't even begin to describe the way I felt when I found out that I was going to Clarksburg.

During this week and last, "going to Clarksburg" meant going to see the President. It was the talk of the town. Hearing Hail To the Chief in person for a reason is pretty cool. It was packed, loud, uncomfortable, and long, but I think it was worth it.

If it hadn't been for my stepmother, Linda Hollingshead, and my dad, Gary, I wouldn't have had a chance to get there. Summarized, I waited, saw Bill Clinton, Gov. Underwood, Gaston Caperton, the news people, sat, waited, got to be in the business of it all.

Plus, to top it all off, when I got home and got the mail, I saw President Clinton's plane on his way home.

I just might do it again!

*Mountain
Statesman
5/23/97
A-12*

Republicans To Clinton: Leave Education To States

Harry
Eck
5/28/97
87-1

BRIDGEPORT, W. Va. (AP) — Republicans opposed to President Clinton's education agenda say children need a basic foundation, not direction into specific vocations when they are still too young to choose a career.

About 70 people turned out Thursday night for a West Virginia Young Republicans forum in Bridgeport, a few miles from a Clarksburg school where Clinton appeared earlier in the day.

John Raese, a Morgantown businessman who organized the event, said educating children is a job best left to the states.

Raese said the federal government has too much influence over education and is wrongly focusing on job training rather than traditional subjects.

The West Virginia Legislature and former Gov. Gaston Caperton signed off on that transfer of power over education by approving a bill two years ago that makes the state eligible for federal funding, Raese said.

"We need to draw the line on the government. We've had enough control. We've had enough big government," Raese said.

"You can train a dog or you can train a lion, but we do not want to train our children," he said.

Clinton also addressed the issue during his forum, saying "the dividing line between vocational education and academic education in the world of the future is an artificial dividing line."

State Sens. Donna Boley, R-Pleasants, and Sarah Mincar, R-Tucker, and Delegate Fred Gillespie, R-Wood, joined Raese at the Republican forum.

The lawmakers sponsored bills during the 1997 session that would have repealed the state's Jobs Through Education Act. They got nowhere.

House Speaker Bob Kiss, D-Raleigh, said Thursday it was never the intention of the federal government or the Legislature to push high school students toward any particular jobs.

Clinton pleases students, leaders at town meeting

By Jennifer Davis

STAFF WRITER

CLARKSBURG — Robert C. Byrd High School senior Mary Helen Shields summed up the mood of most everyone in the audience as she introduced President Bill Clinton Thursday.

"Mr. President, this is the most exciting moment of my life, and I can't even begin to explain the mixed emotions that I'm feeling right now," the 18-year-old said.

Shields complimented Clinton on his dedication to improving education nationally as she welcomed the president to Clarksburg and opened Clinton's first education town meeting.

"Speaking for my fellow classmates and for my peers across the state, I want to thank you for your

efforts and concerns on education. I am sure that your education Goals 2000 will make us leaders going into the 21st Century," Shields said.

Clinton in turn lauded West Virginia for the improvements the state has made in education.

"I came here in part because of the great progress you are making in the national movement to raise academic achievement. In 1996, the state of West Virginia tied for third in the nation in improvement since 1992 in the mathematics performance of fourth and eighth graders. You should be very, very proud of that," Clinton said.

The crowd of 160 Harrison County students, teachers and government and community leaders applauded Clinton several times during his speech and the question-and-answer session which followed.

Clinton thanked Gov. Cecil Underwood and former governor Gaston Caperton — who were both present for the town meeting — for supporting education, pointing out Caperton's initiatives for putting computers in West Virginia schools.

The president outlined his plan for improving education before taking questions.

His plan calls for standardized testing for fourth-grade reading and eighth-grade math, national testing for teachers, expanding the HeadStart program, modernizing school buildings and connecting every classroom and library to the Internet by the year 2000.

Clinton announced Thursday that Gov. Underwood joined the State Board of Education and State Superintendent of Schools Hank Marockie in agreeing to give the

standardized reading and math tests to all West Virginia students in 1999.

West Virginia University President David Hardesty was the first audience member to question Clinton on his plans for national standardized testing.

"I wonder if you would identify the major impediments to the adoption of such a program and how we, as educators and parents and community leaders, can help you address this important initiative," Hardesty asked.

Clinton said there are two major barriers to the plan, the first political, the second "deeply personal."

The political problems is that many people think national stan-

Please see MEETING Page 2A

Leanne
WV
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Meeting

Continued from Page 1A

dards implies the federal government telling states how to run their schools.

"This is not what this is about. All the federal government proposes to do is to find the development of the tests to measure whether the standards are being met," Clinton said.

The second problem — a big problem according to Clinton — is fear of what happens if test results are not very good.

"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 said. "This is not an instrument of failure, it's an instrument of accountability and a pathway to success."

Jennifer Brown, fifth-grade student at Simpson Elementary School in Harrison County, asked Clinton about lost funding for arts programs in public schools.

"I am frequently involved in the arts, music and theater programs . . . but recently the funding for these programs has been cut," she said. "I was wondering what plans you have, if any, to make sure that the arts aren't completely cut out of the school curriculum."

"We don't have direct programs to do that because we spend all our money on other things. But I must

say, I personally believe it's a mistake for schools to cut back on it," Clinton responded.

"I think the best way to keep them is for you and students like you to point out that you think it's an important part of your education," he added.

Resident Jim Archer asked Clinton how walls between vocational and academic education could be torn down.

"The whole idea of school-to-work is to set up a partnership between the employers in the community and the schools so that the idea of working and learning are — these ideas are compatible, not two different things," Clinton said.

The president stressed that the school-to-work initiative not close doors for any student but rather leave graduates, who enter the workplace after school, the option of continuing their education at a later date.

Jim McCallum, a member of the West Virginia Board of Education, asked Clinton what his thoughts were on extending the school year.

"I have always thought that if you could afford it, it was a good thing to do," the president said.

"Every other nation in the world with an advanced economy has a longer school year," said Clinton, adding that a plan should be made as to what would be done with the extra time.

James
WV
5/23/97
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Tradition of reading held up before president

By Alecia Sirk

BRIDGEPORT REPORTER

CLARKSBURG — When Hannah Galey stood before President Bill Clinton to read a passage from "Charlotte's Web," she was living out a family legacy of literacy.

"We're a family of readers," mom Hilary Galey said, so it was appropriate, she added, when they asked Hannah to read.

The selection was chosen to exemplify a point from one of the president's 10 goals for education: that a standard be set for a fourth-grade student reading level.

After Hannah finished, Clinton led the audience through a question that might be posed about the passage. Students would need to be able to comprehend the material on a basic, proficient or advanced level.

"It means you know what you need to know," Clinton said. "So on one is supposed to fail, and this is not designed to put any school, any student, any group down, but to lift us all up."

Hilary Galey has children throughout the Harrison County school system, in seventh, fourth, and second grades, and a preschooler.

Hannah, her mom, and her sisters all attended the town meeting, with

the youngest, Rebecca, sitting quietly on her mother's lap.

Hilary, who is experiencing Harrison's education at all levels, said the county system is wonderful, but that all things can be improved. Some of that improvement, she said, could start at home.

For instance, Hilary suggests that parents turn the TVs off. "We don't have TV Monday through Friday at our house," she added.

"I think we're a society that can read, but chooses not to," Hilary continued. "I don't even go to the grocery store without a box of books in the car."

In fact, Hilary said, there's a stack of books in every room of her house. If, in the car, everybody doesn't have their own book, they listen to books on tape.

Hannah, Hilary added, is the most voracious reader in the family.

Hannah said she has read "Charlotte's Web," but her favorite book, she said, is "Matilda." Rebecca likes "Babar," and Sarah, 12, just finished, "Shooting the Count of Monte Cristo." Hilary said her favorite book has always been "Gone With the Wind."

Hilary said she is proud of her children, and of the family tradition continuing in her family.

"My mom always said, 'You're never alone as long as you have a good book.'"

James
WV
5/23/97
87 10-A

Clarksburg
Exponent
Telegram
5/24/97
88-1

High school gets back to normal

by Jeff Toquinto
STAFF WRITER

The hallways at Robert C. Byrd High School returned to normal Friday, one day after President Clinton conducted a national town hall meeting from the school's gymnasium.

For all intents and purposes, few physical traces of the president's visit remained Friday throughout much of Harrison County, save for a few remaining signs and billboards. Only platforms owned by the school remain in the school's gym.

"Physically, it looks pretty good," said RCBHS Assistant Principal Geary Rollins. "In a couple of days, you'll never know the president was here from that standpoint."

Rollins said staffers and students at the school in Pitcarin Hollow were sporting mixed emotions on Friday.

"Staff wise and student wise, I'd say there was a sense of relief," said Rollins. "But in the same sense, we're coming off of a huge high."

Rollins said students and faculty at the school won't have much time to take their collective breath. Next Friday, they have to get ready for commencement.

"Now we're starting to think along the lines of getting ready for graduation. The platforms in the gym will be put into place starting on Tuesday for that," Rollins said. "Graduation was the furthest thing from our minds. It was second line, but the seniors, I'm sure, were cognizant of it."

Many of the seniors and the rest of the student body were in the auditorium Thursday afternoon watching the telecast of the town hall meeting on closed circuit television and the Internet. Rollins said the students were exemplary in their behavior and attitude during the meeting and during the time leading up to the event.

"The students and the staff members in the theatre were superb," said Rollins. "After he made his comments and came down to the crowd and shook

hands with everyone he could, it made everything that everyone had gone through for the last week to 10 days worth it.

"It's not everyone that gets to shake hands with a president," he ended.

Meanwhile, at Bridgeport's Benedum Airport, Manager James Griffith was glad to see things getting back in order.

"We're almost there, but it will take a while," Griffith said. "We're starting to look like an airport again."

Although Griffith was delighted the president's plane landed at Benedum, he said the entire effort took the help of everyone.

"You look at what KCI Aviation did with just basically shutting themselves down and it's incredible," said Griffith. "Then you have to appreciate Shorts Brothers Bombardier West Virginia Air Center. They arranged their shifts so no one would be there and plenty of parking would be available."

"Both of those organizations went above and beyond the call of duty."

'Billfest'

President greeted with rock'n'roll, smiles

By Debra Minor Wilson

STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — It could have been a red, white and blue political rally.

The blue of a super bright spring day. The white of teeth flashed in excited smiles. And the red of the sunburned faces and arms.

It could have been a festival, with rock music blaring and an electric feeling of excitement zipping through the crowd. In a way, it was both.

Call it Billfest . . . as in Bill Clinton, president of the United States.

Thursday afternoon, a crowd of more than 12,000 spectators stood for more than three hours, braving sunburn and aching feet to see the president at Benedum Airport.

They swayed to the music of Springsteen, Sinatra and "Old Time Rock and Roll" blaring over the public address system. They clapped; they sang; they waved flags and posters.

The crowd had been released

from the KCI Aviations hangar like cattle out of a chute at 12:30 p.m. into the general public viewing area, just after the president left for Robert C. Byrd High School. They began a three-hour long standing-room-only wait for him to return to give a speech.

The day wasn't hot, but a cloudless sky allowed a bright sun to beat relentlessly down upon the mostly hatless crowd, which would learn a valuable lesson Friday morning: lots of bright sunshine plus no hat equals a burned scalp.

Several spectators succumbed to the heat and were treated by EMS crews. Stretchers were passed head-over-head to victims standing in the front or in the middle of a crowd packed as tight as this.

It was a day of standing in the sun and standing in line. . . long lines for grilled hot dogs and icy pop and to that all-important part of any event: the porta-potty. Later, again there would be lines to shuttles buses back to the Meadowbrook Mall.

Lines or not, sun or cloud, the

presidential visit was something special, something to savor and remember forever.

Lt. Col. David L. Spencer, project officer with the Army National Guard stationed at Benedum Airport, said it was a great honor for the president to visit Clarksburg.

"This is a good thing for north central West Virginia. As a West Virginian — well, I'm always proud to be a West Virginian — but today, under these circumstances, I'm very proud that the commander in chief is visiting the area."

Spencer has met several other presidents — Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, George Bush and Vice President Spiro Agnew. He was thrilled Clinton was visiting the area.

"The president of the United States holds the most powerful office in the world. He is a living hero. You should recognize that."

So, how do you pass the time while waiting for the president?

Please see BILLFEST Page 2A

Continued from Page 1A

You could play cards. From poker to hearts to rummy, clusters of card games sprang up inside the vast hangar.

You could knit. Or read. Or listen to tapes, radios or CDs. Or snooze. You could play pop bottle Frisbee.

Or you could grab a quick lunch.

Flipping a hot dog off an immense rotating grill and onto a bun about every five seconds, American Vendor employee Deloris Bolyard said — without missing a dog — she and other employees began preparing the hot dogs at 7 a.m. that day.

She didn't mind the unending lines.

"I'm just so excited the president is coming."

This wasn't the first president John Madden (no, not *that* John Madden) of Bridgeport had seen.

Sitting on a wooden bench at the edge of the hangar, just barely avoiding the sun, he and his wife Helen waited patiently for the president.

A Democrat "born and reared," Madden said he had shaken hands with John F. Kennedy on a presidential campaign to West Virginia.

"I'm a staunch supporter of Clinton," Helen said. "I wouldn't have missed this for the world. I would have been so disappointed if I hadn't gotten a ticket."

Madden, also a loyal Democrat,

said he probably would have come even if it were a Republican president visiting.

"You have to respect the office. He's the President of the United States. You have to give him that."

Helen disagreed with a sniff.

"Not me. I wouldn't have come."

Joyce Allen of Coalton said she was glad the president was here.

"It's time the national media sees West Virginia in a positive way and not as some awful joke."

Outside the hangar to the side, Cheryl and daughter Lyndsay Tharpe waited with a large red-and-white quilt featuring razorbacks.

"This is the mascot of University of Arkansas teams," Cheryl said.

"Mr. Clinton isn't a graduate but he follows their games."

The Journal

Positive spin

Clinton's visit to Clarksburg a good show, but lacks substance

Somehow, it seems very appropriate that President Bill Clinton came to Clarksburg to conduct, via the Internet, an international town hall meeting on education. It gave the state and federal government a lot of opportunities to put a positive spin on a lot of their ideas.

Thirty years ago, Clarksburg was one of those West Virginia towns where the air was filled with coal smoke and people worked in a nearby steel plant, glass factories and other heavy industries. Since then, the air has cleared and the community is symbolized by the presence of the FBI's fingerprint training center.

A high-tech operation in its own right, the center also is the alleged target of a local right-wing militia group that had visions of blowing it up. Clinton has been Public Enemy No. 1 to a lot of folks who oppose his strong gun-control proposals. Intentionally or not, coming to Clarksburg was one way for Clinton to say he isn't afraid of those people.

The meeting itself was conducted at Robert C. Byrd High School. West Virginia educators and politicians were able to show off the progress the state has made in teaching children to be computer literate.

The town hall meeting took on all the trappings of an official campaign stop. Everyone who participated was pre-selected, the questions carefully scripted. The president looked especially presidential with his cane. Everyone played their part perfectly.

Despite all the show and tell, some issues were raised.

Clinton endorsed longer school years, providing local schools can afford to do so. He said it's an unpopular idea and he moved the discussion on to the computer chips

that screen out — censor? — the Internet.

But just imagine what might happen if some national figure actually took a leadership position on extending the school year. Why, it's the kind of issue that engages people, makes them think and talk, and perhaps act. That person might be remembered as someone who made a positive difference.

The relatively short school year was a product of 19th century thinking. Farmers liked having kids around to help, factory owners liked having older kids around to fill in for vacationing parents. But there aren't as many farms as there once were, and putting really young people in factories is against the law and really doesn't make much sense, if it ever did.

The 21st century is only three years away. The U.S. economy and culture today bear virtually no resemblance to what existed 100 years ago. But most of our public schools still operate on the same arcane schedules. The huge consolidated schools with class changes every 55 or so minutes are great for teaching people to work on factory assembly lines. How many people in this country will be spending the rest of their life spot-welding seams on mufflers?

For the sake of symbolism, the president's sojourn to West Virginia was nice for the people who had the opportunity to join in. After all, not everyone gets a chance to have their picture taken with the president free of charge. In terms of substance, little if anything was accomplished. No leadership was demonstrated, no bold new initiatives announced. As has been so often the case with the Clinton Administration, the show was more of the same, only the location was a little different.

A difficult week, but with gratifying results

I am so proud of the people who work to produce *The Exponent* and *Telegram*. They came through under pressure.

Our readers don't know and probably don't care about the sweat and anxiety behind the special three-day coverage of the presidential visit last week. All they should care about is that they learned what they needed and wanted to know when they needed to know it.

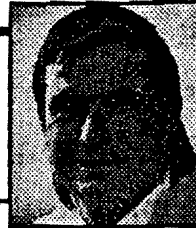
But I want to tell readers about the challenges that the employees of the two newspapers had to overcome to get the job done.

First, after months of preparation, the news staff and production departments rolled out a new design of our two daily newspapers and the combined weekend editions the week of May 5. It represents a pretty significant re-engineering of our newspapers and the process we go through to produce them.

The response to the design changes have been overwhelmingly positive by readers which makes all the work worthwhile to our employees. But what you don't see as readers is that we are still on the front end of the learning curve in determining how we can consistently produce the improvements in the newspapers every day.

The change has been so radical that by its very nature we must take extra time and extra effort to do what used to be a routine under the old presentation of the news. It is like learning to speak a new language - it takes a little time and practice to get fluent.

Terry L.
Horne
Publisher



While we were stumbling along the best we could until all the changes became routine once again, the announcement came that President Bill Clinton was coming to Harrison County. We knew our readers would demand our best efforts because of the magnitude of this event. And we had less than a week to begin producing what proved to be a staggering number of pages of news and advertising at our newspapers during the three-day period.

We decided early on to do special sections of news on the visit and related issues beginning with the Wednesday issues of the

newspapers. Those special sections would continue Thursday, the day of the visit, and Friday with follow-up coverage. This meant the news department had to plan out dozens of story and photo ideas prior to the visit.

We also wanted to make sure as many businesses as possible in north central West Virginia had the opportunity to take advantage of the extra readership that this special coverage would provide. This was just as big a challenge for our advertising sales representatives because deadline requirements meant they only had a 2 1/2-day window to get the job done. We hope we provided the opportunity to every business to be a part of these special editions.

The circulation department had to make plans to deliver additional copies of the special coverage to schools. In addition, the bulk of the newspaper caused by extra paging and advertising inserts created delivery challenges for our distribution people.

The production departments then caught the brunt of all the activity. Due to the increased news space and advertising sales, the production people were faced with the equivalent of producing Sunday-size newspapers three

days in a row - twice a day. In effect, this past week we produced seven Sunday-size newspapers.

That would be a huge challenge unto itself. But then throw in the fact that all of us were still learning new techniques to produce the newspapers and it is an incredible feat that these newspapers were produced largely on time. My congratulations to everyone involved in production and distribution of the newspapers.

As for the quality of the content, I challenged the news department to impress every one of our loyal local readers as well as every one of our journalism peers visiting from throughout West Virginia and nationally. My contention was that the quality of the newspapers the out-of-town visitors pick up here lends toward the image they leave with the Clarksburg, Bridgeport and the rest of north central West Virginia.

Classroom
Exponent
Telegram
5/25/97
JJ-A-4

Marking Memorial Day; seeing a president

James
WV
5/25/97
4-A

There's nothing quite as reassuring as the sight and smell of clipped lawns at Memorial Day.

Summer is back. School is out, or will be soon. The long days and warm nights lie ahead.

Our cycles have shifted, from religious observances to Monday holidays, from the agricultural round of planting and harvest to calendars based on school terms and fiscal years.

One of the slightly moveable feasts of our modern calendar is Memorial Day, the unofficial start of summer.

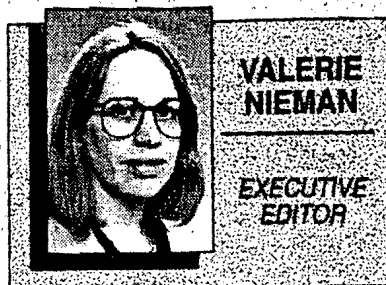
Lawns are mowed. Flowers are planted. The patio furniture is out on the patio, or deck or lawn, and the grill may have been used but won't be inaugurated until the first burgers and hot dogs are cooking for the first family picnic.

This is also the weekend when graves are tended.

Grass is pulled away from headstones, old flowers pulled from the urns and new ones planted — geraniums, ageratum, sweet alyssum to perfume the evening air. People stand around in cemeteries, talking about this and that, reacquainting themselves with memories.

Sometimes it's difficult for people to find the graves, if they've been away a few years. The trees have grown and the shrubs; sometimes there are new landmarks. People walk, head down, remembering, maybe seeing the graveyard in January, or October, seeing the faces as they were then.

It seems like a gloomy occasion, but this remembrance day is full of life. It brings people back to old places, reminds them of old times. Flowers brighten the green lawns. Sometimes a little sadness makes the colors more intense, the presence of the body a bit sharper and more important, knowing it will go away.



VALERIE
NIEMAN

EXECUTIVE
EDITOR

The life of a newspaper is an ebb and flow of daily events. Many are small, the minutiae of community life, the bake sales and parent meetings and new store hours and senior center menus. They weave into the fabric of daily life in this place and time.

Other events reach beyond the community. Natural disasters like hurricanes and floods lift the name of a town from daily obscurity into a brief national view. Who paid

attention to the course of the Red River from the Dakotas into Canada, until snow melt and rain-water flooded Grand Forks?

Then there are the human events. When the White House announced that President Clinton would visit north central West Virginia, the sizzle began and continued to build to the roar of Air Force One touching down on Thursday at Benedum.

Most people, and that includes most news people outside the national nerve centers, have never met a president, never seen one closer than a photo or the flat screen of their televisions: The president of the United States, regardless of party or preference, is the flesh-and-blood symbol of the nation. And he was here, close enough to wave to and to wave back, close enough to touch.

Among our coverage team, photographer Bob Gay had several times covered a presidential event. For reporters Alecia Sirk, Jennifer Davis and Debra Minor Wilson, for photographer Danny Snyder, this was a first. And while the coverage was the main thing, they couldn't help but glow a little from the event. Sunburn added to that glow for Debbie and Danny, who stood with the throngs at the airport and got the same toasting from the unexpectedly powerful spring sun.

Many onlookers remarked how human the president seemed, close

up. Maybe it was the cane he used to ease his still-healing knee. Maybe it was the eye contact, without the cool distancing of television.

We need to see our presidents, senators and Supreme Court judges up close a little more often. It might make us more realistic in our expectations.

We would see them as mere people, not a royal class, not some other species. Realize that they make decisions — and mistakes — just like we do. It would be easier to cheer them in their successes, and commiserate in their downfalls, if there was a little more human contact between the leaders and the led.

This past Thursday marked our first Reader Advisory Board meeting at the *Times West Virginian*. Nine of the 10 members were able to make it to the meeting, despite the activities surrounding the presidential visit.

It was a good session. The board members had the chance to meet department heads at the newspaper, and we had the chance to meet them and learn about their lives. We toured the newspaper and watched the press start up for a "run."

Over the summer, we'll talk more intensively about advertising, circulation and editorial matters. It will be a learning experience for us all.

Clinton speaks about education

By Fred Pace
For The Weekly News Sentinel

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. — Using the town meeting type forum that served him so well during the presidential campaign, President William Clinton spoke with educators in

West Virginia about the future of education in the United States.

Clinton chose Robert C. Byrd High School in Clarksburg because of the school's advanced systems and technologies for educating students.

Facts about Robert C. Byrd High School in

Clarksburg, site of a visit by President Clinton on Thursday:

NAMESAKE: The school is named after U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va. Byrd, 79, has 50 years in public service. He was elect-

See CLINTON Page 7A

FROM PAGE 1

Clinton

ed in 1958 to the Senate, where he has served ever since.

YEAR OPENED: 1996.

ENROLLMENT: 1,015.

SIZE: 258,000 square feet.

TECHNOLOGY: The school has a lab where students work with "virtual reality" technology, involving high-powered computers and three-dimensional graphics and goggles. Every classroom is connected to the Internet. About \$2 million was spent on technology including computers.

EDUCATION: Up to 70 percent of Robert C. Byrd students will continue their education at a two- or four-year college, compared to a

national average of about 40 percent, said Harrison County Superintendent Robert Kittle.

MISCELLANEOUS: The school was built on a former strip mine and the campus covers 200 acres. It has a closed-circuit TV system in each classroom. It's track and football stadium seats 15,000. The school also has a 675-seat theatre, a fishing pond and an environmental center. An amphitheatre and a swimming pool are planned for the campus.

*News
Weekday
5/28/97
pg-1*

Delegate does 'patriotic duty' for presidential visit

By Delegate
Dale Riggs

Last Friday, your reporter made the short trip from Buckhannon, in Upshur County, to the Bridgeport Airport, in Harrison County, to see President Bill Clinton.

Clinton came to West Virginia to present his program on public education. Why did he choose Clarksburg to make public his ideas? One would suspect that he did so at the urging of former Gov. Gaston Caperton. Sen. Robert C. Byrd may have had a hand in the matter.

Frankly, I really didn't want to take the time to go see our chief executive, but for some reason I felt it was my duty to be among the crowd. After all, Sen. Byrd had given me three tickets to the event and Gov. Cecil Underwood had provided me with one. Also, this would be the first time I would see a President in person.

Standing in an arm-to-arm crowd, under a searing sun, for over three hours—while waiting for the President to arrive—convinced me that I had been over-patriotic, but it was too late to escape. The huge crowd had me hemmed in.

The only way out was to faint. When this happened, paramedics would fight their way to the prostrate body, place it on a stretcher and remove it to a shaded area.

I was rooted within a dozen steps of the speaker's podium. Only a rope fence and secret service agents prevented me from taking a seat on the small wooden stage.

The only thing we had to watch was the secret service agents as they talked on their small radios and scurried about trying to look busy.

Then, of course, many attendants were in view. I watched as they carried cold bottles of spring water to the podium. Within a short time, they would remove the warming bottles of water and replace them with ice cold ones. They did this several times. I wished the money that had been spent could have been saved. I watched, and not a single bottle of spring water was ingested by those who later occupied the stage.

Finally, President Clinton arrived on the scene. He was accompanied by Gov. Cecil Underwood and wife

Hovah, U.S. Education Secretary Riley, former Gov. Gaston Caperton, House of Delegates Speaker Bob Kiss, Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin, Secretary of State Ken Hechler, state Treasurer John Perdue and state Sen. Truman Chafin, D-Mingo.

West Virginia's congressional delegation was unable to attend because Congress was in session.

Clinton looked younger and thinner than he does on television. To me he looked like a movie star that had been cast to play a baseball player in a major movie.

When Clinton introduced Gaston Caperton he called him, "my good friend." Caperton arrived at the airport with Clinton on the presidential plane.

When Clinton named West Virginia's congressional delegation, he failed to mention Congressman Bob Wise. This couldn't have made the "clogger" from Charleston too happy.

Gov. Underwood and his wife were the only Republicans on the stage when Clinton gave his short speech.

President Clinton says he is for extending the school year. Many agree. As most will concede, originally, schools remain closed in the warm months only because of tradition.

Has the time come when we can no longer let expensive school buildings sit idle for several months during the year?

...
Last Saturday, your writer attended the West Virginia Strawberry Festival that is held each spring in the city of Buckhannon.

While waiting for the parade to start, I had a chance to talk with several state office holders.

I talked with state Treasurer John Perdue. Perdue intends to run for governor at some point in the future.

Perdue served as chief aid to former

Record
Delta
5/8/97
A7-4

Gov. Gaston Caperton during the eight years that Caperton served as our governor. Perdue always treated this writer very well.

As Perdue told me last Saturday, Caperton funneled a lot of money into Upshur County during his two terms as our governor.

Caperton and Perdue treated Upshur County very well during their years in office. Let's hope that the Underwood administration will continue to help a small rural county that has a lot of needs.

I met Gov. Underwood on the parade route. The governor looked happy, healthy and content, as he always does. He is truly a remarkable man.

...

Term limits for California lawmakers, approved by voters in 1990, were ruled unconstitutional last week by a federal judge.

U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken said the California initiative, Proposition 140, went too far by imposing a lifetime ban on lawmakers who have reached their term limits—three two-year terms in the Assembly, two four-year terms in the state Senate.

"California's extreme version of term limits impose a severe burden on the right of its citizens to vote for candidates of their choice," Wilken wrote.

She agreed to suspend her ruling during the state's appeal. That probably means term limits will remain in effect for the 1998 elections.

Attorney General Dan Lungren whose office defended the initiative, said he was disappointed that "the clear will of California voters" had been overturned.

"Today's decision fuels the frustration citizens harbor toward a judiciary that all too often extinguishes their clear mandates," Lungren said in a statement.

This case will be watched very carefully by voters in other states that favor term limits.

...

Supporters of an Ohio state program that gives poor parents vouchers to send their children to private schools — religious or not — are

appealing a court's ruling that the program is unconstitutional.

The 10th Ohio District Court of Appeals last week ruled that the program violated constitutional guarantees of separation of church and state because 80 percent of the 53 schools in the program are affiliated with a religion.

Ohio was the first state in the nation to fund a voucher program that includes religious schools.

The state and voucher supporters say they plan to ask the Ohio Supreme Court to let the program continue while the case is appealed. The program is funded through the 1997-98 school year.

...

Gov. Underwood and legislative leaders worked very well together during this year's regular session of the Legislature.

For example, Underwood proposed eliminating the tax on intangible property, such as bonds and some business accounts.

Lawmakers agreed to eliminate the tax, which would cost the 55 counties about \$16 million a year, but phased it in over five years. Senate Finance Chairman Oshel Craigo, D-Putnam, said growth in property taxes would make up the difference so counties would not have to make cuts.

But two major bills Underwood backed failed.

They would have allowed the Greenbrier to open a casino and allowed companies to investigate their own compliance with environmental laws and keep the results secret.

Underwood says both bills are economic development issues.

...

Thanks to an increased state revenue estimate, Gov. Underwood was able to get a class of 25 state troopers included in the 1997-98 budget at a cost of about \$1.7 million. Underwood was responsible for acquiring the funds by raising the amount of surplus predicted for the current budget.

...

Here is another Burma-Shave jungle...Lather was used...By Daniel Boone...He lived...100 years...too soon...Burma Shave.

Keena
Delta
5/28/97
gg-4

Mastering the Basics: Reaching for High Standards in Reading & Math

Tonight, I issue a challenge to the nation: Every state should adopt high national standards, and by 1999, every state should test every 4th grader in reading and every 8th grader in math to make sure these standards are met. President Clinton, State of the Union Address,
February 4, 1997

STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE AND DISCIPLINE ARE ESSENTIAL IN OUR SCHOOLS. Strong schools with clear standards of achievement and discipline are essential to our children and our society. These standards are needed to help instill the skills, fundamental American values, and hard work that our children need to get on the right track. Toward that end we must establish meaningful standards for what students should be expected to learn and achieve in the basics and core subjects.

A CHALLENGE TO EVERY STATE: MAKE SURE EVERY STUDENT MASTERS THE BASICS IN READING AND MATH. Every student should be able to read well and independently by the end of 3rd grade and start of 4th grade. And every student should understand the basics of math, including algebra and even some geometry, by the end of 8th grade. Reading and math skills provide the foundation for future learning. Research shows that students who fail to read English well by the end of grade 3 have a greater likelihood of dropping out and risk a diminished chance of success in school and in life. Students who master the basics of math, including the essentials of algebra and some geometry, by the end of grade 8 have the foundation to take tough math and science courses in high school to prepare for college and high-skills jobs.

NATIONAL TESTS IN 4TH GRADE READING AND 8TH GRADE MATH. Parents need to know that students have mastered the basics no matter where they live or move in this great country. The U.S. Department of Education will give every state and school district the opportunity to use the voluntary national tests of 4th grade reading and 8th grade math, beginning in 1999. These rigorous tests will provide scores for individual students, measured against widely accepted standards of excellence - - national and international standards - - that show whether students have mastered critical basic skills. This will be the first time rigorous tests of reading skills at grade 4 and math knowledge and skills at grade 8, tied to national standards, are available to measure individual student performance throughout the nation.

Every parent has the right to know how well his or her child is doing compared with students in other schools, states, and countries. These tests will help states and local communities raise standards of excellence for teaching and learning in every classroom, and provide parents with accurate information about their children's academic performance.

WIDELY RECOGNIZED TESTS LINKED TO WIDELY RECOGNIZED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. These new tests will be based on existing widely accepted tests: the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 4th grade reading and 8th grade math tests. In addition, the 8th grade math test will be linked to the 8th grade math test used in the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). Currently, the NAEP and TIMSS tests are used to assess the overall performance of the nation as a whole and of interested states. In their current form, they cannot be used to measure the academic performance of individual students.

The NAEP reading and math tests are based on widely accepted content standards -- developed by teachers, reading and math specialists, curriculum specialists, parents, and researchers -- reflecting a national consensus on what students should know and be able to do when they reach the 4th grade in reading and the 8th grade in math. The NAEP math standards are highly consistent with the national math standards developed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), which are used extensively by virtually every state.

The TIMSS test is also based on widely accepted content standards -- in this case developed by the representatives of the 41 participating countries -- reflecting an international consensus on what students should know and be able to do in mathematics by 8th grade.

A NEW GENERATION OF TESTS MEASURING PERFORMANCE OF INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS AS WELL AS STATES. The current NAEP and TIMSS tests are designed to assess how the entire nation, or individual states, perform in reading and math. They do not show how individual students perform. The tests are administered to a sample of students in participating states, rather than to all students. Each student in the sample takes only a portion of the total test questions. As a result, no student or parent currently receives a score from these tests.

President Clinton's plan is to make this opportunity of high quality 4th grade reading and 8th grade math tests available to interested schools and states so that students, parents, and teachers will have meaningful scores comparing individual student performance to these widely accepted national and international standards. No state or district will be required to give these tests as a condition of receiving federal funding.

THESE TESTS WILL BE RIGOROUS AND CHALLENGING. Though the focus is on basic skills, these tests are challenging, not low level. While many U.S. fourth graders perform reasonably well in international comparisons of reading, 40 percent of our students do not reach the "basic" achievement level on the NAEP reading assessment. In TIMSS, the U.S. average score is below the international average in the 8th grade, and only 5 percent of U.S. eighth grade students score in the top 10 percent internationally.

THESE TESTS WILL ASSIST TEACHERS, PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND LOCAL AND STATE LEADERS. While most states assess their students in reading and math, they generally set their proficiency levels lower than the challenging levels in NAEP and currently do not have available information to compare their students' performance against other states or countries. These voluntary national tests will give parents and communities reliable benchmarks for determining how well their students are progressing toward challenging national standards. These new standard measures of excellence can help parents hold schools accountable for improved performance, can help teachers and principals improve curriculum and instruction, and can give students a guide for charting their own progress. They can identify students and schools that need extra help.

DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TESTS. The new tests will be based on the widely used NAEP assessments, but will measure the performance of individual students and schools. The U.S. Department of Education will contract with independent test developers to produce the new tests, which will be available for the first time in the spring of 1999. The tests will be updated each year and released to the public after each administration. Guidance for the test development will come from the most successful math and reading teachers from across the country, parents, governors, and local and state education, civic and business leaders. Interested test publishers, states, and local school districts will be licensed to administer the tests each year. Individual test scores will not be collected by the federal government.

States and school districts can administer the tests as part of their local testing program. After each administration, the entire tests (along with answers, scoring guides, and other materials) will be released to the education community. At that time, the tests along with supporting materials will be available on the Internet so that students, parents and teachers can know what is expected to reach standards of excellence in reading and math. New tests each year will keep the content of the tests current. These tests will help show who needs extra help, what changes schools need to make in teaching and the curriculum, and which schools need to be improved.

The total cost of developing the tests will be between \$10 - 12 million annually. The Department of Education intends to reimburse licensees (for example, states, school districts and testing companies) that wish to administer the new tests. The costs of administration are estimated at \$10 to \$12 per student.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY READING INDEPENDENTLY?

At the end of third grade, students are expected to be able to read well and independently. This means that they should have mastered the basics of reading to the point that they can easily change the letters on the page into words, the words into sentences, and the sentences into ideas. To measure this at the 4th grade level the voluntary national test of reading will be based on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) framework. The NAEP framework identifies three standards of performance--basic, proficient, and advanced.

BASIC. At the 4th grade, a child who is at the basic level can recognize most, if not all, of the words on the page, understand the questions being asked, and identify important relevant information. NAEP defines the basic level in the following way: "The student demonstrates partial mastery of the prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work at each grade."

PROFICIENT. At the 4th grade, a child who is proficient can read fluently (quickly recognizing the words on the page), summarize the passage, pick out specific information, add other information about the topic to what is read in order to answer questions, and describe the ways the author presented the information (giving examples, presenting a chronology, creating metaphors, etc.) According to NAEP, proficient students are described as follows: "The student can do solid academic performance for each grade assessed. The student demonstrates competency with challenging subject matter, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real world situations, and analytical skills appropriate to the subject matter."

ADVANCED. At the 4th grade, a child who is advanced can not only read fluently and do everything the proficient reader does, but can also provide a more detailed and thoughtful explanation. According to the NAEP definition of advanced, "The student demonstrates superior performance."

MEETING NATIONAL STANDARDS IN FOURTH GRADE READING: HOW AMERICA IS DOING. According to the 1994 NAEP 4th grade reading exam, American students are not reading as well as they should. The information listed below shows the percentage of students achieving at each of the NAEP standards of performance.

Below Basic	40%
Basic	30%
Proficient	23%
Advanced	7%

QUESTION FORMAT. To reach these achievement levels on NAEP, students must read an entire story, article, or textbook selection and answer thought-provoking questions designed to tap their understanding of the passage, the question, and information from outside sources. There are three question formats—multiple choice, short constructed response, and extended constructed response. Student achievement levels are based on consistency of performance across the three formats.

This example used from E. B. White's *Charlotte's Web* typifies what students at the 4th grade should be expected to do as independent readers.

**A Sample Passage
from
Charlotte's Web by E. B. White**

Having promised Wilbur that she would save his life, she was determined to keep her promise. Charlotte was naturally patient. She knew from experience that if she waited long enough, a fly would come to her web; and she felt sure that if she thought long enough about Wilbur's problem, an idea would come to her mind. Finally, one morning toward the middle of July, the idea came. "Why how perfectly simple!" she said to herself. "The way to save Wilbur's life is to play a trick on Zuckerman. If I can fool a bug," thought Charlotte, "I can surely fool a man. People are not as smart as bugs."

A Sample Question based on the NAEP Framework

Based on this paragraph, how would you describe Charlotte to a friend? Include evidence from the passage to support your description.

BASIC: Students at the basic level would be able to list characteristics that are described in the paragraph. For example they might write any of the following traits to describe Charlotte:

*keeps her promise
patient
confident
clever, smart*

PROFICIENT: Students at the proficient level might list one or more of the above characteristics and make reference to a particular sentence in the passage. For example, they might write:

*Charlotte works hard to keep her promise. At the beginning of the paragraph she made a promise to Wilbur and by the end of the paragraph she figured out how to do it.
Charlotte was going to play a trick on Zuckerman.*

ADVANCED: Students at the advanced level would include more than one characteristic and provide a more thoughtful and detailed explanation. For example, they might write:

Charlotte was a loyal friend who kept her word. She was also very clever. In this paragraph Charlotte thinks about how she can keep her promise to save Wilbur's life by tricking Zuckerman. Her idea gives her, the small spider, a way to outsmart Zuckerman who is much larger than she is.

Amanda Clement: The Umpire in a Skirt

Marilyn Kratz

It was a hot Sunday afternoon in Hawarden, a small town in western Iowa. Amanda Clement was sixteen years old. She sat quietly in the grandstand with her mother, but she imagined herself right out there on the baseball diamond with the players. Back home in Hudson, South Dakota, her brother Hank and his friends often asked her to umpire games. Sometimes she was even allowed to play first base.

Today, Mandy, as she was called, could only sit and watch Hank pitch for Renville against Hawarden. The year was 1904, and girls were not supposed to participate in sports. But when the umpire for the preliminary game between two local teams didn't arrive, Hank asked Mandy to make the calls.

Mrs. Clement didn't want her daughter to umpire a public event, but at last Hank and Mandy persuaded her to give her consent. Mandy eagerly took her position behind the pitcher's mound. Because only one umpire was used in those days, she had to call plays on the four bases as well as strikes and balls.

Mandy was five feet ten inches tall and looked very impressive as she accurately called the plays. She did so well that the players for the big game asked her to umpire for them—with pay!

Mrs. Clement was shocked at that idea. But Mandy finally persuaded her mother to allow her to do it. Amanda Clement became the first paid woman baseball umpire on record.

Mandy's fame spread quickly. Before long, she was umpiring games in North and South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska. Flyers sent out to announce upcoming games, called Mandy the "World Champion Woman Umpire." Her uniform was a long blue skirt, a black necktie, and a white blouse with UMPS stenciled across the front. Mandy kept her long dark hair tucked inside a peaked cap. She commanded respect and attention—players

never said, "Kill the umpire!" They argued more politely asking, "Beg your pardon, Miss Umpire, but wasn't that one a bit high?"

Mandy is recognized in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York; the Women's Sports Hall of Fame; and the Women's Sports Foundation in San Francisco, California. In 1912 she held the world record for a women throwing a baseball: 279 feet.

Mandy's earnings for her work as an umpire came in especially handy. She put herself through college and became a teacher and coach, organizing teams and encouraging athletes wherever she lived. Mandy died in 1971. People who knew her remember her for her work as an umpire, teacher, and coach, and because she loved helping people as much as she loved sports.

Source: "Amanda Clement: The Umpire in a Skirt" by Marilyn Kratz, Copyright 1987, by Carus Corporation. Reprinted by permission.

Sample NAEP Questions on Amanda Clement: The Umpire in a Skirt

Multiple choice item

The information in the passage is presented mainly by

- A. comparing Mandy to other umpires
- B. discussing important events in Mandy's life
- C. describing the game of baseball
- D. providing details about life in the early 1900s

Answer: The correct answer is B. discussing important events in Mandy's life.
(49% of students answered correctly)

Short constructed response items (scored as acceptable or unacceptable)

What was Hank's role in Mandy's early career? (42% wrote acceptable answers)

Hank asked Mandy to umpire his game first. When people saw how good she was, they wanted her to umpire their games till Mandy was famous.

Extended constructed response items (scored as unsatisfactory, partial, essential or extensive)

If she were alive today, what question would you like to ask Mandy about her career? Explain why the answer to your question would be important to know.

Partial: shows some understanding of the passage and the question but does not provide all the necessary information or evidence. (83% wrote partial or better answers)

I would ask her how it felt to be the first woman baseball player, to help other people go into sports and no matter what anybody said just to keep on going.

Essential: demonstrates understanding of the passage and question while providing all required information. (33% wrote essential or better answers)

Why did you like being umpire? It would be important, because we wouldn't know why she liked being umpire, when girls weren't supposed to play sports. Unless somebody asked her that question, we would never find out.

Extensive: demonstrates a richer understanding of the passage, the context, and relevant information from other sources. (2% wrote extensive answers)

I would ask if Mandy had a hard time with other people because she was a girl and participated in sports. The answer would be important because I do not think it was fair that girls did not play sports like baseball, hockey, basketball, and football a long time ago. Also it would be important because somebody else's answer would probably be different from Mandy's.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CHALLENGING MATH?

By the end of eighth grade, students should be learning algebra, geometry, probability and estimation and using the basic skills of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to solve problems. Students should be able to use the basics to solve more complex problems requiring multiple steps.

The items below illustrate the type of mathematics that 8th graders should be expected to understand. When noted, items are taken from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).

SAMPLE ITEMS:

The Fuel Tank

Question: A car has a fuel tank that holds 15 gallons of fuel. The car consumes 5 gallons of fuel for every 100 miles driven. A trip of 250 miles was started with a full tank of fuel. How much fuel remained in the tank at the end of the trip?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 2.5 gallons | C. 17.5 gallons |
| B. 12.5 gallons | D. 5.0 gallons |

Answer: A. 2.5 gallons

Mathematics Tested

This question requires students to understand numbers in context and to use logical thinking and basic arithmetic and fractions and decimals to determine the answer. Responding correctly requires a two step analysis: first determining how much fuel was used, and then how much remains.

Many U.S. eighth-grade students have difficulty with multi-step problems. They often use a single-step approach which yields an incorrect answer. This use of single-step strategies may be due to a less-than-thoughtful approach to problem-solving, an inability to deal with more than one condition in a context, or poorly developed reading skills. In answering this problem, many American students would be likely to choose B. as the correct answer B the amount of fuel used rather than the amount remaining.

Using arithmetic in two step solutions is a commonly used skill necessary for tasks as diverse as comparison shopping and budgeting.

Results

Percentage of students answering correctly a similar TIMSS item:

United States:	34%
Korea:	50%
Singapore:	70%

Area of a Rectangle (TIMSS)

Question: The length of a rectangle is 6 cm and its perimeter is 16 cm. What is the area of the rectangle in square centimeters?

Answer: The area of the rectangle is 12 square centimeters.

Mathematics Tested

This geometry problem requires students to understand the properties of rectangles and the important concepts of perimeter and area. These fundamental concepts of geometry and measurement are skills needed by all citizens for every day tasks such as home improvement as well as for a wide variety of careers such as carpentry, architecture and engineering. The problem also requires students to do two step problem-solving: first finding the width of the rectangle from the information given and then determining the area of the rectangle from its length and width.

International Results

Singapore	86%
Korea	66%
Japan	65%
International Average	40%
U.S.	22%

Treena's Budget (NAEP 1992)

Question: This question requires you to show all work and explain your answer. Your answer should be clear enough so that another person could read it and understand your answer.

Treena won a 7-day scholarship worth \$1000 to the Pro Shot Basketball Camp. Round-trip expenses to the camp are \$335 by air or \$125 by train. At the camp she must choose between a week of individual instruction at \$60 per day or a week of group instruction at \$40 per day. Treena's food and other expenses are fixed at \$45 per day. If she does not plan to spend any money other than scholarship, what are all choices of travel and instruction plans that she could afford to make? Explain your reasoning.

Answer: A correct solution to this question shows what the three possible options are and includes supporting work for each option. An example of a correct solution is attached.

Mathematics Tested

This question requires students to understand the meaning of numbers in context and use everyday logic to develop the choices Treena has for travel and instruction plans within her budget. Students must also determine what arithmetic processes to use to determine the cost of each choice and then to use basic arithmetic to compare the total cost for each alternative, compare the costs to her total budget, and determine how many choices fit her budget.

Identifying relevant numerical information and then using it in multi-step problem-solving is essential to real life activities such as creating a family budget or a small business plan.

U.S. National Results

Percent of students able to identify all 3 correct budget options:	2%
Percent of students able to identify 1 or 2 correct budget options:	17%
Percent of students able to identify <u>no</u> correct budget options:	81%

Treena's Budget: The correct solution indicates what the three possible options are and includes supporting work for each option.

~~$$\begin{array}{r}
 1000 \\
 - 335 \\
 \hline
 665 \\
 - 420 \\
 \hline
 245 \\
 - 315 \\
 \hline
 -70
 \end{array}$$~~

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1. \quad 1000 \\
 - 335 \\
 \hline
 665 \\
 - 280 \\
 \hline
 385 \\
 - 315 \\
 \hline
 \$ 70
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 40 \\
 \times 7 \\
 \hline
 280
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2. \quad 1000 \\
 - 125 \\
 \hline
 875 \\
 - 280 \\
 \hline
 595 \\
 - 315 \\
 \hline
 \$ 280
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 3. \quad 1000 \\
 - 125 \\
 \hline
 875 \\
 - 420 \\
 \hline
 455 \\
 - 315 \\
 \hline
 140
 \end{array}$$

1. take air, group, food
2. train, group, food
3. train, individual, food

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CHARLESTON

DATE May 29, 1997

THE ATTACHED PAPERS ARE REFERRED

TO Mike Cohen
BY Henry Marockie

- ☐ PLEASE NOTE AND FILE.
- ☐ PLEASE NOTE AND RETURN TO ME.
- ☐ PLEASE NOTE AND SEE ME ABOUT THIS A.M. P.M.
- ☐ PLEASE ANSWER, SENDING ME COPY OF YOUR LETTER.
- ☐ PLEASE PREPARE REPLY FOR MY SIGNATURE.
- ☐ PLEASE TAKE CHARGE OF THIS.
- ☐ TO BE SIGNED.
- ☐ IMMEDIATE ACTION DESIRED.
- ☐ FOR YOUR APPROVAL.
- ☐ FOR YOUR INFORMATION.
- ☐ YOUR COMMENTS, PLEASE.
- ☐ PLEASE CALL TELEPHONE NO.
- ☐ YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE

AT

REMARKS: Sorry - neglected to enclose
this with note!

SIGNATURE

Clinton's Visit Focuses Attention On 'State with Great Momentum'

By DEREK REDD

News-Register Staff Writer

When President Clinton paid a visit to Robert C. Byrd High School in Clarksburg on Thursday, it focused attention on West Virginia's growth in the field of education, said Mary Marockie, director of programming and professional development at Regional Education Service Agency VI.

President Clinton saw that this was a state with great momentum, Marockie said. The state has moved ahead and has continued to move ahead.

An attendant of the town meeting held at the school, Marockie said she was wowed by the president's ability to answer tough questions on education.

I was very impressed with his knowledge and with the absoluteness of his answers to questions on education, she said. It showed that he was very well-versed on the subject.

She said she also was impressed with the work of the many Secret Service agents at the town meeting. The agents, Marockie said, were everywhere, everyone entering the meeting area was checked extensively before being allowed access.

But at least you felt secure when you got in there, she said.

Marockie said the audience couldn't have been better and was very representative of the citizens of the Mountain State.

The audience was very competent, she said.

It was a good representation of the type of students and the type of people that live in West Virginia.

Right from the start, Marockie said, the president acknowledged the state's service and achievements in terms of education and recognized the achievements of students in West Virginia.

Clinton answered all of the audience's questions that time permitted.



AP Photo

From left, West Virginia Secretary of Education Richard Reilly, Gov. Cecil Underwood, First Lady Hovah Underwood and former Gov. Gaston Caperton listen as President Clinton discusses some of his goals for education.

he asked audience members to write down any that he couldn't answer and requested that they be sent to the White House where he said he would reply to each.

Marockie said she also was impressed with the humility that he showed in personally greeting many members of the audience.

Clinton had his motorcade stop twice on the way to an airport rally so that he could shake hands with supporters.

Marockie added that West Virginia was fortunate to hold a con-

ference on educational standards. West Virginia is the number one state in the country in the use of standards according to the Quality Counts report that came during Education Week, she said.

All in all, Marockie said, those in attendance were honored to be a part of the historical day.

It was a privilege to be there and help show the nation that this is an up-and-coming state, she said. And I'm sure that the members of the audience were proud to be from West Virginia.