

THE PLAIN DEALER

Twins come back to beat Tribe, 3-2

SPORTS SECTION D

OHIO'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

35¢

NEWSSTANDS
& MACHINES

FINAL

CLEVELAND, THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1998

Clinton basks in warmth of Cleveland

By JOE HALLETT

PLAIN DEALER POLITICS WRITER

President Clinton, as he has a dozen times since taking office, came to Cleveland yesterday and relished a friendly respite from scandals that seem to engross the Beltway but bore the heartland.

In a five-hour visit, Clinton once again appeared right at home in a state which he said "has been very, very good to me." And he did his best to assure that Ohio's next governor is a Democrat by raising at least \$500,000 for Lee I. Fisher, the party's nominee.

Everywhere he went, Clinton appeared buoyed by the warm, even adoring, welcome he received. He made a brief stop to talk to kids at Stephen E. Howe Elementary School in Cleveland. Then the president gave the keynote speech to more than 1,000 City Year convention delegates assembled at John Carroll University. He finished with the Fisher fund-raiser at the Cleveland Play House.

His reception seemed to affirm the high approval rating he has received in national polls, despite nagging investigations of his relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky and controversy over the sale of missile technology to China.

"These scandals and controversies swirling around the president are much more important inside the Beltway than they are out in the rest of the country," said Professor John C. Green, director of the Bliss Institute at the University of Akron.

SEE CLEVELAND/12-A

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



President Clinton basks in the applause of City Year Corps volunteers at John Carroll University.

President salutes U.S. youth volunteers

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

Casey Hunt's letter moved president to come to Cleveland

By OLIVERA PERKINS
PLAIN DEALER REPORTER

Casey Hunt was one of 600 City Year Corps members who wrote President Clinton several weeks ago asking the president to speak at the national convention of young volunteers at John Carroll University.

Hunt, 24, really wanted Clinton to address the group, but he said that he didn't focus on that when he wrote his letter. He saw it as a chance to tell the president how tutoring school children and helping elderly residents at Kethley House, an assisted-living and nursing facility in Cleveland had given new direction and meaning to his life — a change that didn't go unnoticed by his mother, Maxine.

"I heard the words, 'I'm proud of you, son,' from my mother for the first time," said Hunt, his voice breaking with emotion as he spoke to the crowd of more than 900.

Yesterday Hunt got a response

that he had never imagined. Not only was he seated next to Clinton on the stage, but the president also told the convention how much he had been moved by Hunt's letter.

"I thank Casey for what he said," said Clinton. "When he started talking about his mother, I almost started to cry, too."

City Year is a national service organization in which 17- to 24-

- Clinton means well, but doesn't measure up to his idols, writes Elizabeth Auster. 2-A
- Couple angered after being forced to take down anti-abortion sign. 12-A

year-olds spend 10 months volunteering in 10 cities, doing things like tutoring students, helping nursing home residents and turning weed-choked lots into inviting green spaces. It is part of AmeriCorps, the federal service program. Participants receive a weekly stipend of \$135 and qualify for a \$4,725 grant for schooling or job training after completing the program.

SEE VOLUNTEERS/12-A

Clinton salutes citizen service of youths

OLUNTEERS FROM 1-A

During the president's 25-minute speech, which was met by an exuberant crowd that often interrupted his remarks with wild applause and cheers, he repeated the theme that national service programs had the potential to transform America.

"Out of the national service of our soldiers in World War II came the GI Bill, which educated a whole generation of [our] parents and created the great American middle class," he said. "Out of the all-too-short service of President Kennedy came the Peace Corps, which took the idea of citizen service around the world."

"Out of AmeriCorps has come a blending of the two, taking the idea of service and the idea of education — it's almost like the Peace Corps comes home, in

larger numbers — with a GI educational bill for citizen service," Clinton said.

The president said that in four years, nearly 90,000 people had served in AmeriCorps, including those in City Year; and nearly 50,000 had been eligible for education benefits. He said that last year, AmeriCorps members had taught or tutored 500,000 students, helped immunize 64,000 children and renovate 5,600 homes.

The president told the convention that he had just learned that 1,000 colleges and universities around the country had joined the America Reads Challenge by committing to send college work-study students to tutor children in reading.

Increasing literacy is among the goals of the Presidents Summit for America's Future, an effort by Clinton and the surviving former presidents to have Ameri-

cans engage in service efforts that address health, education and other issues relating to young people.

Hunt said Clinton was so unassuming and friendly that he was more anxious about addressing the convention than meeting the president.

"I've never spoken in front of a crowd that large before, but he said I did a good job," said Hunt.

Much of Clinton's address had the feel of a homecoming. He said his fondness for City Year dates to 1991, when as a presidential candidate, he visited a fledgling City Year group in Boston. The president was so impressed with the group, he vowed to help it expand should he be elected.

Yesterday, Stephen Spaloss presented Clinton with the Lifetime of Idealism Award. Now co-director of City Year Philadelphia, Spaloss was then a corps member in Boston when he liter-

ally gave the presidential candidate the shirt off his back as a show of appreciation.

"I want you to know that I still have Stephen's sweatshirt, and I'll have it with me forever to remember when I first met him and I first met City Year," said Clinton.

Responded Spaloss, 29, who has only seen Clinton a few times since their first meeting. "He treats me the same way now as he did then, even though he is the president. It was like having a reunion with a friend."

While much of Clinton's speech focused on AmeriCorps' success, he also urged them to lobby legislators to support the program in order to keep it successful. Clinton has recommended to Congress that funding for the Corporation for National Services, the entity Congress created in 1993 to oversee AmeriCorps and other national service programs, be increased. The current budget is

\$685 million, and Clinton is requesting that the figure be increased by \$96 million, said Harris Wofford, the corps' chief executive officer.

Clinton also urged the conventioners to support pending legislation aimed at curbing tobacco use among young people. He admitted that request had little to do with volunteerism. However, he was moved to make the request because he had just come from Stephen E. Howe Elementary School in Glenville, where a dozen City Year corps members are assigned.

"Ninety percent of all smokers started before they were 18, even though it's illegal to sell cigarettes to children under 18," Clinton said.

At an afternoon forum on public policy and service programs, speakers discussed ways of getting the private sector more involved in service programs, so that they could share the costs.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



CHUCK CROW / PLAIN DEALER PHOTOGRAPHER

President Clinton dives into a crowd of City Year AmeriCorps volunteers after giving his speech at their national convention at John Carroll University yesterday.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



CHUCK CROW / PLAIN DEALER PHOTOGRAPHER

President Clinton and Jenny Moore, 14, of Cleveland chat at Stephen Howe Elementary School yesterday. Moore, who has leukemia and has met the president twice before, invited him to her parents' restaurant, Jenny's Pizza, on W. 47th St.

President Clinton basks in warmth of Cleveland

CLEVELAND FROM 1-A

"Most people don't see Clinton's problems as very relevant to their lives, particularly these days when things are going well. The economy is up, and crime is down."

Such sentiment was eagerly echoed yesterday in Clinton's wake.

"A lot of it is political baloney in an era when backbiting and tawdriness seem to be taking over American politics," said Dr. Michael Devereaux, a Cleveland physician attending the Fisher fund-raiser.

Virginia Benjamin, a Shaker Heights resident who was at the fund-raiser, said that in the realm of what's important to the nation, the investigations of Clinton are well down the list.

"What matters is whether he can do his job and focus his attention on the country's needs, and I think he's done an excellent job of that," she said.

Clinton, who roughly doubled his opponents' vote totals in Cuyahoga County in the 1992 and 1996 elections, provided a needed financial boost for Fisher, whose fund-raising efforts were lagging about \$1 million behind those of Republican gubernatorial nominee Bob Taft.

About 400 donors, some of whom waited three hours in the sweltering heat of the Club Room at the Cleveland Play House, heard the president lavish praise on Fisher during a 16-minute speech.

"I think Lee Fisher becoming the governor would be doing Ohio as big a favor as Ohio would be doing for Lee Fisher," Clinton told an overflow crowd.

He added, "I've known Lee Fisher for a long time. I associate

him with children, families, public safety and the future."

The fund-raiser included events. A coffee and dessert reception cost contributors \$1 per person or \$2,500 a couple. Then a photo opportunity with president was offered for 50 contributors, who pledged to raise \$10,000 for the Fisher campaign or the Ohio Democratic Party.

Although Fisher and his aides had only eight days to prepare the fund-raiser, the response for presidential photo opportunity was so great that the campaign oversold spots for it and forced to rescind some.

"We had to call some people and ask them not to be there," Fisher confirmed, noting that White House had imposed the person limit. "It was not embarrassing. It was a nice position to be in."

Taft, in a bold play to steal some attention from the Clinton Fisher fete, arranged to be in town to tour St. Patrick School West Park. He was largely ignored, however, by the local broadcast media.

Referring to the Fisher fund-raiser, Taft joked, "I won't be there myself, because I've already had my picture taken with the president. I won't be putting up the \$10,000."

Clinton was joined throughout the day by Mayor Michael White and by Rep. Louis Stokes, the Shaker Heights Democrat and Rep. Tom Sawyer, the Akron Democrat.

White, who has been stinging with his endorsement of the Democratic Party's last two gubernatorial nominees, heartily endorsed Fisher, telling the Cleveland Play House crowd, "He needs our hard work, our shoe leather and our money."

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.



CITY YEAR
ANNUAL REPORT

CITY YEAR

**YOUNG ENOUGH TO WANT
TO CHANGE THE WORLD —
OLD ENOUGH TO DO IT**

CAMPAIGN OF IDEALISM 1996-1997