

# Clinton expresses frustrations



WASHINGTON (AP) — The "knee-jerk liberal press" is ignoring or distorting the administration's record to the benefit of "the do-nothings ... and the right-wingers," a combative President Clinton complains.

The news media are too quick to judge and too harsh when they do so, trivializing the presidency and ill-informing the public, Clinton said in an interview for the Dec. 9 issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine.

His outburst came at the end of a wide-ranging discussion touching on such topics as gun control, the "change-averse" culture in Washington and humorous moments of his months in office. The angry comments were triggered by a report that a former supporter had questioned his commitment.

"That's the press' fault, too, damn it," Clinton said. "I have fought more damn battles here for more things than any president has in 20 years, with the possible exception of Reagan's first budget, and not gotten one damn bit of credit from the knee-jerk liberal press, and I am sick of tired of it, and you can put that in your damn article."

Clinton said he has gotten little credit or positive coverage for his accomplishments: tax changes, a family leave bill and national service legislation, among others.

"You get no credit around here for fighting and bleeding," he said. "And that's why the know-nothings and do-nothings and the negative people and the right-wingers always win."

He added: "And they're going to keep winning until somebody tells them the truth, that this administration is killing itself every day to help people like them, and making some progress."

On other topics in the Nov. 2 interview, Clinton: — Suggested that many state gun control laws could be federalized, including a ban on selling guns to minors. He said Virginia's one-a-month handgun purchase limit "is worth adopting."

— Accused some Republicans of at times treating the White House as "their plaything, their per-

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—BILL CLINTON  
PRESIDENT

sonal preserve" after 12 years of GOP presidents, creating unnecessary gridlock with Democrats. But he also credited Republicans for their cooperation on foreign policy initiatives.

— Laughed about rehearsing for the historic handshake between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO leader Yasser Arafat. He quoted Rabin as saying, "OK, I'll shake hands, but no kissing."

Clinton said there also was an understanding to avoid an "Arab embrace," so he practiced with an aide until determining the best way to do so was grab Arafat's bicep with one hand and shake his hand with the other. "I thought, 'I got elected president to do this?'"

— Warned that "Congress will make a serious mistake if they don't pass campaign-finance reform" legislation.

— Said Washington is "more change-averse" than he had expected. "This town is more conservative than I thought. And I don't mean conservative, right to left."

Clinton's frustration with the press was woven throughout the interview, although he said he likes reporters. "This compulsion to make instantaneous judgments and make big things little and little things big is one of the problems of modern politics," he said.

Wrapping up the interview, Clinton conceded he doesn't always do a good job touting his successes. "I'm sorry if I'm not very good at communicating, but I haven't gotten a hell of a lot of help since I've been here," he said.

# Limited scholarships receive judicial OK

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — A scholarship program limited to black students at the University of Maryland is constitutional because of the school's history of racial discrimination, a judge ruled Thursday.

U.S. District Judge Frederick J. Motz rejected arguments by senior Daniel Podbresky that his constitutional rights were violated because he could not apply for the scholarship even though he was academically qualified. He sued in 1990.

"At bottom, the only damage ... is the insult to his sensibilities caused by the continuation of a program which he believes to be wrong in principle," Motz said.

Motz said the university proved that the effects of past discrimination continue today and that many black students, parents and counselors believe blacks are not welcome at the main campus in College Park.

The Benjamin Banneker program, named after the 19th century black scientist and inventor from Ellicott City, Md., awards about \$800,000 in scholarships each year to 80 or more academically gifted black students at the campus. The four-year scholarships cover tuition, books, room and board.

The scholarships amount to only 1 percent of the total financial aid in the university's budget and are "designed to remedy the effects of past injustices to African-Americans without interfering with the rights of others in the process," Motz said.

Richard Samp, Podbresky's lawyer, said he will appeal.

"The Supreme Court has made it clear that this type of discrimination is to be permitted only in very rare circumstance," he said.

Janelle Byrd, a lawyer for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in Washington, said the decision bolsters her organization's contention that universities should be able to remedy problems that resulted from segregation and discrimination.

"The scare that was put into university officials as a result of the actions of Bush administration officials in the late 1990s should begin to lessen with the decision," she said.

To justify the scholarship program, the university was put in the unusual position of arguing in court that it has not overcome the effects of its history of discrimination against blacks.

Lawyers for the university said the campus has a poor reputation among blacks, who believe they face a hostile environment at College Park.

# Chub listed as endangered fish



(AP) — The Oregon chub, a two-inch minnow that lives in a handful of Willamette Valley streams, has been added to the nation's list of endangered species.

By a decree of the U.S. Interior Department on Wednesday, the tiny fish has been given the same protective status as the sockeye salmon and the gray whale. It is now illegal to kill, harass or hurt a chub.

Yet few people even know such a fish exists, one of the reasons the chub found its way onto the list with little fanfare.

"The listing is not likely to have a major effect on any particular industry or upon any large activities," said Rollie White, a biologist at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office in

Portland.

"It's intended to be more of a warning" about the decline of good fish habitat, White said.

The Oregon chub caught the attention of researchers at Oregon State University several years ago, when they documented it as a unique species unrelated biologically to any other native fish.

"It's the only vertebrate genus that's only found in Oregon," said Doug Markle, an Oregon State fisheries professor who did much of the early research on the fish. Markle also helped file the petition under the U.S. Endangered Species Act that led to Wednesday's listing.

Based on historical records and counts, the Oregon chub once thrived in the Willamette River basin. But its numbers began a rapid decline after the construc-

tion of a series of flood control dams in the 1950s and 1960s, Markle said.

"It was obvious to me that it met all the requirements" of listing, he said.

The listing allows government agencies to begin protecting the remaining habitat.

Other animals on the list include the buffalo and the grizzly bear.

The state Department of Fish and Wildlife has come up with a plan to begin introducing chub into other areas where it has a good chance of survival.

"I'm hoping we'll start introducing new populations next year," said Hal Weeks, threatened and endangered fish program leader for the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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