

Gun toting students now face one-year expulsion

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — President Clinton, campaigning for California Democrats, demanded Saturday that schools expel gun-toting students after earlier accusing Republicans of plotting to gut his education package.

Tying the two themes together, Clinton told high school students in a packed gymnasium, "We have to prove ... we can still give our kids an old-fashioned, safe upbringing and a good education."

Clinton sought to boost his own political standing with a three-day swing through California, Washington state and Ohio.

As one of his first acts of the trip, the president signed an executive order requiring school districts to expel for at least one year any student who brings a gun to the classroom. He said the government would terminate funding to states

that don't force school districts to comply, although there could be some exceptions.

The directive simply clarifies the intent of a new law, but it gave Clinton an excuse to address voter disgust with mounting crime, a key issue in the midterm elections.

"Young people simply should not have to live in fear of young criminals who carry guns to school," he said at Carlmont High School. "We cannot operate in a country where children are afraid ... You cannot learn in that kind of atmosphere."

As the students cheered and stamped their feet in the bleachers, Clinton said, "You must say no to guns, no to gangs, no to drugs — yes to education, yes to hope and yes to your own future."

With elections nearly two weeks away, the president and his party face the loss

of several seats in Congress and perhaps control of the House and Senate.

Despite some progress in the polls, due mostly to successful foreign policy initiatives in Haiti and Iraq, Clinton is still considered a political liability to many Democratic candidates. But he was joined Saturday by three members of California's congressional delegation, including Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

"Violence and fear have become epidemic on some of our campuses," said Feinstein, who sponsored the school expulsion legislation.

California, with its huge chunk of electoral votes, is a must-win for Clinton's 1996 re-election hopes. Polls show Clinton's popularity, although still low, has improved in the state recently, and is now above the national average.

Clinton, stumping for Democrats on

the eve of an historic Middle East trip, took time out of a hurried schedule to play a round of golf. Earlier, he used his weekly radio address to chide Republicans for their "Contract with America," a campaign wish list that promises support of the balanced budget amendment and congressional term limits.

Clinton said the contract would cut taxes for the wealthy, trim Medicare and reduce education programs, including a new loan program that makes it easier for middle-class Americans to repay their college debts.

"We can't give in to easy promises," he said in the address taped Friday. He said the Republican plan "would mean cutting many of the education reforms we've worked so hard to pass, along with Medicare and other programs."

Halloween season profitable

DALLAS (AP) — Ready for a Halloween tale of pulse-pounding, profitable terror?

Hundreds of thousands of people are handing over money and shuffling into dark buildings to be spooked by chain saw-carrying mutants and shrieking ghosts.

Welcome to the big boo business: haunted houses. Entrepreneurs are laughing maniacally all the way to the bank as All Hallows Eve has become a nearly two-month marketing season.

"Halloween is an occasion for festivity and merchants know that such occasions are a good excuse for making a buck," said University of Houston marketing professor Betsy Gelb. "While Valentine's Day traditionally lends itself to gift giving, with Halloween, people usually spend money on themselves."

Because of the limited variety of products used in celebrating Halloween, such as candy and costumes, merchants are restricted by what they can offer, said David Stewart, a marketing professor at the University of Southern California School of Business Administration.

Enter the haunted house phenomenon. Their doors creak open in mid-September as pumpkins first appear in supermarkets.

Over the past three years, more than 250,000 people have been chased through Silo X haunted houses, said chain spokesman Dennis Gorg.

From its roots in suburban St. Louis, Silo X has crept into Dallas, Atlanta, Kansas City, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Washington, D.C.

Gorg said the initial investment for the franchises ranges from \$200,000 to \$250,000. Over the two-month season, 50,000 visitors at \$9 a ticket would yield a gross of \$450,000.

FOOTBALL

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but the Ducks retaliated quickly on the ensuing kickoff when Ricky Whittle returned the ball from the Oregon 1-yard line, 86 yards before being knocked out of bounds.

Whittle's return was the third-longest return against Washington since 1970 and the longest Oregon return since 1988. Running back Dino Philyaw put the Ducks on the scoreboard two plays later when he raced 8 yards for his ninth touchdown of the season to give Oregon a 7-3 lead.

On Washington's next series, Husky quarterback Damon Huard attempted to hit Eric Bjornson, his 6' 5" split end, but Oregon cornerback Alex Molden stepped in front of Bjornson and made an off-balance pass interception at the Husky 29-yard line. Molden struggled to keep his balance for 10 yards before finally falling to the ground with his second interception of the season.

After a 17-yard O'Neil to Dameron Ricketts pass play, Whittle notched his sixth rushing touchdown of the season by taking the ball in from the Washington 2-yard line behind the crushing blocks of fullback Dwayne Jones and left guard Eric Reid.

The Huskies answered 31 seconds later when Huard lofted a 51-yard touchdown pass over Wheaton to Bjornson in the end zone to close the gap to 14-10.

Washington held the Ducks on their next possession and forced a Matt Belden punt which was returned 26 yards to the Oregon 31-yard line.

The Huskies moved the ball to the 2-yard line before Oregon's defense took over. Cornerback Herman O'Berry forced a fumble by prying the ball away from Bjornson on what looked to be a Washington touchdown. The

Huskies recovered the fumble at the Oregon 24-yard line but were unable to keep Duck outside linebacker Derrick Barnes off Huard on the next play. Barnes 10-yard sack pushed Washington outside of scoring range and kept Oregon's lead at 14-10.

"Our defense really played a heck of a football game," Brooks said. "We played it rather conservative (on offense) and felt our defense would hang in there, and other than one play, I think we did a great job of containing Napoleon Kaufman," he said.

Washington's Heisman Trophy hopeful rushed 23 times for 101 yards and had only one significant run all afternoon — a 37 yarder to set up the Huskies' opening field goal. Kaufman had been averaging 167.3 rushing yards a game before the Duck defense got a hold of him.

"This defense, in the last three football games, has stuffed opponents running games," Brooks said. "This was not something that was totally unexpected. We have an outstanding defensive football team — and I emphasize the word 'team.'"

Washington kicked a field goal late in the first half to cut Oregon's lead to 14-13 before Belden answered with his own field goal of 45 yards during a drive that used up two of the Ducks' three timeouts.

The two teams traded punts until Washington put together a five-play, 29-yard scoring drive early in the fourth quarter that was capped off by a 10-yard run by Husky fullback Richard Thomas. Thomas' touchdown gave Washington its second lead of the game at 20-17.

Freshman Pat Johnson slipped on the ensuing kickoff and fell down at the Oregon 2-yard line. With 7:44 left in the game and Oregon in the shadows of the goal posts, O'Neil was given the

opportunity to lead the Ducks to victory in the fourth quarter and he responded — something he had not accomplished in his four-year career as an Oregon quarterback.

Oregon's 98-yard drive down the field to reclaim the lead at 24-20 was a significant accomplishment considering the lack of production from the offense in the opening three quarters of play.

"This is as much Danny's win as anybody else," Brooks said. "He did with our offense what we needed to do to win the football game. We didn't have a lot of great plays on offense but we didn't have a lot of negative ones, which we've had in past years against the Huskies."

With 2:40 left, the game was far from over as the Huskies marched the ball down to the Oregon 8-yard line behind the passing and scrambling of Huard.

On Washington's first down play at the 8, Huard rolled right and threw the ball back across the field toward flanker Dave Janoski. Wheaton, redeeming himself for being beaten earlier in the game, stepped in front of the pass and dashed 97 yards for the Ducks' game-clinching touchdown.

"They were trying to run an out pattern and I just jumped on it," Wheaton said after receiving a post-game kiss on the cheek from Brooks. "I was anticipating that pattern and I gambled. I'm just happy I caught it to tell the truth."

Wheaton's crunch-time heroics make it three weeks in a row that he has been a driving force in an Oregon victory.

"Kenny Wheaton really is not surprising me anymore," Brooks said. "I've almost come to expect Kenny to make plays. He's just an amazing football player for a redshirt freshman."

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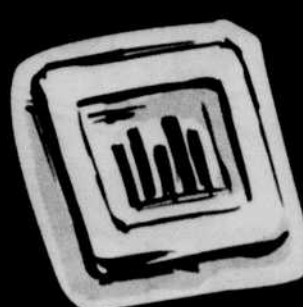
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