

# Glimpse of government brings meeting with President Clinton

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

For many, the image will be forever etched into presidential history.

The photo is one of a youthful Bill Clinton earnestly shaking hands with President John Kennedy. The photo was taken in 1963, when Clinton was visiting Washington, D.C. as a member of Boys Nation.

Some 32 years later, Farmington High's Matthew Michalski followed in the president's footsteps.

"I was kind of speechless," said Michalski, 17, who met Clinton July 24 as part of his Boys Nation experience. "All I could say was my name and where I was from... and I kind of stumbled a little bit with that."

"He looked different in person. He's really a tall guy; he's larger

than life."

Michalski hedges on whether he has political aspirations similar to the former Arkansas governor.

Boys Nation gives teen-agers a glimpse of U.S. government in action. The American Legion sponsored the 49th annual gathering at Marymount University in Arlington, Va. July 21-29.

In addition to meeting the president, Michalski was introduced to U.S. Sens. Carl Levin and Spencer Abraham, and U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, a Republican whose 11th District includes the Farmington area.

He and another Boys Nation attendee also had an impromptu encounter with Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, who was en route to another appointment.

"He was on the run," said Michalski, who didn't even have a

chance to say hello to the Georgia Republican.

There were trips to Fort McHenry near Baltimore and Arlington Cemetery to see the changing of the guard. "That sends chills up your spine," Michalski said.

Michalski also visited the Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters.

Boys Nation is more than a name-droppers' convention or a sight-seeing tour, though. Those who attend go through their own "Senate" sessions, making policy.

"It definitely teaches you things about the importance of running things smoothly," Michalski said. "Sometimes in the Senate we'll sit there for two hours and not getting anything done, nitpicking over things."

His experience will serve him well. Michalski will be Farmington High's senior class president this year.



Matthew Michalski

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Michalski is also a National Honor Society member and on the varsity wrestling team.

He's undecided about where he'll attend college. His mother, Patricia Michalski, thinks politics might be a pursuit.

# Teens perform with orchestra

Four local high school students have spent the summer playing in an internationally acclaimed orchestra from Michigan, the Blue Lake International Youth Symphony Orchestra.

After touring the Midwest and several European countries this summer, the 100-member orchestra will perform a free concert at 7 p.m. Aug. 7 in Birmingham's Groves High School.

The young musicians, in their all-classical performance, will perform compositions by Leonard Bernstein, Samuel Barber, Dmitri Shostakovich, Aaron Copland, Felix Men-

delssohn and Richard Strauss.

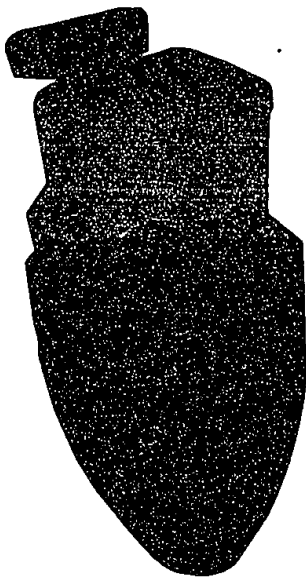
Three Livonia students and one from Farmington Hills are part of this year's orchestra, which gets its name from the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Twin Lake, Michigan. Student-musicians audition for a seat in the orchestra. All three Livonia students are from Stevenson High School. They are Sarah Deighton, who plays the viola; Alicia Terzin, who plays the violin; and Ashley Vartanian, who also plays the viola.

The student from Farmington Hills is Andy Kewil, a Catholic Central junior who plays the viola.

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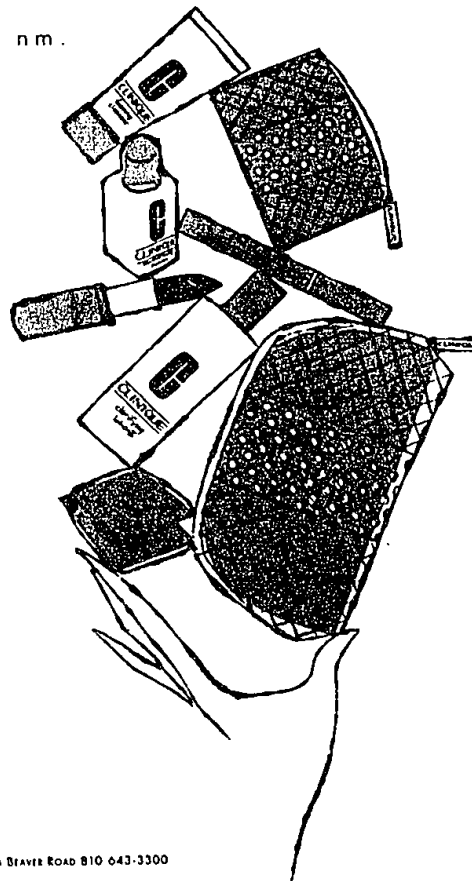
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