

Nicholas students meet with vice-president

By Jonathan Melton-Harris
OF THE CARLSLE MERCURY STAFF
LEXINGTON Several students from Nicholas County High School met with Vice President Al Gore, Jr. on Tuesday, June 1 at the KET studios in Lexington for a wide-ranging discussion on the most important issues facing students today.

Nicholas County joined students from four other Kentucky high schools including Rowland High School in Greenup County, Simon Kenton High School in Kenton County, Fleming High School in Letcher County and Henry Clay High School in Fayette County.

Students participated in an interactive forum which was delivered live to high school students in 22 other states via the award-winning KET Star Channel's satellite system.

"We thought it was great we got to talk to the Vice President personally."

"He (Gore) said he would take our interests and concerns into consideration when advising President Clinton and that he felt this was a good opportunity to learn from us, as he put it, the future of the nation," said Nicholas County High School student Jennie Pryman.

Aaron Judge, now an alumni of NCHS added, "I wanted to go because I felt the opportunity to meet someone who aids the president in making decisions for our country is not one very many people get to experience in their lifetimes."

"And I was impressed with the way he answered our questions, he made us think."

"When one girl from another county asked him about a question pertaining to abortion, he answered her with another question saying, 'Do you think the government should be able to dictate what you personally do with your

body?' I think that more than adequately answered her question," Judge said.

Gore, who is heading a six-month study of ways to improve efficiency at all levels of government, was visiting KET to get a first hand look at the KET Star Channel's distance learning system which has been nationally recognized for its innovativeness and efficiency.

"I have been very impressed by this system," said the Vice President.

"I can see why it has been such a success for KET and for the students who have been able to take advantage of it."

KET developed the KET Star Channel's satellite system in 1989 in an effort to improve the educational opportunities of Kentucky students.

The system is used daily to deliver six advanced courses taught by some of Kentucky's best teachers to students in schools across Kentucky and 22 other states where the courses are otherwise not available.

What sets the KET Star Channel's system apart from all other distance learning systems is the interaction made possible by the keypad response system designed by KET.

The keypad response system allows the instructor to ask questions throughout the course and to know within seconds the responses of the class as a whole.

Gore took advantage of the keypad system several times during the hour-long forum to find out how students in various states felt about issues ranging from college funding to the environment.

He also answered questions from students by telephone.

"We are honored that the vice president of the United States considers KET and Kentucky to be a model of how government and technology can effectively improve the lives of citizens," KET Executive Director Virginia G. Fox said.

Portions of this article were taken from news releases on the subject from the public information office of KET.

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Jimmy ShROUT

*Paid For By Jimmy ShROUT, 214 Morgan, Carlisle, KY 40311.

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