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## **Students Mixed About Speech**

50 on hand at OSU's John Glenn Institute to listen and evaluate

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The 50 or so students sat in rapt, quiet attention as the president talked.

But a one-liner that President Bush offered about both him and former President Clinton turning 60 drew laughs.

So did the incessant clapping of the assembled audience and the president's request for a line-item veto.

And there were a few gasps, such as when the president discussed the National Security Agency's recently divulged domestic-spying program.

When it was all over, the students at Ohio State University's John Glenn Institute who watched coverage of President Bush's State of the Union speech left with different impressions about what was important.

"I think he proposed some broad, sweeping ideas. But he didn't get into specifics," said Rickie Yeager, 21, a Democrat and geography major from Massillon.

Yeager said his favorite part of the speech was talk of bipartisanship. Yet as he watched, Yeager said he noticed partisanship in Congress where the speech was being delivered: Every time one side of the room stood for applause, the other didn't.

Yeager said he thought there was something in the speech that people will talk about decades from now: the president's insistence that freedom around the world means peace at home.

"I'm really intrigued. If he had said this before the war, it would have made the American people more comfortable. This is the real reason we went there."

His Republican roommate, Hillary LeBail, 20, from Huntington Beach, Calif., was surprised by all of the ultimatums the president proposed.

"It's risky if he doesn't follow through," she said last night.

She said she was pleasantly surprised by Bush's defense of the spying program. "I wasn't expecting that. It's nice to know there is someone out there protecting us."

LeBail compared Bush's plan to cut the deficit and reduce America's dependency on oil to "when JFK said he would put a man on the moon in a decade."

Both LeBail and Yeager agreed that Bush looked more confident than during other speeches.

"He was making it lighthearted," LeBail said. "But when he gets to things he wants to talk about, he becomes serious."

Will Dizard, 20, sat with friend Brian Line.

Line, also 20, charted the number of standing ovations the president received on a scrap of paper: 43, not including the five when he came into the chamber.

"That's just something they like to do, I guess," Line said in keeping track of the applause.

"He is trying to retreat to compassionate conservatism," Line said of the speech.

Bush's talk of democratic ideals struck Dizard, of Washington, D.C., as "hypocrisy." He pointed to the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay as an example.

"This administration has shown contempt for those rights," Dizard said.