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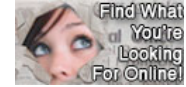
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April 26, 2001

Section: OpEd

Our View: A high honor for OR's Bryce Galen

The Bush administration, completing its first 100 days in office, has had by most analyses a good start, with its bumpiest beginning on the matter of environmental concerns. For this reason, cynics will no doubt suggest that the president and his environmental administrator needed the chance to have pictures taken with 19 student environmentalists as much as the youths must have looked forward to visiting the White House.

But it becomes necessary to suspend cynicism when talking about one of our own meeting with the president, and that high honor has fallen to Oak Ridge High School senior Bryce Galen.

Bryce was in Washington this week with 18 other students from across the nation to receive the 2001 President's Environmental Youth Award. He was feted by President Bush and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Todd Whitman. This is clearly a very high honor, and a most deserved one for Bryce. He is the only Tennessean to receive the honor, and represents one of 10 regions across the country which include, besides Tennessee, the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina.

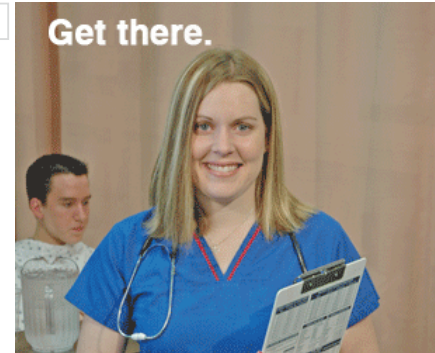
Bryce's winning project, to which he dedicated a lot of hours and sweat, was development of the Big Turtle Greenways Nature Trail. He planned, cleared, constructed and mapped the trail during his junior year as an Eagle Scout project. As important as the achievement is his motivation: his own love of the outdoors and passion for hiking.

Congratulations to Bryce Galen, who plans to enter the University of Virginia next fall. May he always leave a trail of good deeds and inspiration for others to follow.

Bryce Galen honored at White House this week with President Bush and EPA Administrator Christie Todd Whitman

-- Photo Submitted

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