

# SPECIAL PRIMARY COVERAGE

## Kennedy stumps for Obama at Behrend



Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA) spoke with passion about his support for Sen. Barack Obama's (D-IL) run for president. *Jeremy Korwek/THE BEHREND BEACON*

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As students and community members packed McGarvey Commons for Sen. Ted Kennedy's (D-MA) rally in support of Sen. Barack Obama, (D-IL) many were hoping to find a deciding factor to help them make up their mind about the upcoming primaries.

A roar erupted from the audience as Kennedy began his rally.

"Well, I bring you wonderful good news," Kennedy yelled. "Nine months from now George Bush will not be President of the United States."

"I understand there are two important dates left in the calendar," he joked. "One is April 22, because its primary day. And the other is May 9. Does anyone know what May 9 is? Last day of classes."

Kennedy continued the connection to college-age students in a one-on-one interview with *The Behrend Beacon*. Kennedy said that the biggest difference between Obama and Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) is difference between the past and the future.

"Senator Clinton has been there and done it," he said. "But it represents the past. I think Barack Obama represents the future, represents the young people, represents a sense of hope and idealism that young people have."

Kennedy got down to business and did not waste time telling the crowd that Obama is different and represents the future of American politics.

"I think we have a candidate that is bringing a new opportunity and a new vision," Kennedy said. "As I travel across the nation, people ask me 'does Barack Obama have the experience?'"

A committee to name the best presidents in United States history made a list of credentials that each president would be evaluated by. These criteria, posed as questions, are who really had a vision for this country and our country in the world, who was able to make decisions and make them effectively well, who

was able to bring inspiration to the presidency of the United States in order to bring people together from different parts of this nation, and who was able to select good people in their organization that will do a good job in the presidency.

"And as I listened to that criteria," Kennedy said. "I kept saying 'Barack Obama, Barack Obama.'"

Kennedy said that Obama has vision about what we are going to do.

"He understands that one of the central challenges of this nation, whether it is in

been in Washington? How many years have they been a part of the Washington scene?"

People yelled from the audience, "Too many."

"And look at the disaster," Kennedy said. "Look what we needed. We needed clear judgment. We needed the judgment of Barack Obama."

"We have Barak's opponent talking about elitism and I look out there and I see a Barack Obama that grew up under a single mom," Kennedy said. "A Barack

Obama that lived on food stamps, a Barack Obama that just paid off his student loan. We have enough political theater in this country; we need to talk about things that matter."

Kennedy called his attempts to get a universal and comprehensive health care system the passion of his life.

"My friends, we must do that," he said. "It is essential that we do that. And the person to do it is Barack Obama. He will get the job done."

Kennedy went on to briefly explain the health care program that all federal government employees receive. In his attempts to make this coverage available to everyone, Kennedy said, the

republicans fight back because they do not want socialized medicine or want the federal government to be involved.

"And I say to them," Kennedy said. "The federal government is already paying your premium, Mr. Republican. It's already paying your premium on your health insurance and if it's good enough for the president and if it's good enough for the members of Congress, it's good enough for everyone here in Erie, Pennsylvania."

"This is a person that is going to bring a new kind of leadership," he said. "This is person that is going to turn the page. This is choice, my friends, between the past and the future and the person that represents the future is Barack Obama."

**"We have enough political theater in this country; we need to talk about things that matter."**

**- Sen. Kennedy**

Erie, Pennsylvania or so many parts of this state is we are going to have to restore our economy," he said.

"And then I remembered being in the United States Senate just a few days before the Senate made its judgement to go to war in Iraq," Kennedy said. "There were only eight of us that were omitted to voting against going to war in Iraq when the target should have been going to war in Afghanistan and going after Osama bin Laden. We heard that voice that came from Chicago, Illinois."

People ask if Obama really has the judgment and maturity, Kennedy asked: "Are they looking at the judgment and maturity of a Don Rumsfeld or a Dick Cheney? How many years have they



Chelsea Clinton spoke at Edinboro University in support of her mom. *Lenny Smith/THE BEHREND BEACON*

## Chelsea Clinton campaigns at Edinboro for her mom

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Chelsea Clinton is trying to increase support for her mother, Sen. Hillary Clinton's (D-NY) presidential campaign by stopping at colleges across the state. On April 11, Chelsea made a stop at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

"I'm excited to talk with all of you about what's important to you, your families and your friends, as you think about who to support in this election," Chelsea said. "I'm a passionate supporter of my mother's [campaign], not only because she is my mom."

Chelsea, who said she was glad to be in "Edinboro," was quickly corrected by the audience of nearly 300 people in the multipurpose room of Lawrence Towers.

In her question and answer session that lasted approximately 80 minutes, Chelsea touched on a wide range of subjects including the economy, health care, the war in Iraq, and funding for higher education.

In an early question about the economy, Chelsea said, "My mother said one year and one month ago that we were going to have a housing crisis and asked the [Bush] administration to act." She said the current administration still hasn't acted on her mother's concerns, but her mother has a plan. "People remember the Clinton years because of our

economy," she added.

"I have fond memories of growing up with [former President] Bill [Clinton] in the White House," Behrend senior Elton Armandy said.

Universal health care coverage was the topic of several questions. "We need someone to stand up and fight for universal health care," Chelsea said. "She's been fighting for it for half of my life."

Chelsea said her mother was fighting for universal health care in 1993 and 1994 before it was popular. "She understands what we need to do," she said.

A fire alarm that sounded about halfway through the question and answer session put a brief hold on questions.

One student yelled from the back of the room. "It happens everyday."

To which Chelsea said, "It happens everyday? So I shouldn't take it personally? Okay, thanks, that's good."

An affordable college education was a hot topic in a room that was filled by mostly college students.

My mother wants to double the amount of the Pell Grant from \$5,400 to \$10,800 and expand the eligibility," Chelsea said. "She also wants to double the tax credit to \$3,500, including [money for] grad students."

"We need to get the federal government back in the business of direct student lending," she said.

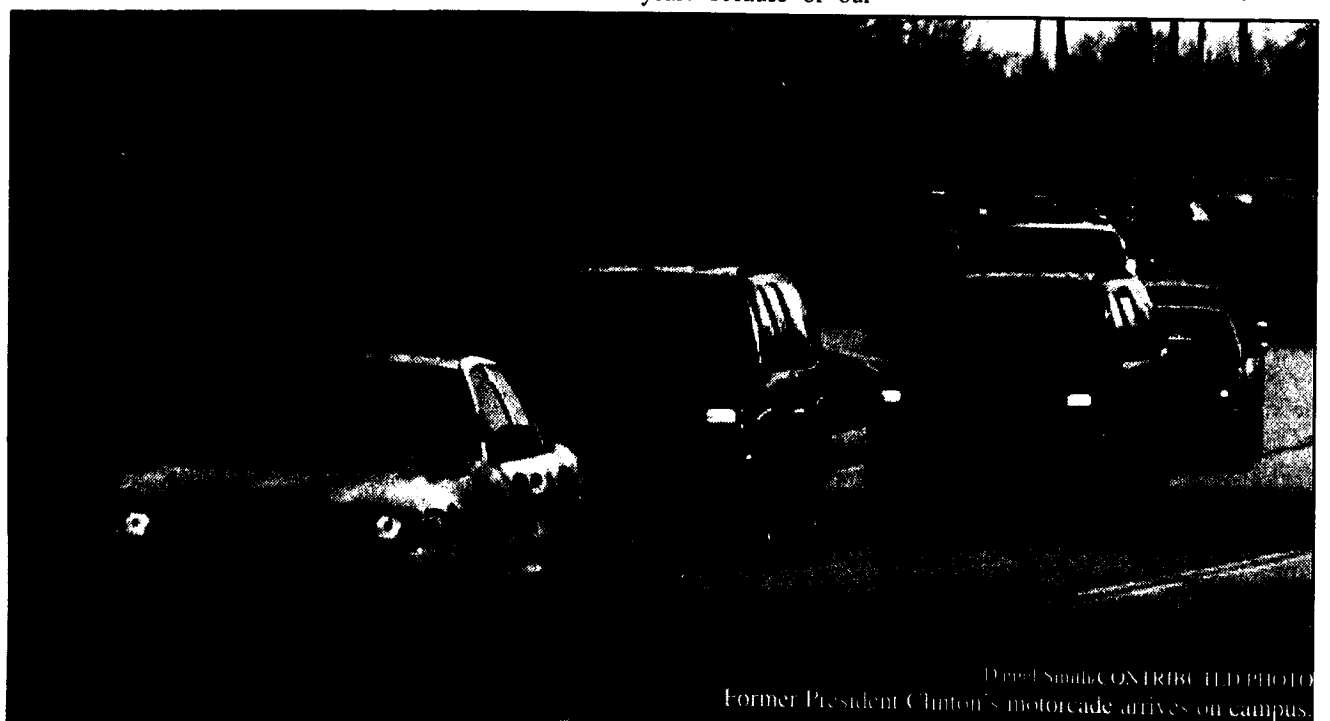
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**Quotes on Civility**

**"Charity isn't a good substitute for justice."**

— Jonathan Kozol, American journalist and author (b. 1936)

Janet Neff Sample Center  
for Manners & Civility



Former President Clinton's motorcade arrives on campus. *Drew Smith/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO*