



The Lion's Eye

Vol. 1 , No. 6

Penn State University, Brandywine

April 2008

BILL AT BRANDYWINE

By Christina Felizzi
Editor-in-chief
clf5050@psu.edu

Chaos was expected on the rainy afternoon of March 7th as students, friends, families, and locals filtered in from the parking lot into the gymnasium from about 10 am onward. A thick line of people stretched from the gymnasium all the way into the cafeteria. Red, white and blue signs were everywhere, and there was energy in the air, despite the gloomy weather.

Former President William Jefferson Clinton had come to Brandywine.

Clinton's arrival to the Brandywine campus was very last minute, decided the day before, but attendance was not reflecting that. Students, faculty, staff and local community members poured into the Commons Building in anticipation of seeing the man who could become the "First Husband of The United States."

Maggie McCarthy, student at Penn State Brandywine, stated that she found out about Clinton's planned visit to the campus through her teacher's email. Cinthya Quispe, another student, said she came to campus that day just to see Clinton. Kraig Schwerin, also a student at Brandywine, explained as hundreds of spectators waited in line, "I just want to hear his accent."

Clinton's Brandywine stop also attracted national media attention. Reporters from CNN, NBC, ABC, FOX News, Ridley Press, Town Talk, and many others were in the crowd, broadcasting live and interviewing those who were there, anxiously waiting for Clinton's first words.

Also in the crowd were locals from the greater Philadelphia area who are heavily involved in politics. Democratic Chairman Rose Hitchens of Ridley Park said that she had seen Clinton several times, one time being at Clinton's inauguration. "An inauguration is a fabulous event, everyone should go," she said enthusiastically.

The gymnasium filled up quickly to its maximum capacity, with all attendees ready and waiting, cameras in hand. Music grew in volume, restlessness increased, people stood and began clapping. Then, at precisely 2:30pm, Former President Bill Clinton entered onto the stage. "Hillary Clinton for President" signs flew upward, cheers of excitement echoed throughout the room, and cameras flashed non-stop as Congressman Joe Sestak gave a brief introduction. Sestak reminded audiences of why Hillary Clinton is needed in the White House as President.

"She has a vision, and better to have a captain of a ship that will get the ship underway with someone who

understands and will follow that vision," he said. He then turned the microphone over to the former President. It was universally expected that Clinton would be promoting his wife's campaign for the presidency, but Clinton still displayed his impeccable oration skills to his audience, always engaging with a hint of humor.

"So far, so good," he opened with a grin and a

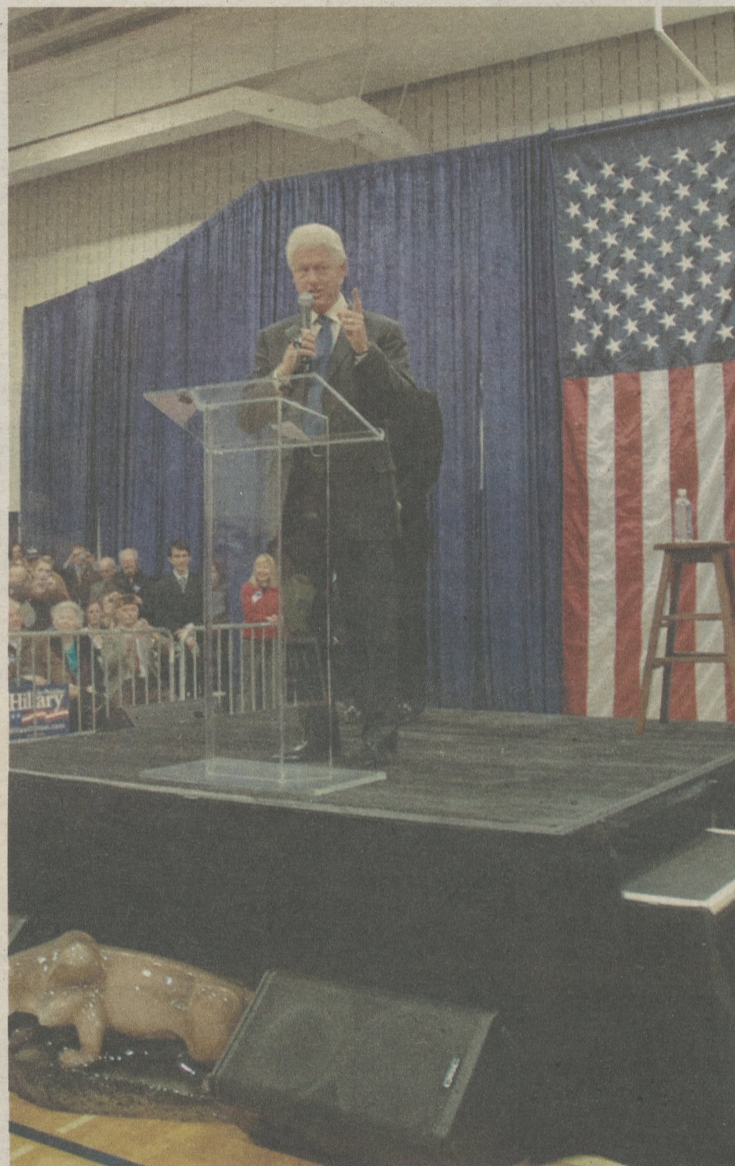


Photo courtesy of Brittany Neimeth

twinkle in his eye. The crowd laughed and cheered.

Clinton wasted no time in getting down to business and told the crowd about all the work that Hillary Clinton has done thus far.

"Things are going great. She has good people helping her, but I have to say that, don't I, because I'm married to her," remarked Clinton, getting some laughs out of the audience.

President Clinton spent the next 45 minutes stumping on many key issues, such as prosperity, opportunity, and celebrated differences, that he, but more importantly, Hillary, supports and believes in.

"She has the best solutions," said Clinton, "and she is the best qualified for the job. She wants things equal and equality matters more for problems at home because right now, prosperity is not shared, nor is the responsibility."

Along with the subject of the economy, Clinton discussed issues of global warming and energy efficiency. Texas is the number one wind energy producer in the nation and Ohio is the number one solar energy producer in the nation. Clinton then reminded us that the premier producers and consumers of solar energy are actually located in a solar energy plant in Germany. Using their ideas and prototypes for a greener earth and meshing them into our own states' companies, Clinton explained that Hillary wants to take advantage of these more efficient energy sources for many reasons - especially for more efficient cars such as hybrids.

"We went to the moon first, so we can do this too," exclaimed Clinton to almost deafening cheers. Then Clinton touched upon several social issues that are hot topics. He explained that Hillary is promoting health care coverage for everyone, not only in America, but in other countries as well and not just basic health care for the masses, but affordable, quality health care.

When it comes to public education, Clinton mentioned that Hillary feels that the No Child Left Behind Act needs to be re-worded.

"There is a gap that needs to be closed," he stated and cheers again arose from the crowd. The War in Iraq and its economic toll was the biggest social issue that Clinton discussed.

"The troops in Iraq need to be brought home," he said seriously. "And there should be a more balanced budget in this country as well." The crowd hung onto every word he said.

"We need to roll up our sleeves and work together," he emphasized and the "Hillary 08" signs shot up into the air amid the cheering.

"You know this is a big election...we have to turn this country around," he told the crowd as he readied to leave the stage. "But in the end, all that matters is if people are better off after you started as President."

With many thank you's and goodbyes, Clinton brought his speech to a close, but did take almost a half hour to shake hands, take pictures, and sign autographs. The Clintons will be making their way through the state of Pennsylvania now through April 22, which is the date of the Pennsylvania primary.

Nittany Lion Joins Political Scene

Special to The Lion's Eye

Business was usual at the State Capitol on January 29th, 2008 as Governor Ed Rendell and lawmakers took to the House floor. However, on this particular day there was a special guest in the House: a replica of Penn State's own Nittany Lion.

Penn State Brandywine senior, Kim Hickey, a corporate communications major from Drexel Hill, recently traveled to the State Capitol where she had the privilege to have the lion she painted herself signed by numerous state politicians and lawmakers.

Kim says she was inspired to paint a lion the moment she found out they were going to be auctioned off for scholarship money. Penn State Brandywine's "Paint a Lion" project is part of the campus' 40th Anniversary Celebration.

"It's such a great idea. Penn State is such a wonderful school and painting a Nittany Lion seemed like such a fun and easy way to raise money for such a good cause," says Kim.

The theme, 'Pennsylvania Government,' was chosen as a result of Kim's love of politics. "Politics has always been an interest of mine. With the upcoming presidential election I decided on a political theme for my lion," she says. She painted the lion navy blue and yellow, the colors of Pennsylvania. A yellow keystone, our state symbol, is painted on each side. Kim was involved in the entire planning process.

"I made arrangements before going but I wasn't exactly sure how my idea would be received. Once my idea was approved I then brought the lion to the State Senate. I had the opportunity to go to the Senate floor and have all the Senators sign it. I was then invited to bring

the lion to the Governor's office where Governor Rendell took the time to sign it as well. Finally, before leaving, I visited the House of Representatives where the lion was once again signed by numerous politicians," adds Kim.

Among the many signatures were Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll and Senator Dominic Pileggi. The lion now sports between 100 and 150 state representatives' signatures in gold ink. Kim has named her lion, "Al the Autographed Lion."

Kim says everyone who signed the lion was very receptive. They thought it was a great idea and were thrilled to hear how it would benefit the Penn State Brandywine Student Scholarship Fund.

"Every person who signed the lion was pleased and thankful to be part of such a great project," adds Kim.