

Bill Clinton campaigns in Morgantown - 05/02/08
By Emily Corio

Anchor: Former President Bill Clinton drew hundreds of people to a campaign rally Thursday at West Virginia University in Morgantown. Even early morning rain showers didn't keep supporters and spectators away. Emily Corio was there and filed this support.

Corio: West Virginia's primary election is about a week and half away. Our state is one of the last to hold its democratic primary election, so presidential candidates are usually nominated by now. But this primary election could be different. And the candidates are making their way here. Well, almost.

Clinton: Good morning. Thank you, West Virginia.

Corio: Former President Bill Clinton stepped to the podium with WVU's historic Woodburn Hall as his backdrop. Students thrust their hands into the air as he began to speak, snapping pictures and video with cell phones. Mr. Clinton quickly related to this crowd by referencing WVU's Fiesta Bowl win this year.

Clinton: That football game reminded me of an old saying, when somebody says you can't win it's 'cause they know you can. The real question here is what is best for you to win. You have two historic candidates. The issue is who will make the best future for you. (people in crowd yell "Hillary"). You bet. That's right.

Corio: Mr. Clinton spent the next hour telling the audience of mostly students why they should vote for Hillary Clinton. There was little to no mention of Barack Obama or John McCain, except when Mr. Clinton distinguished his wife's plan for Iraq from Senator McCain's. Senator Clinton says, as president, she would begin pulling troops out of Iraq within the first sixty days in office. But some would stay. Mr. Clinton recognized this might be an unpopular position, but he defended it.

Clinton: We should leave a small group of special forces in the north to counter the Al Qaeda there, because they do want to wreck it. In the north where the Kurds are, there's no ongoing fighting, but we need to have a backstop there do deal with the Al Qaeda. As soon as we make it clear that we have to disengage, you watch, there will be an intense effort to make those decisions, the rest of the world will come in. If we keep doing what we're doing, we'll get more of the same. She wants to bring the troops home.

Corio: Mr. Clinton's campaign speech focused mostly on the economy. He says more people became poor during President Bush's terms than when he was president. He partly blames this on a trickle down economic policy but also on healthcare costs. Mr. Clinton asked the audience members to raise their hand if they know someone without health insurance. Dozens of hands shot into the air.

Clinton: Look around. Here's the deal: this is the only wealthy country in the world where you could get that response. The only one.

Corio: If elected president, Senator Clinton would mandate that everyone have health insurance. She proposes that people without employer provider plans could purchase insurance similar to what members of congress have or a cheaper plan that's similar to Medicaid. But Tessa Houston, doesn't support Hillary Clinton because she likes Senator Obama's healthcare plan better, although its similar to Senator Clinton's, Obama's proposal wouldn't mandate health insurance for everyone.

Corio: Are you going to vote for Obama?

Houston: Actually, I'm from Pennsylvania, so I did it like two weeks ago. His policies on healthcare are more sufficient than Hillary's. I got a lot of new information today, though, so we'll see what happens in November.

Corio: Houston says she'll support either democrat in the general election. Lindsay Macintosh is from Morgantown and says she'll vote for Hillary Clinton in the state's primary election.

Macintosh: I just believe that we need to take our future in a new direction and I just feel like she's got the best ideas, the best plan, and the most experience to do that.

Corio: This will be Macintosh's first time to vote in a presidential election, and she's excited about the primary election too.

Macintosh: Usually it doesn't matter too much, and for the first time it really does. I think that's great for us young people that we know that our vote does mean something and that we'll be more encouraged to use it .