

Clinton rallies the Range



Sen. Hillary Clinton campaigned for Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama in Omaha, Neb., Minneapolis and Hibbing on Tuesday. Clinton demonstrated she is still one of the prime draws among Democrats while delivering a message of change.

Jeff Warner

MORE INSIDE

POLITICAL HOTBED: Several presidents and many candidates have visited Hibbing in the past, the first being President Calvin Coolidge in 1928.

DEMONSTRATORS: Pro-life supporters show up to speak for those that aren't able to speak for themselves yet.

CAMPAIGN TRAIL: Local Hibbing youth lend a helping hand at the 'Rally for Change.'

REACT: Tell us what you think of Hillary's appearance in Hibbing by commenting at www.hibbingmn.com We'd love to hear what you have to say.

Hillary: Jobs baby jobs

by Jeff Warner
Staff Writer

HIBBING — Sen. Hillary Clinton told a roaring crowd of nearly 5,000 people last night that "hard-working folks" of the Iron Range want a government that works as hard as they have their entire lives.

"You've sacrificed for America, and you deserve better than you've been delivered the last eight years," she said.

Speaking to a packed house at the Memorial Building, Clinton, who battled Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination throughout this year's primaries, called Obama the "only one who will stand up for you, only one who will fight for the middle class, only one (who) will change the direction of the country."

Echoing a familiar Obama campaign theme, Clinton said: "This is our moment, this is our time. The day of reckoning is upon us."

The New York senator and former first lady asked listeners to "compare the past eight years of Republican leadership" with the previous eight years under her husband, former President Bill Clinton. The Clinton years, she

said, were marked by low poverty and a budgetary surplus.

"It took a Democratic president to clean up after the first Bush, and it's going to take a Democratic president to clean up after the second," she said to thunderous cheers and applause.

She said the nation owed a great debt to "hard working, nation-serving, patriotic people of the Iron Range" who "have provided the iron ore to produce the steel" that has armed and protected America over the years. The region's people had been at the "real core of making America safe and making America work," she said.

Clinton said Range residents "have given much more" than iron ore, steel and votes during the course of American history, and have served a vital role in tipping close elections of the past with votes.

With help from the region's voters, "America will once again rise from the ashes of the Bushes, if you give us a chance to lead," she said.

She said if there is any doubt in people's minds regarding who they should vote for, one should analyze what has been happening during the past month in America.

"Retirees' nest eggs are cracking, small businesses can't find credit, people here in Minnesota are losing their jobs, students can't find affordable loans and people who get their 401(k)s are afraid to open the envelopes," she said.

"Our economy is not working," she added. "It's not producing the jobs and the economic prosperity that hardworking Americans should be entitled to see."

While "hardworking families are invisible," to people like Bush and John McCain, the Republican presidential nominee, when the financial crisis hit the Wall Street banking sector, they were quick to want to "bail them out," she said.

If policies like those of the past eight years continue, America will be "unrecognizable" because people "will begin to lose hope" in the American dream, Clinton said.

She said the election is coming down to the simple slogan of "jobs, baby, jobs." It's time, she said, to "put the focus on the vast majority of Americans who do the work, who get up every morning, who take care of their

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Rally gets 'em riled up on the Range

by Kelly Grinstinner
Assistant Editor

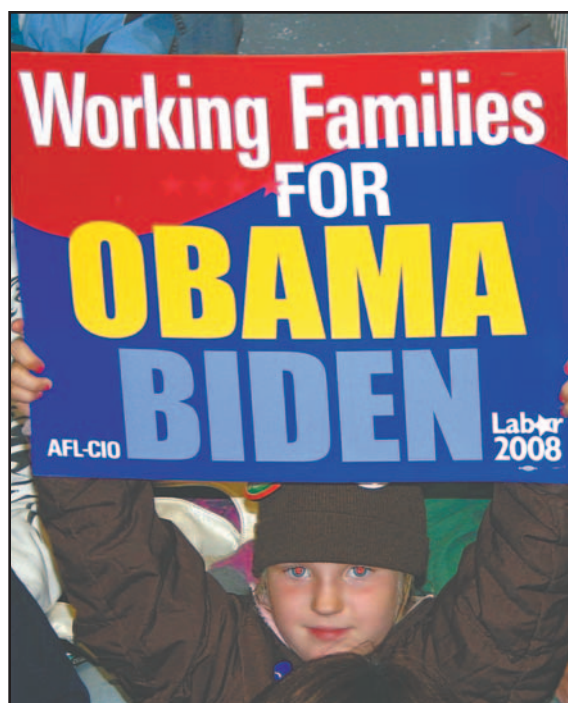
HIBBING — Kimberly Sammes of Duluth was first in line at the "Change We Need Rally" with Sen. Hillary Clinton at the Memorial Building on Tuesday.

She, along with friend Christine Dearing, who pulled in second, get there at 2:43 p.m. Doors to the arena wouldn't open for another three-plus hours.

"I've never believed in anything more in my life," said Sammes, who was sporting a Barack Obama T-shirt and stickers. "This is the most exciting, amazing time to be alive. This is my way of showing support for the Obama-Biden ticket, and Hillary is fabulous and wonderful."

Sammes said she voted for Bill Clinton, because she knew "wives have a lot of influence on their hus-

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Kelly Grinstinner

A youth raises an Obama-Biden political sign showing that working families support Obama as the next president of the United States.

Future voters, leaders attend political event

by Melissa Cox
Staff Writer

HIBBING — Among the thousands of people who gathered Tuesday to catch a glimpse of a former first lady, to rally for presidential candidate Barack Obama and to be a part of history were voters and leaders of tomorrow.

Grandchildren with their grandparents, children with their parents and high school youths were a part of the enthusiastic crowd at the Hibbing Memorial Building as Hillary Clinton led a rousing rally for Obama.

"It's important for them to be here, so they have the chance to see what democracy is and they can experience it, and eventually they will be responsible voters," said Elizabeth Pearson of Chisholm, who

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FAKE COP BUSTED

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Police say a Connecticut man playing police officer picked the wrong person to pull over. Israel Gomez was arrested Tuesday after pulling over an off-duty Hartford police lieutenant. Police say 20-year-old Gomez turned on flashing lights and used a siren and loudspeaker to coax police Lt. Ronald Bair off the road. Bair called for backup, and officers arrested Gomez and 20-year-old Esteban Cardona.

CAMPUS SCARE AT CLEMSON

CLEMSON, S.C. (AP) — Dry-ice explosions on Clemson University's campus last week were mistaken for gunshots, resulting in a campus-wide alert and charges against two graduate students. But a professor said Tuesday the two were doing a legitimate chemistry experiment complete with safety gear. "This was blown out of proportion by people who didn't know what gunshots sound like," said material sciences professor Gary Lickfield. The students put dry ice into one-liter bottles Oct. 14, creating explosions and loud bangs, police said. Witnesses who heard the noises reported gunshots, and the university warned people to stay inside. The message was recalled an hour later.

CELL PHONE CRACKDOWN IN TEXAS PRISONS

AUSTIN (AP) — Faced with reports of widespread contraband smuggling and illegal cell phone usage at state lockups, Texas political leaders pressed authorities Tuesday to crack down on corrupt guards and upgrade security at the nation's second-largest prison system. State Sen. John Whitmire, chairman of the state Senate Criminal Justice Committee, said in an emergency meeting Tuesday with prison administrators that he was "disgusted with our prison officials" for failing to stop rampant security failures. The hearing comes a day after Texas Gov. Rick Perry ordered the lockdown of the state's 111 prisons and a systemwide search for contraband. The security measures were prompted by the arrest of a death row inmate's mother who is accused of buying minutes for a cell phone, which was given to Richard Tabler and used by him and nine other inmates in his cell block.

DEATH

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Helen Johnson

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Hibbing is political hub for presidential rallies

by Jack Lynch
Historian

HIBBING — Several presidents and many candidates have visited Hibbing in the past.

President Calvin Coolidge made a quick visit of the Ore Capital on Aug. 2, 1928. "That's a petty big hole," he was quoted as saying when he looked at the Hull-Rust-Mahoning Mine.

President Herbert Hoover visited Hibbing and was photographed in front of Hibbing High School which he toured, guided by Superintendent of Hibbing Schools J.W. Richardson.

President Harry Truman campaigned in Hibbing in 1952, and four years later

Adlai Stevenson and Estes Kefauver came here in their battle for the Democratic nomination for president.

A crowd estimated at 10,000 greeted Sen. John F. Kennedy in a rally at the Hibbing Memorial Arena on Oct. 3, 1960.

The Hibbing Tribune said only the rally for Truman drew a bigger number of people.

Four years ago a noisy throng came to hear John Edwards as he campaigned for the vice presidency.

Sens. and later vice president Hubert H. Humphrey and Walter Mondale also came to Hibbing, and Sen. Edward Kennedy came to a Hibbing High School assembly in 1978.



Hibbing Historical Society President Harry S. Truman chats with Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey at the Hibbing Memorial Building on Oct. 28, 1952, at a political rally.

Clinton visit draws pro-life demonstrators

by Mike Jennings
Editor

HIBBING — Sen. Hillary Clinton's visit to the Memorial Building Tuesday drew a small group of anti-abortion demonstrators.

"We're speaking on behalf of those that aren't able to speak for themselves yet," said Stephanie Staudahar of Hibbing, one of six members of the group who held signs across from the building's main entrance about 6:45 p.m. "And we think the life issue is a very important issue — the top issue for us," Staudahar said. "And we just want people to think before they vote this year."

Another demonstrator, Susan Sampson, also of Hibbing, said the nation's Catholic bishops have "clearly stated that the number one issue is life." To be a faithful Catholic, she said, "you must be obedient to the bishops and to the Holy Father."

Staudahar said the aim of the group of demonstrators was "education" rather than protest. She said not all its members were Catholic.

"It's a pro-life group," she said. At least one of the group's signs expressed support for the Republican presidential and vice presidential candidates, John McCain and Sarah Palin.

The 2008 Republican Party platform says the unborn child "has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed," and it calls abortion "a fundamental assault on the sanctity of innocent human life."

The 2008 Democratic Party platform states support for "a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion," as well as for affordable family planning services and "comprehensive age-appropriate sex education." In a departure from previous Democratic Party platforms, the 2008 platform also says the party supports "a woman's

decision to have a child by ensuring access to and availability of programs for pre- and post-natal health care, parenting skills, income support, and caring adoption programs."

During a forum at Messiah College in April, Clinton said she thought abortion should remain legal, but also safe and rare.

"And I have spent many years now, as a private citizen, as first lady, and now as senator, trying to make it rare, trying to create the conditions where women had other choices," she said.

"I have supported adoption, foster care. I helped to create the campaign against teenage pregnancy, which fulfilled our original goal 10 years ago of reducing teenage pregnancies by about a third. And I am committed to do even more."

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Demonstrators included Matthew Staudahar, left, and Susan Sampson, who stood outside the Hibbing Memorial Building Tuesday evening.

Volunteers offer time and effort at Obama rally

by Matt Nelson
Drake University student

HIBBING — Katie Bobich and Iris Kolodji attended Tuesday's rally at the Hibbing Memorial Building along with thousands of others to see Hillary Clinton speak. The difference between the pair and the sea of people inside the building: Bobich and Kolodji were volunteers for the DFL assisting with the event.

"I'm very interested in politics," said Bobich, a sophomore at Hibbing High School, when asked about why she attended. "I know it makes a difference."

Kolodji, a freshman at Hibbing High School, shared similar comments, adding, "It's so exciting — a once-in-a-lifetime chance."

Bobich and Kolodji were given the responsibility of escorting those with disability to special seating at the front of the arena. One woman Bobich escorted described her experiences growing up during the Great Depression. "We were helping her get better seating, and she started talking about the Great Depression, and how she thinks we are going into a recession,"

Bobich said. The woman even handed Bobich a poem she had written about the event. Bobich said, "It was very sweet."

Kolodji, who is currently involved in Hibbing High School's Drama Department and plans to go into theater, found herself standing next to Tony Sertich and had the opportunity to speak with him briefly. "I've wanted to speak with him for a long time," said Kolodji, "because I knew he was a theater major." The two briefly chatted about Sertich's experiences.

Bobich commented, "I love volunteering." Both she and Kolodji are members of the Hibbing High School Key Club, which promotes service within the community. They are glad they have been given the chance to work with the DFL. Bobich said, "The Iron Range has great DFL support."

Bobich, who would one day like to work in politics on a national level, noticed the rise in tension as the time for Clinton to speak drew close. "You can feel the magic," Bobich said. The two cheered wildly as Clinton took the podium, and were among the many that rushed to shake her hand following the presentation.



Katie Bobich (left) and Iris Kolodji (right) were just two of 14 volunteers that assisted at a rally on Tuesday.

Clinton urges Minnesota Democrats to vote for Franken

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Simply electing Barack Obama president is not enough to end the Bush era, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton told a group of Minnesota Democrats Tuesday.

Clinton urged the crowd of about 2,000 at the University of Minnesota to also elect Democrats, including Al Franken, to the U.S. Senate in order to help the party achieve the 60 seats it needs to overcome a Republican filibuster.

"You have friends who've decided to vote for Obama/Biden but haven't yet decided who to vote for in the Senate race," Clinton said, urging the crowd to spread the message in the two weeks remaining before the election. "How are they going to feel if they vote for Barack Obama but don't get that majority we need in the Senate?"

Clinton said 60 votes in the Senate would allow Democrats to pass universal health care, make investments in creating manufacturing jobs, cut tax breaks for oil and pharmaceutical companies and pass an energy plan that creates "green

jobs." In recent days, Franken's Republican opponent, Sen. Norm Coleman, has also started telling voters that if he loses that would likely mean Democrats get to 60 votes in the Senate. Coleman, needless to say, wants voters to view that as a bad thing.

"I think Minnesotans have

to decide if that's what they want," Coleman said earlier this week on a campaign swing through southwestern Minnesota. "That's one of the stakes in the election, and I think it's fair to raise it."

Clinton and Franken, the former "Saturday Night Live" comedian and author, spoke warmly of each other at the

University of Minnesota rally; Franken said the two first met shortly after Bill Clinton was elected president in 1992. Clinton praised Franken, author of books including "Rush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot," for "taking on the vast right-wing conspiracy before a lot of people admitted it existed" — a reference to her own late-'90s

term for a network of conservative activists and commentators that she felt persecuted her husband.

"He never sank to their level of those attacking him, but he shed light on their tactics," Clinton said of Franken.

After the Minneapolis appearance, Clinton flew north to the Iron Range.

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