

Alexis Cruz
Bernie for Hillary
Oct. 2016

The Clinton campaign sent in *the* reinforcement to Iowa, Vermont Senator, Bernie Sanders.

Sanders was in Iowa Wednesday at a Clinton campaign rally held in the Bell Center at Drake University.

The rally attracted just over an estimated 100 people.

Some got to the rally early, 7:30 a.m. early. Bernie support, Shea Seiff was first in line.

Seiff has experience with these rallies, revealing that she was on stage for the town hall, that she had gone to the Dubuke rally and a few smaller ones.

She said, "I'd never miss a Bernie rally, I'm really excited."

A line had formed by 9:00 a.m. with approximately 30 people.

While waiting a coffee stand opened up, it was on the sidewalk outside of the Bell Center. "We're just here to serve coffee," said Taylor Mason, one of the people running the stand.

He was wearing a Trump-Pence shirt and added, "You know Clinton called Bernie supports baristas in their parents basements. So, we're just here to serve coffee"

Mason was referencing the leaked audio from a Clinton fundraising event. There when speaking of Sander's supporters, Clinton said, "Some are new to politics completely. They're children of the Great Recession. And they are living in their parents' basement," she said. "They

feel they got their education and the jobs that are available to them are not at all what they envisioned for themselves. And they don't see much of a future."

Clinton added: "If you're feeling like you're consigned to, you know, being a barista, or you know, some other job that doesn't pay a lot, and doesn't have some other ladder of opportunity attached to it, then the idea that maybe, just maybe, you could be part of a political revolution is pretty appealing."

The crowd was a mixture of people from the community, students, and professors. Even though it was a small rally most major city news organizations attended.

Law Politics and Society student, Alexandria Porter, attended. She said her professor gave her the option, "Come and write about the rally or go to class and do an assignment there. I choose this."

It wasn't her first rally either, she had lived in Vermont when Sanders was Senator, even going to the huge rally in Arizona during the summer.

Porter said, "I assume it's not his last rally, they'll probably send him around so more."

From a strategic standpoint, the rally overall seemed to be reaching out to likely voters within the audience by speaking on education and progressive values. It also touched on workers rights with speakers before Sanders spoke.

Doors opened at 9:30 a.m.

It was a standing rally, the chairs were reserved. Filled up slowly, more people showed up as time went on. Music played until 10:15 a.m.

The rally opened with Grover speaking on the political revolution and how both he and Sanders had been a part of it ever since they had been in College.

“The Revolution continues today with Hillary Clinton...Trump is the antithesis of the revolution”

The Speech went on for about a minute. Then there was a break, the music started up again till 10:20 a.m. when Hailey Barber took the stage.

Barber is an organizer for the Iowa Democrats in Des Moines. She is a student at Drake University where she took the semester off to help with the Clinton Campaign.

“The People we elect have an amazing responsibility” she said.

Before she went on to tell us a personal story of how the Affordable Care Act helped her family when they received the news that her mom had Stage 3 breast cancer.

From there Barber gave a call to action that would be repeated by the speakers to come,

“We need your help, we need you to vote early, we have 34 more days till election day,” She said.

From there Sheri Ortiz, a teacher from the East side from Des Moines spoke on how the Clinton campaign was standing in solidarity with the workers.

Following Ortiz was, Morgan Garrels, a student at Drake University who spoke on how she had been a staff member on the Bernie Campaign but later switched to the Clinton one.

“The progressive values of the Bernie campaign are alive within the Clinton Campaign,” she said.

Going on to speak of the collaboration Sanders and Clinton on the education policy the Clinton Campaign has put forth.

Then there was a break. Senator Sanders was scheduled to speak at 10:30 a.m. He did not take the stage till 11:00 a.m.

“which isn’t bad when you compare it to other campaigns” said professor Matthew Thornton, a Public Relations and Strategic Political Communication professor attending the rally.

Sanders began by thanking the people of Iowa.

“It’s about you” he said. “Not about Trump or Clinton, it’s about what do they stand for and which is better for you. It’s policy old fashioned, boring policy.”

Sanders went on to engage the crowd speaking on turning the minimum wage into a living wage, making public university education free, continuing on to climate change and the “broken” criminal justice system.

Every time he paused the crowd would clap and cheer. Some people were shouting in the crowd, “Tell it” and “Thank you”. There would be the periodic shouts of “Feel the Bern.”

Around 11:30, Sanders ended the rally with, “I do not want my grandchildren to grow up with Trump as president.”