

*"If you voluntarily quit in the face of adversity,
you'll wonder about it for the rest of your life."*

Former President Bill Clinton, speaking Friday at DePauw University in Greencastle



ROBERT SCHEER / THE STAR

Former President Bill Clinton lauded DePauw's student body Friday for its commitment to volunteer work before giving his keynote speech at the 25th anniversary of the Ubben Lecture Series.

Thousands brave cold to hear Bill Clinton

By Shari Held

Star correspondent

It's not every day a former president comes to town, especially to a Midwestern town with a population hovering around 10,000.

But about 5,000 residents of Greencastle and the surrounding area converged on DePauw University on Friday to see former President Bill Clinton give the keynote speech at the 25th anniversary of the Ubben Lecture Series.

Well before noon, hundreds



IndyStar.com

Go online to see video of Clinton in Indiana.

of DePauw students were lined up in front of Lilly Center — some sitting on lawn chairs, others standing in a line that snaked the sidewalk and beyond. Dressed in hoodies, knitted caps and scarves, they braved wind so strong it could whip the moisture right off their eyeballs. A similar line for the public formed nearby.

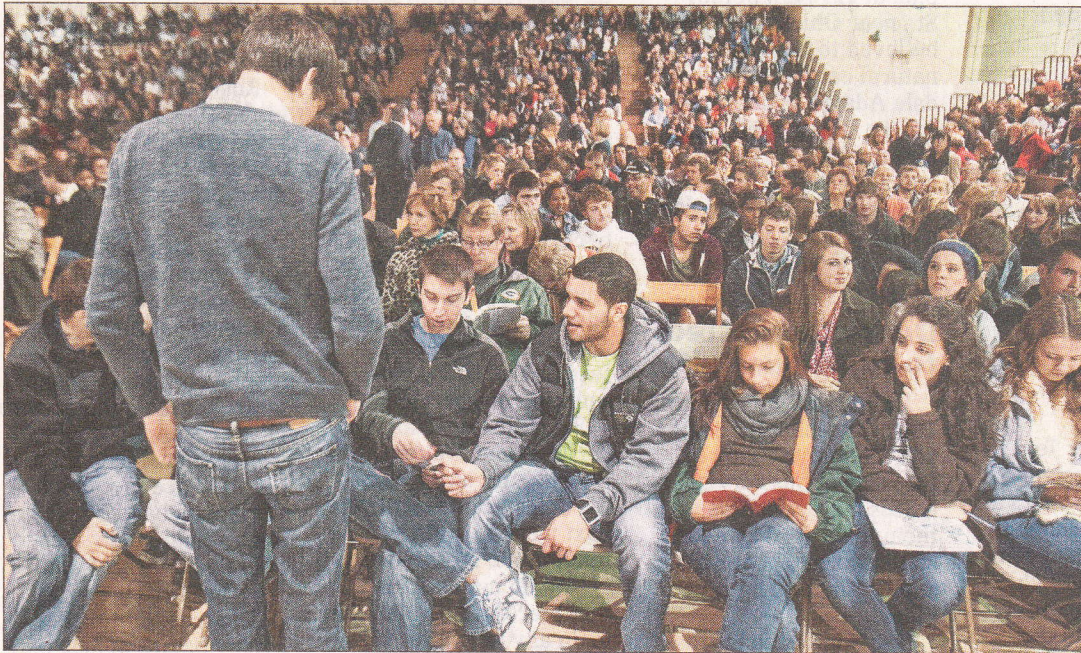
The weather wasn't the only

bond they shared. They were all there to hear Clinton deliver his speech "Embracing Our Common Humanity."

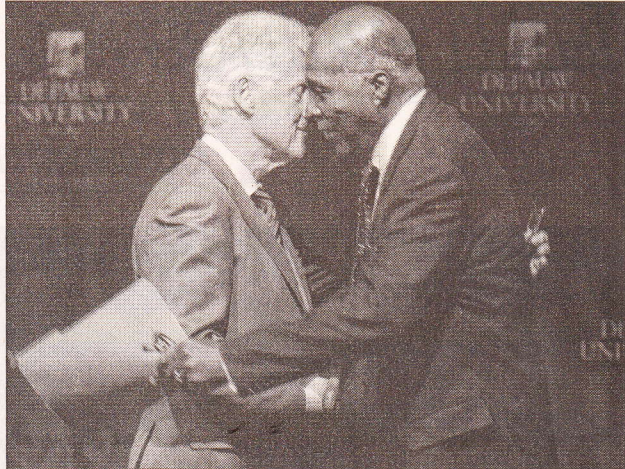
The Wielands, from New Castle, were no exception. Lucy Wieland said it was exciting to be able to see a former president. Her husband, Bill, noted that this crowd had "high expectations" and seemed "very excited."

Stephen Kaminski, a junior at DePauw, wanted to see the

» See CLINTON, Page B4



A capacity crowd filled Neal Fieldhouse in the Lilly Center at DePauw University for former President Bill Clinton's speech Friday. Students and residents lined up in the cold to snag a seat.



ROBERT SCHEER / THE STAR

Clinton greets his former adviser Vernon Jordan, who graduated from DePauw University.

Clinton

Continued from B1

most high-profile speaker that DePauw has ever had.

"No matter what side of the political spectrum you are on, President Clinton does a lot of good with his foundation," Kaminski said. "He's a great speaker who addresses important issues."

DePauw alum Vernon Jordan, who served as a close adviser to Clinton, introduced him to a crowd that packed Neal Fieldhouse in the Lilly Center. Jordan joked that when he went to DePauw, there were more than 600 Republicans and only seven Democrats — "on a good day."

You couldn't have told that from the crowd's enthusiastic response to Clinton, the nation's 42nd president. He began by commending the student body on its commitment to volunteer work, then launched into his speech.

The overall theme was positive. "Despite all the crises, the 21st-century world is full of enormous promise," Clinton said.

His delivery was humorous, even when talking about difficult issues — a world that is too unequal, too unstable and too unsustainable, Clinton said.

"Denial about these three things is not an option," he said. Instead, he challenged students to work to change the systems and move America back into the future.

Throughout his speech, there was applause, and both townspeople and students were nodding their heads in approval.

Clinton garnered the big-

gest round of applause when declaring we all have to work together and we have to listen to everyone's point of view. It appeared to be a message everyone wanted to hear and agreed upon.

Clinton also talked about making a difference — adding that you didn't have to be elected to public office to do so. That one hit a nerve with students, as did his point on never giving up on something you've started. "If you voluntarily quit in the face of adversity, you'll wonder about it for the rest of your life," he said to loud applause.

Clinton, 65, struck a chord with his younger listeners when he said he'd love to be 21 again with another 60 years or so ahead of him.

"It's an exciting time to be alive," he said. "The trick is to build the positive and reduce the negative."

Samantha Weichert, a junior at Butler University, made the trip to Greencastle along with several fellow students especially to see the former president.

"Ever since I developed an independent political mind-set of my own, I've been a big fan of the Clintons," she said. "He has the same political ideology as I do on international relations and environmental issues."

After hearing Clinton, Weichert says she felt educated and inspired. "I hadn't anticipated that he would have such a high level of optimism," she said.

"I had heard how charismatic he was, but I wasn't prepared for how humorous he was," said junior Bridgette Shamleffer.