

VP Gore rallies Valley voters

■Members of the jam-packed crowd waved signs reading "Tipper Rocks" and "Ohio loves Al Gore."

By AMANDA SMITH
Jambar Editor

Al Gore appeared before more than 20,000 people Wednesday at Courthouse Square in Warren in a rally appearance after the first round of presidential debates.

The vice president and Democratic presidential nominee was introduced by Warren C. Harding High School student Brett Harvey and Olympic medalist Diana Munz amid thunderous applause.

Members of the crowd waved "Tipper Rocks" and "Gore/Leiberman 2000" signs while Gore made his opening remarks.

"I am so overwhelmed [by the amount of support] today," Gore said to the estimated 21,400 people in the crowd.

Gore started where he left off at the end of the debates by saying, "We should attack the problems of the country instead of attacking personally."

He also cited the main prongs of his platform, saying if he were elected president, he would balance the budget, continue to pay off the national debt and place Social Security and Medicare "in an iron bound lockbox," and would veto any bills that reached his desk proposing a cut of those benefits.

Gallup polls released after the debate showed Gore as the winner, by a 56 to 42 percent margin.

Gore made a strong appearance at the rally, coloring his



RALLY: Gore salutes the cheering crowd while red, white and blue confetti shoots out of twin cannons.

Gore makes last-minute pit stop in Youngstown, chats with select students

The Jambar staff report Just 12 hours after the presidential debates ended, Vice President Al Gore was in the YSU Bookstore speaking to a group of about 25 students.

Although Gore's rally in Warren had been anticipated for several days, his visit to YSU was highly speculative — it was planned and then canceled earlier this week.

Gore and his wife, Tipper, answered questions from students from 11:30 a.m. until noon. Gore cited education as his number one priority to the applause and approval of the college students in the room.

He also said he'd like to make college more accessible to the middle class by making tuition tax deductible — an idea that was especially liked by his audience.

The Gores were relaxed and friendly while they spoke and cracked small jokes. The students, on the other hand, were jittery.

"I was very nervous and misphrased the question," said Rajah James, sophomore, philosophy and computer science, who asked the vice president a question.

The Gores traveled to Warren for the political rally after leaving the bookstore.

speech with pro-working class rhetoric at the largely middle class event.

"I have seen too many families struggling to make ends meet, to make car payments and mortgage payments and to do right by their children," the candidate said.

He also addressed his proposed education reforms, saying smaller class sizes are needed and that the American people need "to start treating teachers like the professionals they are."

He also mentioned putting a restraint on issues affecting seniors, such as Medicare benefits and HMO restraints.

"When we work together, we are unstoppable," he said, amidst cheers. "I know I may not be the most exciting politician, but I promise that I will fight for you every day and never let you

down."

At the end of the rally, red and white confetti stripes and blue stars shot high in the air from twin cannons on either side of the platform while classic rock songs played from huge speakers.

Courthouse Square assumed a party-like atmosphere, complete with food vendors and marching bands. People waved pom poms and hung from balconies above the event.

Warren Mayor Hank Angelo said an estimated 21,400 people attended the event.

"[The rally's success] was made possible through the union officials ... and mayors in the area coming together," the mayor said. "The people who work for him know this area is critical. The [Mahoning] Valley will carry Ohio and Ohio will carry the election."

Rally in the Valley

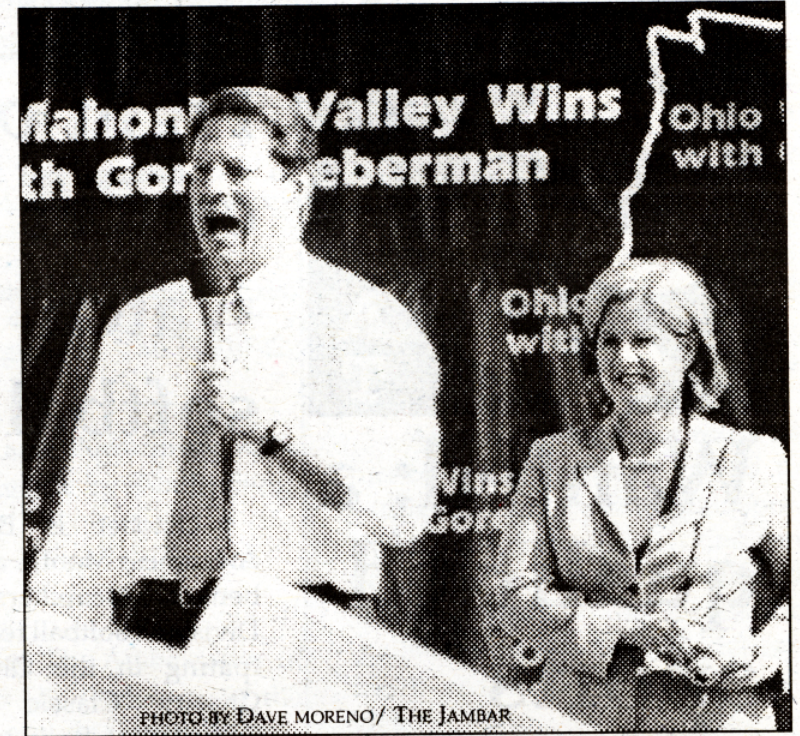


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IN THE VALLEY: Above, Vice President Al Gore and wife Tipper Gore greet the throngs of people assembled in Warren. At left, a large group of local supporters gathered on the platform

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