



**Braun makes rare trip to Granite State, Kucinich closes out children's forum**

By Sam Youngman 11/3/03

DURHAM, Nov. 3 -- Though Halloween was last Friday, some Granite Staters might've thought they saw an apparition at the University of New Hampshire Monday afternoon.

They can rest easy, however, as that was, in fact, Amb. Carol Moseley Braun speaking at the Every Child Matters Education Fund's presidential forum.

Braun said this was about the fourth time she'd campaigned in the state, though PoliticsNH.com records show it was her second, and her presence here went largely unheralded.

Braun was the second-to-last candidate of eight to speak to the children's issues group at UNH - - Kucinich was the last later in the afternoon -- and before the Congressman, she drew the smallest crowd yet.

Moderators for the event said that U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt's attendance in the morning was before a packed house like the five candidates before him.

"I think my message resonates with the people here," Braun said. "I haven't been able to campaign here a lot, but I don't think that will be an impediment to my success here."

Braun declined to comment on her definition of success in the Jan. 27, first-in-the-nation primary.

Her schedule for the Granite State in the next few days remains somewhat unknown. She and her staff were unable to say when they would file to run in the state after Gephardt became the first big-name candidate to do so Monday, the first day candidates could.

Braun said she does plan on attending the Planned Parenthood forum Wednesday night in Manchester after participating in the "Rock the Vote" forum in Boston Tuesday.

KUCINICH

Rep. Dennis Kucinich closed out the Every Child Matters Education Fund's presidential primary forum Monday afternoon, drawing heavy distinctions between himself and his opponents' platforms.

Kucinich spoke to a sparse, but seemingly loyal crowd, who frequently responded to his measured but passionate answers with applause.

In a forum that centered around children's issues like pre-Kindergarten programs, child abuse and healthcare, Kucinich was, in many cases, able to respond by pointing to House Resolutions he has crafted that he said would remedy the very problems about which the moderators and crowd members were asking

Kucinich, speaking to the smallest crowd to attend the forum, repeatedly called out the tracking numbers of his proposals in response to questions demonstrating, what he called, his readiness to move into the Oval Office.

"We have to believe in our capacity to evolve as a nation," Kucinich told the crowd

Never one to shy away from the road less traveled, Kucinich spoke of his plans for a single payer healthcare system in which every one has access to healthcare as well as his plans for a cabinet-level Department of Peace.

Kucinich is scheduled to continue campaigning in New Hampshire over the next three days -- taking time to travel to Boston for Tuesday night's "Rock the Vote" forum -- including time to file to run in New Hampshire earlier on Tuesday, though his staff cautioned that their schedule may see some changes in the coming days.