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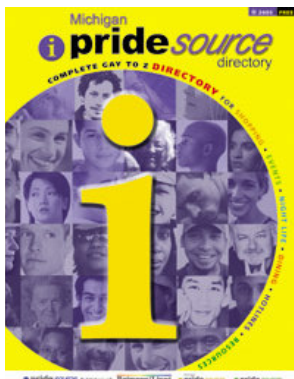
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Michael Moore delivers bold anti-Bush message in Detroit

By Jason Michael

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DETROIT - He may be a "liberal rabble-rouser" to the Detroit Free Press, but to the 4,000-plus who showed up to hear him speak on the Detroit campus of Wayne State University Sept. 29, Michael Moore is a hero and a patriot. In town as part of 60-city Slacker Uprising Tour, Moore's message was clear.

"We're visiting all 20 battleground states and our goal is to remove George W. Bush from the White House," he said. "Nov. 2, he's a goner."

Not everyone in the crowd was convinced. A small but vocal handful of Bush supporters shouted "four more years" at sporadic intervals.

"You know, that's kind of strange," Moore said. "Usually the Republicans are very good at math, you know, trying to figure out how much they can cheat us out of, trying to figure out how little taxes they can pay. They're usually very good at math. I'm surprised that they're off by almost four years. It's four months - not four years - that's all George Bush has left in office."

On Bush's opponent, Sen. John Kerry, Moore was plain.

"I'm hopeful and confident that Kerry will do the job that he needs to do," he said. "I'm not a Democrat, I'm not a member of the Democratic Party. We've got to kind of work with the hand we've been dealt here. His only mantra today is 'I'm not Bush,' and I've got to say, that's good enough for me."

Moore also spoke about the other candidate, the spoiler in the 2000 election,

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Jason Michael

Michael Moore is on a 60-city tour through the swing states to help kick President Bush out of the White House. His latest documentary, Fahrenheit 911, a shocking expose of the Iraq War, was released on video Tuesday.



Jason Michael

A small band of Bush demonstrators were overshadowed by clever counterprotesters carrying a banner that read 'Billionaires for Bush.'

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Ralph Nader, and urged those in the audience not to waste their votes.

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"A lot of us were for Nader," he said. "We voted for Nader before. But, you know, I said to Ralph Nader this year, I said, 'Ralph, one of the traits of a good leader is the ability to listen to the people, not just stand up here and speak to the people, but to listen to the people, and you're not listening to the people. The people have spoken this year. They don't want you to run. Your own party doesn't want you to run. You're not listening.'"

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Moore's audience was listening though, attentively, and he had no shortage of advice to give them.

"The rich have made off like bandits in the last four years and places like Detroit have had to suffer the most," he said. "I think the Bush people have pretty much written off Michigan because they got the message. But that's not to say that there isn't work to be done. I would not really pay attention to these polls from now until election today, regardless of if they look positive or negative or whatever. There's a lot of funny business going on with these polls this year. Go to my website, I've got some articles on it. MoveOn has some good articles about Gallop. You should really check that stuff out and then turn the TV off."

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Yes, Moore made his contempt for the media madly obvious. In blaming Bush for leading our country to war on a leash of misinformation, Moore said the mass media has to share in the guilt.

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"There's more than just the Bush people with blood on our hands," he said. "Our national media completely failed us. They did not ask the questions. They did not demand the evidence. They were too busy wanting to go for a ride on a tank. Absolutely disgraceful. I say this to the media here, 'We give you what's called a public trust. You have a public trust. Your job is to go the places we can't go, to take your cameras, take your recorders, to takes your pens and your pads of paper and ask the questions and stand in for the American people. That's your job. Not to kiss up to the administration. Not to look the other way.' Just imagine if our media had done its job before Iraq. Would we even be in the war? I don't think so."

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After the press began reluctantly reporting the truth about Iraq, popular opinion changed appropriately, Moore said.

"The majority are against the war because they got the truth," he said. "Why didn't we give them the truth before the war? Why didn't we do this? It makes you wonder, what aren't they telling us now? They hid the truth from us before the war, what aren't we being told now?"

"Of course a lot of it is what we're being told," Moore continued. "We're being told, 'Bush is going to win. Bush is ahead by 10 points. Bush is ahead by 12 points. Bush is ahead. Bush is ahead. You might as well just stay home. Don't even bother and do anything. You might as well just give up. It's all over. It's all over but the counting.' They need you to believe that. They need you to be so demoralized. They need you to sink into your despair."

Moore cautioned those in the crowd not to fall for the ploy, and told them there was much to be encouraged by.

"America has actually become a liberal country," he said. "Even though most people have been trained not to use that word, the majority of Americans, if you ask them how they feel about the issues, the majority of Americans do not want assault weapons on the streets. The majority of Americans want stronger environmental laws. The majority of Americans believe women should be paid the same as men. The majority of Americans believe a woman has a right to control her own body. That is where the majority of our fellow

Americans are at. I mean, that's the good news. They already agree with us. Our only work now is to get them out to vote on Nov. 2."

For more information on Michael Moore and "Fahrenheit 9-11" visit www.michaelmoore.com.

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spam@pridesource.com