



PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
BERNIE SANDERS SPEAKS
APRIL 28 AT A RALLY IN
SPRINGFIELD'S ISLAND PARK

PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

Four writers, a photographer and various other staffers from *Eugene Weekly* joined the 8,000 Bernie Sanders fans who flooded Springfield's Island Park on April 28, less than 24 hours after his visit was announced by his brilliant advance team.

We're running their words and pictures a week later, long after mainstream media has dropped the details, because Sanders' story transcends his campaign for the Democratic nomination for president.

This is the story of a movement, maybe even a seismic shift in America's direction if the young people at Island Park and every Bernie rally are indicators. They are fired up and ready to fight for a more equitable country, a government that truly works for the people.

Oregon's Junior Senator Jeff Merkley has already signed on. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Sherrod Brown probably will join, along with many more courageous leaders.

So, read on, cast your ballot for this round, and join the movement led by Senator Bernie Sanders (D-S of Vermont). — *EW staff*

BERNIE AND THE BARD

While Bernie Sanders may have a thing or two to say about the income inequality and power grabs of 17th-century Denmark, he very much enjoyed his *Hamlet*-themed introduction at Springfield's Island Park.

"To Bern or not to Bern," local Democrat Matt Keating poeticized to the crowd of 8,000. "Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the huff and bluster of the far right wing. Or to take on the status quo and organize against it."

Keating's soliloquy went on for several more stanzas before a smiling Sanders took the stage.

"I gotta say: I have received many introductions throughout this campaign — this is the first Shakespearean introduction," Sanders said. "Let me thank Matt Keating for his poetry. I don't know that my mere prose can keep up with his poetry, but I will try."

Keating, a lead volunteer for Lane County for Bernie Sanders and a board member for Lane Community College, says he tweaked Shakespeare's piece months ago with friend and mentor Judith Sparky Roberts, a theater instructor at LCC.

"Judy and I are big fans of Shakespeare and, of course, Sen. Sanders and when inspiration hits, inspiration hits," Keating tells *EW*. "I performed it here in town locally at Tsunami Books and Cozmic Productions, Shakespeare in the Park, but never with 8,000 fellow Bernie Sanders supporters."

Keating continues: "I'm thrilled to blend my passions for the Bard and our next president of the United States." — *Alex V. Cipolle*