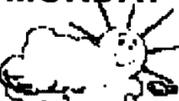


NEWS

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

SATURDAY 	HIGH: 52	LOW: 42	Very windy with a little rain. Cloudy and windy in the evening.
SUNDAY 	HIGH: 53	LOW: 43	Mostly cloudy with showers in the evening.
MONDAY 	HIGH: 55	LOW: 46	Patchy clouds with chance of rain in the morning.
TUESDAY 	HIGH: 62	LOW: 50	Rather cloudy with rain possible all day.
WEDNESDAY 	HIGH: 65	LOW: 51	Overcast with rain in the evening.
THURSDAY 	HIGH: 66	LOW: 52	Clouds with rain, partly cloudy at night.
FRIDAY 	HIGH: 64	LOW: 48	Mostly cloudy with rain in the evening.

FOCAL POINTS



Mike Errico, a solo guitarist, performed in the Reed Wintergarden on Oct. 8.

ROBERT FRANK/BEHREND BEACON



Students gave blood on Wednesday in the McGarvey Commons. The blood went to the Erie Community Blood Bank. The event was sponsored by Alpha Sigma Alpha.

K.J. MARGRAFF/BEHREND BEACON

BEHREND BRIEFS

Battle at Behrend

On Oct. 19, at 7 p.m. in the Reed Building, room 117, representatives from the Republican and Democratic Parties will present their political agendas. You ask the questions. They give their answers. Complex issues in a simple format. Anything can happen in a live forum. Do not miss this opportunity to see democracy in action.

Music at Noon

Ethel, a inventive string quartet, will perform Oct. 19 at noon in the Reed Wintergarden. This performance is part of the Music at Noon series. Bring your lunch. Admission is free and open to the public.

Steel drum band to perform

The Rythms of Life Series, whose goal is "seeking to inspire an appreciation of all people through vibrant presentations of the arts," presents the six-piece steel drum band, Steel Impressions. The band will perform Oct. 20 at noon in the Senat Hall courtyard. In the event of rain, the band will be moved to Bruno's Cafe.

POLICE AND SAFETY

- 10/7/2004**
Complainant reported that someone had taken the spoiler off his car sometime last night while it was parked in Ohio Hall lot.
- 10/8/2004**
Complainant reported the theft of the muffler from his vehicle.
- 10/11/2004**
Complainant reported that someone had scratched his vehicle sometime last night as it was parked in the S lot.
- 10/12/2004**
Report of damage to elevator in stair tower.
- 10/13/2004**
Officer was dispatched to Perry Hall for an assault report.

CLASSIFIED

"A kind word is like a spring day."
— Russian proverb

Janet Neff Sample Center
for Manners & Civility



Election 2004

Coverage in your Behrend Beacon

The Grand Finale

DebateWatch ends with enlightened students

By Dan Snedden
assistant news editor

During the past two weeks, students have participated in DebateWatch, a program from the Commission on Presidential Debates designed to promote voters' knowledge of the candidates and the issues surrounding the election.

DebateWatch took place in Bruno's and over the course of the program, more than 600 students attended. Many students were reluctant to participate at first because attendance was mandatory for various communications or political science classes, but according to discussion leader Joleen Roberts, COMBA 07, "Most students said they would not have watched the debates if they weren't required but by watching and discussing them, the students learned much about the candidates."

"DebateWatch helped reinforce what's being discussed daily in both the media and classes," said discussion leader Rachel Lyon, COMBA 05. "It also has made students pay attention when they

otherwise would not have."

Mrs. Cathy Mester, senior lecturer in speech communications, headed the Debate Watch program.

"I was very impressed with how many students were informed of and took part in DebateWatch," said Mester. "Awareness of the issues is critical for young people and although they don't always realize it, many national issues directly affect them. Another contribution to the success of the DebateWatch program was the hard work of the Bruno's staff; their help is appreciated."

The results of the Behrend DebateWatch program were sent to the Commission on Presidential Debates, which gathers the results of all participants in DebateWatch to determine how citizens felt about the debates.

According to the Commission on Presidential Debates, approximately 16,000 people in 700 DebateWatch discussion sessions throughout 48 states nationwide have participated. Of those, roughly 2,600 people in 300 groups responded directly to the Oct. 8 town hall style presidential debate.

Data collected from the first presiden-

tial debate shows that 44 percent of all participants felt that Iraq and the War on Terror were the most important issues covered in the debate, followed by nuclear proliferation at 17 percent, North Korea at 13 percent and homeland security at 9 percent.

Over 27 percent of Debate Watch participants viewing the vice-presidential debate felt that the most important issue brought up in that debate was Iraq and national security. Approximately 15 percent of participants thought the most relevant issue covered was health and healthcare, with poverty and jobs closely behind at 13 percent.

The most recent DebateWatch results are from the third or town hall style debate. Iraq and national security, according to 34 percent of participants, was considered the most important topic in this debate, followed by economic issues with 26 percent, health care with 13 percent and the environment and stem cell research, each with 8 percent.

The Commission on Presidential Debates will soon have data on the last debate. It can be found at www.debates.org.



Students discuss candidate's performances after watching the second presidential debate. Mel Sundin, lecturer in advertising, leads one of the discussion groups.

DANIELLE FAULKNER/BEHREND BEACON