



THE

# BEHREND BEACON

## 2007-2008 YEAR IN REVIEW

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# Primary push leaves Behrend pumped

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Somewhere amidst the churning crowd, freshman Pat Troester began to realize the gravity of the situation. He knew that Sen. Barack Obama's (D-IL) visit Friday, April 18 in the Junker Center could be the most important event of his college career.

Troester arrived at the Junker Center around 8:15 a.m. to see an assembled crowd of hundreds. Some Obama supporters arrived as early as 6:30 a.m. to wait for the doors to open. Though many people were pro-Obama, Troester wasn't sure. "I'm on the fence right now," he said. He mentioned that President Clinton's speech in Erie Hall made him consider Hillary more closely.

Only 250 tickets were distributed to Behrend students. Many Erie residents were able to obtain tickets at Obama's headquarters downtown. Some were unable to get tickets, but made the trip anyway. Three high school students drove an hour from Warren, Pa., even though they didn't have tickets. "We stood by the line with a big sign," they said. "Eventually, people just gave us their extra tickets."

As the Junker Center's gym filled, the energy in the room grew until Bob Casey arrived on stage. The crowd exploded in applause as Casey stepped up to the podium, thanking Erie and Pennsylvania for their support. In his remarks, he encouraged his listeners to "go out over the next few days and work like you have never worked before."

When Casey called Obama onstage, the noise was deafening as the crowd broke out in an inspired chant of "Yes we can," one of the Illinois senator's campaign slogans. His main points included healthcare, foreign policy and education reform.

"Hillary Clinton tried to fix the healthcare system in 1993," he said. "The problem was, she did it behind closed doors. I will do it out in the open, and consult the American people about what they think."

When talking about foreign policy, Obama drew upon many popular thoughts as he spoke about the Middle East. "We're fighting two wars right now," he said. "One we must win, and that's the war in Afghanistan. The other, I think we never should have started. I opposed that war in Iraq in 2002, and I will end it by 2012."

Obama's plan of withdrawing from Iraq included free Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder screenings for all veterans and mental assis-

tance to all soldiers returning from war. "We need to start taking care of our veterans," he said.

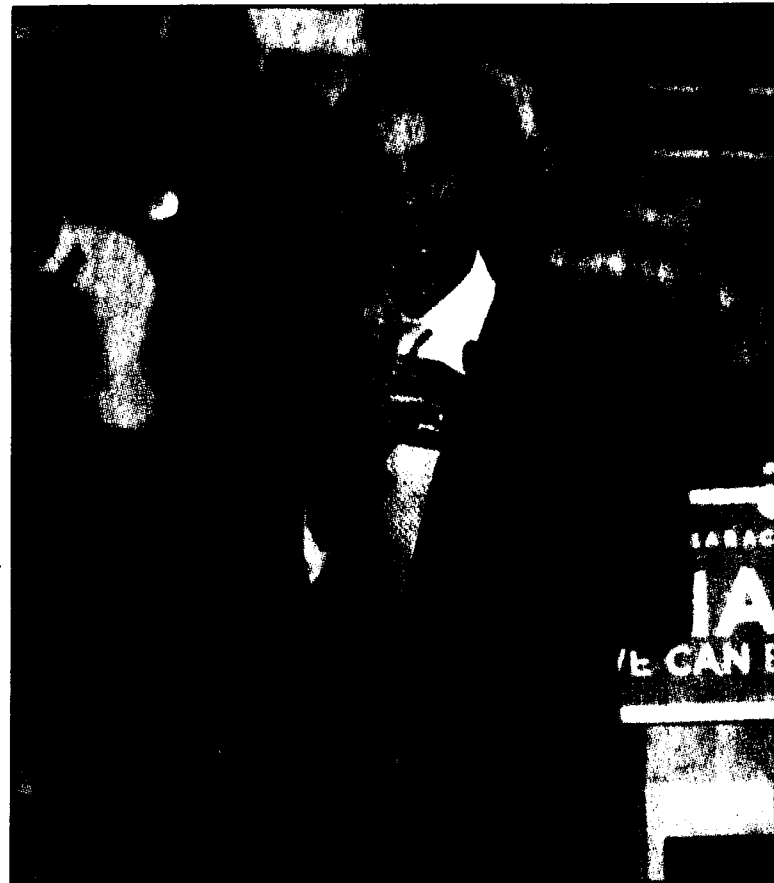
He said that his plan for the education system was an added emphasis on early education to close the achievement gap. College students would be offered tax credit in exchange for community service.

In the question and answer session, Obama seemed confident and poised as he answered questions regarding college loans, veteran disability and healthcare.

For the last question, a disabled veteran was given a microphone by Obama personally, and simply thanked him on behalf of veterans for running. The crowd gave the man a standing ovation, and Obama used the energy to finish his speech with repetitions of several phrases he had used earlier.

"How do you get yourself out of a hole?" Obama asked. "Stop digging."

After Sen. Obama had left, the crowd filed out, buzzing with energy. Troester says it was then that he realized how much the speech had changed him. "The energy in the room was great," he says. "There were so many people in there agreeing about stuff that makes sense." He paused a moment to reflect. "I'm sold," he said. "I'm voting for Obama."



Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) delivered a crowd pleasing speech in his first visit to Erie on the campaign trail.

## Clinton drums up support for Hillary



Former President Bill Clinton rallied support for his wife, Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) at Erie Hall.

By Lenny Smith  
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April 19, 2008

A line had already formed as early 8 a.m. on April 16 with eager students, faculty, and community members that wanted a chance to see Former President Bill Clinton. President Clinton's visit to Penn State Behrend was his second campaign stop in Erie over the last month. He has been traveling all over the country in an attempt to rally support for his wife, Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY).

While the crowd waited to get into the hall, Clinton campaigners walked around with forms everyone had to fill out in order to be allowed in the building. When the crowd was allowed to start entering the building around 9:15 a.m., the line had weaved down the sidewalk toward College Drive and then back around through the grass next to Erie Hall.

While the crowd that filled Erie Hall waited for the former president to arrive, songs like "Don't Stop Believin'" by Journey blasted through the speakers before local, high-ranking democrats took the stage.

Cheers star Ted Danson, a close family friend of the Clintons, introduced President Clinton.

In a one-on-one interview with *The Behrend Beacon*, Danson said, "I find her to be the most authentic and truthful. She has done this for thirty-five years, not sporadically that speaks trust."

"I would like to be introduced to my favorite president, so far," Danson said, ending his introduction of President Clinton.

President Clinton said Hillary has extensive plans to produce alternative energy, provide affordable healthcare for every American, make college more affordable, and a way to bring the men and women serving our country home safely.

See **PRESIDENT** on page 2.

## Kennedy stumps for Obama at Behrend



By Lenny Smith  
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April 19, 2008

As students and community members packed McGarvey Commons for Sen. Ted Kennedy's (D-MA) rally in support of Sen. Barack Obama, (D-IL) many were hoping to find a deciding factor to help them make up their mind about the upcoming primaries.

A roar erupted from the audience as Kennedy began his rally.

"Well, I bring you wonderful good news," Kennedy yelled. "Nine months from now George Bush will not be President of the United States."

"I understand there are two important dates left in the calen-

dar," he joked. "One is April 22, because its primary day. And the other is May 9. Does anyone know what May 9 is? Last day of classes."

Kennedy continued the connection to college-age students in a one-on-one interview with *The Behrend Beacon*. Kennedy said that the biggest difference between Obama and Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) is difference between the past and the future.

"Senator Clinton has been there and done it," he said. "But it represents the past. I think Barack Obama represents the future, represents the young people, represents a sense of hope and idealism that young people have."

Kennedy got down to business and did not waste time telling the

crowd that Obama is different and represents the future of American politics.

"I think we have a candidate that is bringing a new opportunity and a new vision," Kennedy said.

Kennedy said that Obama has vision about what we are going to do.

"He understands that one of the central challenges of this nation, whether it is in Erie, Pennsylvania or so many parts of this state is we are going to have to restore our economy," he said.

"And then I remembered being in the United States Senate just a few days before the Senate made its judgement to go to war in Iraq," Kennedy said. "There were only eight of us that were omitted

See **KENNEDY** on page 2.

## Suite life is a pretty sweet life: Days Inn home for students

By Connor Sattely  
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Oct. 7, 2007

Like most incoming freshmen, Jason Hudson was nervous about what his first dorm room would be like. Imagine his surprise when he discovered his rooming arrangement would include his own double-size bed, private housekeeping twice a week, his own bathroom, Wi-Fi Internet, and a 27-inch TV. His room, however, would be located several miles down the road at the nearby Days Inn.

Hudson, a freshman from Franklin, PA, arrived at

Penn State Behrend in July to schedule his classes, and found out that the campus had about 330 students who had no place to stay on campus. He quickly became part of a long waiting list including many confused freshmen. It wasn't until the FTCAP meetings that Hudson found what became his only option - a nearby hotel, the Days Inn.

Tony Bruno, of Scott Enterprises, Days Inn's parent company, offered the students on the waiting list a different solution to the problem.

"Early one week I received a phone call from a frustrated woman," he recalls, "who needed alternative for housing her daughter." After that, says

Bruno, the calls began to flood in. Days Inn first contacted the school with only around a month left before the start of classes. Bruno and Scott Enterprises decided to offer what became almost an entire floor of the Days Inn hotel to students with no on-campus housing contracts.

So, on move-in day, Hudson found himself in a group of 32 students who would be living, at least temporarily, in a hotel room for college. Each morning, a 15-person van leaves the hotel at 7:30 a.m. to transport the students to the campus. Another leaves the Reed parking lot almost thirteen hours later at 8:00 p.m. to drive them back to the hotel. Between

the two shuttles, the students are unable to return to their rooms, unless they can find an alternative ride. That, says Hudson, is fine with him.

"It's not that bad having to stay at the campus all day," Hudson says. "I spend most of my time at the gym, lifting and getting sidetracked there. I study when I have to, and I definitely have extra time to do it."

Mikhail Cooperberg, a junior who also elected to live in the hotel, couldn't disagree more.

"It sucks," states Cooperberg, who roomed in Niagara and Ohio his first two years at Behrend.

See **HOUSING** on page 3.

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