



*Behrend Cross Country team hosts 2008 invitation-  
al this past weekend. Read  
more on page 8.*

## Weekend Weather

**Friday:** Mainly Sunny. High 73 F. Winds SSE @ 10-15 mph. Chance of precipitation 10%.  
**Saturday:** Partly Cloudy. High 76 F. Chance of precipitation 10%.  
**Sunday:** AM Clouds/PM Sun. High 66 F. Chance of precipitation 20%.  
*Complete weather forecast for the week on page 2.*

# The Behrend Beacon

Friday, September 19, 2008

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## Time to decide:

*McCain  
or  
Obama?*

With  
November just  
around the  
corner,  
Behrend stu-  
dents discuss  
their choices

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Students at Penn State Behrend hear many things about the upcoming election. But does it affect them when it comes time to vote?

Political debates and discussions are assigned as extra credit for some courses, and the front page of many newspapers and e-mail spam typically say something about the 2008 presidential candidates.

Joshua Snyder, President of the College Democrats at Behrend says, "as President of College Democrats, student involvement in the political process is an important issue. Historically, our age group does not show up to the polls on Election Day. This needs to change; students have to become a part of the political process. It is important that as students we exercise our right to vote. Getting students not only to register to vote but to register to vote here on campus is something that needs to be pushed."

Snyder continues, "right now College Democrats is working on getting a coalition of student groups together for a non partisan voter registration drive all next week. The goal is to register as many students as possible on campus, regardless of party affiliation."

On the other end of the pendulum, Daniel J. Smith, a sophomore transfer-student from the Air University and a Republican, may not agree with both candidates, but he does agree that students should be more involved when it's time to vote. "Students should be more concerned about this election. Students should research both candidates, before choosing. I believe they are not getting all the true facts about both candidates."

Both Snyder and Smith have made a decision on who they think will make the best president. Snyder says, "As President

See **ELECTION** on page 3.

## Brazile, Frum speak out

*CNN's Donna Brazile discusses the importance of this year's  
election with National Review Online's David Frum at  
Behrend's McGarvey Commons*

By Marcus Yeagley  
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Donna Brazile, a Democratic CNN correspondent, and David Frum, a former George W. Bush speech-writer, discussed a variety of political topics in McGarvey Commons Wednesday night. Titled "A Moderated Conversation about the Presidency and Politics in America," the event carried a coffee table tone, with each participant answering the moderated questions in turn.

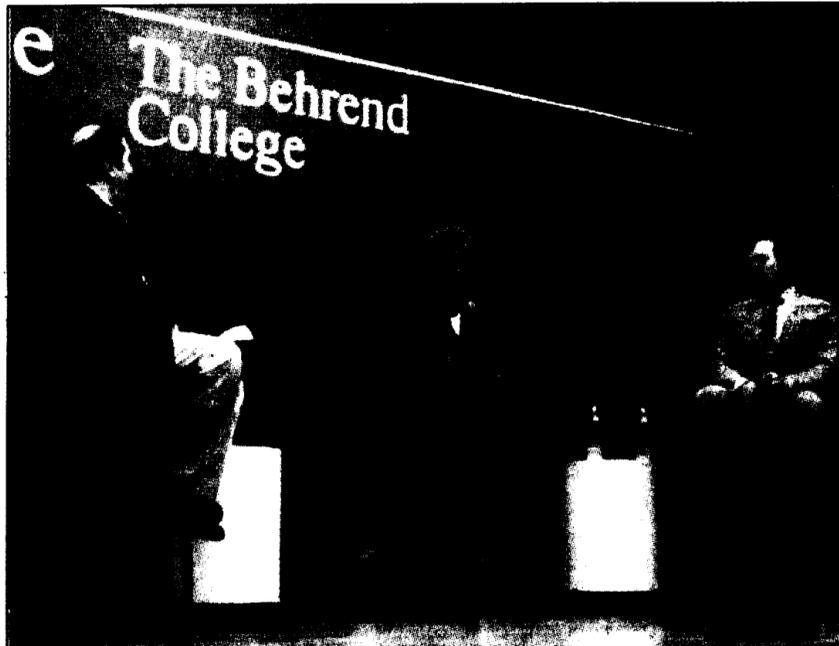
"They gave intelligent answers and did not toe party lines," said Dr. Robert Speel, a Behrend associate professor of political science, who moderated the

discussion. Speel stated that the two participants thought highly of the audiences' questions, which ended the night.

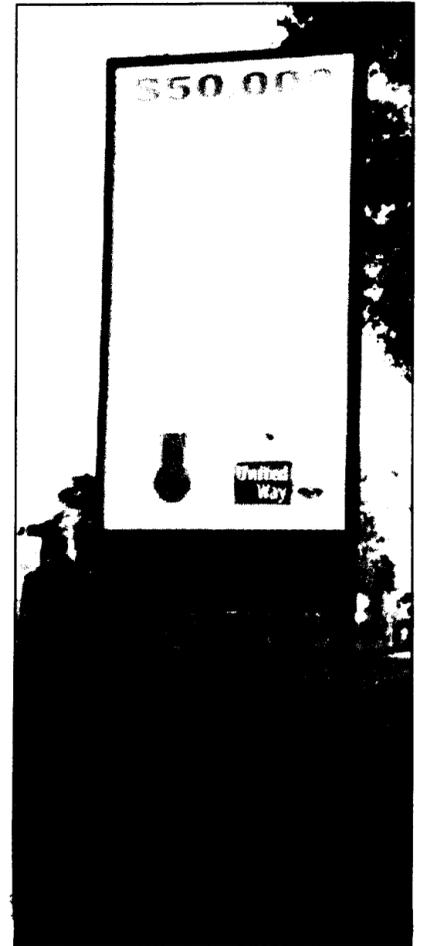
Among the issues Brazile and Frum talked about were negative campaign ads, the world's view of the U.S. election, Governor Palin, potential cabinet members, recommended amendments to the constitution, and the national debt.

Frum and Brazile took many of the questions by Speel in different directions. When asked about aid for retirees, Frum talked about the origins of the upcoming draining of Social Security while Brazile spoke out loudly about the increasing national debt and energy crisis.

See **DISCUSSION** on page 3.



From left to right: Dr. Rob Speel, Donna Brazile, and David Frum. Brazile and Frum discussed the significance of the upcoming election on Tuesday night in McGarvey Commons.



DANIEL SMITH/The Behrend Beacon

*Penn State Behrend has  
kicked off its annual  
fundraiser for the United  
Way. Each year, this  
"thermometer" chart can  
be seen departing campus  
on College Drive.*

## High parking costs and long traffic lines

By Angela Golestaneh and Allison Radov,  
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Everyday Penn State Behrend students who drive to class hope to find a place to park. "Will I find a spot?" "Am I going to have to wait fifteen minutes to leave campus?" "Do students and staff have to worry about the price of parking going up next semester?" These questions raise many concerns for Behrend students.

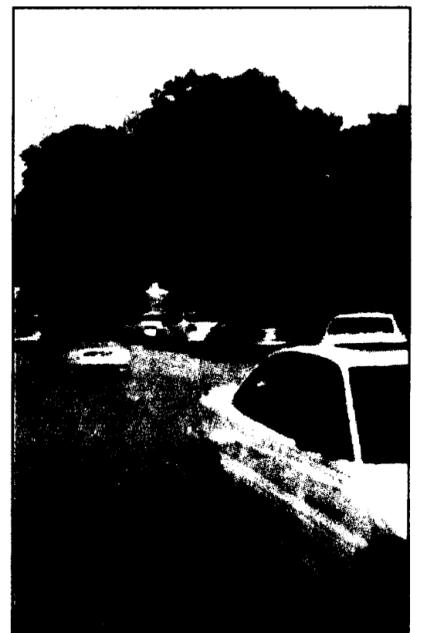
Over the last few semesters, the student awareness of the price to park on campus has increased dramatically. College officials say whenever a new parking lot at Penn State Behrend is built, the cost is funded by borrowing money and paying the loan off over time. Officials also say the funding pays for the lights and the upkeep of the designated parking lot. For the 2008-2009 school year, Police and Safety stated that part-

time students pay \$75 a semester, while full-time students pay \$150 a semester or \$270 for a whole academic year. Although these prices differ, the prices for resident and commuter parkers stay the same.

Police and Safety says that the office has not had any major complaints, just people voicing the fact some students park where they are not permitted. This is just one reason as to why so many parking tickets are given out daily. The cost of a ticket ranges from \$7-50.

Many Behrend students, commuter and residential parkers, feel there is not enough parking. The costs seem much "too high" or "unreasonable" after looking at the cost of other school's parking passes- especially after paying for tuition, room and board, as well as various other things that come with going to school. By comparison, the fact that other local schools having a

See **TRAFFIC** on page 3.



KEEGAN MCGREGGOR/The Behrend Beacon  
A common sight on College Drive after classes let out. Traffic makes it difficult for some students to make it to their part-time jobs and after school errands on time.

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## What's Inside?

- What constitutes victory in Iraq? Chris Brown offers insight on page 4.
- Read this edition's "Whiskey Chronicles" on page 6.
- See how the NHL looks to play out for the upcoming season on page 9.

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