

CAMPUS NEWS

Blood Drive attracts record number of students

Over 150 donors show up in McGarvey to help beat Gannon University's September turnout of 134

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"You guys completely blew Gannon out of the water," said Central Blood Bank worker Deanna Renaud. A blood drive worker for three years, Renaud said that the drive at Behrend on Nov. 6 was one of the biggest she had ever seen.

The event was held in McGarvey Commons and lasted from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., though the coordinators closed the doors an hour early due to the overwhelming turnout. "Last year," one drive worker said, "I'm pretty sure we didn't turn anyone



K. McGREGOR/TheBehrendBeacon
Sophomore Mark Towner donates blood on Thursday in McGarvey Commons.

away. This year was a much, much bigger turnout."

Carly Smith, a Behrend sophomore in her first year of helping at the drive, said that for the majority of the day, there was a huge wait list. "I got here at 1:30," she said, "and it's been crazy ever since. We've had a page and a half of a wait list, at least, since I started."

Renaud, the mobile drive coordinator, said that she was thrilled at how Behrend responded. "It was a full campus effort," she said. She cited several clubs and organizations that pledged full support to the blood drive, and teachers that made announcements in their classes. "Health and Wellness deserves a ton of credit as well. They gave a lot of effort."

"Another reason for the huge turnout," said Renaud, "was probably the competition between Behrend and Gannon. Posters around the school posed a challenge to Behrend students to beat Gannon's total of donated units of blood."

Whether the donations came out of the spirit of simply giving or out of pure competition, Renaud knows that the true winners are those that will need blood in Erie. "This will be a huge help going into Thanksgiving," she said. "We were at about half stock, and this will boost us up a lot."

Many first-time blood donors attended, enduring fear of needles in order to donate their much-needed blood. Demi Winger, a McGarvey freshman, stayed in McGarvey for over three hours. "The wait was pretty

long, but it was worth it."

Winger, who has had several blood tests taken before, said that she wasn't afraid of needles, but still spent some time sitting down afterward. "I think I almost passed out," she said. "But I'm okay." Donors were provided free snacks and drinks; most spent a few minutes relaxing at tables and eating after their donation.

Faculty also showed up to make donations. Sarah Bennett, a

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- Carly Smith
Sophomore

lecturer in biology at Behrend, said that it was also her first time donating blood. "It wasn't that bad," she said. "I was a little woozy, but it was painless. Exactly what I had expected."

Rather than competition, Bennett cited the blood bank's need as her reason for donating. "I know that blood banks are pretty low right now. I have blood to give, I'm healthy, so I might as well."

Also, said Bennett, another benefit of the event was that kids could take the time to relax. "Most students are really, really busy. It's good to just take some time to relax."

The Central Blood Bank plans to return to Behrend for another blood drive in the Spring.

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Clinton, Romney make final push

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Former democratic president Bill Clinton campaigned for president-elect Barack Obama in Erie on Monday, Nov. 3, hoping to sway some undecided voters just hours before election day. The rally was held at McDowell Intermediate High School for a crowd of about 2,000.

Clinton thanked Erie residents for their support of him during his successful presidential campaigns in the 1990s, and thanked Pennsylvania for their support of Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primaries.

"We're doing this 'cause Hillary ran for President not for a job," said Clinton, "but to change our country, and Barack Obama can change our country."

Clinton claimed the faltering economy was the reason to vote for Obama. He said that no matter your political affiliations, Obama was the right candidate for the job. "This isn't about liberal or conservative," said Clinton. "This is about whether or not we're gonna solve our problems. We have serious, serious, conditions. The economy is a mess, and we have to restore America's standing in the world for peace and freedom."

The event was populated by students of local high schools and colleges, and adult Erie residents.

"I thought he touched on a lot of good points," said Behrend sophomore Josh Wittmershaus. "I saw him at Behrend when he supported Hillary, but now he's looking out for the greater good."

Clinton closed by reiterating



KEEGAN McGREGOR/TheBehrendBeacon
Former President Bill Clinton campaigned in Erie for Barack Obama on Monday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Former Governor Mitt Romney campaigned in Erie for Senator John McCain.

Obama's promise of change.

"I want to give people this simple message: we need to change," the President said. "Barack Obama has the ability to turn good intentions into positive changes."

In a bout of last minute campaigning, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney made a stop in Erie to stump for John McCain, Sarah Palin, and Phil English.

The Erie County Republican Party headquarters were packed to maximum capacity with 150 people hoping to catch a glimpse of the politician. Romney arrived just a few minutes before 3:00 p.m. on Nov. 3, the day before Election Day, and spoke for about ten minutes.

Romney was relaxed with the crowd, laughing and cracking a few jokes about Obama before launching into his speech. "This election really, really counts," said Romney. He mentioned a poll conducted by Fox News showing that

the race was tightening dramatically in the swing states. Romney even predicted that the race would be "so close, it can't be decided by the Electoral College." He urged people to get out to the polls the next day.

Romney mentioned his long-time connection to Erie through his father's shipbuilding business. He promised that McCain would strengthen jobs and manufacturing in Erie if selected President. "Manufacturing has a place in America," said Romney to loud cheers. In contrast, Romney said that Obama's plan would kill jobs in Erie and throughout the entire country. "If you want the economy to grow, you don't raise taxes on anyone."

Romney said that due to McCain's experience, he was America's best choice for positive change. "Experience does make a difference," he said. "Let's get out there and fight for John McCain."

Students vote in Presidential election

continued from front page.

Students who registered at their on-campus address were assigned to vote at the Harborcreek Township 4th district precinct, which, along with the 5th district, voted at the fire hall.

Students who rode the shuttle found short lines. They cast their ballots through direct-recording electronic voting machines, a common replacement for the older lever voting machines of years past.

Other students could not take the shuttle as their registered polling place was determined by their home address, not their college residence.

Jon Klein, a 21-year old senior majoring in mechanical engineering, drove over 400 miles on Election Day to cast his bal-

lot. He was registered at his home in Moon Township, just northwest of Pittsburgh.

Klein felt compelled to make the long car drive due to his inability to cast a ballot in 2004. Born in November, Klein was just under 18 four years ago when President George W. Bush was re-elected.

Klein voted for President-elect Barack Obama.

"It is a put up or shut up kind of a thing," says Klein. "If you didn't vote, you don't have a chance to complain about it."

After his first two hour drive, Klein says he stood in line to vote for over half an hour. He took the rest of his day to pick up essentials from home and visit family before driving back to Behrend.

When he arrived back on campus, students inside Bruno's

were still engaged with CNN's election results, winding down after a long evening of poll numbers and "calls" for states.

The College Republicans, College Democrats, the Political Science Society, and other Behrend organizations held a discussion panel and asked presidential election trivia questions through the long night. Over thirty students participated with the event.

Chris Alphen, the Vice President of the College Democrats and moderator of the panel of political science students, called the evening a "great night," saying that "Penn State Behrend should be doing more [events] like this. College is a great place to express opinions with people."

"There is no time better than now," Alphen says.