

The Behrend Beacon

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Campus cheers new president

Students fill Bruno's to share historic moment

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As Senior Political Correspondent for CNN Roland Martin said, "People saw today what some dreamed would and could never happen." Jan. 20 marked an event that Behrend students will remember for the rest of their lives. Crowds of hundreds gathered around TVs on campus, joining millions of people observing Barack Obama being sworn in as the 44th president of the United States.

Students and faculty watched in locations around campus, including Bruno's café, a reserved room in Kochel, and many computer labs. No matter where anyone watched Tuesday's inauguration, the mood was the same.

"I feel proud and lucky to witness such a turning point in our history," says freshman English education major Carolyn Foley. Like many other students on campus, and around the world, this was Foley's first time voting in an election.

The mood in Bruno's was strangely quiet on Tuesday. The sense of community grew with the crowds as the speech drew closer. When Barack Obama stepped forward to take the oath, the crowd erupted in applause, some cheering along with the nearly three million in Washington, D.C. Some nodded solemnly as the inauguration began, others wept, still others chuckled softly as the Chief Justice spoke the oath incorrectly.

As President Obama began his inaugural speech, the importance of the moment weighed heavily on the minds of those assembled.

"I never thought that I would see this day in my life time," says English lecturer Mary Connerty. "Everything has changed now. When I was seven years old, my mother dragged me out of bed to see

See OBAMA on page 2.



KEEGAN MCGREGOR/TheBehrendBeacon

Students crowded into Bruno's to watch the inauguration of the 44th president of the United States.

Speaker shares "What Obama Means"

By Mike O. Wehrer
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The Behrend Speaker Series hosted author and playwright Jabari Asim in McGarvey Commons Wednesday. Asim writes and speaks primarily on the subject of racism and race relations. His lecture was entitled "What Obama Means" and is also the title of his recently released book.

Asim opened by talking about how happy he had been during the "thrilling and joyous week" of Obama's inauguration. He said the sight of Obama being inaugurated filled him with "excitement that warms the heart and shakes the soul."

In an interview, Asim said that college students now have real power due to the "dissolving of identity politics."

"College students and young people were seen as apathetic," Asim said. "That's no longer the case."

Asim went on to say that college students had special leverage because they are passionate and able to network easily via the Internet, which was a large part of Obama's strategy in the recent election.

Asim also spoke on the changing nature of the black community in America. He said that in the "entirely black community" where he grew up, expectations were that "promising young black men became doctors, lawyers, and engineers." He told an anecdote about his own experience as a junior in college studying pre-law.

"I realized I didn't want to be a lawyer, so I called my mother to tell her," Asim said. "I told her

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MARCUS YEAGLEY/TheBehrendBeacon

Jabari Asim speaking to a crowd of students, faculty, and community members about the new president

Hammermill gets high-tech renovation

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Conical lights hang from the ceiling. Twenty-four inch monitors line the walls. Four arched desks sporting dual screen computers comprise the center. Televisions hang from the ceiling.

These, along with a cushioned bench, are just some of the appealing aspects Hammermill's new lab offers to hard-working students. The remodeled lab, with its modern aesthetic style, opened late last October and includes 24/7 access to all students. Besides the dual screens, there are "cubby holes" - sectioned off desks - for personal space, each with a computer; two study nooks, each with a television and their own couches; and a circle of comfortable chairs in the back. A coffee machine that accepts LionCash takes position to the left as you enter the modern environment.

Todd Say, manager of IT Support Services, calls the renovation a "lab-lounge environment" where students can come to do their work or hang out, have coffee, and socialize. However, Say admits that the lab is "still not one hundred percent complete...but it's functional for students." The remaining work, it seems, needs mainly to be done on the aesthetic properties of the lab: enclosing the study nooks in the back by glass, for example.

See NEW TECHNOLOGY on page 3.

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Our offices are located downstairs
in the Reed Union Building.

Friday

High: 36°F
Low: 24°F

A.m. clouds will give way to p.m. rain or snow.

Saturday

High: 24°F
Low: 11°F

Mostly cloudy with snow showers possible.

Sunday

High: 16°F
Low: 8°F

Mostly cloudy with a chance of snow.

Forecast courtesy of student meteorologist Matt Alto

Forecast continued on page 2.

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