

CAMPUS NEWS

Campus comes together as Obama begins landmark presidency

continued from front page.
the Martin Luther King Jr. speech. I remember that day and feeling the atmosphere of everyone gathered. And on this day I can feel the same thing."

Even students with little political knowledge or awareness stopped by Bruno's Café to watch the speech.

"I'm very uneducated about politics," says Alli Heitzenrater, a freshman majoring in geoscience. "But listening to Barack Obama really made me feel confident about the direction our country will be headed over the next four years."

Dr. Robert Speel, Associate Director of Political Science, organized a place for everyone to watch the inauguration. About 50 people, around half of whom were faculty, gathered to watch the inauguration in room 69 of Kochel. Dr. Speel says that part of the purpose of the meeting was to provide Kochel staff with a chance to watch the speech.

Financial Aid advisor Giselle Hudson is happy with what Obama has done in his time before taking the presidency. Many of the cabinet picks, like Hillary Clinton for Secretary of State, have won her over to the new president. However, she thinks that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. "He needs to hit the street rolling," she says. "Our government in the past eight years has been a joke, and we need to fix that. There needs to be accountability every-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Above: Bruno's cafe was filled with students, faculty and staff to watch the presidential inauguration.
Right: Students watching President Obama's inauguration in front of Bruno's projection screen.

where for everyone."

Speel says that compared to Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy, Barack Obama failed to create an easily repeatable line in his inaugural address. "He didn't want to say anything too controversial, but there were no lines to help people remember the speech. It'll probably be forgotten in a few months."

However safe Obama's speech was, there was one thing that was included that not many presidents have ever done before.

"The thing that stood out the

most to me was how Obama reached out to other countries in the world," Speel said. "Very few presidents ever do this, and it created a big appeal."

Nate Boring, the president of College Republicans, thought that the ceremony could bring the nation together. "It was an excellent speech that summarized the problems of the country and then spoke of unity," he says. "In a time when our country hasn't been the best, Obama gave a very inspirational speech, and I'm ready to give him a chance."

The president of College Democrats, Josh Snyder, was also impressed and optimistic about the future. "It was good," he says, "not his best, but I still really liked the message. He spoke of making sacrifices and getting through this but the underlying message was that we can. We're still smart enough, still innovative enough to get through this."

Read excerpts from Obama's acceptance speech on page 3.



Monday

High: 22°F
Low: 12°F

Partly cloudy.

Tuesday

High: 21°F
Low: 13°F

Partly cloudy with a chance of snow.

Wednesday

High: 28°F
Low: 17°F

Partly cloudy.

Thursday

High: 38°F
Low: 21°F

Rain/Snow Showers.

Interesting weather fact:

Mount Baker in Washington holds the world record for the most snow to fall in one year: 1,140 inches fell in 1998.

Weather forecast courtesy of student meteorologist Mat Alto.

Record snows bring weather woes

COMING MONTHS COULD BREAK CURRENT SNOWFALL RECORD

By Matthew Alto
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Sunday, students will wake up with a forecast they have gotten used to recently: highs in the upper teens and a chance of snow. Behrend students will once again feel the results: snow up to people's knees, parking lots lined with mountains of snow, and slippery walking paths.

The 2008-2009 season has seen 111.4 inches of snowfall in the Erie area. This winter has a chance to go down in history as the snowiest ever in Erie's recorded history. The current record is 149.1 inches, which fell in 2000-2001. Only 4.5 more inches are needed to place this season into the top 10, and another 37.8 inches would make the 2008-2009 season the snowiest winter ever recorded.

This month alone, Erie has seen 41.1 inches of snow, making it the seventh snowiest January in recorded history. The record for the snowiest January was 62.4 inches which fell in

1978. Behrend students were welcomed back for the Spring semester with a week full of bitterly cold temperatures and massive amounts of snow.

Perhaps more than anyone, commuter students at Penn State Behrend have been affected by the snow. Sam Ovenshine, a sophomore living at University Gates Apartments, has seen fellow commuter students struggling with the effects of the massive snowfall. "There were four or five cars, bottomed out trying to get out of their parking lots," he recalls. "Nobody would help them - it was bad."

Ovenshine, like many students who drive to campus, was frustrated by the delays in digging his car out. "I probably had to dig my car out three times," he says. "Each time it took 20 minutes, at least. Just a waste of time."

Not all students are fed up with the large amounts of snow. Avid snowboarders and skiers are excited about the powder this area has received. Carl Kallgren, a freshman and resident of Erie, is thrilled with all the snow.

"It's good," he states. "Peek'n Peak makes a lot of their snow and it is not good quality. So the record snow makes for excellent opportunities to ride fresh powder."

Will this record snowfall continue for the next few months? The answer to this question is one that is as hard as predicting the weather.

Tom Atkins, a meteorologist at JET-TV, believes that there is a chance that we will break the record for the snowiest season on record. "We are well ahead of pace for the record year by at least six inches," he says. "There is a chance that we could see around 180 inches of snow." If the city sees that much, it would break the previous record by nearly three feet.

However, there are signs that at least some snow may let up in the coming months. "The lake is now mostly covered by ice now," Atkins says. "This cuts down on the lake effect snow." The majority of the snow that has fallen in the Erie area has been lake effect, thus a frozen lake will have an impact

on whether the record will be broken. Snow can continue to fall through March and April, where 6.75 inches fall in the two months on average. "There's still plenty of time left."



MARCUS YEAGLEY/TheBeacon
An icicle hanging off the back of Senat Hall.

What's Inside

Late of the Pier is late on the scene



Late of the Pier is a British four-piece that have a retro, night-club sound.

An album starts off with a dramatic rise and fall of notes; you wonder if it's going to be another 80s pop ballad. It has that certain nostalgic radio feel that you can swear you've heard before. In the last 13 seconds, it turns for the unexpected. It's got a modern rock feel to it, and the crazy guitar rock intro drags into the second song. The first two tracks are designed for gapless playback, which makes it sound really cool.

Page 5

Men's and women's basketball teams victorious

The Penn State Behrend men's and women's basketball teams each walked away with another victory on Thursday night.

Pages 8 & 9

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