

Campus undergoes changes for presidential visit

BY DAN ZACHER
Staff writer

Business as usual; that was the word on campus on April Fools Day this year as everyone at campus scurried to welcome George W. Bush, the 43rd President of the United States, to Penn State Delaware County. The campus went through many changes to accommodate the Commander-In-Chief in his first visit to the campus.

The major change was the transforming of the Commons Building into a temporary fortress for the Bush. No person was allowed within a good distance of the building and all protestors had to stay as far away as the walkway between the Classroom and Main Buildings.

The building itself had been equipped with Penn State wrapping paper over all the windows so that no one could see inside the building and a red carpet was laid down for the President to walk on as he entered the building. The building was also clean vigorously starting on Friday.

Rooms in the Commons were also changed from their mundane uses due to the visit. Doreen Hettich's office in Student Life was used by the President himself. The Tree House in the Lion's Den was used by the Secret Service as their command center and was closed off to students on Monday as well.

The gym also took on a transformation of its own. Crews worked for most of the day Monday changing our gymnasium into a temporary stage for the speech. The gym looked like a small concert venue for some big named band complete with risers and studio lights on the ceiling. The press corps were accommodated in the auxiliary gymnasium.

The parking lot was closed to most students, faculty, and staff for the entire day. Staff and faculty could park across Yearsley Mill Road in the parking lot of the Easter Seals School.

Students were forced to brave the elements and park on a muddy, unlevelled grass field farther down the road. Many students got to school early to make sure that

they had a parking spot on asphalt and were shocked as they were led farther down the road.

Another big change was the massive speed bump by the Commons building that covered the extra phone lines into the building, needed by the press for the day.

As it was announced on Monday, no classes were officially canceled for the day. Although, many students did not try to come to class and some classes were eventually cancelled due to a lack of students showing up.

"I was mad," said John Childers, sophomore IST. "I had to park all the way down there in the mud. I came and found out there was no class."

Only one class was uprooted by the visit. Professor McCourt's 10 a.m. tennis class was moved to room 218 of the Main building for the day. No practices were scheduled, but some people's training schedules were abruptly interfered with.

The Student Business Association's guest speaker, David Lipson, publisher of Philadelphia Magazine, was postponed until Tuesday, April 9 at 4 p.m. in the Classroom Building.

People Poll

Thoughts from Urban Education majors about what the President had to say during his visit:

Attended the speech:

"President Bush's speech was very interesting. You can tell that he really cared for what he was talking about."

-Mike Van Whk

"His speech was relevant and meaningful to not only education students but all students who care about America's future-our youth."

-Jennifer Tallon

Didn't Attend:

"It is nice to see the focus start to shift away from international business and turn towards something which is very important-education."

-Rob Thorum

"I thought it was really good. He had a lot of insightful information."

-Tovi Nguyen

Missed the Presidential visit?

If you missed it or just want to see it all over again, President Bush's visit to our campus on April 2, 2002, will be remembered in the Presentation on President Bush's Visit of Penn State Delaware County. The presentation, introduced by Dr. Tomezsko, CEO, will include news clips, photos and a video of President Bush's speech.

The presentation is scheduled for Friday, April 26, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in 103 Classroom Building. The presentation is also scheduled on Tuesday, April 23, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. in 101 Main for those community members who can only come in the evening.

Pizza will be provided and all participants will receive a keepsake from the President's historic visit to our campus.

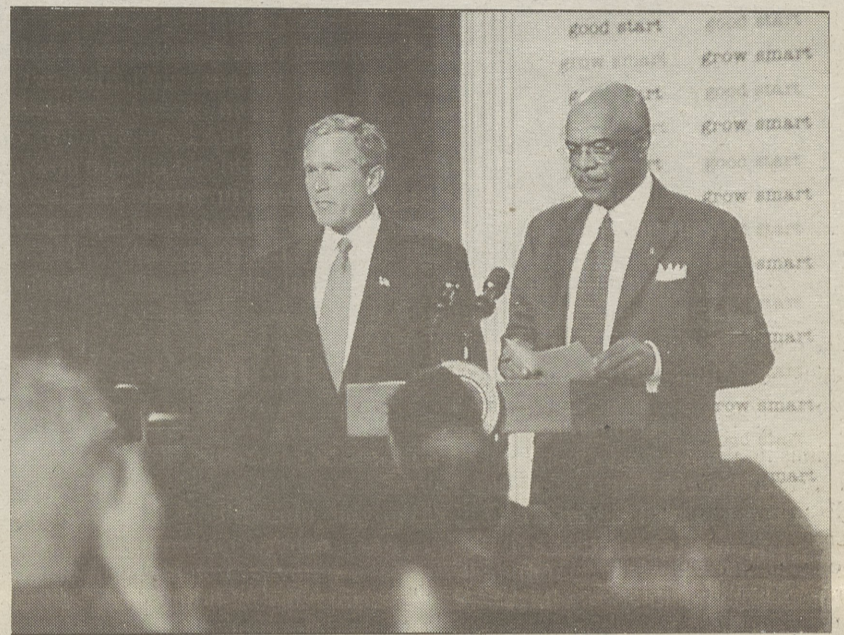
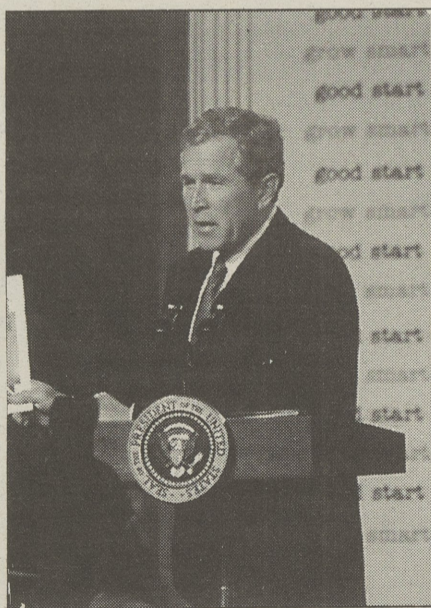


Photo by Antea Consorto
President Bush is introduced by Secretary of Education, Rod Paige before giving his speech. If you missed the President, you can watch his speech on April 26.



Photos by Antea Consorto and Shawn Pettit

Top Left: President Bush proudly displays his guide, "Teaching our Youngest."

Bottom Left: Rep. Curt Weldon with students Jason Mango, Cathy Nguyen, Andrew Lowry, Andrea Ricciardi, Keith Farrell, and Lauren Longbottom. Top Right: Protestors display banners as the President arrives on campus. Bottom: Rep. Curt Weldon with student, Jason Mango. Bottom Right: Protestors lined the walkways while the President was on campus.

