

# Weather Info: 30% Chance of Any Accuracy

by Mark Owens  
Collegian Staff Writer

By now many of you have experienced Erie weather, which involves all four seasons fighting over who gets to do what when, much like a bunch of kids beating each other over the head with small dead mammals to see who gets to ride the Big Wheel first (yes, we did this as small brainless children and no, I didn't get to ride the Big Wheel first, though I *did* put the small dead mammal on the seat before Steve sat down).

First of all, I would like to end this rumor about Erie weather: "If you don't like the weather, wait ten minutes and it will change."

This is absolutely false, as Erie weather is as complicated as Telly Savalis' hair dpo. Below is a handy-dandy easy to understand chart that will let you know exactly what the weather is for any season of the year:

Spring: rain @  
Summer: rain &  
Fall: rain %  
Winter: Snow \*

@: unless it's cold outside, in which case you should expect snow.

&: If it's an exceptionally cold spring, expect snow, followed by 99 degree weather for two weeks, three tornados and a drought.

%: If the first frost comes before September 21st, expect snow. If it comes after September 21st, look for snow. But if it comes on the 21st (which is

the equinox) count on sleet, blizzards and pink-spotted albino surf-punk newts with blue-dyed mohawks riding miniature elk screaming "gnarly weather, dude!" as they splat on your windshield.

\*: If it's a warm winter, look for rain, unless Jupiter is in line with Saturn, in which case you should expect sun with the temperature in the 80's.

Easy, huh?

Of course, you shouldn't rely on just my chart. Heck, I don't rely on my chart. For really up-to-date, professional information on the weather you should watch a TV weatherman.

"But there's so many ex-car-salesmen-turned-professional-weathermen, Mark - how do I know which one to watch?"

I know it's confusing, so here are some of the things to look for in a good TV weatherman:

Suits: Good weathermen have an extensive wardrobe filled with tasteless, ill-fitting leisure suits designed to make him look like a sausage. Not to be sexist, w o m e n weather...uh...a...you know what I mean - wear equally tacky clothing.

Weatherpersons (HAH!) in general are incredibly jealous of anchormen, who get to wear anything they please below the waist, which in most cases is nothing at all. When was the last time you saw an anchorman stand up on TV, huh?

Pictures: Top-flight forecasters have the coolest graphics possible, usually supplied by the Nintendo Corporation. Usually things go okay, unless the technician is fooling around, in which case you get to watch most of Newark, New

## Mark Owens

Jersey get vaporized by a flying saucer (we can only hope)...

Cheerful

Personality: No matter what the weather is going to be, professional weathermen have a "happy camper" attitude that would make a valley girl choke on her gum. Here's what I mean:

Anchorman: Well Dick, what can we expect for tomorrow?

Dick: Hey Hey!! Lots of sun, with a chance of showers. Tomorrow night we'll have a 50% chance of an apocalypse, with gusty winds, fire & brimstone and

some small explosions I think. Ha Ha!

Anchorman: Thanks, Dick.

Credits: Real weathermen have a list of them as long as the equator. Look for acronyms like AMA, FOA, WOA, MIC, KEY, MOUSE.

Now that you have a weatherman to watch, which is quite similar to the morbid facination that possesses people to watch Geraldo talk about the crime spree of 13 devil-worshiping grandmothers, I should explain a few of the terms he/she/it (it being most common) will throw at you so as to make you think that he knows what he's talking about, but in reality we all know that the most training in weather forecasting he has is flipping a quarter.

Terms to know:

Cold Front: Major campaign in the Cold War, which was fought in Nome, Alaska.

Warm Front: Problem occurring in microwave ovens where only the front

(top) of a dinner is cooked but the back (bottom) is still cold.

High Pressure Area: That place behind your eyeballs when you have a sinus cold.

Low Pressure Area: A Grateful Dead Concert.

Jet Stream: Airline company replacing Eastern Airlines.

Alberta Clipper: Name of my Aunt Bernice's hair stylist in Toledo, Ohio.

If all this seems too complicated, just do what weathermen have done for centuries to predict the weather: Be Bold. Be Creative. Lie.

Editor's Note: According to Rand-McNally - who keep track of such things - Erie has the fewest sunny days during Fall, Winter and Spring of any city in America, but the most sunny days in the summer months. Strange maybe, but it makes for a maximum of good beach weather during summer vacation and a minimum of spring fever cases the rest of the year.



Darrell White turns down opportunity to watch the needle as he donates a pint at the blood drive. If you haven't yet, you can still donate today until 4 pm in the Winter Garden. (photo by Mb Zawistoski)

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