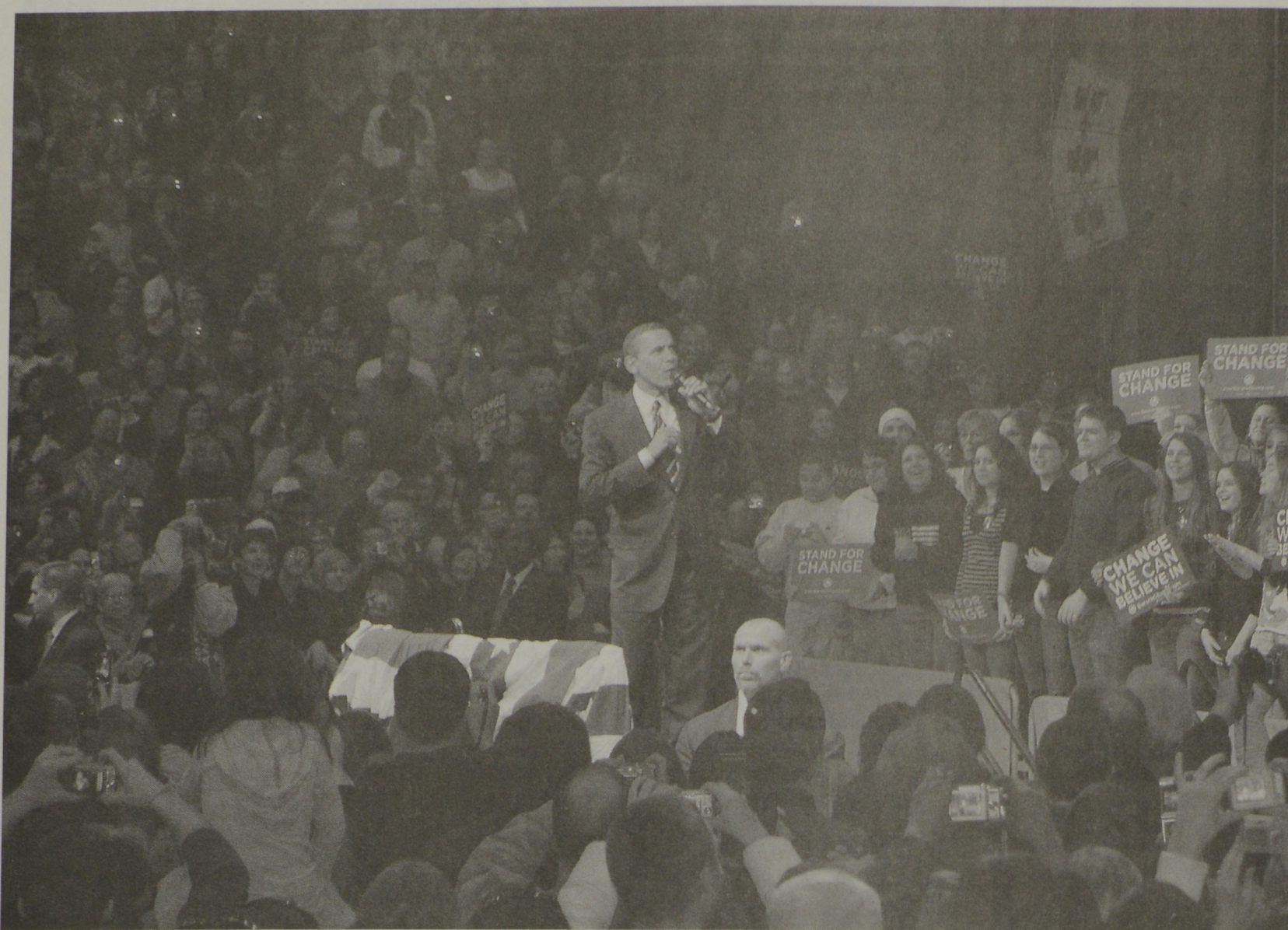


COMMENTS & LETTERS

eic@unb.ca • February 13, 2008

... BARACK JUST ROCKS



Jennifer McKenzie / The Brunswickian

Two of the Brunswickian editors road-tripped to Maine last Saturday for a chance to see American Presidential candidate Barack Obama.

by Brian Munn

"We will end the genocide in Darfur."

With those seven words, uttered before a boisterous crowd of over 7,000 supporters on Saturday in Bangor, Maine, Barack Obama set himself apart from not only Hillary Clinton and John McCain, but nearly every key figure in international politics. "...genocide."

Yes, he went there. Obama dared to

speak the unspeakable word.

The presidential nomination from the Democratic Party will be won, presumably, over the Iraq War and healthcare. Chances are good that the presidential race will focus on similar issues.

Obama, meanwhile, has greater vision for reaffirming America's place as a beacon of hope, liberty, and freedom in the world.

It is with immeasurable notoriety that world leaders avoid labeling conflicts as genocide. Not even the atrocities carried out in Rwanda could convince the international community that action is necessary – Darfur goes on, even as we argue what label

to apply to the situation.

But for Barack Obama, the answer is clear.

"Genocide."

As per the agreement of countries that have ratified the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948), terming a conflict as genocide obligates the nation making the proclamation to act to the fullest of their abilities to end it.

Yet when the country in question – Rwanda, Sudan – has little to offer in terms of resources or strategic benefits, the humanitarian duties of developed nations are ignored.

Instead, hundreds upon hundreds

of thousands are massacred, and no action is taken.

But in Obama, there is finally a potential leader emerging that acknowledges the presence of evil – and no, I don't mean terrorism and other faceless ideologies.

"People don't care about ideology," Obama has quipped. "People want practical solutions."

Finally, there is a potential leader that will step up, and will say to the world what we all already know.

You can argue it is just another campaign promise, but Barack Obama is willing to admit that there is a genocide going on in Darfur.

And he plans to stop it.

Barack Star

by Jennifer McKenzie

Last Saturday, I stood out in the cold for over two hours to see a politician that I can't vote for. I took a three-hour road trip to another country to listen to someone speak about issues that don't even come close to affecting me.

Sound a little crazy? It was totally worth it.

Barack Obama spoke in Bangor, Maine, to an auditorium packed with over 7,000 crazed supporters, and I was there. And it was amazing.

The wait was prolonged, because Obama had to go speak to the thousands still gathered outside who couldn't fit into the auditorium.

When he finally made his entrance, the crowd erupted. My boyfriend (yes, we're one of those loser couples who do international travel to see politicians, and then talk about it for weeks;

we even got matching Obama t-shirts) compared the feeling to Mick Jagger taking the stage at the Stones concert in Moncton – "People are just crazy for him," he said.

As I witnessed this "Obama-fever," I couldn't help but feel just a little jealous. I tried, but couldn't think of one single event in my life where people have been so excited about a person that they would line up – knowing full well they'd be turned away – just for the chance to say "I was there."

Can you imagine 7,000 people coming out to see Stephen Harper speak? How about the Aitken Centre filling up to the rafters to see Stephane Dion?

Probably not. It's hard to imagine because neither Harper nor Dion ignite any passion, or excitement. By comparison, they're bland.

Obama fever hits hard. There was an electric feeling running through the crowded auditorium, and anticipation for "Barack Star" to take the stage. People were eager, keyed up, to see him.

He is a figure above politics; you could compare him to Trudeau or JFK and wouldn't be wrong.

Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love

What are you capable of?

Theatre UNB and backlash productions is proud to present:

Unidentified Human Remains And the True Nature of Love, a dark, controversial and unconventional play by Canadian playwright, Brad Fraser. Centering around the lives of seven characters, the audience will witness the characters' innermost flaws and weaknesses. Fraser exhibits their lives with unforgiving rawness by submerging the audience deep within the characters' interconnected fears and loneliness. Plagued by memories of loss, and the desperate search for truth, the seven characters struggle against isolation and disillusionment. Forcing them to deal with the fragile human condition, head-on.

The production of Unidentified Human Remains And the True Nature of Love will be running from February 20th to the 23rd at 8pm, Memorial Hall, UNB Campus. Tickets are 10\$ and 6\$ for students. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Please be advised. This play contains sexuality, coarse language, violence and drug use.

The Brunswickian



**we're hiring
for 2008-2009**

Editor-in-Chief
Managing Editor
News Editor
Arts Editor
Sports Editor
Production Editor
Photo Editor
Copy Editor
Online Editor

DEADLINE: 4PM FEBRUARY 29TH
EMAIL COVER LETTER, RESUME AND ALL SAMPLES
TO EIC@UNB.CA

www.international.gc.ca/experience 1-877-461-2346

**TRAVEL & WORK ABROAD
VOYAGER ET TRAVAILLER À L'ÉTRANGER**



Foreign Affairs and
International Trade Canada

Affaires étrangères et
Commerce international Canada

Canada