



Cub Reporter managing editor Eric Rees stood for hours with the huge crowd at the National Mall on Tuesday. *Cub photo/ Eric Rees*

Rees: 'I got to see history being made'

Eric Rees
managing editor

Editor's note: Cub Reporter managing editor Eric Rees was in Washington, D.C., to cover the inauguration of President Barack Obama for this newspaper. He filed his stories to the Cub staff Tuesday evening.

Sitting across from a lady in the Metro Monday morning, I saw that the front of her newspaper had two portraits on it, one of Barack Obama and one of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I had known coming into this occasion that it was going to be special, but right then it hit me, this inauguration was the culmination of a whole civil rights movement. Forty years of fighting had come down to this one day and this one man, and I was getting to be a part of it.

Sure, you learn about the civil rights movement from (LC social studies teach-

ers) Hasty and Horvath and Derado, but being there, talking to someone who was at the Million Man March, and seeing the crowd react to our new president was something entirely different.

The torch had been passed in front of my eyes, and in my generation I got to see history being made. Whether you were Republican or Democrat, black or white, young or old, it was a historic day for all.

It was a little disturbing to know that according to the Constitution, Bush lost power at noon and only Biden had taken the oath. But promptly after Biden was sworn in, Obama took the stage.

The crowds were massive and the weather was terrible, but it was all a part

of the experience.

I even got to see Tony Dungy, who was in the middle of a mob of people looking for someone intently. I wanted to get a couple words but he was much too busy for me.

It was a day I will never forget. The people, the crowd and their reactions and of course Obama and his speech made a lasting impression

that will stay with me for my entire life.

For a moment it wasn't about him being African American or being a Democrat. It was about Obama being the next President of the United States.

And it was about the wonder of where the next four years are going to go.

Here's to hoping they go well.

"Obama and his speech made a lasting impression that will stay with me for my entire life."

Your thoughts on... BARACK OBAMA

"Making the unthinkable future, for the past that isn't here."

-Myla Warren, 11

"This is a large step in our U.S. history and many would agree."

-Kodey Davis, 12

"The turning point in economy, in hope, in change, in love, the turning point in our past, present and future."

-Kelsey Offen, 10

"I feel proud to be alive for such a great historical event."

-Dominique Butts, 12

Inauguration

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heroes of the Civil Rights Movement, Obama said, they are "why a man whose father less than 60 years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath."

Tatsu Yamato was one of the many

supporters who attended the inauguration. As an African American who also attended the Million Man March on the same National Mall, he felt empowered. "(The Million Man March) obviously wasn't as diverse as today, but I remember feeling that it was a day that would never come again," Yamato said. "Everyone was so filled with positive

energy and I think that's what is in common with today; the purpose and hope for the future."

With a speech and presentation that brought not only African Americans to tears, Obama sent his benediction to the crowd: "With hope and virtue, let us brave once more the icy currents and endure what storms may come."

'09-10 school year to start a week later

Mykel Kennedy
reporter

Next year will bring changes to the school calendar, beginning with the first day. The start of the school year will be a week later than was originally scheduled, making the students' first day of school Aug. 18.

"I'd like to go to school a little bit later," freshman Tyler Fischl said.

Because the school year will start a week later, the extra week will have to fit somewhere into the school year, so the 2009-2010 school year will end in early June.

Two new scheduling changes are being discussed.

One is Voluntary Professional Days. On these days, one day per semester, school would not be in session. These days would be vacation days for students, but if teachers chose to come in they would be able to do so — without pay. If passed, the Voluntary Professional Days would be Sept. 23 and Feb. 3.

"I don't get why we would have those days," Fischl admitted.

The other scheduling option being discussed is instituting a one-hour delay once every week, giving teachers an extra hour of prep time every week.

"If that means waking up a little bit later, then I'm all for it," Fischl said.

Township Student Council to unify district schools

Addie Harrison
reporter

In November, junior and student body president Sean Jordan had an aspiration to start a "township student council" which would help unify the two township high schools and their student governing bodies.

He proposed his idea to Lawrence North senior and student body president Kristin Anderson. "When Sean came to

me I immediately thought it was a good idea," she said.

Anderson and Jordan first met in early December with other members of the council to further discuss the missions of the organization.

Jordan, in taking a class at LN, said he saw disparities in school policy and student government. He said he felt the township would be a better, more productive learning environment if the

policies were made consistent.

Anderson's main focus is establishing a township-wide constitution "for students who have to deal with both schools," like Jordan. Senior Alex Judge, an LC student who takes a class at LN, would benefit if the council succeeds. "Rules are a lot more stringent here," Judge said.

But after meeting on Tuesday, the council has broadened its goals. "We're

trying to improve communication between the schools," Jordan said. "Our mission revolves around what we call the three Cs: communication, coordination and consistency."

They plan to coordinate events between the schools, such as transforming sporting events that were once school-wide into district-wide events. They also plan to make differing school policies more consistent.