

# The Royal Guard

Kings High School, Kings Mills, Ohio



Seniors Adam Amberg and Aaron Rauska keep each other going across the frozen city. The walk to the inauguration was just over a mile long.



## National Anthem

AP Government's Trip to the Inauguration

This January, as anticipation grew worldwide for Barack Obama's inauguration, KHS seniors David Schuler and Alex Bush were two of the AP Government students who got on a bus, and headed for D.C.

"The entire atmosphere was electric," David said. "We had a really nice charter bus, and we lucked out because Kings High School were the only ones on the bus, so there were a lot of empty seats. Really comfortable, lots of space." Once in D.C., Alex, David and their classmates were joined by others from all over the country.

"There were a lot more people than I ever expected and it was a lot more fun than I thought," Alex said. "Not that I didn't think I was gonna have fun, I just kind of thought it would be more of an educational thing."

"There was definitely this group atmosphere about the whole thing, like, people you didn't know, you'd just start up a conversation with whoever was by you. There were people from Cleveland, Florida, I met a whole group of people from Alaska. They had their 'Obamalaska' hats on," David said. This group mentality came to head on a crowded subway station.

"The lady on the announcements," Alex said. "She said 'keep it moving,' and she'd come on every now and again. Then, she kind of got a rhythm going, and all of the sudden everyone was chanting with it, and it was a million people all chanting this together. It kind of foreshadowed the togetherness that was at the inauguration."

The scene on the subway was just a prelude to the crush of people AP Gov students encountered at the inauguration itself.

"There was this imaginary line," Alex said. "All these people got in this line that just led around a building and took you nowhere. So pretty much all those people who were in that line didn't get into the inauguration even if they had tickets because they wasted hours in this line that went nowhere."

Even after the bitter primaries, heated campaigns, and finally the inauguration of the first African American president, David said that his feelings about his country have remained largely unchanged.

"This was the first election I could vote in," he said, "so that was a cool experience. This was the first election for me where I understood how everything worked. I don't know if I had a big change in my belief system, but I'm proud of America." Alex, who was unable to vote in the 2008 election, was still moved by the inauguration.

"It was crazy empowering," she said. "The whole 'change is here' thing—it wasn't just a little catch phrase, it felt really true. Just the effect it had on everybody else who was there, which was 1.8 million people. So many people were crying and smiling and laughing, and just so happy. There were looks of relief on their faces, almost like better days are to come."

The crowd that gathered for the milestone making inauguration was one for the record books. People from every race, religion, and creed gathered to commemorate the historic ceremony. "We were considerably younger than the majority there but we were embraced with smiles of hope for the future," senior Alex Bush said.

Seniors Aaron Rauska, Ivy Chameski, Jenny Foster, and Anna Vilner pose in front of the Capitol. "We were happy," he said. "Despite the trails, the crowds, the cold, and the chaos."



What historical event is most significant to you?

	"African Katrina, it affected so many." Adam Amberg, 12
	"September 11th." Mary Goepfer, 12
	"Barack Obama's election." Alex Whittenburg, 12

## Theme: Battleground

Never underestimate the power of Adobe Photoshop. The effects used on these images successfully pique the reader's interest and keep their eyes moving around the page. Choosing to remove all of the color in a photo might leave it a bit flat; but by adding a shot or two of color, you can bring a strong emphasis to the composition. This technique, coupled with a nice headline treatment, makes for a spread that is both engaging and reflective.