



CENTRAL
12/11/2008
 Page: 16
 General News
 Region: Sydney
 Circulation: 37382
 Type: Suburban
 Size: 171.16 sq.cms
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Jennifer Bennett

IT may have been happening thousands of miles away, but that didn't stop the US election from dominating Sydney's attention last Wednesday.

Hundreds of people descended on Sydney University's Manning Bar to watch Barack Obama make history, while over in the northeastern

US state of New Hampshire, Labor Councillor Meredith Burgmann lent her hand to the Obama campaign.

Organised by the university's US Studies Centre, US Election Watch 08 at Manning Bar proved so popular that they were turning people away by lunchtime.

Inside, every CNN projection was met with applause – and the occa-

sional boo – and later in the day the station crossed to the celebrations.

Labor Councillor Meredith Burgmann spent 10 days campaigning for Obama. She said election night had been an incredible experience.

"It was fantastic, the only thing that approached it was when the [Sydney] Swans won the flag," Cr Burgmann said.