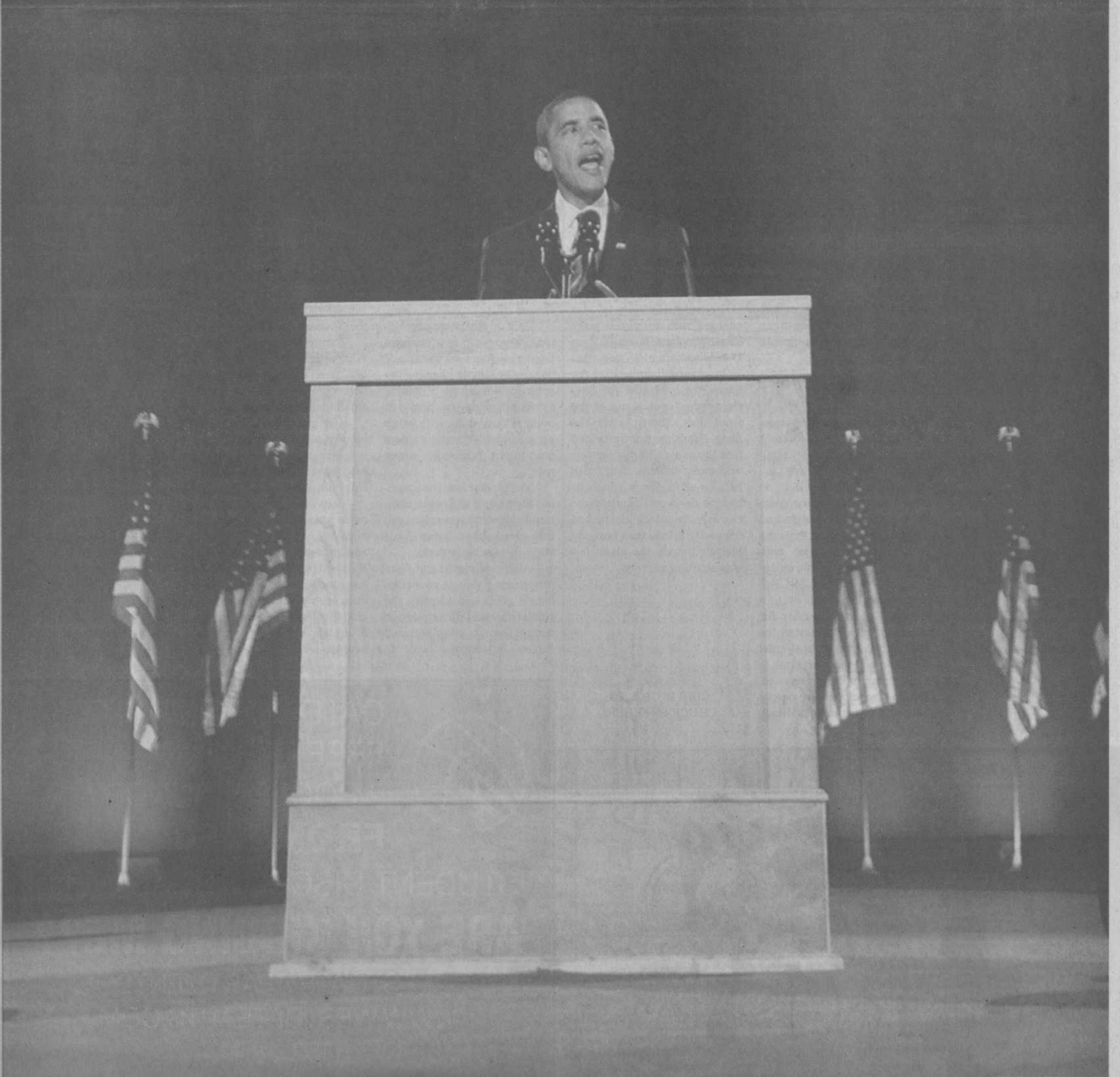




TRANSFER OF POWER

The inauguration
of Barack Obama

Pages 9-12



Prospectus

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Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird

LEAD STORY

Government in Action!

•Recently, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources has been seeking 75 volunteers to be trained in listening to frogs so that the state can complete its annual frog survey. Georgia has 31 frog species, each with distinctive ribbits and croaks, and surveyors, after practicing detection, will monitor frog habitats to help officials measure population trends. Tracking season begins this week.

•A Houston Chronicle investigation revealed in November that Immigration and Customs Enforcement failed to act against 75 percent of all self-identified illegal aliens convicted of local crimes in the Houston area recently, including immigrants who had committed felonies ranging up to sexual assault of a child and even capital murder. After ICE declined to hold them, that 75 percent were simply released back into the community. Nationally, during that same approximate time period, ICE was deporting twice as many illegal aliens with clean records (clean, except for being undocumented) as those with criminal rap sheets.

•Rats Oppressed, But Bats Live Large: Environmental activists announced in November the intention to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for reducing by 80 percent the California sanctuary area of the endangered San Bernardino kangaroo rat (distinguishing feature: only four toes on its hind feet). In Britain, however, the Ministry of Defense has shown great sensitivity to bats that were living in antiquated military housing in two Hampshire facilities. Remodeled buildings for 18,000 personnel will include special cavities built into the structures so that the bats can resume cohabiting with the military.

•Robert Christianson, 64, was arrested in October upon his arrival at Tampa International Airport, based on a hold requested by Canadian customs officials. Christianson was being sought only on two warrants: allowing a dog to run at large and having no license for his dog.

Police Report

•Indicted for cocaine possession in Montgomery County, Ohio, in November: Mr. Dalcapone Alpaccino Morris, 20. Charged in Columbia, S.C., in November with running down her boyfriend with her car and breaking his leg: Ms. Princess Killingsworth. Charged with felonious battery in Bloomington, Ind., in October: Ms. Felony Silas. Arrested in Carrollton, Ky., in December for allegedly hitting a man in the face with a hammer: Mr. Jamel Nails. Among those arrested in a drug roundup in Greenwood, S.C., in December were people with the street names Black

Pam, Lil Bit, Goat, Ewok and Truck Stop.

Fine Points of the Law

(1) By a 2-1 vote, a Florida appeals court ruled in December that Andrew Craissati could stop paying alimony to his ex-wife. The couple's agreement called for alimony only until she remarried or was "cohabit(ing)" with another person for at least three months, and Craissati pointed out that his ex-wife, recently convicted of a serious DUI offense, is now "cohabiting" with a cellmate in prison.

(2) In November, a judge in Kilbuckin District Court in Kerry, Ireland, dismissed two DUI cases because the blood-alcohol readings were not administered properly. The suspects should have been isolated for 20 minutes before the test but had been permitted to use urinals, and the judge accepted lawyers' arguments that "steam" from the urine might have wafted into the men's noses and raised their readings.

More Fine Points of Law

(1) In November, Sweden's Social Insurance Agency stopped Jessica Andersson's disability payments despite her lingering back pain from a work-related accident six years ago; a doctor found that Andersson's back pain would subside, enabling her to return to work, if only she underwent breast-reduction surgery.

(2) Germany's highest court ruled in December in favor of a male inmate who had challenged a prison rule barring men from purchasing skin-conditioning products.

Least Competent Criminals

•Joseph Goetz, 48, was charged with trying to rob the Susquehanna Bank in Springettsbury Township, Pa., in November, even though he had to leave empty-handed. The bank had just opened for the day, and cash had not yet been delivered to tellers' stations. Employees said that Goetz was highly irritated at having wasted his time, and that he threatened to file a "complaint" about the bank's operations.

•Benedict Harkins, 46, was charged with attempted petty larceny in Jamestown, N.Y., in December after he had filed an insurance claim against the Farm Fresh Market for having tripped over a rug at the front door. Shortly after the filing, Harkins was informed that the store's front-door surveillance camera had captured a sequence in which he had sat down and adjusted the rug to make it look like he had tripped. Harkins then immediately withdrew the claim but was arrested anyway.

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CHUCK SHEPHERD

New year's job tips

By INGRID STEGEMOELLER
MCT

KENNEWICK, Wash.—It's that time of year again when we all resolve to lose five pounds, eat more leafy greens and keep a better budget.

If your resolution for 2009 is to find a new job or keep the one you have, consulting firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas Inc., offers a few suggestions for specific objectives to meet your goals, even in a difficult economy.

To keep your job:

—Seek more responsibility. Volunteer for challenging tasks and exhibit a take-charge attitude. By assuming additional responsibilities, you demonstrate how you can increase value for the corporation.

—Meet your boss's boss. At the next company event, go out of your way to meet those

bridge the gap in differences by attending meetings and company-offered development courses. This illustrates your willingness to be on board with the company's future plans.

—Discover ways to save money. Find ways to increase efficiency and performance while decreasing costs. This is especially important in a time when employers are looking for ways to reduce spending.

—Become an expert on one facet of your field. It is important to be a generalist, but knowing more than anyone else on a specific issue or topic will help make you the "go-to" person for anyone in the company who has a question on that area. This specialized knowledge makes you extremely valuable and should be covered in your resume.

To find a job:

—Join LinkedIn, MySpace, Facebook, etc. More compa-

—Meet 10 new people in your field but outside of your company. Building these relationships may help you in your current position and they will definitely help when you enter the job market.

—Rev up your skills. Build upon your established skill set. Explore online courses and local certificate programs to broaden your industry knowledge, increasing your marketability to a variety of employers.

—Stay positive and be patient. Job searches are never easy, but it can be particularly daunting in a down economy. By maintaining a positive attitude and exhibiting patience, you can overcome the emotional barriers that could lengthen your search. Even in tough economic times, job opportunities are out there.

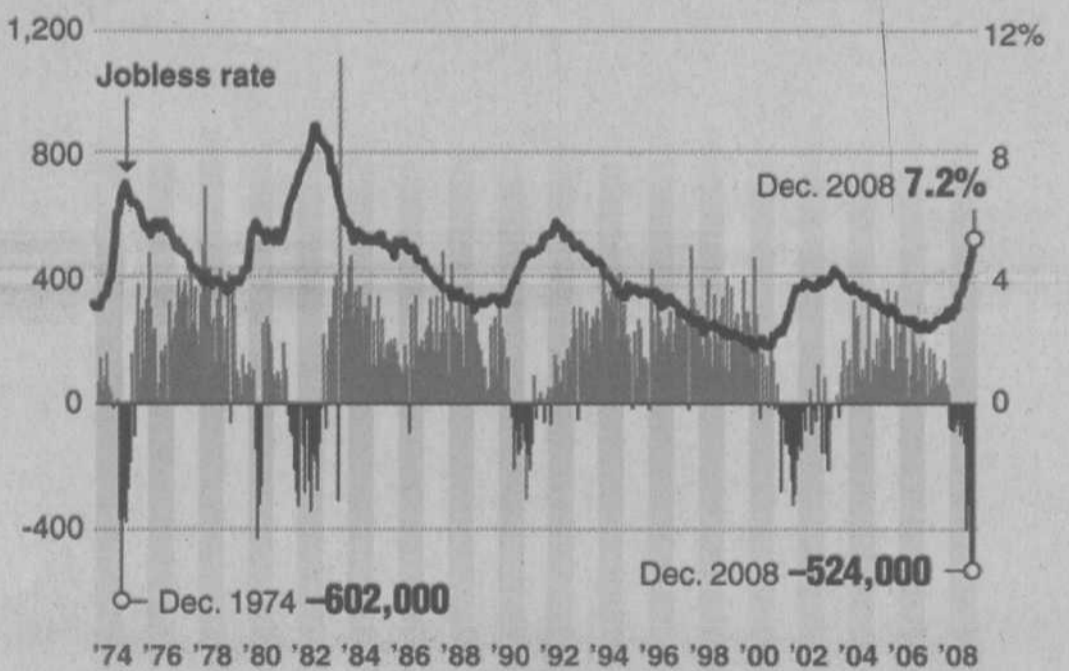
Jobs reports

Employers cut 524,000 jobs in December, raising the unemployment rate to 7.2 percent.

Mounting job cuts Total this year -2.4 million jobs

Monthly change in nonfarm jobs, seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Monthly jobless rate, seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Graphic: Melina Yingling

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at least two rungs higher on the corporate ladder. They are the ones who can advance your career.

—Join a company committee. Whether it is a committee developing new workplace policies or simply planning the company holiday party, joining or volunteering can help you build relationships with other people in your company whom you might otherwise never meet.

—Find and/or become a mentor. Mentoring and being mentored provide perspectives and new ideas about career goals and how to achieve them.

—Align individual and company goals. Evaluate your company's goals and identify the similarities and differences in comparison to your personal career objectives. Look to

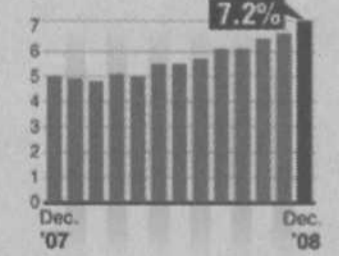
panies are searching the Internet for more information about candidates, so create a professional-looking page that tells them you are exceptional.

—Remove/cover tattoos. While body art is becoming more common and more accepted in some offices, many still find it unprofessional.

—Get involved with a community service group. This is a great way to build your network as well as hone your professional skills.

—Join a professional or trade association. These organizations can provide training and education opportunities and most hold several networking functions every year. The dues are worth their weight in gold if you meet a person at an event who can help you find a new job.

Jobless rate



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Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Tri-City Herald, Kennewick, Wash.





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Teens' sexuality struggles go with them to school

By AKILAH JOHNSON
MCT

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.—A single gunshot fired into the torso of one 15-year-old by another in a crowded hallway at Dillard High School immediately ignited concerns about violence in South Florida's public schools.

But smoldering under the surface is worry from some community activists about what might have sparked the shooting—a girl stung by rejection, struggling with her sexual orientation, with no one to turn to.

What support services, they question, are available to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender teens to help them come to terms with their sexuality?

It's "the elephant that really isn't being discussed," said

Michael Rajner, who sits on the school district's diversity committee.

Teens are coming out earlier—on average between 15 and 17 years old—and schools must know how to help students who are questioning their sexuality, said Robert Loupo, executive director of Safe Schools of South Florida, a nonprofit agency dedicated to preventing gay students from being bullied, dropping out, or other self-destructive behavior.

"Unfortunately, as in so many cases, a tragedy will underscore and heighten the needs," Loupo said.

Teah Wimberly, 15, dealt with her uncertainty by slicing her arms with razor blades, then hiding the scars, according to her former attorney, Gary Kollin. On Nov. 12, hours after cutting herself, he said, Wimberly went to school. Police said she

fatally shot Amanda Collette, 15, her childhood friend.

Last year, Loupo, his organization began teacher workshops to raise awareness and strengthen student/teacher trust.

Students need to know there is someone who will accept and understand them, be it a teacher or counselor, Loupo said. "Safe zone" stickers and posters on classrooms doors or lists of safe conversation topics taped to the wall, let students know that the adult inside will be a confidant.

"Most of the young people know that a rainbow or rainbow flag or pink triangle is someone who is aware and supportive of gay issues," Loupo said of other safe symbols.

Safe zones exist in about 20 Broward County, Fla., high schools through their Gay/Straight Alliances, student

groups that meet regularly and plan social and service events.

More importantly, the club serves as a sanctuary, said Declan Lyons, a teacher and club adviser at Cypress Bay High School in Weston, Fla. "It's a kind of a safe haven for the kids who want to support their gay friends or who are gay and are trying to accept themselves."

About 80 students participate in Cypress Bay's club—some with their parents' knowledge, others without. Many of the school's gay students "wouldn't be caught dead at the GSA," he said. "They are too afraid that it would get home to their families and there would be terrible consequences."

Paul Battaglia, 18, and a senior at Cypress and the club's president, said some of his fellow Junior ROTC members teased him when he came out

a year ago. "But GSA was that safe haven. I could go there any time and be accepted," he said.

School Board member Robin Bartleman said schools must take care of both the academic and basic needs of children.

"If you are struggling with some sort of emotional problem or something going on in your house or depression, then FCAT is the furthest thing from your mind," Bartleman said.

She plans to ask district staff to evaluate the programs in place for gay students to make sure they meet students' needs. "It's about the whole child," she said.

Immediately after the shooting, the community was rightly concerned with students' physical safety, said Jim Lopresti, an administrator at SunServe. But a teenager's emotional well-being also is important,

said Lopresti, whose organization offers counseling, training and family services within the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

"I don't know if the community has really named this issue," Lopresti said. "It's more under the surface."

It is a difficult but necessary journey that the community must take so teens feel safe to develop into whoever they are, he said. Secrets, he added, can lead students to feel ashamed, causing them to withdraw or lash out.

Even if some are not ready to allow teens to openly express their sexuality, Lopresti said, the community—including the schools—must do so. "They were dealing with the grief of the loss of two children ... but we have no choice."

(c) 2008, Sun Sentinel.

Bush exits, defends actions, angers many

By MARK SILVA
MCT

WASHINGTON—By offering a wistful and introspective closing argument to the American people who elected him twice but then lost confidence in him, retiring President George W. Bush is attempting to write the first drafts of his own history.

First came a sober public confession of mistakes and disappointments on Monday in Bush's final news conference, a remarkably personal moment for a president never prone to self-examination or questioning under the Klieg lights. Then came a robust defense of his administration, including its response to Hurricane Katrina, and a defiant insistence that he waged a necessary war in Iraq and should not be judged too quickly for it.

On Thursday comes a prime-time address from the White House, a speech Bush's spokeswoman said is planned to "reflect on his time in office and the ways our country has changed these past eight years."

But that speech is unlikely to echo the list of mistakes Bush acknowledged for reporters Monday in the West Wing. Prematurely declaring "mission accomplished" in Iraq; failing to find the weapons of mass destruction cited as the reason for the war; the abuse of Iraqi prisoners; and his own campaigning for Social Security reform after re-election instead of changes to immigration policy.

And he expressed regret for talking, sometimes, like a cowboy.

"I believe this—the phrase 'burdens of the office' is overstated," Bush said. "You know, it's kind of like, 'Why me?' ... Why did the financial collapse have to happen on my watch? It's just ... it's pathetic, isn't it, self-pity."



President George W. Bush speaks to reporters during his final press conference in the Brady press briefing room at the White House in Washington, D.C., January 12, 2009.

Chuck Kennedy/MCT

Bush argued that a fair view of his administration will only emerge over time. "There is no such thing as short-term history," he said. "I don't think you can possibly get the full breadth of an administration till time has passed."

Current views of the president, in fact, remain harsh. For more than 2 years, more Americans have disapproved of his job performance than approved of it, according to the Gallup Poll.

The press conference capped a string of interviews in which Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney defended the administration's record—part of an orchestrated effort in the final days before Barack Obama's inauguration for the outgoing president to use the trappings of his office to try to salvage his already battered legacy.

A special page on the White House web site called "The Bush Record," features several documents laying out the administration's accomplishments, such as preventing additional terrorist attacks, advancing missile defense and fighting AIDS in Africa.

"(Bush) just thinks he's getting a bad rap, and he's also determined to put his side of the story on the record," said Bruce Buchanan, a University of Texas government professor who has been watching Bush since his early days in politics. "He is a guy who prizes being liked, even though he would never admit it."

Buchanan and Princeton University presidential scholar Fred Greenstein suggested that Bush's unusual comments may have been inspired by the poll numbers and policy failures facing the retiring president.

"The remarks today were not characteristic of what we have seen of Bush over the past eight years," Greenstein said. "There

was no swagger.... There was a more reflective, more chastened feeling to it."

Buchanan, an expert on the presidency, said he could think of no other president who granted so many interviews and sought so much television time in his waning days.

"His group has clearly concluded that things are so bad, they have to respond," he said. But despite his sinking public approval ratings—25 percent in the most recent Gallup polling, down from a high of 90 percent after terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001—Bush said he never felt isolated in office.

"In times of war, people get emotional, I understand that," Bush said, insisting he "never really, you know, spent that much time, frankly, worrying about the loud voices."

In retrospect, he allowed, some of his choices were wrong. "History will look back and determine that which could have been done better," said Bush, volunteering his own review:

"Clearly, putting a 'Mission Accomplished' on an aircraft carrier was a mistake," said Bush, alluding to the banner strung across the USS Abraham Lincoln, where he landed in a Navy jet several weeks after the invasion of Iraq to declare major combat operations finished.

"Obviously, some of my rhetoric has been a mistake," said the president, who has said previously that he regrets calling for Osama bin Laden to be captured "dead or alive" and calling on America's enemies to "bring it on."

"I've thought long and hard about Katrina," Bush said of the hurricane that deluged the Gulf Coast in the late summer of 2005. "You know, could I have done something differently, like land Air Force One either in New Orleans or Baton Rouge?"

But he disputed the widespread contention that his government was slow to respond. "Don't tell me the federal response was slow when there

were 30,000 people pulled off the roofs right after the storm passed," Bush said.

In addition, Bush said he should have pushed for immigration reform, not changes in Social Security, after his 2004 re-election. Congress, he said, was not convinced that a Social Security crisis was imminent and so was reluctant to act.

On world affairs, Bush acknowledged that the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by the American military "obviously" was a huge disappointment. So was the failure of pre-war intelligence indicating that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction, he said.

Yet Bush maintained that the United States has not forfeited its standing in the world. "I strongly disagree with the assessment that our moral standing has been damaged," he said.

Scott McClellan, Bush's former press secretary and the author of a critical tell-all book, said Bush and his aides are simply convinced of their righteous place in history.

"He is clinging to one last hope that history will vindicate him, that Iraq will turn out to be a thriving democracy," McClellan said. "It's putting a lot of hopes in one basket, and he's convinced himself rightly or wrongly that it will."

McClellan said he was struck Monday by the president's failure to concede any substantive mistakes—saying that Bush's only contrition was reserved for tactics and communications errors.

"The one thing missing was candor," McClellan said. "Until he acknowledges a single policy mistake, I think it's going to be hard for him to get people to tune in and pay attention to some of the notable policy achievements."

Bush will elaborate on what he sees as his administration's accomplishments in his Thursday night address. "This is not going to be a swan song," said White House Press Secretary Dana Perino. "He will not be looking to refight old battles."

As he prepares to leave

See **Bush** on page 4

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Blagojevich defends actions, vows to fight accusations

By **MONIQUE GARCIA AND ROBERT BECKER**
MCT

CHICAGO—Saying the Illinois House impeachment vote against him was "not a surprise," a combative Gov. Rod Blagojevich defended his work in office and again asserted his innocence of any criminal wrongdoing, vowing to "continue to fight every step of the way."

At a brief news conference Friday afternoon, Blagojevich sought to undermine the House vote by depicting himself as a public servant who does not deserve to be kicked out of office but rather should be recognized for saving lives.

Blagojevich said a hostile House had conspired to impeach him since shortly after his re-election as governor in November 2006.

"From the very moment of my re-election I've been engaged in a struggle with the House to get things done for people," Blagojevich said, flanked by about a dozen people who he said had benefited from his programs.

"So the House's action today and the causes for the impeachment are because I've done things to fight for families who are with me here today," Blagojevich said.

Blagojevich pointed out Omar Castillo, a young man who had needed a kidney transplant but lacked insurance.

"We intervened and acted in a way with legal advice around the legislature," Blagojevich



Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich talks with reporters as he returns home after a morning run, Friday, January 9, 2009, in Chicago. The Illinois House voted overwhelmingly Friday to impeach Gov. Blagojevich, an unprecedented action that sets up a Senate trial on whether he should be thrown out for abuse of power, including allegations that he tried to sell President-elect Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat.

Chris Walker/Chicago Tribune

said. "Omar Castillo got that surgery. . . . He's going to live a long and full and happy life. Is that an impeachable offense?"

Blagojevich's stand, while coming under extraordinary circumstances, was in many ways a classic response for a politician who has long portrayed himself as the people's champion against enemies ranging from state bureau-

crats to well-heeled lobbyists. The event was vintage Blagojevich, featuring the governor surrounded by women, children and senior citizens, and quoting poetry, this time from English poet Alfred Lord Tennyson.

But he did not address many of the actions lawmakers deemed worthy of impeachment.

He skirted allegations he tried to sell the U.S. Senate seat vacated by President-elect Barack Obama and did not address accusations he attempted to get Chicago Tribune editorial writers fired and traded support from his office in exchange for campaign contributions.

Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn, who is next in line for the state's

top office, said Blagojevich "is missing the point of the impeachment."

Quinn said while expanding health care may have been "worthy," Blagojevich was out of line by pushing his agenda without lawmakers' approval.

"It has to do with the heart of our democracy, and if the governor has breached those fundamental rules, he has to be

held to account," Quinn said during an afternoon news conference. "I think that's really the message of today from the Illinois House of Representatives."

But Julie Santos, a supporter who appeared with Blagojevich, said the governor was just trying to do right by the people.

Santos, who identified herself as a patient advocate with The United Voices for United Families Campaign, said his good work should not go unrecognized.

"We want the nation to know that Gov. Blagojevich is a great humanitarian, and we're here today with a fact, a fact that this governor has helped save Latino children in this state unlike any other governor," said Santos, who spoke on behalf of Castillo and others.

In establishing the health theme, Blagojevich went jogging outside his Ravenswood Manor home Friday morning.

"He jogs before most press conferences—collects his thoughts," said spokesman Lucio Guerrero.

Blagojevich said he is confident he will be cleared of any criminal wrongdoing.

While that case plays out in federal court, Blagojevich said he has "a job to do for the people."

"They hired me to not just say that I'm for things that can help them," he said. "But they hired me to fight for them, and I'm going to fight for them every step of the way."

(c) 2009, Chicago Tribune.

Burris believes he now has proper Illinois legal stamp

By **DAN MIHALOPOULOS**
MCT

CHICAGO—Just days after his prospective colleagues in Washington turned him back from the Capitol, Roland Burris seized on an Illinois high court decision filed Friday to assert he has all he needs to be accepted as President-elect Barack Obama's replacement

criteria. The Senate's Democratic leaders have balked at accepting Burris, citing the fact that Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White has refused to sign the appointment paperwork submitted by Blagojevich. In an effort to gain that signature, Burris' lawyers went to the Illinois Supreme Court and asked that White be ordered to sign the document.

At his news conference, Durbin said 125-year-old Senate rules demand that the secretary of state sign the appointment paperwork from Blagojevich, regardless of the Illinois court decision.

"At this point, we've clearly reached an impasse," Durbin said. "In this case, there is a missing signature under Senate rules."

Later Friday, however,

ing his former job. On Friday, Obama's transition team sought to distance itself from the legal morass. A senior official with the transition team who asked not to be identified said the Obama team's "philosophy" was that the Burris matter was an issue for the U.S. Senate, Illinois lawmakers and White.

"There's no need for us to engage," the official said.

office, Bush offered his own reaction to the election of Barack Obama as the nation's first African-American president.

"Look, I was affected by the TV after the elections—when I saw people saying, 'I never thought I would see the day that a black person would be elected president,'" Bush said. "I consider myself fortunate to have a front-row seat on what is going to be an historic moment for the country."

Yet he offered a warning to his successor: "There is an enemy that still is out there," Bush said Monday. "I'm telling you, there's an enemy that would like to attack America, Americans, again."

Bush's little standing today leaves him little room for a political presence after life in the Oval Office. He plans to retire to his ranch in Crawford, Texas, to a new home in Dallas, also the site of the planned George W. Bush Presidential Library at Southern Methodist University.

"When I get out of here, I'm getting off the stage," Bush said.

(Chicago Tribune staff writers Peter Wallsten and Tom Hamburger of the Washington bureau contributed to this report.)

(c) 2009 Chicago Tribune.

Some assembly required

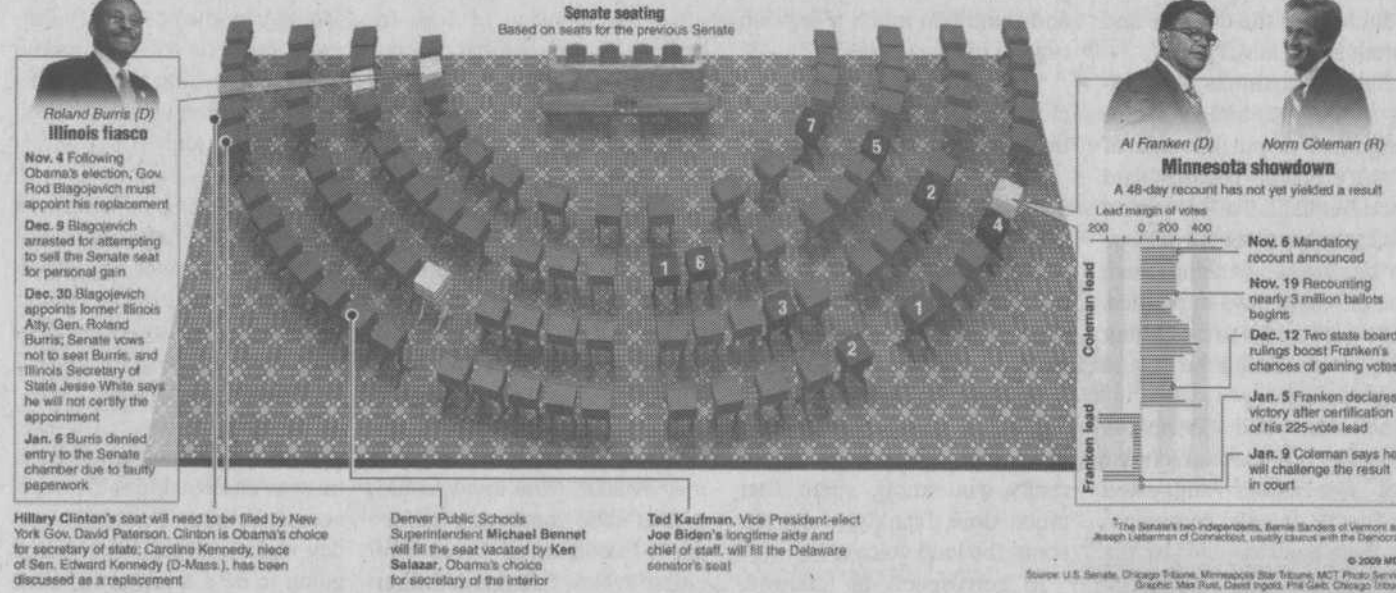
As members of the 111th Senate were sworn in Jan. 6, two desks stood empty, spotlighting the ongoing legal wrangling in Illinois and Minnesota that will likely delay a full session for the new Senate, which includes nine other new members.

New Democrats

- 1 Mark Begich Alaska Defeated incumbent Ted Stevens (R)
- 2 Kay Hagan N.C. Defeated incumbent Elizabeth Dole (R)
- 3 Jeff Merkley Ore. Defeated incumbent Gordon Smith (R)
- 4 Jeanne Shaheen N.H. Defeated incumbent John Sununu (R)
- 5 Mark Udall Colo. Won retiring Wayne Allard's (R) seat
- 6 Tom Udall N.M. Won retiring Pete Domenici's (R) seat
- 7 Mark Warner Va. Won retiring John Warner's (R) seat

New Republicans

- 1 Mike Johanns Neb. Won retiring Chuck Hagel's (R) seat
- 2 Jim Risch Idaho Won retiring Larry Craig's (R) seat



in the U.S. Senate. Under White justices did not their ruling Friday said there was no legal requirement that White sign the paperwork and that it was enough that he had simply registered the appointment of Burris.

Shortly after the ruling, White produced a copy of the document from his office showing that he had registered the appointment. In a statement, he said had done everything required and "could not and will not in good conscience sign my name to any appointment made by Gov. Rod Blagojevich."

Burris' legal team said it sent a copy of the court ruling and the new document from White to Senate Democratic leaders.

Durbin and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada issued a one-sentence statement saying that they were seeking legal advice on how to respond to the newly released paperwork from White.

Durbin called for leaving the Obama vacancy open while Illinois senators decide on impeachment charges approved by the Illinois House on Friday. Federal prosecutors arrested the governor a month ago, alleging that he abused his authority to fill the seat by attempting to sell it for personal gain.

According to sources, Obama urged the Senate leadership earlier this week to quickly settle the dispute involv-

ing his former job. On Friday, Obama's transition team sought to distance itself from the legal morass. A senior official with the transition team who asked not to be identified said the Obama team's "philosophy" was that the Burris matter was an issue for the U.S. Senate, Illinois lawmakers and White.

"There's no need for us to engage," the official said.

office, Bush offered his own reaction to the election of Barack Obama as the nation's first African-American president.

Yet he offered a warning to his successor: "There is an enemy that still is out there," Bush said Monday. "I'm telling you, there's an enemy that would like to attack America, Americans, again."

Bush's little standing today leaves him little room for a political presence after life in the Oval Office. He plans to retire to his ranch in Crawford, Texas, to a new home in Dallas, also the site of the planned George W. Bush Presidential Library at Southern Methodist University.

"When I get out of here, I'm getting off the stage," Bush said.

(Chicago Tribune staff writers Peter Wallsten and Tom Hamburger of the Washington bureau contributed to this report.)

(c) 2009 Chicago Tribune.

BUSH

continued from page 4

Can cell phones aid students?

By **LORI HIGGINS**
MCT

DETROIT—Cell phones have become unwelcome in most schools, because of fears about cheating, distractions and the reality that some students have used them to take and spread inappropriate pictures.

But a new book written by a local educator argues that cell phones also are educational.

In fact, cell phones can be a handy way for teachers to supplement their lessons, said Liz Kolb, an adjunct professor at Madonna University. And she wants students to learn that their cell phones are more than just a social device.

But before she can convince kids, she has to get through to teachers.

"They need a little help getting to the point where they see how it can be beneficial," said Kolb, who is working on a doctorate degree in education at the University of Michigan.

Her book, "Toys to Tools: Connecting Student Cell Phones to Education," was published by the International Society for Technology in Education and is

geared toward educators. She provides a number of examples and tips for using cell phones.

Kolb also operates a blog on the subject at www.cellphone-learning.com.

Kolb said teachers can take advantage of cell phones on field trips, allowing students to snap pictures that can then be displayed in school. The cameras on cell phones also can help when students are studying things like ecosystems, because they can be used to take pictures of insects the class is studying.

Although some teachers may view cell phones as more disruptive than educational, others are embracing the technology.

Pat Sattler, a teacher and technology coordinator at St. Joseph School in Trenton, Mich., had students create a radio Christmas show using their cell phones. They used the cells to record jokes, riddles and interviews. The recordings were uploaded to a Web program, which converted them automatically into podcasts. And the podcasts then were hosted on the school's Web page.

See **Cell** on page 7

Blind teen who 'sees' with sound looks at death without fear

By CYNTHIA HUBERT
MCT

SACRAMENTO, Calif.— Time is growing short for the boy who "sees" with sound.

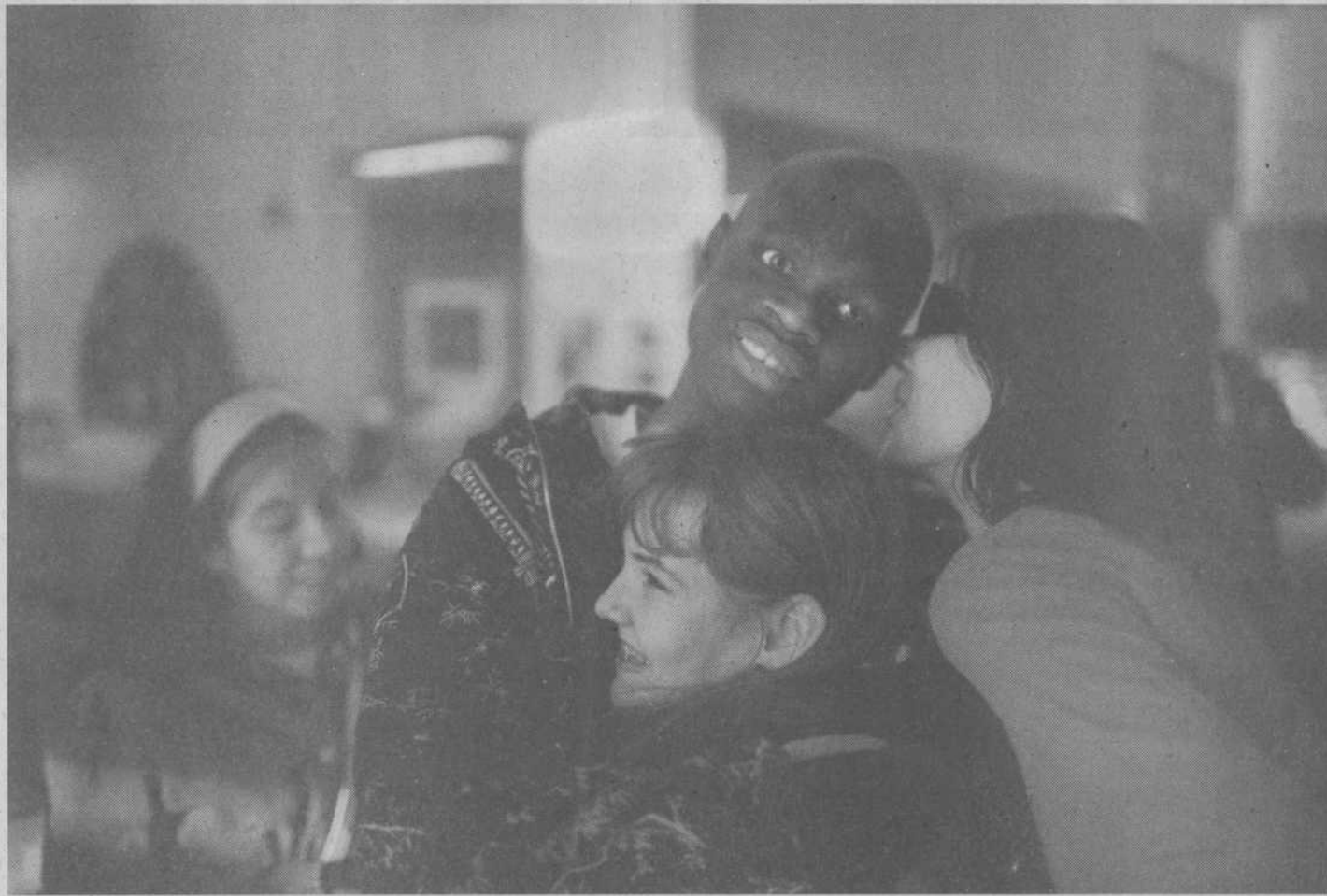
Ben Underwood, the blind teenager who has dazzled people all over the world with his ability to navigate using a tongue-clicking skill called echolocation, is getting weaker day by day.

The cancer that took his eyes when he was a toddler has returned with a vengeance, invading his brain and his spinal cord. Ben's legs no longer are strong enough to support him, and his mother must carry him up and down the stairs of their Elk Grove, Calif., home. The teenager who traveled the globe the past two years giving inspirational speeches and impressing people with his ability to get around in a world he cannot see, spends most of his time these days in a hospital bed in the living room, sleeping, praying and listening to music.

Ben is under the care of hospice nurses, and he understands what that means. But he insists he is not afraid of dying, even at the tender age of 16. One day soon, he told his mother, Aquanetta Gordon, he simply will go to sleep and wake up in heaven.

"He is such a strong kid. He never complains," Gordon said on a recent day, as Ben slept nearby under a fuzzy blue blanket. "I am the one who cries. The idea of having to bury my baby? I'm not sure how to do this."

Ben's doctors said he could have weeks, or months, to live. But whenever the end comes, he will have left a powerful



Ben Underwood is greeted with hugs from his old friends while visiting his former school, California School for the Blind, in Fremont, Calif. From left, Andrea Gonzalez, 13, Morgan Pimentel, 15, and Ari Sepulveda, 16, embrace Ben.

Kevin German/Sacramento Bee/(MCT)

imprint.

Since The (Sacramento) Bee published his story in May 2006, Ben has been featured in magazines, newspapers and television programs from Japan to Great Britain. He gave an inspirational speech to some 10,000 people at a Christian conference in Hawaii and has become an Internet sensation. He has chatted with Oprah Winfrey and danced with Ellen DeGeneres on national TV. He has become friends with the iconic musician Stevie Wonder, who celebrated his 16th birth-

day with him and slipped into town quietly again last week for a visit.

"Ben is an extraordinary young man who has inspired literally millions of people," said his doctor, Kaiser Permanente pediatric oncologist Kent Jolly. "He has fought a heroic battle."

Blind since he was a toddler, when a cancer called retinoblastoma took both of his eyes, Ben adapted remarkably well. He taught himself to reach places safely by counting steps and by using his keen senses of

hearing, smell and touch. Gordon insisted that her son attend mainstream schools and be treated no differently from his classmates. She encouraged him to take risks.

When he got older, Ben taught himself to identify objects by making clicking noises with his tongue, creating sound waves that he uses to identify objects and get around. The skill, called echolocation, is commonly seen in bats and dolphins but rarely documented in humans.

Thanks to his spirit and his incredible navigational skills,

Ben has been able to take part in all of the rituals and activities of childhood and adolescence.

He has attended mainstream schools, most recently Sheldon High, and has refused to use a white cane identifying him as blind. He's played basketball, practiced karate, skated and ridden a bike through his Elk Grove neighborhood, clicking his tongue and listening for sound waves that tell him whether he is facing a brick wall, a metal car or other obstacles. He's learned to type

60 words per minute and text message his friends. He's played video games by memorizing scenarios and identifying sounds that characters make before they move or strike.

Jolly and Ben's pediatric ophthalmologist, James Ruben, said they have never met anyone quite like him.

"It's extraordinary that Aquanetta has raised him without treating him as if he was disabled, and Ben has risen to the challenge," Jolly said. "He's never been allowed to cut corners or take it easy or feel sorry for himself."

Ben's cancer was in check until 2007, when he developed a tumor in his sinus cavity. Intensive chemotherapy, radiation treatments and experimental measures have failed to cure it, Jolly said.

The teen continues to get radiation treatments that keep him more comfortable, but the effects are temporary, said Jolly. Ben dislikes taking pain medication, but gets some relief when his mother gently massages his head and shoulders.

Her son is aware that his time is running out, Gordon said, and he accepts his situation, though he has not talked much about it. "After the doctor told us what was going on, I asked Ben, 'Are you afraid to die? Are you scared? Do you need me to hold you?'" she said. He told her that he had no fear, and that he looks forward to seeing her in heaven.

"He's totally at peace," Gordon said. "My strength comes from him."

In recent weeks, as Ben has become weaker, his many

See **Echo** on page 7

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'Gran Torino'

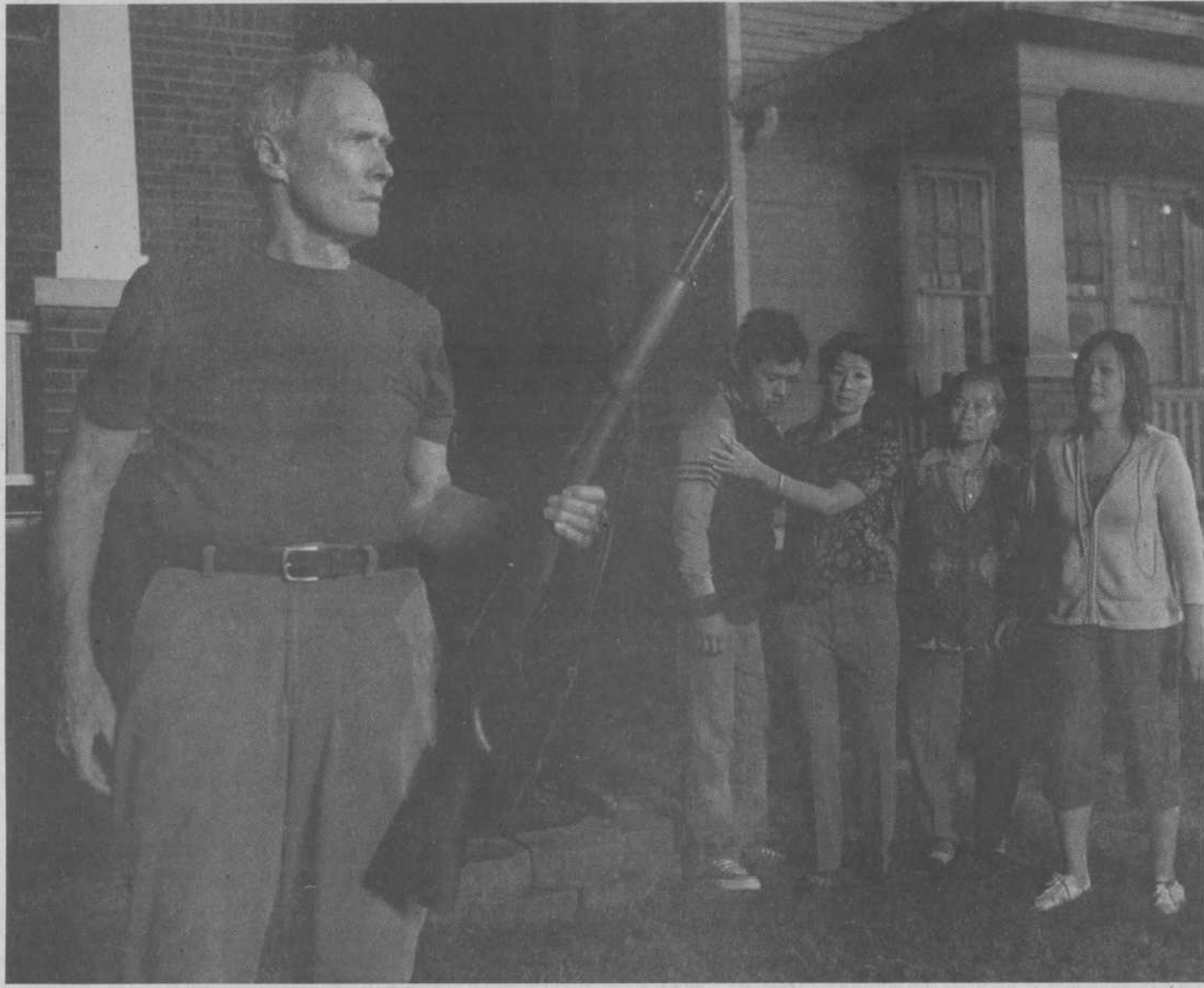
By COLIN COVERT
MCT

Harry Callahan would respect Walt Kowalski. Both men look at life through eyes narrowed in suspicion, both know their way around firearms, and both take no lip from punks. In fact, if Dirty Harry were an auto worker in Detroit rather than a cop in San Francisco, he might have wound up just like Walt, living out his widowed retirement years in a meticulously maintained home, watching the neighborhood decay around him and snarling at the local Asian street gangs, "Get off of my lawn."

Walt is the latest character in Clint Eastwood's portrait gallery, a flinty, unapologetically racist Korean War vet who is not afraid to brandish his Army-issue M-1 Garand rifle or Colt .45 when the situation requires it. He enters "Gran Torino" as an antihero, rasping profanities at his thoughtless adult children, his parish priest, his Hmong neighbors and the modern world in general.

He's defined by the '72 Ford coupe he helped build and keeps in immaculate repair in his garage. The Gran Torino is no classic, but it's a sweet metaphor, representing a time when America was on top. The Big Three looked at competitors from Japan with disdain for their fussy quality control and wimpy efficiency. We built things for ourselves, even if they were engineered for obsolescence. As Archie and Edith Bunker used to sing, "Those were the days."

In "Gran Torino," Walt sits



Walt Kowalski (Clint Eastwood, from left), Thao (Bee Vang), Vu (Brooke Chia Thao), Grandma (Chee Thao) and Sue (Ahney Her) in Warner Bros. Pictures' and Village Roadshow Pictures' drama "Gran Torino."

Warner Bros./MCT

on his porch with his dog and a cooler of beer, glaring at a changed world. He doesn't like the Hmong immigrants who have moved in. Perhaps they remind him of his war-time experiences, where he won a Silver Star for battlefield actions that still haunt him half a century after the fact. Like

many late-period Eastwood characters, Walt is a critique of the violent characters Eastwood played in the 1960s—the Man With No Name with second thoughts. He has traded blood for blood in the past, although he has misgivings about what he has done.

Slowly, unwillingly, Walt is

drawn into the life of the family next door when teenage Thao (Bee Vang) and his older sister Sue (Ahney Her) run afoul of local hoodlums. Walt stands up for Sue in a sidewalk confrontation, facing off against a gang of young thugs and staring them down with sheer ice-cold bravado. He straightens

out Thao when the kid is pressured by gangbangers to steal Walt's car.

Walt begins spending time with his new neighbors, warming to them. He takes timid Thao under his wing and enjoys bantering with Sue, who bats away Walt's racist epithets with spunk and sass. Then they

are forced into a confrontation that puts to the test Walt's history of violence, his newfound sense of loyalty to his neighbors and his sense of moral responsibility.

Eastwood directs the film with his usual solid, no-fuss craftsmanship, sketching the characters economically, cranking up the dramatic urgency and also tossing off good laughs. The script, by Nick Schenk, appears to be moving down the formula assembly line to a predictable conclusion, but there are twists in store. Eastwood has no patience for easy conventions. The stunning payoff is one of those inspirations that feels inevitable in retrospect but completely fresh and unexpected in the moment. If you see it coming, your vision is better than mine.

Eastwood's second film this year is a compelling study of anger and violence and the guilt and shame that shadow them. He has sat high in the saddle for decades, but rarely has he ridden so tall as in the driver's seat of "Gran Torino."

GRAN TORINO

3 stars

Starring: Clint Eastwood, Bee Vang, Ahney Her

Directed by: Clint Eastwood
Rated R for language throughout, and some violence

(c) 2009,

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Simon Cowell isn't sure that 'American Idol' needs to add another judge

By RICK BENTLEY
MCT

Simon Cowell's philosophy about television production is not to tinker with something that's working.

And "American Idol" works big time. The competition series is an annual ratings juggernaut for the Fox Network. Thousands of hopefuls turn out for the auditions. Millions of viewers telephone in their votes.

But even with all of the success, Cowell is bending his philosophy and making a few changes for Season Eight, which launches at 8 p.m. EST Tuesday. The most noticeable change is the addition of a fourth judge to the mix. Grammy-nominated songwriter Kara DioGuardi will sit alongside Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and Cowell.

There was an attempt to add a fourth judge in Season Two, Angie Martinez. She left the show after a few days because she didn't enjoy criticizing the contestants.

Cowell's not certain how well DioGuardi will fit in the mix.

"I have been very, very happy with this panel for years because we did have a unique chemistry. I genuinely don't know until I watch the show whether this is a good thing or a bad thing," Cowell says during a telephone interview to discuss the new season. "I'm in two minds about this because part of me goes a bit, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it,' and the other part of me goes, 'Well, it has worked in the U.K.' So we'll have to wait and see."

There will be a few other changes this season. The number of weeks featuring tryouts



Randy Jackson, from left, Kara DioGuardi, Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell judge the competition on "American Idol," premiering January 13, 2009 on FOX.

Michael Becker/Courtesy Fox Broadcasting Co./MCT

will be reduced from four to three weeks. And 36 contestants will make the trip to Hollywood instead of the 24 in the past.

"I wasn't crazy about the process we went through the last couple of years where we were given a small group of contestants who you actually got bored with once you hit about show five of the live shows. This way this is a bit more jeopardy and hopefully a bit more fun in the middle stages," Cowell says.

The idea is to give the judges a better mix of contestants from which to make their

selections. Cowell doesn't want to end up with 12 finalists that come across as being similar.

Cowell's way of dealing with the contestants has not changed since the first season. "American Idol" has been on the air long enough that contestants know Cowell will pounce on them for a bad performance.

But the new season starts with a dark cloud over it. Paula Goodspeed, a fan of judge Paula Abdul, killed herself in November. Goodspeed had gone through the "American Idol" audition in the fifth season.

Cowell explains that he has

thought long and hard about whether the judging process, including his biting remarks, should be changed.

"I think the answer to the question is that we will continue in the way that we've always done. We've tried to have a sense of humor over the whole process. The show is not an inherently mean show. It is an American dream show. The whole purpose of the show is to find somebody—it could be a cocktail waitress like Kelly Clarkson—who through the process becomes a star," Cowell says. "I've always thought it was important to show people

at home that when bad singers come in and they're not very good, that it's time to give up that type of dream and take a normal job.

"I think it's been helpful showing people the process. If you're not very good, don't waste your time—years—trying to do something that you're not very good at doing."

The fan's death is just the latest bit of controversy to swirl around the show. Abdul's erratic behavior has been called into question. There have been times when the voting has been questioned. Contestants have gotten through

the application process only to be revealed as having criminal records.

One mantra in Hollywood is "any publicity is good publicity." But Cowell doesn't feel that way about the attention generated by the fan's death.

"I have to separate this controversy compared to different controversies because you're talking about a human tragedy. It hits us like an express train. So I don't like, obviously, that kind of controversy connected to the show because it upset me a lot," Cowell says. "I also have to respect the fact that with the media, they have been incredible supporters of us and the show from day one. They have every right to question us. All we can do is respond with the truth in return."

Cowell's not convinced it has just been his venomous ways that have drawn viewers. He thinks that the show has become so popular that it could go on even if he weren't there to offer the slings and arrows of outrageous comments.

"This show is successful all over the world and I'm only on 'American Idol.' I'll make a decision next year as to what I do as an American judge because there is a big, big schedule now and I do two other shows. So it's been hard. I think that this show could continue for another 10, 20 years, to be honest with you," Cowell says.

(c) 2009, The Fresno Bee (Fresno, Calif.)

Big movies in 2009

By **RAFER GUZMAN**
MCT

Making up stories isn't easy, which is why Hollywood likes to find ones that already exist. That means 2009 is so far shaping up to be another year of adaptations, remakes, "reimaginings" and plain old sequels.

Some are obvious, such as "New Moon," the much-awaited follow-up to the tween-vampire blockbuster "Twilight" (reportedly scheduled for Nov. 20). Others seem a bit puzzling: "Terminator Salvation," due May 22, doesn't feature Arnold Schwarzenegger. And in this tight economy, studios are looking back fondly on old cheapie slasher-flicks: Watch for "My Bloody Valentine 3D" on Jan. 16 and a new "Friday the 13th" on Feb. 13.

Some potential gems are in the works. Will Ferrell stars in "Land of the Lost" (June 5), an update of the lovably hokey television series. The gritty 1974 crime flick "The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3" gets modernized on June 12 with Denzel Washington in the Walter Matthau role. And "Watchmen" (March 6), based on the legendary comic-book series, could turn out to be the movie event of the year.

Here's a sampling of 2009's more noteworthy flicks; keep in mind that release dates often change as the year advances and the studios jockey for position.

NOTORIOUS (Jan. 16)

Director: George Tillman Jr.
The story: The life and death of heavyweight Brooklyn rapper The Notorious B.I.G. With Derek Luke and Angela Bassett.

Who's Biggie? He's played by another heavyweight Brooklyn rapper, Jamal Woolard, an unknown with no previous acting experience.

PAUL BLART: MALL COP (Jan. 16)

Director: Steve Carr
The story: A mall cop (Kevin James) must act like a real one when his turf is invaded by a dangerous gang.

Totally unlike: "Observe and Report" (which opens April 10), about a mall cop (Seth Rogen) trying to become a real one.

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (Feb. 6)

Director: Ken Kwapis
The story: A group of 30ish men and women swims the choppy waters of love.

What story? It's based on a self-help book. But check out the cast, which includes Ben Affleck, Jennifer Aniston, Drew Barrymore, Jennifer Connelly and Scarlett Johansson.

WATCHMEN (March 6)

Director: Zack Snyder
The Story: A ragtag group of flawed superheroes must stop the arrival of a Cold War-style doomsday. Based on the comic-book series by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons.

Full steam: As of this writing, Fox was still suing over rights to the film, but Warner Bros. is moving forward, having already screened lengthy segments of the film for critics.

ADVENTURELAND (March 27)

Director: Greg Mottola
The Story: A recent college grad shelves his dreams of traveling to work at a local amusement park but finds—surprise!—romance. With Jesse Eisenberg and Kristin Stewart.

Real life: Mottola ("Superbad") based the script on his own experiences at a Farm-

ingdale, N.Y., park.

LYMELIFE (Early April)

Director: Derick Martini
The story: Alec Baldwin, Rory Culkin and Cynthia Nixon star in this dark-hued drama about a suburb plagued by Lyme disease.

More real life: The director and his co-writer, Steven Martini, are brothers who based the movie on their experiences growing up in Syosset, N.Y.

THE SOLOIST (April 24)

Director: Joe Wright

the aftermath of a campus hate crime.

Change of pace: Sarah Jessica Parker steps off her "Sex and the City" runway to play the dean. Also with Miranda Richardson and Beau Bridges.

LAND OF THE LOST (June 5)

Director: Brad Silberling
The story: In this version of the 1970s cult television show, Will Ferrell plays Rick Marshall, a scientist transported into the dinosaur era.

That's Holly? Some changes to the series: Marshall's little

(Aug. 21)

Director: Quentin Tarantino
The story: In Nazi-occupied France, a cinema owner, an actress and a group of resistance fighters hatch a plan to take down the Third Reich. The title comes from a 1978 Italian movie.

Mix and match: The oddball cast includes Brad Pitt, Mike Myers and Eli Roth, director of the horror flick "Hostel."

SHUTTER ISLAND (Oct. 2)

Director: Martin Scorsese
The story: Leonardo DiCaprio

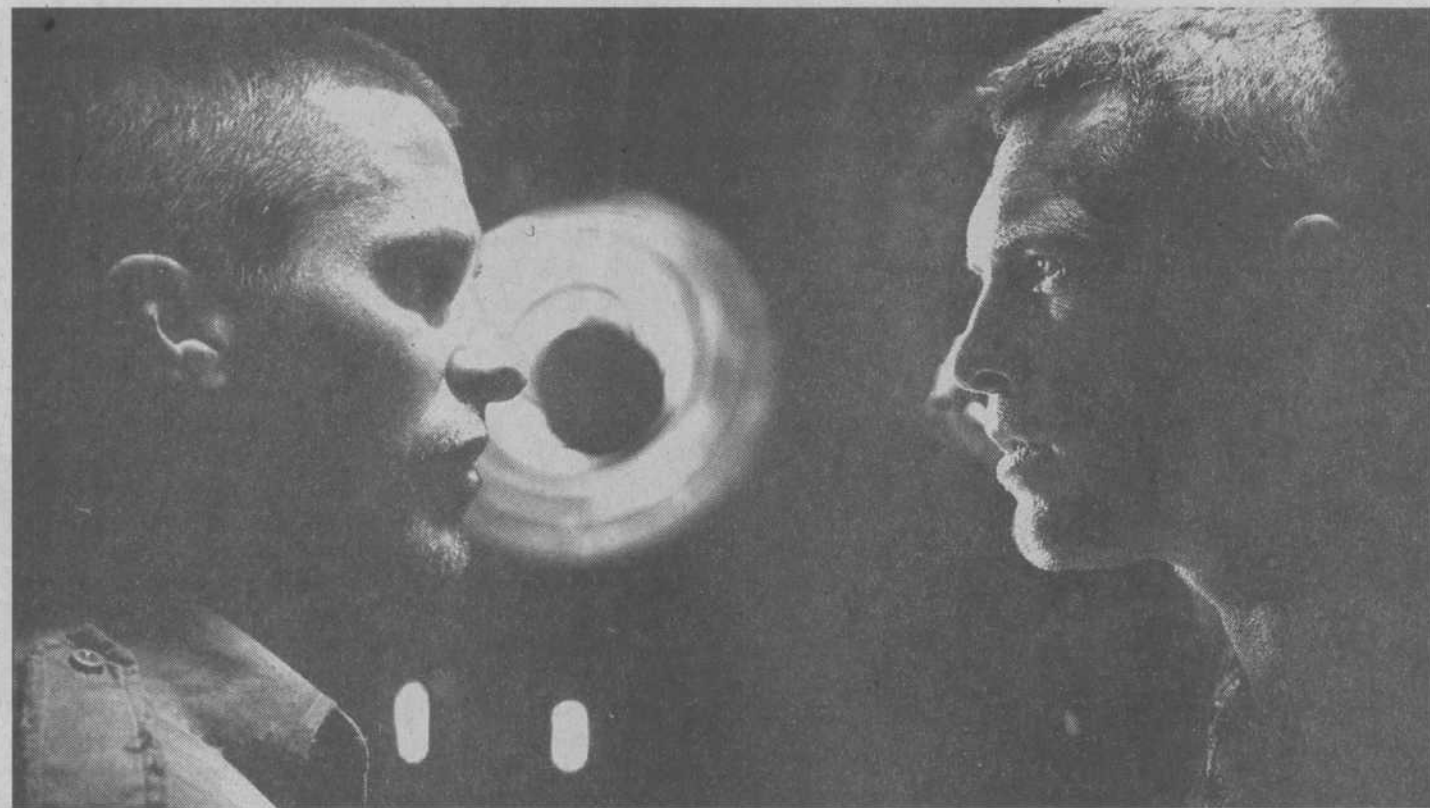
plays a nobleman who returns to his family estate and discovers more about himself than he bargained for.

Old school: Del Toro watched the 1941 classic "The Wolf Man," with Lon Chaney Jr., to research his role.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

(Nov. 20)

Director: Guy Ritchie
The story: The enduring fictional detective gets an update, revealing "fighting skills as lethal as his legendary intellect," according to a synopsis.



Christian Bale, left, stars as John Connor and Sam Worthington stars as Marcus Wright in Warner Bros. Pictures' action Sci-Fi feature "Terminator Salvation."

The story: Based on the real-life relationship between a Los Angeles journalist (Robert Downey Jr.) and a homeless violin prodigy (Jamie Foxx).

Hey, Oscar: Judging from the teary trailer, Foxx seems to be tugging at the academy's heartstrings again.

X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (May 1)

Director: Gavin Hood
The story: How the future X-Man became the hairy hunk he is. With Hugh Jackman.

Smart move: Jackman, whose good looks helped make this franchise so popular, also produced this film.

STAR TREK (May 8)

Director: J.J. Abrams
The story: The creator of "Lost" rounds up a new crew of youngsters in this reworking of the sci-fi franchise.

Old-timer: Watch for Leonard Nimoy, the original Mr. Spock.

ANGELS & DEMONS (May 15)

Director: Ron Howard
The story: Harvard religious expert Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks) discovers an ancient society that's still secretly at work. Based on the novel by Dan Brown.

Familiar turf: Didn't we already see "The Da Vinci Code"? Yes, but since it grossed more than \$200 million, Sony is hoping we'll see it again.

TERMINATOR SALVATION (May 22)

Director: McG
The story: Anti-robot crusader John Connor is still man's hope for the future, but now that future is looking a little uncertain.

No Arnold: The man who was this franchise famous won't be appearing, but you do get Christian Bale as Connor, plus Sam Worthington and the rapper Common.

SPINNING INTO BUTTER (Spring)

Director: Mark Brokaw
The story: The dean of a New England college grapples with

daughter, Holly, is replaced by a curvaceous research assistant (Anna Friel), while his son, Will, is a redneck survivor (Danny McBride, "Tropic Thunder").

TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (June 26)

Director: Michael Bay
The story: Sam Witwicky (Shia LaBeouf) returns to help the Autobots battle the Decepticons.

Scene stealer: John Turturro reprises his role as the hilarious, half-insane Agent Simmons.

PUBLIC ENEMIES (July 1)

Director: Michael Mann
The story: In Depression-era Chicago, real-life FBI agent Melvin Purvis (Christian Bale) hunts folk-hero outlaw John Dillinger (Johnny Depp).

High hopes: Despite a spotty track record, Mann ("Heat," "Miami Vice") has a shot at rivaling Brian DePalma's great period crime flick, "The Untouchables."

HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (July 17)

Director: David Yates
The story: According to the synopsis, "Love is in the air, but tragedy lies ahead."

Why you waited: Warner Bros. blames the recent writers' strike, which left gaps in its 2009 schedule. And with millions in the bank from "The Dark Knight," the studio can afford to save "Half-Blood" for later.

FUNNY PEOPLE (July 31)

Director: Judd Apatow
The story: A famous comedian has a near-death experience. With Adam Sandler, Seth Rogen, Jonah Hill and Jason Schwartzman.

Only three? As a producer, writer and mentor, Apatow has dominated the comedy genre for the past few years, yet this marks only his third directing gig after "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" and "Knocked Up."

INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS

and Mark Ruffalo are U.S. marshals investigating the disappearance of an heiress from an island-based madhouse. Based on Dennis Lehane's novel.

Four's a charm? This marks the fourth collaboration between Oscar winner Scorsese and the Oscarless DiCaprio.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (Oct. 16)

Director: Spike Jonze
The story: Jonze and novelist Dave Eggers wrote the screenplay adaptation of the Maurice Sendak children's classic.

Trouble in paradise? The director and Warner Bros. reportedly butted heads over how to translate Sendak's dark-hued book into a mainstream film. But both now say they're satisfied with the result.

THE WOLFMAN (Nov. 6)

Director: Joe Johnston
The story: Benicio Del Toro

With Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law and Rachel McAdams.

It worked for James Bond: Taking liberties with Ian Fleming is one thing, but the critically esteemed Arthur Conan Doyle may be another.

AVATAR (Dec. 18)

Director: James Cameron
The story: Former Marine lands on new planet filled with exotic life-forms, not all of them friendly.

The teaser: According to one trailer on YouTube, Cameron's first directing effort since 1997's "Titanic" seems to aim for the grandiosity of Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey."

Rafer Guzman:
rafer.guzman@newsday.com

(c) 2009, Newsday.

ECHO

continued from page 5

friends have been spending long hours at his bedside. They rub his hands and feet, fluff his pillows and play his choice of music on the stereo in the living room. Some of his favorite tunes are songs from a gospel rap CD that he created. The project is not quite finished. Maybe Stevie Wonder will take up the task, Gordon mused.

"Ben has always been a kid I could rely on," said Gordon, who has four other children, ages 13 and up. "Always responsible. Always taking care of business."

"I only get him for moment. I won't get to see him get married or have a family or go to college."

"But Ben's life wasn't just for me. It was to share with the world. Now Ben is dying in a graceful way. That's part of his purpose, too."

(c) 2009

The Sacramento Bee
(Sacramento, Calif.).

CELL

continued from page 4

Sattler said using cell phones keeps students motivated and engaged, and often results in students going the extra mile when working on projects.

"The kids are so much more natural when they're using technology in that way. If they were to have to stand in front of a microphone... they get wooden and it seems rehearsed."

And the cells are flexible, Sattler said. "Anywhere you go, you can do a podcast. It keeps things more spontaneous."

For instance, she has used her cell phone to record kindergartners on the 100th day of the school year, because the youngsters always count to 100 on the school's public address system.

Lynne Sullivan hasn't used cell phones much in her chemistry and physics classes at Cranbrook Upper School, but she did take advantage of them during a class field trip to the Cranbrook Science Museum. There, in the area where gemstones are kept, students took pictures that they used as part of their class reports.

Sullivan said she sees many possibilities, but acknowledged there are some downsides, such as the time she tried to record podcasts and learned that poor reception left her with a garbled recording.

Sattler has experienced similar problems. But she's sold on the use of cells in education.

"Anyone can do it," Sattler said. "With a cell you can capture really any moment you want."

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Detroit Free Press.



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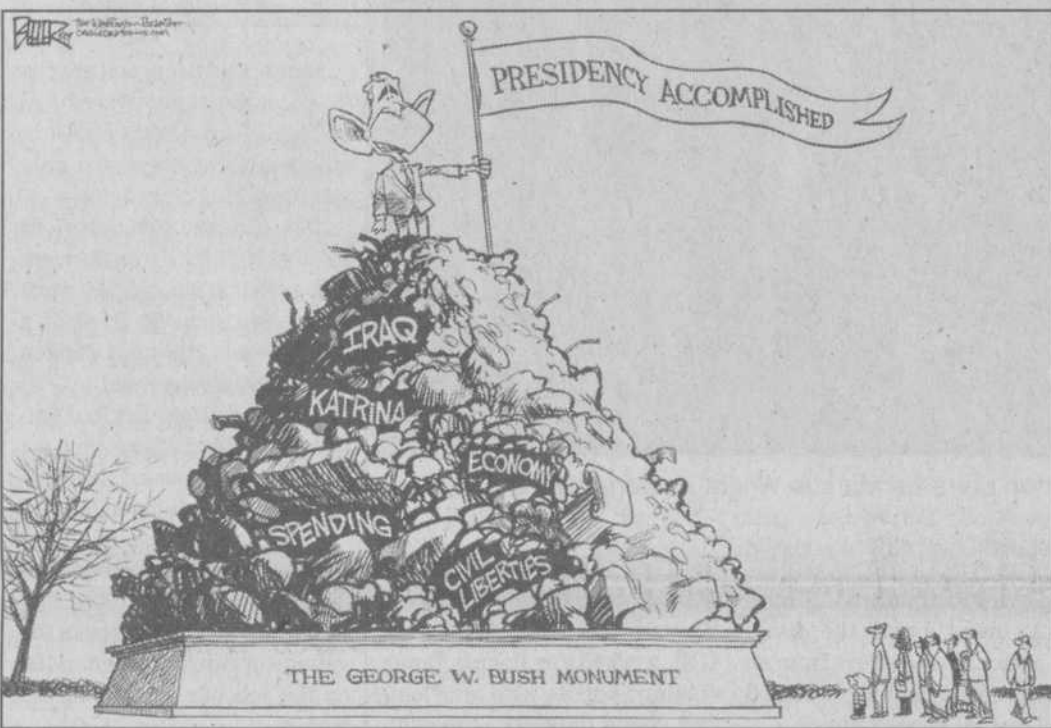
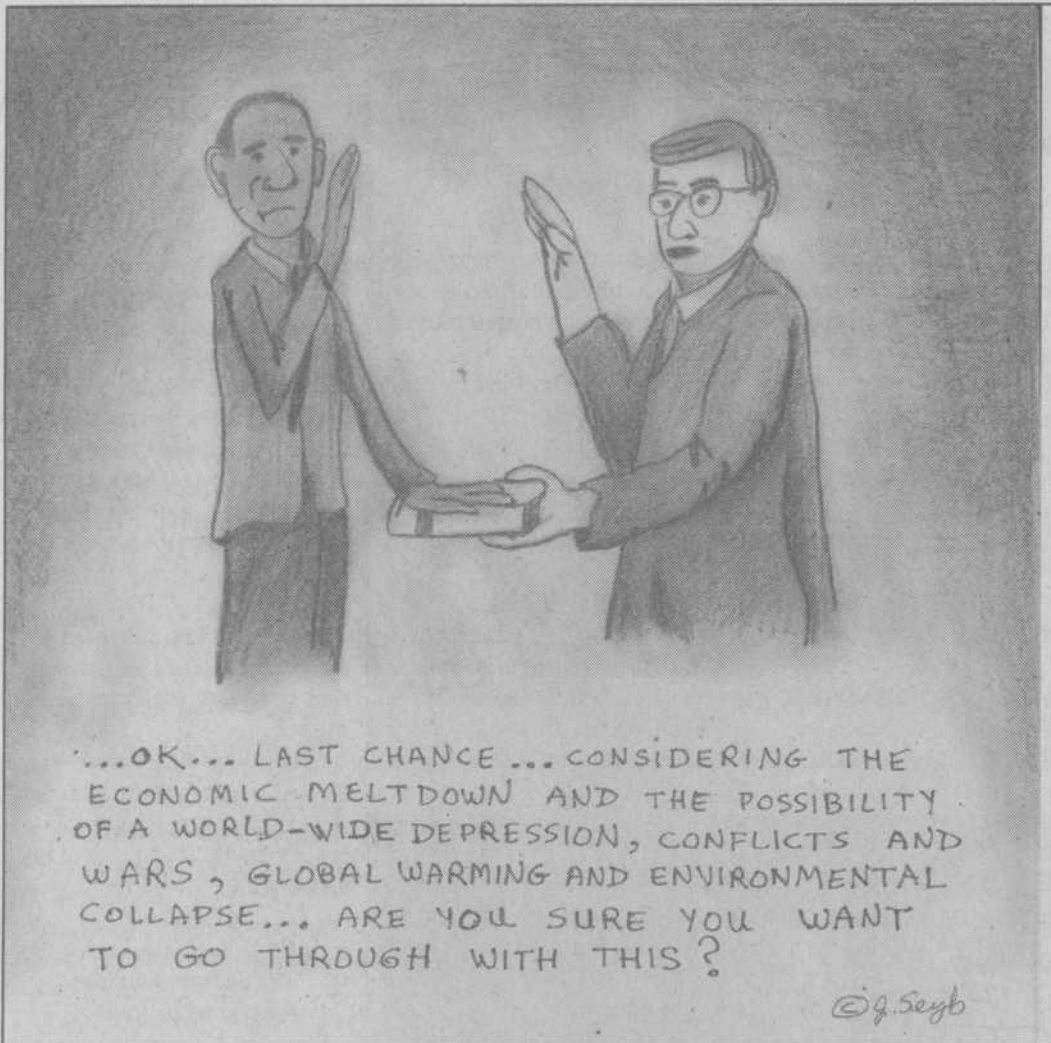
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Weather Forecast

Wednesday Night: A chance of flurries. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 1.
Thursday: Mostly sunny and cold and blustery, with a high near 4.
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around -9.
Friday: Mostly sunny and cold, with a high near 9.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 4.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 23.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 15.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 28.
Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 19.
M.L.King Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 35.

CrimeStoppers seeks assistance

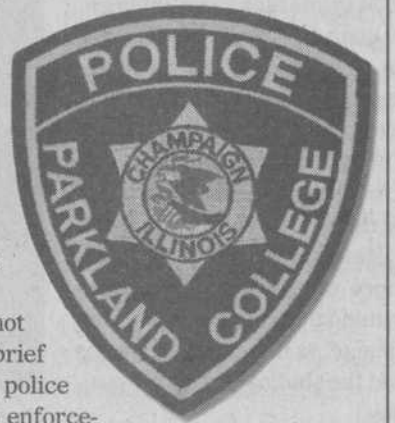
Champaign Police investigators are asking for information regarding an incident involving criminal damage to property and reckless conduct.

On Saturday, November 8th, at approximately 1:11 a.m., officers were called to the location of Market Street and Bradley Avenue in Champaign. Officers were advised that a group of four or five black male subjects were seen standing on the southwest corner of the intersection. As three LEX buses approached the intersection, one of the black males was observed throwing a paving brick, completely shattering the windshield of one bus. Another paving brick was thrown, which shattered two full-size passenger windows of another bus. Some of the passengers were sprayed with shattered glass and suffered minor cuts. One passenger was struck by a brick and suffered minor facial injuries.

The young black male subjects were described as being 14 to 16 years of age. One of the subjects seen throwing a brick was wearing a white shirt.

Investigators are seeking any information you might have regarding this incident.

Welcome Back
By Ofc. Bernard Caillouet



I would like to take this opportunity and welcome you all back for the 2009 spring semester. I hope everyone had an enjoyable break. I would also like to remind you if you have not signed up for the campus emergency alert system, to please do so on the Parkland College website (www.parkland.edu).

For some of you new and returning students who are not familiar with Parkland's police department, here is a brief overview. The Police Division of Public Safety provides a police patrol law enforcement function to the college. Our law enforcement officers are certified by the State of Illinois Police Training and Standards Board. Our dispatch center is staffed by four full time telecommunicators and five part time dispatchers. Parkland Police Department adheres to a community policing philosophy. So please don't hesitate to ask any of our police officers any questions you might have. Our police department is a resource for students like any other department on campus.

Our officers are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. Our police officers deal with crimes in progress and any other emergency that might threaten the safety and security of Parkland College. We also handle medical calls on campus as well.

We also provide vehicle assistance such as jump starts, lockout service, and escorts to your car. Our department takes your safety and security very seriously. We look forward to a safe and productive semester.

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Lamenter's cry
 - Aberdeen breed
 - Jazz singing
 - Badgered
 - Demi of "Ghost"
 - Walk the floor
 - Highlands group
 - Mont in the Alps
 - Killer whale
 - Scenery chowers
 - Morays
 - Web locations
 - Turns, as milk
 - Moses or Karl
 - cotta
 - Bottom deposits
 - Faces the day
 - Word before X or PG
 - Catch red-handed
 - Die down
 - Mechanical linkage device
 - Stable denizens
 - Antonin of the Supreme Court
 - Intensifies
 - Cartoonist Tex
 - Lemieux and Cuomo
 - Less colored
 - Knife feature
 - Beach bird
 - Sacred service
 - Lo-cal
 - Attribute
 - Caustic solution
 - Equal
 - Speed
 - Band of hoods
 - Large group
 - Fencing tools
 - If all ___ fails...

- DOWN**
- Crafty
 - The Kinks classic hit
 - Tracy/Hepburn comedy
 - Detectors
 - Caution light color
 - At least as much as
 - Point of soccer
 - Diner brewers
 - Jiffy
 - Ruined
 - Shipping box
 - Stress
 - Mocks in fun
 - Ditto
 - Abu Dhabi loc.
 - Little pests
 - "Saving Fish from Drowning" author
 - Time period
 - Record over
 - CD's competition
 - Gilbert and Teasdale
 - Make a wager
 - Office job category
 - Lung filler
 - Jersey cape
 - First races
 - Soothing lotion
 - Pres. Coolidge

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| moistener | containers |
| 47 Cargo cases | 58 Outer limit |
| 48 Elfin person | 60 Definite |
| 52 Chips in chips | article |

OBAMA INAUGURATION



TRANSFER OF POWER

A day of pomp and tradition

President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration is one of the most highly anticipated political events in years. With all of the excitement surrounding the event, it's easy to forget there have been many inaugurations before it. Over the years, the inauguration has become highly formalized, with the day's scheduled events taking on almost ritualistic significance.

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Officially begun in 1933 with Franklin Delano Roosevelt's attendance of a church service at St. John's Episcopal Church (Washington quietly visited a church before his first inauguration), nearly every president since has decided to participate in faith services on the morning of the inauguration. While most presidents went to Protestant or other Christian churches, John F. Kennedy, the nation's first Roman Catholic president, attended services at Holy Trinity Church.

PROCESSION TO THE CAPITOL

Every president has had a form of procession to the swearing-in ceremony. In 1849 with Zachary Taylor's inauguration ceremony. After being escorted to the White House by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies — commonly referred to as the JCCIC — the president-elect, vice-president-elect and their spouses are joined by the outgoing president and vice president to journey to the Capitol for the swearing-in ceremony. Most presidents have ridden to their inaugurations in a carriage or automobile. Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson both walked to their ceremonies. In 1869, Andrew Johnson became the third outgoing president to not accompany his successor on the procession; Johnson was inside the White House until his term expired at noon, signing last-minute bills into law.

VICE PRESIDENT'S SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

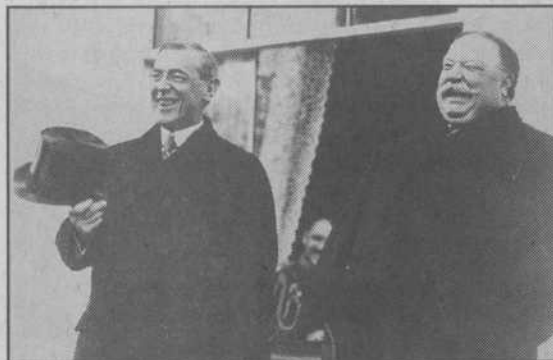
The Constitution specifically requires the vice president and other elected officials to step forward to take an oath to defend the Constitution, but unlike the presidential oath, it does not specify the form that oath must take. Also unlike the presidential oath, a variety of public officials can and have administered the oath to the incoming vice president. The oath, dictated by Congress, is the same one repeated by senators, representatives and other government officers, and has been in use since 1884. Since 1981, the swearing-in ceremonies have been held at the west front terrace of the Capitol.

PRESIDENT'S SWEARING-IN CEREMONY AND INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution includes the oath of office of president. The president is typically sworn in by the chief justice of the Supreme Court in front of the Capitol, though this has frequently changed due to circumstance. The oath reads:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

And, of course, the president's swearing-in ceremony is accompanied by the inaugural address, which is often the most anticipated portion of the inauguration. Though George Washington's first address was lackluster, other addresses have set the tone for the presidency. William Henry Harrison gave his inaugural address — the longest on record — in bitterly cold and inclement weather, which was widely speculated to have caused his death a month later.



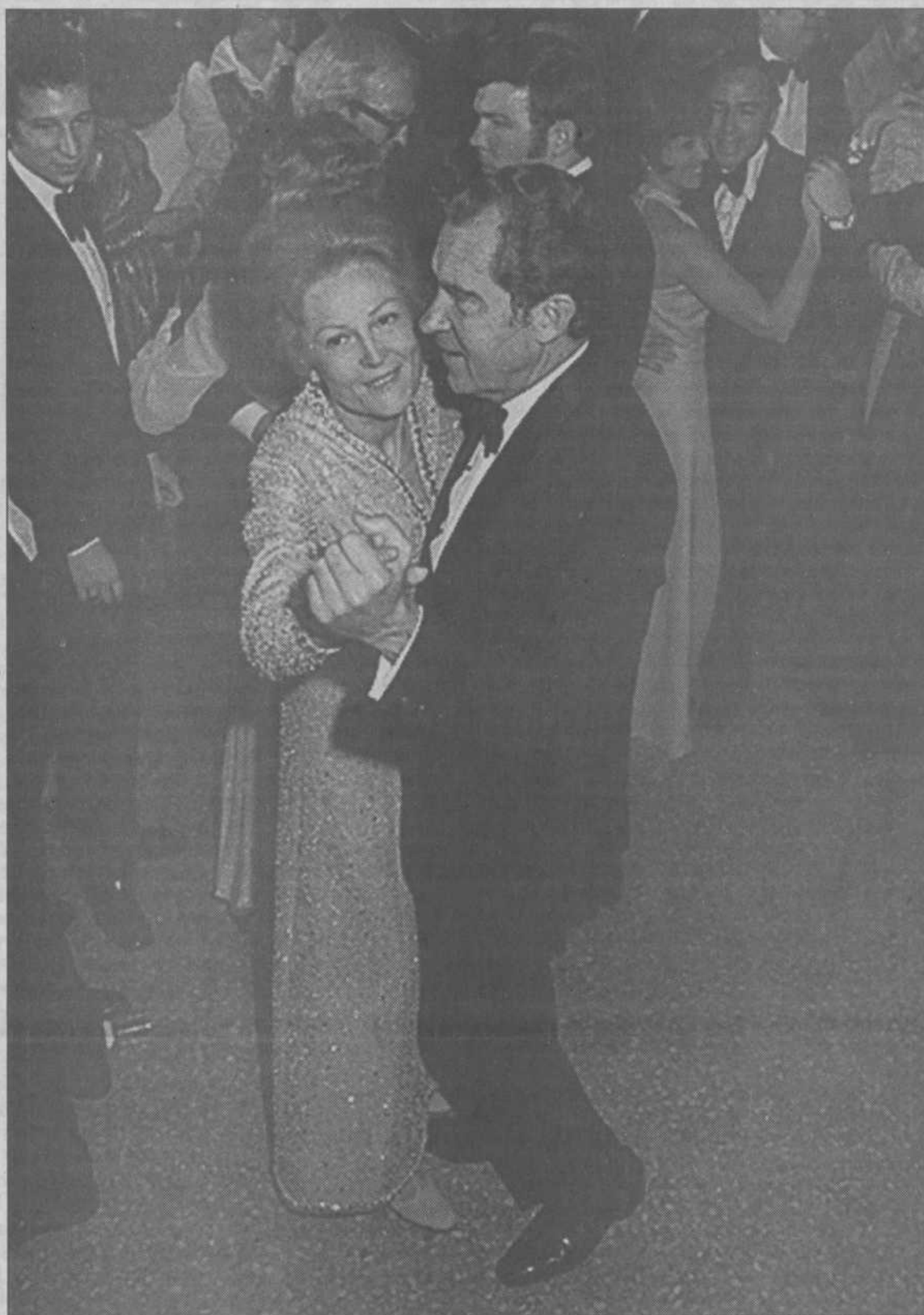
President-elect Woodrow Wilson, left, and President William H. Taft, right, share a laugh at the White House prior to Wilson's inauguration ceremony in 1913.

DEPARTURE OF THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

The 1889 "Handbook of Official and Social Etiquette and Public Ceremonies at Washington" described the ceremony this way:

"His departure from the Capital is attended with no ceremony, other than the presence of the members of his late Cabinet and a few officials and personal friends. The President leaves the Capital as soon as practicable after the inauguration of his successor."

But from the start — the 1798 inauguration of John Adams, attended by Washington — the public has



President Richard Nixon dances with wife Patricia at an inaugural ball in Washington in 1973.

always paid a great deal of attention to the outgoing president. In recent years, newly installed presidents have accompanied their predecessors to a helicopter waiting to see the former president and his spouse off.

INAUGURAL LUNCHEON

This tradition started in 1897, when the Senate Committee on Arrangements gave a luncheon for President William McKinley. Other presidents played host in a similar manner — in 1945, Roosevelt hosted more than 2,000 guests at the White House. The tradition did not begin in its current official form until 1953, when President Dwight Eisenhower and 50 other guests of the JCCIC ate creamed chicken, baked ham and potato puffs in the Old Senate Chamber. The JCCIC luncheon usually includes speeches, gifts from the JCCIC and toasts to the new administration.

INAUGURAL PARADE

Going back to the first, the parade is an Inauguration Day standby. When the JCCIC has concluded its luncheon, the president and vice president will journey down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House amid streamers, confetti and general celebration. While the first parades were informal affairs, James Madison was accompanied by cavalry during his 1809 inauguration,

setting the tone for the future. Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration in 1865 — 148 years before this year's swearing-in of Barack Obama — was the first time blacks were allowed to march in the parade.

INAUGURAL BALL

Though the practice began informally, with multiple balls following Washington's first inauguration, the growing number of balls necessitated the construction of dedicated ballrooms in Judiciary Square. Eventually, the idea of a single ball that could accommodate thousands of guests was embraced by partygoers who wished to view the newly sworn-in president. The event was canceled for the first time in 1853, when Franklin Pierce wished to mourn the loss of his son. Sixty years later, Woodrow Wilson firmly canceled the inaugural ball, and the practice of private parties sprang up when Warren G. Harding asked for a simple affair without pageantry to mark the occasion of his inauguration. In 1949, Harry Truman revived the practice of the ball, and Eisenhower's inauguration in 1953 necessitated a second ball due to great demand for tickets. The number of balls reached a high of 14 during the second inauguration of President Bill Clinton in 1997.

— McClatchy-Tribune

SOURCE: YALE LAW SCHOOL'S AVALON PROJECT; INAUGURAL.SENATE.GOV

INAUGURATION SCHEDULE

This is a tentative schedule for the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama and related events.

Jan. 17

President-elect Barack Obama and his family will begin their trek to D.C. via Amtrak train. Beginning with an event in Philadelphia, they will also make a stop in Wilmington, Del. (to pick up Vice-President-elect Joe Biden and family) before another event in Baltimore, Md.

Jan. 18

There will be a welcome event Sunday afternoon at the Lincoln Memorial. It is open to the public.

Jan. 19

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Obama and Biden families will dedicate their time to serving others across D.C. in a National Day of Community Service event. A youth concert will be held that evening at the Verizon Center in downtown D.C.

Jan. 20

Inauguration Day
7 a.m.—Visitors can begin entering parade route
9 a.m.—Gates to the inaugural ceremony open
10 a.m.—Inauguration begins with a musical prelude

The rest of the inauguration program is as follows:

Musical selections: The United States Marine Band; the San Francisco Boys Chorus and the San Francisco Girls Chorus

Call to order and welcoming remarks: Dianne Feinstein

Invocation: Dr. Rick Warren, Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, Calif.

Musical selection: Aretha Franklin

Oath of office administered to Vice President-elect Joe Biden by Associate Justice of the Supreme Court John Paul Stevens

Musical selection: John Williams, composer/arranger; Itzhak Perlman, violin; Yo-Yo Ma, cello; Gabriela Montero, piano; Anthony McGill, clarinet

Noon—Oath of office administered to President-elect Obama by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr.

Obama's inaugural address

Poem: Elizabeth Alexander

Benediction: The Reverend Dr. Joseph E. Lowery

The National Anthem: The United States Navy Band "Sea Chanters"

After the ceremony, the president attends a luncheon organized by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC) in the Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol.

Following the luncheon, the inauguration parade will follow the same route as the first parade at James Madison's inauguration in 1809.

The presidential inaugural parade will follow the same route as the first parade at James Madison's inauguration in 1809.

In the evening the president attends official balls, which are planned by the Presidential Inaugural Committee.

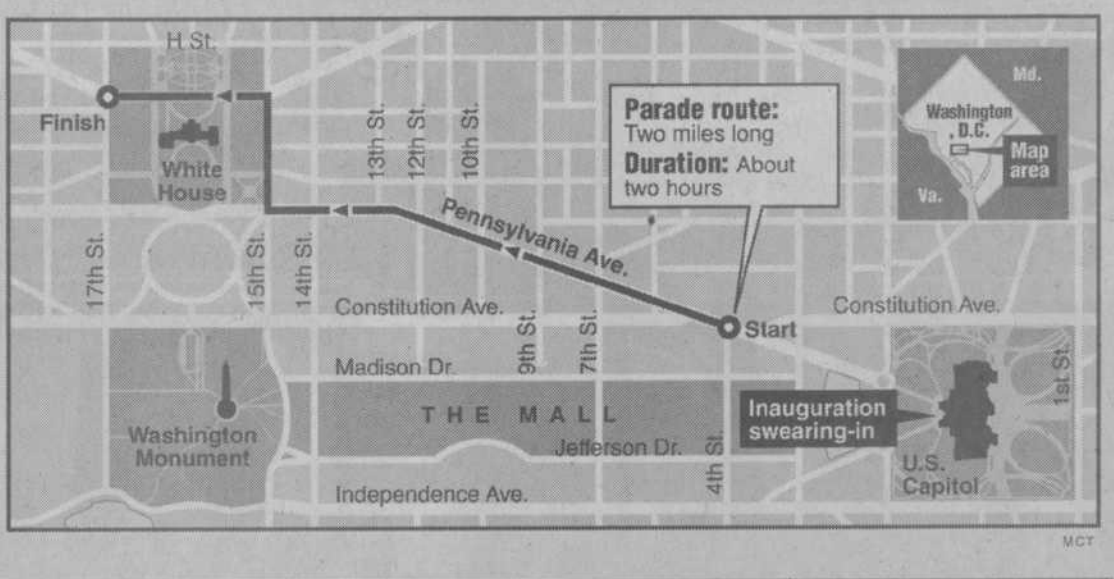
Jan. 21

The newly sworn-in president and vice president will participate in a prayer service.

SOURCES: INAUGURAL.SENATE.GOV, PIC2009.0106

Inaugural parade route

The presidential inaugural parade will follow the same route as the first parade at James Madison's inauguration in 1809.



MCT

OBAMA INAUGURATION TRANSFER OF POWER



Abraham Lincoln
March 4, 1865

“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds ...”



Franklin D. Roosevelt
March 4, 1933

“So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself — nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.”



John F. Kennedy
Jan. 20, 1961

“And so, my fellow Americans: Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.”



Ronald Reagan
Jan. 20, 1981

“We have every right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say that we are in a time when there are no heroes just don't know where to look.”



George H.W. Bush
Jan. 20, 1989

“We must act on what we know. I take as my guide the hope of a saint: In crucial things, unity; in important things, diversity; in all things, generosity.”



Bill Clinton
Jan. 20, 1993

“There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America.”

Reviewing inaugural history

By ROBERT S. BOYD
McClatchy Newspapers

The inauguration of the first black president will long be remembered as a momentous day in history, but many past inaugurations also have had their memorable moments.

Even Barack Obama's arrival in the nation's capital aboard a special train recalls his fellow Illinoisan Abraham Lincoln's similar train ride in 1861. Lincoln had to travel the last part of the trip at night because of an assassination threat in Baltimore.

Inaugurals are a mixture of pomp, festival and gravity, the American equivalent of a coronation. Their rituals are laden with symbols of national purpose, continuity and unity. For 220 years, they have marked the peaceful transfer of power, a feat few other countries have achieved.

Presidents have tinkered with the ceremony to reflect their personal style and the state of the nation.

There've been top hats and bare heads, cheers and boos along parade routes, unruly mobs in the White House, poets and preachers, brilliant sunshine and bitter cold, glamorous balls and tragic circumstances.

Almost always the day has featured a solemn swearing in, an inaugural address, one or more parades, plus parties, receptions and fancy balls far into the night.

The heart of the affair is the inaugural oath, first recited by George Washington on the balcony of New York City's Federal Hall, the original seat of government, on April 30, 1789.

The 35-word oath is prescribed in the Constitution, but Washington added the phrase "So help me God," and placed his left hand on a Bible hastily borrowed from a Masonic Lodge on Wall Street. Most later presidents have followed the founding father's precedent.

Washington's successor, John Adams, took the oath in Philadelphia's Independence Hall. Thomas Jefferson did it in the new Senate chamber in the District of Columbia in 1801. James Monroe moved the ceremony outside to the east front of the Capitol in 1817.

It remained there until 1981, when Ronald Reagan switched it to the Capitol's west front as a giant stage prop for his inauguration.



President Jimmy Carter, center left, and wife Rosalynn walk down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington during his 1977 inauguration.

Sub-zero temperatures drove Reagan inside the Capitol building in 1985 for his second oath-taking and forced the cancellation of his parade, disappointing 12,000 marchers, 66 floats and 57 bands.

Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson showed their common touch by eschewing carriages and walking up to Capitol Hill to be sworn in. Jimmy Carter delighted the crowd and horrified the Secret Service by leaving his armored limousine after the swearing-in, and strolling down Pennsylvania Avenue with his wife and children to the White House. Both Bushes and the Clintons walked part of the way at their inaugurations as well.

Until Benjamin Harrison's 1889 inauguration, the parades usually moved up the hill to the Capitol. Since then, they've flowed down the hill past the White House reviewing stand. Some grander parades lasted well into darkness.

After his 1829 parade, Andrew Jackson opened the White House to thousands of his hungry and thirsty followers, who tracked in mud, broke windows and wrecked furniture. After Lincoln's second inaugural in 1865, unruly guests stole silver and draperies.

There've been awkward moments

between incoming and outgoing presidents. Adams boycotted Jefferson's inauguration in 1801. Ulysses Grant refused to ride in the same carriage as Andrew Johnson in 1869. Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt drove to the Capitol in chilly silence in 1933.

Not all inaugurations have been joyous occasions. Andrew Johnson took the oath in his boarding house the day after Lincoln's assassination in April 1865. In 1901, Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in in Buffalo, N.Y., where

William McKinley had died earlier that day.

A grim-faced Lyndon Johnson was sworn in aboard Air Force One on the day John F. Kennedy was shot in Dallas. Gerald Ford took the oath in the East Room of the White House after Richard Nixon resigned in 1974.

Ever since Washington, most presidents have launched their term with a formal address, usually calling for national reconciliation and setting out their vision for the future.

Washington and Adams gave their inaugural speeches in person. Jefferson and a century of his successors sent theirs to Congress in writing. Wilson renewed the personal address in 1913.

Some inaugural addresses have etched lines in the national memory:

■ Thomas Jefferson: "We are all Republicans, we are all Federalists."

■ Abraham Lincoln: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, (let us) bind up the nation's wounds."

■ Franklin Roosevelt: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

■ John Kennedy: "Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country."

■ Gerald Ford "Our long national nightmare is over."

At Kennedy's snow-swept inaugural in 1961, the glare of the sun and a stiff breeze kept Robert Frost from reading a poem he had written for the occasion. Vice President Lyndon Johnson tried to shade the lectern with his top hat, but the 86-year-old poet protested "I can't see in this light." Instead, he recited from memory one of his earlier poems, "The Gift Outright."

William Henry Harrison's 1841 address — an hour and 40 minutes long, delivered without hat or coat on a cold, damp day — turned tragic. The 68-year-old Harrison developed pneumonia and died a month later. His vice president, John Tyler, was sworn in at his hotel and never gave an inaugural address.

The most recent inaugural, George Bush's second, was marred by scuffles with angry protesters. Cries of "war-monger" and "impeach Bush" clashed with chants of "USA" and "support our troops" as 13,000 police and soldiers stood guard.

This year, Obama's whistle-stop train ride from Philadelphia to Washington,

picking up Vice President-elect Joseph Biden on the way, follows a long line of travels to the capital by incoming presidents. George Washington rode his horse and carriage from his beloved home at Mount Vernon to New York. Lincoln whistle-stopped from Springfield, the Illinois capital where Obama declared his candidacy Feb. 10, 2007.

To read the inaugural addresses of former presidents: www.whitehouse.gov/presidents/inaugural/index.html

Trivia quiz

■ Who gave the longest inaugural address? William Henry Harrison, right, March 4, 1841. His speech was 8,445 words long, delivered on an incredibly cold day.



■ Who gave the first televised inaugural address? Harry S. Truman on Jan. 20, 1949.

■ Who gave the first inaugural address to be broadcast live on the Internet? Bill Clinton in his second address, Jan. 20, 1997.

■ Who gave an inaugural address one year, then gave the one AFTER the next president? Grover Cleveland gave his second inaugural address on March 4, 1893. To date, this is the only time a president has been elected, lost to his opponent in the next election cycle, then been elected again to serve a second term.

President George W. Bush delivers his 2005 inaugural speech after taking the oath of office during ceremonies on the west front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

MCT POOL PHOTOGRAPH BY WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES



OBAMA INAUGURATION  TRANSFER OF POWER

A changing Washington

Obama's new home was slow to integrate

By DAVID LIGHTMAN
McClatchy Newspapers

Not too long ago, Barack Obama would have found when he moved his family to Washington that his daughters couldn't attend the same schools white children could. They couldn't try on clothes or shoes at most local department stores, or eat at downtown lunch counters. Or see a play at the National Theatre or a movie just a block or two from the White House.

If a family pet died, it would have to be buried at a blacks-only cemetery.

"The owner stated that he assumed the dogs would not object, but he was afraid his white customers would," said a 1948 report on "Segregation in Washington."

Washington was largely a segregated city until the mid-1950s, a place where new students at Howard University were "briefed on what we could and couldn't do," recalled Russell Adams, now a professor emeritus of Afro-American Studies.

"If you go downtown, don't try to eat," he said. "And don't try to buy stuff you didn't need, like shoes."

The major reason for the segregation was less geography than politics and custom. The city was ruled by Congress, and the key committee chairman or members were often white Southerners who boasted back home about their ability to keep the races separate. Sen. Theodore Bilbo, D-Miss., a member of the Ku Klux Klan and the author of "Take Your Choice," Segregation or Mongrelization," headed the District of Columbia panel from 1945 to 1947.

Washington didn't have the widespread Jim Crow laws that ruled much of the Deep South; in fact, when the District briefly had home rule after the Civil War, laws gave blacks equal rights in public places. But the laws were forgotten and the city "operated as if there were Jim Crow laws," said Jane Freundel Levey, a historian for Cultural Tourism DC.

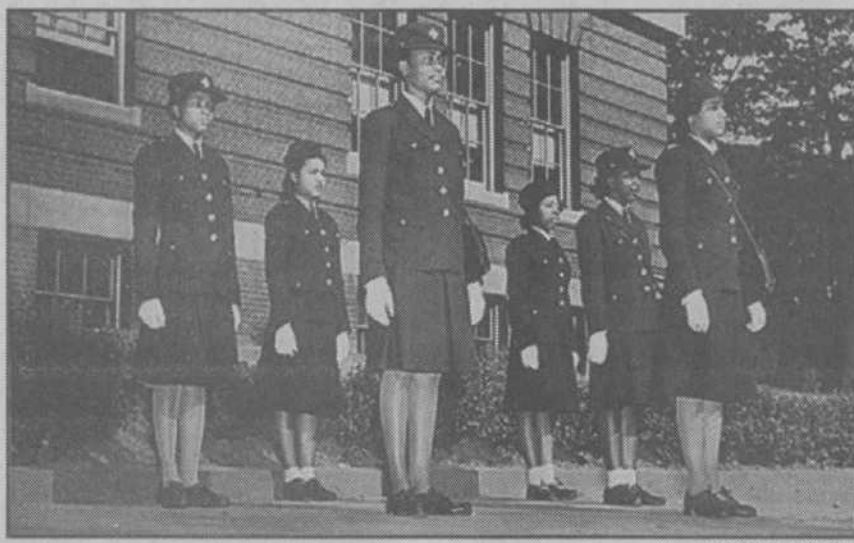
Blacks could get served at lunch counters, but they had to stand and eat. At the leading department stores, clerks "turn their backs at the approach of a Negro," the 1948 segregation report found. Most downtown hotels wouldn't rent rooms to blacks.

Some laws and rules separating blacks and whites were on the books. Schools were segregated. Segregation at federal offices — as well as restrooms and cafeterias — became widespread during the Woodrow Wilson administration, starting in 1913. In some post offices, partitions were erected to keep the races apart at work.

Housing covenants barred blacks from many neighborhoods, often squeezing them into substandard housing. A 1948 survey found that black families were nine times as likely as whites to live in a home needing major repairs, four times as likely to lack a flushing toilet and 11 times as likely to lack running water.

The Washington Real Estate Board Code of Ethics in 1948 put its view in stark terms: "No property in a white section should ever be sold, rented, advertised or offered to colored people." The Supreme Court that year declared such restrictive covenants unenforceable.

The barriers began to break down in the years after World War II, but slowly,



Members of the 1943 Cardozo High School Victory Corps in Washington stand at attention. Washington didn't begin desegregation until the 1950s.

Actors' Equity pressured its members not to perform at segregated venues, such as the city's historic National Theatre.

"We state now to the National Theatre — and to a public which is looking to us to do what is just and humanitarian — that unless the situation is remedied, we will be forced to forbid our members to play there," the group, which represents thousands of actors and stage managers, announced in 1947.

The National Theatre, the city's premier live stage, closed in 1948 rather than integrate and showed movies instead. It reopened as a live theater four years later, under new owners who were willing to desegregate.

Up the street, however, blacks still couldn't go to many movie houses. First-run films were screened in a strip of theaters along or adjacent to F Street, then the city's major commercial street, while theaters on U Street, the heart of the black community's commercial district, showed the same films to black audiences.

Many hotels would welcome blacks only if they were from another country.

"Our visitor's best chance (to get a hotel room) would be to wrap a turban around his head and register under some foreign name," said the 1948 segregation report. "This maneuver was successfully employed not long ago at one of the capital's most fashionable hotels by an enterprising American Negro who wanted to test the advantages of being a foreigner."

Things began to change in 1950, when 86-year-old Mary Church Terrell, a civil rights activist, tried to get served in Thompson's Cafeteria on 14th Street, about two blocks from the White House.

Blacks weren't allowed to sit and eat at most downtown lunch counters and cafeterias. In an affidavit, Terrell recalled her experience at Thompson's:

"The manager told us that we could not be served in the restaurant because we were colored," she said, and along with three friends she left the restaurant and went to court. She targeted other restaurants, and in June 1953, Terrell won a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that segregated eating places in Washington were unconstitutional because the "lost laws" of the Reconstruction era were still in force.

Still, blacks were often made to feel unwelcome. Carolivia Herron going to Woolworth's lunch counter as a little girl, and the server immediately asked her if she wanted some watermelon. No, Herron replied, she

wanted a grilled cheese sandwich.

Change came slowly. A black woman who wanted to try on a hat in a department store would be given a hairnet first; whites wouldn't. Blacks weren't allowed in fitting rooms and usually couldn't try on shoes.

Blacks and whites attended separate, and supposedly equal, schools until the Supreme Court's May 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision. Patricia Tyson went to the all-black four-room Military Road School, five miles from the White House.

Teachers would signal the start of class by ringing a handbell, but students were in awe of what Tyson recalled was an "electric bell" up the road at the white school.

The racial barriers gradually collapsed, though two glaring exceptions remained. Glen Echo Park was the region's premier amusement park, where people could take the long streetcar ride on a hot summer day, swim in the Crystal Pool and dance the night away. Blacks were excluded until 1961.

Sports stadiums weren't officially segregated, and baseball's Washington Senators got its first black player in 1954, seven years after the sport was integrated. The owner, though, was seen as cool to black players.

The Senators moved to Minnesota for the 1961 season, and in 1978, owner Calvin Griffith reportedly told a local Lions Club he chose that location "when we found out that you only had 15,000 blacks here." And, he said, "We came here because you've got good, hard-working white people here."

Football's Washington Redskins didn't have a black player until 1962, and the team's fight song, "Hail to the Redskins," included a line urging the players to "fight for old Dixie."

Today, fans are urged to "fight for old D.C."

Black Americans in public office

Some celebrated black government officials in U.S. history.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

1954-
First black woman to hold the office; national security adviser under President George W. Bush; advised George H.W. Bush on Soviet Union



Army General and Secretary of State Colin Powell

1937-
Highest ranking black officer in U.S. history; first black secretary of state; chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff during Persian Gulf War

United Nations diplomat Ralph Bunche

1904-1971
First black awarded Nobel Peace Prize, in 1950 for having mediated Arab-Israeli truce, and first to head a U.S. State Department division



Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall

1908-1993
Supreme Court's first black justice, 1967-1991; as an NAACP lawyer, won Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, the 1954 Supreme Court case that overturned "separate but equal" schools

Rep. Shirley Chisholm, D-N.Y.

1924-2005
First female black presidential candidate, in 1972; first black woman in House of Representatives

Rep. Barbara Jordan, D-Texas

1936-1996
First black elected to House of Representatives from South since Reconstruction; member of committee that held 1974 Watergate hearings



Sen. Hiram Revels, R-Miss.

1827-1901
First black U.S. senator, elected in 1870 during South's Reconstruction

Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr., D-N.Y.

1908-1972
Lone voice of black protest in House of Representatives for years; elected in 1945 by Harlem district



Sen. Edward Brooke, R-Mass.

1919-
First black elected to the Senate by popular vote; served in the Senate 1967-1979; awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, 2004

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Robert C. Weaver

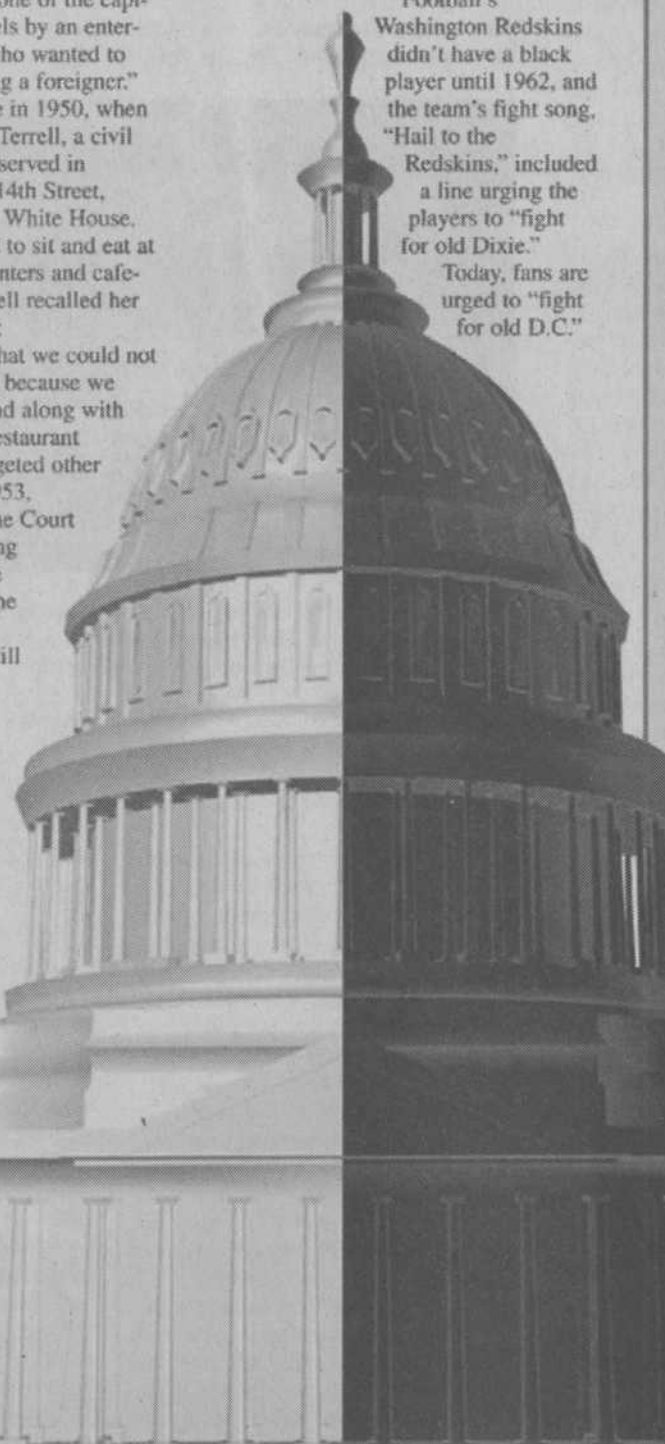
1907-1997
Nation's first black cabinet member, serving under President Lyndon Johnson 1966-1968

— McClatchy-Tribune

SOURCES: COLUMBIA ENCYCLOPEDIA, CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

"No property in a white section should ever be sold, rented, advertised or offered to colored people."

— 1948 Washington Real Estate Board Code of Ethics



KURT STRAZDINS AND JENNIFER PRITCHARD/MCT

OBAMA INAUGURATION



TRANSFER OF POWER

In Barack Obama's words



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/MCT

Democratic candidate Sen. Barack Obama gives his victory speech to a massive crowd of jubilant supporters after defeating Republican candidate Sen. John McCain.

JULY 27, 2004

Keynote at the Democratic National Convention, Boston

■ Enters national consciousness by wowing crowd with a blend of his personal "only in America" saga and a plea for optimism

"John Kerry calls on us to hope. John Edwards calls on us to hope. "I'm not talking about blind optimism here — the almost willful ignorance that thinks unemployment will go away if we just don't think about it, or the health care crisis will solve itself if we just ignore it. That's not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about something more substantial. It's the hope of slaves sitting around a fire singing freedom songs; the hope of immigrants setting out for distant shores; the hope of a young naval lieutenant bravely patrolling the Mekong Delta; the hope of a millworker's son who dares to defy the odds; the hope of a skinny kid with a funny name who believes that America has a place for him, too. "Hope — Hope in the face of difficulty. Hope in the face of uncertainty. The audacity of hope!"

FEB. 10, 2007

Official announcement of candidacy for U.S. president, Springfield, Ill.

■ Despite freshman senator status, immediately is considered Hillary Clinton's most formidable opponent

"That is why I am in this race — not just to hold an office, but to gather with you to transform a nation. I want — I want to win that next battle — for justice and opportunity. I want to win that next battle — for better schools, and better jobs and better health care for all. I want us to take up the unfinished business of perfecting our union, and building a better America. "And if you will join with me in this improbable quest, if you feel destiny calling, and see as I see, the future of endless possibility stretching out before us; if you sense, as I sense, that the time is now to shake off our slumber, and slough off our fears, and make good on the debt we owe past and future generations, then I am ready to take up the cause, and march with you, and work with you — today."

JAN. 3, 2008

Iowa caucuses victory, Des Moines

■ Gains 38 percent of the vote, pushes Clinton to third place behind John Edwards and pushes Joe Biden out of race altogether

"This was the moment when the improbable beat what Washington always said was inevitable. "This was the moment when we tore down barriers that have divided us for too long — when we rallied people of all parties and ages to a common cause; when we finally gave Americans who'd never participated in politics a reason to stand up and to do so. "This was the moment when we

Highlights from the speeches that fueled the Illinois senator's journey to the U.S. presidency

finally beat back the politics of fear, and doubt, and cynicism; the politics where we tear each other down instead of lifting this country up. This was the moment.

"Years from now, you'll look back and you'll say that this was the moment — this was the place — where America remembered what it means to hope."

FEB. 5, 2008

Super Tuesday speech, Chicago

■ Trades victories across the nation with Clinton as John McCain takes strong lead for Republicans

"Only a few hundred miles from here, almost one year ago to the day, we stood on the steps of the Old State Capitol to reaffirm a truth that was spoken there so many generations ago — that a house divided cannot stand; that we are more than a collection of red states and blue states; we are, and always will be, the United States of America.

"What began as a whisper in Springfield soon carried across the cornfields of Iowa, where farmers and factory workers, students and seniors stood up in numbers we've never seen. They stood up to say that maybe this year, we don't have to settle for a politics where scoring points is more important than solving problems. This time we can finally do something about health care we can't afford or mortgages we can't pay. This time can be different. ...

"And today, on this Tuesday in February, in states North and South, East and West, what began as a whisper in Springfield has swelled to a chorus of millions calling for change. A chorus that cannot be ignored. That cannot be deterred. This time can be different because this campaign for the presidency is different."

MARCH 18, 2008

Race in America, Philadelphia

■ Responds to criticism of Rev. Jeremiah Wright's racially charged sermons at the Chicago church he attended for two decades

"Race is an issue that I believe this nation cannot afford to ignore right now. We would be making the same mistake that Reverend Wright made: to simplify and stereotype and amplify the negative to the point that it distorts reality. The fact is that the comments that have been made and the issues that have surfaced over the last few weeks reflect the complexities of race in this country that we've never really worked through, a part of our union that we have not yet made perfect. And if we walk away now, if we simply retreat



ZIA NIZAMI/MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Sen. Obama announces his candidacy for president of the United States in Springfield, Ill., on Feb. 10, 2007.



BRIAN BAER/MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Sen. Obama, his wife Michelle, and daughters Malia, left, and Sasha wave to the crowd after the triumph in Iowa that made Obama the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination.

into our respective corners, we will never be able to come together and solve challenges like health care or education or the need to find good jobs for every American. ...

"For the African-American community, that path means embracing the burdens of our past without becoming victims of our past. It means continuing to insist on a full measure of justice in every aspect of American life. But it also means binding our particular grievances, for better health care and better schools and better jobs, to the larger aspirations of all Americans — the white woman struggling to break the glass ceiling, the white man who's been laid off, the immigrant trying to feed his family. And it means also taking full responsibility for our own lives — by demanding more from our fathers, and spending more time with our children, and reading to them, and teaching them that while they may face challenges and discrimination in their own lives, they must never succumb to despair or cynicism. They must always

believe — they must always believe that they can write their own destiny."

JUNE 3, 2008

Claiming the Democratic nomination, St. Paul, Minn.

■ A last-minute rush of Democratic superdelegates pushes him over the 2,118-delegate count

"There are those who say that this primary has somehow left us weaker and more divided. Well, I say that, because of this primary, there are millions of Americans who've cast their ballot for the very first time. There are independents and Republicans who understand this election isn't just about a change of party in Washington, but also about the need to change Washington. There are young people, and African Americans, and Hispanic Americans, and women of all ages who have voted in numbers that have broken records and inspired a nation.

"All of you chose to support a candidate you believe in deeply. But at the

end of the day, we aren't the reason you came out and waited in lines that stretched block after block to make your voice heard. ... You did it because you know in your hearts that at this moment ... we cannot afford to keep doing what we've been doing. We owe our children a better future. We owe our country a better future. And for all those who dream of that future tonight, I say: Let us begin the work together. Let us unite in common effort to chart a new course for America."

JULY 24, 2008

Campaign address, Berlin, Germany

■ In a nine-day sweep, visits Europe, Asia and the Middle East

"History reminds us that walls can be torn down. But the task is never easy. True partnership and true progress requires constant work and sustained sacrifice. They require sharing the burdens of development and diplomacy; of peace and progress. They require allies who will listen to each other, learn from each other and, most of all, trust each other. ...

"Now is the time to build new bridges across the globe as strong as the one that binds us across the Atlantic. Now is the time to join together, through constant cooperation and strong institutions and shared sacrifice and a global commitment to progress, to meet the challenges of the 21st century. It was this spirit that led airlift planes to appear in the sky above our heads, and people to assemble where we stand today. And this is the moment when our nations — and all nations — must summon that spirit anew."

NOV. 4, 2008

Election night victory, Chicago

■ Gains nearly 53 percent of the popular vote to McCain's 46 percent, putting him over the 270 electoral votes needed to win

"If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer.

"It's the answer told by lines that stretched around schools and churches in numbers this nation has never seen; by people who waited three hours and four hours, many for the very first time in their lives, because they believed that this time must be different; that their voices could be that difference.

"It's the answer spoken by young and old, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, gay, straight, disabled and not disabled — Americans who sent a message to the world that we have never been just a collection of individuals or a collection of red states and blue states; we are, and always will be, the United States of America!"

— The Sacramento Bee