

# Obama: so determined it just might work

The much anticipated presidential inauguration was not the only significant, historic event that took place this past January.

Former presidents Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, George H. W. Bush, current president George W. Bush and president-elect Barack Obama met at the White House earlier that month.

Obama said that he was very proud to "get advice, good counsel, and fellowship" from the former presidents, according to cnn.com.

Obama also stated that he would like to stay in touch with the ex-presidents.

It was at this meeting where George Bush delivered a bold statement that stepped on a few toes.

"One message that I have,

and I think we all share, is that we want you to succeed, whether we're Democrat or Republican we care deeply about this country," Bush said, as documented by Cnn.com.

Well said, Mr. Bush.

This powerful statement made many people think and further examine their thoughts.

Here our economy is going down the global wastebasket, deep down into an abyss, and citizens want to complain about it.

Of course, everyone has the right to complain about it due to the ever-too-often fluctuating gas prices, job loss, medicare restrictions, demotions, etc.

However, when a smart man, President Barack Obama, steps up to the plate with all kinds of plans and hopes to relieve this country, some citizens throw a temper

tantrum.

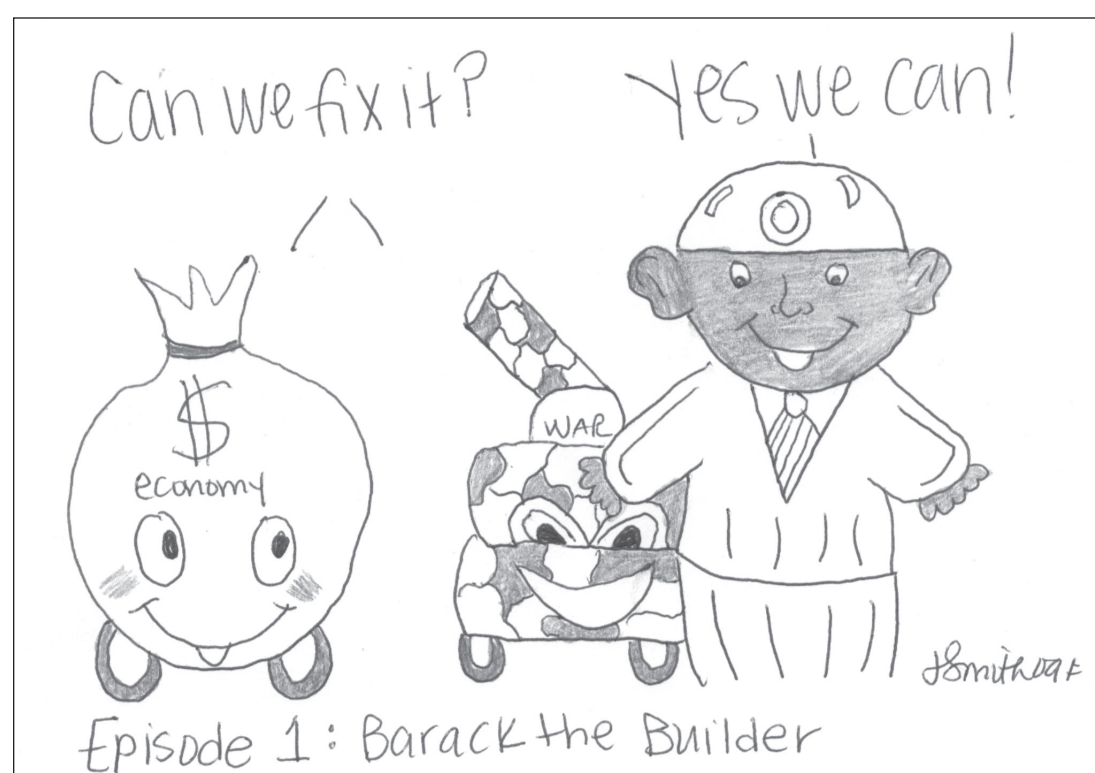
These people are either furious because their party did not win, or they want to play the immature race card.

President Barack Obama says he has a plan. He believes in it so much that just days after the announcement that revealed he was the new president-elect, Obama started hiring people to help and to work on his ideas.

He is enthused, confident and determined to fix this country.

This time, George Bush is definitely right. We should care about our country and support President Obama no matter what color or party he is.

When it comes down to it, we all want the same things: for our economy to work itself out and put us back on the financial track.



## Bush garners praise, criticism

By: Ashton Pittman  
Staff Writer

He has garnered both the highest and the lowest approval ratings in the history of the presidency.

He has been praised by an entire nation as a great leader for freedom, and later derided as a dictatorial warmonger by the same.

Finally, he has been accused of being the most inept man alive and of being an evil mastermind all at once.

Yet, for all the rhetoric, it is an undeniable fact that our 43rd president has dealt with more in his eight years than any president on this side of Abraham Lincoln.

Soon after George Walker Bush assumed the presidency in 2001, terrorists awoke America from its complacent slumber with the attacks of September 11.

As Bush spoke before a crowd of battle-worn rescue workers, one worker cried out, "I

can't hear you!"

In response, Bush made this bold declaration, "I can hear you! I can hear you! The rest of the world hears you, and the people who knocked these buildings down will hear all of us soon!"

An entire nation -- not divided by political affiliation, race or ideology -- rallied behind the man who had been thrust into the position of a wartime leader.

Over the next few years, America took its war against Islamic-extremists to Afghanistan and Iraq, initially with the support of most of the American people.

However, as the intense patriotism that had swept America after September 11 waned, partisanship and ideology began to creep back in, and with the aid of the news media and entertainment industry, opponents of Bush spent the remaining years of his tenure dismantling his legacy and smearing his reputation.

By the end of the 2004

election cycle, Bush had become the scapegoat for all of mankind's troubles.

Among these attributed to him were issues such as the lack of world peace, anti-American sentiment and global warming.

By the end of his presidency, he was also forced to bear the burden of guilt for the slow response to Hurricane Katrina and a severe economic downturn in his final months, both of which were government wide failures.

Yet for all the negativity surrounding him, I do not believe that history will view Bush as a failure.

Many past presidents, such as Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower, were absolutely despised during their time in office, and yet when judged by history, they are now seen as some of the greatest leaders we have had. The same will likely be true of Bush.

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## Names perpetuate stereotypes

By: Terrisha Buckley  
Features Editor

Let's pretend for a moment that we are employers. We are waiting for a person to come in for an interview. Her name is Shaquandra Bush, just as an example. It is time for an interview and in walks this tall blonde white woman wearing a business suit and says, "Hello, my name is Shaquandra."

I know what most of you are thinking. Something does not seem right here. We have an African-American name given to a white woman.

It is almost hilarious to think about how much a name tells about a person. For example, my name, Terrisha KeAndrea Nicole Buckley, is a big yellow sign that just screams BLACK WOMAN. It is sad to think about but true. I am a black woman.

Most people do not want to admit it, but we label people based on their names all of the time. The name, Bambi, usually results in thoughts of a bleach blonde "bimbo" who is basically an airhead. The funny thing about that is Bambi was a male deer. It is crazy how we come up with things like that.

Many people that read this article will be shocked at what I am saying. Why is that? Why can't we talk about some of the random thoughts

we have like stereotyping certain names? Are we so afraid of being offended and of offending others that we must become mutes?

I admit freely that if I was an employer and saw a name like Tiffany Brown, I would not expect a black woman to walk through the door. It is not an issue of racism or sexism. It is just the way that our minds work. Throughout our lives, we learn to save information in our minds as a result of our experiences.

Let me tell you, I have had some interesting experiences with names, mine in particular. It is very common to hear people mispronounce my name. It is not necessarily a shock. I have even taken to being called by a nickname to eliminate some of the confusion. People who are around me will probably never hear Terrisha as my name. My common nickname is Cookie.

That in itself is a funny situation. Imagine the look on a person's face when I introduce myself as Cookie. Usually names like Cookie fall into the category with names like Bambi. The initial thought is of a dim-witted white woman. However, I am still a black woman with a few more brain cells than that.

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## Separate months segregate people

By: Destin Morris  
Staff Writer

As a general rule segregation, the separation or isolation of a race, class or ethnic group, has been viewed as discrimination or a derogatory factor between races, but is segregation accepted when benefits a specific race?

The Black History month is a controversial topic in many conversation pieces.

Historically, this month celebrates those of African-American descent, but is this a separation from other races?

Is a month dedicated solely to one race an act of segregation in itself?

Black History Month traces its beginnings to 1926 when it began as a way to spot light the achievements of persons of African American heritage, achievements that had mostly been left out of history books.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson is given much of the credit for starting the observation.

What began as a noble cause may have turned into a method of segregating African-Americans from other races.

Why are African-Americans the only one with a separate month?

If it is politically correct to have a month specifically honoring a single race then why isn't there a Native American History Month or an Asian holiday for history?

So does Black History Month support segregation? Does it separate persons based on race? I believe it does.

However, I am not alone in my belief. Even some prominent African-Americans have similar sentiments.

"I don't want a black history month," actor Morgan Freeman said. "Black history is American history."

Author Lori Eldrige agreed with Freeman's views.

"Black History Month, or anything specifically titled to any race, is racism," she said in a news debate. "I say one is either

American, plain and simple, or not."

Rev. Martin Luther King's widow also believes any form of racial segregation is wrong.

"Segregation was wrong when it was forced by white people, and I believe it is still wrong when it is requested by black people," said Coretta Scott King.

To say that Black History Month is a controversial subject would be a serious understatement. Perhaps the question isn't does Black History Month support segregation, but how will this issue be resolved.

Should we set aside a month to celebrate each ethnic group's history and culture, or should we do away with these special months altogether to create equality again with the races?

If we truly wish to be "one nation" maybe it is time to do away with these special months and simply celebrate the historical accomplishments of all Americans twelve months out of the year.

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## Hallmark debuts new card series

By: Lisa Thompson  
Staff Writer

The forage into one of the only remaining groups who lack most of the rights of many Americans is slowly drawing more awareness from the American population.

Homosexuals have been openly "out" since the 1970's and since then they have been fighting to acquire the same rights as heterosexuals.

There are now many gay rights activist groups all over the United States helping in the battle to bring equality to all of the nation's people.

In response to this, the largest greeting card company in the world, Hallmark, has decided to bring this battle out in the open with a new line of same-sex wedding cards.

The cards feature different things, such as two tuxedos, overlapping hearts, and intertwined flowers along with phrases saying "Two Hearts,

One Promise."

While many disagree with homosexual rights and agree with many churches that believe being homosexual is an abomination, I fully agree and support homosexual rights.

My support is with the Hallmark Company. Because Massachusetts is the only state with legal marriage laws for homosexual couples, this is why the cards rarely say anything about marriage.

This way they can market to gay couples entering in civil unions or who proclaim their love for each other.

I am glad that someone has finally acknowledged that America has many different types of people, not just races, but in sexual preferences as well.

I believe that this country was founded on the principles of equality; therefore, we have to show equality to all of its residents by allowing everyone to have the same rights as everyone else.

## February offers numerous holidays

By: Shauna Sherman  
Staff Writer

Here it is, that month again: February, a month famous for love. Valentine's Day is celebrated everywhere. Love happens to everyone around the world. Love is all in the air.

Another famous February day is Groundhog's Day. These cute little holidays seem pretty popular with today's culture. Are they ridiculous, though? Moreover, did you know, there are more than just those?

Valentine's Day seems to be a sweet little holiday. Chocolate and gifts are nice, but what about people who do not have that special someone? Is it fair to have Valentine's Day? It is obvious that this is a day for couples. Everything says something like "Be Mine."

I bet the single people love that. I know that before when, I was single, I always felt left out on this day.

My mom always sent my brothers and me something though. Still, is Valentine's Day fair for the singles out there? Maybe we should have a "Single's Day."

As for Groundhog's Day, does anyone even see the groundhog or a shadow or whatever? I surely never have.

Another event in February is Black History Month. This is good. It takes the time to recognize all the wonderful things that famous African-Americans have done.

Sometimes we need that reminder of history and who did what. However, more than just the black people did great things.

Maybe there should be a "White History" month, an "Asian History" month, and so on.

There are other unique holidays in February. Did you know that February is National Cherry

Month and National Embroidery Month. Those are crazy to me. Do people really celebrate these? Maybe we could combine them and embroider cherries on something.

February is also National Grapefruit Month. I do not like grapefruit. I like bananas though. Therefore, I declare February National Banana Month.

It is also National Bird Feeding Month and Responsible Pet Owner's Month. So break out the bird feeders and show your pet some love.

Here are some more days people recognize in February. Who does not love Sesame Street's Elmo? Well, February 3 is his birthday. My birthday is December 12. Can that be a holiday day for the world? February 10 is Umbrella Day.

The 13th is Get a Different Name Day. The 14th is Ferris Wheel Day. The 17th is Random Acts of Kindness Day. That should be a national holiday every day.

I do not know who makes these days or why they wasted time for some of these days. Maybe they are just fun days.

That is fine, but are they national holiday material? Some important ones that seem unnoticed are National Organ Donor Day or George Washington's Birthday. February is also National Heart Association Month. These days need more attention.

That is the same with everything in life. We cannot please everyone. Obviously some of these special days did not please me.

Some seem frivolous while others merit more attention.

So, readers, take the time to think about those organ donors. Take the time to think about black history, even white history or whatever.

And, if you know someone who wants to declare something crazy like a National Cucumber Day, knock some sense into him or her!