

Locals shred Obama's first year

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Clackamas Print

er a year ago, following
ther King Jr. Day, we,
ed and hopeful nation,
ed a powerful historical
inauguration of the 44th
Barack Obama. Obama
ed under the banner of
"change."

more than a year after
ce, Obama's approval
at 50 percent.

ing to St. Petersburg
b site Politifact, utiliz-
called "The Obameter,"
used to measure the suc-
cesses and everything in
Obama's campaign, of
promises Obama made
campaign trail, he has ful-
filled them.

imately 277 of these
are currently "in the
flowever, over 100 of
campaign promises have
not been fulfilled or broken.

them, he promised to
the military from Iraq
months of his inaugura-
tion a socialized medical
system which would allow every
man and child to have
affordable health care,
at Guantanamo Bay.

stands everyone has a
opinion on what is going
on with the government as well as
the president.

primary issue that impacts
many of students is educa-
tion which Obama dedicated a
lot of his State of the Union
speech to Wednesday.

he said, "Still, in this
country a high school diploma
no longer guarantees a good job.
The Senate to follow the
president pass a bill that will
help our community colleges,

which are a career pathway to
the children of so many working
families.

"To make college more afford-
able, this bill will finally end the
unwarranted taxpayer-subsidies
that go to banks for student loans.
Instead, let's take that money and
give families a \$10,000 tax cred-
it for four years of college and
increase Pell Grants.

"And let's tell another 1 million
students that when they graduate,
they will be required to pay only
10 percent of their income on
student loans, and all of their debt
will be forgiven after 20 years
— and forgiven after 10 years if
they choose a career in public
service.

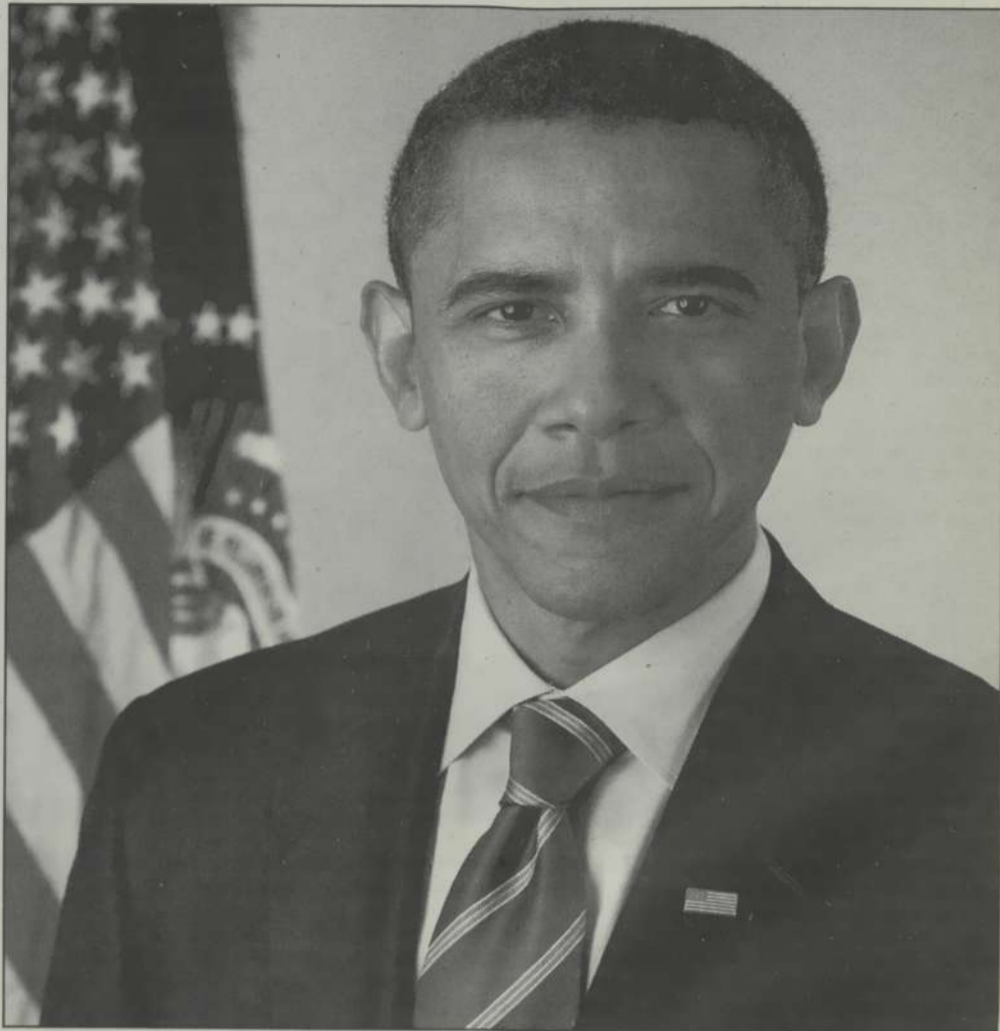
"Because in the United States of
America, no one should go broke
because they chose to go to col-
lege. And it's time for colleges and
universities to get serious about
cutting their own costs — because
they, too, have a responsibility to
help solve this problem."

"I think sometimes he says this
stuff to get us excited. I think a
lot of the youth voted for him,
and he is saying this to keep them
with him," said Amy Liebertz, a
student at Clackamas Community
College while waiting for her next
class.

As for pulling troops out of
the war in Iraq, Kellie Young, a
student, said, "My boyfriend was
in Iraq; I don't think they can
be just pulled out, we need to
gradually do it. I really don't think
that there's [a] way we can go to
another culture and expect them to
follow the way we do things."

Other students have different
concerns when it comes to with-
drawing our troops.

"He's pulling troops from
Iraq to put them in Afghanistan.
What's the point? You're still in a
war, you're still overseas; you're



Whitehouse.gov

still fighting over oil. It's ridicu-
lous. We should be focusing our
money on new types of energy and
becoming eco-friendly because no
matter how hard we fight it will
run out," said Melissa Smith, also

a student at Clackamas.

In one of his campaign speech-
es, Obama stated, "When there's
a bill that ends up on my desk as
president, you the public will have
five days to look online and find
out what's in it before I sign it."

So far that has not been the
case from the Oval Office.

In the case of health care
reform, Obama ensures that he
will "have all the negotiations
around a big table. We'll have
doctors and nurses and hospital
administrators. Insurance compa-
nies, drug companies — they'll
get a seat at the table; they just
won't be able to buy every chair.
But what we will do is, we'll have
the negotiations televised on C-
SPAN, so that people can see who
is making arguments on behalf
of their constituents, and who are
making arguments on behalf of the
drug companies or the insurance
companies."

So far, according to "The
Obameter," there is a lot of confu-
sion as to what health care will
have in store.

For many, the biggest concern
with health care reform is that
nobody knows exactly what is
covered in the 2,074 page bill.
This leads to a high number of
interpretations. Some people have
an inaccurate view of the bill. The
rest have an incomplete under-
standing from having such a large
bill issued.

"From what I've heard, it's
going to be like car insurance. It's
[going to be] illegal not to have
health insurance; however, if you
can't pay for health insurance, it
will turn into a socialist method
where the government will pay for
it. Personally, I think Obama is not
looking into the future [to] see how
our economy is during a recession.
You're going to have over half the
population that can't afford health
insurance," said Smith.

According to another CCC stu-
dent, Justin Pelsey, "I think that
national health care is a horrible
idea in the sense they are present-
ing because basically I wouldn't

be able to sit outside and do this
[smoke]. With national health care,
it would come to a point [where]
you're becoming a liability to your
country, and to other people who
don't smoke, and you're costing
other people money. Just like if
someone vandalized a school, it's
public property. If the government
is paying for your health, they
own you. You can't go and vandal-
ize a school, it's federal property
so you can't sit here and have a
smoke and vandalize your body
when you know it's going to be
costing taxpayer's money."

Pelsey believes that things
won't change overnight, instead
saying that future generations will
be weaned away from those sub-
stances.

One of the other promises
made was that Guantanamo Bay,
also known as Gitmo, would be
closed by Jan. 22, 2010, and as
of Feb. 1, 2010, that goal has not
been fulfilled.

"America is going to do inhu-
mane things to get information
they have for years in every type
of war; it's just now coming to the
forefront that the American people
know what's going on. However,
I don't think that [it's] our call to
take prisoners and torture them for
information, because we haven't
gotten any, it hasn't worked, so
why are we continuing to do it?"
said Smith.

However as with every other
topic there are always two sides,
according to Young, "I think clos-
ing Guantanamo Bay is absurd,
I believe those people are there
for a reason, and they should stay
there. I don't think they should
be brought over here; I think we
should get as much information
from those people as possible, not
necessarily torture them, but get
information."

Many other students have
mixed feelings about these issues.
The main feelings that are being
expressed are about the promised
hope for change. That desire is
still what is driving many forward
through tough economic times.

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