

# President Obama! *Historic journey begins*

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Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, a legendary Democrat who is suffering from brain cancer. He suffered an apparent seizure at a Senate luncheon in honor of Obama. "This is a joyous time but it's also a sobering time," Obama said. "And my prayers are with him and his family and (Kennedy's wife) Vicki."

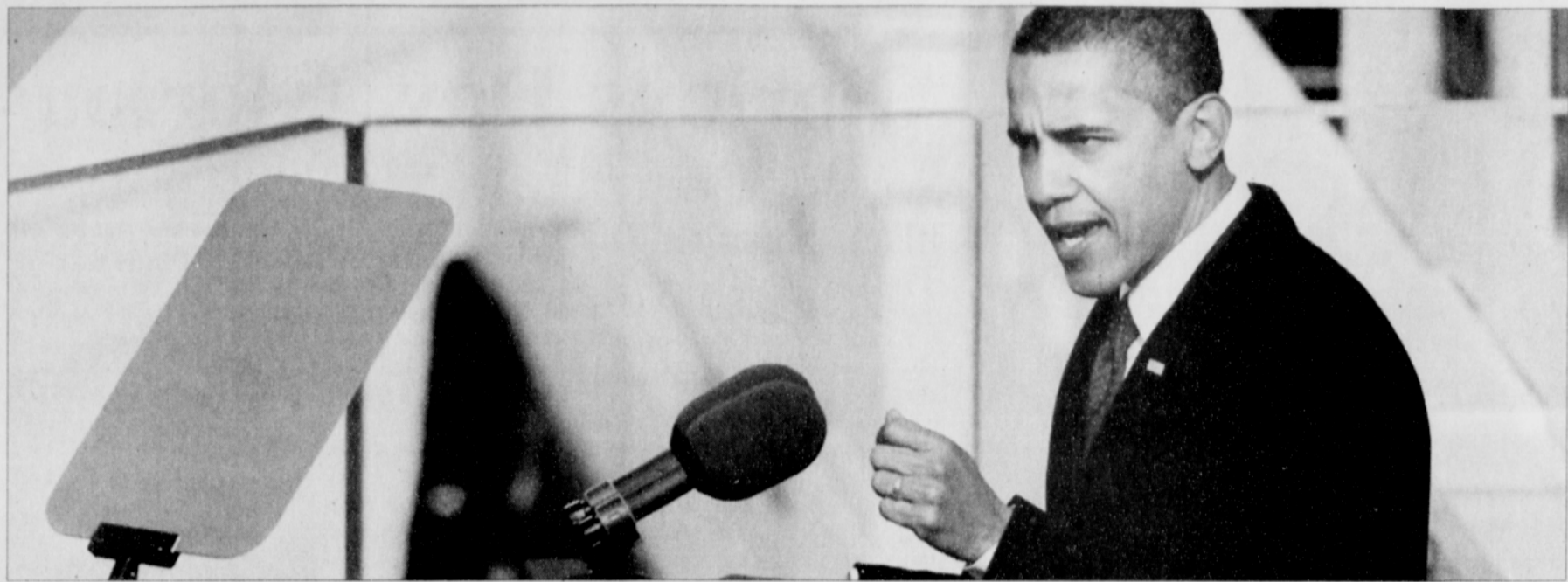
As Kennedy was put into an ambulance, he told Senate colleague Chris Dodd, D-Conn., "I'll be OK, I'll see you later," according to Dodd.

Obama wove a thread of personal responsibility and accountability through his inaugural address. He spoke of a "new era of responsibility" and alluded to the inability—or unwillingness—of Americans to adjust to the passing of an industrial-based economy. "Our economy is badly weakened, a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some, but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age," he said.

After four hours of pomp and ceremony at the Capitol, Obama and his wife, Michelle, rode in a tall, heavily armored Cadillac limousine along the 1.5 mile parade route to the White House. There was a heavy police and military presence along the way, and thousands of onlookers waving from the side.

Two years after beginning his improbable quest as a little-known, first-term Illinois senator with a foreign-sounding name, Obama moved into the Oval Office as the nation's fourth-youngest president, at 47, and the first African-American, a barrier-breaking achievement believed impossible by generations of minorities.

He said it was a moment to recall "that all are equal, all are free and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness." In another racial reference, he paid tribute to workers in the



In his inaugural speech, President Barack Obama declares the nation must choose 'hope over fear' and 'unity of purpose over conflict and discord.'



Spectators wave flags as they wait on the National Mall on the morning of the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States at his inauguration ceremony in Washington, D.C.

who seek to sow conflict, or blame their society's ills on the West—know that your people will judge you on what you can build, not what you destroy."

"To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history, but that we will extend a

*With old friends and former foes, we will work tirelessly to lessen the nuclear threat, and roll back the specter of a warming planet.* —President Barack Obama

past who "endured the lash of the whip and plowed the hard earth."

Obama's election was cheered around the world as a sign that America will be more embracing, more open to change. "To the Muslim world," Obama said, "we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect."

Still, he bluntly warned, "To those leaders around the globe

hand if you are willing to unclench your fist," Obama said in his address, which ran 18 1/2 minutes.

A mighty chorus of cheers erupted as he stepped to the inaugural platform, a midday sun warming the crowd that had waited for hours in the cold. There were some boos when Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney came onto the platform.

The dawn of the new Demo-

## Mayor Battles Sex Scandal

A contrite Mayor Sam Adams has apologized to Portland for lying about a sexual relationship with a teenage male but asked the city to consider it an anomaly in two decades of public service.

He held a press conference Tuesday and said he had no plans to resign.

But under questioning, he said that he would resign if, as he put it, "it were no longer in the city's best interests that I stay."

While running for mayor, the openly gay Adams denied a 2005 sexual relationship with Beau Breedlove of Salem.

He says the relationship was legal — Breedlove had turned 18 — but inappropriate.

Adams first met Breedlove when Breedlove was a 17-year-old aide at the Oregon Legislature.

"I should have been honest at



Sam Adams

the time when this first surfaced in 2007. But I didn't believe that given the way that rumors were being spread—about whether I had broken the law by having sex with a minor—that people would believe me," Adams said.

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