

In memory of Joyce Washington We miss you mom

OPINION

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Glorious Day, Glorious Result

America's first black president

The following is an editorial of the Portland Observer:

Barack Obama's inauguration as the 44th president of the United States was a glorious day for all Americans.

By becoming the first Afristates that all men are created

Democracy made this his-

toric day possible.

By a clear majority, people of all backgrounds rejected the racial biases of the past and voted for a person who had proved his qualifications for the highest office in the land and as our commander in chief.

As a community organizer, fulfills the promise in our Decla- and U.S. Senator, Barack Obama ration of Independence which ran a campaign that reached out to the American people. He im-

pressed America with his oratory skills and intellect.

He earned support from all demographics, regardless of race and ideology, but especially from the many drum majors for equality and civil rights.

This doesn't mean racial divisions have ended. We know the hurtful hate of prejudices still cause great harm and must can American president, Obama constitutional law professor be confronted today and to-

But the inauguration of a per-

the ideal that children anywhere can aspire to become president themselves.

President Obama fulfills the dream of our great civil rights hero, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who looked for that day when a person is America is judged on their character and not the color

of their skin. America judged character.

Obama's inauguration as the first African American President is a grand result of the long son of color is a fulfillment of fight for equality and justice.

Happy 70th Birthday Kathrine Curry PROVERBS 31

Love from your children, grandchildren and great grandkids



Enduring Power of a Dream

Barack Obama brings new chapter

BY RALPH B. EVERETT

Today we begin a new chapter in the story of America and in the promise it holds for all people.

Two hundred and thirty-three years after our country was founded on bedrock principles of can now occupies the highest elected office in the land. Behind that simple fact are many tales about the arc of our history and the people who have helped bend it toward this moment.

President Barack Obama has human equality, an African Ameri- already begun to set a new direc-

burdens that have been placed on his shoulders.

But for the rest of us, especially those who never thought they would live to see this day, it is a time to pause and reflect on the wonders of our democracy and the enduring power of the dream that has been carried through the ages from the founding fathers to Dr. King and into the present day.

It is a time to teach our children about the new possibilities that are now theirs to behold.

And while the vision of a more

tion to address the enormous perfect union now seems closer to our grasp, our new President has noted that there is a long road ahead of us.

> At the same time, he has spoken eloquently about a new spirit of service and responsibility in which each American is called upon to look after not only ourselves, but each other.

> We wholeheartedly endorse that message and pledge to carry it forward in every aspect of our

> Ralph B. Everett is president of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

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Enormous Positive Change

BY REA CAREY

America made history today with the swearing-in of Barack Obama as its 44th presi-

It is our hope this truly marks

the dawn of a new political era of bisexual and transgender people engagement in the life of this coun-

In his speech, the president and solution. spoke of our nation's need to all deserve a chance to pursue change."\

their full measure of happiness." cant strides in advancing this bian Task Force.

'noble idea' toward fullfledged reality, but we're not there yet. Too many people continue to face discrimination and hardship.

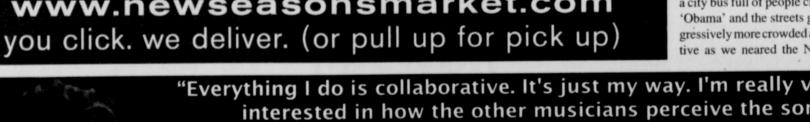
As President Obama assumes the role of America's foremost leader, we call upon him to fulfill the promise of a nation where lesbian, gay,

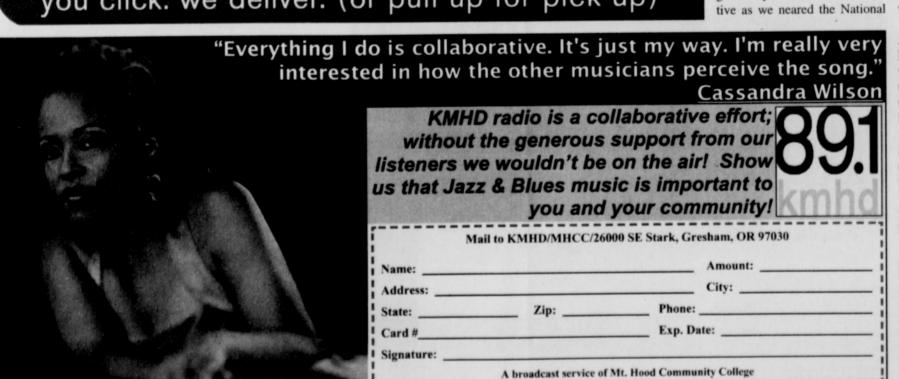
are recognized and valued as part of this country's strength, spirit

The fact that the official White reaffirm its enduring spirit and House Web site was updated just "carry forward that precious gift, this afternoon with a list of comthat noble idea ... [the] promise mitments to LGBT rights is althat all are equal, all are free, and ready enormous positive

Rea Carey is executive direc-Our country has made signifi- tor of the National Gay and Les-









President Obama's Leadership

BY SEN. JEFF MERKLEY

As I traveled to the Capitol of excitementall overthis city. At one point, Mary and I went passed a city bus full of people chanting gressively more crowded and fes-

There was a tremendous feeltoday, I could feel a growing sense ing of purpose and a readiness to embark on a new chapter in our nation's history.

President Obama really cap-'Obama' and the streets got pro-tured the difficult place we are in as a country - faced with two wars and a broken economy.

He observed, however, that America has faced difficult challenges before. And as we have worked together to overcome those challenges, we will work together to overcome what lies before us.

President Obama appropriately gave a serious speech - not one full of applause lines but one that really outlined the problems we face and prepared the nation for the difficult choices we will have to make to get back on track.

I know I join all Americans in pledging to work with President Obama to take the necessary steps to restore peace and prosperity, and ensure that we are all able to fulfill our God-given potential.

Jeff Merkley of Portland is the newly elected U.S. Senator from Oregon.