

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Black History in the Making

### A witness to President Obama's historic inauguration

*Editor's note: Queenie Samuel of Vancouver was in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 20 to witness President Barack Obama's inauguration as the first African American president. Here is her story in her own words:*  
BY QUEENIE SAMUEL

No matter where you were or what you were doing on Jan. 20, 2009, you became apart of history when Barack Hussein Obama, a black man became

the 44th President of the United States of America.

Nearly one month ago today, I stood in 28 degree weather with a wind chill that made it feel like 18 degrees, but I was not cold, the voices inside of me were warming my body and my heart.

This was the presence of history being recorded and there was nothing I could say that hadn't already been said -



Barack Obama enters the Oval Office of the White House on his first day as President of the United States of America.



Vancouver resident Queenie Samuel traveled to Washington, D.C. for the historic inauguration of the nation's first black president. The photography shows her outside the U.S. Capitol Building where the ceremonies took place.

this day was a promise fulfilled, a day when we came together regardless of race and lived in peace and harmony.

I had traveled some 2,500 miles from Portland to Washington, D.C. to witness a black man who I had never heard of some 24 months ago, take the oath of office. I missed seeing the young senator from Illinois, when he gave his famous speech at the Democratic National Convention in 2004- which many say, projected him onto the national stage.

Looking almost a year ago, to when I first watched news footage of this handsome, bright, articulate, for-

midable black man announce his candidacy for President of the United States, my mind raced back to the three other black Americans that had taken up this challenge in my life time- Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, Rev. Jesse Jackson and Rev. Al Sharpton.

I also thought of the dismal chance for election Obama would have, given history and racial acceptance in America. But over the next few weeks I took time to read, listen and become familiar with his message regarding life, hope and the chance for a better

future for all people.

I came to realize that Obama was the person who has been given the gifts to help change a nation and a world. Soon I was offering my services whenever or wherever they were needed -- by volunteering, fund raising, and walking and talking up his election projections and policies as I understood them.

On the morning of Nov. 5, after Sen. Obama had won the General Election and became President-elect, I knew I

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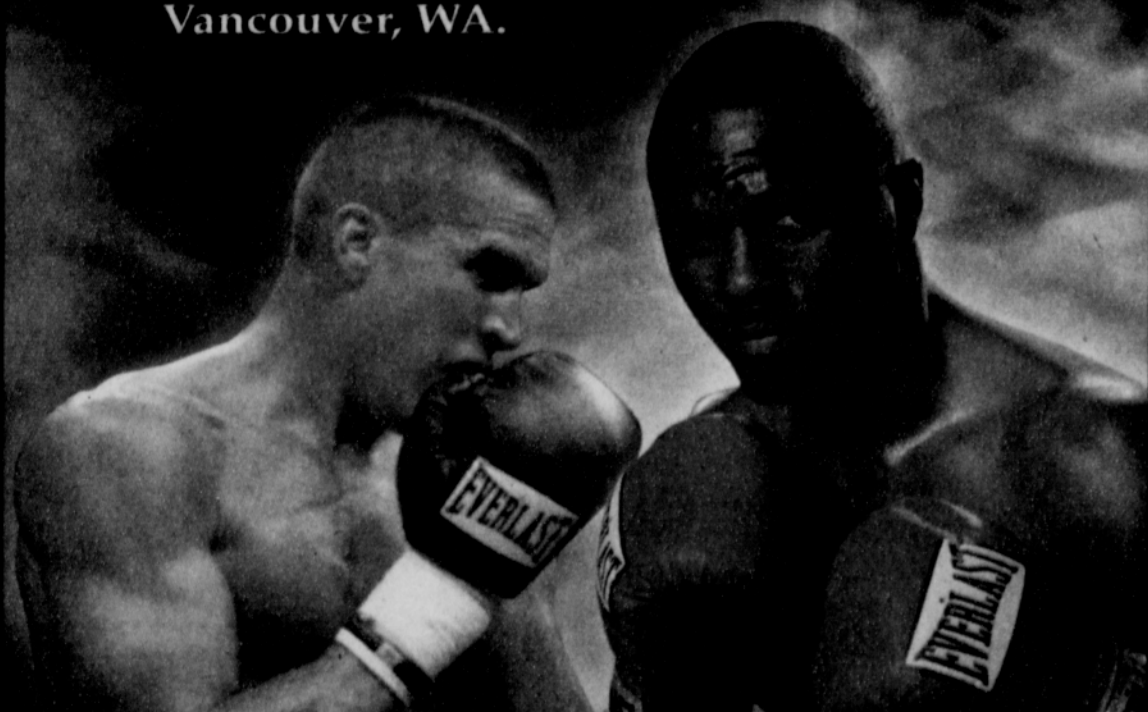
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