

Obama Challenges Kids on Education

Urges students to take pride, ownership

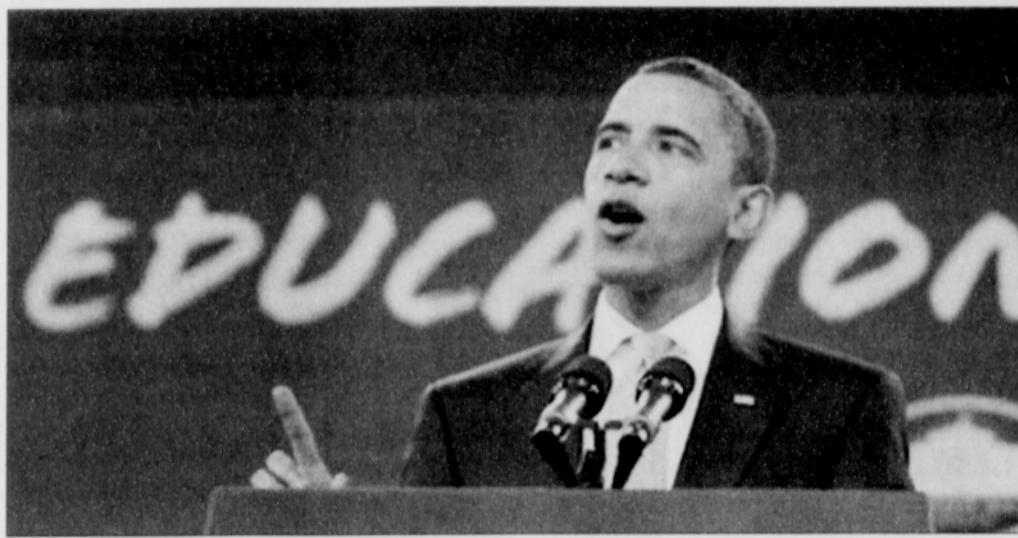
(AP) -- In a pep talk that kept clear of politics, President Barack Obama on Tuesday challenged the nation's students to take pride and ownership in their education — and stick with it even if they don't like every class or must overcome tough circumstances at home.

"Every single one of you has something that you're good at. Every single one of you has something to offer," Obama told students at Wakefield High School in suburban Arlington, Va., and children watching his

speech on television in schools across the country. "And you have a responsibility to yourself to discover what that is."

Presidents often visit schools, and Obama was not the first one to offer a back-to-school address aimed at millions of students in every grade. Yet this speech came with a dose of controversy, as several conservative organizations and many concerned parents warned Obama was trying to sell his political agenda. That concern was caused in part by an accompanying administration lesson plan encouraging students to "help the president," which the White House later revised.

Obama preceded his broad-scale talk with a meeting with



President Barack Obama delivers a speech on education Tuesday at Wakefield High School in Arlington, Va. (AP Photo)

Wakefield students, where at one point he advised them to "be careful what you post on Facebook. Whatever you do, it will be pulled up again later somewhere in your life."

Obama, accompanied by Education Secretary Arne Duncan, met with some 40 students gathered in a school library before the speech carried on ESPN and on the White House Web site.

"When I was your age,"

Obama said, "I was a little bit of a goof-off. My main goal was to get on the varsity basketball team and have fun."

Obama said that not having a father at home "forced me to grow up faster."

One young person asked the president whom he would choose to dine with if he could make only one such selection.

"Gandhi," Obama replied. "He's somebody I find a lot of inspiration in. He inspired Dr.

(Martin Luther) King" with his message of nonviolence.

"He ended up doing so much and changed the world just by the power of his ethics," Obama said of the inspirational leader Mahatma Gandhi. At another point, Obama told the students that "a lot of people are counting on me."

Obama proceeded later with the speech the White House had released a day early, virtually unchanged. The school he

chose as the setting for his talk — Wakefield — is the most economically and racially diverse school in Arlington County, according to the Department of Education. Nearly 40 percent of graduating seniors pass an Advanced Placement test. That's more than twice the national average.

"There is no excuse for not trying" he said in the speech. He said students must be individually responsible for their education, and that it's important to work hard, pay attention in school and complete assignments.

"Whatever you resolve to do, I want you to commit to it," Obama said. "The truth is, being successful is hard. You won't love every subject that you study. You won't click with every teacher that you have."

"At the end of the day, we can have the most dedicated teachers, the most supportive parents and the best schools in the world, and none of it will matter unless all of you fulfill your responsibilities," the president said.

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The event kicks off Sunday, Sept. 13 at the Roloff Farm in Washington County with a silent auction that will include items including celebrity-hosted dinners, vacations to Jamaica and Tuscany, a Rockstar mini motorcycle, good from local businesses, and others.

The next day, Pumpkin Ridge's Ghost Creek Golf Club will host an 18-hole course golf scramble. Special prizes will be awarded for team net, long drive, closest to the pin, and hole-in-one.

For more information, visit amyrolloffcharityfoundation.org.



Michael Harper, former Portland Trail Blazer, and Amy Roloff of TLC television's "Little People, Big World," promote a golf charity event.

Garlington

continued from Front

productive lives," said Baker.

Angel recalls how the staff's care extended beyond the center, and helped her with little things, like getting a couch for her place.

A refurbished building isn't the only thing new about the center. It now has neighbors that Cascadia is hoping will complement Garlington's mission.

One of the additions will be the North by Northeast Community Health Center, which has provided free healthcare and medication to 2,500 residents in need since it was founded in 2006.

North by Northeast clinic Manager Suzy Jeffreys describes the old clinic on Williams Avenue as small and quirky, and that the new building is a real upgrade.

"It'll be a little adjustment," she said of making regulars feel at home.

Walker and Jeffreys said they are looking into ways the clinics can work together on the health needs of their patients.

The Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center, also run by Cascadia, is now in the same building as Garlington after moving from its decrepit building on Southeast Belmont Street.

The resource center offers free counseling to gay, lesbian, transgender, or questioning youth ages 14 to 23. It also provides support groups in addition to a safe and relaxed environment.

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Dear Deanna!

My boyfriend revealed to me that he's gay. On the outside everything about him is masculine, strong and reflects a genuine man. We do things together as a couple, have great intimacy and often talked about having children. How in the world did I miss the signs and should I stay in this relationship? --Anonymous; Augusta, GA

Dear Anonymous:

In these days, you can't judge a book, man or woman by its cover. There's too many emotional and health risks if you choose to stay in this relationship. You didn't miss the signs because you simply didn't know to look for any. However, you should applaud his honesty because most down low men are liars and don't tell the women about their lifestyle. Count your loss, be thankful for the blessed revelation and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

A close friend of mine date's a girl who's using him. He works hard, gives her his paycheck and worships the ground she walks on because she's cute. She talks down to him, and has other men in the house while he's working. Now it's at the point where none of the guys

Ask Deanna!
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visit because they don't want to deal with his girlfriend. --Stan; Morganton, NC

Dear Stan:

Take your spoon out of your friend's Kool-Aid and mind your business. Has he raised his hand for help or come to you for advice? If he wants to work like a dog, look like a fool and feed other men off his paycheck, let him. They must be happy because she hasn't left and he hasn't kicked her out. You and your friends have the right to be concerned but he's a grown man and knows exactly what time it is.

Dear Deanna!

I'm married but often go on

weekend trips with my friends. My husband issued an ultimatum to adjust my schedule but I chose not to. He threatened me and said he would leave if I chose my friends instead of going with him to his family reunion. I went on my trip. When I returned, he was gone, the house was empty and utilities disconnected. He won't talk to me and now wants a divorce and I don't know what to do? --Tamara; Louisville, KY

Dear Tamara:

It's hard to imagine a girlie trip that's so good it would make you forsake your marriage, unless you're cheating. Perhaps your friends can give you a cozy couch to sleep on since you put them before your husband. Your decision was foolish, immature and disrespectful. Reach out to your husband and invite him to a friendly location for a huge apology, an explanation and much needed counseling to help with issues you both obviously have.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! at the email askdeanna@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

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