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Making History - A Year in Review

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# First Black President Marks Eventful Year

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Just shy of a year ago, a young senator from Illinois stood on a stage in the U.S. capital, and took one of the country's most sacred oaths while much of the world watched in jubilation.

When Barack Obama became the nation's first black President, he broke a racial barrier that few thought possible.

The U.S. has always been a diverse and complex country -- built through the sweat, blood and struggles of an array of people. But to African Americans and other supporters of equality and civil rights, Obama's election vindicated the efforts of those that worked so hard to make that day possible.

President Obama took the reigns of a country riddled with daunting problems. And a year into his administration, he still faces a number of challenges.

He has spent sizable chunks of his political capital on enacting a massive stimulus package to stave off economic collapse. He is push-

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*'I think that there is a shift in perspective.'*  
— Melissa Kerry

*'Nothing has changed. Not enough is being done for people in the U.S.'*  
— Dennis Hudson



*'He is making change.'*  
— Huey Martin

*'But it's a long process.'*  
— Rita Pierce