

INAUGURAL EDITION

Jan/Feb 2009

HISTORY IS MADE JAN. 20, 2009

On Tuesday, January 20, 2009, President Barack Hussein Obama was sworn in as the first African American President of the United States. A large amount of the student body was able to watch some of the inauguration from the CCMS auditorium throughout the day. This inaugural event was very different from previous ones for many reasons. Those watching on T.V. or the Internet consisted of 37.8 million live viewers. There were many people who came to see the ceremony in person despite the very cold weather. Several singing acts were performed before the swearing in and some even performed afterwards.

One thing that I'm sure was new to viewers was the fact that the Oath of Office did not run 100% smoothly. Chief Justice

John Roberts misread the oath swearing in the new president. The next day, Barack Obama was sworn in again clearly and mistake free. Another thing that made this a historical day was that he is the first African American President. The speech was very strongly worded. His strongest words were "hope over fear" which contradicted the past administration.

Watching the inauguration from the auditorium was very exciting. Sometimes it was a little bit hard to focus because there were students and teachers moving in and out continually to view this historic event but overall it was an experience that viewers will



never forget. The newspaper club would like to say a special thank you to Mr. This who came in on Martin Luther King Day to set up the screen for us. We greatly appreciate it and it was very cool to be able to watch. Congratulations President Obama! - Sami R.

•“On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord.”-
President Obama
January 20, 2009

DRAGON FIRE NEWSPAPER STAFF

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- Mike R.
- Jensine O.
- Kaitlyne H
- Shannon M.

Who was watching?

A lot of people watched the Inauguration. To be more specific, almost 37.8 million people watched this event. Some of the famous people who attended were Sting, Rachel Cook, Oprah, Muhammad Ali, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Magic Johnson, Denzel Washington, and Aretha Franklin (singer of *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*) just to name a few. Two hundred forty thousand tickets were issued to lucky people who were able to attend this historic, but cold, event. An estimated 1.8 million people attended the 2009 Inauguration, a record breaking number for any event in the nation's capitol.

Can you guess how many port-o-potties there were for the inauguration? Five thousand were shipped to the U.S. Capitol. They estimated 1 portable toilet for every 300 people. Do the math; that would mean the committee appeared to be expecting 1.5 million people at the event. Obviously, they came up a little short! - Kaitlyne H. and Sarah B.

Who Performed?

It was just too cold. While we watched, cellist Yo-Yo Ma was not actually playing his cello during Barack Obama's televised inauguration. Complaining that it was "wicked cold," the musician pretended to perform while piping in a prerecorded track. Others who didn't find it too cold were the poet, D. Elizabeth Alexander, who recited the poem *Praise for the Day*, which was reviewed as defiantly original but poorly written. Aretha Franklin who sang *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*, found a way to beat the cold by wearing that attention drawing gray hat. What was up with that hat? I personally thought it was beautiful and eye catching. I also heard the Smithsonian has asked her to donate the hat but she is still thinking it over.—Autum F.

Inaugural Luncheon

The event following the Inauguration was the special luncheon held in honor of this historic day. At this luncheon they served foods that Lincoln had at his meal. The first course they served was seafood stew. The main course was brace of pheasant and duck, with sour cherry chutney and molasses sweet potatoes. Lastly, for dessert, they had apple cinnamon cake.

Each President gets to choose a painting that is on display during his luncheon. President Obama chose a painting called "The Views of Yosemite Valley." The painting was borrowed from the New York Historical Society. This painting represents an important event in Lincoln's presidency—the signing of the Yosemite Grant which made this area public. President Obama admired so many different aspects of President Lincoln's work.

During the luncheon, Sen. Ted Kennedy suffered a seizure. He was rushed to a nearby hospital and luckily released the following day. The seizure was blamed on the many hours in the cold weather and his medical condition.—Lauren C.

Inaugural Balls

There are many Inaugural events that took place on January 20, 2009. Some even ran over into January 21st. These were the Inaugural Balls. There are 10 official balls and President Obama and his wife attended them all. They were all held on the same day. The 10 official balls included The Neighborhood Inaugural Ball and The Commander-in-Chief's Inaugural Ball, where wounded soldiers, families of fallen heroes and spouses of active military were invited to attend. At the Youth Inaugural Ball, Kid Rock, Kanye West and Fall Out Boy performed. The Obama Home States, the Biden Home States, the Eastern, the Mid-Atlantic, the Midwest, the Southern and the Western made up the rest of the official ball list. President and Mrs. Obama attended them all and arrived to their new home, the White House, at about 1:30 a.m.—Jensine O.

TWO PRESIDENTS

Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of the United States of America, has changed the lives of millions. Now, 28 presidents later, on January 20, so did Barack Obama. Some actually believe that Obama is Lincoln reincarnated. Probably not, but there are many ironic similarities between the two. Obama could not have gotten to where he is today without Lincoln changing the world 144 years ago.

Here are some of the strange similarities between these two Presidents:

Obama was raised in Hawaii and Indonesia but his political career started when he lived in Illinois, as did Lincoln's. Neither of the two were raised by their own mothers. Lincoln was brought up by his step-mother and Obama nurtured by his grandmother. Both are tall and thin and captivating speakers. They both studied law before entering politics and wrote best selling books before becoming President. They each served for 8 years in the Illinois Legislature, one in the state house and the other in the state senate. Both were criticized for not having enough experience to run the country. Lincoln spoke out against the Mexican-American War; Obama spoke out against the war in Iraq and neither of them served in the military. When it came to the Inauguration, they both took trains into Washington, D.C. They were both sworn in with the same bible. I don't think it gets any more ironic than that. But there are also some differences. Somehow I doubt that Lincoln's parade was as long or the day as cold as President Obama's.

Many times in President Obama's speeches, he has made references to Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln talked about all men being created equal, President Obama is a perfect example of that. He is an intelligent, charming inspiration. He is President Lincoln's victorious touchdown dance to all his hard work.—Autum F.

First Kids Malia and Sasha move into the White House

Not only is President Barack Obama moving into the White House with his wife Michelle, but he is going to be joined by his 10 year old Malia and 7 year old Sasha. Their grandmother is also living in the White House with them. They are going to be switching from the life of average American kids to being in the public eye 24/7. It's a scary thought to always be surrounded by guards, cameras, and people watching your every move. A year ago, they were just like you. Would you be scared? If you said no to yourself, let's see if this changes your mind. Did you know that the White House has 132 rooms, 32 bathrooms and 6 floors? Also, there are 412 doors, 147 windows, 28 fireplaces, 7 staircases and 3 elevators. The White House requires 570 gallons of paint to cover the exterior. For the first kids to stay in shape there is a tennis court, jogging track, swimming pool, and a bowling lane. For the kids to relax there is a movie theater and a billiard room. To turn up the pressure, the White House receives about 6,000 visitors a day! The White House fence encloses 18 acres of land. Are you nervous yet? Well, you should be! To help them get used to all of these new rooms, the Obama girls went on a scavenger hunt the first night they stayed in their new home. When they finished the hunt, they opened the last door and they were greeted by the pop sensation, the Jonas Brothers. This was a great way to start their time at the White House. Hopefully, the girls will enjoy their new life.—Sami R.

WHITE HOUSE FASHIONS

Michelle Obama is part of history, too! Don't give President Obama all the credit! Standing in the crowd, Michelle sported a pale yellow (or gold, if you prefer) ensemble crafted by the amazing Isabel Toledo. The jewel colored lace coat sat over a couture pashmina and sheath dress. She stood out in the crowd and made herself noticed. We wonder how she could top that work of art!

At the inaugural ball, Mrs. Obama wore a white chiffon, one shoulder ball gown. She certainly dressed to impress! The First Lady shined as she waltzed the first dance with President

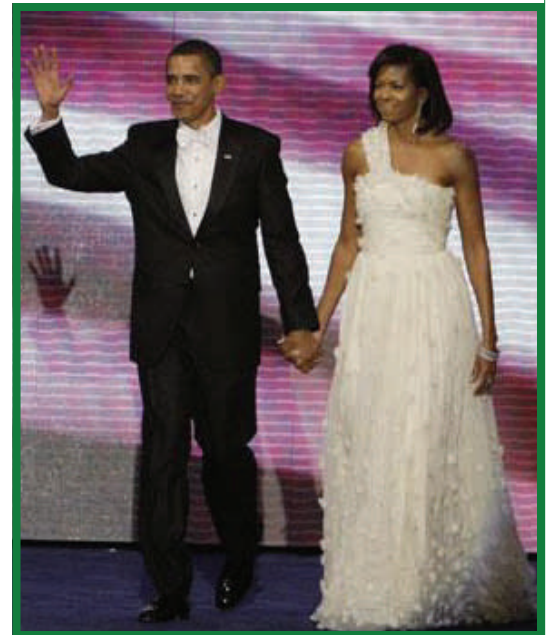


The coat was made of wool lace in a silk net, with silk underneath and a layer of pashmina for warmth.

Obama. This was all thanks to the amazing 26-year-old designer, Jason Wu. The only catch was what those outfits must have cost ... well, we can only imagine the long digits on those price tags. Mrs. Obama paid nothing for the gown and it will be donated to the Smithsonian. But the publicity will certainly payoff for these young designers.

Wondering which dress the public liked more? We wanted to find that out, too. So, we conducted our own poll. The ball gown won 8-3. At least our new first lady has a serious sense of style! - Elena B. and Mary B.

A beautiful, one-of-a-kind ivory silk chiffon dress with silk organza flowers, Swarovski crystal rhinestones and silver thread embroidery.



Style: Malia & Sasha Obama

On Tuesday, January 20th, Barack H. Obama was sworn in as President. Imagine your father becoming President of the United States? Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7, know what it is like. Why? Their father is the President! Sasha is in 2nd grade and Malia is a 5th grader. Malia and Sasha have a cool new house to live in and on their first night they enjoyed a scavenger hunt. They watched the movies; *Bolt* and *High School Musical 3*. They even got to meet the Jonas Brothers. The White House chef made them their favorite kind of pizzas.

What would you wear to your Dad's Inauguration? Malia wore a double

breasted, deep periwinkle blue coat. Sasha wore a guava pink coat with a coral pink dress with an orange scarf and gloves. Both coats were tied with velvet ribbons which matched their mom's dress tie. They were designed by Crewcuts, which is J.Crew for children.

Malia and Sasha are showing their style in other areas, too. On the first day of school, Sasha brought her *Ugly Doll™*. Malia took pictures at her Dad's Inauguration with the Kodak Easyshare m893™ which is 8.1MP.

Malia was born on the 4th of July. Wow! That's very patriotic! Sasha was born on June 10th. Sasha is one of the youngest children to live in the White House.

Remember the girls were promised a dog? They are going to get one but they don't know what kind yet. Malia is allergic to animal dander so their choices are limited. They think their best choices are a labradoodle or a Portuguese Water Hound. They are two lucky girls!- Amanda G.



Facts and Firsts of Presidential Inaugurations

Did You Know ?

1. Thomas Jefferson (3rd Pres.) was the first President to have an Inauguration in Washington, D.C.
2. Martin Van Buren (8th) was the first President not born a British subject.
3. William H. Harrison (9th) delivered the longest Inaugural address, 8445 words.
4. James Buchanan (15th) was the first President to have his Inauguration photographed.
5. At Abraham Lincoln's (16th) Inaugural parade, African Americans participated for the first time.
6. William McKinley (25th) was the first to have his Inauguration recorded by motion picture cameras.
7. Warren G. Harding (29th) was the first President to ride to and from his Inauguration in an automobile.
8. Franklin D. Roosevelt (32nd) was the only President to be sworn in 4 times.
9. Lyndon B. Johnson (36th) was the first President sworn in by a woman judge.
10. Richard Nixon (37th) took the oath of office on two bibles.
11. Ronald Reagan's (40th) Inauguration was the coldest ever recorded with a noon temperature of 7° F.
12. William Clinton (42nd) was the first to have his Inauguration put on the Internet.

- Alice M. and Lauren C.

Obama's First Hundred Days

As President Obama's campaign slogan said, 'change is coming' and in President Obama's first week as president, he has already signed 4 bills and has proposed 2 more bills for congress to approve. One of the bills that has already passed in congress is the "Stimulus Bill."

The Stimulus Bill - Without a single republican vote, President Obama won House approval on Wednesday, January 28, for a 819 billion dollar economic recovery plan as congressional democrats overcame their differences to pass the bill.

G.I.T.M.O. G.I.T.M.O., the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, is planned to be closed in one years time. The only problem is, where are the prisoners going to go? Many prisoners are cleared for release and others are to be sent back to their native countries and held there. President Obama hopes that the nations that resisted taking detainees will be more willing after dealing with the new administration.

Children's Health Care - On Friday, January 30, President Obama praised Congress for passing a bill extending

medical care to an extra 4 million children. Sadly, only 9 republicans voted for this bill. "As the worsening economy causes families to lose their jobs and health insurance, it is vital that every child in America has access to affordable healthcare," President Obama said in a statement.

Fair Pay Act The Fair Pay Act was proposed to Congress when a woman named Lilly Ledbetter protested for equal pay and opportunities for women in the work force. — Shannon M.

Left-handed President Obama signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

Left Handed Presidents

Throughout history, there have been 7 left-handed Presidents including President Obama. They are James A. Garfield, Herbert Hoover, Harry S. Truman, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, and George H.W. Bush.

Interestingly, 9 out of 10 of the entire world's population is right-handed. Because of this, most electronic devices, things that we use everyday, are made for right handed people. Some of these things are refrigerators, computer mice, scissors, can openers and guitars. At least being left-handed hasn't affected President Obama's use of his BlackBerry!—Mike. R.

