

The President is Black
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As Martin Luther King Jr. stood in front of the Lincoln Memorial and gave his “I Have a Dream” speech, no one expected the dream to be realized this early.

But it has!

Sen. Barack Obama is our new president and one of the most powerful politicians in the world. On Jan. 20, 2009, he will be sworn into office and can begin making the changes he spoke about.

But the youth of America have found the election more intriguing and have become more involved than ever before. With the economy in disarray, many college students wanted their voices heard.

Nigel Sharper, a student at the University of Minnesota, said, “Before, all we had was Will Smith as one of the few positive influences for a young black male. With prior generations of African Americans, they had leaders, like Martin, Malcolm, Rosa, Jesse, Al, Jackie, and Booker T., a lot of people known on a first-name basis. But mine now has a well-polished leader who shows us we can become anything, even the President.”

“With the dream realized every campus was rocking,” said Brittney Nettles, a junior at Emory University. “As I watched history happen, it just was not black people celebrating the dream. Everyone was partying.”

It seemed like every household, dorm room, watch party or radio at work was tuned in to election news. As Obama had 207 electoral votes and the polls were closing on the West Coast. “I was laying on my floor at my house, talking, when everything was

interrupted,” said Rashad Winters, a Morehouse College student. “I witnessed history and no matter what happens, I will remember where I was when Barack Obama became the first black President.” Then with a sigh he remained speechless, overmatched by emotion.

He was not alone.

Ashley Reese, a fourth-year student at Spelman College, said, “This is what my generation needed. We have seen something never seen before.” Reese kept repeating, “Rosa sat so Martin can dream, Martin dreamed so Barack can run, Barack ran so we can make change.”

But Obama may have just chosen the perfect time to run. He ran on the heels of what many Americans are calling the worst presidency in history and against an opposing candidate who embodied everything from the previous eight years.

He preached change. Being a young senator from Chicago’s Southside who started many organizations to help others, he knew what was wrong with today’s working class and what they needed.

The way he ran his campaign was like no other. He asked for college students and youth to donate just a little bit and built a winning campaign off of that.

He ran like a rock star and stood like a champion against those who wanted to see him fail. Whether it was his experience, qualifications, race, religion, or his family personal issues, he stood through and has changed history.

This election was not just change for African Americans to finally overcome. This was a change for the entire country, as red states turned blue; the Democrats took

greater control of the senate. Americans showed that they were diverse, open-minded and not stuck in the past. It helped change “yes we can” to “yes we did.”

But Obama said it himself. “This is not the change we have hoped for ... this is only the chance and opportunity to make that change.”