

Hidden Success in Obama's First Term

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This coming election has already caused many voters to look back on the term of President Barack Obama and try to reflect on his successes and failures. Many are already well aware of some of his major achievements, such as the assassination of Osama Bin Laden. Many also debate whether he has been good for the economy and the work force. In the words of Obama himself, "In times like these, questions have always arisen about whether or not America's best days are behind us."

With every Administration there are countless other improvements for the country that are not posted on

the front page. These overlooked policies can give voters a better idea of what a president may stand for and have to offer. The successes that will be explained range from global security to the nation's economy. Even though all of these may not affect us, they are the steps used to mold the country.

One of Obama's victories came after he hosted a Nuclear Security Summit in April 2010. The purpose of the summit was to organize efforts to secure the global supply of nuclear material against trades with terrorist.

The Summit invited all of the countries with nuclear material except for Iran, North Korea, and Belarus. Accord-

ing to 'therawstory.com', a news organization based in Washington D.C., several months after the summit was held Belarus announced they were surrendering their nuclear supply. Belarus has expressed interest in nuclear power which uses non-weapon grade enriched uranium which the US supports and they have been invited to the next summit meeting in South Korea later this year.

There was also a \$3.4 billion grant in 2009 made by President Obama's administration. This grant was given to various energy companies in order to try updating our aging power grid and install new 'smart' meters and other technologies to im-

prove efficiency. According to The White House this investment created thousands of jobs to help against the recession, stimulated the wind and solar industry, and brought more security to our power grid.

Additionally, Obama has been seeking to increase United States' exports. In March of 2010 The White House reported that it was launching a National Export Initiative to promote business abroad. This initiative would make more money accessible through an organization called the 'Export-Import Bank of the United States'. The White House said that these initiatives will "double exports, open new markets,

and level the playing field."

Even though these acts directly affect every American in different ways, they are small steps in the right direction. According to CNN, as of February 15, 2012 Obama's approval rating has risen to 50%, and there is also a rise in the number of people who think the country is headed in the right direction. These are all very positive indicators that the country is starting to pull itself out of the "Great Recession" and may maintain its global dominance. Perhaps these are goals that could be achieved if President Obama is given another four years in office.

Student Poll:

Does President Barack Obama deserve a second term in office?

"He's done a good job these four years and will continue for his second term. Plus, Mitt Romney is insane."

-Anonymous, Sophomore

"He is passing laws using executive privilege... I had high hopes for him, but am left very disappointed. He is not worthy of reelection."

-Anonymous

"I do not see any clear choice of a candidate in the running, so he may as well."

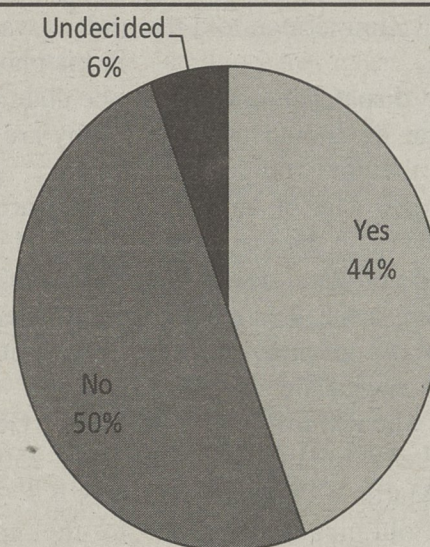
-Anonymous, Sophomore

"All presidents are puppets, but Obama is the lesser of the evils."

-Tyler Mock, Freshman

"Only if Ron Paul doesn't get the nomination."

-Anonymous



Polling conducted in The Millstream Café with a total of 34 voluntary responses.

"He has done little to nothing he promised to do when elected, nor does he have the ability to properly mobilize Congress to assist the country even in times of dire need."

-Greta Bortfeld, Freshman

"Until we find a better Republican or Democratic candidate, Obama is our best option."

-Howard Poole, Freshman

"I feel that if Congress was more evenly divided, his policies would be successful, but the lack of support is hurting him."

-Jack, Freshman

"He is not American. He is not a Christian. He is a socialist, Muslim, Kenyan who is destroying the America our great founders forged."

-Anonymous, Junior

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