



THE ROUNDUP

BY AND FOR THE STUDENTS

As eight-year presidential office holder Barack Obama steps down from office on January 20th, there is one question on every American's mind: what does the future of our nation hold? There is one man that just might know.

On January 11th 2017, at 11:00AM, President-Elect Trump held a major press conference the day after President Obama's farewell address.

Met with satisfactory applause from the press, the President-Elect began his first conference with the media in over 160 days by expressing his satisfaction with the progress in the Midwest, a voter major target during his 2016 campaign. "A lot of car companies are going to be moving in," Trump commented on the industrial region of the nation, which has faced hardships during the 21st century in keeping up with the modern industry. "Big news is going to be announced over the next couple of weeks about companies are going to be building in the Midwest. You saw yesterday Fiat Chrysler -- big, big factory going to built in this country as opposed to another country ... I said that I will be the greatest jobs producer that God ever created," Trump continued. "We need to have certain amounts of other things, including a little bit of luck. But I think we're going to do a real job. And I'm very proud of what we've done, and we haven't even gotten there yet."

The soon-to-be President additionally commented on the much-talked about hacking from Russia, which served as a topical issue during the last election in both major parties. "Russia will have far greater respect for our country when I'm leading it," Trump stated, "and I believe and I hope -- maybe it won't happen, it's possible. But I won't be giving a little reset button like Hillary. Here, press this piece of plastic. A guy looked at her like what is she doing? There's no reset button. We're either going to get along or we're not. I hope we get along, but if we don't, that's possible too. One of the things we're going to do -- we have some of the greatest computer minds

anywhere in the world...we're going to put those minds together, and we're going to form a defense."

The conference continued with a question-and-answer session between reporters and the President-Elect. Several topical issues arose such as the treatment of veterans, and the future of the Trump brand as its owner begins his transition to the White House. Many critics of the incoming president question whether Trump will truly keep the interests of his business ventures out of future policies. To that, he responded, "Over the weekend, I was offered two billion dollars to do a deal in Dubai with a very, very very amazing man, a great, great developer from the Middle East ...

And was offered two billion dollars to do a deal in Dubai -- a number of deals. And I turned it down. I didn't have to turn it down. Because as you know, I have have a no conflict situation because I'm president, which is -- I didn't know about that until about three months ago. But it's a nice thing to have."

Among other issues relating back to the atypical campaign were Trump's alleged deals with Russia, the infamous border wall, and the current efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which is responsible for extending health insurance coverage to about 20 million people who did not have it before. "You're going to be very, very proud, as not only the media and reporters -- can be very proud of what we put forth hav-

ing to do with healthcare," said Trump. "We're going to get a health bill passed -- we're going to get healthcare taken care of for this country. We are doing the Democrats a great service. So as soon as our secretary is approved, and gets into the office, we will be filing a plan ... we're going to have a health care that is far less expensive and far better."

As far as plans for the infamous Mexican border wall first announced in 2015, the President-Elect made it clear that he does not intend to waste time. "We're going to build a wall. I could wait about a year and a half until we finish our negotiations with Mexico, which will start immediately after we get to office. But I don't want to wait. Mike Pence is

WELCOME: PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP'S FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE

By Nicole Rosenthal | Editor in Chief

leading an effort to get final approvals through various agencies and through Congress for the wall to begin. I don't feel like waiting a year or year and a half. We're going to start building." He later reiterated that Mexico, in some form, will reimburse the nation for the cost of the wall, whether it's a tax or whether it's a payment.

No matter how you feel about the incoming president, no matter which party you subscribe to, it is imperative that we know that we are a country that aims to rebuild. Democrat or Republican, Green or Independent, we can all agree that we want the best for our beloved nation -- and that is what truly makes America great.

After eight eventful years in office, President Barack Obama gave his final farewell speech on January 10th at 8:00 pm in the city of Chicago, where he first realized that “change only happens when ordinary people get involved.” It was his experiences in that city that encouraged him to go into politics.

Of the many approaches Obama could have taken to his farewell address, he chose to focus on

growing economy: the uninsured rate has never been lower, and the unemployment rate has decreased to one of the lowest rates in history. As far as the Affordable Care Act goes—his health system that has been the topic of much controversy ever since it was implemented in 2010, especially among right-wing conservatives—he vowed that, if anyone else came up with a better replacement, hinting at the President-elect’s expressive plans

he argues, “didn’t suddenly vanish in the sixties” and we need to stop treating it as such. “When they [minorities] wage peaceful protest, they’re not demanding special treatment,” he said, “but the equal treatment that our founders promised.”

In order to achieve democracy, he argued that all citizens, whether they be politically involved or not, should keep in mind a common baseline of facts so that we are able to rationalize and reason in the spirit “born of the enlightenment.” This spirit, he says, is of “innovation and practical problem solving.” It “cures disease and put a computer in every pocket” and even helped America “resist the lure of fascism and tyranny” countless times. What he dreads is that “it’s become safer to retreat into our own bubbles” so that we surround ourselves with others that think only as we do. If we never leave our bubbles, he argues, we “never challenge our assumptions.” In that case, opinion becomes more of an adoption of what we’re born into rather than a development on evidence and information that awaits us throughout the progression of our lives, constantly evolving and advancing. If we continue on the route we’re going, he said, “we’ll make common ground and compromise impossible.”

In his closing statements, the President left the dynamic crowd with what perhaps can be considered the very essence of Obama’s eight years spent in presidency: “to believe not in my ability to bring about change, but in yours.” He proudly declared that he will be a citizen right beside us for his “remaining days” and that we “should be throwing ourselves into the task of rebuilding” what makes our democracy strong. “All of this depends on our participation,” he says, and “regardless of which way the pendulum of power happens to be swinging,” America belongs to all of us and it is our duty as much as the elected officials to lay the foundation for a future that is even better than the present we now face.

FAREWELL: PRESIDENT OBAMA’S FINAL SPEECH

By Samantha Lange | Politics Editor

what he so beautifully coined as the “beating heart of our bold American ideal”: democracy itself. The president expressed his encouragement of a peaceful transfer of power between one president to another. He vowed to welcome and assist Donald Trump, if he should need it, “just as President Bush did for me.” It is “imperative to strive together as one,” he said Tuesday, to accomplish this common goal of maintaining what is so precious and singularly unique to America. In order to accomplish this task, he urged citizens to keep in mind the overarching elements that possess the power to either strengthen or weaken the spirit of democracy.

Later in his farewell address, Obama delved into the economy and how it has largely impacted the political climate, with each issue not only testing the strength of our financial situation, but “testing our democracy as well.” Although the American economy is not perfect, he acknowledged, it has undergone unbelievable progress in the past eight years. America has not only found the strength to pull herself out of the Great Recession, but has also taken healthy steps towards a

for when he takes office, “I will publicly support it.” Obama then went on to discuss how the economy affects democracy, claiming that if policies continue to keep certain groups incapable of doing well in the economy, it will be a “recipe for more cynicism and polarizations in our politics.” In order to work through our economic issues, he encouraged, it is good to fight about which approach to take in order to achieve our financial goals, “but we can’t be complacent on how to achieve the goals themselves.”

In the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement, which occurred in the backdrop of his presidency, Obama went on to talk about how racism “remains a potent and often divisive component in our society.” He holds that “we’re not where we need to be,” and that everybody, regardless of skin color or economic class, has work to do in order to achieve long lasting social equality in this country. It is with the words of To Kill A Mockingbird’s Atticus Finch that he concludes “you never really understand a person until you see things from his point of view. Until you crawl into his skin and walk around in it.” Racism,