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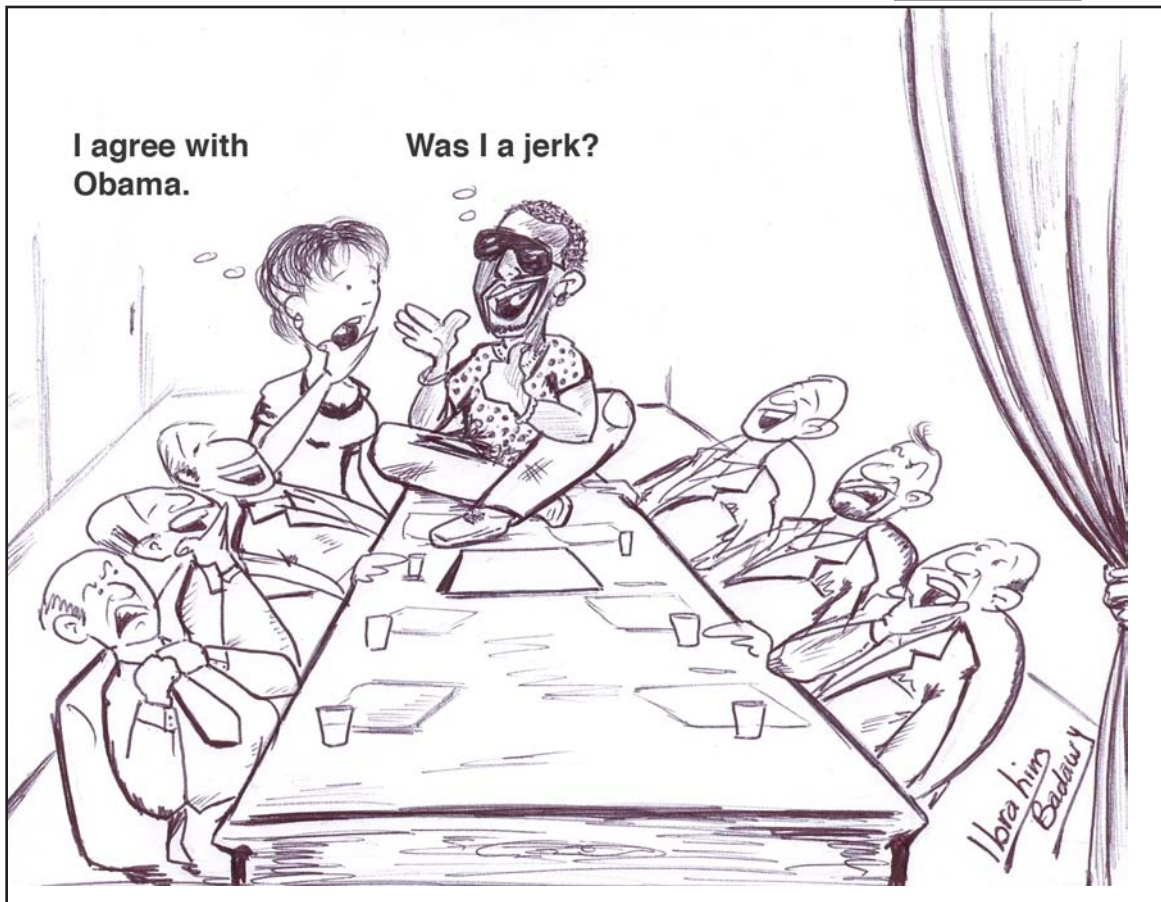
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OPINION



Shut up and put your money where your mouth is

By MANIKA CASTERLINE
Opinions editor

I'm going to make this as short as possible for fear of being interrupted by either a congressman, a rapper... or someone from the sports section of this publication (they fit the type). In fact, I am certain that if Vh1 still aired the show "Best Week Ever" this week, loud mouths would be awarded the coveted title of having the best week ever. Although, it should arguably go to President Obama and Taylor Swift for not losing their cool.

The first incident occurred on Sep. 9 during Obama's address to the joint session of Congress regarding the administration's policy on health care. Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC) yelled, "you lie," while Obama mentioned the false rumors that his opposition had been spreading this summer about his plan. Leadership of the

G.O.P. were quick in making sure that Wilson immediately issued an apology for the nationally televised outburst. And the very next day the President disregarded the situation as something that is bound to happen when people are deeply passionate about a particular issue.

However, the damage had already been done. Wilson's act of free speech, shifted the press' focus away from analyzing an important speech and into questioning what is considered to be going too far.

What Wilson did was distract from the real issue at hand. And all it did was draw negative attention to himself. I suppose he had to find some way to set himself apart from the various congressmen that were fiddling on their Blackberries that night. But, by doing so it did not necessarily advance his argument. As it is the majority of Americans, do not think highly of politics or politicians and such an episode

only serves as a reason for apathy. In this case, Wilson ought to have just shut his pie hole.

Now in the history of my lifetime, MTV's VMAs have been a never ending source of controversy. A member of the group Rage Against the Machine climbed part of the stage one year. And the most notable shocker of all was the onstage kiss shared by Madonna, Britney Spears, and Christina Aguilera.

In fact, there have been numerous occasions of public performance antics throughout the years, some of which were intentional such as, Bjork's swan dress and Jennifer Lopez' green Versace gown.

Kanye West's interruption isn't even comparable to Ol' Dirty Bastard's 1998 Grammy incident. ODB said, "Wu Tang is for the children." Honestly West can't beat that.

It should come as no surprise to the general public that the VMA's are notorious for being unlike any

other award show that there is. What West did to Taylor Swift on Sep. 13 isn't at all shocking. Swift's "Love Story" had just won the award for Best Female video when Kanye snatched the microphone from her. He proceeded to go on about how he thought Beyonce had deserved the honor instead of Swift who stood behind him quite literally speechless. The camera panned in on Beyonce and caught her mouthing, "Oh my God."

However, later that night Beyonce's "Single Ladies" won for Video of the Year. Beyonce reminisced that when she was 17 years old she had won a VMA as part of the R&B group, Destiny's Child. And she gave Swift a second chance at her moment to thank those who were instrumental in her win.

Swift's speech garnered her a standing ovation by the audience as well as mainstream media fallout. Beyonce's husband, rapper Jay-Z,

made a comment about Kanye's uncalled for interruption. The most accurate response according to observers was made accidentally by President Obama who said, "he's a jackass," further continuing the trend of U.S presidents that have associated themselves with the outspoken rapper. West really is what Obama labeled him as. Swift had won her VMA and nothing he said could change that fact. It did not help him gain any popularity and it actually backfired into ridicule of him that is still going on social networking website, Facebook as well as jokes at this weekend's Emmy awards.

The moral of the opinion is that one really should think before they speak. We often feel compelled to say whatever is on our minds when we think it and disregard the possibility of there being consequences. So, shut up unless you can put your money where your mouth is.

You don't pick your university, it chooses you

By NASIA MASTEN
Features editor

College applications and acceptance; many feel that they are the determining factors in whether you make it or break it. The "make it" would entail getting into the number one college of your choice.

Thus, does the "break it" mean your second choice, or dare I say it...third choice? The real question we should be asking ourselves is how hard are we willing to work wherever we may end up going to school, because the answer to this inquiry is what will make you or break you. After all, the college chooses you. You don't choose the college.

What we struggle to understand is that it's not the name of the college on our Facebook pages that will determine who we are or how we are perceived. But it is how hard we work to make the world around us strong, stable, and suitable for ourselves.

As young and motivated students struggling to stay on top, we can

sharply alter the world around us through simple yet effective acts of civic engagement, speaking our minds, and essentially using the skills that we've acquired from our previous years of education, and the ones that we will acquire at the new university we will attend. No matter how prestigious the name of the university we get into sounds,

struggling to keep up with classes at a top notch university will not allow us to grow as people because in actuality learning, and the as the cliché term describes, "growing" as humans is what will make the real difference in how we are perceived and who we become.

Fall is a time of nervous appli-
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CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

What do you do when people interrupt you?



Claudia Chee
COMMUNICATIONS
"I'm usually the one who interrupts people I wouldn't say anything."



Ryan Winters-Brown
UNDECLARED
"I usually don't do anything."



Maritza Alonzo
PSYCHOLOGY
"Excuse me, can you wait?"



Parth Vyas
POLITICAL SCIENCE
"I let them finish what they're saying, but I get pissed after."



Sahir Ibrahim
BIOLOGY
"I'd politely say something to them."