

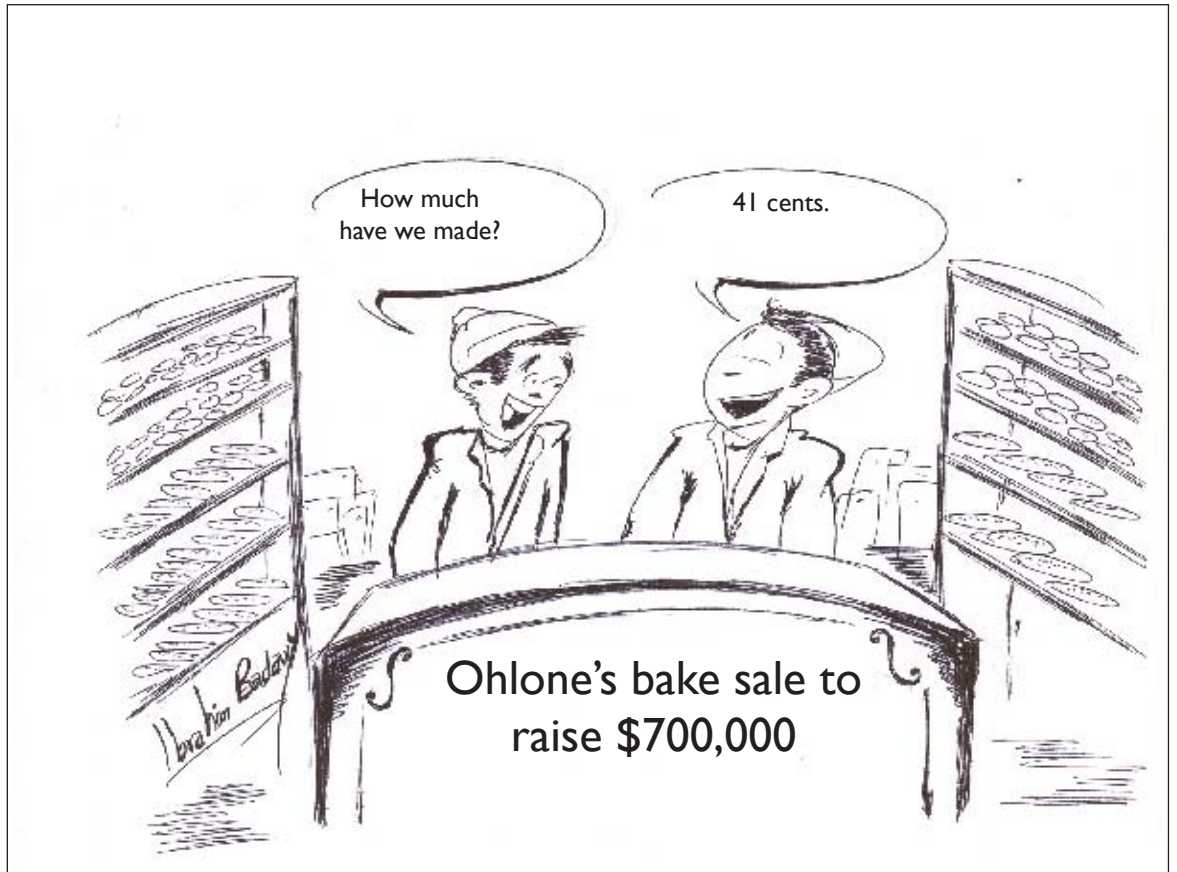


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OPINION

Nobel Peace Prize awarded prematurely for promises

By MANIKA CASTERLINE
Opinions editor

In our media-saturated culture, we often are inclined to canonize rather than criticize. But as the Opinions editor of this publication-as a hyper-analytical human being-when have I ever bought into the liberal conspiracy that deems President Barack Obama as the second coming of God himself?

Howard Schultz, CEO of Starbucks for the gift of the espresso shot? Yes. A Chicago politician harping the message of change? No. So, when checking Facebook on Friday morning and discovering that Obama is the newest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, I was hardly shocked or awed.

The world arguably does not have a crush on Obama. What it does have is a slobbering love affair of nuclear proportions with a man who trades in on his magnetic

charisma for promises that have yet to be delivered on. It is absolutely ludicrous for the Norwegian Nobel Institute to award Obama the honor seeing that he has held the office of the presidency for less than a year and has not been in the White House for a full presidential term. The supposed nomination for a Nobel Peace Prize is to be submitted by Feb. 1 of the year, which the prize is given. October seems premature. But seriously, February?

This nomination has been in its infancy practically since Obama took the oath of office. All he had done was win a historical election against Sen. John McCain. To the winner goes the spoils and this Nobel Peace prize is seeped in the concept of politics, not peace.

According to Alfred Nobel the award ought to go, "to the person who shall have done the most or the best work for a fraternity between the nations, for the abolition or the

reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

The Nobel Peace Prize was first awarded in 1901 to Alfred Nobel's friend and peace activist Baroness Bertha von Suttner. Early on it included categories of the sciences since Nobel was a chemical engineer who had invented dynamite and ballistite.

The prize has been awarded to politicians as well as foreign dignitaries in the past. In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt was a Nobel laureate for negotiating a 1905 peace treaty between Japan and Russia, while President Woodrow Wilson won in 1919 for creating the League of Nations. Former U.S Vice President Al Gore also has won for his work on the issue of global warming despite his massive carbon footprint. Controversial nominees include dictators Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

Now Obama won the accolade on the premise of his efforts regarding international diplomacy, not on achievement. The Nobel committee said, "that it was for extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

Obama's policies have yet to be implemented much less unfold when taking into account that he has hardly been on the global stage long enough to rush to the judgment that culminates in an award.

And that is not to say that Obama is not actively engaging in diplomacy. Since taking office in January, Obama has worked on improving international relations through policy initiatives. He is open to speaking to leaders of countries that the U.S disagrees with such as North Korea and Iran, which is a change from the rhetoric of the prior Bush administration. In the past month, Iran has agreed to allow Interna-

tional Atomic Energy Association inspectors into their nuclear facility at Qom. Both Iran and North Korea intend to participate in six-party nuclear negotiations. These discussions signal a turning point in the role that the United States portrays as a global leader and that is a push towards multi-lateral diplomacy.

However, the Obama administration has yet to be tested on an array of foreign policy issues and has not implemented any tough decisions. There are also the issues of what actions ought to be taken in the ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. And how shall this administration redefine success in either one.

Obama said, "I do not view it as a recognition of my own accomplishments. But, rather as an affirmation of American leadership on behalf of aspirations held by people in all nations."

The President was not awarded
Continued on Page 3

Let's make some news and support Newsom

By NAZIA MASTAN
Features editor

Affair scandal aside, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom has a lot more to offer California than one may think. Even former United

States President Bill Clinton has chosen to support Newsom in the November 2010 gubernatorial election. It was important to me that I find a candidate who would change the face of California amidst the whirl wind of false promises and broken hope for our state.

Newsom proposes that he will

enact programs similar to those that he has in San Francisco. as mayor, Newsom used the city's \$24.5 million rainy day budget towards education, giving 77 percent of the cities youth after school programs, and boosting the schools to be rated number one among urban schools in California. Newsom has also imple-

mented Single Stop USA in three of the city colleges. The program allows untapped funds allocated to the state to be funneled into keeping students in college.

In his campaign, Newsom has promised to deliver such programs and funding into California community colleges. Newsom clearly has

the interests of students in mind. The current governor has taken away billions of dollars from our education system and we must strive to get it back so that education becomes a thriving factor within California's inner-city neighborhoods and remains a factor that

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CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

Who do you think deserves a Nobel Peace Prize?



Victoria Pham
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
"Obama."



Emily Babyak
UNDECIDED
"Not Obama."



Evan Chen
POLITICAL SCIENCE
"Dali Lama."



Zarghoona Joyaa
PSYCHOLOGY
"No one should, because peace is being sought through violence."



Alma Rodriguez
COMMUNICATION
"Oprah."