

Obama's Second Term Promises "More Than Individual Ambitions"

Jessica Feltner, staff writer

President Obama already has accomplished many achievements during his first term, such as the Lilly Ledbetter Act that requires equal pay for women in the work place, the Dodd-Frank Act which allowed more regulation on Wall Street and most notably the Affordable Care Act. What will the future bring?

In his victory speech Obama emphasizes the importance of cooperation between the Republicans and Democrats, a must for the government to efficiently produce helpful policy and legislation. Obama reiterates the promises of his campaign saying, "I am looking forward to reaching out and working with leaders of both parties to meet the challenges we can only solve together. Reducing our deficit. Reforming our tax code. Fixing our immigration system. Freeing ourselves from foreign oil. We've got more work to do."

Obama lays out additional goals for his second term, such as addressing climate change, an issue on the forefront of the nation's mind after Hurricane Sandy and the resulting damage to the East Coast. He plans on improving the immigration system, starting with helping immigrants afford education with legislation like the Dream Act. The president also plans on reforming the voting system that left many Americans waiting in polling places for as long as eight hours on Nov. 6. Inevitably Obama will have to deal with Iran and the ominous shadow of the nuclear program in the Middle East. The re-elected president plans on further pushing reforms in the healthcare system by providing new funding that will allow states to improve the quality of care for Medicaid and Medicare.

If any of these reforms are to take place, Obama will need to finally attain some sort of bipartisan cooperation that has not been seen since he took office in 2008. The exasperating gridlock in the House of Representatives has been identified as a top priority for fixing. Obama has made it clear during his campaign that he plans to forestall any tax increases on the middle class or families that make less than \$250,000 a year. Among Republican representatives, John Boehner, the speaker of the house, still insists on following Romney's tax agenda of lowering rates, but also cutting government spending and ---cont. on page 2

Winter Season Promises Fun Events in Raleigh

compiled by Shanna Alley, staff writer



A previous year's tree-lighting at the N.C. State Capitol
Image via news.ncdr.gov

Even though students tend to head home as soon as exams end, Raleigh offers plenty of fun for anyone in the area throughout Winter Break!

Raleigh Winterfest

Dec. 1, 2012-Jan. 26, 2013
City Plaza—Downtown Raleigh

Raleigh's premier winter event is back featuring an outdoor skating rink with natural ice. Admission including skate rental is \$8 for both adults and children. On Tuesdays receive two for one admission to the rink, which includes skate rental. There will be free carriage rides on Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. with a skating wristband.

Annual NC State Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting

Dec. 6
Union Square—Downtown Raleigh

Every year the Governor lights the State Christmas Tree on Union Square. This event is carried live on television across the state.

The Gathering: A Holiday Concert

Dec. 15 8 to 10 p.m.
Fletcher Opera Theater at Progress Energy Center
According to visitraleigh.com, the concert is centered around The Gathering: A Winter's Tale in Six Songs, an Appalachian song cycle by Dossett. Other highlights include Compton singing his ---cont on page 3

Hurricane Sandy Relief Efforts

Monique Krelsman, staff writer

Hurricane Sandy hit the northeast coast a month ago, but recovery is still slow. On Oct. 29, thousands of homes were destroyed by wind, flood and fire. New Jersey and New York suffered billions of dollars in damage. In New York City, the subway system and the stock exchange were closed for several days, and in some areas, 90% of homes and businesses were without power. Meredith College will collect funds for the Red Cross at several locations on campus to support hurricane victims until Nov. 30. Donations can be given to the Office of College Programs in Johnson Hall, the Office of the Dean of Students in the Park Center, the Office of Student Leadership and Service, residence hall directors and the apartment manager of the Oaks.

ACLU Takes Legal Action Against Military Gender-Based Policy

Jessica Feltner, staff writer

As of Tuesday, the military policy of excluding women from ground combat is being challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Christian Science Monitor reports. In support of four Iraq and Afghanistan women veterans, the ACLU filed a legal complaint that argues this policy has limited career opportunities for U.S. women, leaving them in a continuous subordinate position. The ACLU argues that women continue to be excluded from more than 280,000 jobs, despite reforms on gender-based policies in the military. Women in Iraq and Afghanistan, the ACLU argues, are not always bound to these policies, having seen combat anyway.

Freedom of Press Threatened in U.K.

Cody Jeffrey, staff writer

After the British newspaper, News of the World, admitted to a seven-year long phone-hacking scandal, the depth of journalistic libel was revealed as well. British authorities are now considering implementing new restrictive legislation that poses a threat to the freedom of the nation's press.

One powerful argument against state-sponsored regulation of the press is that appropriate regulations and

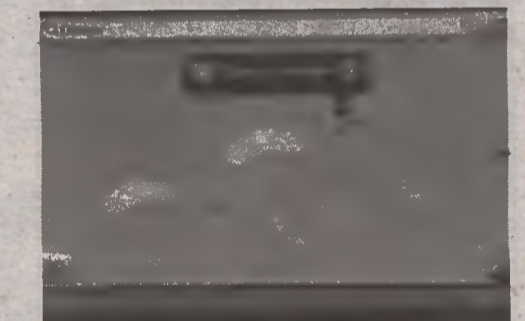
penalties already exist. Tim Luckhurst of CNN specials wrote in a Nov. 27, 2012 article, "Why the UK should avoid muzzling its free press," "Journalism is subject to more than 50 laws ranging from the Official Secrets Act (1911) to the Bribery Act (2010) and including libel laws that have made this country destination of choice for 'libel tourists.'"

Fortunately for Britain's newspapers, Lord Justice Leveson (English judge, Lord Justice of Appeal of England and Wales) has not released a mandate to impose state-sanctioned regulation. Government and parliament must decide what the future of their nation's freedom of speech and of the press will be.

Many government officials are also weighing the effects of their legislative decision not only domestically, but internationally. Some believe that if Britain censors their press, Authoritative rulers will exploit the state involvement of a democratic country, or as Luckhurst puts it, "'Look,' they would gloat, 'The mother of democracy understands the need for the state to ensure that journalists behave. We agree.'"

Apple Continues Sacking Spree After Maps App Affront

Shea Pierson, staff writer



duplicated Diaooyu Islands on Apple maps

Apple has been criticized for its new maps application since its debut. Company officials have already fired software leader Scott Forstall and retail head John Browett over the map system release fiasco. Yesterday the maps project's overseer, manager Richard Williamson lost his job as well. Bloomberg broke the story, reporting that Senior Vice President Eddy Cue fired Williamson and is "seeking to build confidence in the program amid a growing battle with Google Inc." by configuring a new leadership team. A replacement for Williamson is yet unknown.