

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### Another peaceful transfer of power

Tuesday was a historic day for this nation in many ways. Just about everyone in the country stopped what they were doing on Tuesday at noon to watch as Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States.

Tears were shed.

Obama is the first African American elected to our country's highest office, finally placing a much needed exclamation point to the phrase that "all men are created equal." We have lived through the civil rights struggle. All of us, except for our youngest citizens, recognize the importance of this achievement. It's been a long time coming.

A non-white person is leading our nation. That's historic by any measure.

Technology made Tuesday an extraordinary day for other reasons. It was the first time that so many of us of us were connected to the same event at the same moment. No matter where we were on Tuesday we could watch the inauguration as it happened. Millions watched it on their televisions. We gathered around computers at work to watch the inauguration streaming live on the Internet. We could even see the inauguration live on our cell phones. Wow!

Even those Americans who crowded onto the National Mall in Washington, D.C. were able to see and hear what was happening as it happened because the giant monitors had been placed everywhere.

We all shared the same images. We all heard the same words. We were connected.

But the most remarkable achievement was something that most of us take for granted: the peaceful transfer of power. The leadership of our nation has again changed hands without violent protest. No shots were fired. There was no rebellion or resurrection or revolution. There was no coup or junta or uprising or guerilla overthrow.

We held an election. The votes were counted and a new leader was chosen.

The peaceful transfer of power.

As simple as that sounds, the United States is one of the few countries in the world where a peaceful transfer of power happens on a regular basis. When I visited Ghana last fall, the people I met there were proud of their democracy. They were proud to share with you that their country was holding an election and planning for a peaceful transfer of power.

They should be proud. Ghana is one of the few countries in Africa that can claim a peaceful transfer of power in its leadership.

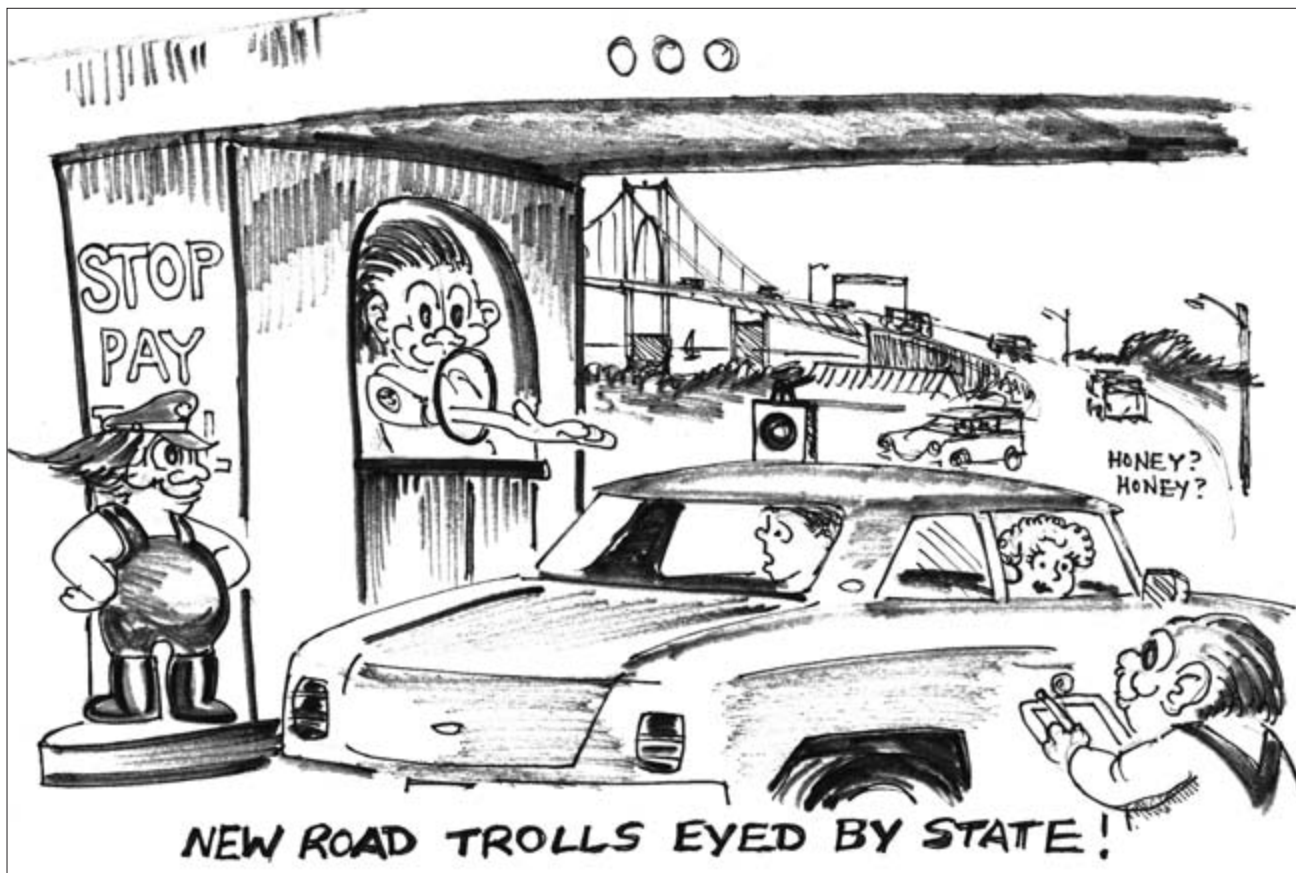
We should not lose sight of this continuing achievement for our country. The United States was established after a revolution. The union survived a bloody civil war. We've fought to preserve the one man, one vote principle.

No matter what, we must make sure that we continue to preserve the peaceful transfer of power in the years ahead.

— Jeff McDonough



Students at the Lawn Avenue School on Tuesday were captivated as they watched the inauguration live. Photo by Jeff McDonough



### Schools provide strong base

"Actions speak louder than words." Or in the case of the Jamestown students, results are what counts. Every year we send all of our ninth graders further away from home to be educated. Our ninth graders are challenged to build on the foundation developed here in the Jamestown schools. This year is no different, with more than 50 percent of Jamestown children in the ninth grade at North Kingstown High School making the honor roll.

In recent years, many of the valedictorians and salutatorians graduating from North Kingstown High School have come from the Jamestown school

system. Jamestown continues to produce successful students and should be proud of the continued results of its investment in education.

We must always remember that there is a guaranteed "return on investment" when we invest in our school system. Educated children build and preserve our community. On behalf of the Lawn School Improvement Team, congratulations to all "Jamestowners" for continuing to put forth students ready to meet those challenges.

Lisa Carlisle

## • LETTERS •

Ann Zainyeh  
Lawn SIT co-chairs

### Preserving for our future

My name is Matthew Gregoire. I am a senior at North Kingstown High School. I am in a very special class that is doing something really good for the school department of North Kingstown, and I think that the Jamestown school departments should be involved in this.

What we are doing? We are going "green"! Over the past semester in my current issues class, taught by Mr. Avedisian, we have

been evaluating school policies of recycling, purchases, and even the type of fuel we burn in our buses. We have learned that our school needs improvement in our recycling policies, and that there are all sorts of recycled products and environmentally-safe products that would be beneficial to the environment if we invested in them.

I'm bringing this to your attention because I believe that this is a great thing, and I'm not sure about how well our school's recycling system is doing now. But, I think it would be good if Jamestown schools, even town offices, were to re-evaluate their recycling, fuel, and energy policies.

See "Letters" on page 11



## This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

### Week of January 22

The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 100 years ago came from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.

#### 100 years ago

**From the Newport Daily News, January 20, 1909**

The clam chowder supper given for the benefit of the Beneficial Society last evening in the Gardner House hall by several men interested in the society's work proved so much of a success that they can be expected to be called upon again.

**From the Newport Daily News, January 21, 1909**

Between three and four inches of ice have formed on the ponds and some of the iceboat owners are getting their craft ready for the sport.

**From the Newport Daily News, January 23, 1909**

The clam diggers had another favorable tide yesterday, it falling far below the usual low water mark.

A heavy fog has hung over the island all day and the accompanying warm weather is causing the frost to come out of the ground making the dirt roads and sidewalks almost impassable.

#### 75 years ago

**From the Newport Daily News, January 18, 1934**

Steamer Mohican of the Jamestown & Newport Ferry line is now tied up at South ferry wharf and is

being dismantled, having passed her days of usefulness. All the lumber is given to the unemployed. Each day a crew of six men take what they can carry away, and each succeeding day a new crew will take more.

An important step towards the realization of the Jamestown-Saunderstown bridge was taken Wednesday afternoon when the Emergency Public Works Commission gave its approval to the \$2,400,000 project.

**From the Newport Daily News, January 19, 1934**

It is announced that sufficient back taxes have been collected in the past few months, so that it will not be necessary to sell the large bond issue originally contemplated.

**From the Newport Daily News, January 20, 1934**

The organization meeting of the Jamestown, No. 1 Boy Scouts was held in the Thomas H. Clarke school Friday evening under the sponsorship of the American Legion.

#### 50 years ago

**From the Newport Daily News, January 20, 1959**

A well known Jamestown landmark, Carr School, is being torn down by its owner, John B. Foley, who bought the structure several years ago at public auction from the town.... The Carr School served the community adequately until a few years ago when, outmoded and unsafe and far too small for the rapid growth of the community, the present Jamestown Elementary School was constructed.

**From the Newport Daily News, January 22, 1959**

At a special Town Council meeting yesterday morning in Jamestown, the town treasurer, Philip J. McCafferty was authorized to borrow \$85,000 from the Industrial National Bank in anticipation of taxes. The money

See "History" on page 9