

# Law review's first black president aims to help poor

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — (AP) — His boyhood friends in Indonesia were street peddlers, and his grandmother still lives in a mud-walled house in Kenya. But Barack Obama is another world away, presiding over the Harvard Law Review as the first black president in the prestigious journal's 103-year history.

The charismatic 28-year-old, ensconced in the halls where traditions reign, is taking aim at another custom: Obama's nights are set on the South Side of Chicago, not on a U.S. Supreme Court clerkship or a fast-track career with a cushy firm.

## REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS

*'Parts of my family in Kenya remain very poor. My grandmother still lives in a mud-walled house with no running water or electricity. That's who I am, that's where I come from, not always literally, but at least emotionally.'*

BARACK OBAMA, at Harvard Law School

his mother married an Indonesian.

Until the fifth grade, Obama attended Indonesian schools, where most of his friends were the sons of servants, street peddlers and farmers. Concern for Obama's education led his mother to return him to Hawaii, where he attended public schools.

In 1983, he received his degree in political science from Columbia University.

His affinity with the underdog is readily apparent: "I lived in a country where I saw extreme poverty at a very early age. Parts

of my family in Kenya remain very poor. My grandmother still lives in a mud-walled house with no running water or electricity.

"That's who I am, that's where I come from, not always literally, but at least emotionally."

Obama entered Harvard Law School in 1988, and through a combination of grades and a writing competition, was elected to head the law review in February. He succeeded Peter Yu, a first-generation Chinese American.



IN CAMBRIDGE, MASS.: Barack H. Obama was named Harvard Law Review president in February.

Obama cautions against reading too much into his election.

"It's crucial that people don't see my election as somehow a symbol of progress in the broader sense, that we don't sort of point to a Barack Obama any more than you point to a Bill Cosby or a Michael Jordan and say 'Well, things are looking better.'"

There's certainly racism here. There are certain burdens that are placed, more emotionally at this point than concretely. Professors may treat black students differently, sometimes by being... more dismissive, sometimes by being more... careful because they think... that somehow we can't cope in the classroom."

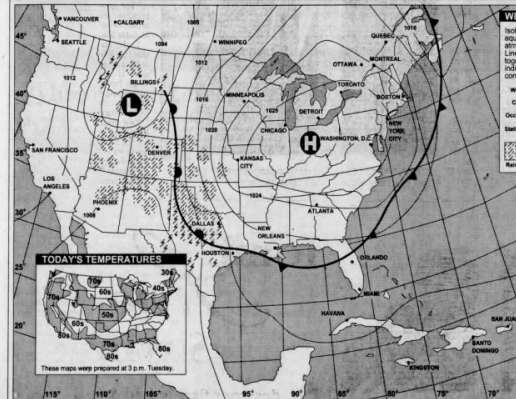
Obama sees the inner cities as the front lines of racism.

For five years before law school, Obama took on that task in Chicago.

As the director of a program that tried to bring South Side churches, unions and black associations together on projects, Obama was not trying to solve local problems, he said. Instead he sought to construct something more lasting — a forum for the community to speak with one voice.

## THE WEATHER REPORT

### NATIONAL FORECAST MAP FOR NOON TODAY



### TODAY'S TEMPERATURES

CITY	TEMP.	CITY	TEMP.	CITY	TEMP.	CITY	TEMP.
Albany NY	53	San Francisco	58	San Jose CA	62	Seattle WA	55
Anchorage AK	57	San Antonio TX	65	San Luis Obispo CA	65	Spokane WA	55
Albuquerque NM	57	San Diego CA	68	Santa Barbara CA	65	St. Paul MN	55
Astoria OR	58	San Francisco	58	Santa Clara CA	65	St. Petersburg FL	75
Austin TX	81	San Jose CA	62	Santa Cruz CA	65	Tampa FL	75
Bakersfield CA	65	San Luis Obispo CA	65	Savannah GA	75	Tucson AZ	85
Baltimore MD	65	San Marcos CA	65	Seattle WA	55	Urbana IL	65
Birmingham AL	75	San Mateo CA	65	Spokane WA	55	Waco TX	75
Boston MA	65	San Rafael CA	65	St. Paul MN	55	Wichita KS	65
Butte MT	55	San Francisco	58	St. Petersburg FL	75	Wilmington NC	65
Cambridge MA	65	San Jose CA	62	Tampa FL	75	Winston-Salem NC	65
Chattanooga TN	75	San Luis Obispo CA	65	Tucson AZ	85	Yonkers NY	65
Chicago IL	65	San Marcos CA	65	Urbana IL	65		
Cincinnati OH	65	San Mateo CA	65	Waco TX	75		
Cleveland OH	65	San Rafael CA	65	Wichita KS	65		
Columbus OH	65	San Francisco	58	Wilmington NC	65		
Dayton OH	65	San Jose CA	62	Yonkers NY	65		
Denver CO	65	San Luis Obispo CA	65				
Des Moines IA	65	San Marcos CA	65				
Detroit MI	65	San Mateo CA	65				
El Paso TX	75	San Rafael CA	65				
Fort Worth TX	75	San Francisco	58				
Grand Rapids MI	65	San Jose CA	62				
Houston TX	75	San Luis Obispo CA	65				
Indianapolis IN	65	San Marcos CA	65				
Jackson MS	75	San Mateo CA	65				
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