

Barack Obama: Pros and Cons

[Pros]

VB-1: He would bring a new face to America as the first African American President the country has ever had and also the first of Muslim descent.

VB-2: Even though he is a Democrat, Obama would work with the Republican Party as well, unlike Clinton, who would only work with her own party.

VB-3: His incredible speaking ability gives a favorable image of him and the country.

VB-4: He will help the economy by creating a Universal Mortgage Credit, by providing a "Making Work Pay" Tax Cut for America's Working Families, and by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit.

VB-5: He will invest in clean energy such as solar, wind, and bio-diesel energy.

VB-6: Obama will double science and research funding for clean energy projects, including those that make use of our biomass, solar and wind resources.

VB-7: He will promote economic development in Mexico to decrease illegal immigration.

[Cons]

MG-1: Many believe the key to Obama's success is in stepping away from the typical "white" status quo of American Presidents, but his half-white, half-black descent sparks a racial question: should Americans take race into consideration when voting?

MG-2: Many Americans fail to see the problems lurking behind this goal. The two major parties, Democratic and Republican, lack unity in major ideas. Thus, cooperation between the groups will invariably lead to a disaster of conflicting beliefs on how best to run the country.

MG-3: His speeches inspire hope. Are his sweet words simply a mouse-trap with a big slice of cheese attached to it?

MG-4: Although Obama's plans to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit seem plausible, the Universal Mortgage Credit Program requires organizational skills and cooperation, which are qualities that Obama claims to possess but has not proven fully because of his limited experience.

MG-5: Environmentalists have been battling with corporate energy-consumers for decades; a president with an environmentalist side will not gain their affections and thereby have difficulties in getting environmentally friendly bills through Senate.

MG-6: Conducting more research in solar and wind energy in the near future seems like a plan to gain the affections of America rather than the global environment.

MG-7: The conflict in Mexico is a complex and prolonged issue. Obama does say that he would promote economic development, but he does not say how he would do it. Mexico has been considered a Third World country over the years, and everyone knows that it takes more than "economic promotion" to change its economic status.



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What really grinds our gears

Of all the creatures in the world, why did we decide upon a polar bear as our school's mascot?

By Alexandra Michelson
Opinions Editor

Barrel the polar bear only vaguely correlates with Laguna Beach High Schools' Breakers.

The only relation that Barrel has to The Breakers is that Barrel refers to the action of a wave.

A school mascot should be strong and symbolic. It should be well known and represent the school in a decent manner. Barrel the Polar Bear does not fulfill his duty.

It is ironic that a polar bear is our school mascot.

Polar bears are found in cold climates, such as the North Pole. So why, of all possible mascots, did we decide on such an obscure mascot, which does not even relate to warm weather and the beach?

In addition to Barrel's obscurity, many people in this school could not name our mascot. If the students do not even know what the mascot is, then we have a problem!

The school mascot should also represent our sports teams and be well integrated into games.

Our mascot should also

prove a cohesive component of our school life.

Therefore, Barrel is no longer a suitable mascot. Laguna Beach High School needs a more powerful, well-known, recognizable mascot who is welcomed on the field during half time at football games.

Although, "The Breakers" is not a team name that easily lends itself to a mascot.

We need to be creative! We are intelligent enough to be able to decide on a mascot that is actually relevant to our school and everything we stand for!

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