

# EDITORIAL



## Our Children are our Future

**Maxine Session**

Our children are our future. It's up to us to set values, examples and boundaries for them beginning at birth. Psychologists say a child's personality is three-fourths of the way developed by the time he or she is four years old. This means we can't wait until they are as tall as we are to set values that develop the conscience to choose right over wrong. We can't wait to build positive self-esteem within them. Positive self-esteem is very important to the beliefs one has about self.

I was talking with my oldest granddaughter a few hours after the Democratic Primaries were over. She was elated to the point of being tearful when Barack Obama announced that he had gained the required number of delegates to become the Presumptive Democratic Presidential Nominee.

She couldn't understand why in the history of the United States, that it has taken so long for the heart of America to realize that someone of African descent is just as capable as anyone else to hold the highest office in the land.

Many black children have not pursued their dreams because of myths society has tied to skin color. History books and educational curricula that did not record and teach the history of Black Americans did a dis-service to both black and white Americans. Knowledge is the key to understanding.

As African Americans celebrate the Emancipation Proclamation which freed the slaves in 1863 (Texas 2 years later, June 1865) some, one hundred forty-five years later there has not been a dialog on race and racism between black and white America.

Barack Obama talks openly about his personal life, his parents and his grandmother. He tells the fact that his father was black and his mother white. Somewhere along the way he was confused about his identity and where he fitted into American Society, yet he found his place.

Forty long years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther, King Jr. Barack Obama who was just 6 years old at the time, has made history. Somebody in his life took the time to help develop his values and to develop positive self-esteem in him. Somebody in his life understood that our children are our future.

America is judging Obama by the contents of his character and not the color of his skin. The history he is making will crack the face of racism and cause some black child to see him or herself in a different light...one that lifts the contents of character above race and racism.

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 Ph: (903) 683-1065  
 Ph: (903) 683-5743  
 Fax: (903) 683-8543  
 www.texasinformer.com  
 informernews08@aol.com

**PUBLISHER/SALES MANAGER**

Walter Session

**EDITOR/WRITER**

Maxine Session

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

Krystal Ward Carter

Billy "Hollywood" Grooves

Ferlich July Arrington

James Breedlove

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Day to

fathers

everywhere!

Sunday,

June 15th