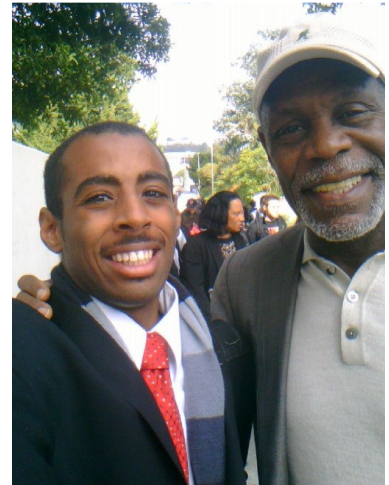


Moment or movement

By Georgio Conley

The significance of the 44th presidency of the United States is what we choose to believe it is. Some were enthusiastic only throughout the campaign, but reached back to normalcy on the 21st day of 2009; it was a moment for them. But for others this election represents that dreams can be reached with hard work, and



dedication to purpose. With this thought, many were moved to pursue greater efforts in their current endeavors. I am one of them. The change of the racial identity of the one who is holding the highest office is not the change we need. This is a clear opportunity for people, as individuals and communities to reassess situations and current direction and to sharpen our vision in search of the resources needed for progress, in knowing that we can shape a better course for our tomorrow.

We are present at this institution of City College to gain tools and cultivate talent to enhance the opportunity, utilization, and growth of resources for our family for generations to come. Now is the time to bridge old divides and conquer battles within ourselves. Like many others, I have family who are younger than I and others in my family who had the opportunity to gain more days by evidence of their grey hair. They all encourage us to be greater, to go further, and to go harder. This is why we come to school, yes? If not, then why bother.

I have a dream that one day many more young minorities will be less influenced by distractions and delinquency and turn to walk in the sun lit path of education, purpose and opportunity. I wish for more young people to direct their energy to a new hustle for enrichment of their mind in the fields of science, medicine, health, technology, and mathematics, and social benefit projects. I have a dream that the world will contain much less crime because more young

people will have the knowledge and take initiative to access resources for what they need and find opportunity to work for what they want. And within this dream, we will have peace of mind for the safety of our little sisters walking home from school after a very productive day of knowledge work. But I know this grand change will not come overnight, and this will not come while we are in our dream. This will and can only come from the spirit of people who work towards the impossible with whole-hearted efforts in belief the present can contain the presents of our dream. Think of the Lincoln Memorial on the 28th day of the eighth month in 1963, and five score years before that. The change that we need, that many communities across the globe need are only bound by the possibilities within our minds. We set these limits.

In the neighborhood where I grew up, in East Oakland, and like many similar areas across the nation, there is desperate change needed. There are pre-teens beginning to sell drugs and carry weaponry for the necessity of survival. I believe these ways of life can come to a halt. I know this is possible because after much personal struggle I detached myself from heading down that road because it was not the example I wanted my children to have. I wish to see transformative change in more people in dedication to cultivation of self and community purpose. Now is a gift, this is why we call it the present. We lay bricks of the path for our little brothers and sisters to walk on, their acts reflect our actions. What reflection of yourself do you leave in the day, of yourself and for your family? Please consider this; our collective quality of life depends on it. There is an ever greater and demanding, yet rewarding place for all of us on the stage of world contribution; we must work to secure our part and play it well with skill and optimism. We shape the course and choices for tomorrows sun because we are the example. This thought shapes my day, every day. With faith in our efforts and belief in hard work, I am confident we will shape a better course for our tomorrow. The movement is collecting moments; the world's children need our help. It has begun. Thank you for your time.