

The moment Barack Obama made history, the nation looked to the future. A day later, Wall Street tumbled, but Main Street hoped for a tomorrow filled with

PROMISE

"It makes you so proud to be American. It didn't matter that I was a black woman last night. Here were all kinds of people, young and old, and we were all hugging each other."

WILMER AMINA CARTER
Assemblywoman, D-Rialto



"There has been a growing decline in racism in the country, and this is the moment you can say you have absolute proof."

ANDREW BUSCH
Professor of government
at Claremont-McKenna College

Locals ready for a 'change'

By Mark Petix | Staff Writer

The baristas were buzzing at a Starbucks on Wednesday morning and it wasn't about the coffee.

It was all about Barack Obama — "Can you believe it?" The day after America elected its first black president, supporters in the Inland Empire basked in a moment many thought they would never see.

"It was indescribable," said Assemblywoman Wilmer Amina Carter, D-Rialto. "There was just no way to express it. The English language is just short on that."

Then Carter, who spent the first nine years of her life living in Mississippi, found the words.

"It's the most amazing thing that's happened in my life," she said. More than 65 million people cast ballots for Obama in an election

See **FEELINGS** | Page A5

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MORE INSIDE

- INSIDE**
- Republican congressmen hold onto their seats | **A3**
- Mayor Grace Vargas wins Rialto race, keeps title | **A3**
- Rialto Unified superintendent resigns over results | **A8**
- Obama picks Clinton alum as chief of White House staff | **A12**
- Results are in for federal, state and local races | **A4**

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INDEX

Business	D1
Classified	D2
Crossword	B5
Lottery	A2
Obituaries	A6
Opinion	A7
Sports	C1
World & Nation	A14
Annie's Mailbox	B5
Comics	B5
Movies	B4
Television	B7

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TAKING STOCK

Politics and progress

This much is obvious: Obama won, McCain lost. Here are some subtle winners and losers as we exit Campaign '08.

WINNERS

UNITY: On the campaign trail, it's been two years of bickering about everything from race and gender to taxes and Iraq. Heck, the kitchen sink may not have entered the fray, but even the plumber died! But on Election Night, both McCain and Obama made gracious speeches about reaching across the aisle and unifying, as Americans.

YOUTH VOTE: Kids count, we've heard it for years. So do their votes. Between 22 million and 24 million youths voted in this historic race, which is at least 2.2 million more than in 2004. Even Nickelodeon-watchers and classroom tots got in on the action.

WORLD RELATIONS: The finger has lifted off "pause." Obama is likely the only one who could hit the reset button on the global stage and start to repair the nation's battered image from the Iraq war.

FISCAL CONSERVATISM: Toward the end of the campaign, even Obama talked about how to cut government. The nation's stumbling economy had to play a role, but so too did the need to reach swing voters.

CHARITIES: Think of all the underprivileged, donning the latest Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus fashions from the self-proclaimed "hockey mom's" campaign-dimed duds.

LOSERS

RACISM: A black man was sent to the White House about 150 years after slavery was a way of life. America may not yet be colorblind, but it's on its way.

GAYS: Whether you think it's about constitutional or parental rights, voters have vanquished same-sex couples from tying the knot. Arkansas took it a step further, taking adoption paperwork out of their hands, too.

GEORGE W. BUSH: W.'s embarrassingly low approval ratings hindered McCain and other Republicans as Democrats made a sweep to success this week, gaining 21 House seats and snatching at least five Republican-held Senate seats.

THE MEDIA: For an industry that has been beat up by falling revenues (and the GOP), political advertisements have disappeared quicker than corporate credit cards.

TINA FEY: Who will the Palin look-alike mock now?

— stacia.glenn@inlandnewspapers.com

PROPOSITION 8

Opponents continue to push for equality

By Sandra Emerson
Staff Writer

Californians who voted to preserve the definition of marriage should be satisfied knowing Proposition 8 passed, but opponents of the proposition are still pushing for equality.

The proposition — an initiative constitutional amendment aiming to ban same-sex marriage in California — passed 67.09 percent to 32.91 percent in San Bernardino County, according to the County Registrar of Voters.

Statewide, Proposition 8 passed 52.5 percent to 47.5 percent.

Jessica Austin, the president of the College of Republicans at the University of Redlands,

said many voters from both parties have been very passionate about the subject of same-sex marriage.

"I think people want to promote the sanctity of marriage and tradition," Austin said. "It has nothing to do about your views on homosexuality or their lifestyle. It has to do with the definition of a word and preserving what that word means."

Proposition 22, calling for the state to recognize marriage as between a man and a woman only, was passed in 2000 and was overturned by the California Supreme Court in May.

"They had no right to do that because the voters voted so clearly," Austin said. "Now we have another opportunity to overturn what"

See **PROP 8** | Page A6

'Getting over it' won't take long

By Wesley G. Hughes
Staff Writer

RIVERSIDE — Bad news can be hard to take, and in an election with as many elements as Tuesday's, it figures there's plenty of glumness to go around today either in the big race or the many propositions.

Handling bad news is such a common problem that social psychologist Kate Sweeny, a professor at UC Riverside, has made a study of it.

In an election, you are probably hopeful and optimistic at first. But as Election Day



Sweeny

draws nearer, you are clobbered by negative information and beaten down by surveys about your candidate's or your measure's likely chances.

You begin to expect the worst, Sweeny said Wednesday.

That's when you may need a little help from your friends. They can help steer you in the right direction.

See **LOSING** | Page A6