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# OBAMA FOODORAMA

A DAILY DIARY OF THE OBAMA FOODSCAPE, ONE BIPARTISAN BYTE AT A TIME

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2009

## The Only Thing Toxic About The White House Kitchen Garden Is The Rumors: Scientists Correct The Record On Contamination



***Noted Scientists Try Not to Laugh As They Demolish The Latest Ridiculous Rumors...***

***Mother Jones* magazine is the current winner in the bizarre race to see who can most effectively spin the White House Kitchen Garden as a Bad Idea For America.** Last week, the magazine **declared** that “the National Park Service disclosed that the garden's soil was contaminated with toxic lead,” and tried to make a dubious connection to sewage sludge that had **been used in the Clinton era** to encourage grass growth on White House lawns. “Contaminated” is a good bit of overstatement, and evidence that *Mother Jones* does not have a fact checker on staff, or any regard for its own reputation, but the magazine’s pronouncements have rapidly led to a game of toxic telephone on the Internets and in the media. The rumor that the White House Kitchen Garden is contaminated is being

NOVEMBER 4, 2008-ONWARD



The Obama Foodorama: Everything From Arugula To Waffles. An archive of Obama Food Art, White House recipes, White House Kitchen Garden info, Ag Policy Commentary & Food Politics, and an exploration of the Folk Foodways of the Obama White House. Scroll the sidebar for clickable stories. No public comments, but feel free to contact at [Obamafoodorama@gmail.com](mailto:Obamafoodorama@gmail.com)

THE FIRST LADY SUGGESTS YOU MAKE DINNER



Find links to White House recipes

repeated over and over, and gaining more traction by the day--even in places that should know better, and do their own fact checking. But *Mother Jones* is just plain wrong about the White House Kitchen Garden, as is everyone who's repeated their nonsense. (*Above: First Lady Michelle Obama harvests lettuce in the garden, with her Bancroft Elementary School helpers*)

### 93 PPM As A Lead Level Is 'Ridiculously Low'



It's true that the patch of South Lawn where the White House Kitchen Garden is situated was carefully tested by National Park Service officials before the garden groundbreaking in March, and was found to have a lead level of 93 parts per million. But that number is "ridiculously low" for any urban garden, according to **Dr. Gabriel Filippelli**, chair of Geology at Indiana University, and associate chair of the Center for

Environmental Health. Dr. Filippelli spent a lot of time chuckling during a recent conversation about the White House Kitchen Garden, because trying to make a case for grave contamination based on a test result of 93 ppm is absurd. (*Photo: Mr. Filippelli taking a break from field work*)

Dr. Filippelli also noted that the ppm reading for the White House Kitchen Garden is probably even *lower* than the actual 93 level the garden has been tagged with, because not all lead that's actually present in the soil is bioavailable—capable of being absorbed by food crops.

"But 93 ppm is laughably low to begin with," Dr. Filippelli repeated a few times for emphasis (while chuckling), and added that anyone claiming the garden is contaminated simply has no idea what they're talking about. "It would be nearly impossible to find a garden anywhere with less than 93 ppm," he noted.

### Crops Could Have Been Safely Planted At The White House With A PPM Number That's Double The White House Score

**Dr. David L. Johnson**, professor of Environmental Chemistry, Environmental Science, and Forestry at the State University of New York, pointed out that the only way to get lead poisoning from a garden growing in soil with a 93 ppm level was if the dirt itself was

here...

#### CONGRESS PASSES A LANDMARK FOOD SAFETY BILL



Is it safe to eat in America?

#### THE FIRST LADY'S FOOD PRINT



Sarah Brown plants an edible garden at 10 Downing Street, inspired by Michelle Obama

#### THE NATIONAL DESIGN AWARDS



The First Lady hosts imagineers for a special luncheon at the White House...with menu!

being eaten in large quantities.

“Is suspect that’s not happening at the White House,” Dr. Johnson said, and he also laughed when *Mother Jones’s* contamo campaign was described to him. He added that a far higher ppm reading would be “normal” in any urban area, because more than a century of using lead for things such as house paints, crystal, fuels, industrial applications, etc.--has led to contamination in cities across America.

“We as a culture got fooled by lead,” Dr. Johnson said. “We focused on the good parts, and only discovered all the bad parts later.”

Washington, DC is an urban area that has relatively low lead levels when compared to other cities that previously had heavy industry located within their borders—such as Chicago, New Orleans, Indianapolis and Baltimore, according to Dr. Johnson. That doesn’t mean lead isn’t a concern, however, because once lead is present in an environment, it never goes away. Thus the testing that was done at the White House Kitchen Garden site, which experts recommend for *all* garden sites, so appropriate remediation measures can be taken to grow safe food if lead is present. But remediation of the South Lawn wasn’t indicated with a test result of 93 ppm.

“I have no concerns at all about growing vegetables in soil with a reading of 93 ppm,” Dr. Johnson said.

And Dr. Filippelli said that planting right in the ground is perfectly appropriate at the White House.

“I would have no concerns about growing food there, and having kids eat it,” Dr. Filippelli said. “I would be happy to grow on that.” He added that he and his colleagues recommend the same thing for lead readings of up to 200 ppm. “Most state day care centers identify 400 ppm as the dangerous level for exposure for children,” he noted, to give perspective.

### ***It's Inflammatory Politics To Suggest That The White House Kitchen Garden Is Contaminated***



**Dr. Kimberly Gray** agrees with both Dr. Filippelli and Dr. Johnson’s assessment of the White House Kitchen Garden as a low-

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#### OBFO ON TWITTER

Food security, ag tech -transcript of Vilsack & Clinton remarks during visit to Kenya's Ag Research Institute

<http://tinyurl.com/lzkwzw> about 3 hours ago

Senate approves \$500 k in funding to try to determine what "organic" means <http://tinyurl.com/nnvyzd> about 3 hours ago

Ag Secretary Vilsack: African farmers can make up for US polluters... <http://tinyurl.com/mpha7s> about 3 hours ago

Whole Foods CEO Mackey announces that they sell tons of junk food. <http://tinyurl.com/nhy7bz> about 4 hours ago

VP Joe Biden's billion dollar batteries & what it all means for agriculture <http://tinyurl.com/18vvlv> (cameo by Rep. Dingell! ;) ) about 4 hours ago

RT @LAWeekly <http://bit.ly/CnA92> Umami THE best burgers in LA about 4 hours ago

Thanks for Rt luv! @R71 @SeasLife @livablefuture @55Secretstreet @curvaceous @liveablefuture about 4 hours ago

Thanks for the Rts! @christinagigi @YouAreDelicious @natejtaylor @kate\_sheppard @SBTribune @KnowYourObama @culinate about 4 hours ago

Good morning tweeps! Drinking battery powered java in middle of Motown. about 4 hours ago

@TriBeats Hiya! Did u catch POTUS



lead zone. She's the Director of the Environmental Sciences Program at Northwestern University, as well as Associate Director of the Institute of Environmental Catalysis (*in pic, working in the field*). Dr. Gray has spent much time figuring out remediation solutions for environments that actually *are*

heavily contaminated with lead and other heavy metals. She said she's frequently seen areas in Chicago with lead levels between 5,000 and 10,000 ppm. She also laughed when she heard that *Mother Jones*, among others, is calling the White House Kitchen Garden "contaminated."

"This is about politics, not lead," Dr. Gray said. "It's inflammatory. 93 ppm is well below background lead for an urban environment. It's what you'd expect just from atmospheric deposition." Atmospheric deposition is lead particles that fall out of the sky, from things like auto emissions.

"In Chicago, we don't necessarily even identify a result of 2,000 ppm as highly contaminated, because the lead levels are in general so high," Dr. Gray said. One of her projects was figuring out how much lead from soils actually gets into plants, and then wind up being consumed, something Dr. Filippelli is also studying.

"Root vegetables absorb much more lead than other crops," Dr. Gray said. "Fruiting crops, like tomatoes and berries, have a far lower level of absorption from contaminated soil."

Dr. Filippelli noted that lettuces and greens and peas—all crops that have been harvested in abundance from the White House Kitchen Garden—are also less likely than other crops to draw any lead from the soil.

Dr. Gray said that because lead exposure has profound, lifelong health effects, particularly for small children, dealing with lead is always a cost-benefit analysis in the modern world, of weighing human activities vs. gravely but routinely contaminated environments. But this cost benefit analysis at the White House is almost negligible.

"The White House garden is an incredibly wonderful, beneficial thing,"

yesterday? :) [about 4 hours ago](#)

There Was one gang of sign carriers outside Biden event: "health care reform now". Preaching 2 converted... [about 21 hours ago](#)

renewable energy, and connecting dots between energy , economy ,innovation on local scale.. Local being USA [about 21 hours ago](#)

Final notes on Biden: he actually used phrase "foreign oil oligarchs".

Entire event was about renewable energy btw @tlaskawy [about 21 hours ago](#)

Sorry I cldnt respond to u tweeples during Biden event...twifon soooo bad [about 21 hours ago](#)

And that's it. Niw for photonop with Vpotus looking at battery powered cars [about 22 hours ago](#)

Biden:the 1 billion will effect every part of manufacturing supply chain from recycling to consumers [about 22 hours ago](#)

Amusingly as Biden speaks a train goes by [about 22 hours ago](#)

Biden just got standing ovation "this will create 19,000 hi-paying jobs with benefits" [about 22 hours ago](#)

Single largest investment: 2.5 billion in DOE \$\$ going to batteries.

Michigan gets 1 billion [about 22 hours ago](#)

Biden: We missed boat in manufacturing.. Internal combustion engine is fine, but batteries are the future [about 22 hours ago](#)

[follow me on Twitter](#)

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THE OBAMA BEER SUMMIT ON RACE RELATIONS IN AMERICA

she said. "It's great."



### ***The Sludge Theory Is...Well, Sludge***

The three scientists also each weighed in on *Mother Jones's* accusation that the White House is still contaminated by the sludge that was supposedly spread on the lawns in the '90s.

"On average, sludge has elevated levels of heavy metals but not terribly high levels," Dr. Gray said. "You have to know what slipstream it [the sludge] came from, and that's impossible now." She added that it's "of little concern that there is enduring sludge contamination at the White House, given the lead reading."

"My experience with sludge is that sometimes microorganisms are the biggest issue," Dr. Filippelli said. "But this far down the line, any microorganisms are dead."

"As time has marched forward, any contaminants [at the White House] that might have come from sewage sludge have dramatically decreased," Dr. Johnson said. "And because there's no body of evidence about what was in it [the sludge], where it came from, it's not worth trying to make a story on the Internets that there's a story there."

Dr. Johnson and Dr. Gray both pointed out that perhaps the accusations against the White House Kitchen Garden have a positive side, from a public health stand point, in terms of raising public awareness about lead in particular and other toxins in general.

"It reminds us that we do live in a contaminated environment..and precautions have to be taken with any outdoor activity," Dr. Johnson said. He noted that simply washing one's hands thoroughly after being outside is a good way to get rid of environmental toxins. "Parents and caregivers should emphasize that for children, in the same way that you wash your hands before food."

### ***The Case For Organics, Yet Again***

These observations make one more thing about the White House



Click to read the amazing chain of Six Degrees of Obama Foodorama occurences that led to the historic White House invite...

### CARTOGRAPHIES OF CHOWBAMA



The interactive "The Obamas Ate Here" map

### THEM'S FIGHTING WORDS!



Foo Fighters Rock the White House July 4 Picnic...with video!

Kitchen Garden perfectly clear. If we're already living in an irrevocably contaminated physical environment, then eliminating toxins from pesticides and chemical fertilizers used on food crops is critical to preserving human health. Organic practices for growing food crops is a part of health care reform, if we identify environmentally created disease as something that can be eliminated just by changing growing practices. If we can delete unnecessary fats, salts and sugars from our food chain, surely we can delete unnecessary chemicals, too. Organic practices as a key element of health care reform was recently adopted as a platform by the American Medical Association for just this reason. **Although the White House Kitchen Garden is not certified organic--as this takes a rigorous three-year protocol--and no one has ever claimed the garden is "organic"--there are no pesticides or chemical fertilizers used, which is a terrific policy.** *Mother Jones* is now officially on top of the compost heap of White House Kitchen Garden bashers, right there with [Politico](#) and [Drudge Report](#).

*\*Pictures of Drs. Gray and Filippelli courtesy of the scientists; WHKG photo by Samantha Appleton/White House.*

POSTED BY EDDIE GEHMAN KOHAN AT 5:27 PM 

LABELS: [ONE MORE FOR THE BIOCYCLER](#)

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

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## HEALTH CARE REFORM & FOOD POLICY REFORM



Some Doctors are taking matters into their own hands....

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NOT FROM THE WHITE HOUSE  
PRESS OFFICE: OBAMA  
FOODORAMA BARACKING OUT IN  
OTHER MEDIA

[אובאמה ואוכל](#)

[Washington Post](#)

[Village Voice](#)

[Vanity Fair](#)

[Today/MSNBC](#)

[The Times - South Africa](#)

[The Nation](#)

[The Moderate Voice](#)

[The Globe and Mail](#)

[The Ethicurean](#)

[The Atlantic Food Channel](#)

[The Atlantic](#)

[Rue 89](#)

[Politico](#)

[NPR/Evan Kleinman's Good Food](#)

[New York Times - Well Blog](#)

[New York Times - Diners Journal](#)

[New York Times - Bitten](#)

[New York Times](#)

[MSNBC/Today](#)

[Mirror UK](#)

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)

[Marler Blog](#)

[Gourmet Magazine](#)

[Ezra Klein/The American Prospect](#)

[Daily Kos](#)

[Cookie Magazine](#)

[Colunistas](#)

[China Daily](#)

[Chicago Tribune](#)

[Chicago Sun-Times](#)

[Bob Cesca's Awesome Blog. Go!](#)

[ABC News](#)

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#### WHITE HOUSE KITCHEN GARDEN VISITORS



Click to read about the visionary sustainable Ag-tivists who recently visited the garden...

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#### THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF APOLLO 11



Click to read how Spacefood

technology permanently altered  
American eating culture....

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#### THE FIRST WHITE HOUSE LUAU



Click for some of Chef Alan Wong's  
excellent recipes...

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#### "I'M A MEDIUM-WELL GUY"



The President grills with Chef Bobby  
Flay for Father's Day

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#### OB FO RAN INTO DEMI MOORE AT THE WHCA DINNER



Click the pic for links to all coverage of Washington's annual Nerd Prom...

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CRITICAL ISSUES: HEALTH CARE AND FOOD POLICY



The First Lady's remarks at Unity Health Care

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SUBSCRIBE TO OB FO:

 Posts 

 Comments 

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THE PEOPLE'S GARDEN GETS INTERACTIVE



Sec. Vilsack's summer gardening workshops...click for the schedule

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FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA AS THE LEADER OF THE AMERICAN FOOD MOVEMENT



Click to read about how the First Lady's food initiatives impact issues across the policy sphere...

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[OB FO AT THE DNC FUNDRAISER IN LOS ANGELES](#)



POTUS inspires dueling dinners and an adoring crowd...click to read!

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[HRH QUEEN ELIZABETH PLANTS A VEGETABLE GARDEN](#)



Was The Queen Inspired by the First Lady? Click to read about the amazing similarities between the two Kitchen Gardens...

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[THE FIRST LADY TETE-A-TETE](#)



Mrs. Obama and Mrs. Reagan have lunch at the White House...click for the menu

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DATE NIGHT AT NEW YORK'S BLUE HILL



The Obamas dine at Dan Barber's lovely "American Seasonal" restaurant in New York...

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THE WHITE HOUSE KITCHEN GARDEN IS A MASTERPIECE OF NON-VERBAL POLITICAL MESSAGING



Click to read about its symbolism and policy connections....

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SPECIAL WHITE HOUSE M&M  
BOXES...



...and other foodie secrets at 1600  
Pennsylvania Avenue. [Click to read!](#)

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EXECUTIVE CHEF CRISTETA  
COMERFORD, ON THE RECORD



Chef Comerford is a heroine in her  
native country. [Click to read her  
thoughts on cooking at the White  
House...](#)

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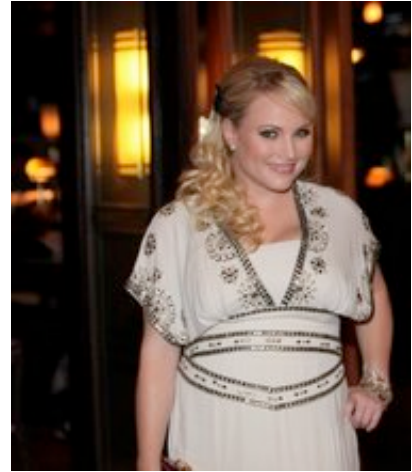
CHEF SPIKE MENDELSON HAS  
FRIENDS IN POWERFUL  
PLACES...



...and they think his turkey burgers  
are Good Stuff! Click for the recipe...

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MEGHAN MCCAIN AT THE WHCA  
DINNER



The last best hope for the Cons  
suffers through the media frenzy &  
remains sweet as pie....

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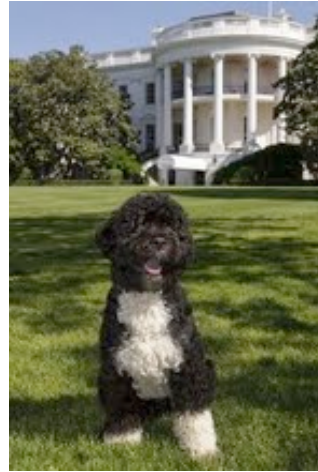
MICHELLE OBAMA AND SAM  
KASS VISIT THE BANCROFT KIDS



The First Lady, Food Activist, makes  
her most comprehensive statements  
to date about food...click to read!

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EVEN BO INSPIRES FOOD POLICY  
DEBATE



Marian Nestle Responds to Ob Fo's questions about critical First Fluff issues...click to read!

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THE FIRST LADY FACTOR:  
INSPIRING GARDENS  
EVERYWHERE



A Replica of the White House Kitchen Garden is built at Europe's biggest horticultural festival...

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THE PRESIDENT ROCKS, BUT HE  
DOESN'T ALWAYS ROLL

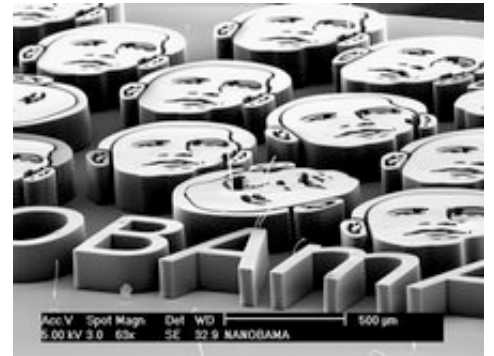


Waiters turn Depthroat & advise Ob Fo on the President's habitual bread

bye-bye

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NANOTECHNOLOGY AND  
PRESIDENT OBAMA



The unregulated tech is now making its way into food. What will be official policy?

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THE NEW YORK TIMES TRIES TO  
CREATE FAUX WHITE HOUSE  
KITCHEN CONTROVERSY...AGAIN



Ob Fo deconstructs an op-ed that claims there's not enough food activity at the White House. Click for a good belly laugh!

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BACK IN THE DAYS WHEN HE  
WAS A YOUNG BLIPSTER...



POTUS wrote an awesomely bad poem about food. Preserved here for eternity! Click to read...

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JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE...



The President visits Five Guys with Brian Williams in tow...click to read!

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FRANK BRUNI THINKS BLUE HILL RESTAURANT IS BORING



Click to read about Bruni's Presidential Food Fantasies.

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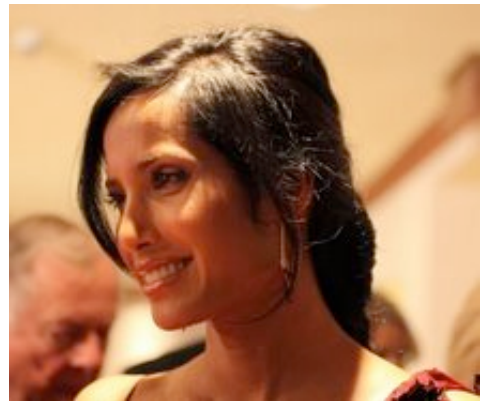
"WE ARE ALL FISHERMEN"



POTUS's commencement address at Notre Dame

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PADMA LAKSHMI AT THE WHCA DINNER



What see-through dress? We chatted about the White House Kitchen Garden!

---

SLOW NEWS DAY? BASH THE PRESIDENT'S CHOICE OF CONDIMENTS



Sean Hannity creates Mustardgate.  
Click to read...

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SAM KASS JOINS REGGIE &  
RAHM ON OBAMA HOTTIE LISTS



For the first time ever, a WH chef  
lands on People mag's 100 most  
beautiful list

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OBAMA FOODORAMA GOES TO  
THE 2009 WHITE HOUSE EASTER  
EGG ROLL



Click to read about the White House

## Chefs in the Kids Kitchen...

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### OBAMA FOODORAMA GOES TO EASTER SERVICES WITH THE FIRST FAMILY



Click to read all the details about the visit to St. John's Church...

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### JUDGE SONIA SOTOMAYOR & FOOD



If President Obama's appointee is confirmed for the Supreme Court, how would Judge Sotomayor do on critical issues?

---

### FIRST IT WAS THE LOGO, NOW IT'S AN ORGANIC GARDEN



Michelle Obama and the White House Kitchen Garden inspire change in some unusual places....

---

VISITORS TO THE WHITE HOUSE KITCHEN GARDEN...



Cali's next Governor stops by for a private "tour." And no one knew...click to find out why.

---

THERE'S JUST ONE ORGANIC EATERY IN MERCED, CALIFORNIA



The First Lady managed to find it, and provide her own economic stimulus during her commencement visit

---

OB FO CHATS ON THE RADIO  
WITH RICHARD GREENE



Click to read some thoughts on why food lobbying POTUS & FLOTUS is a tricky biz....

---

THE LOVELY JAMIE OLIVER  
THINKS SODA IS BAD



The Brit Chef plans to personally lobby the President to change American school lunches...

---

#### CHIEF OF DONUT POLICE TO HEAD CDC



Will Dr. Thomas Frieden's agro regulatory tendencies help food safety?

---

#### THE FIRST LADY & THE FOODIE BOOK



FLOTUS reads a classical foodie tale to thrilled gradeschoolers....

MISGUIDED MICHELLE OBAMA HOMAGE:



The For-Profit "White House" Gardening Site

POTUS AND VPOTUS LUNCH OUT



Unfortunately, they choose the appropriately named Ray's Hell

Burger....

---

SEC VILSACK GARDENS IN SUIT  
& TIE



But "sustainable" is now USDA's  
adjective of choice

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PRESIDENTIAL DATE NIGHT



FLOTUS and POTUS visit DC's  
Citronelle restaurant....

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A WHOLE WEEK DEVOTED TO  
THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST 100  
DAYS ANNIVERSARY



Click to read the recap of a week of posts...sure, it's over the top, but that's why you're here!

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THE FLOTUS FACTOR: EVEN BEFORE THE FIRST LADY VISITED...



Miriam's Kitchen was a seriously swell food initiative....

---

THE NATIONAL BLACK FARMERS ASSOCIATION FIRST 100 DAYS RALLY AT USDA...



Click to read about their plea to the

President to re-open the Pigford case....

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A GREENROOF FOOD GARDEN AT THE WHITE HOUSE?



Green Recovery genius Van Jones has big plans....

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THIS YEAR AT THE WHITE HOUSE...



Click to read about the first presidential Passover Seder.

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THE PEOPLE'S GARDEN AT USDA



Click to read about how Ag Secretary Vilsack's organic green dream became reality...

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OBAMA FOODORAMA GOES TO THE APRIL 15 TAX DAY TEA PARTY IN DC



...there was no actual tea, but plenty of teabagging politics. Click to read...

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HOW FOOD GETS TO THE WHITE HOUSE VS. HOW FOOD GETS TO YOU



...Or local vs. national. Click to read...

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OBAMA FOODORAMA GOES TO  
THE LA TOWN HALL MEETING



...and is reminded that The Press is  
not allowed to cheer for The  
President...

---

OBAMA IN EUROPE:



Read about the Obama NATO Cake...

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THE OBAMAS MEET THE  
QUEEN...



Click to read about the "hug" and historic canapes...

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CHEF JAMIE OLIVER CREATES THE G20 SUMMIT BANQUET



Click for the recipes and background on Jamie's inspiring menu of food politics...

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MARCH WAS A BIG FOODIE MONTH FOR FLOTUS



Click to read about the Republican pushback against Michelle Obama...

## INTERNATIONAL OBAMA FOODIE HOMAGE



Chefs in Cambridge, England create dishes to celebrate The President's family connection to their villages...

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## BARK OBAMA:



Click to read about the compelling, possibly insane food policy issues that might be raised with the First Pup

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## OBAMA FOODIE HISTORY: THE OBAMA-LINCOLN BIRTHDAY BICENTENNIAL PORTRAIT



Click to read about artist Zilly Rosen's 5,900 cupcake installation at the Smithsonian American Art Museum

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HOW SAFE ARE YOUR OBAMA  
CUPCAKES?



Click to read about Obama's plans for a Food Safety Working Group, and changes in Ag policy....

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THE INTERSECTION OF RACE,  
POLITICS, FOOD AND HISTORY



Some thoughts on the transgressive nature of the White House Kitchen Garden....

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EVEN THE CHAMPAGNE WAS  
GREEN AT THE WHITE HOUSE  
ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY



[Click to read the menu for the evening receptions...](#)

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[ALL THE DETAILS ON THE WHITE HOUSE KITCHEN GARDEN](#)



[Click to read all about the South Lawn microfarmette...](#)

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[INSIDE THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON FOOD SAFETY](#)



[Click to read about a crazy day on Capitol Hill...Felons, Liars, Mad Scientists...and oh yeah, Honorable Members of The House](#)

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[HOUSE SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI'S ST. PAT'S DAY LUNCHEON](#)



Click to read all the details for the annual shindig, including the menu and guest list

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FLOTUS TALKS TO OPRAH ABOUT GARDENS...



Click to read the posts that set off the media frenzy over the White House garden...

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FLOTUS & POTUS THROW A MID-WEEK DINNER



Click to read the menu for their "Charm Offensive" to woo Reluctant

## Republicans

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### EXECUTIVE CHEF CRIS COMERFORD'S NO-CREAM CREAMED SPINACH



Click to read the recipe...The President and First Lady both love it, but only Michelle has a dress to match...

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### INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE KITCHEN WITH MICHELLE, CRIS & BILL...



The First Lady gives the scoop on the first Obama State Dinner

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### WHITE HOUSE PASTRY CHEF BILL YOSSES



Click here for his Huckleberry  
Cobbler recipe, a White House  
favorite

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MICHELLE OBAMA'S  
SHORTBREAD COOKIES



Click for the recipe, and a little  
Onauguration story...

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THE RECIPE FOR MICHELLE  
OBAMA'S BIRTHDAY CAKE



Click to read about Malia & Sasha's  
secret-ops surprise party shenanigans

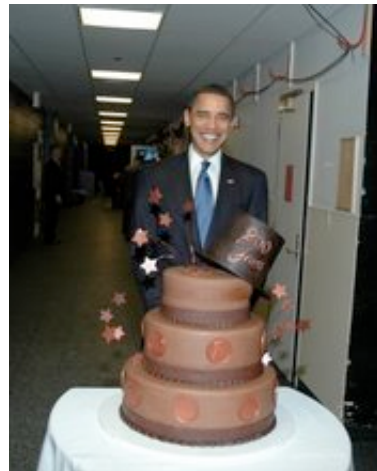
THE OBAMA FAMILY CHILI  
RECIPE



Barack's Fave Food to Cook at Home

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THE FANTASTIC DESSERTS FROM  
THE LINCOLN BIRTHDAY  
BICENTENNIAL BANQUET



The lovely folks at Eli's Cheesecake  
Company share their recipe...click to  
read!

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BRITISH PRIME MINISTER  
GORDON BROWN BRINGS  
ECONOMIC PLANS TO  
WASHINGTON



...And an excellent recipe for Veggie & Mozzarella Parcels. Click to read!

---

A VALENTINE'S DAY RECIPE FOR MICHELLE OBAMA



Click to read Chef Art Smith's delish creation

---

A STIMULATING RECIPE FROM THE SHERRIF!



Click for Joe Biden's Middle Class Fabulous Oatmeal Cookies

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THE FIRST STATE DINNER AT

THE WHITE HOUSE



Click for the menu for the dinner for the National Governors Association

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THE PRESIDENT'S FAVE  
HAWAIIAN COMFORT FOOD: THE  
PLATE LUNCH



A Top-Secret Recipe!

---

ARE OBAMA FINGERS JUST BAD  
TASTING...



Or just bad race-baiting? Click to

read...

---

A HOG MRSA EPIDEMIC, AND WHO KNEW WHAT, WHEN?



Click to read about how the Obama admin is being lobbied to spin the info...

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IS CORN FOOD OR FUEL?



Click to read about the issues plaguing the President in energy policy...

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FORMER WHITE HOUSE CHEF WALTER SCHEIB ON THE RECORD ABOUT THE FOODIE DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN...



Click to read our chat about Cristeta Comerford bashing, and the truth about local, organic, sustainable food in the White House kitchens...

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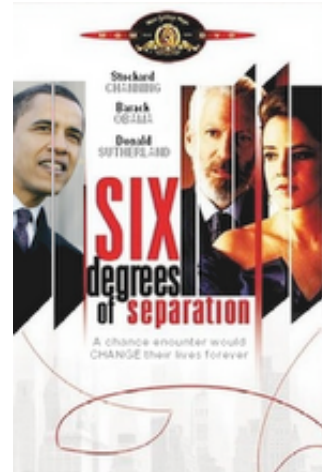
THE FIRST LADY BROUGHT A LOVELY SAPLING TO THE USDA FOR THE PEOPLE'S GARDEN...



But does Tom Vilsack really have a new garden to plant it in?

---

SIX DEGREES OF OBAMA  
FOODORAMA



Somehow everything related to Obama has food in the mix...read the playbook!

---

OB FO FINDS OUT HOW THE OBAMA COOKIES CRUMBLE IN CANADA



Click for an interview with Alice Gonzalez, of Le Moulin de Provence Bakery

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A NEW ENTRY IN THE OBAMA FOODIE HOMAGE CATEGORY



Click to read about Meal O'Bama, which has nothing to do with Irish food...

---

HOW MANY OBAMA COOKIES CAN YOU BUY WITH YOUR RECOVERY CASH?



Click to find out!

---

THE PRESIDENT INHERITED A TERRIBLE FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM...



Who's going to clean up the mess?

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SUSHI EXPERT CASSON TRENOR  
CASTS HIS NET WIDE



Click to read his advice about seafood  
for Barack--and for all Eaters--

PART III WITH FORMER WHITE  
HOUSE CHEF WALTER SCHEIB  
ON SPEED DIAL...



Click to read our latest chat!

THE BAROQUE OBAMA COCKTAIL



A delish beverage from famed

mixologist Paystyle

---

A JUMBO RECAP OF CAMPAIGN  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE MANIA



21 Months of The Obama Foodorama

---

HOW'D THE STIMULUS BILL  
ACTUALLY GET PASSED?



Homemade cookies and cocktails for  
everyone!

---

THE LINCOLN BIRTHDAY  
BICENTENNIAL BANQUET



Click to read the menu for the Springfield, Illinois shindig...

---

#### WHO'S PAYING FOR THE WHITE HOUSE DINNERS?



Click to read about the Con-troversy brewing from the Right Wing party poopers...

---

#### THE TEA PARTIES: ANTI-OBAMA ECONOMIC POLICY PROTESTS



Click to find out how Senator Chuck Schumer became the cross-dressing poster boy...

---

#### POTUS'S STAR TURN ON FOODIE TV



Click for the recipe for the now-famous Dixie Bait Shop Peach Cobbler

---

PRESIDENT OBAMA GOT LINCOLN'S BIBLE FOR THE INAUGURATION...



We Got Lincoln's Favorite Cake Recipe!

---

THE CONS GET BIZZY AGAIN...



Click to read about this bit of racist iconography...

MALIA & SASHA GO TO WASHINGTON



Click to Read About the model ethical lunch program at Sidwell Friends School

---

WILL OBAMA FOODS SOON BE A THING OF THE PAST?



Hop Obama Ale gets de-mobilized....

---

DEPUTY SECRETARIES NOMM'D FOR USDA



Will they move Ag forward into a new era, or just replicate old, bad policies?

---

### SKITTLEBAMA



The only known portrait of Bam done in Skittles candies...

### THE AUDACITY OF HOPS



Click to read our Interview with Sam Chapple-Sokol, creator of Obama's fave brew...

### REP. ROSA DELAURO AND RAHM EMANUEL LIVE TOGETHER...



Will sharing donuts & coffee every day change policy?

---

THE PRESIDENT DOESN'T DRINK  
COFFEE...



White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs stuns the nation with the news...

---

ARTIST SHEPARD FAIREY'S BEEN  
DINING OUT ON HOPE



...and now the AP is suing him. YOU can dine on Shepard Fairey plates, and help pay his legal bills!

---

WHITE HOUSE PRESS  
SECRETARY ROBERT GIBBS  
MAKES A STUNNING  
ADMISSION...



Barack's getting foodborne disease outbreak info from the AP wire, rather than government agencies....click to read!

---

BARACK INHERITS THE FRENCH CHEESE TRADE WAR...



Click to read about a parting foodie "gift" from Prez Bush...

---

AMERICA WANTS TO EAT OBAMA'S FAVE FOODS, AND OBAMA WANTS TO EAT LINCOLN'S FAVE FOODS



[Click for the Inaugural Luncheon menu, with recipes!](#)

---

[DO GOURMET MAG & THE NEW YORK TIMES HATE ALICE WATERS? THEY MAKE HER LOOK AWFULLY SILLY...](#)



...every time she mentions The Obamas & food. Click to read about why we're worried for the activist chef!

---

[OBAMA FOODORAMA ON TWITTER](#)



Click to follow the hyper-caffeinated tweetstream...

---

[THE REAL FACE OF THE SALMONELLA CONTAMINATION SCANDAL](#)



Clifford Frederick Tousignant: Triple purple heart veteran in the Korean War, dead from peanut butter. Click to read Barack's response...

---

OBAMA FOODORAMA WAS AT THE INAUGURATION



Click around between Jan. 17-22 for posts

---

THE PRESIDENT WAS A CHUBSTER WHO LOVED EATING SHRIMP CHIPS AS A KID....



His Indonesian school teacher tells all...

---

REP. ROSA DELAURO WANTS TO ENSURE YOU DON'T DIE FROM EATING FOOD.



Click to read about the Food Safety Modernization Act...

---

WHAT EXACTLY IS IN YOUR CHILD'S LUNCH?



Click to read about the bad Bailout Chicken in school lunch programs...

---

"PEOPLE WHO BUY ORGANICS ARE DUMB:" HOUSE AGRICULTURE CHAIR COLLIN PETERSON



Click to read about his campaign against Chuck Hassebrook...

---

AG SECRETARY TOM VILSACK  
INHERITED A BIG MESS AT USDA



Job #1: Throw out the junkies! Click to read about the USDA vets who give new meaning to the term "party animal"

---

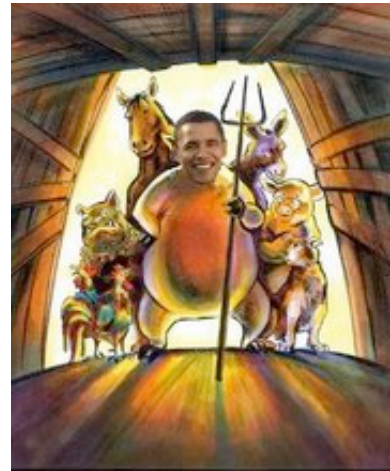
LOOKING FOR INFO ABOUT THE  
NEW WHITE HOUSE CHEF?



You're not going to find it at the official White House site...click to find out why.

---

HOW TO GET USDA TO FOCUS ON FARMERS & FOOD, RATHER THAN BIZ?



A progressive Deputy Secretary would help. Who's blocking Chuck Hassebrook?

---

CHEF TONY BOURDAIN ON THE ALICE WATERS WHITE HOUSE LOBBYING CAMPAIGN



"There's something very Khmer Rouge about Alice Waters that has become unrealistic..." Click to read the interview in DCist

---

TEAM OF RIVALS FOR OBAMA CABINET...



And Team of Recidivists for FDA, if big changes aren't made...

---

WOW, CHUCK NORRIS LIKES OBAMA FOODORAMA!



And even better, he hate him some FDA just like we do! But seriously, click to read his very insightful commentary...

---

BAM RAN THE SHADOW  
GOVERNMENT FROM A HISTORIC  
DC HOTEL



What Was For Dinner at The Hay-Adams?

---

IS IT ALL JUST PIE IN THE SKY?



A proposal for changing our food

culture, from Civil Eats

---

THE MOST AMBITIOUS OBAMA  
BAKED GOODS IN AMERICA



Zilly Rosen's 1,200 Mini-Cupcake  
Mosaic

---

BARACK VISITS BEN'S CHILI  
BOWL



Click to read about the historic DC  
eatery...

---

SOX! SOX FOOD!



What's for dinner when the Sox are winning?

---

THE OBAMA-BIDEN RURAL AGENDA



[Click Here to Read...](#)

---

BARACK GETS SNACK-CAKED



[Click to read about the Twinkies For Obama campaign](#)

---

HENNESSY'S LIMITED EDITION 44 COGNAC...



Celebrate the Onauguration  
urbanely...

---

BRAND AMERICA AND BRAND  
OBAMA:



The President-elect's halo effect for  
global foods

---

LINKS FOR THE OBAMA  
FOODORAMA

[\[Archival\] Armed Forces Inaugural  
Committee](#)

[\[Archival\] Joint Congressional  
Committe on Inaugural  
Ceremonies](#)

[\[Archival\] President-Elect Obama's  
Website For The Transition](#)

[\[Archival\] Presidential Inauguration  
Committee](#)

[A Mighty Appetite](#)

[Barack Obama dot com](#)

[Barack Oblogger](#)

- [Becoming 44](#)
- [C-SPAN](#)
- [Civil Eats](#)
- [Grist](#)
- [Huffington Post's Obama Page](#)
- [La Vida Locavore](#)
- [Literary Obama](#)
- [Marler Blog](#)
- [Michelle Obama Watch](#)
- [Politico 44](#)
- [The Green Fork](#)
- [The Obama Art Report](#)
- [The Obama Dog Blog](#)
- [The Obama News](#)
- [The White House Historical Association](#)
- [Today With President Barack Obama](#)
- [Washington Post's 44](#)
- [White House Correspondents Insider](#)
- [White House Correspondents' Association Official Site](#)
- [White House Organic Farm Project](#)
- [Wonkette](#)

---

MERCURY IN FISH:



Click to read about Obama's  
Toxorama challenge

---

OBAMA'S "POET INAUGURATE" IS  
OBSESSED WITH FOOD, TOO



[Click here to read about Elizabeth Alexander's foodisms...](#)

---

ALL THE PRESIDENTS' LUNCH:



[Click to read about the messy menu...](#)

---

THE AGRICULTURAL ORIGIN OF BARACK'S CAMPAIGN SLOGAN



[Josh Viertel Explains](#)

---

AG FANTASIES FOR ETHICAL FOODIES: MOVING VILSACK TO COMMERCE.



It was a good idea while it lasted...read why, & cry.

---

#### ON AUGURATION FOODS



Click to read about The First Family Shortbread Cookies from Little Rae's Bakery

---

#### ANN COULTER HATES B. HUSSEIN OBAMA...



Click to read her thoughts on you awful Libs & your silly food...

---

NO FLYING PIGS WANTED...



Why the Organic Consumers Association protested Tom Vilsack

---

SANTABAMA: WHAT GIFTS WILL BARACK BRING TO FOODIES?



Kim Severson ponders the naughty & nice list, and misquotes us, but hey, it's the NYT, so who cares?

---

HOW MANY AMERICANS ADOPTED CHINESE BABIES WHO ARE ILL FROM MELAMINE CONTAMINATED MILK?



And Would Barack and Michele give their girls Chinese food? We hope not...

---

THE PRESIDENT-ELECT IS INHERITING A GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS...



...and a poisoned food supply from China. What will Obama do?

---

MR. & MRS. FARMER-IN-CHIEF



Will The White House Lawn Become

an Organic Garden?

---

THE INAUGURATION IS \$20  
MILLION SHORT...



That's a lotta cupcakes!

---

NO STARBARACK COFFEE AT THE  
INAUGURATION...



And forget about the organic picnic  
you were bringing, too! Click to find  
out what's NOT banned at The  
Brackanalina...

---

WHAT THE HECK DOES A \$50 K  
DONATION GET YOU AT THE  
INAUGURATION?



Not even the Team of Revelers can say, for sure...

---

THE MADOFF HEDGE FUND SCANDAL & THE INAUGURATION:



Will The Obamabucks Stop Flying In?

---

THE INAUGURATION AS OBAMA SOBERAMA



DC Council bows to calls for limited Barackanalian reveling

---

FOODIE PORN FOR THE CORONATION-ER-INAUGURATION:



## Top Chefs Create Faux Fantasy Menus For January 20, 2009

---

THE BIG OAHU NEWS: BAM SURE  
EATS A LOT!



His press pool becomes stringers for  
Gourmet Magazine...

---

EDITOR EDDIE CHATS ABOUT  
THE OBAMA FOODORAMA ON  
NPR



[Click Here to Listen!](#)

---

ONO KINE GRINDZ: THE LOCALS-  
ONLY GUIDE TO EATING IN  
KAILUA



We've lived there, we know what we're talking about...

---

SENATOR DURBIN: "FORGET ABOUT FOOD SAFETY IN YEAR 1"



He wishes everyone a Happy Poo Year!

---

SENATOR HARKIN IS FURIOUS ABOUT AG NOMS



He Predicts Obama's Cookies Will Crumble

---

OBAMA EATS HERE..AND  
HERE...AND HERE...



You Can Too!

---

A BARACK OBUMMER FOR THE  
PRESIDENT-ELECT:



Click to read about FDA's Stealth  
Policy Reversal on Animal Antibiotics

---

IT DOESN'T GET MUCH MORE  
FUN THAN THIS:



The Obamas' White House Social  
Secretary was a Zulu Queen! Laissez  
les bon temps rouler!

---

THE MARLBAMA MAN



Some thoughts on Bam's other oral fixation

---

"A NEW AND BRIGHTER DAY IS YET TO COME"



Barack's Thanksgiving Message

---

BEETGATE, THE FIRST OBAMA FOODIE SCANDAL



Secret Tapes Reveal Barack's Dislike of Red Root

---

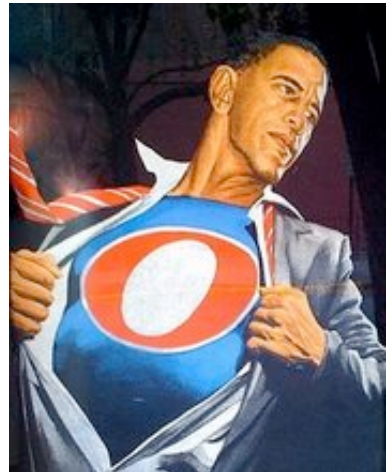
JOE BIDEN'S 66TH BIRTHDAY...



Barack Celebrates With Cupcakes

---

BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE A DIME? OR FIVE BUCKS?



Barack Needs Your Help Getting Food & Shelter For Wildfire Victims

---

TEN DAYS AFTER VICTORY:

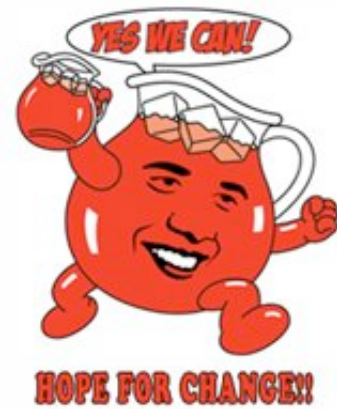


Cupcakes Still Being Sold in

## Celebration

---

### THE BARACKATINI GETS INVENTED



Coming Soon: The Michelle Mojito, The Malia Milkshake, The Sasha Soda?

---

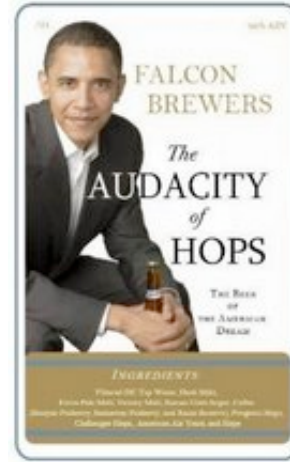
### PIE IN THE SKY PIZZA



Obamas' Hometown Fave, Italian Fiesta Pizzeria, Gets Invited to Inauguration

---

### AN AMERICAN MICROBREW IN HONOR OF BARACK



The Audacity of Hops

---

WILL OBAMA REMAIN THE FRIEND OF ISRAEL?



Palestinians Lobby With "O" Bread

---

A SILLY RECAP OF ALL THE TOP TOQUE CANDIDATES FROM THE RIDICULOUS PERIOD BEFORE INAUGURATION NIGHT:



Before Sam Kass came on the scene, the foodosphere was filled with wild

speculation about who would cook at the White House...Chef Art Smith...

---



Chef Daniel Young...

---



Chef Sarah Stegner...

---



Chef Tony Mantuano...



Chef Rick Bayless...

---

AND THE WINNER IS:



White House Exec Chef Cris  
Comerford transitions to The Obama  
Era!

---

BYTE INTO OBFO!

Byte Into ObFo! ⌵

---

KENDALL-JACKSON LOBBIES TO  
BECOME WHITE HOUSE WINERY



## Jess Jackson Sends First Foodie Gift to Barack

---

POLITICAL PUNDITS CREDIT THE INTERNET FOR BARACK'S BIG WIN



## Foodies Credit Cookies

---

HOW MANY TIMES CAN BARACK SAY "PIE" IN ONE SPEECH?



## Click Here to Watch the Hilarious Campaign Vid

THE WAFFLE KERFUFFLE



Click to Read the Original Story That Kicked Off Waffle Mania...

THE ARUGULA ACCUSATIONS...



Click to Read the Story That Started "Arugula Elitism"....

JULY OF 2008: DURING THE SALMONELLA OUTBREAK...



Senator Obama Introduces a Bill to Enhance Food Safety. Bill Still Not Law...

---

BARACK'S FAVORITE FOODS:



Depending on Whom You Believe,  
These Are The Frontrunners:

---



Fran's Smoked Sea Salt Caramel in  
Chocolate

---



Hot Sauce, "Absolutely Always!"



Planter's Trail Mix



Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer



Black Forest Berry Honest Tea

---



Obama Family Chili. Click for the Crockpot Version!

---



Met RX Bars in Chocolate Peanutbutter

---



Nicorette

---

BARACK CLAIMS TO HATE ICE CREAM



...After Working at Baskin Robbins as a Teenager

---

"OBAMA" LAGER IS A FAVE FOR KENYANS



Will They Rename it "President?"

---

FAVORITE OBAMA EATERIES IN CHICAGO...



Click to take the guided tour, courtesy of the Chicago Tribune & Google Satellite...

---

THE LATEST OBAMA HEADLINES

[Did Obama Mess Up Health Care](#)

CBS News

According to a new poll, only 46 percent of the American public approves of the way President Barack Obama is handling health care reform. ...

[Related Articles »](#)[Impact of 'Socialist Joker' Obama](#)

Washington Post

The Post's Philip Kennicott discusses the spread of an image that depicts President Obama as the "Dark Knight"-version of the Joker, above the word ...

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New York Times

President Obama spoke on Wednesday at Monaco Coach, an RV manufacturer. He announced grants for electric vehicles. The latest on President Obama, ...

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Boston Globe

With time running out before the Senate starts its August recess, President Obama turns his focus back to healthcare today. He is huddling this morning with ...

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## WASHINGTON FOODIE BLOGS

 **DCist**[Arts Agenda](#)*47 minutes ago* **D.C. Foodies**[DC Beer Week: The Summer of Booze Continues.](#)*1 hour ago*

 **Capital Cooking Show**  
CAPITAL COOKING DELIVERS  
EDIBLE HOUSEWARMING  
GIFTS AIRING THIS MONTH  
*2 hours ago*


 **Capital Spice**  
DC Beer Week: A Who's Who of  
Brews and a Map For You, Too  
*4 hours ago*


 **Endless Simmer - A Food Blog**  
Top 10 Food Terms That Sound  
Dirty But Aren't  
*5 hours ago*

 **Metrocurean**  
Oh, My? Oh, Yes.  
*13 hours ago*

**So Good**  
Hostage Held in North Korea  
LOVES Sandwiches  
*16 hours ago*

 **The Bitten Word**  
Grilled Low Country Boil  
*23 hours ago*

 **eatWashington**  
Chew On This: Organic food a  
waste of money?  
*1 day ago*

 **-Dish-tribe**  
Hail to the Sheep  
*2 days ago*

**The Humble Gourmand -  
Victuals and Vittles**  
Shaking Things Up  
*1 week ago*

 **A Mighty Appetite**  
Tasting Life  
*3 weeks ago*

 **Eat.Drink.DC.**  
Small Bites: Thai X-ing Panang  
Curry  
*1 year ago*

**Best Bites From The  
Washingtonian**

 **Washington City Paper:**

## Young & Hungry

---

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WHITE HOUSE KITCHEN



Courtesy of The White House Museum

---

#### THE KITCHEN CABINET LIBRARY

- DREAMS FROM MY FATHER, BY BARACK OBAMA
- LINCOLN'S TABLE, BY DONNA D. MCCREARY
- LINCOLN'S VIRTUES: AN ETHICAL BIOGRAPHY, BY LEE MILLER
- LINCOLN, BY GORE VIDAL
- LOOKING FOR LINCOLN BY THE KUNHARDTS
- TEAM OF RIVALS, BY DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN
- THE AUDACITY OF HOPE, BY BARACK OBAMA
- THE OMNIVORE'S DILEMMA, BY MICHAEL POLLAN
- THE WHITE HOUSE CHEF COOKBOOK, BY RENE VERDON
- WHITE HOUSE CHEF, BY WALTER SCHEIB
- WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE, BY STEPHEN B. OATES