

Obama receives gift from young author

While most people can only dream of having a face-to-face encounter with President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, 14-year-old Canadian prodigy James Valitchka can proudly state that he's met him twice.

During the President's visit to Ottawa on February 19, Valitchka presented Obama with a framed copy of a comic titled "But I Have a Dream", by Canadian cartoonist Colin McClean. James, the author of eight books, founder of the Literacy Can Change Lives student conference and renowned motivational speaker, was among a few Canadians selected to attend the historic day's events.

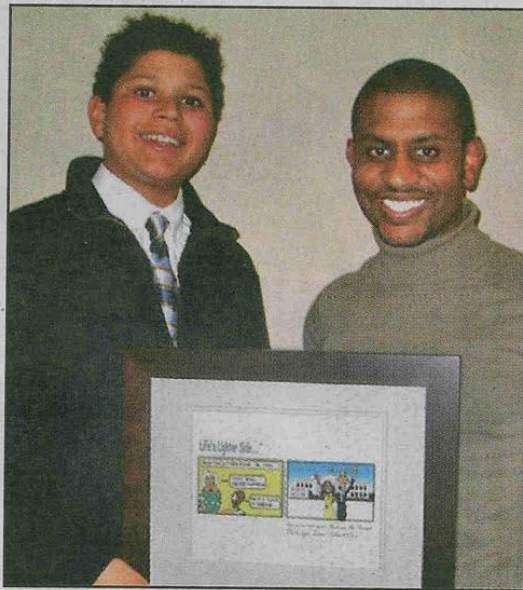
The two-panel cartoon first depicts a young Martin Luther King Jr. telling his disbelieving school teacher that he has a dream of equality for all people. The second panel displays a beaming President Obama and his wife, First Lady Michelle Obama, in front of the White House.

James is a fan of cartoonist Colin McClean, whose *Life's Lighter Side* comic strip appears in *Share* and several other publications.

"The election of President Obama touched me deeply because it represents the power of vision, teamwork, individual tenacity and collective hope," said McClean. "I believe it's a positive message for the world."

The cartoonist was also thrilled to have his artwork given to President Obama.

"It's the next best thing to meeting him in person,"



JAMES VALITCHKA (left) and **COLIN McCLEAN** hold a framed copy of McClean's cartoon, "But I Have a Dream". Valitchka presented a copy of the cartoon to U.S. President **BARACK OBAMA** in Ottawa last Thursday.

Photo courtesy of Colin McClean

said McClean. "I'm inspired by James and honoured to have such a truly remarkable young man do this."

Valitchka previously met Obama when they were both touring the same high school in Washington, D.C. last month on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 19. James, a dual Canadian/American citizen, was on the tour as a member of the "Presidential Classroom" program.

Valitchka says he will forever remember the inspirational words the President of the United States of America told him: "James, I believe that you and many young people will use your gifts and talents to make a positive change in the world around you. You can be that change," said Obama.

In response, the teen prodigy replied: "Yes, I will sir".

Colin McClean's comic, "But I Have a Dream", can be viewed on page 14.

Bouncy didn't invent moves

By **QUEEN MACOOHEH**

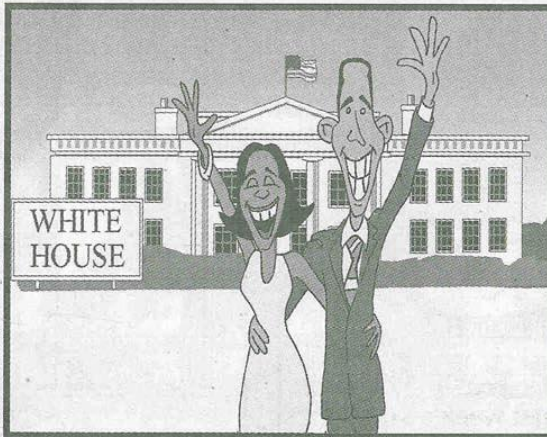
Whole mornin all ah hearin is "Put A Ring On It". He playin de chune loud as doh he feel we livin in ah intersection. An den, to add insult to injury, he jumpin up an dong savin he learnin de moves from de video

Life's Lighter Side™

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 1936...



By Colin McClean 30/10/08 © WWW.LISCARTOONS.COM



The four-letter word game
FOURWORD

	R		
			E
A		E	
	E		S

Place the letters below into the blank spaces on the left to create four-letter words down and across.

Victoria Dennis © 2009

ABCDG
GIMRT

I	D	O	L
M	O	V	E
P	L	E	A
S	E	R	F

previous solution