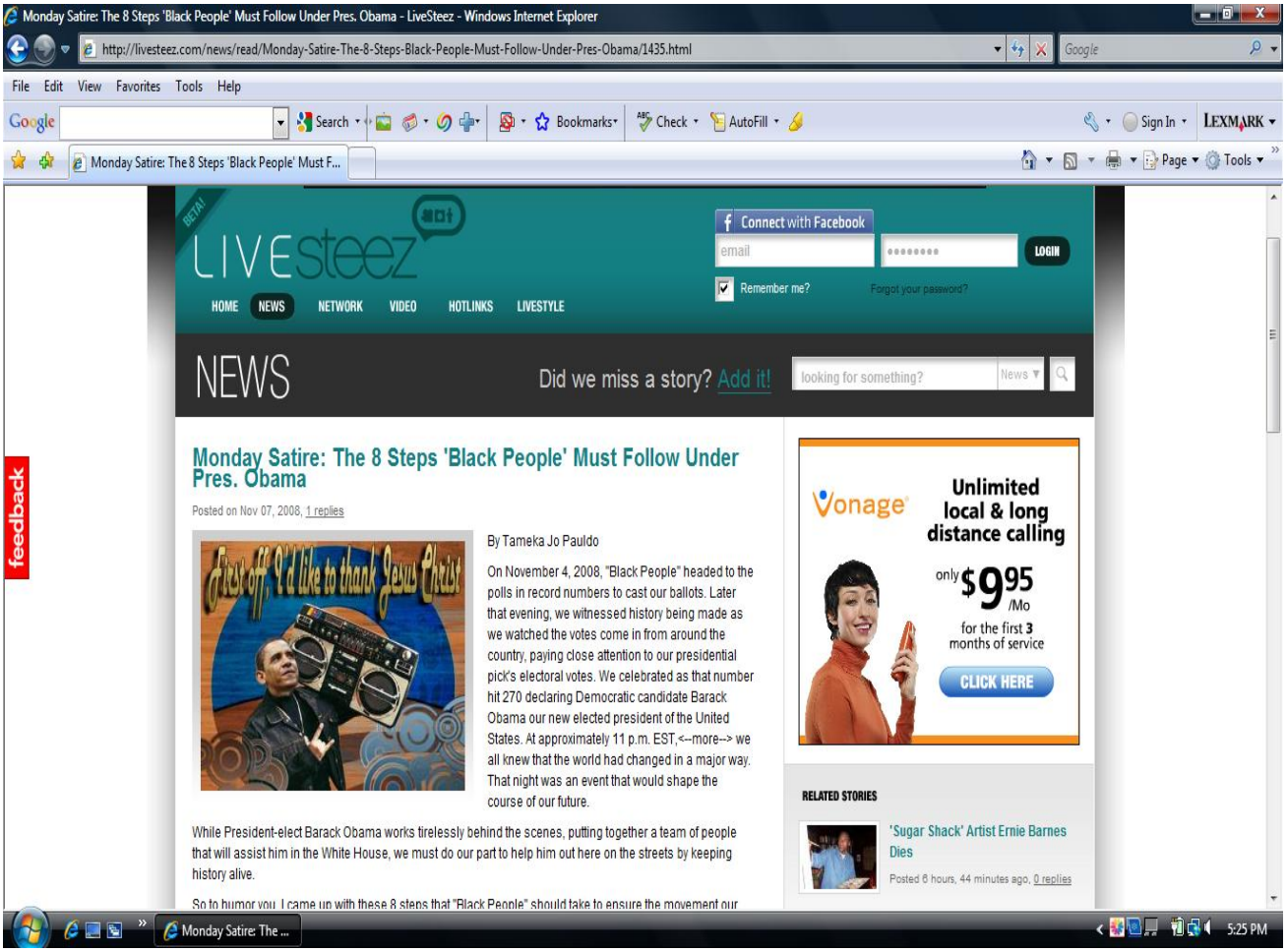

By Tameka Jo Pauldo

On November 4, 2008, "Black People" headed to the polls in record numbers to cast our ballots. Later that evening, we witnessed history being made as we watched the votes come in from around the country, paying close attention to our presidential pick's electoral votes. We celebrated as that number hit 270 declaring Democratic candidate Barack Obama our new elected president of the United States. At approximately 11 p.m. EST, we all knew that the world had changed in a major way. That night was an event that would shape the course of our future.

While President-elect Barack Obama works tirelessly behind the scenes, putting together a team of people that will assist him in the White House, we must do our part to help him out here on the streets by keeping history alive.

So to humor you, I came up with these 8 steps that "Black People" should take to ensure the movement our generation has begun continues.

1. This day forward "Black People" should cease from hating on another black person. Stop crabbing on the next man, because there's enough room in the barrel for all of us.

2. As "Black People," we can no longer say that we do not know a family like the Huxtables, now we will say "I know one better, they live in the White House."

3. "Black People" cannot abuse these four words, 'My President is Black'. Which means do not pull into McDonald's drive-thru and tell the person at the window, "I can have it my way, because 'My President is Black.'" Drive across the street to Burger King.

4. "Black People" must refrain from cussing out non-Barack supporters just because they said something offensive, rude or disrespectful. Simply, turn the other cheek and be the bigger person; this way we retain our power.

5. Fellas, do not shoot up your whole 'hood', then expect "Black People" to stand behind you. That's just plain ol' stupidity and we won't have any excuses for your black behind.

6. Ladies, be responsible for your actions and don't allow yourselves to get pregnant by a no-good dude, then name the baby Obama-ichelle, and think that it's okay. "Black People" and the Department of Family and Children Services will still look at you the same.

7. Don't go into an interview before a panel of other "Black People," wearing some leopard print tights and halter top that you had on at the club the night before, and expect to get the job.

8. "Black People" should never again walk into a bank asking for a loan to buy 24-inch rims to go on a brand new Escalade that will be parked in front of your mama's house, when you know your credit is bad.

If you agree with numbers 1-8, make a pledge with the rest of our "Black People" to honor these steps until death do you part. Read each one out loud, and then say, "I solemnly swear to follow these 8 steps from this day forward for the rest of my life, because My President is Black.'"

Disclaimer: This piece is meant to be funny "Black People," please don't take it personal.