

## Edwards needles Clinton about vote on war in Iraq

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP)- Former Sen. John Edwards jabbed gently at Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton on Wednesday in the first all-candidates forum of the 2008 Democratic presidential campaign, saying her refusal to disavow a 2002 vote on Iraq was "between her and her conscience."

"It's not for me to judge," said Edwards, who — like Clinton — voted in 2002 to authorize the invasion of Iraq, but unlike her, has since apologized for his vote.

The event format did not

permit Clinton to respond to Edwards' swipe, which stood out on an afternoon in which Democrats launched serial attacks on President Bush's war policies.

"The worst we can do is tear each other down," said New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who called on his Democratic rivals to sign a pledge to avoid negative campaigning and concentrate their energy on taking the White House away from the Republicans next year.

Among Democratic presidential contenders, only

Barack Obama skipped the event, which was hosted by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union. The Illinois senator campaigned in Iowa instead.

The convergence of so many candidates underscored Nevada's newfound importance in the 2008 nominating campaign. The state will hold caucuses on Jan. 19, five days after the lead-off Iowa caucuses and presumably only a few days before New Hampshire's first-in-

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## School

### Black-owned school is state's first

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business skills. We have childcare, and we look for any type of abuse of our students. We want our students to be successful," said Braimoh.

"We service the community at large. We go overboard on avoiding potential problems; we support our instructors; we try to be well rounded."

Earlier, Braimoh told the crowd: "I told my students, 'You can do it. And if it happened for me, it can happen for you.'" Also, in addition to training, we offer economic independence, and a dream to become a new reality."

One recipient of the free hair services, 18-year-old Savannah Burbank, who attends school studying culinary arts, said she would "definitely go back to the cosmetology school in the

future."

A student for 5 months, Mia Berry, who is due to graduate in September, said, "I learned about the school from a radio ad and joined." However, she said, "I don't get paid for training."

Berry has her future mapped out, adding, "I plan to research shops, save money and open a shop, and it means everything in life to me. It means my life; it's a way to freedom."

Claudia Avila, a school instructor, completing her advance state licensing said, "I've been a licensed cosmetologist for 14 years. There are about 50 students and nine instructors at the school, and some have already graduated and opened their own shops."

The institute's enrollment is open to men and women of all ages and backgrounds. Management of all composi-

tions of hair, skin types, and a wide range of services are part of the coursework.

"The [students] are encouraged to get their licenses. The [students] are wonderful. They do their best," Avila said.

Among the guests at the opening, was Ernest Fountain, who told the *Sentinel-Voice* about the support the City of Las Vegas provided as part of economic development in the Enterprise Park in Historic West Las Vegas and his part in helping the owner establish the new facility.

Fountain said, "The City of Las Vegas donated the land for the school."

His company, New Visions Capital Investment, was the catalyst behind the \$2.2 million financing of the building that now houses the new cosmetology institute, Fountain said.



*Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy*

Cheron Spencer, left, gets her nails done by Gilda Renteria at the Expertise Cosmetology Institute. The West Las Vegas school is Nevada's first Black cosmetology training facility.

## Community mentor Sam Smith recognized for helping hands

By Kanika Vann  
*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

Shelved within the sandy-colored walls of the Native Son Afrocentric Bookstore are much more than tales of Black love and African-American history, Civil Rights Era memorabilia or posters of Black leaders. Within these walls lies the experience and selflessness of neighborhood store owner and community activist, Samuel L. Smith.

Smith, who runs the Native Son Bookstore on 1301 D Street has owned and operated the culture-rooted store for over 15 years, and he is recipient of the Helping Hand Award by the Caucus of African-American Nevadans on Friday.

He is being honored by CAAN for his community involvement. The awards ceremony is Friday night at the Santa Fe Station Hotel and Casino at 4949 N. Rancho Drive.

As Smith is receiving the award, he is closer to a possible end of his store's life in the center of the Historic West Las Vegas neighborhoods. It is scheduled for closing, in great part due to declined business and other loss of support. He announced last year his plans to close the store this year, but he is undoubtedly committed to the area and loves being there and grateful for being able to give service, especially to youth. Smith is a living landmark, his store a hub of learning.

When asked how he felt about receiv-

ing the upcoming humanitarian award, Smith said, "I don't really know anything about the award. Do I get an honorarium? Awards don't pay the rent, you know. I guess I deserve it though. I mentor to young adults and volunteer my time. It may not pay, but it feels good."

As a dedicated volunteer, Smith donates much of his time to teaching math and science to local Las Vegas youth. "I am a humanitarian. I try to provide hope to those who don't have any," he said as he resets his chess board.

"We all have a great path. But not all of us know it. Education is vital to the lives of our young brothers and sisters. Without it, what can they achieve?"

Amongst the stacks of religious books and inspirational manuscripts are SAT, GED, CLEP, and firefighter exam books.

"I just try to give direction to young men and women," he said. "Our brothers and sisters desperately need guidance and direction. But our young Black men are in especially bad shape. All they need is for someone to care enough to give back to them. Young men go to school and play around, don't do their homework. I teach them that it's never too late to learn."

Smith seems to be a "jack of all trades" as he is a retired police officer and fire inspector. "I'm a former medical student. I was a fire inspector for 22 years, and a

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## Beyond the Glimmering Lights with Author Trish Geran

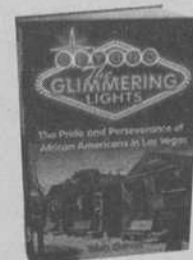


The author of *Beyond the Glimmering Lights - Pride and Perseverance of African Americans in Las Vegas*, discusses her book detailing efforts to bring racial equality to the Las Vegas community and casino entertainment industry. A book sale and signing will follow the presentation.

**West Las Vegas Library**  
951 W. Lake Mead Blvd.  
February 24 - 12 p.m.

**Clark County Library**  
February 23 - 6:30 p.m.

Includes a screening of Geran's film, *The Other Side of the Coin*, Best Documentary Winner at the 1999 San Diego International Black Film Festival.



Free and open to the public.

**African American History Month**



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