

Obama

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can-American President of the United States. Obama knows what needs to be fixed in America."

After several more minutes of crowd chanting, Obama took the stage. He stood and smiled, waiting for the applause to die down.

"As you know, last week, I formally announced my bid for the presidency. When I first got into politics, I spoke to anyone who'd listen. I went to classrooms, PTA meetings, and churches to speak. And today, I'm here to speak to you."

The former state legislator went on to say, "[Our government] looks at politics as a business instead of a mission. So, every election, Americans become discouraged and vote for the lesser of two evils. This election will be about voting for the best ideals. We are mutually responsible for our future and our children. And we owe it to them to choose a leader that will look out for their best interests, to protect their America. The very best thing about America is coming together to celebrate our com-

monality and our diversity. It's time we embrace that ideal."

A supporter of Obama, Anne Blue, attended the rally saying, "I would've loved to see more Black folks out here. I would hope that they'd rally around him. There's a primary election approaching and he brings good ideas to the table. He's intelligent and a good speaker. I believe his chances are good. He really needs our support. It would be nice to see him in office."

But either way, he has a great future ahead of him."

Obama would go on to discuss his disapproval of the Iraq war. Hoping that he would address that issue was spectator, Diane Range, who said, "What I would most like to hear him discuss is getting the troops out of Iraq."

Obama spoke: "After a half trillion dollars and the loss of thousands of lives, we are in a war that is going nowhere, with even more terrorists, and a nation that is as unsafe as it's ever been," Obama said. "I'm here to bring change to America. I

want to be the new face of American politics. I want to bring a commonsense, practical change to this country. And if I'm elected, I will do just that."

Obama wanted it to be known that he believes government is not about Democrats versus Republicans.

"It's not about our bipartisan Congress. We want to get people engaged. We want to take our government back. America is supposed to be a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. But instead we have leaders that make decisions that aren't in the best interests for the majority of our American people."

While Obama thanks his supporters, he also knows that his skeptics are closely watching his every move.

"They say, 'He's only been in office for a few years. What does he know about hardcore politics?'" he said. "I haven't been a part of the Senate very long, but I know we need a change. I don't have to be a part of Washington to know there needs to be a change in Washington."

We have to eliminate bu-

reaucracy."

"There's no reason why every child in America should not have adequate healthcare. There's no reason why Social Security should be on the verge of bankruptcy. There is no reason why minimum wage has not been raised in nine years. There's no reason why every student should not have access to a college education. There's no reason why we haven't found alternative forms of fuel. There's no reason why teachers aren't paid a more honest wage for the work that they do. Why would we pass a 'No Child Left Behind Act' then leave the money behind?" said Obama. "We have a government that works for itself, not for its people. I'm here to change that."

He continued: "We can't continue to send our men and women into a sectarian civil war. I never agreed with the war in Iraq. We must rebuild our military. And our military has to be a reflection of our diplomacy."

Obama stressed the idea that we must form a more unified America.

"I hope to create politics of hope, politics of determination. We have to begin to believe in things not seen. With my election to office, we will eliminate our government's 'can't do, won't do' attitude."

Also in attendance were Nevada Senate Minority Leader, Dina Titus and County Commissioner, Tom Collins, both introduced by District 11 Assemblyman, Reuben Keywan.

Obama began as a community organizer in Chicago. He in turn became a state legislator and most recently, an Illinois Senator. Now he believes in changing America by holding the highest office in American politics.

"This candidacy is not about me," he said. "It's about you. Nevada, help me change America."



In this photo released recently by the Baptist Health South Florida, Sonia Taylor and her baby Amillia, center, pose with the neonatal intensive care staff at Baptist Children's Hospital in Miami on Wednesday.

Preemie gets OK to leave hospital

MIAMI (AP) - Parents of one of the world's smallest premature babies got to take her daughter home Wednesday for the first time since she was delivered last fall.

Amillia Sonja Taylor has known only an incubator for a bed at Baptist Children's Hospital since she was delivered in October after less than 22 weeks in the womb.

"The baby is healthy and thriving and left Baptist Children's Hospital today after four months in our neonatal intensive care unit," hospital spokeswoman Liz Latta said.

Amillia, who was just 9 1/2 inches at birth and weighed less than 10 ounces, will still require oxygen at home and a developmental specialist will follow up with her and her parents to track her neurological development.

The infant now weighs about 4 1/2 pounds and is just over 15 1/2 inches long.

Amillia's parents, Eddie and Sonja Taylor of Homestead declined to speak with reporters Wednesday.

Doctors had hoped to release Amillia from the hospital Tuesday but kept her an extra day to monitor a low white blood cell count that could have indicated a vulnerability to infection. Full-term births come after 37 to 40 weeks, and few babies born before 22 weeks survive.

Amillia suffered respiratory and digestive problems, as well as a mild brain hemorrhage, but doctors believe those problems will not have major long-term effects.

Amillia was conceived in vitro and was delivered by Caesarean section after an infection caused her mother to go into premature labor, doctors said.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Sen. Barack Obama greets fans before his Clark County Government Center speech. Behind him: (in glasses) Rep. Shelley Berkley, D-Nev., and Rep. Kendall Meeks, D-Fla.

Sam

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According to Smith, the name of his bookstore had nothing to do with Richard Wright's famous poem, "Native Son."

But he says, "I tell people that the two are correlated because it takes less time than telling them about my 1989 'Lost Brothers' documentaries and where I actually came up with the name. The meaning of Richard Wright's poem makes my store's name seem more important. I'll leave it at that."

After sharing several anecdotes, exchanging a few wisecracks, and beating his opponent at four straight chess games, Smith said, "I just want to help my people. Young people have to know how to survive. Life is like chess," he said.

"Chess teaches you to make important decisions. You can't blame your opponent for your failure. It's the same in life. You are responsible for every move you make. And your decisions determine your fate, your future. Make the wrong move and you lose. But if you make the right decisions, you remain in control of your destiny, and can, therefore, choose your next move."

"I offer the classes to high school students free of charge. I mean, what would I do with money?" he said sarcastically.

After laughing about his somewhat lengthy word problem, he continued.

"See, people never come to my bookstore to buy anything. Most of my customers are from out of town and come in on Saturdays. But this place, this place isn't just a bookstore, it's like the neighborhood club. Everybody comes in to socialize and play chess — or lose at chess. Everyone tries to beat me."

There is, however, more than business and chess happening at the Native Son Bookstore. "Sometimes, I hold math classes here. I've also held them at the Zion Methodist Church, as well as the West Las Vegas Library," said Smith.

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—Ms. Kris, Las Vegas Class of 2002