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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

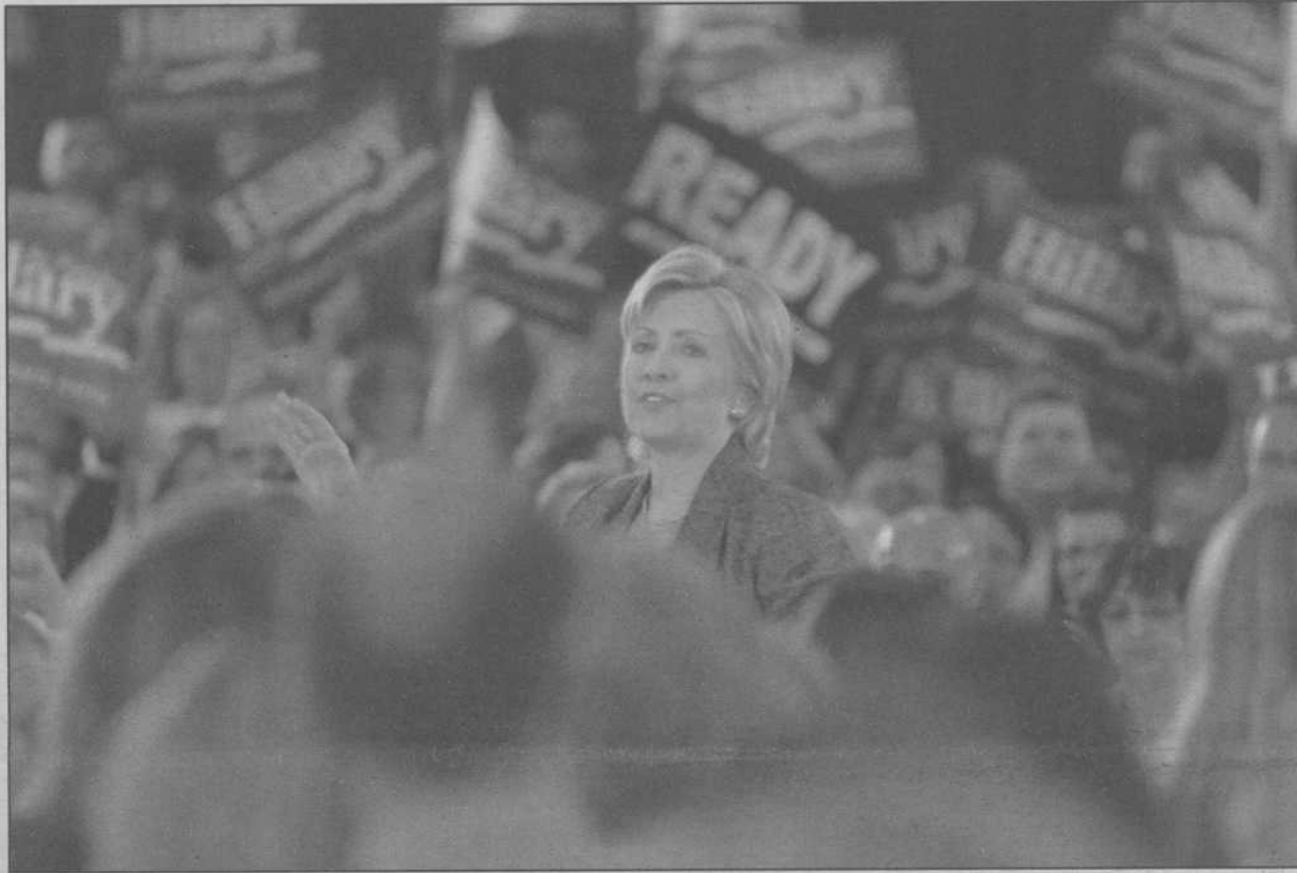
Clinton defends record, candidacy

NORTH LAS VEGAS (AP) - Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton said that she followed all Senate rules when she accepted rides on a private jet from a longtime benefactor.

"Whatever I've done, I complied with Senate rules at the time. That's the way every senator operates," the Democratic presidential contender said in an interview with The Associated Press during a campaign stop here yesterday.

The travel and consulting fees paid to Clinton's husband have come to light recently in a lawsuit against Vinod Gupta, a Clinton contributor and chief executive of the data company, InfoUSA Inc.

The lawsuit by company shareholders accuses Gupta of excessively spending millions of dollars, including \$900,000 worth of travel on the Clintons.



New York Senator and frontrunning Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton addresses members of the public at Canyon Springs High School on Wednesday. Clinton was in town drumming up support for her White House candidacy.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Sen. Clinton, who complained about corporate America's largesse and skyrocketing executive pay during campaign events this week, said she did not believe her message was undermined by her acceptance of the private flights. In line with Senate rules then in effect, Clinton's campaign has said she reimbursed Gupta at the cost of a first-class flight, typically a significant discount off the expense of a private jet.

"Those were the rules. You'll have to ask somebody else whether that's good policy," she said.

The Senate earlier this year voted to change the rules to require senators, their staff and candidates for federal office to pay the charter rate for flights on corporate jets. All the presidential candidates serving in the Senate, including Clinton, voted for (See Hillary, Page 3)

Democrats eye refocus on Iraq

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Despite President Bush's win of a restriction-free \$120 billion Iraqi War-funding bill, some Congressional Black Caucus members are trying to sweeten his defeat of the Democrats' war proposal by highlighting the victories for Hurricane Katrina, minimum wage and other domestic funds.

"I feel real good about what we've done. I think that we've changed direction as far as policy is concerned," said House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn, D-S.C., in an interview. The highest-ranking African-American in Congress, Clyburn, voted for the war-funding bill.

"The president did not get a blank check as he's gotten for the last four and a half, almost five years... I feel real good about what we did."

Of the 40 voting members of the Congressional Black Caucus, only five joined Clyburn in voting for the final passage of the war-funding bill. Thirty-three voted against it. Two did not vote.

On the other hand, Sen. Barack Obama told NNPA that he was disappointed in the passage of the war aspect of the bill; especially after Bush vetoed an earlier bill in which Democrats had pushed for restrictions in deployment of troops in an effort to begin scaling back to end the war.

"I feel very strongly that we are on the wrong course," (See Democrats, Page 6)

Bush wants \$30 billion for AIDS

WASHINGTON - President Bush called for Congress to spend \$30 billion to fight global AIDS over the next five years, a near doubling of financing that is part of a White House effort to burnish his humanitarian credentials before he meets leaders of the Group of 8 industrialized nations next week.

The initiative, if approved, would build on a program that grew out of the president's 2003 State of the Union address, when he asked for \$15 billion over five years for prevention, treatment and care of AIDS patients in developing countries. Congress approved more than \$18 billion, but the program is set to expire next year.

Bush's announcement, delivered in the White House Rose Garden, adds to what has become an unexpectedly high priority for the White House. AIDS was not a signature issue for Bush when

he ran for office in 2000. But it has become one, in part, because the Christian conservatives who make up his political base have embraced it,

and, in part, because Bush wants to build a legacy for the United States and a more compassionate image abroad to counter international criti-

cism of American policies in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

That sentiment was re- (See Africa, Page 5)



President George W. Bush holds four year-old Baron Mosima Loyiso Tantoh after presenting the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington on Wednesday. Also shown are Baron's mother, "Aunt" Manyongo Mosima "Kuene" Tantoh and Bishop Paul Yowakim.