

LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

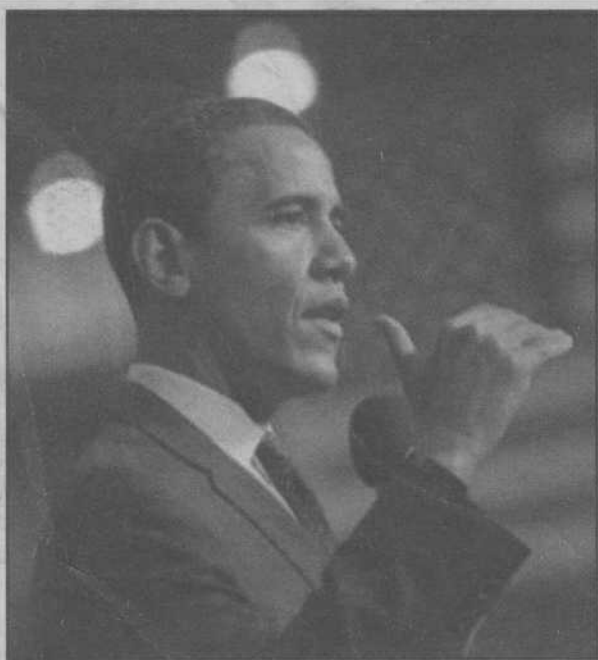


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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Democratic presidential front-runner Barack Obama.

Ferraro leaves over comment

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON — Geraldine Ferraro stepped down Wednesday from an honorary post in Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign amid a controversy regarding her comments that Barack Obama wouldn't be succeeding in the presidential race if he weren't Black.

Ferraro notified Clinton by letter Wednesday that she would no longer serve on Clinton's finance committee as "Honorary New York Leadership Council Chair."

Obama has called Ferraro's comments "ridiculous" and his campaign aides have called on Clinton to denounce the statement.

"I think they were wrong-headed," he said at a Chicago news conference. "The notion that it is a great advantage to me to be an African-American named Barack

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'Redneck Shop' causes rift

LAURENS, S.C. (AP) — A Black civil rights activist is fighting to close a store that sells KKK robes and T-shirts emblazoned with racial slurs. David Kennedy is confident he can make it happen. After all, he says he owns the building.

Since 1996, the Redneck Shop has operated in an old movie theater that, according to court records, was transferred in 1997 to Kennedy and the Baptist church he leads.

"Our ownership puts an end to that history as far as violence and hatred, racism being practiced in that place and also the recruiting of the Klan," Kennedy said. "This is the same place that we had to go up into the balcony to go to the movies before the Klan took it. So there's a lot of history there."

But legal documents also indicate that the man who runs the store, 62-year-old John Howard, is entitled to operate his business in the building until he dies. Now the dispute may go to court.

Kennedy, 54, has led protests outside the store since it opened but said he's never been able to close it because of the agreement that Howard can run the shop for life.



The Rev. David Kennedy looks at items as John Howard watches him inside The Redneck Shop in Laurens, S.C. The store has caused controversy and stirred up negative feelings.

The reverend envisions the building as a potential future home for his New Beginnings Missionary Baptist Church, which now meets in a double-wide trailer.

Kennedy claims he can't even visit his own property because Howard won't let him in when he appears in the door. But that didn't happen during a recent visit with an Associated Press reporter and photographer.

"Reverend Kennedy, where you been hiding?" Howard shouted when the door opened.

Inside the store, hooded Klan robes hang on the same rack as the racist T-shirts. Pictures of men, women and children in Klan clothing and pamphlets tell a partial history of the organization.

Howard used to own the whole building. When his store first opened, he said, people threw rocks at his windows, spit in his doorway and picketed. A month later, a man intentionally crashed his van through the front windows.

"If anything turns people off, they shouldn't come in

here. It's not a thing in here that's against the law," Howard said, adding that he was once the KKK's grand dragon for South Carolina and North Carolina.

To Blacks, Kennedy said, the store is a reminder of this region's painful past, which includes the lynching of his great, great uncle by a White mob.

The town of Laurens, about 30 miles southeast of Greenville, was named after 18th century slave trader Henry Laurens.

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One in 4 U.S. teenagers has sex-related disease

Special to Sentinel-Voice

CHICAGO (AP) — At least one in four teenage American girls has a sexually transmitted disease, suggests a first-of-its-kind federal study that startled some adolescent-health experts.

Some doctors said the numbers might be a reflection of both abstinence-only sex education and teens' own sense of invulnerability. Because some sexually transmitted infections can cause infertility and cancer, U.S. health officials called for better screening, vaccination

and prevention.

Only about half of the girls in the study acknowledged having sex. Some teens define sex as only intercourse, yet other types of intimate behavior, including oral sex, can spread some diseases.

Among those who admitted having sex, the rate was even more disturbing — 40 percent had an STD.

"This is pretty shocking," said Dr. Elizabeth Alderman, an adolescent medicine specialist at Montefiore Medical Center's Children's Hospital

in New York.

"To talk about abstinence is not a bad thing," but teen girls — and boys too — need to be informed about how to protect themselves if they do have sex, Alderman said.

The overall STD rate among the 838 girls in the study was 26 percent, which translates to more than 3 million girls nationwide, researchers with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found. They released the results recently at an STD prevention confer-

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Asia Muhammad serves up notice at Hilton Cup

By Huel Washington
Special to Sentinel-Voice

A month short of her 17th birthday, Asia Muhammad, who was disappointed with her quick exit from last year's Tennis Channel Open, kept her promise to her family, friends, coach and sponsors to do much better this year.

The Long Beach, Calif., native and current Las Vegas resident lived up to the promise, playing so well that she made her first appearance in a professional tennis final last Sunday at Darling Tennis Center a memorable one.

The six-day Hilton Cup (ended March 9) drew Women's Tennis Association players from around the world. The conditions

couldn't have been better for Muhammad: perfect weather, 40,000 tennis fans and opportunity.

Muhammad, who is coached by Tim Blenkiron at the Andre Agassi Boys and Girls Club Tennis courts, defeated Hungary's Melinda Czink, 6-4, 6-0. It was vindication for losing a doubles match with partner Madison Brengle to an Italian team.

In her singles match, Muhammad came from behind in the second round to defeat Germany's Tatjana Malek, 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 on her way to the quarterfinals, then slugged Russia's Ekaterina Bychkova, 6-3, 6-7, 7-5, 6-4 in the quarters only to face Brengle, 17, in the semifinals.

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