

The New York Times, 1 February 2008

**One on One, Democrats Set Aim at G.O.P.**

Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama faced off in their first one-on-one debate of the presidential race Thursday night, delivering their final arguments on who is better prepared for the White House before the multistate contests Tuesday and highlighting their differences on issues like health care and immigration. The two candidates lavished praise on John Edwards, who quit the Democratic race Wednesday and whose endorsement they are both actively seeking. Mr. Obama countered that about 95 percent of his plan and Mrs. Clinton's were the same, but that he believed his proposal went further to reducing costs.

The Afghanistan News, 1 February 2008

**US army suicides increasing**

As many as 121 US soldiers may have committed suicide in 2007, a record number if confirmed, according to army statistics released today. The army reported 89 suicides and 32 suspected cases among active-duty soldiers in 2007. If the 32 cases are confirmed, the 121 suicides would be a nearly 20 per cent increase over 2006, when 102 soldiers committed suicide. Army officials said relationship problems were the main cause of suicides among soldiers, but those problems were increasing due to repeated long deployments as the force is strained by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The New York Times, 2 February 2008

**Clinton's Gradual Education on Issues of Race**

Growing up in the palest of Chicago suburbs, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton had some of her earliest exposures to African-Americans through field trips. In a presidential campaign in which race has become a dominant issue, Mrs. Clinton's early brush with Dr. King has been a recurring theme, invoked as a kind of a-ha episode to explain her coming of age on race. In promoting her civil rights record, Mrs. Clinton takes a sweeping view, incorporating a great deal of her work for the vulnerable and underserved taking on juvenile-justice issues for the Children's Defense Fund, leading a commission on education reform in Arkansas promoting the Family and Medical Leave Act as first lady.

The Hindu, 3 February 2008

**India, U.S. to cooperate in space exploration**

India and the United States have agreed to cooperate in the exploration and use of space for peaceful purposes, including in human space flight, under an agreement signed between their space agencies. A framework agreement establishing the terms for future cooperation between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was signed on Friday at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida by NASA administrator Michael Griffin and ISRO Chairman G. Madhavan Nair. According to the framework agreement, the two agencies will identify areas of mutual interest and seek to develop cooperative programmes or projects in earth and space science, exploration, human space flight and other activities.

The New York Times, 3 February 2008

**Democrats Flood States With Ads as Tuesday Nears**

Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton have unleashed advertisements in nearly all the 22 states that have Democratic presidential nominating contests on Tuesday, a combined \$19 million expenditure that is the most ambitious and geographically expansive television effort in a presidential primary. On the Republican side, Senator John McCain and Mitt Romney have a far more restrained advertising effort that started just this weekend and is focusing on a handful of states and national cable television. We are in a world in which delegates matter, said Ken Goldstein, a political science professor and the director of the Wisconsin Advertising Project at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which just completed a study of campaign expenditures to date

The New York Times, 4 February 2008

### **McCain Looks Confident; Tighter Democratic Race**

Senator John McCain, buoyed by new polls and endorsements, appeared in an increasingly commanding position on Sunday as he headed toward coast-to-coast contests that could effectively hand him the Republican presidential nomination, party officials said. In a display of confidence, Mr. McCain campaigned in the backyard of his chief rival, Mitt Romney. Mr. McCain was already looking to the future, incorporating an unusual attack on Mrs. Clinton as part of his standard denunciation of federal budget earmarks. He made the remarks in Fairfield, Conn., where he was escorted by Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, a Democrat-turned-independent.

The New York Times, 4 February 2008

### **U.S. Says It Accidentally Killed 9 Iraqi Civilians**

American forces said Sunday that they had accidentally killed nine Iraqi civilians and wounded three in a strike aimed at militants of Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia south of Baghdad, acknowledging what appeared to be one of the deadliest cases of mistaken identity in recent weeks. Lt. Col. Ahmad Ibrahim, a senior official in Iraq's police commando force, was killed by a bomb placed under his car in the Mansour area of west Baghdad, the police said, and two of Mr. Ibrahim's bodyguards were wounded in the blast. An Iraqi police official said Iraqi intelligence officials warned Mr. Zubaidi, a Sunni politician, two weeks ago that he might be a target of Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia, the largely home-grown Sunni insurgent group that the Americans say is foreign-led.

The Indian Express, 4 February 2008

### **Bush unveils \$3.1 trillion spending plan**

President Bush unveiled a \$3.1 trillion budget proposal on Monday that supports a sizable increase in military spending to fight the war on terrorism and protects his signature tax cuts. Bush called the document "a good, solid budget," but Democrats, and even a top Republican, attacked the plan for using budgetary gimmicks to project a budget surplus in four years. Democrats called Bush's final spending plan a continuation of this administration's failed policies which wiped out a projected 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion and replaced it with a record buildup in debt.

The Hindu, 5 February 2008

### **Hillary's lead dwindles ahead of Super Tuesday**

Hillary Clinton tried on Monday to bring Barack Obama's aspirational candidacy back to

earth, repeatedly accusing him of misleading voters in an attempt to halt his poll momentum ahead of the Super Tuesday contest. With opinion polls showing Mr. Obama making significant gains ahead of the contest in 22 states, Ms. Clinton tried to undermine Mr. Obama's central appeal of being a politician who operated above the fray. The two are spending \$19 million on ads in the final hours of the contest. Mr. Obama is advertising in 21 of the 22 states, while Ms. Clinton is targeting 19, having apparently given up on Alaska, Colorado, Kansas and Missouri.

The Hindu, 6 February 2008

### **Obama, Clinton split Super Tuesday races; McCain seizes command**

Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton traded victories in an epic coast-to-coast Super Tuesday struggle that failed to establish a dominant front-runner in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. John McCain seized command of the race for the Republican presidential nomination, sweeping a series of delegate-rich primaries across the United States. Clinton, seeking to become the first female president of the United States, won the biggest states, California and her home state of New York. But Obama, hoping to become the first black president, won more contests - at least 13 - including important states such as Georgia, Missouri and Illinois, his home state.

The Hindu, 6 February 2008

### **India, US are strategic partners: Sen**

India and the US cannot be "allies in the traditional military sense" and are more of "strategic partners" given their cooperation in diverse areas, said Indian Ambassador to the U.S., Ronen Sen. Sen also hailed the Indo-US nuclear deal as the "most outstanding symbol" of the new relationship between the two countries as well as of India's "new standing in the world". Hailing the multi-faceted cooperation between India and the US, Sen said it reflected the mutual trust and confidence the two nations shared.

The New York Times, 7 February 2008

### **Obama and Clinton Brace for Drawn-Out Campaign**

With no breakout winner in Tuesday's Democratic primaries, Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama on Wednesday began fortifying for a drawn-out nomination fight, with Mrs. Clinton disclosing that she had lent her campaign \$5 million while Mr. Obama raised \$3 million online in a single day and rejected calls for more debates. Mrs. Clinton had the overall lead of delegates and so-called superdelegates - Democrats who are governors, senators and party leaders, according to an analysis by The New York Times. The two candidates planned to campaign in Washington, Maine and Virginia in the coming days.

The New York Times, 7 February 2008

### **Obama Is Making Inroads, but Fervor Fell Short at End**

Senator Barack Obama of Illinois made some headway in building a coalition of support among Democrats in Tuesday's cross-country sprint of primaries. He won the support of many white men, a group that had voted for John Edwards of North Carolina before Mr. Edwards dropped out of the race last week. The Clinton Democratic Party is the party of women, older voters, Hispanics and also some white men. A Clinton rally may not have

the energy of a rock concert the way an Obama rally does. Yet the older women who have embraced Mrs. Clinton as the culmination of years of hope and other core supporters are no less passionate in their intensity and devotion. Mr. Obama showed signs of doing slightly better with Hispanic voters in some states than he did in Nevada earlier this month.

The New York Times, 8 February 2008

### **Miscalculations Dogged Romney From the Start**

With Mitt Romney's campaign for president nearly in tatters, he huddled with his senior advisers on Wednesday morning, jotting notes with pen and paper, to go over his options. His campaign went ahead with voter-turnout calls in Kansas and Washington for caucuses on Saturday, and priced out what it would take to compete in primaries next week in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. Mr. Romney spent more than \$35 million of his own money trying to get himself elected, but his campaign faced challenges from the start, some from obstacles beyond his control.

The New York Times, 8 February 2008

### **McCain Emerges as G.O.P. Choice**

Senator John McCain all but captured the Republican presidential nomination on Thursday after Mitt Romney withdrew from the race, saying the war in Iraq and the terrorist threat made it imperative that the party unite. The mixed reception for Mr. McCain reflected the divisions within the party as it tries to chart a post-Bush ideological and political course in the face of a fired-up Democratic Party. Mr. McCain's plea for support reflected the Conservative Political Action Committee's growing centrality to the Republican Party. Mr. McCain's advisers are hoping for Mr. Romney's endorsement in the coming days, as well as those from other party conservatives.

The New York Times, 9 February 2008

### **6 Guantánamo Detainees Are Said to Face Trial Over 9/11**

Military prosecutors are in the final phases of preparing the first sweeping case against suspected conspirators in the plot that led to the deaths of nearly 3,000 Americans on Sept. 11, 2001, and drew the United States into war, people who have been briefed on the case said. The case could begin to fulfill a longtime goal of the Bush administration: establishing culpability for the terrorist attacks of 2001. It could also help the administration make its case that some detainees at Guantánamo, where 275 men remain, would pose a threat if they are not held at Guantánamo or elsewhere. "The prosecution team is close to moving forward on referring charges on a number of individuals," Mr. Whitman said.

The Hindu, 9 February 2008

### **Burns says 'time is wasting' on India nuclear deal**

Saying "time is wasting," US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns said on Friday he hoped India could quickly get international approvals needed for the US-India civil nuclear deal to go through this year. The agreement would give India access to US nuclear fuel and equipment for the first time in 30 years even though New Delhi has tested nuclear weapons and refused to join nonproliferation agreements. India must reach an

agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency to place its civilian nuclear reactors under UN safeguards and it must get clearance from the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group that governs global civilian nuclear trade. Analysts believe the deal will ultimately win the support of Congress, where many members want to help US companies win business in India and cultivate the Indian-American lobby.

The New York Times, 10 February 2008

### **Obama Defeats Clinton in 3-State Sweep**

Senator Barack Obama won powerful victories over Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton in Washington, Louisiana and Nebraska, giving him a Saturday sweep going into a month when the Democratic nominating contests were expected to favor him. Mr. Obama had been expected to win the contests on Saturday, the margin of victories were surprising, particularly in Washington, a predominately white state where he captured 57 percent of the vote in caucus voting compared to Mrs. Clinton's 31 percent. Mr. Obama is expected to do well with the state's more affluent voters in the southern part of the state and its many college students. In addition, he has won most of the states that have held caucuses, which require a strong organization and a more devoted following.

The New York Times, 10 February 2008

### **Opinion : When Women Rule (NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF)**

While no woman has been president of the United States -yet -the world does have several thousand years' worth of experience with female leaders. And I have to acknowledge it: Their historical record puts men's to shame. Scholars find that women, compared with men, tend to excel in consensus-building and certain other skills useful in leadership. In monarchies, women who rose to the top dealt mostly with a narrow elite, so they could prove themselves and get on with governing. But in democracies in the television age, female leaders also have to navigate public prejudices and these make democratic politics far more challenging for a woman than for a man. Modern democracies may empower deep prejudices and thus constrain female leaders in ways that ancient monarchies did not.

The New York Times, 11 February 2008

### **U.S. Said to Seek Execution for 6 in Sept. 11 Case**

Military prosecutors have decided to seek the death penalty for six Guantanamo detainees who are to be charged with central roles in the Sept. 11 terror attacks, government officials who have been briefed on the charges said Sunday. A Defense Department official said prosecutors were seeking the death penalty because "if any case warrants it, it would be for individuals who were parties to a crime of that scale." Some officials briefed on the case have said the prosecutors view their task in seeking convictions for the Sept. 11 attacks as a historic challenge. A special group of military and Justice Department lawyers has been working on the case for several years.

The New York Times, 11 February 2008

### **Opinion : Obama's Path to Victory (WILLIAM KRISTOL)**

Last summer, George W. Bush told The Washington Examiner's Bill Sammon that Hillary Clinton would probably be the 2008 Democratic nominee. "She's got a national

presence and this is becoming a national primary,"he said. "And therefore the person with the national presence who has got the ability to raise enough money to sustain an effort in a multiplicity of sites has got a good chance to be nominated."Obama leads Clinton by roughly 70 delegates among about 2,000 chosen so far in primaries and caucuses. If Obama wins Ohio and Texas-or even wins one -he'll be in good shape. He should take Wyoming on March 8 and Mississippi on March 11. Then there's over a month until the next contest, in Pennsylvania on April 22. That stretch of time could be key. It could be the moment for many of the uncommitted superdelegates to begin ratifying the choice of Democratic primary voters, and to start moving en masse to Obama.

The New York Times, 11 February 2008

### **Gates Endorses Pause in Troop Withdrawals From Iraq**

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates on Monday publicly endorsed the concept of holding steady the troop levels in Iraq, at least temporarily, after the departure this summer of five extra combat brigades sent last year as part of "the surge."After meeting with top American commanders, Mr. Gates said for the first time that he supported the idea of ordering a pause in troop reductions until the impact on security of the lower force levels could be assessed. The top Democratic candidates have said they favor more rapid troop reductions in Iraq, while Senator John McCain, the presidential contender who is leading the Republican Party in convention delegates. is an unwavering supporter of the troop increase.

The New York Times, 12 February 2008

### **G.M. Reports Quarterly Loss of \$722 Million**

General Motors reported a \$722 million fourth-quarter loss on Tuesday and offered more buyouts to all 74,000 of its unionized employees in another bid to reduce costs.For all of 2007, G.M. lost \$38.7 billion, the biggest loss ever for an automaker. The loss, equal to \$68.45 a share, is about the same amount as a noncash charge of \$38.3 billion that the company took in the third quarter to write down deferred tax assets, meaning that G.M. almost broke even otherwise after losing \$2 billion in 2006.The Detroit automakers are each hoping to persuade more workers to leave so that they can replace some with new hires earning half as much money, as permitted by two-tier wage provisions in the four-year contracts that they signed with the union last fall.

The New York Times, 12 February 2008

### **For Clinton, Bid Hinges on Texas and Ohio**

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and her advisers increasingly believe that, after a series of losses, she has been boxed into a must-win position in the Ohio and Texas primaries on March 4, and she has begun reassuring anxious donors and superdelegates that the nomination is not slipping away from her, aides said on Monday."She has consistently shown an electoral resiliency in difficult situations that have made her a winner," Mr. Penn said. "Senator Obama has in fact never had a serious Republican challenger."Mr. Obama's financial edge allowed him to begin running television advertisements in Ohio and Texas on Monday, while the Clinton campaign plans to begin advertising on Tuesday.

The New York Times, 13 February 2008

### **Top Hezbollah Operative Is Killed in Syria**

A senior Hezbollah military commander who was one of America's most wanted men, accused of involvement in a string of bombings, hijackings and kidnappings during the 1980s and 1990s, has been killed, the Shiite Muslim group said in a statement Wednesday. Security officials in Lebanon said the man, Imad Mugniyah, 45, died in a car bomb in Damascus, Syria, on Tuesday night. He was believed to have been behind attacks in 1983 on the United States Embassy and Marine barracks in Beirut, the terrorist hijacking of a T.W.A. jetliner in 1985, and a series of high-profile kidnappings in the 1980's. There have also been accusations that his organization may have been involved in the bombing of the Khobar Towers military residence in Saudi Arabia in 1996, in which 17 Americans were killed.

The New York Times, 14 February 2008

### **Obama's Lead in Delegates Shifts Focus of Campaign**

Senator Barack Obama emerged from Tuesday's primaries leading Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton by more than 100 delegates, a small but significant advantage that Democrats said would be difficult for Mrs. Clinton to make up in the remaining contests in the presidential nomination battle. Mr. Obama's aides reiterated their opposition to allowing Mrs. Clinton to claim a proportional share of the delegates from the voting in those states. Mr. Obama's aides said they hoped to end the voting season with a delegate lead of more than 100, which they would seek to portray as a decisive affirmation by Democratic primary voters of Mr. Obama's candidacy. Mrs. Clinton's advisers said they were looking to bring the margin down significantly below 100 in hope of arguing that the result was too close for delegates to consider in deciding how to vote.

The Washington Post, 14 February 2008

### **Candidates' Earmarks Worth Millions**

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton helped secure more than \$340 million worth of home-state projects in last year's spending bills, placing her among the top 10 Senate recipients of what are commonly known as earmarks, according to a new study by a nonpartisan budget watchdog group. McCain is using his blanket opposition to earmarked spending as a regular line of attack against Clinton, even running an Internet ad mocking her \$1 million request for a museum devoted to the Woodstock music festival. Obama has been criticized for using a 2006 earmark to secure money for the University of Chicago hospital where his wife worked until last year.

The New York Times, 15 February 2008

### **Black Leader, a Clinton Ally, Tilts to Obama**

Representative John Lewis, an elder statesman from the civil rights era and one of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton's most prominent black supporters, said Thursday night that he planned to cast his vote as a superdelegate for Senator Barack Obama in hopes of preventing a fight at the Democratic convention. His comments came as fresh signs emerged that Mrs. Clinton's support was beginning to erode from some other African-American lawmakers who also serve as superdelegates. In the ads, Mrs. Clinton taunted Mr. Obama for refusing to debate her in Wisconsin. And she and former President Bill

Clinton prepared for a new fund-raising blitz to try to counter Mr. Obama's edge of several million dollars in campaign cash.

The New York Times, 15 February 2008

### **Gunman Slays 5 at N. Illinois University**

With minutes left in a class in ocean sciences at Northern Illinois University on Thursday afternoon, a tall skinny man dressed all in black stepped out from behind a curtain on the stage of the lecture hall, said nothing, and opened fire with a shotgun, the authorities and witnesses said. Five people, all of them students, were killed, John G. Peters, the president of Northern Illinois University, said at a news conference late Thursday evening. Sixteen others were wounded, two of them critically, Mr. Peters said. Hospital officials said several of the students had been shot in the head. In Springfield, Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich declared a state of emergency after the shootings, offering state relief for expenses and the state emergency management agency to help.

The New York Times, 16 February 2008

### **Democrats Look to Avoid Convention Rift**

Former Vice President Al Gore and a number of other senior Democrats plan to remain neutral for now in the presidential race in part to keep open the option to broker a peaceful resolution to what they fear could be a bitterly divided convention, party officials and aides said Friday. A number of senior Democrats, including Speaker Nancy Pelosi and three candidates who have dropped out of the 2008 race, former Senator John Edwards and Senators Christopher J. Dodd and Joseph R. Biden Jr., have spoken with Mr. Gore in recent days. None have endorsed a candidate, although Ms. Pelosi made comments on Friday that were widely seen as supportive of Mr. Obama when it came to the process the party should use to make its choice of candidate. Some of Mr. Gore's allies have complained bitterly that Mr. Clinton concentrated more on Mrs. Clinton's Senate run in 2000 than on getting Mr. Gore elected president.

The New York Times, 16 February 2008

### **Gunman Was Once 'Revered' on Campus**

A day after a lecture hall was attacked at Northern Illinois University, the gunman emerged in two portraits not easily reconciled. In recent weeks, Steve Kazmierczak, turned erratic after suspending an unidentified medication. He gathered the tools for a slaughter, and carried it out quickly, silently and without emotion. But that person bore no resemblance to the 27-year-old man who Donald Grady, the chief of the college's department of public safety, said "was revered by the faculty and staff and students alike" and was completely unknown to police. President Bush commented on the shooting Friday morning, saying it was "obviously a tragic situation on that campus." He said he was asking citizens across the country to "offer their blessings " blessings of comfort and blessings of strength to the families of the victims.

The New York Times, 18 February 2008

### **For McCain, a Choice on a Role for Bush**

Senator John McCain's campaign advisers will ask the White House to deploy President Bush for major Republican fund-raising, but they do not want the president to appear too

often at his side, top aides to Mr. McCain said Sunday. Democrats, meanwhile, have been using every opportunity to link Mr. McCain to Mr. Bush, even defining Mr. McCain's candidacy as part of a "Bush-McCain" ticket that they say will essentially give the president another term. There is also the matter of Mr. Bush's unpopularity - polls show that only about 30 percent of voters approve of the job he is doing as president. Bush and McCain advisers said they planned to institutionalize contacts between the campaign.

The New York Times, 18 February 2008

### **Company Orders Largest Recall of Ground Beef**

A California meat company on Sunday issued the largest beef recall in history, 143 million pounds, some of which was used in school lunch programs, Department of Agriculture officials announced. Agriculture officials said there was little health risk from the recalled meat because the animals had already passed pre-slaughter inspection and much of the meat had already been eaten. In addition, the officials noted that while mad cow disease was extremely rare, the brains and spinal cords from the animals -the area most likely to harbor the disease -would not have entered the human food chain. The company is recalling all its raw and frozen beef products since Feb. 1, 2006. Of the 143 million pounds that were recalled, 37 million went to make hamburgers, chili and tacos for school lunches and other federal nutrition programs, officials said.

The New York Times, 19 February 2008

### **Democrats Make Populist Appeals Before Contests**

Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama intensified their populist appeals on Monday, responding to widespread economic anxiety and pushing the Democratic Party further from the business-friendly posture once championed by Bill Clinton. Mrs. Clinton referred to the 'two oilmen in the White House' and repeated her call for a windfall-profits tax on the oil industry to finance a \$50 billion program to develop alternate energy sources and create 'green jobs.' The two candidates' tone was driven in part by the prospect of a recession, which has in recent weeks shifted the focus of the presidential contest from war and terrorism to concerns much closer to home: jobs, foreclosures, energy and health care costs.

The Washington Post, 19 February 2008

### **Clinton Steps Up Attacks on Obama**

Aides to Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (N.Y.) accused Sen. Barack Obama (Ill.) yesterday of plagiarizing portions of a recent speech and continued to question his vows to reform the campaign finance system as Clinton sought to drive home the idea that her Democratic rival's presidential bid is built on style more than substance. The two-pronged attack came as Clinton attempts to slow Obama's momentum in today's contests in Wisconsin, which neighbors his home state of Illinois, and in Hawaii, where he was born. Obama first raised the notion of accepting public funds in the general election a year ago, when he sought a ruling from the Federal Election Commission that would preserve that option for him.

The Washington Post, 19 February 2008

### **Obama Wave Stuns Clinton's Black Supporters**

Hillary Clinton's black supporters -- especially the most prominent ones -- hadn't expected their candidate to be in a dogfight right now. They thought Barack Obama was an election cycle or two away from being serious presidential timber. They thought Bill Clinton's presidency and the close relationships the Clintons had forged with African Americans would translate into goo-gobs of votes in '08. They were wrong. Obama has swamped Clinton among black voters in each of the 20 contests that had exit polls and large enough samples of African Americans to be meaningful. Just to put that kind of shutout in perspective, black voters represent the only demographic group that the New York senator has not carried at least once during the Democratic primary campaign.

The New York Times, 20 February 2008

### **Wisconsin and Hawaii Hand Victories to Obama**

Senator Barack Obama decisively beat Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton in the Wisconsin primary and the Hawaii caucuses on Tuesday night, accelerating his momentum ahead of crucial primaries in Ohio and Texas and cutting into Mrs. Clinton's support among women and union members. On the Republican side, Senator John McCain of Arizona won a commanding victory over Mike Huckabee in the Wisconsin contest and led by a wide margin in Washington State. All but assured of his party's nomination, Mr. McCain immediately went after Mr. Obama during a rally in Ohio, deriding "eloquent but empty" calls for change. Mrs. Clinton wasted no time in signaling that she would now take a tougher line against Mr. Obama a recognition, her advisers said, that she must act to alter the course of the campaign and define Mr. Obama on her terms.

The New York Times, 20 February 2008

### **Small Donations Add Up for Obama**

A cluster of cramped cubicles, tucked away in a rear corner of Senator Barack Obama's campaign headquarters here, serves as the heart of a fund-raising machine that has reshaped the calculus of the 2008 election. Mr. Obama's startling success, however, has also now put him on the spot, tempting him to back away from indications he gave last year that he would agree to accept public financing in the general election if the Republican nominee did the same. The hesitation has given Mr. McCain, the presumptive Republican nominee whose advisers concede he would most likely fall far short of Mr. Obama's fund-raising for the general election, fodder for a series of attacks. The campaign's success over the Internet has freed Mr. Obama from having to take valuable time off the trail for fund-raising events for major donors just \$4 million in January came from traditional fund-raisers.

The New York Times, 21 February 2008

### **After Wins, Obama Is Focus of McCain and Clinton**

The Democratic contenders on Wednesday both focused their campaigns on Texas, which has emerged as a critical race for the campaign of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. Senator John McCain, all but assured of the Republican nomination, is in Ohio on Wednesday. Mr. McCain, who was the only other presidential candidate to sign on to the pledge, was responding to a column by Mr. Obama in USA Today on Wednesday in which the candidate wrote that he remained open to public financing, but that he was concerned about the spending of outside groups on behalf of candidates and that he

wanted to reach a 'meaningful agreement' with whoever is the Republican nominee. But he did not expect, he wrote, "that a workable, effective agreement will be reached overnight."

The Washington Post, 21 February 2008

### **Missile Hits Dying US Spy Satellite**

A missile launched from a Navy cruiser soared 130 miles above the Pacific and smashed a dying and potentially deadly U.S. spy satellite Wednesday, the Pentagon said. Several defense officials said it apparently achieved the main aim of destroying an onboard tank of toxic fuel. Officials had expressed cautious optimism that the missile would hit the satellite, which was the size of a school bus. But they were less certain of hitting the smaller, more worrisome fuel tank, whose contents posed what Bush administration officials deemed a potential health hazard to humans if it landed intact. The operation was so extraordinary, with such intense international publicity and political ramifications, that Defense Secretary Robert Gates not a military commander made the decision to pull the trigger.

The New York Times, 21 February 2008

### **For McCain, Self-Confidence on Ethics Poses Its Own Risk**

Early in Senator John McCain's first run for the White House eight years ago, waves of anxiety swept through his small circle of advisers. When news organizations reported that Mr. McCain had written letters to government regulators on behalf of the lobbyist's client, the former campaign associates said, some aides feared for a time that attention would fall on her involvement. Mr. McCain helped found a nonprofit group to promote his personal battle for tighter campaign finance rules. But he later resigned as its chairman after news reports disclosed that the group was tapping the same kinds of unlimited corporate contributions he opposed, including those from companies seeking his favor.

The Washington Post, 23 February 2008

### **McCain Disputed On 1999 Meeting**

Broadcaster Lowell "Bud" Paxson yesterday contradicted statements from Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign that the senator did not meet with Paxson or his lobbyist before sending two controversial letters to the Federal Communications Commission on Paxson's behalf. Paxson also recalled that his lobbyist, Vicki Iseman, likely attended the meeting in McCain's office and that Iseman helped arrange the meeting. McCain himself in a deposition in 2002 acknowledged talking to Paxson about the Pittsburgh sale. Asked what Paxson said in the conversation, McCain said that Paxson "had applied to purchase this station and that he wanted to purchase it. And that there had been a numerous year delay with the FCC reaching a decision. And he wanted their approval very bad for purposes of his business."

The New York Times, 23 February 2008

### **Governors Oppose New Medicaid Rules**

Governors of both parties strongly objected on Saturday to a half-dozen new federal Medicaid regulations that they said would shift billions of dollars in costs to the states,

forcing them to consider cutbacks in services. State officials voiced their concerns as they arrived here for the winter meeting of the National Governors Association. Federal health officials said the new rules were needed to end creative financing techniques that states had used to obtain excessive amounts of federal Medicaid money. But governors said the Bush administration was unilaterally reshaping Medicaid in ways that would harm some of their most vulnerable citizens. Moreover, they said, the rules are taking effect at a time when the national economic slowdown is cutting into state tax revenues.

The New York Times, 24 February 2008

### **Somber Clinton Soldiers On as the Horizon Darkens**

To her longtime friends, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton sounds unusually philosophical on the phone these days. She rarely uses phrases like "when I'm president" anymore. Somber at times, determined at others, she talks to aides and confidants about the importance of focusing on a good day's work. No drapes are being measured in her mind's eye, they say. Mrs. Clinton has not given up, in her head or her heart, her quest to return to the White House, advisers say. But as resolute as she is, she no longer exudes the supreme confidence that was her trademark before the first defeat, in Iowa in January. "She has a real military discipline that, now that times are tough, has really kicked into gear," said Judith Hope, a friend and informal adviser to Mrs. Clinton, and a former chairwoman of the New York State Democratic Party.

The New York Times, 24 February 2008

### **Insurance Fears Lead Many to Shun DNA Tests**

Victoria Grove wanted to find out if she was destined to develop the form of emphysema that ran in her family, but she did not want to ask her doctor for the DNA test that would tell her. She worried that she might not be able to get health insurance, or even a job, if a genetic predisposition showed up in her medical records, especially since treatment for the condition, alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, could cost over \$100,000 a year. In some cases, doctors say, patients who could make more informed health care decisions if they learned whether they had inherited an elevated risk of diseases like breast and colon cancer refuse to do so because of the potentially dire economic consequences.

The New York Times, 26 February 2008

### **Dodd Endorses Obama for President**

Senator Christopher J. Dodd, a leading Democrat and an early candidate for the party's presidential nomination, announced Tuesday that he was endorsing Senator Barack Obama. Both Mr. Obama and his rival, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, had sought Mr. Dodd's support after Mr. Dodd dropped out of the race following the Iowa caucuses last month. Mr. Dodd said he was initially skeptical of a presidential campaign by someone in his first term in the Senate. But he said that "Barack Obama is a 21st century candidate who will express the aspirations and hopes of so many."

The Washington Post, 26 February 2008

### **Finding Political Strength in the Power of Words**

The 2008 presidential campaign has witnessed the rise of a whole arsenal of new political weapons, including Internet fundraising and sophisticated microtargeting of voters. For

Sen. Barack Obama, however, the most powerful weapon has been one of the oldest. Obama's emergence as the front-runner in the race for the Democratic nomination has become nearly as much a story of his speeches as of the candidate himself. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (N.Y.), fighting to keep her candidacy alive, has sought to cast Obama (Ill.) as a kind of glib salesman, framing the choice before voters as "talk versus action." Sen. John McCain (Ariz.), the likely Republican nominee, has picked up the attack, vowing to keep Americans from being "deceived by an eloquent but empty call for change."

The New York Times, 27 February 2008

### **William F. Buckley Jr. Is Dead at 82**

William F. Buckley Jr., who marshaled polysyllabic exuberance, famously arched eyebrows and a refined, perspicacious mind to elevate conservatism to the center of American political discourse, died Wednesday at his home in Stamford, Conn. Mr. Buckley, 82, suffered from diabetes and emphysema, his son Christopher said, although the exact cause of death was not immediately known. He was found at his desk in the study of his home, his son said. ♦??He might have been working on a column,♦?? Mr. Buckley said. He also found time to write at least 45 books, ranging from sailing odysseys to spy novels to celebrations of his own dashing daily life, and edit five more. He published a book-length history of the magazine in 2007.

The Washington Post, 27 February 2008

### **McCain Supporter Ridicules Obama**

A supporter of Sen. John McCain ridiculed Sen. Barack Obama in an introductory speech at a McCain rally here this morning, repeatedly using Obama's middle name, Hussein, and deriding him as a terrorist sympathizer. McCain did not mention Cunningham's comments in his speech to the enthusiastic crowd of about 400. But to reporters afterward, McCain apologized profusely for "any disparaging remarks" made about Obama or the other remaining Democratic candidate, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. Joseph T. Deters called Obama the "presumptive Democratic candidate" and predicted that Obama's success will quickly fade as people see through his rhetoric.

The New York Times, 29 February 2008

### **For Obama, a Taste of What a Long Battle Holds**

When Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton goes after Senator Barack Obama these days, she presses him on the details of his health care plan, criticizes the wording of his campaign mailings and likens his promise of change to celestial choirs. In the last few days alone, Senator John McCain has mocked a statement Mr. Obama made about Al Qaeda in Iraq. The Tennessee Republican Party, identifying him with his middle name as Barack Hussein Obama, suggested that his foreign policy would be shaped by people who are anti-Semitic and anti-Israel. Mr. Obama's record is not as long as Mrs. Clinton's, or as potentially rich, for an opponent looking for damaging votes or quotes. But there is still plenty to work with.

The New York Times, 29 February 2008

### **Obama Camp Says It Will Outraise Clinton**

Senator Barack Obama's campaign did not release an estimate of its February fund raising totals Thursday, but the amount is believed to be more than \$50 million, according to several major donors. Campaign officials said the final numbers are still being tabulated and would only say that their haul was 'considerably more' than the \$35 million that Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign announced it had raised in February. Mrs. Clinton said the news of her loan "set off a chain reaction around the country." However, she said, her loan had not yet been paid back, despite the flow of money.