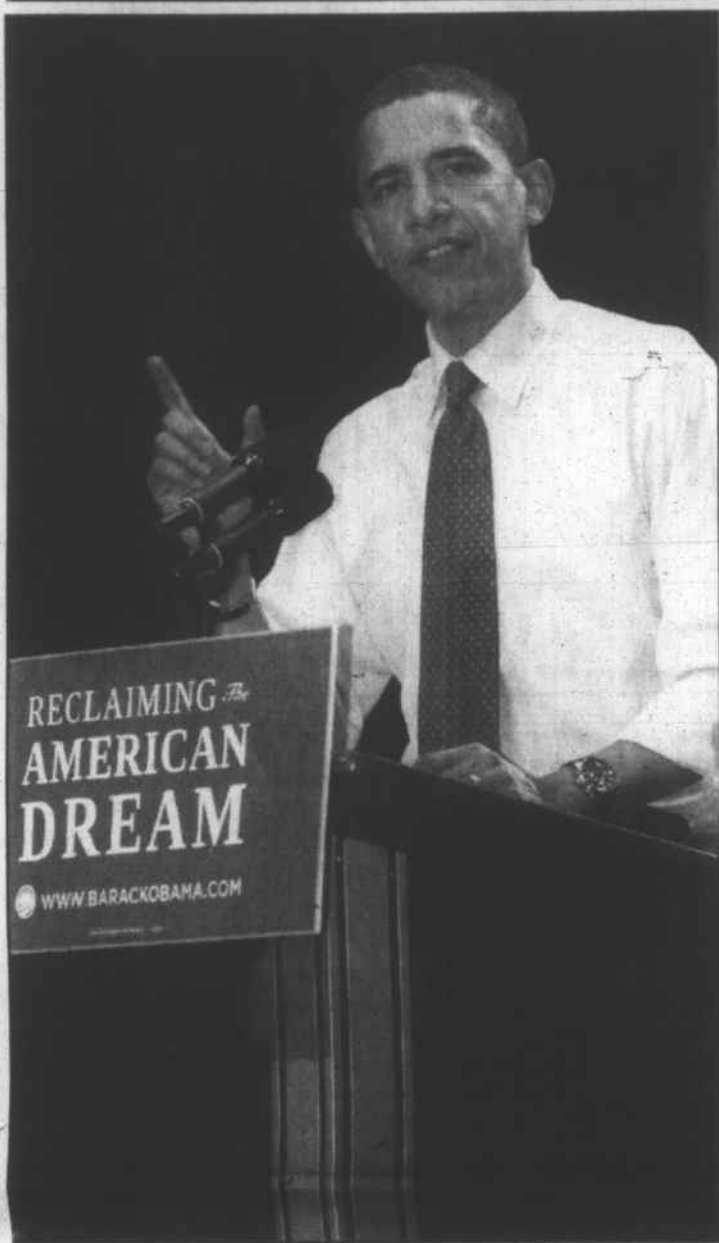
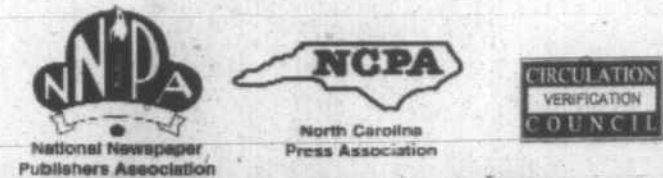


OPINION

THE CHRONICLE 33rd Year

ERNEST H. PITT Publisher/Co-Founder
ELAINE PITT Business Manager
MICHAEL A. PITT Marketing
T. KEVIN WALKER Managing Editor



Sen. Barack Obama can bring change.

Photo by Charlie Pfaff

WHO WE LIKE

Part 2

It is not surprising that this year's contest for the Democratic nomination for president has generated so much excitement and passion. The two candidates seeking the nomination, Sens. **Barack Obama** and Hillary Clinton, are forward-thinking, ready to lead and ready to make history as either the first African-American or first female nominee of a major American political party.

Obama promises that he will be a new type of president, one that doesn't walk the party line but, instead reaches out to those of all political stripes in order to foster change. We believe that he will do this. For far too long, there has been a "red state" America and a "blue state" America, with the two sides at odds. Obama has the temperament and the vision to make the us one nation, under God.

State Sen. Kay Hagan is the Democratic Party's best hope to unseat U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole in November. Hagan has a long and distinguished career as a public servant and has used her years in Raleigh to work steadfastly for positive change and to build bridges and bonds with her legislative colleagues. Hagan also has true, deep North Carolina roots, something that Dole and some of those facing her in the Democratic primary cannot claim. We think it is still important that those who represent us in Washington have a bond with our state. That means more than simply being born and raised in North Carolina and then disappearing for decades and returning to fulfill political aspirations.

Roy Carter is also the best qualified candidate to take on U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx in November. Foxx really needs an early retirement from Capitol Hill, where she has done nothing more than make the people of the Fifth District look foolish for electing her in the first place. Carter, a retired coach and educator, has the kind of small town values and common sense ideas that characterize many in the vast district. He should be able to connect easily with voters and convince them that it is time for a change.

Three-term Wake County District Court Judge **Kristin Ruth** is well prepared and suited to sit on the N.C. Court of Appeals. The black community should be wary of judges who wear their conservative credentials on their sleeves because often those conservative stripes were earned at the detriment of people of color.

Judge James Wynn deserves our active support as he tries to retain his seat on the N.C. Court of Appeals. He is one of this state's most distinguished and experienced law men. He has served us well and should be allowed to continue to do so.



An Open Letter from Dr. Angelou for Hillary Clinton



Maya Angelou

Guest Columnist

Dear Friend:

I am writing to tell you about my friend, Hillary Clinton, and why I am standing with her in her campaign for the presidency. I know the kind of president Hillary-Clinton will be because I know the person she is.

I am inspired by her courage and her honesty. She is a reliable and trustworthy person. She is someone I not only admire but one for whom I have profound affection.

Hillary does not waver in standing up for those who need a champion. She has always been a passionate protector of families. As a child, she was taught that all God's children are equal, and as a mother, she understood that her child wasn't safe unless all children were safe.

As I wrote about Hillary recently in a praise song: "She is the prayer of every woman, and every man who longs for fair play, healthy families, good schools and a balanced economy."

It may be easy to view Hillary Clinton through the nar-



Dr. Maya Angelou and Sen. Hillary Clinton at a recent campaign event at Wake Forest.

WFU Photo

row lens of those who would write her off or grind her down. Hillary sees us as we are, black and brown and white and yellow and pink, and relishes our differences, knowing that fundamentally we are all more alike than we are unlike. She is able to look through complexion and see community.

She has endured great scrutiny, and still she dares greatly. Hillary Clinton will not give up on you, and all she asks is that you do not give up

on her. She is a long-distance runner. I am honored to say I am with her for the long run.

I am supporting Hillary Clinton because I know that she will make the most positive difference in people's lives and she will help our country become what it can be. Whether you are her supporter, leaning towards her, undecided, or supporting someone else, I believe Hillary Clinton will represent you - she will be a president for all Americans. It

is no small thing that along the way we will make history together.

Vote for Hillary Clinton and show your support at www.hillaryclinton.com. I know she will make us proud.

Dr. Maya Angelou is a world-renowned author, poet and lecturer. A resident of Winston-Salem, Angelou is the Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University.

A Tax Code that Makes Sense



Barack Obama

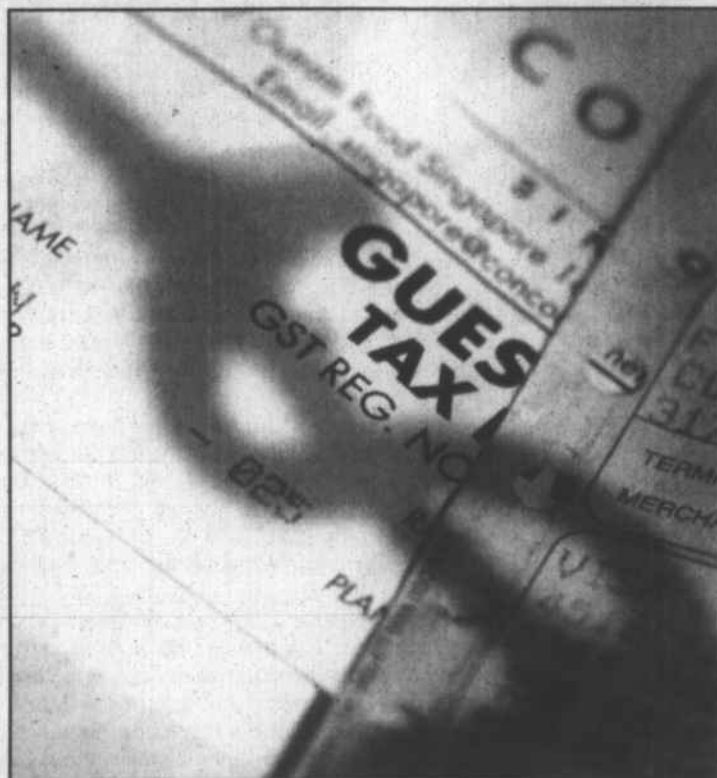
Guest Columnist

For most Americans, this is a time of economic uncertainty. You are working harder for less. You are paying more for everything from health care, to college tuition, to filling up the gas tank. Yet, our tax code favors Wall Street over Main Street. It's time for that to change.

For decades, Washington has given the wealthiest Americans tax cuts that they don't need and didn't ask for. Special interests have successfully lobbied to carve out over \$1 trillion in corporate tax breaks. We've lost a sense of fairness, and we've lost sight of that simple truth that we're all in this together as Americans.

I am running so that Americans have a President who makes decisions based on their interests, not special interests. When I am President, I will restore fairness to the tax code. We will close corporate loopholes and give a tax cut to middle class Americans -- instead of giving tax breaks to companies that ship jobs overseas.

First, I'll give relief to working people with a "Making Work Pay" tax credit. This credit will offset your payroll tax,



providing up to \$500 for American workers, and \$1,000 for each working family. That means 150 million Americans will get a tax cut, including 4.4 million North Carolinians.

Second, I'll give homeowners relief. Owning a home should be a source of stability - not insecurity. That's why I've proposed a universal mortgage credit that will give homeowners who don't currently itemize on their taxes a break of 10 percent off their mortgage interest rate, including those hit by the subprime crisis. This will bene-

fit 10 million homeowners nationwide.

Finally, every American should be able to retire with the dignity and security they have earned. Yet, seniors are facing rising costs. As President, I will eliminate all income taxes for seniors making under \$50,000 a year. This proposal will eliminate income taxes for seven million seniors, including over 150,000 North Carolina seniors, and provide these seniors with an average savings of \$1,400 each year.

To pull through these uncer-

tain times, it's time for Americans to pull together. If we do, we can bring fundamental change to Washington, so that it starts doing the peoples' business instead of doing business with special interests. That's why I'm running for President. And it's why I will make sure our tax code protects the American Dream for all Americans.

But the change we want to see in our country depends on you. The North Carolina primary represents your chance to vote for change. And this year, North Carolina has something new - One-Stop Early Voting. From now until Saturday, May 3rd, you can vote at your county Board of Elections office or at other designated One-Stop Early Voting locations. Even if you're not currently registered to vote or you've never voted before, you can register and vote all at once.

For more information on how One-Stop Early Vote works, or to find the voting location nearest you and hours of operation, dial 1-888-NC-EARLY. You can also log onto my North Carolina Web site: nc.barackobama.com.

Your vote and your voice couldn't be more important. Together, we will make the change America needs.

Sen. Barack Obama is the junior senator from Illinois. He is seeking the Democratic nomination for president.