

# Obama: Resentments Building on Gulf Coast

## Cites Administration incompetence

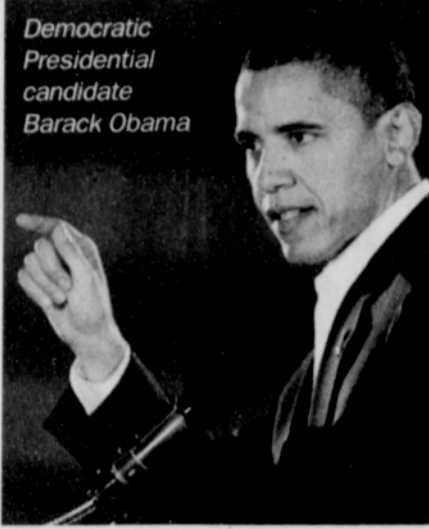
(AP)—Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama said Tuesday that with black people from New Orleans and the Gulf Coast still displaced 20 months after Hurricane Katrina, frustration and resentments are building explosively as they did before the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

"This administration was colorblind in its incompetence," Obama said at a conference of black clergy in Hampton, Va., "but the poverty and the hopelessness was there long before the hurricane."

"All the hurricane did was to pull the curtain back for all the world to see," he said.

Obama's criticism of the Bush Administration prompted ovation after ovation from the nearly 8,000 people gathered, particularly when he denounced the Iraq war and noted that he had opposed it from the outset.

Repeatedly, he referred to the riots that erupted in Los Angeles after a jury acquitted four police officers of assault charges in the 1991 beating of Rodney King, a black motorist, after a high speed chase. Fifty-five people died and 2,000 were injured in several days of riots in the city's black neighborhoods.



Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama

"Those 'quiet riots' that take place every day are born from the same place as the fires and the destruction and the police decked out in riot gear and the deaths," Obama said. "They happen when a sense of disconnect settles in and hope dissipates. Despair takes hold and young people all across this country look at the way the world is and believe that things are never going to get any better."

He argued that once a hurricane hits or a jury renders a not guilty verdict, "the frustration is there for all to see."

Obama, who is bidding to become the first black president, took the stage after a succession of ministers repeatedly brought the crowd to its feet, singing,

praying and swaying to music.

Repeatedly, with evangelical zeal, he raised issues that roused the crowd: increasing the minimum wage and teacher pay, funding for public schools and college financial aid for the poor, ending predatory lending and expediting the reconstruction of New Orleans and the Mississippi coast.

He introduced his own pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright of Chicago's Trinity United as "Unashamedly Black and Unapologetically Christian." He credited Wright with introducing him to Christ, and peppered his speech with Scriptural references, at one point invoking the opening lines of the Lord's Prayer.

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# Singer Tours in Memory of Brother Killed in Iraq

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Folk singer Kristy Kruger lost her brother, Lt. Col. Eric Kruger, in Iraq last November when a roadside bomb exploded, killing him just one day after arriving in Baghdad.

Now the 31-year-old is in the middle of a 50-state tour, including a month-long stint in Oregon venues to honor of her brother. But you won't find her on stage espousing the War on Terror or protesting troop build-up overseas. Her tour is about grieving — and for her, music was the best way.

The idea came to Kruger two months after her brother's death, after she organized a show for his birthday in their home state of Texas.

Kruger realized that taking her music on the road was how she would get through her devastating loss. Her plans were big: she would play memorial concerts in all 50 states.



Singer-songwriter Kristy Kruger performs Thursday, June 7 at the Buffalo Gap in southwest Portland as part of her 50-state memorial tour in honor of her brother who died in Iraq.

Oregon is Kruger's ninth state on her tour. Speaking with the Portland Observer, she said she is starting to feel much stronger and more positive as she settles into her new, temporary life.

"This is a pilgrimage for me," she said. "I think it's something my brother would have loved to do."

Kruger's musical style includes traditional country, jazz and folk. As a singer-songwriter, getting up on stage and sharing stories about her brother comes naturally.

She appears in Portland on Thursday, June 7 at the Buffalo Gap, 6835 S.W. Macadam Ave. The show starts at 9 p.m. and is free.

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# Congressman Indicted for Bribery

Rep. William Jefferson, D-La., will temporarily step down from his post on the House Small Business Committee, an announcement that came one day after he was indicted on 16 corruption-related charges stemming from a two-year investigation.

The Louisiana Democrat Tuesday said he will step down from the assignment until the case is resolved.

Jefferson is charged with bribery, obstruction of justice, wire fraud, money laundering and racketeering.

His lawyer, Robert Trout, calls the 16-count indictment against his client "lengthy and creative" and accuses federal prosecutors of "trying to create an offense."



Rep. William Jefferson, D-La., defends himself against bribery charges. (AP photo)

Federal prosecutors allege that the nine-term representative used the power of his office to take more than \$500,000 in bribes — benefiting himself and his family — from U.S. businesses and to influence foreign officials.

If convicted on all charges, Jefferson could face a maximum sentence of 235 years. The charges came almost two years after investigators raided Jefferson's home in Washington and found \$90,000 in cash stuffed in his freezer.

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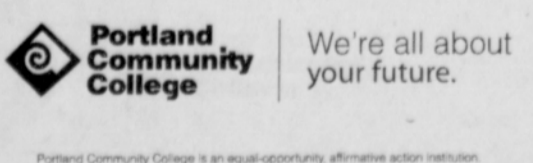


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# Bush Aide Sentenced to Prison

(AP)—Former White House aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby was sentenced to 2½ years in prison Tuesday for lying and obstructing the CIA leak investigation.

Libby, the former chief of staff to Vice President Dick Cheney, stood calmly before a packed courtroom as a federal judge said the evidence overwhelmingly proved his guilt.

"People who occupy these types of positions, where they have the welfare and security of nation in their hands, have a special obligation to not do anything that might create a problem," U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton said.



I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby

Walton did not set a date for Libby to report to prison. Though he saw no reason to let Libby remain free pending appeal, Walton said he would accept written arguments on the issue and rule later.

The White House said that President Bush feels "terrible" for Libby and his family, but does not intend to intervene now.

The president, who leaves office on Jan. 20, 2009, has never ruled out a pardon for Libby.

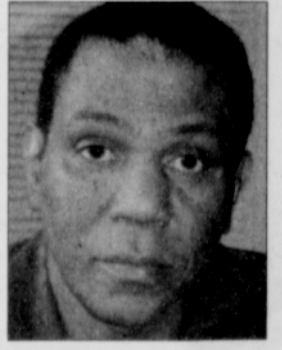
Libby was convicted in March of lying and obstructing an investigation into the 2003 leak of CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity.

# Story Clarification

The Portland Observer regrets the last two paragraphs of last week's story titled "Production Launches for Globetrotter Story."

Billy Moore, the producer of an upcoming film about there, and Lemon is a proud former Globetrotter great

Meadowlark Lemon, sees the Multnomah Athletic Club as a diverse institution that provides a welcoming atmosphere for all kinds of people. Moore has enjoyed coaching there, and Lemon is a proud member of the club.



Billy Moore