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INSIDE

# Illinois hosts Bush re-election fundraiser

## Protesters blast president on Iraq

BY MARY TALLON  
News editor

CHICAGO — President George W. Bush raised more than \$3.6 million in contributions at his \$2,000-a-plate luncheon fundraiser Tuesday in the Windy City.

But outside, hundreds of protesters blasted the president for his foreign policy, even as he met with cheers inside. The president touted several accomplishments in job creation, faith-based initiatives, and health care and education reform, but spent much of his speech addressing the war on terrorism and the Iraqi conflict.

"Terrorists declared war on the United States of America and war is what they got ... In Afghanistan and Iraq, we gave ultimatums to

terror regimes," Bush said. "Those regimes chose defiance, and those regimes are no more."

The fundraiser brought powerful Republicans from throughout the state, including U.S. Senate hopefuls Jim Oberweis, John Cox, Jack Ryan and state Sen. Steve Rauschenberger (R-Elgin). U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert, the third-ranking Republican in the country, was also on hand to introduce Bush.

Throughout his address, the president argued that the future of freedom and peace depend on America's actions now. He also drew much applause when he urged the Senate to approve legislation that has already passed the House, intending to curb frivo-

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BRAD KAHLER The Daily Illini

President George W. Bush waves goodbye at O'Hare International Airport before departing Chicago on Tuesday afternoon.

## Bush raises \$3.6M in state, faces battle to win Illinois

CHICAGO (AP) — President George W. Bush raised at least \$3.6 million for his re-election campaign at a luncheon Tuesday, but even Republicans concede he will have a tough time winning Illinois, a Democratic-leaning state with a fractured GOP.

"We're under no illusions but we're working hard," said Bob Kjellander, an Illinois member of the Republican National Committee who is chairman of Bush's re-election campaign in Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.

"Illinois is a battleground state, and he was in it until the end here last time and I believe he will be this time as well."

The Republican president, who lost Illinois by 12 percentage points in 2000 to Al Gore, faces long odds, political observers said.

Bush is seeking support in a state where Republicans are weakened following a corruption scandal that plagued ex-Gov. George Ryan, the incumbent Republican U.S. senator is stepping down and party mem-

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CLAIRE NAPIER The Daily Illini

Wes Brumfield, Homer resident, probes the bed of a truck filled with harvested corn at The Andersons, Inc. Champaign Grain facility, RR 3, Champaign, on Monday morning.

# Harvest mixed for local farmers



CLAIRE NAPIER The Daily Illini

A view of The Andersons, Inc. Champaign Grain elevator and storage domes. Champaign Grain's facilities can store up to 12,550,000 bushels of grain.

## Weather pushes corn crop up, soybeans down

BY CRAIG COLBROOK  
Staff writer

There's good news and bad news for local farmers this fall.

While corn yields are expected to be larger than usual, soybean yields are expected to be lower, said Lloyd Phipps, director of the Champaign Corn and Soybean Marketing Club. The national average of corn yields is projected to be 138.5 bushels-per-acre, up from 130 bushels-per-acre last year, he said.

Meanwhile, soybeans have dropped from 37.8 bushels-per-acre to 35 bushels-per-acre nationally. A bushel, the standard

unit of measurement for crops, is 56 pounds for corn and 60 pounds for soybeans.

"It all comes down to the same thing every year — weather, weather, weather," said Robert Dunker, an agronomist in the University's Crop Sciences department. "Weather patterns affected soybeans more than corn because at the critical period, soybeans received below adequate rainfall, where as for corn we had adequate rainfall for the critical period and good rainfall for the rest of the season."

Dunker also said some pest problems in the north and fungal diseases in soybeans caused by

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ROBERT DUNKER  
Crop Sciences agronomist

early rainfall could also have affected the yields. However, Dunker was quick to note that the data was based on early yields, and later yields could be much better for soybeans.

Marla Todd, information director for the Champaign County Farm Bureau, said that the problem

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# U.S. troops leave Liberia

## Many Liberians thankful but confused by abrupt departure

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — U.S. military planes and helicopters carried the last few U.S. ground forces out of war-ravaged Liberia on Tuesday — leaving Liberians thankful for their help, but dismayed at their silent withdrawal.

About 30 members of a U.S. military liaison team flew out of Liberia's main airport, ending their work with a West African-

led peace mission.

Their ship, the USS Iwo Jima, was no longer visible from Monrovia's shore by Tuesday afternoon, and was due to leave the region within hours.

The Iwo Jima was the last of three U.S. warships deployed in early August off Liberia's capital, Monrovia, where fighting killed more than 1,000 civilians in June

and July as rebels besieged the city.

The mission of Joint Task Force Liberia Mission "has been accomplished," a U.S. military spokesman said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The presence of the U.S. troops helped drive President Charles Taylor into exile, clearing the way for a power-sharing deal between

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The Associated Press

U.S. military personnel stand under the shade of the wing of a transport plane at Robertsfield airport near the Liberian capital Monrovia on Tuesday before the last few U.S. ground forces flew out of the war-torn West African nation.

# FBI opens a criminal inquiry on name leak

## Bush administration welcomes investigation

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI began a full-scale criminal investigation Tuesday into whether White House officials illegally leaked the identity of an undercover CIA officer, and President Bush ordered his staff to cooperate with the first major probe of his administration.

Democrats demanded the appointment of a special outside counsel, but President Bush said, "I'm absolutely confident that the Justice Department can do a good job."

"I don't know of anyone in my administration who has leaked," Bush said. "This investigation is a good thing."

The Justice Department alerted the White House late Monday of the decision to move from a preliminary inquiry into a full investigation, a step rarely taken with complaints involving leaks of classified information.

The investigation is aimed at finding who leaked the name of the CIA operative, possibly in an attempt to punish the officer's husband, who had accused the administration of manipulating intelligence to exaggerate the threat from Iraq.

Most White House employees discovered the probe was under way when they turned on their computers and found an e-mail shortly before 9 a.m. Tuesday that said: PLEASE READ: Important Message From Counsel's Office.

"You must preserve all materials that might in any way be related to the department's investigation," counsel Alberto Gonzales ordered. Officials indicated that would include telephone logs, e-mails, notes and other documents. "We welcome this investigation," presidential spokesman Scott McClellan said. "No one wants to get to the bottom of this more than the president of the United States."

Still, the investigation was an embarrassing development for a president who promised to bring integrity and leadership to the White House after years of Republican criticism of the Clinton administration.

On Capitol Hill, Democrats pressed their case for a special counsel, saying Attorney General John Ashcroft had an obvious conflict of interest.

"We don't have confidence in John Ashcroft ... and we know without a doubt that somebody broke the federal law," Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle said. Ashcroft has not ruled out appointing a special counsel, leaving the possibility open, a senior law enforcement official said.

That decision will depend on a number of factors, such as whether a suspect is identified who presents a potential conflict for the Justice Department. For now, the investigation is being done by FBI agents in the counterintelligence division, based at the FBI Washington field office.

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