

Obama shackles McCain to Bush's shattered economic legacy

Financial Times endorses Obama

AFP, London

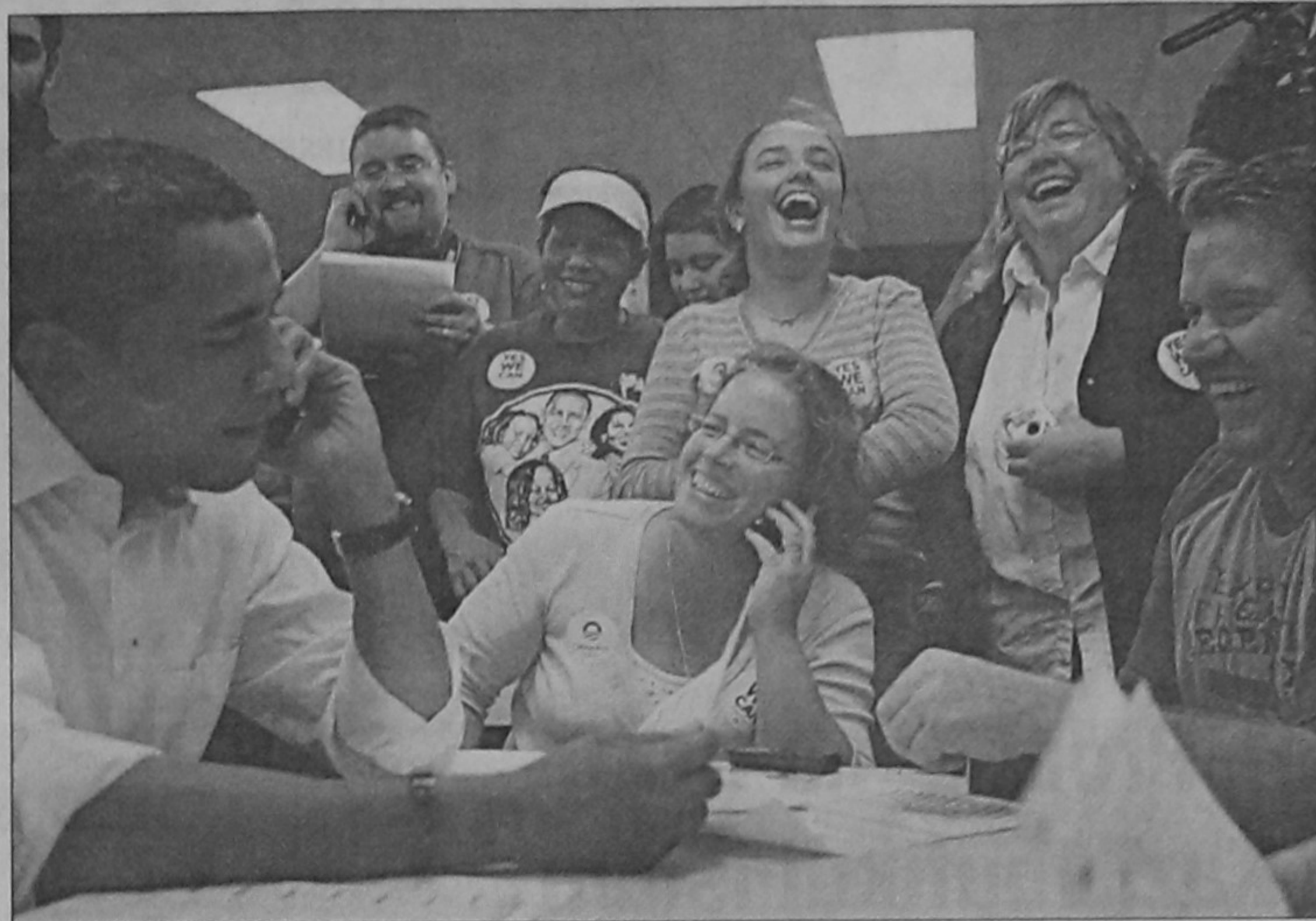
The Financial Times, the respected business daily, endorsed Barack Obama on Monday to become the next US president...

AFP, Denver

Barack Obama took aim at John McCain before record crowds on Sunday after his rival acknowledged sharing the same Republican party philosophy...

"Just this morning, Senator McCain said that actually he and President Bush 'share a common philosophy'..."

a month in Iraq "while the Iraqi government sits on a huge surplus and our economy is in crisis."



US Democratic presidential candidate Illinois Senator Barack Obama helps make phone calls with volunteers to gather votes at his campaign office in Brighton, Colorado on Sunday.

Obama leads McCain in Virginia by 8 points

AFP, Washington

Democrat Barack Obama has opened up an eight-point lead over his Republican rival John McCain in Virginia...



This image grab taken from the official Syrian television channel yesterday, shows a survivor of the US military attack on a building site in the Syrian village of Al-Sukkiraya...

Iraq hopes Syria raid won't harm relations

AP, Baghdad

A senior Iraqi official says Iraq hopes that an alleged US raid into Syria will not harm Baghdad's relations with Damascus.

ME peace efforts teetering, warns Palestinian PM

AFP, Ramallah

Palestinian prime minister Salam Fayyad warned on Monday that peace efforts with Israel based on a two-state solution are teetering because of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The two-state solution, backed by the international community, entails the creation of an independent, viable Palestinian state living in peace alongside Israel.

UN proposes more representation for Iraqi minorities

AFP, Baghdad

The United Nations on Monday proposed that 12 seats be reserved on Iraqi provincial councils for minority communities in elections to be held by the end of January...

line for elections in 14 provinces, excluding oil-rich Kirkuk and the three northern Kurdish provinces.

Taiwan to produce 300 cruise missiles

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan plans to manufacture up to 300 cruise missiles, despite warming ties with rival China, it was reported Monday.

2 Koreas hold military talks amid tension

AP, Seoul

Working-level military officers from North Korea and South Korea met Monday to discuss improving their lines of communication amid strained ties between the divided nations, officials said.

On Monday, the sides met in a location inside the demilitarised zone bisecting the Korean peninsula, said Won Tae-jae, a spokesman at the South Korean Defence Ministry...



In a handout picture released by the Lebanese photo agency Dalati and Nohra yesterday, Lebanese Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah (L) and Lebanese parliamentary majority leader Saad Hariri (R) smile during their first meeting in more than two years at an undisclosed location.



Congolese army soldiers withdraw from Kibumba about 35km north of the provincial capital Goma yesterday. Thousands of Congolese fled to Goma from Rugari and from the Kibumba Internally Displaced Peoples (IDP) camp after violence started between forces loyal to renegade general Laurent Nkunda and the Congolese army.

Thousands of protesters attack UN in E Congo

AP, AFP, Goma

Thousands of protesters attacked the United Nations' eastern Congo headquarters yesterday, expressing anger that a UN peacekeeping force has been unable to protect them from a rebel attack that has forced tens of thousands to flee.

Laurent Nkunda. Reporters watched the soldiers struggle to make a way through thousands of refugees also fleeing along the main road south from a major army base seized by rebels toward Goma.

Israeli president clears way for snap polls

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli President Shimon Peres said on Monday that efforts to form a new government had failed, paving the way for snap elections that could turn on the future of the Middle East peace process.

"After having consulted with representatives of all parliamentary factions I would like to inform you that I see no possibility of forming a government," Peres said in a letter he delivered to parliament speaker Dalia Itzik.

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Ethiopia agrees to Somalia pullback deal

AFP, Addis Ababa

Ethiopia's foreign ministry on Monday vowed to comply with a UN-sponsored deal signed a day earlier by rival Somali factions for a phased withdrawal of Ethiopian troops in Somalia.

moderate Islamist opposition, the ARS, on Sunday agreed to implement a dormant ceasefire reached in June, paving the way for pro-government Ethiopian troops to pull back from the country.

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