

Mr. Cuomo also sent subpoenas to Student Loan Xpress and its current parent company, CIT Group, seeking documents and testimony. And he wrote to the universities in Texas and California seeking more information.

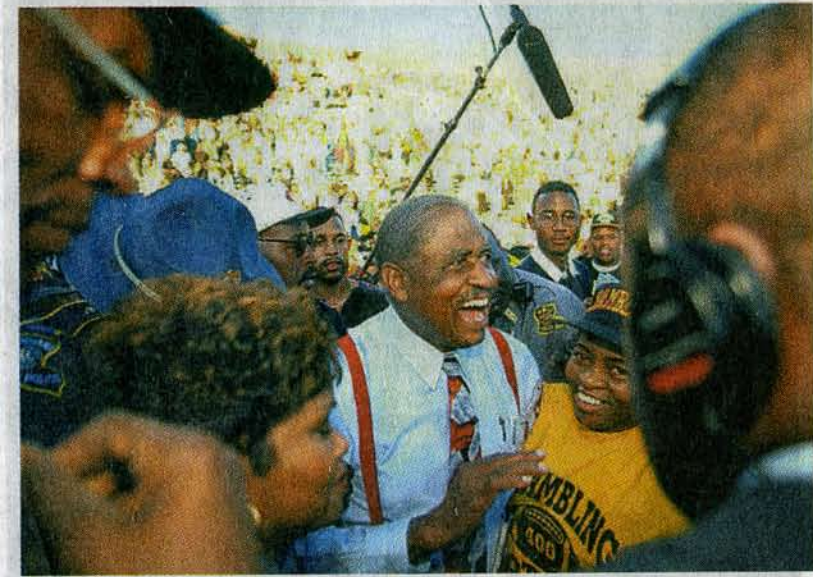
Student Loan Xpress was acquired by CIT in 2005. C. Curtis Ritter, a

Continued on Page A13

The American officials would not provide a dollar figure for the planned sales. But one American defense industry executive said that if all the equipment under discussion with the Saudis and other gulf countries was eventually sold — including tanks, warships and advanced air de-

Continued on Page A8

INSIDE



William Snyder/Time Life Pictures — Getty Images

Eddie Robinson, Renowned Football Coach, Is Dead

Eddie Robinson, above, celebrating his 400th victory in 1995, was head coach at Grambling State University from 1941 to 1997. He was 88. PAGE A17

Cancer Detection Questions

A highly promoted computerized system for examining mammograms is leading to less accuracy, not more, a new study finds. The detection system, known as CAD, has led to many more false alarms in diagnoses. PAGE A11

Circumcision and AIDS

New York City is planning a campaign to encourage men at high risk of AIDS to get circumcised in light of the World Health Organization's endorsement of the procedure as a way to prevent the disease. PAGE A15

Pelosi Talks to Syria's Leader

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she pressed President Bashar al-Assad on supporting militants. PAGE A3

New U.N. Data on Climate

A U.N. assessment has found with "high confidence" that greenhouse gases are at least partly responsible for global warming. PAGE A6

Recess Appointments by Bush

President Bush used Congress's recess to push through his choice to be ambassador to Belgium and to fill two policy positions. PAGE A12

The story of Sam Ross has the makings of a ballad, with its heart-rending arc from hardscrabble childhood to decorated war hero to hardscrabble adulthood. His effort to create a future for himself by enlisting in the Army exploded in the desert during a munitions disposal operation in Baghdad. He was 20.

He was also on his own. Mr. Ross, who is estranged from his mother and whose father is serving a life sentence for murdering his stepmother, does not have the family support that many other severely wounded veterans depend on. Various relatives have stepped in at various times, but Mr. Ross, embittered by a difficult childhood and by what the war cost him, has had a push-pull relationship with those who sought to assist him.

Several people have taken a keen interest in Mr. Ross, among them



Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times

Sam Ross is disabled and faces attempted homicide charges.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Early '08 Fund-Raising Has Clear Blue Tint

By ADAM NAGOURNEY

DES MOINES, April 4 — For anyone looking for a sign of the health of the Democratic Party going into the 2008 presidential campaign, it came Wednesday with the last of the fundraising figures reported by the major presidential candidates.

With the \$25 million reported by Senator Barack Obama's campaign, closing in on Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton's \$26 million, the Democratic presidential candidates collectively outperformed the Republicans, and by a substantial amount: Democrats raised a total of about \$78 million, compared with just over \$51 million by their rivals, according to preliminary first-quarter figures

provided by the campaigns.

That is remarkable because Republicans have historically proved better at collecting contributions. In every presidential primary season since 1976, the top fund-raiser was a Republican.

The new numbers offered what even Republicans described as measurable evidence that Democrats today are more confident about their prospects of winning back the White House, and — not typically for their party — satisfied with their candidates. That enthusiasm gap is emerging as one of the early dynamics of the 2008 campaign.

"The Democrats seem to have a lot more hunger for the White House right now than we do," said Scott Reed, who managed the presidential campaign of Bob Dole, a Kansas Republican, in 1996. "Part of it on the Republican side may be Bush fatigue. But clearly, the Republicans are going to need to get it together on finances if we are going to compete with the likes of Obama or Hillary

Clinton. It's a concern."

Officials of both parties as well as independent analysts said the figure quantified a trend apparent here and in New Hampshire, where Democratic presidential candidates consistently draw crowds at rallies and

Continued on Page A12

NEWS SUMMARY

Arts	B1
Business Day	C1
Editorial, Op-Ed	A18
House & Home	D
International	A
National	A10
New York	A15
Sports/Thursday	C15
Thursday Styles	E

Obituaries	A17	Weather	
Real Estate	D6		

Classified Advertising
Commercial Real Estate Marketplace

Updated news: nytimes.com
Tomorrow in The Times: Page C1

FOR HOME DELIVERY CALL 1-800-NYTIMES

