



Who's afraid of Naomi Wolf? Hillary should be

Alana Buckley-Carr

FEMINIST author Naomi Wolf has turned her back on the sisterhood to give her support to Barak Obama over Hillary Clinton in the US election.

In Western Australia last night to close the Perth Writers' Festival, Wolf told *The Australian* that it would be "reverse sexism" for her to back Senator Clinton, whom she has previously described as a "power feminist", simply because she was a woman.

Wolf led a sold-out discussion about her latest book, *The End of America*, in which she criticises President George W. Bush's administration for its abuse of power and expresses concern about the US's "fascist shift".

But Wolf, on her seventh Australian visit, said any future government could learn lessons from Mr Bush's assault on democracy, brought about after the 9/11 attacks. "While the book is about the Bush administration, the lessons are timeless," Wolf said. "Australia really should take warning from what happened in the US because any democracy can be brought down, to an extent."

She said the US needed more leaders to protect the principles of democracy and that the recent abuse of power may not have occurred if more people stood up against it.

She said while Senator Clinton knew how to form good policy — "the Clintons



Warning: Naomi Wolf in Perth yesterday

know how to run a country" — she believed women's issues could be served just as well by either gender.

"I think this moment in history is so critical for the US, if, God willing, we can have a transparent and accountable election then Obama has a hope," Wolf said.

"It takes more than a really competent executive to restore what we've lost. It takes somewhat of a visionary and an idealist and he's got that kind of Robert F. Kennedy quality, (and) ability to move people who have never been moved before. God, that's what we're going to need to restore our faith in ourselves."