

Obama urges Democrats to energize vote at rally

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

Barack Obama was once a name not many recognized, but now most everyone is familiar with. The Illinois state senator was in Las Vegas Friday and delivered a powerfully commanding speech that kicked the Democratic Party's "Get Out the Vote" campaign into high gear in Nevada.

Obama spoke to a crowd of about 100 at Nevada Partners during a fund-raiser breakfast that netted \$25,000 for his campaign before heading over to the West Las Vegas Library for a free community rally that attracted more than 300 people. He urged voters to be vigilant and be committed to going to the polls and voting to ensure a victory for those seeking a change in government. He also encouraged Nevadans to realize the privilege that exists in Early Voting (opened Saturday and continues through Oct. 29). Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Obama is vying for a seat in the U.S. Senate, hoping to beat out conservative Alan



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Senate hopeful Barack Obama speaks Friday inside the West Las Vegas Library Theater.

Keyes. Obama gave the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in Boston this summer. He is the son of a mother from Kansas and father from Shaya, Kenya. He attended Columbia University and earned a law degree from Harvard University to become a civil rights attorney.

Civil rights is a passionate topic for Obama who credits the Freedom Riders and activists who came before him for the opportunity he has today to run for national office. Obama talked about a visit he made to Birmingham, Ala. where he went to the 16th Street Baptist Church where four little girls died in the early 1960s from a bomb blast during Sunday School.

"Upon this reflection, I felt the physical pain of what it would be like to lose your child in a senseless and brutal way, since I have two little girls," he said Friday compelling the crowd, "We have to get motivated and stay focused because the sacrifices we make now are so modest compared to the expectations

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Black economists against Bush's 'trickle' policies

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — An independent group of Black economists say that the fiscal policies of the Bush administration have not only destroyed many of the significant Black economic gains made during the Clinton Administration, but would cause even worse damage if allowed to continue for four more years.

"Our analysis of President Bush's economic policies show those policies to ignore the effects of growing federal deficits, growing trade deficits and growing personal debt levels, making it unlikely that a second term of trickle down policies can produce sustainable growth," states the "Open Letter to the African-American Community," issued by 17 Black economists. "Even if it did, it would lead to greater economic and social inequality. Simply put, we find the economic policies of President Bush to have failed, with no promise of the policies restoring the economic well-being of the nation, and especially of African-Americans."

Blacks aren't the only ones in pain, the economists charge.

"The President has the worst record of any president since the post World War II era in pursuing policies to create jobs," their letter states. "We are writing because we feel the depth of this change is linked to economic policy choices, and is not simply the effect of a change in the international political climate."

Among the problems the letter outlines:

- "From May 1998 to July 2001, the unemployment rate for African-Americans remained below 9 percent. But, the African-American unemployment rate has

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Frederick Douglass event honors youth

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

More than 200 people attended the eleventh annual Frederick Douglass Education Fund Awards Dinner Friday, honoring valley students.

The organization that carries on the legacy of Frederick Douglass offers educational programming and scholarships. This year's dinner was held at the Venetian Resort Hotel & Casino. Members of the organization strive to educate young people about the legacy of Douglass and his love of self-development, education and this country. The organization also gives students scholarships for post-high school education. Carol Foster presented scholarships of \$2,000 each to representatives from Fitzgerald and Cambiero elementary schools for their work in providing tutorial programs for at-risk students.

Amir Hill Shafeeg, a freshman at Rancho High School and four-year member of the Performing Visual Arts Center at the West Las Vegas Performing Arts Center, helped set the tone for the evening. He read from text quoting Douglass as saying, "If there is no struggle, there



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Bob Bailey, board member of the Frederick Douglass Educational Fund, presents Nevada Supreme Court Judge Michael Douglas with a commendation on Friday.

is no progress. Those of us who profess to favor freedom yet depreciate agitation are men who want the crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one or a physical one, but it must be a struggle. Power concedes

nothing without demand. It never has and never will."

The evening honored Nevada Supreme Court Justice Michael Douglas, the first African-American appointed to the post. He was appointed in March 2004 following the death of Justice Myron Leavitt.

"I am very appreciative of this honor by the Frederick

Douglass Education Fund organization and the work done by the members to improve the quality of education for all students, especially those who are disadvantaged," Douglas said.

He also talked about the power of the voter's voice from the legal perspective referring to individuals re-

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