

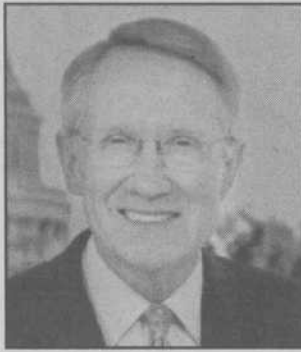
Obama not offended by name word play

DAVENPORT, Iowa (AP) - Sen. Barack Obama said Sunday he was not greatly offended by the Fox News chief's word play about his name that led Nevada Democrats to cancel a presidential debate hosted with the network.

Fox's Roger Ailes made a remark last week about the similarities between the Illinois senator's name and al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden.

"I didn't take great offense at the joke," Obama said in an Associated Press interview while campaigning in Iowa. "I have been called worse."

At a Radio & Television News Directors Association Foundation event in Washington on Thursday, Ailes said, "And it is true that Barack Obama is on the move. I don't know if it's true that President Bush called (Pakistani President Pervez)



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— Harry Reid
Democratic U.S. Senator

Musharraf and said, "Why can't we catch this guy?" according to a transcript provided by Fox.

Bin Laden is believed to be hiding in Afghanistan or the country's lawless border region with Pakistan.

The Nevada Democratic Party announced Friday it had canceled an August debate, to be co-hosted by Fox News Channel, and cited Ailes' comment.

Ailes went too far, the Nevada Democratic Party Chairman Tom Collins and

Democratic U.S. Sen. Harry Reid wrote Fox News. "We cannot, as good Democrats,

put our party in a position to defend such comments."

Nevada Democrats already were under criticism by MoveOn.org Civic Action, a network of liberal activists, for the partnership with Fox, which the group called "a mouthpiece for the Republican party."

In response, Fox News vice president David Rhodes said, "News organizations will want to think twice before getting involved in the Nevada Democratic caucus

which appears to be controlled by radical, fringe, out-of-state interest groups."

In the AP interview at a coffee shop on the second day of a weekend visit to Iowa, Obama said he has been surprised at how quickly the intensity of the presidential race has picked up. He brushed aside media reports on issues from stock trades to parking tickets.

"You know it's to be expected," Obama said. "I was surprised that my parking

tickets from 20 years ago got so much attention. But this is part of the vetting process when you're running for the most powerful position on earth, and it's to be expected that things get magnified."

Obama said he was confident he would withstand scrutiny.

"Fortunately, I feel very comfortable about how I've conducted my life, and I think I will survive the vetting process with flying colors," he said.

Male health eyed at Doolittle event

By Les Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

The Southern Nevada Black Nurses Association Inc. is hosting its fifth annual health awareness event on Saturday, March 31, to call attention to men's wellness issues. It is the "Slam Dunk for Men's Health Jam Session-Open Access" event, held in collaboration with 100 Black Men Inc., Las Vegas Chapter. It will start at 1 p.m. at Nevada Partners located at 710 West Lake Mead Blvd. and run until 6 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

This year's event features a sport of choice — basketball. Attendees will be able to see live, televised NCAA "Final Four" action beginning at the tip-off at 3:20 p.m. on a 9 ft. by 12 ft. projection screen for ultimate viewing, coordinators are promoting to get men to attend.

According to Janice Muhammad, the event program chair and a nursing educator, the focus is on groups of men at high-risk, but families are welcome to attend.

"Recognizing and preventing men's health problems directly impacts mothers, spouses, children and caregivers because it is truly a family issue," Muhammad said. "This sports-themed event is to promote health for

men by encouraging screening for early detection of disease, by gathering men in an environment where they feel comfortable."

The event will feature pre-game activities, including a Heart Health presentation by local cardiologist James Mock, M.D. There will be free testing for blood pressure, blood sugar, body mass/body fat and HIV, and depression screenings. Visitors will be able to talk with medical professionals about health concerns and get free resource materials, literature and medical access information.

According to the Center for Disease Control statistics, on average, African-American men live approximately 6.2 years less than Caucasian men — 69.2 years versus 75.4 years. On average, men die six years younger than women and suffer higher mortality rates for the top ten causes of death. The primary reason is that men frequently ignore symptoms, and they are reluctant to seek care until there is a crisis.

Muhammad emphasized, "We want everyone in the community to support us in heightening the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of diseases (See Health, Page 14)

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