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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

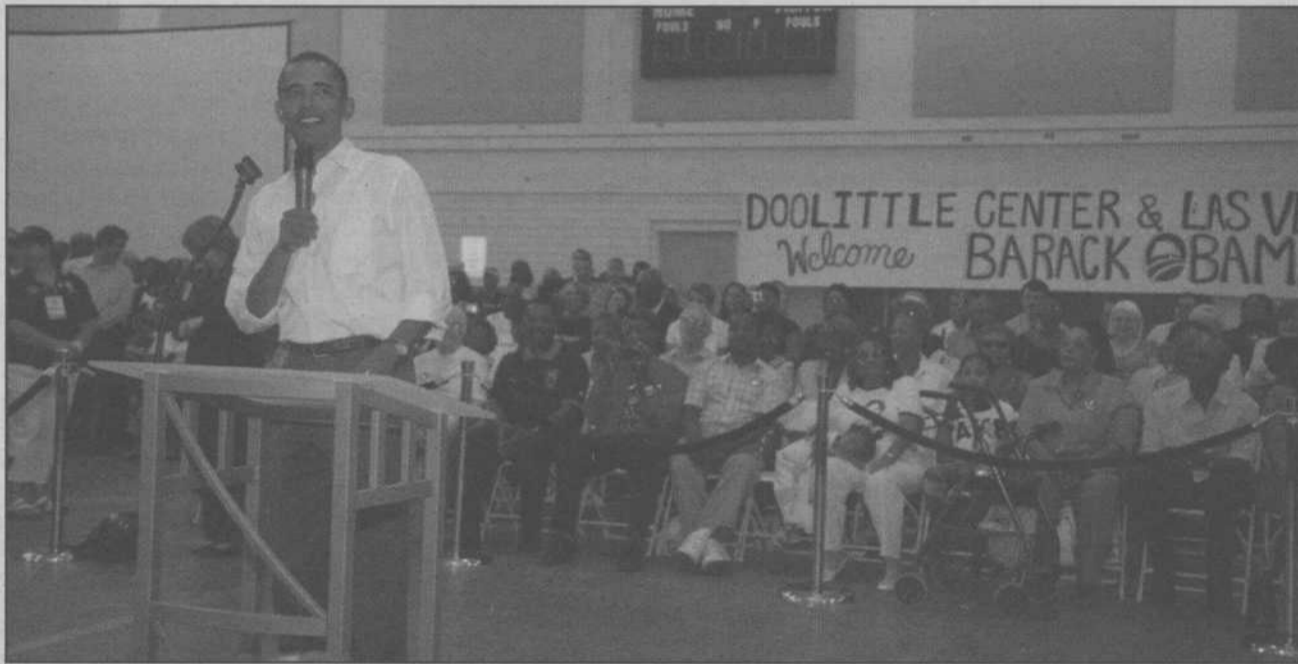
Obama's visit inspires West Las Vegas

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

Moving to the sounds of rally theme song, "Got to give the people, give the people what they want," 750 people cheered as they assembled at the Doolittle Community Recreation Center, waiting for U.S. Senator and Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama to appear.

By the time Obama arrived for what was his eighth visit to the state since announcing his candidacy, the attendance grew to 1,400, eclipsing the thousand projected by the campaign's local and national staff. Among the group were 150 elementary, middle and high school students from Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy.

Nevada State Senator Steven Horsford served as spokesperson. He stated why Nevada voter participation is



Sen. Barack Obama speaks to a capacity crowd during a visit to Doolittle Community Center in West Las Vegas.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Marty Frierson

critical leading up to a possible historic moment if Obama is elected.

On January 19, the Nevada Democratic Caucus, the second caucus in the country, will choose its nominee for

president in a crowded race.

Horsford said, "I'm very proud, as a member of Senator Obama's leadership council here in Nevada," adding that he appreciates Obama's outreach visits to hear what

Nevadans have to say.

Obama began his speech with thanks and indicated that in previous rallies, along with this one, attendance reflects a cross-section of the electorate: all walks of life, young, old, Black, White, Hispanic, Asian, moderate, low income, rich, Democrats, Independents — and sometimes Republicans and those in between — numbering in the thousands and tens of thousands, eager to hear about change.

Obama says a government should be responsive to

all people and tell the truth.

"The American people can solve the problems of this nation, but it is the politics of Washington that has shut us out, divided us and not allowed us to reach out to one another and build that more perfect union," Obama said.

"We've seen policies enacted that have established a divide between Wall Street and Main Street America, where corporate CEO's earn more money in ten minutes than average workers earn in a year's time."

He continued, "In the last

six years, we have seen an administration treat the Constitution as if it was a nuisance, to be avoided, instead of the foundation of our democracy.

Obama added, "This administration has been inept in failing to protect our citizens, leaving hundreds to thousands of us to suffer, standing on rooftops and highway bridges."

His hour-long speech also touched on other issues, such as the American dream being denied to many unable to earn a livable and affordable wage; politicians playing games instead of doing the business of the American people; transforming a country with more than 47 million people with no health insurance; high bankruptcy and the loss of homes due to predatory lending practices.

Dr. Carol Foster, high school assistant principal at Agassi, spoke about the importance of having the students attend the political rally.

"At the high school level, we sent our students who are members of the American History and Government class. We feel that since he [Obama] is one of the recent African-American candi-

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Do Democrats truly love Black people?

Party leaders bristle at insinuation

Politics 101 - Part I

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

In 2004, Black people voted 89 percent for the Democratic presidential candidate and 10 percent for Bush. Some pundits argue that the Democratic Party is the best hope for African-Americans, given the chilling right-wing bent of Republicans. However, some of the nation's most respected civil rights leaders say the faithfulness of Black voters is not rewarded by Democrats and not desired by Republicans. This two part series, "Politics 101," seeks to explore both sides of both issues: Part I: Do Democrats Really Love Black People? and Part II: Do Republicans Really Hate Black People?

WASHINGTON (NNPA)

— Congressional Democrats, now nine months into their ruling majority, boast proudly of their key legislation affecting African-Americans.

New acts of Congress include long-awaited fetes, such as the increase in the minimum wage, relief for Black farmers and last week's increase in the Pell Grant for college tuition.

Yet, some seasoned political observers all but yawn as they point out that mostly tepid issues are being addressed by Democratic presidential candidates. Their criticism raises the question, "Do Democrats really love Black people?"

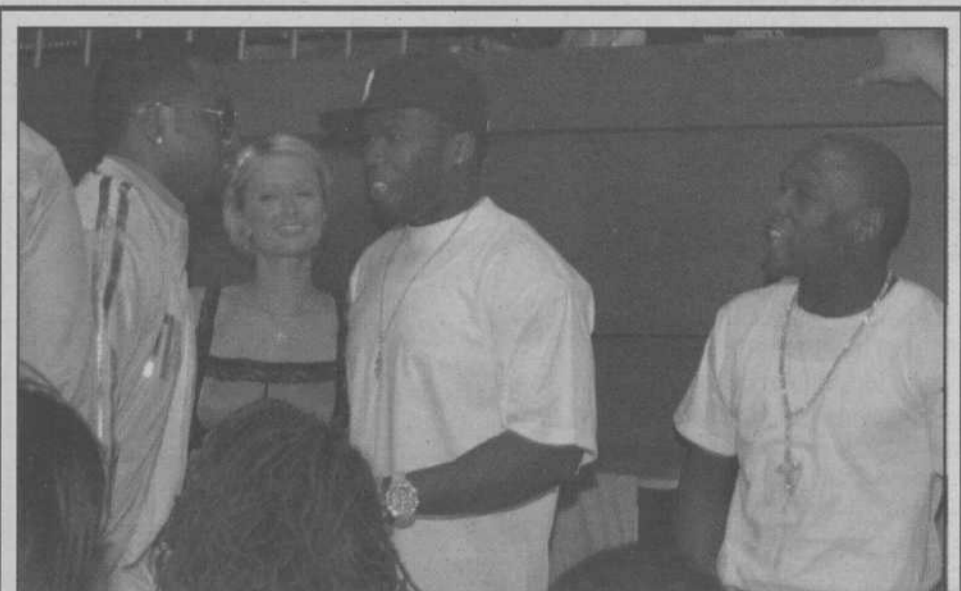
"Of course not," scoffs a chuckling Kathie Stromile Golden, executive director of the National Conference of

Black Political Scientists. "They love them to the extent that [Blacks] can help them get elected. Historically, they are better. Certainly, we've been more hopeful. But that's not because they actually love Black folks. ...It's politics," said Golden, professor of political science and director of international programs at Mississippi Valley State University.

Ron Walters, former strategist in the presidential campaigns of Rev. Jesse Jackson, echoes Golden.

"Basically, what they want to do is to get in the White House. They want to win," said Walters, a political scientist at the University of Maryland. "And that means if they have to over-

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STAR POWER

Rapper 50 Cent, second from right, garnered attention at his album release party Friday night at the Hard Rock. Present from left: music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs, Hilton family heiress Paris Hilton and champion boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Marty Frierson