

## Obama

(Continued from Page 1) us have gathered here because we are confident that [Obama] will bring about that change."

"If [Obama] weren't running, most of the people in this room would be at Hilary Clinton's campaign office," said Obama campaign volunteer, Ed Watson. "Obama doesn't come with any baggage, and he presents fresh, positive ideas. I believe he'll be a president of the people. He's grassroots, so he'll get down to the most basic levels to help our communities. There's beauty in this room, Blacks and Whites endorsing one man for all the right reasons."

"There's utter chaos in America," Watson said. "And the first year will be hell for whomever wins because there is so much that must be fixed. But here, we believe in his vision for

America. John F. Kennedy was a people's president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a people's president, and even Bill Clinton was a people's president. Obama will be a combination of all of these distinguished men, and his thoughts and plans for the people will follow if not succeed their own. He wants to bring about a new America, a smarter America, a safer America, and, most of all, a more commendable America, one we can be proud of."

Minutes into the campaign office opening, Rev. Jesse L. Osborne of Second Baptist Church prayed over the food that was being prepared for the barbeque and for the supporters and non-supporters of the Obama campaign.

"Today, we are here to support a man who wants to bring about a positive change



U.S. Senator Barack Obama, wife Michelle, their girls, Malia (L) and Sasha, with Vice President Dick Cheney in a swearing-in re-enactment. Cheney and Obama have a familial connection—distant cousins—according to the vice president's wife, Lynne Cheney.

for the people, not just here in America, but all over the world. We thank God for Senator Obama and his desire to make life better for your children. We thank God for Senator Obama's vision and 13 months from now hope that we can all call him

President Obama."

Many of Obama's critics claim he has not nearly enough political experience to run the United States of America. But supporters like Watson say, "Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney have decades of political ex-

perience and look where they got us. The desire to promote positive change is what matters. The goal of bettering the world is what's commendable. Years of experience don't automatically equate to qualification."

"Many Blacks have failed to fully embrace the opportunity we've been given. The only way we'll ever impact the world is through togetherness. We have to come together to bring him into term. How many opportunities will we get to have a Black man be a realistically legitimate contender for America's presidency?"

In his official campaign flyer, Obama says, "If we stand together, we triumph together." While that quote is not solely intended for African-American voters, many of the supporters present this weekend, believed it to be a call for African-Americans to

make a stand and find a voice where one has been quieted for so long.

Obama's official campaign flyer illustrates his want to "protect workers' rights, achieve accessible and affordable healthcare for all Americans, gain a living wage for all families, bring the war in Iraq to a responsible end, and pass comprehensive immigration reform."

While the presidential general election is still over one year away, the race to the Oval Office is in full swing. There are the unrelenting candidates and the abundance of public appearances, practiced speeches, and televised debates. Obama was unable to attend the opening of his newly opened Las Vegas location. But one thing is certain, the grassroots Senator from Illinois has no shortage of faithful supporters.

## Farrakhan

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that some successful Blacks are being propped up by Whites and refusing to reach back and help poor Blacks for fear of losing their status.

He said that includes some members of the civil rights movement who abandoned the movement after Martin Luther King Jr.'s death in order to be accepted by White America.

"If you let the big car, the ranch-style home and the big salary keep you away from a movement and the freedom of your people, the Qur'an says that those who live easy lives have to be careful, because a life of ease sometimes make you forget struggle," Farrakhan said.

"The masses of our people are in terrible condition and are suffering and are becoming extinct; we have to find a better way of addressing the problems of our people."

Farrakhan noted that although successful Blacks exist, Blacks have the lowest level of healthcare and are losing what they have at an alarming rate. He said that although Oprah Winfrey is one of the richest women in the world, 37 million people are living in poverty and one-third of them are Black. He added that although Barack Obama is a presidential front-runner, Blacks continue to lose their right to vote because of voter identification laws.

"Diddy might have his

own clothing line and a Manhattan address, but Blacks are moving into prison at four times the rate of Blacks in South Africa during the Apartheid Era," Farrakhan said. "Tiger Woods' face might be on every billboard, but 340,000 Blacks are homeless in America on any given night."

Speaking about rapper T.I., who is facing federal gun charges, Farrakhan said the charges are less about what he is charged with and more about the fact that his music is influencing White kids, who account for more than 80 percent of the purchasers of rap and hip-hop music.

He went on to talk about Atlanta's other fallen son,

Michael Vick.

"I know our brother broke the law. God himself is displeased, because he has given us dominion over his creatures and he doesn't want us to abuse them for sport," said Farrakhan, before coming to a near whisper. "But they didn't have to come down on the brother like that. He is young, Black and super rich. And all of those White children were wearing his jersey. White people were losing control of their children to Black sports and entertainment figures, and they can't take it."

He went on to link Vick's crimes to global conflicts.

"What is worse?" he asked, comparing dogfighting to war. "To send a recruiter into Black and Hispanic neighborhoods to offer you money to come into the armed forces to go to Iraq and Afghanistan for political reasons to kill people?"

It was no surprise that Farrakhan, who has always been a dynamic—and sometimes controversial—speaker, was able to attract a full house for the event. At the age of 74, he remains one of the few leaders in America who still maintains a wide and broad spectrum of appeal among Blacks.

Nation of Islam events, particularly those that include Farrakhan, have always been major events and the Tuesday's event was no exception.

The auditorium was filled, and those in attendance were ushered and helped to their seats by men and women from the Nation of Islam.

The men were all impeccably groomed and dressed in suits, indicating they were members of the Nation, or in uniform, to further indicate their affiliation with the Fruit of Islam, the Nation's paramilitary group of guards who protect and serve the Nation of Islam, its ministers and events.

The female members of the Nation stood out as well—most wearing stark white garments and headdresses. During one portion of the event, thousands of dollars were raised with the name of each person or group that gave at least \$100 being called. At another point, before Farrakhan spoke, Charles Steele, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, broke the podium in excitement as he talked about how the Nation of Islam leader inspired him.

Dressed in a brown pinstriped suit, Farrakhan looked robust and healthy, bouncing around the stage like a man half his age, run-

ning and hugging each of the 50 people on stage with him.

But there are questions about how long he will remain at the helm, and Tuesday's speech may very well be his last major address. Farrakhan, who has battled prostate cancer for years, had a major operation earlier this year. He has been the head of the Nation of Islam since 1978.

Rev. Joseph Lowery, who just turned 86 and has battled cancer himself, called Farrakhan—12 years his junior—a young man and reflected how he as a Methodist preacher prayed for the recovery of an "Islamic minister."

"I come with a spirit of rejoicing that our brother Louis Farrakhan is with us, and God has sent him. He is still needed, wanted, beloved and anointed by our God," Lowery said.

"This is a great day for unity. What could come if we ever realized the strength in unity?"



## REBEL'S RETURN

Former UNLV Rebel hoops and NBA star Larry Johnson shakes hands with a young man. Johnson delivered a keynote address Saturday during the National Urban League Young Professional's African American Student Leadership Conference at UNLV.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

**Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League**  
A Nevada Community Action Agency

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**GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BOARD MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next Board Meeting for the  
Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League  
Community Action Agency  
Governing Board of Directors  
will be held on  
Wednesday, October 24, 2007  
3:30p.m. – 5:00p.m.  
at the Urban League Office,  
930 W. Owens Ave.