

LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

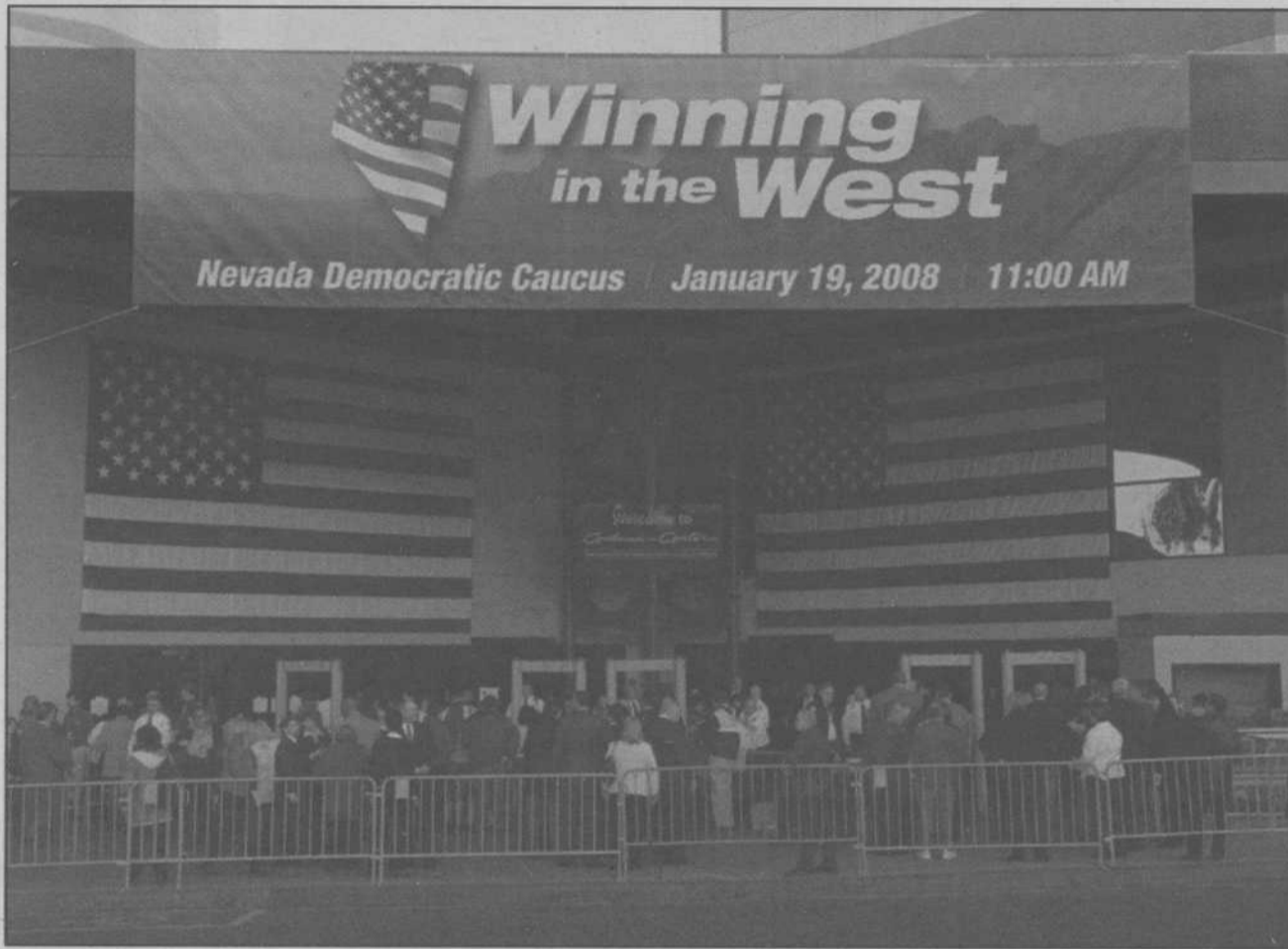


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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Lines snake outside Cashman Center on Tuesday. A who's who of locals attended the Democratic presidential debate.

Court case could alter caucus

LAS VEGAS (AP)- A last-minute federal court battle over caucus rules underlines the importance Saturday's vote in Nevada has assumed as a potential momentum builder in the Democratic presidential campaign.

Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and John Edwards are in a statistical dead heat in polling here with little more than two days to go. And Nevada's sizable blocs of Hispanic, union and urban voters could provide an indicator of where the race is headed on Feb. 5, when hundreds of delegates will be awarded in states with significant minority populations.

By contrast, Republican candidates have stayed away from the diverse electorate and unfamiliar electoral landscape as Nevada voters weigh in earlier than ever before.

No major GOP candidate has set foot in the state for two months, and some Republicans are bracing for a possible surprise first-place

showing by long-shot Texas Rep. Ron Paul, the only Republican to broadcast TV ads in Nevada.

At issue in a federal court hearing, which has been scheduled for today, is whether Democratic caucuses will be held in nine casinos along the Las Vegas Strip. The special locations were designed to make it easier for housekeepers, waitresses and bellhops in the state's biggest industry to caucus at midday near their jobs rather than returning home to neighborhood precincts.

The rules were unanimously approved by the state Democratic party last March and ratified by the Democratic National Committee in August.

But last Friday, six Democrats and a teachers union, which has ties to the Clinton campaign, sued to shut the sites on grounds they allocate too many delegates to one group. Of roughly 10,000 delegates to Nevada's presidential nominating convention, more than 700 could be

selected at casino caucuses, depending upon turnout, which could make them more valuable than some sparsely populated Nevada counties, the lawsuit said. Four plaintiffs are on the committee that approved the sites.

The Clinton campaign has denied any involvement in the lawsuit, but Obama noted it was filed two days after he was endorsed by the powerful Culinary Workers Union Local 226, which has organized many workers along the Strip. The union is the state's largest with 60,000 members, more than 40 percent Hispanic.

The Illinois senator drew cheers at a Culinary Union event Sunday when he said the rules were fine until the union decided, "I'm going to support the guy who's standing with the working people instead of the big shots."

By the next day, Bill Clinton was defending the lawsuit.

"I think the rules ought to be the same for everybody," the former president told lo-

cal high school students.

The Culinary Union circuit court case is ongoing. (See Court, Page 2)

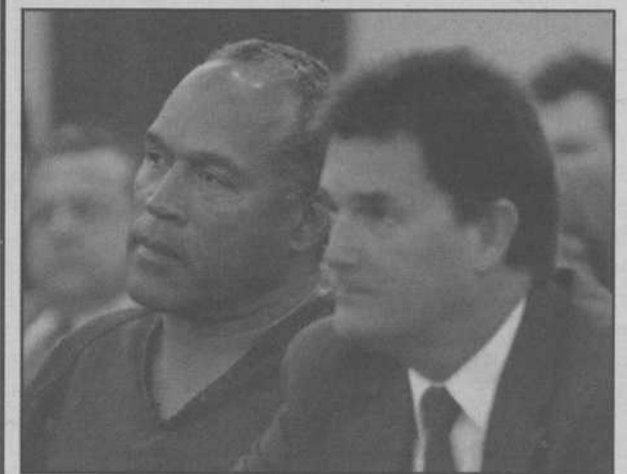
King's son, others caution: Beware historic nominee

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - As millions commemorate the 79th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 21, orators and community leaders across the nation will point to the historic presidential campaigns of Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton as a sign that Dr. King's dream is becoming real.

But, his oldest son and others who marched with Dr. King this week cautioned observers against becoming so fixated on the candidates that they forget about the issues that would still cause Dr. King pain.

"This is a pivotal year for our nation because our nation is saying, 'We are willing to



O. J. Simpson, left, and his lawyer Yale Galanter listen during Simpson's bail revocation hearing in Las Vegas on Wednesday. Simpson was released later that day.

Judge doubles Simpson's bail

LAS VEGAS (AP) - An angry judge doubled O.J. Simpson's bail to \$250,000 for violating terms of his original bail by attempting to contact a co-defendant in his armed robbery case.

Simpson, clad in jail attire, grimaced as the amount was announced and meekly acknowledged that he understood, "one-hundred percent."

"I don't know, Mr. Simpson, what the heck you were thinking — or maybe that's the problem — you weren't," Clark County District Court Judge Jackie Glass told Simpson.

"I don't know if it's just arrogance. I don't know if" (See Bail, Page 2)



"This is a pivotal year for our nation... We are willing to potentially elect an African-American or a woman as our number one person as our nominee" — Martin Luther King III

potentially elect an African-American or a woman as our number one person as our nominee," said Martin Luther King III.

"In a sense, the ground was tilled for all of that many years ago by my father and many others so that we could get to this point as it relates to this one issue. I say 'this

one issue' because while Barack Obama is doing incredibly well around our nation, the masses of people of color are still being inflicted at certain levels of pain on issues around race."

He continues, "It's wonderful on the one hand because it says that America is" (See Birthday, Page 3)