

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## McCain, Obama battle for votes

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

WASHINGTON — With the deepening U.S. economic crisis rippling around the globe, Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain seem to agree the question facing anxious voters is: Who do you trust?

"All we heard from Sen. McCain was more of the same Bush economics that led us into this mess," Obama said in Indianapolis the day after their second debate. "He thinks we won't notice" downsides of his healthcare proposals, but "we're not going to be hoodwinked. We're not going to be bamboozled. We're not going to let him get away with it."

In Bethlehem, Pa., McCain shot back: "I don't need lessons about telling the truth to American people." And, McCain said, if he ever did, he "probably wouldn't seek advice from a Chicago politician." On taxes, healthcare and subprime mortgages, McCain said Obama "won't tell you" his real record.

Each also rolled out new TV commercials suggesting his rival was not telling the truth, and campaign aides for both launched other character attacks.

With the election in four weeks and the final debate in one, Obama leads in key states but has yet to sew up the race; The 47-year-old, first-term Illinois senator is still working to dispel skepticism that he has what it takes to be president. As time runs short, McCain is searching for a way to marshal support as the spreading economic woes cut against almost all Republicans after President Bush's eight years in the White House.

In Tuesday night's debate, both Obama and McCain railed against Washington and Wall Street and belittled special interests and lobbyists; each cast himself as the only candidate who will fight for everyday Americans.

(See Debate, Page 4)

## F Street closure contested

By *Lés Pierre Streater*  
*Sentinel-Voice*

Outraged by the possible closure of F Street, West Las Vegas residents vented to city and state officials last Thursday at a Doolittle Community Center meeting organized by Las Vegas City Councilman Ricki Barlow.

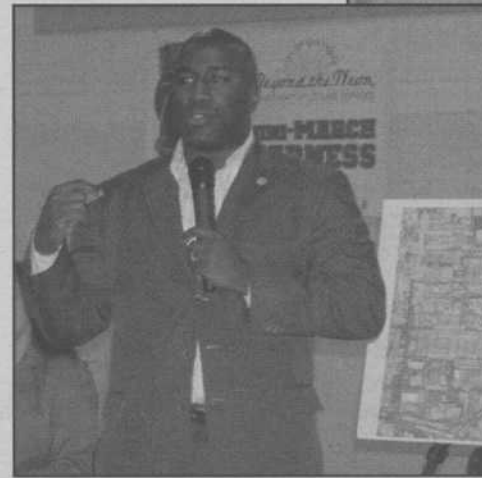
"The meeting was an effort to provide the community an opportunity to express their concerns as it related to the closure of F & D Streets," Barlow said. "Their concern was that the Nevada Department of Transportation did not provide adequate noticing for them to come out and share their feelings about the widening of I-15 [Interstate 15] and the [U.S. Highway] 95 connection."

According to the NDOT website, the project—dubbed the I-15 North Design Build Project-I-15 Widening from the I-15/U.S. Highway 95 Spaghetti Bowl Interchange to Craig Road by Corridor Constructors—will cost \$240 million. As a result, F Street will be permanently closed.

"The closure will result in a cul-de-sac being built on

the west side of the freeway," according to NDOT's web site. "The closure began on Sunday, Sept. 7. Traffic will be re-routed onto a connector road from F Street to D Street on the east side of the freeway."

West Las Vegas residents said this information was never made public. Many



*Las Vegas City Councilman Ricki Barlow explains a controversial transportation project at a recent public forum. Area residents are very unhappy about the closure of F Street.*

heard about the plan at the last minute and not in enough time to mount opposition.

"I've been a resident of Las Vegas since 1958, and this meeting was held after the fact. They [NDOT] proceeded to close off the streets without notifying us of their action," James Chapman said. "I am representing Pentecostal Church of God in Christ, and we have been



*Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierre Streater*

there since 1941. If they indeed had performed a traffic survey of this area then they would have known that the closure of F Street was unfeasible because we have traffic going through that area just as much as they do downtown."

Rudy Malfabon, NDOT's deputy director for Southern Nevada, said public meetings were held on Nov. 4, 2004,

at the NDOT office, and on July 19, 2005, at the North Las Vegas Library. Not only did the project meet all necessary requirements—environmental, biological, social, cultural and mitigation assessments—Malfabon said the Las Vegas Planning Commission approved of the plan on Dec. 15, 2005, and the Las Vegas City Council

(See NDOT, Page 5)

## Simpson jurors: Tape played key role in guilty conviction

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Jurors who found O.J. Simpson guilty in his armed robbery trial say secret audio tapes and surveillance video swayed them more than witness accounts.

Seven panelists who attended an extraordinary news conference Sunday concluded that without the recordings the prosecution might not have won convictions.

"It would have been a very weak case," said Dora Pettit. Another juror David Wieberg chimed in, "Yes, a

weak case," and other jurors nodded in agreement.

The seven jurors agreed to speak out two nights after the verdict was announced because they said they were being hounded by reporters. They answered questions for an hour in the same courtroom where Simpson and Clarence "C.J." Stewart were convicted of robbing two memorabilia dealers at gunpoint in a hotel room.

The jury listened repeatedly to recordings made by collectibles dealer Thomas Riccio — the host of the ho-

tel confrontation, who was granted immunity — and felt they heard things that had not been fully transcribed by police, juror Michelle Lyons said.

But jurors could not trust the credibility of witnesses who were given plea deals, Lyons said. "We felt we could not rely on that witness testimony," she said.

The jurors all denied they wanted to punish Simpson for past wrongs. One panelist, Dora Pettit, said she prayed for him before and

(See O.J., Page 3)



### THE KING'S QUEEN

Bernice King, the daughter of late civil rights pioneers Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King, made a special appearance at a dedication ceremony for the auditorium at Rainbow Dreams Academy. (See Story and additional photos Page 3)

*Sentinel-Voice photos by Marty Frierson*