

**POLITICS**

Derry view of US poll for '60s Black Panthers

By PATRICK GRIFFIN

TWO key figures from the revolutionary US Black Panther Party of the 1960s will be speaking in Derry tonight - as Barack Obama bids to become the first black US President.

Emory Douglas, who was the Panthers' Minister of Culture in 1967 and Billy X Jennings, who joined the party a year later, both became iconic figures in the civil rights movement.

They will follow the potentially world-changing developments in one of the most fiercely contested American elections ever from a pub in the walled city - after delivering a lecture on the art of revolution.

The pair were invited to Derry by the Reclaim The Spirit Of '68 group to mark the 40th anniversary of Northern Ireland's bloody civil rights beginnings.

A spokesman said last night: "The visit of Emory and Billy on the day of the American election will be the most exciting political event in Derry this year.

"It is a highly appropriate way for us to remember and reclaim the spirit of '68 which once enlivened our own streets and we are delighted that Emory and Billy will be speaking here on what could be one of the most significant days ever in Afro-American history.

"Barack Obama would not be on the brink of winning the US presidency if it hadn't been for the battles waged by civil rights and black power activists such as Emory and Billy in the 1960s.

"As they watch the election results coming in, they will be seeing their own contribution to history unfold."

The pair will be appearing at Sandinos Cafe Bar for an evening of "revolution, poetry and song".