

BOYS CHOIR

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Tickets are \$15, \$20, \$25, \$30, and \$35 at the UNLV Performing Arts Center box office, 702-895-3801. Hours are 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday. (TDD 895-4717)

The Performing Arts Center at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas serves a devoted classical audience of more than 150,000 — as well as approximately a million citizens throughout the

MARTIAL ARTS

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distracted as they received instruction from Rahim El-Amin. In that day's exercises, El-Amin, a 7th-degree black belt, supervised tumbling and positioning.

Later that evening, El-Amin will supervise the first group of youngsters who hope to advance to second level of their white belt.

Twelve-year-old Jonathan Contreras was enthusiastic when he was asked about the program.

"It's great," he says. "We get to laugh and you learn how to protect yourself." Jonathan is somewhat small, and he finds the protection aspect most appealing.

"You get to take down big ole dudes," he says.

Yet, Jonathan is also recognizing other aspects of his training.

"You need to have discipline and learn how to control yourself," he says. The 7th grade honor roll student plans to continue to pursue the martial arts once he becomes an adult.

Kimberly Lewis, 15, also sees the benefits of the training. She is a sophomore at Cimarron Memorial High School and has used the training to protect her sister from an angry boyfriend.

Kimberly is equally adept in book knowledge. She carries straight A's in high school and plans on attending medical school and becoming a pediatrician.

"You have to have self control and you have to have patience," she says. "It (the program) teaches me how to control my temper and I used to have a bad temper."

Greater Las Vegas Metro Area— with the best in classical and popular music, drama, and dance. The center is also the home of the Charles Vanda Master Series which has offered the Las Vegas community outstanding classical music for more than 20 years. Renowned international artists that have appeared in the series include Marilyn Horne, Andre Previn, Eugene Ormandy, Isaac Stern, and Itzhak Perlman.

There are more than 400 performances throughout the year at the Performing Arts Center, ranging from symphony orchestras, ballet, and drama to pop and rock concerts. For more info, please call the Performing Arts Center at 895-3535.

Ethiopians Riot Outside Israeli Prime Minister's Office

Special to the Sentinel-Voice

JERUSALEM— Thousands of Ethiopian Jews stormed the prime minister's office Sunday, protesting a national policy of discarding their blood donations.

More than 10,000 protesters filled the streets, as stones were thrown at Prime Minister Shimon Peres' office. Police officers guarding the facility threw the rocks back into crowds.

Thirteen police officers and 17 protesters were injured during the melee, including one police officer who lost an eye. Eight protesters were detained and later released.

"We never even considered that this ethnic group, which until this morning we thought of as a quiet people, could behave so brutally," said Jerusalem police chief Arie Amit.

Ethiopian Jews, who began settling the country ten years ago, have remained an underclass, and local press called the incident a reflection of the "simmering frustration in Israel's Ethiopian community."

Less than two weeks ago, Israeli press announced that the country's blood banks were routinely dumping Ethiopian donations fearing they could be tainted with HIV, the AIDS

virus. Government officials claimed Ethiopian donors had a higher risk for the deadly virus than other Israelis.

Protesters who carried signs reading, "We are black, but our blood is red," chanted, "Shame on the state."

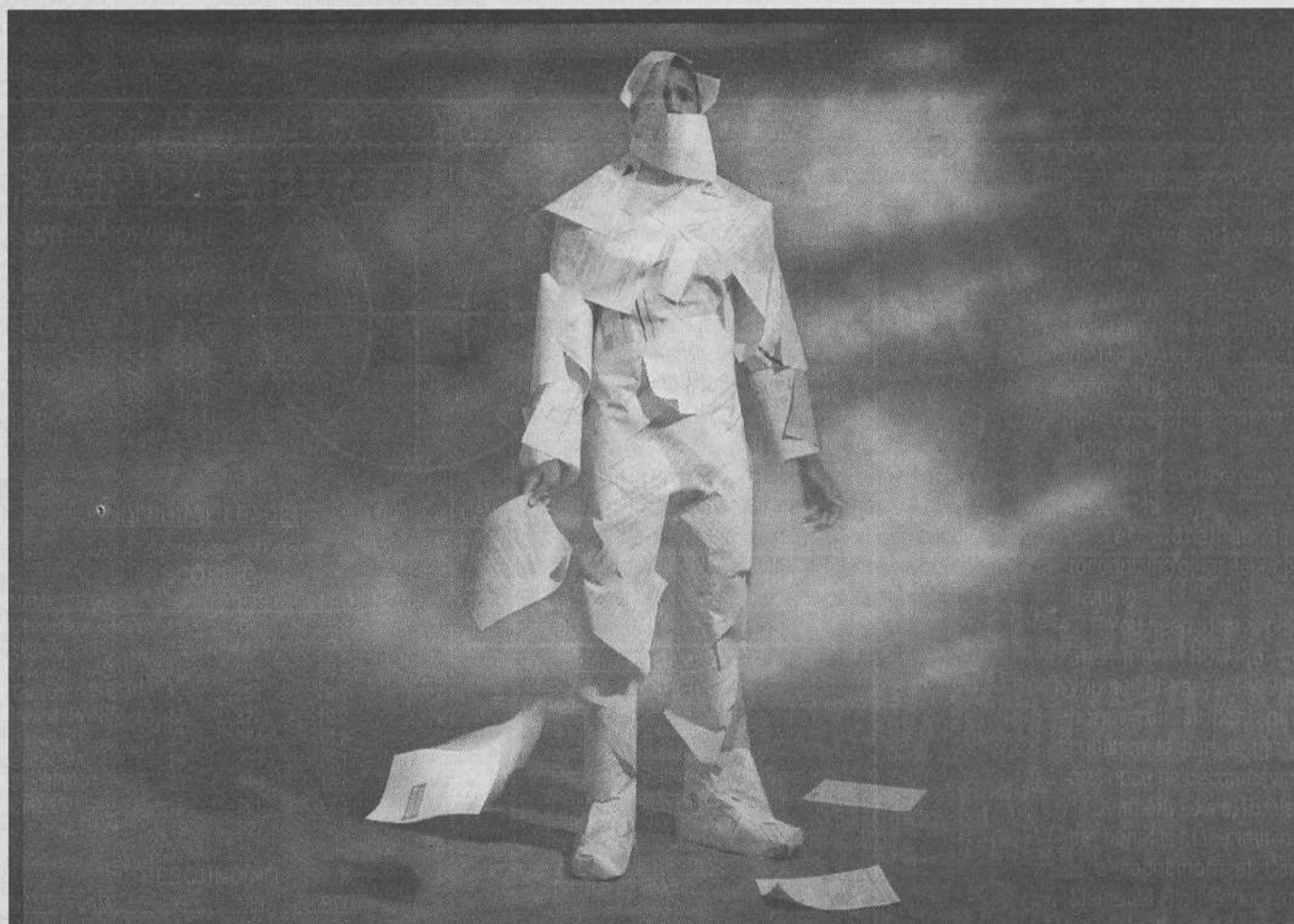
"What's the difference between me and you?" protester Pesach Maresha asked a white reporter.

"Why do they throw away our blood? Because we are Ethiopian, and because we don't have representatives in the government."

Sunday's crowd broke up after Peres vowed to start an investigation. "I can understand them," said Peres. "But it is hard for me for what they did...I'm sorry they did not restrain themselves."

Shlomo Molla of the United Ethiopian Jewish Organization met with Peres and the ministers of immigration and health late Sunday. He said Peres started a committee that would also look at discrimination against Ethiopian Israelis.

"The blood problem is just a symptom," he said. "The issue is black and white. We are Jews. We are Israelis. But we have to struggle to be equal."



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