



COMMUNITY UNITY

The Hilletes Drill team performs a high-energy routine during Saturday's annual Unity in the Community Festival at the Doolittle Community Center in West Las Vegas. The festival, which also included food, step performances, entertainment, games and messages about positivity, was created to facilitate unity among Las Vegas.

Sentinel-Voice photos by John Broussard (See Page 5 for related photos).

UNLV to host National Youth Sports Program

Marcello Sawyer
Sentinel-Voice

This summer, UNLV will host the federally funded National Youth Sports Program for economically disadvantaged youngsters ages 10 through 16. In its 30th year with the program, UNLV is expecting around 325 youths to participate.

Sponsored by the NCAA and funded by the U.S. Department of Human Services, the program provides youngsters with instruction in swimming, tennis, basketball, volleyball, soccer, racquetball, and softball. It also focuses on math and sciences, strategies intended to prevent alcohol and drug abuse, while promoting health and career education, job responsibilities, and higher education.

Education professor Porter Troutman, Jr., who has served as director of the NYSP project at UNLV for 14 years, said it serves as a transitional program to Upward Bound, a pre-collegiate program run by Dr. Bill Sullivan.

"We are committed to extending a helping hand to our youth," said Troutman. "The NYSP motto - 'Walk Tall, Talk Tall, and Stand Tall' - is what we want our young people to do."

The primary goals of the program are to expand opportunities for economically disadvantaged youth in sports instruction, competition, and physical fitness; to assist young people with development of good health practices and good citizenship, as

well as exposure to career and educational opportunities; to enable UNLV and its personnel to become more proactive in our community; and to provide employment and on-the-job training in career opportunities.

According to Troutman, 95 percent of NYSP students transfer to Upward Bound once they reach age 16. Of those students, 98 percent go on to attend college, and ninety percent of those individuals graduate from college.

Senators Harry Reid and Richard Bryan, along with Congresswoman Shelley Berkeley have been "profound supporters," according to Troutman, and will most likely make appearances some time during the five-

week program.

The program, which runs from June 5 - July 8, is free of charge and includes free lunches and transportation. In order to participate, students must meet income guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Human Services and must have a physical exam.

On June 3, the Community Health Center of Southern Nevada, located at 916 W. Owens Ave., will offer free physicals and registration from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Each child must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

At UNLV, the program is operated by the College of Education and its department of curriculum and instruction. For additional information, call Troutman at 895-3369.

Jury: Black man exacerbated Skinhead attack

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A jury has ruled that a black man was partly to blame for an attack by white skinheads in a grocery store and awarded him just \$53,000 of the \$1 million he sought from the store chain.

The all-white jury Wednesday apparently agreed with the store's contention that the victim made things worse by fighting back.

The jury also rejected a claim that the Fred Meyer chain discriminated against the man by discouraging him from shopping at the store after the attack.

"It had absolutely nothing to do with discrimination and the jury supported that," said Rob Boley, a spokesman for Fred Meyer.

Velazquez "Val" Polk was attacked at an Oregon City

store in 1997 by three whites wearing skinhead symbols. One shoved him and made racial insults, and Polk responded by knocking the man down, according to testimony.

Polk said the store detective failed to intervene, despite repeated requests by customers, until his attackers fled in advance of police.

The store detective aimed

pepper spray in their direction, and ended up spraying Polk and the lone white customer who tried to help him, Polk said.

Polk claimed that Fred Meyer was negligent for failing to provide adequate security, failing to train employees to recognize hate groups and failing to warn him that skinheads were in the store.

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Television shows adding more minority characters

NEW YORK (AP) — There's a doctor who teaches medical students, and a Secret Service agent who guards the first lady. One manages a Wall Street firm, one's an anchorman, one's a high school principal and another chases a fugitive.

All are roles filled by black actors in new TV series on the networks' fall schedules.

A year after the NAACP made an issue of the absence of minorities in prominent roles on new TV shows, things have changed in Hollywood. The networks have at least shown that they know their efforts at promoting diversity are being watched.

Former "Homicide" actor Andre Braugher has the starring role as a doctor in "Gideon's Crossing," the only new drama on ABC's schedule. And CBS cited the NAACP's concerns in renewing "City of Angels," a drama with a predominantly black cast, despite mediocre ratings.

The NAACP, which negotiated agreements with the major networks to increase minority participation both on and off screen, said it needs to study the schedules before commenting extensively.

"On the surface, things look a little better," spokesman John White said. "But when you come from zero, one looks better."

NBC executives said they believe the network has made progress.

"I imagine at any time there might be some groups that will feel unrepresented," said Scott Sassa, NBC West Coast president. "It's going to be a fact of life on an ongoing basis, no matter how far we move the ball in terms of diversity."

David Alan Grier landed the lead role in NBC's "Dag," playing a Secret Service agent assigned to guard the first lady as punishment for diving in the wrong direction during a failed assassination attempt. Wendell Pierce plays Steven Weber's best friend in "The Steven Weber Show."

CBS President Leslie Moonves said 16 of the 21 shows on the network's fall schedule, including newsmagazines, feature minorities prominently.

The network's new comedy "Welcome to New York" has actor Rocky Carroll playing an anchorman. Mykelti Williamson is one of the two lead actors in CBS's remake of "The Fugitive." Black actors are also featured in "The District," a drama about a Washington police commissioner.

"We think we are a leader in this area," Moonves said. "We think we are ahead of the curve."

After two seasons, ABC canceled "The Hughleys," a comedy about a black family moving into a mostly white suburb, but the series was picked up by UPN. Damon Wayans is a family man in one of ABC's most promising comedies, "My Wife and Kids," though it has been kept off the schedule until midseason.

Fox, with a drama-heavy new schedule, has included minorities in ensemble casts: two of the eight leads in "The Street," including a financial firm's manager; two of five in "Fearsum"; and two of eight in David E. Kelley's new "Boston Public" — a high school principal and a literature professor.

The comedy team on the WB's new "Hype" is multi-racial. The WB and UPN, as they have in the past, set aside one night a week for comedies with overwhelm-

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