

# Sierra Christian Church to host black UCLA choir

By John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

The message of a gospel ensemble from the University of California at Los Angeles is "God loves all people."

Envision Vocals of the UCLA African Arts Ensemble will demonstrate the gospel message in song and dance.

The Sierra Christian Church will host concerts Saturday, Jan. 10 at 6 and 8 p.m. at the Summerlin Performing Arts Center, 1771 Inner Circle Drive.

The Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Bynum and husband, Elder William Bynum, came to Las Vegas last July to build their ministry. Pastor Bynum learned of the Christian group while a student at UCLA.

"This is a vocal expression," said Bynum, pastor of the Disciples of Christ con-



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

The African Arts Ensemble at the University of California, at Los Angeles, will perform two concerts, at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 6, at the Summerlin Library, 1771 Inner Circle Drive. Hosting the choir will be Sierra Christian Church, a year-old sanctuary.

gregation. "Students will sing accompanied by music on some songs and some will be a cappella."

The Christian experience promises a special hip-hop flavor dance routine, Bynum said.

"The theme for the performance is 'Praising God is Universal' and covers gospel music over time," Bynum said. "This will be a historical presentation with roots being in Africa."

According to Bynum, the concert will feature four eras of African spiritual enlightenment, including African song, spirituality and slavery, Black churches and the North and praise songs.

Twenty-five young people from UCLA are set to take the stage and sing a repertoire that includes "Soon I Will Be Done," "Wade in the Water," "I Open My Mouth"

and "Life is in His Hands."

The UCLA African Arts Ensemble was formed in 1978 as a vehicle to recognize and promote the rich culture of African-Americans on the UCLA campus and in the surrounding communities. To achieve their objective, the ensemble has performance groups in the arts, history and general African cultural expression.

Envision Vocals, which is culturally diverse with a strong emphasis on being a family and taking pride in representing the family of God, is just one group in the ensemble. Ministry is their primary goal, not just performing.

Sponsors are asking a \$5 donation that is not required. Refreshments will be served during intermission. For more information, call (702) 699-8900.

## Black Houstonians sue Walgreens over Reno incident

RENO, Nev. (AP) - Four Black men from Houston have filed a discrimination lawsuit against Walgreen Co. over an incident at one of the national pharmacy chain's Reno stores.

In their Washoe County District Court lawsuit, Bruce Johnson, Cadarall Freeman, Michael Price and Mark Mills claim they were discriminated against at the Walgreen Drug Store on North Virginia Street.

The men, who range in age from 28 to 41, contend a clerk became hostile, slammed a door and shouted

a derogatory name about them. They're seeking damages in excess of \$10,000 each.

"What they want is for a jury to tell Walgreens that you can't treat people that way based on their race," their lawyer, Ian Silverberg, told the Reno Gazette-Journal. "It's really for the jury to decide what those damages are."

Las Vegas attorney Nathan Reinmiller, who represents Deerfield, Ill.-based Walgreens, said company policy prevents him from commenting on the case.

Walgreens spokesman Michael Polzin said he could not comment on pending litigation.

But Polzin said the company includes diversity training for new employees, a customer service program and a training program for assistant managers and pharmacy managers.

"We have diversity content as part of all of those programs," he said.

A trial date has not been set yet.

The Houston men were visiting Reno, with side trips to Lake Tahoe and the San

Francisco Bay area, for a birthday celebration at the time.

Before returning home, they met with Reno Assistant City Manager Ralph Jaack and filed a complaint with

the Reno-Sparks chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"There really wasn't much I could do except explain that is not how Reno is," Jaack

said.

Rose Gordon, president of the NAACP chapter, said she would closely watch the case.

"The end result is what will Walgreens actually do," she said.

## Arts group seeking artists' works

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Contemporary Arts Collective is issuing a call-to-work for artists ages 18 and older to participate in its 15th Annual Juried Show. Exhibit dates are Feb. 25 through March 20. A \$1,000 cash prize will be awarded to the winner in the "Best of Show" category. Nationally known curator and LA art critic Michael Duncan will be juror for the competition.

To enter, artists must drop off two actual pieces between Feb. 18-19 to the gallery, 101 E. Charleston, Blvd., Suite 101. The artwork should be no larger than 3-x-6 inches if two-

dimensional and 3-x-6-x-6 if three-dimensional. Work can be in any medium, but must be ready to hang (via wires). Covered pedestals for ceramics and other works might be available. Entry fees are \$20 for CAC members and \$30 for non-members.

Artists' work not selected to be in the "Salon de Refuse" exhibit will be shown in CAC's common area during the same exhibit dates.

An opening reception is slated from 5 to 10 p.m. Friday, March 7. The award ceremony is set for 8 p.m. Those interested in more information can call 382-3886.

## Man admits threatening Wild 102 DJs

Special to Sentinel-Voice

An 18-year-old Las Vegas man has pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to sending a racially charged, threatening e-mail to a local radio station.

Ryan Edward Lewis entered his plea Dec. 23 before U.S. District Court Judge Roger Hunt.

He faces up to five years in prison and a

\$250,000 fine at his March sentencing. Lewis was arrested on Oct. 14, after authorities found a Nazi flag, other items relating to white supremacy and a rifle and shotgun in his home.

Lewis admitted to sending an e-mail to KWID 101.9 FM containing racial epithets and a threat to kill employees of the station, which has a hip hop format.

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