

Summer camp teaches students about art, life

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

Dedication and commitment are two words that best describe the summer Performing and Visual Arts Camp for Kids going on at the West Las Vegas Cultural Arts Center (WLVAC). The camp works in collaboration with the West Las Vegas Library.

For the past seven weeks, 60 enthusiastic young people have gathered at 7 a.m. to get energized, play dodge ball and bond. They are faced with the challenge of preparing "Take Me To the Water," their debut musical adapted from the work of Nina Simone.

"Take Me To the Water" will be performed Saturday, July 31, at the West Las Vegas Library Theater, 947 West Lake Mead Blvd. at 2 p.m. A reception, beginning at noon, will precede the performance. Guests are being



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Youth perform stretching exercises in the dance room of the West Las Vegas Cultural Arts Center. They are participating in a summer camp whose culmination will be "Take Me To the Water," a musical adapted from the work of Nina Simone.

asked to contribute \$10 to the WLVAC Youth Development Program.

To see this raw energy, fire glistening from students so early in the morning,

causes one to say anything is possible provided there is an opportunity. Instead of whil-

ing away the summer at home watching television or listening to music, these young

people are seizing the chance to demonstrate they are capable of doing something great and having fun at the same time.

"This program was started in 1996 out of the need for our children to be productive during the summer," said Dr. Marcia Robinson, director of the WLVAC. "We have the Doolittle Recreation Center, but because we really nurture the arts here at this facility, we felt that there may be some youth not particularly interested in sports that could use our support during the summer.

"Since this is a community that has some low-income families, we felt that it would be helpful to develop a program that was structured to meet the needs of working families and accommodate students at an early time of the morning. Starting at 7 a.m. gives parents time to drop (See Camp, Page 2)

Obama: Kerry best option for youth

BOSTON (AP) - Offering his own life as an example of uniquely American possibilities, Barack Obama — the son of a White woman from Kansas and a Black man from Kenya — said people don't expect government to solve all their problems but do want help for "a decent shot at life."

"They sense, deep in their bones, that with just a change in priorities we can make sure that every child in America has a decent shot at life and that the doors of opportunity remain open to all," the U.S. Senate candidate from Illinois said Tuesday in prepared remarks to the Democratic National Convention.

He said John Kerry would provide that change — and lead America into war only when absolutely necessary.

"When we send our young men and women into harm's way, we have a solemn obligation not to fudge the numbers or shade the truth about why they're going," Obama said in a jab at President Bush. Obama's father was a goat



Illinois Democratic Senate candidate Barack Obama, a fast-rising star in the party, delivers the keynote speech Tuesday at the Democratic National Convention in Boston.

herder in Africa who won a scholarship to study in America. He described his mother's youth in Kansas, raised by a couple who built a good life with educations they obtained through the GI Bill and a home they got with a federal loan.

"My parents shared not only an improbable love, they shared an abiding faith in the possibilities of this nation," Obama said. His name is pronounced Oh-bah-ma.

Obama, 42, would become the Senate's only Black member, and only the fifth Black senator in history, if elected this fall. Harvard educated, Obama is a state senator who teaches law at the University of Chicago.

This is the second convention in a row in which Democrats offered the high-profile keynote speech slot to a Black politician. Rep. Harold Ford Jr. spoke in 2000. Obama acknowledges he

was chosen partly because he is Black and the Kerry campaign hopes to bring more minority voters to the polls. But Obama said he also was chosen because he won Illinois' Senate primary with support that crossed racial and geographic lines. His prospects for the fall look good, as his Republican opponent withdrew after a sex scandal and the party has yet to appoint a replacement.

Kerry has the values and record to offer the help that people deserve on everything from rising health care costs, to jobs going overseas, to civil liberties being threatened, he argued. And he reinforced a frequent message of the convention by promising that Kerry would not hesitate to use military force when necessary.

"We have real enemies in the world," he said. "They must be pursued — and they must be defeated. John Kerry knows this."

He criticized "spin mas- (See Obama, Page 5)



Photo special to the Sentinel-Voice

U. S. Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., waits for Secret Service officers to arrest him during a protest at the Sudan Embassy. Activists are decrying war in Darfur.

Protests shed light on turmoil in Sudan

By Hazel Trice Edney

NNPA Washington Correspondents

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — As protests and arrests of public figures continue on an almost daily basis in the nation's capital over the senseless murder, rape and displacement of innocent citizens in Darfur, Western Sudan, experts in African affairs are encouraging Blacks to press the Bush Administration to consider several actions, including military intervention in the Sudan.

"If the United States of America can go and attack Iraq for murders that have been committed, they sure should (See Sudan, Page 15)