

## Rally

(Continued from Page 1) dates that it would be educational for them to see him in person and be inspired by his message."

Lance Stockley, American History, World History and Government teacher at Agassi, said, "The students have been learning about American history since the beginning of the school year and how it affects their lives. They want to know the relevance of the topics, and not just by reading a book."

"...Now, they are learning that in the near future they are going to be voters and can make a difference in who is elected as the next president."

Shortly after the rally ended, several of Stockley's

11th graders commented about politics, their visit and what Obama said.

—Ashley Justice: "I learned that it takes a lot of courage to stand up in a room full of people and being confident in what you're speaking about."

—Je-Na Givens: "I thought it was very interesting. I will be turning 18 next October before the elections, so I will have an opportunity to vote. He spoke about relevant issues to me, such as the war, healthcare, taxes, education and college and what his approach would be to deal with them."

—Simone Ruffin: "I was happy to experience politics in the making right here, right now. I heard directly from

Barack Obama's mouth what he feels is important to the public and what he's going to do to address these issues here and in Washington."

—Alexis Wallace: "He [Obama] showed that he works well under pressure. When he spoke about the police and the court being color-blind, he did it based on his personal experiences and ability to address and resolve these issues, like traffic stops and racial profiling."

—Michael Mencer: "I got to understand Obama's position on the war in Iraq and what he plans on doing once he is elected President."

—La'Mayah Hodges: "It was like attending a town hall meeting, seeing someone important like Obama, and

being able to go home and tell my mom that I saw him today, and that he is someone you should consider to vote for in the next election."

Other reactions to the speech were supportive and complimentary.

Reverend Emanuel Wasson III, pastor of Holy Trinity AME Church, said, "It's going to be a tough race, but with people coming out to support him, anything is possible."

Misha Hooks said, "I was inspired by the fact that he [Obama] is addressing everyday issues affecting us all, like poverty, healthcare, and ex-offenders, to give them a second chance in life."

Emma Major-Hassinger commented, "I am a school teacher. I love teaching our children, but I'm being forced to retire at the end of this school year because of the unreasonable cost of health insurance that I can't afford. I see that Obama's campaign is working to change the way we deal with medical costs, and giving us some hope that things will get better."

Obama's official website is [www.barackobama.com](http://www.barackobama.com).

## Senate increases aid for education

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The U.S. Senate has voted to increase college financial aid by cutting roughly \$20 billion in government subsidies to banks and giving it to students.

The bill would boost the maximum Pell grant, which goes to the poorest college students, from \$4,310 to \$5,400 by 2012. The House also passed the bill and President Bush is expected to sign it.

The bill would cut interest rates on federally backed student loans to poor and middle-class students from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent over the next four years.

House Democrats pushed for the politically popular interest-rate cut. Such a provision had not been included in an earlier Senate-passed version of the bill but was added to the final version by congressional negotiators.

Democratic lawmakers say the roughly \$20 billion in cuts are aimed at excessive government subsidies to the banks that give student loans. The subsidies were established to ensure that banks enter and stay in the college loan business.

Banking industry officials have objected to the cuts and have said they could adversely affect services that banks provide to borrowers.

Nearly all of the cuts would go toward making college cheaper, but \$750 million would be spent on federal budget deficit reduction. The legislation is part of a must-pass bill needed to meet spending targets in the federal budget. The bill also sets up a loan-forgiveness program for college graduates who work for 10 years in public service professions, such as teaching or nursing.

It also would cap annual payments for students at a percentage of their income, which lawmakers say would prevent people from having to pay back more than they can afford.

## Foundation

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can Studies, a pilot program started in 2002 at Kit Carson Elementary School for grades 3-5. The programs were designed to enhance students' knowledge of math, science, technology, humanities and multicultural studies.

The foundation has donated over \$100,000 dollars in scholarships and has raised over \$1.5 million dollars for their programs.

Among the other community and cultural events the foundation sponsors is the annual Juneteenth Festival held annually at the Sammy Davis Jr. Plaza in Lorenzi Park.

Lecture proceeds are designated to benefit the Rainbow Dreams Academy.

Ticket prices are \$25 for students with UNLV ID, \$50 general admission and \$100 VIP admission. For ticket information call (702) 895-ARTS (-2787) or the foundation at (702) 255-3001.

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