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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Camp empowers area youth

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Special to Sentinel-Voice

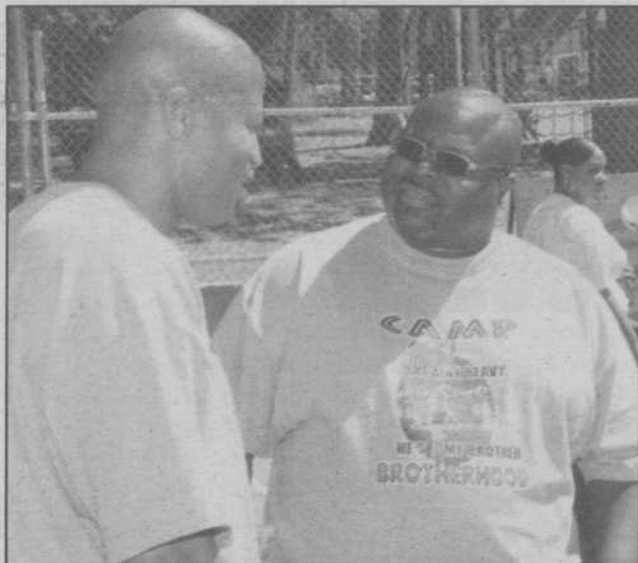
Energy and excitement embellished Camp Brotherhood, a decade-old program designed to take inner-city youth away on a three-day, life-changing adventure. For some, this was their first trip to the beautiful mountain range of Lee Canyon. Socializing, learning, team playing, breaking bread and pontificating in the gorgeous setting was an exciting adventure for 121 of Las Vegas' African-American youth ages 8 to 15.

Camp Brotherhood and Sisterhood celebrated its 10-year anniversary with increased monetary sponsor-



Young ladies participate in activities at Camp Brotherhood/Sisterhood. The annual retreat at Mount Charleston aims to help inner-city youth develop character and life skills.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy



Melvin Ennis, right, co-founder and president of Camp Brotherhood/Sisterhood, discusses activities with camp volunteer Eric James during the weekend mountain outing.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

ship from Clark County Commissioner Lawrence Weekly, former City of Las Vegas Fire Chief David Washington, Clark County Assistant Manager Darryl Martin, fund raisers and private donations. Las Vegas volunteers have nurtured the camp while witnessing explosive growth, increased attendance, enhanced community support and better social activities for the youth involved.

Melvin Ennis, co-founder and president of Camp Brotherhood/Sisterhood, said he sees a bright future for the community through the efforts of his nonprofit organization. "I would like to

see a male charter school, and the evolution of continuous mentor and protégé relationships," said Ennis, who is a gang intervention program supervisor for Clark County Parks and Recreation.

Bertral Washington, the organization's treasurer and an assistant fire chief with the city of Las Vegas Fire Department, was pleased to see evolution of the volunteer organization. "During the past decade, the camp has experienced tremendous change, growth and accolades. Counselors are not much older than participants and this

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TV One planning intense Barack Obama coverage

NEW YORK (AP) — TV One, the cable network aimed at African-American viewers, will cover Barack Obama's nominating convention but is ignoring John McCain's.

The network is telecasting live, prime-time coverage of the Democratic convention in Denver, Aug. 25-28, followed by "TV One Live: DNC Afterparty," with political and social commentary from panelists. TV One is available in 43.7 million

households, or about 40 percent of the nation's TV homes.

Obama's nomination as the first Black to be a major party presidential nominee is an historic event for African-Americans, so it's important for the network to be there, said Johnathan Rodgers, the network's president and CEO.

"While viewers can get coverage of the convention from any number of networks, we plan to cover the

convention from a uniquely African-American perspective," he said. The network has no plans to cover the Republican convention.

"We are not a news organization," Rodgers said. "We are a television network that is designed to celebrate African-American achievement. That is why we are covering this convention. If Hillary (Clinton) was the nominee, we would not be covering this year's Democratic convention."

NAACP meeting in fitting locale

CINCINNATI (AP) — The NAACP's Cincinnati chapter sagged to a low point a few years ago, its membership the smallest it had been in decades. Some outside the chapter even questioned its relevancy — this in a city recently torn by racially tinged rioting.

But these days, unified and revived, the branch is set to host the national convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from July 12 to 17.

Presumptive presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama are expected to address more than 8,000 delegates from the nation's oldest civil rights organization.

Since Christopher Smitherman took over leadership of the chapter last year, membership has nearly tripled, from about 750 members to about 2,000.

The 40-year-old has pushed for the appointment of Blacks to a steering committee for riverfront development and joined an unlikely coalition of anti-taxers, environmentalists and the Libertarian Party to defeat a proposal to build a new jail.

This year, he's heading a petition drive fighting deployment of red-light cameras and a movement to create proportional representation on the city council.

Smitherman was elected to one term in 2003, two years after riots prompted by the fatal shooting of an unarmed Black man by a White police officer. Days before Smitherman was sworn in, a Black man died in police custody in a fast-food restaurant's parking lot.

Smitherman took the police and the chief to task and was turned out after one term. He believes he was falsely labeled and maligned because police officials were not used to having their account of events questioned.

"I thought my questioning was very appropriate," Smitherman said. "The subject matter, oftentimes, made people in Cincinnati uncomfortable."

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ESSENCE OF PATTI

Patti LaBelle, center, is joined by the original members of LaBelle, Sarah Dash, left, and Nona Hendryx, right, during a tribute to LaBelle at the Essence Music Festival in New Orleans on Saturday. The Essence Music Festival is a three-day event that includes music, workshops and lots of food. The 14th installment wrapped up on Sunday.