

LAS VEGAS

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Racial attack terrifies family

Incident leaves one dead, black family fearing for its safety

By Al Triche
Sentinel-Voice

After surviving a nightmarish episode of violence last week, a Las Vegas teenager and his family are now terrified that the experience has not yet ended. The mother witnessed a confrontation between her son, who is black, and a group of white assailants, which resulted in the stabbing and death of one of those involved.

Cheryl Pope says she was sitting in her car around 8 p.m. on Aug. 15, waiting for her son, 15-year-old Sergio Hinton, to exit a southeast Las Vegas residence where he had been visiting friends.

According to Pope, an earlier telephone conversation between a girl at the residence and a young man turned into an argument that prompted him to come to the scene, accompanied by several associates.

As Pope waited for her son, she says, she observed the group, which she described as "skinheads," approaching the residence as one male in the party shouted insults and threats at those inside. She said when her son intervened, attempting to restore calm, he too received threats and insults that in-

cluded racial slurs.

"These three white guys came up, shoved the door open," Pope recalled on Monday, and, she said, demanded that Hinton come out of the house. "He was so big," she said of the one shouting, "I thought he was a parent." However, after attempting to speak with him, she was convinced he was not.

"I tried to introduce my-

self as Sergio's mother," Pope explained, but said he became abusive to her as well, and that the group forced its way into the house. At some point, she says, her son picked up a knife from the kitchen to defend himself. She did not realize that during the altercation that ensued, Hinton had stabbed 20-year-old Joseph Roberson.

"I got out, walked around

the front of my car and went to the door," Pope continued. With difficulty, she managed to escort her son into her car, and says two in the group began pounding on the vehicle, one of them attempting to enter the car through an open passenger side window.

In terror, Pope says, she sped away, dislodging the assailant from the car, but un-

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The Rev. Al Sharpton speaks during an address at the National Press Club in Washington Monday. Sharpton announced that he'll form a committee to explore a possible bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004.

(AP Photo/Doug Mills)

Sharpton to explore bid

By Hazel Trice Edney

NNPA Washington Correspondent

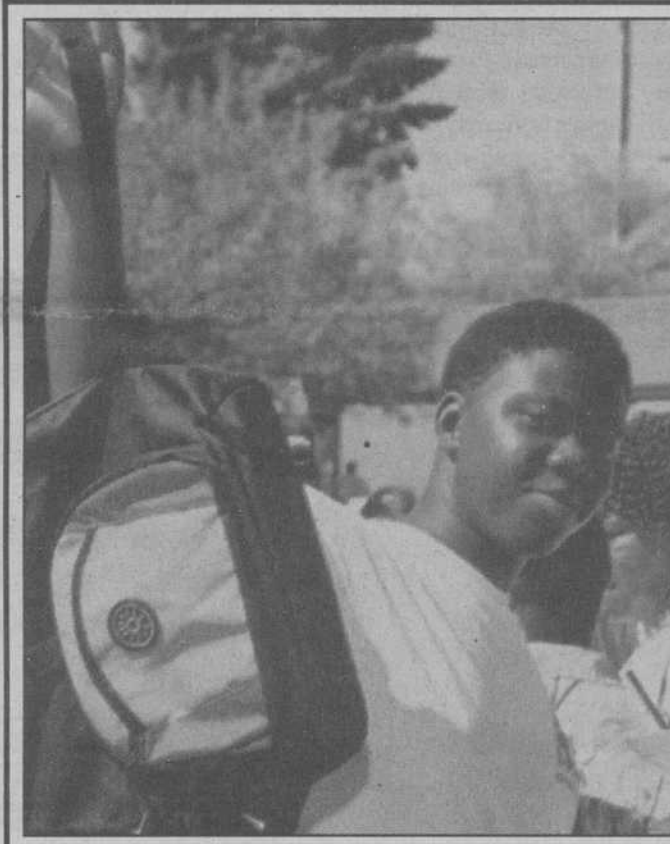
WASHINGTON (NNPA)—Is America getting back to a place where only White male landowners are allowed to engage in the electoral process?

That is the issue raised by the Rev. Al Sharpton at a National Press Club press conference Monday in which he announced a possible run for the Democratic nomination for president in 2004.

He also announced a march on the United Nations in New York this coming Saturday to commemorate the 38th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's March on Washington.

Just out of federal prison for allegedly trespassing while protesting U.S. Navy bombing on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, Sharpton said the noon march and rally will focus on issues such as election reform, the fairness of the criminal justice system, the death penalty, police profiling and brutality, the need for the appointments of fair federal judges,

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BAGS PACKED

Calvin Armstrong hoists a backpack he received Saturday during Ward 5's second annual back-to-school fair. Sponsored by Las Vegas City Councilman Larry Weekly the event at the Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza inside Lorenzi Park drew throngs of Las Vegas youth. The bags were filled with pens, paper and other school supplies. The Clark County School District's 2001-2002 academic year is set to begin next Thursday.

Sentinel-Voice photo
by Joyce Hudson

World's first artificial heart patient happy to be alive

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) His face gaunt and his voice just a whisper at times, the first person with a self-contained artificial heart stepped into the public eye Tuesday and said with a smile that the whirring sound takes some getting used to - but he likes it because it "makes me realize that I'm alive."

Robert Tools, a 59-year-old former telephone company employee, was introduced at Jewish Hospital through a video link from his doctor's office.

It was his first public appearance since the titanium-and-plastic pump the size of a softball was put inside his

chest July 2. Without the operation, he had been given just a month to live.

"I'm still getting used to it," he said. "And the biggest thing is getting used to not having a heartbeat, except here I have a whirring sound and that makes me realize that I'm alive because I can hear it without a stethoscope."

Tools, wearing a blue shirt, red tie and sneakers, walked into the room and sat upright in a chair as he fielded questions, peering through his glasses at the video camera. He kept his right hand over his throat to cover a hole left from a tracheotomy tube; his doctor said that helped Tools

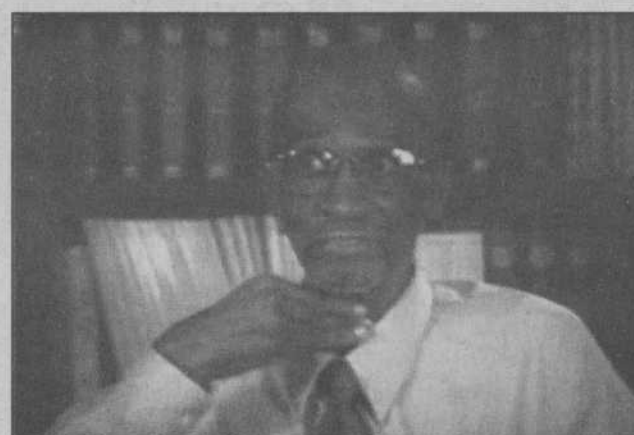
project his voice.

A diabetic with a history of heart problems, he chose to undergo the highly experimental operation after he had been deemed too ill to receive a transplant.

"I had a choice to stay home and die or come here and take a chance," he said. "I decided to come here and take a chance."

Jewish Hospital and Abiomed Inc., maker of the artificial heart, had kept Tools' identity a secret until this week, saying only that the patient was a diabetic man in his 50s with a history of heart problems.

His name had been so



Robert L. Tools, the first heart implant patient to receive the AbioCor artificial device, talks via satellite to the public for the first time Tuesday in Louisville, Ky. (AP Photo/Patti Longmire)

closely guarded that even the family pastor and people who live on the same street in Franklin, 140 miles south of

Louisville, said they didn't know Tools had received the heart

Tools moved to Franklin

from Colorado five years ago hoping to receive a heart transplant, but he grew so weak he could barely cross the street. He said he was on his "last few days of life" when his cardiologist told him about the artificial heart option.

"I realize that death is inevitable, but I also realize if there's an opportunity to extend it, you take it," Tools said.

Doctors had said they hoped the artificial heart would extend the lives of patients like Tools by a month. Tools has gone seven weeks since the operation,

(See Heart, Page 3)