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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

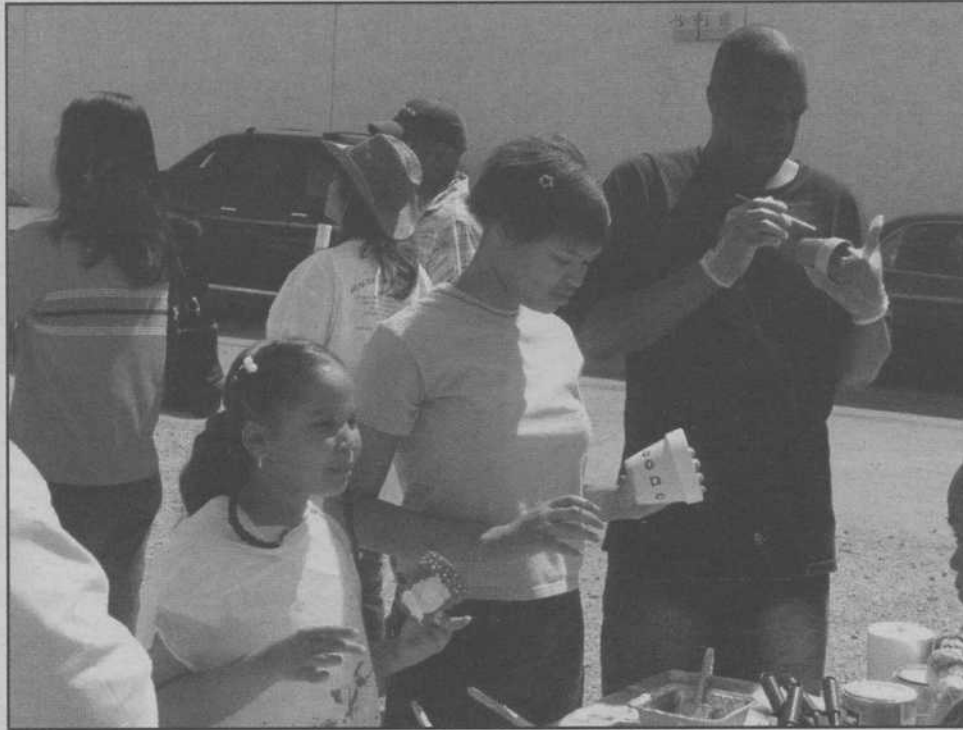
West Las Vegans work to beautify area

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

Community members and local businesses of West Las Vegas gathered on Saturday to hold the first Beautification Fair. The informational event was sponsored by the West Las Vegas Citizens for Hope, a newly formed group that wants to "bring hope back to the community." The target area is the Historic Westside Jackson Street area, including streets E, J, D and H, to rebuild and "revitalize the neighborhood."

"This event was designed to allow people from the community to come out and learn about how they can assess the physical conditions of the neighborhood and make changes," said Lynette Boyd, co-founder of the group, speaking about the reasons and efforts undertaken to sponsor the beautification fair.

"Our theme is: Restoring the Community One Building at a Time...hopefully, today, people will come out, feel safe, and take pride in the community. We want to do more to rebuild the neighborhood, and with the support of the people living in this community



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Batelim Johnson, Victoria Duke and Lonnie Carter paint during the West Las Vegas Beautification Fair on Saturday, a new event hosted by West Las Vegas Citizens for Hope.

and the local businesses coming together, we hope to make it successful," Boyd expressed.

More than 20 local businesses, agencies and community organizations took part in sponsoring or supporting the event. Some attended, providing information to residents encouraging the revitalization of the community and promoting patronage of their respective businesses. A \$3,500 grant from the Clark County Small Project Fund Program also helped support the efforts of the event, according to Boyd who explained the group's application and proposal acceptance.

The program featured informational booths from local vendors, community organizations, and entertainment by the Nevada Youth Alliance Tapestry ensemble, along with free food, jumpers for the kids, music, and giveaways.

Participating sponsors, vendors and organizations included: City of Las Vegas Neighborhood Services; Congresswoman Shelley Berkley; Boyd Gaming; Don Ahern, U-Haul Rentals; Washington Mutual Bank; F.A.C.T.; Norton Security Company; Blade Masters
(See Citizens, Page 2)

Next pope could be Black or Hispanic

By George E. Curry
Special to Sentinel-Voice

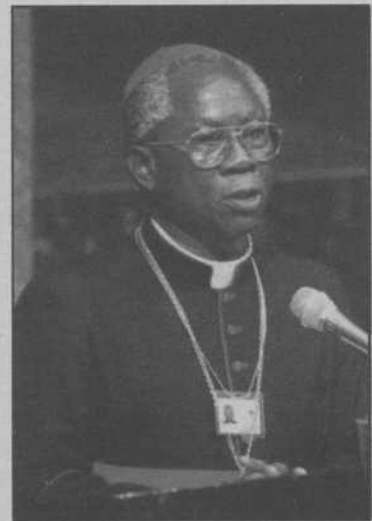
WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Profound demographic changes in the Catholic Church could open the door for a Black or Hispanic to succeed Pope John Paul II, church authorities say.

The clear front-runner among Blacks is Cardinal Francis Arinze of Nigeria. Until his recent appointment as prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship, Cardinal Arinze had served as president of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue. He was consecrated as bishop in 1965 at the age of 32.

Morley Safer, in an interview Sunday on "60 Minutes," raised the possibility of mass defections among White Americans and Europeans if a Black were elected pope.

Father Thomas J. Reese, author of "Inside the Vatican," scoffed at that notion.

"If someone is going to leave the church because we have a Black pope, in my opinion, they should have left the church years ago," Reese stated on "60 Minutes." There are 67.2 million Catholics in the U.S., approximately 2 million of them African-
(See Pope, Page 7)



Cardinal Francis Arinze

Cochran's friends mourn passing

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Johnnie Cochran Jr.'s most celebrated clients, O.J. Simpson and Michael Jackson, joined civil rights figures and Hollywood stars at the lawyer's funeral Wednesday, remembering Cochran's cunning legal skills and his commitment to the people he represented.

Cochran, 67, died March 29 of an inoperable brain tumor at his home in Los Angeles. He was diagnosed with the tumor in December 2003.

"He didn't just love justice or admire justice — he did justice, he achieved justice, he fought for justice, he made it happen," said Mayor James Hahn, the former city attorney and a Cochran friend. "Certainly in Los Angeles history, he will be in the pantheon of the great trial lawyers that we've seen."

Cochran "deserves a standing ovation from everybody in this house," the Rev. Calvin Butts told the packed West Angeles Cathedral, drawing applause from a throng that ranged from the Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton to Michael Jackson and his attorney Thomas



Tiffany Cochran, daughter of attorney Johnnie L. Cochran Jr., center, is comforted by her sister Melodie and brother Jonathan, during funeral services for their father at the West Angeles Cathedral in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

Mesereau Jr.

Colorful and eloquent, Cochran became a legal superstar after helping clear Simpson during a sensational murder trial in which he uttered the famous quote "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit," a reference to a glove found

at the murder scene.

The line was on the back of T-shirts being sold for \$10 outside the church, where 5,000 people were expected to attend the funeral. The shirts had a picture of Cochran on the front with the words: "Freedom and jus-

tice."

"Johnnie fought for his clients," Simpson told reporters outside the cathedral. "He was just a good friend, a good Christian man and a great lawyer."

The range of mourners reflected Cochran's work in high-profile civil rights cases and high-glamour trials. Also paying respects were such celebrities as Stevie Wonder and Earvin "Magic" Johnson.

"We've known him for representing O.J. and Michael, but he was bigger and better than that," Johnson said outside. "He represented people you've never heard of."

In a tribute advertisement published in the Los Angeles Times, former colleagues called attention to a lesser-known case — Cochran's advocacy for people affected by 1921 race riots in Tulsa, Okla.

"We will continue the struggle in his memory and honor," said the ad from the Center for Racial Justice. A federal appeals court last year denied an effort to reinstate
(See Cochran, Page 7)