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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Photographer lived in photos

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Award-winning photographer CJ Cansler, who'd taken pictures of everyone from Destiny's Child to Dennis Rodman, Anthony Quinn to George Wallace, died last week. Cansler also photographed one of Tito Jackson's most famous faux pas: His mother Katherine Jackson, matriarch of the famous Jackson family clan, ordered him off a stage.



CJ Cansler

For the last 10 years, Cansler distinguished himself as one of the hardest-working photographers in the Valley. Cansler's work appeared in magazines, newspapers and websites throughout the world. (Some outlets included *Xclusive* magazine, *Urban Avenue*, *Urban Culture*, the *Humor Mill* and the *Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice*.)

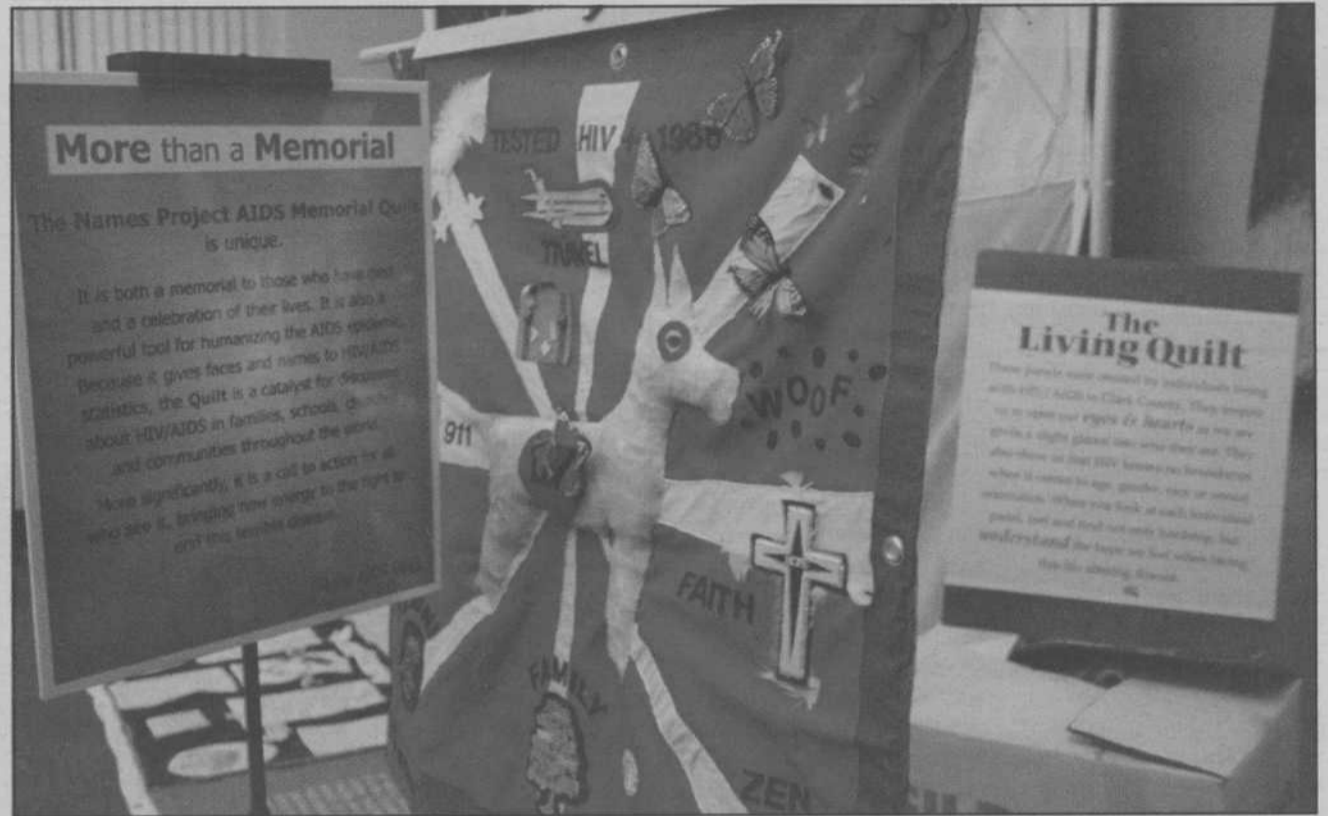
"CJ was a spiritual man, a humble individual who

cared for people," said Pete Allman, who worked with Cansler for the last four years. "His love for family, life and experiences in his life allowed his God-given talent to be respected as one of the nation's top photographers. CJ brought out the magic in everyone he photographed."

Via Celebrity Scene News, Cansler and Allman traveled the world as photographic ambassadors, bringing the world to Las Vegas via pictures and vice versa. In recent years, Cansler excelled in sports photojournalism, shooting a variety of events—UFC, K1 and the Arena Bowl XX.

Born Clarence Johnson Cansler Jr. in Selby, N.C., Cansler served in the Vietnam War as a sergeant, but turned his photography hobby into a passion, then a profession after his best friend died in a plane crash. In addition to shooting for prestigious newspapers, magazines and at major sporting events (including nearly every major boxing bout in the city in the past few years), Cansler produced videos for commercials and television and taught photography at the Community College of Southern Nevada.

In his pastime, Cansler enjoyed spending time with his family (and, of course, *(See CJ Cansler, Page 3)*



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Cleve Jones, the creator of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, seen here, addressed a crowd of 30 students Monday at UNLV.

AIDS Quilt founder visits

Kanika Vann

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Cleve Jones, creator of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, spoke to students Monday night on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In the student union theater, in front of about 30 UNLV students, Jones openly shared his hope, unveiled his personal story, discussed his life's work, and illustrated his need to encourage young people to take a stand against the most pre-

ventable, deadly disease in the world — AIDS.

"Before my eyes, my friends dropped like flies. And that became my determination. I had to memorialize them, so I held candlelight vigils. Had AIDS not taken their lives, they would have been congressmen and lawyers and Oscar winners," said Jones. "If we knew then how AIDS could be prevented, they would be alive today. Now we know, and

there are more instances of AIDS than ever before, and my mission is to do something about that."

Jones explained the genesis of the quilt and his personal mission to prevent others from getting AIDS.

At the candlelight vigils that Jones had held for dead, dying, and newly infected AIDS victims, he would ask the families of the victims to write the names of their loved ones infected with AIDS on

cardboard, construction paper or tee shirts and place them on a makeshift board that was brought to each ceremony.

Most people were hesitant, said Jones, because they believed that writing a loved one's name was essentially an admission of their loved one's homosexuality or drug addiction.

This often made mothers and fathers, grandmothers

(See AIDS, Page 6)

Sharpton: Man's death a crime

NEW YORK (AP) - Police committed a crime when they killed an unarmed bridegroom as the man left his bachelor party, civil rights activist Al Sharpton said Wednesday, noting that one officer reloaded during the 50-shot barrage.

"We believe a crime was committed against Sean [Bell]. We believe a crime was committed against the other two," Sharpton said, referring to 23-year-old groom Bell and two men who had been partying with him at a strip club.

The three were shot early Saturday as they sat inside a

car.

"One policeman second-loaded his gun. Ran out and reloaded," Sharpton said. "And let me make this clear, that these were semiautomatic weapons. They had to consciously pull back each time. ...There was no pause. There was no ID. They kept going."

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly has said one 12-year veteran fired his 16-shot pistol 31 times.

Sharpton and fellow activist Jesse Jackson appeared Wednesday with the victims' relatives on the block in Queens where the shooting

took place. Near a makeshift altar of flowers and burning candles, a wreath on an easel showed a photo of Bell, his fiancée and one of their young daughters, with the words: "Love Yourself, Stop the Violence."

The community outrage was evident in signs taped up on a nearby brick wall. "Death to Police Brutality and Murder," said one hand-printed sign. "Off the Pigs Who Shoot Our Kids," said another.

"This is a symbol, not an aberration. Our criminal justice system is broken down on Black America, on young

Black males," Jackson told the gathering. The victims were Black, while the five officers who fired their guns included two Blacks, two Whites and one Hispanic.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg has called the shootings "unacceptable," "inexplicable" and a case of "excessive force."

But experts who have studied deadly force say the confusing circumstances of the shooting make the mayor's conclusions premature. The amount of firepower, they add, has been given too much emphasis.

(See NYPD, Page 3)



Photo special to the Sentinel-Voice by Marty Frierson

CJ Cansler's widow, Kathy, receives the flag. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Cansler was a pilot before becoming an accomplished photographer.