

Vigil plans in works, homicide unsolved, police seek help

By KELLY PETERS

GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP - The Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project is planning a vigil for the family and memory of Nikki Nicholas, found dead in an abandoned house near U.S. 23 and M-36 on Feb. 21.

Nicholas, born Anthony Lionell Nicholas, 19, was found by a custodian working for the company that owns the abandoned home at 1:50 p.m. Her death has been ruled a homicide by the Green Oak Township police department.

"We are still following up on some leads and are not prepared to say what the motive is at this time," said Green Oak Township Police Chief Robert Brookins. "She died from a gunshot wound."

The vigil is tentatively scheduled for March 12 at Eastern Michigan University around 8 p.m.

According to Triangle Foundation executive director Jeffrey Montgomery, Nicholas' death is believed to be a hate crime.

"The police have not yet, to my knowledge, said that is bias motivated, but they have not ruled it out," said Montgomery. "The police, so far, have indicated that they are very professional about this. They don't have any kind of an attitude about it, and they want to capture the person who did this. They

have been very non-judgmental and very good, I think, about this case."

Montgomery said that Nicholas lived in Southfield, but was from Detroit. The organization has been in contact with family and friends since her body was found.

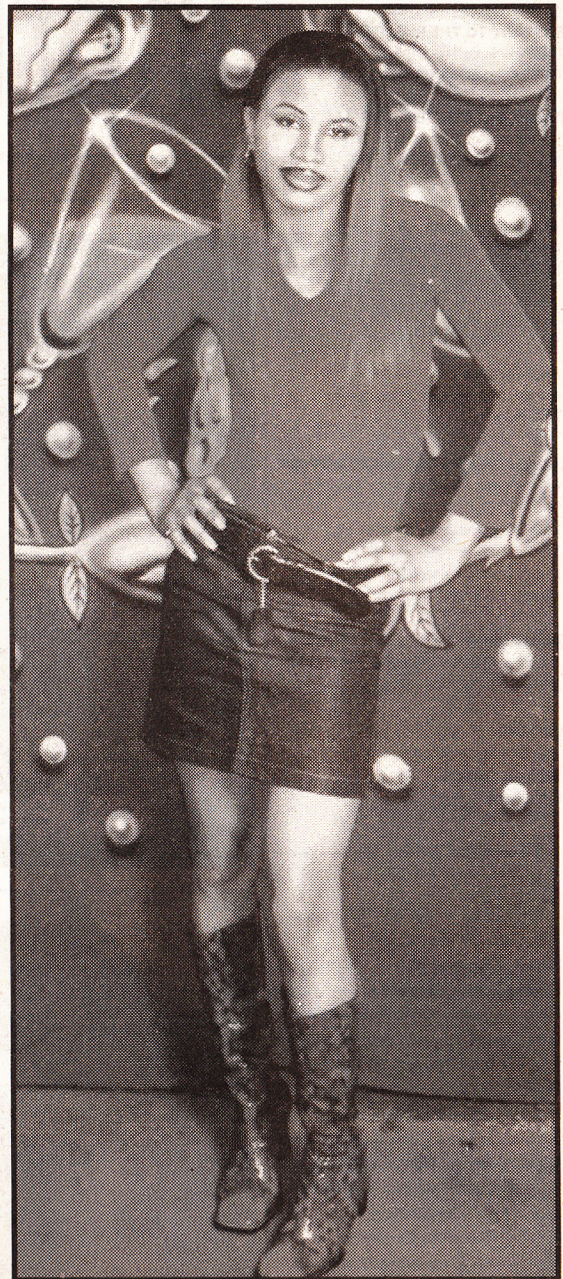
According to a Livingston County Daily Press & Argus article, Nicholas' brother, James, said no one had seen her since Feb. 15, when she was going to a party between Detroit and Ann Arbor.

"We've been meeting with a handful of friends of Nikki's and part of that effort is to maybe find out a little more information that may be helpful and to encourage them to share it with the police," said Montgomery. "We really want to help the police any way we can."

The Livingston County Major Case Task Force is assisting Green Oak Police with the case. The task force includes detectives from the Brighton Police Department, Michigan State Police and Livingston County Sheriff's Department.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Green Oak Township Police Department at 810-231-9626.

For more information about the vigil, call WRAP at 734-995-9867.



Nikki Nicholas was found dead in February by a gunshot wound. Detectives are using this flyer to find information about Nicholas' homicide.