

## SENTINEL-VOICE PICKS LAS VEGAS INDUSTRIAL CENTER (OIC) EXTORTION CASE AS BIGGEST '85 STORY

As the new year emerges, we always reflect on the previous year and what it meant to all us. To accomplish this, the SENTINEL-VOICE recaps the passing events and compiles this report of 1985 top stories.

The story that caught a lot of the attention during the year and became the year's leading story was the Las Vegas Opportunities Center (OIC) case where a number of defendants were indicted by a grand jury for extortion involving \$30,000 in federal funds. They had pleaded innocent in U.S. District Court in early January to conspiracy and extortion charges with an alleged scheme to embezzle the funds. James Chaney, the former director of the OIC was sentenced to three years for his alleged involvement in the embezzlement.

This story edged out the case of reputed Westside heroin kingpin Manuel Baker who was sentenced by U.S.

District Judge Lloyd George to five years in prison and five on probation for tax evasion and use of a telephone to facilitate a narcotics transaction.

### THE TOP 10:

1. The sentencing of OIC director James Chaney in an extortion charge involving \$30,000 in federal funds.

2. Manuel Baker, reputed Westside heroin kingpin sentenced to five years in prison and five years on probation for tax evasion and use of a telephone to facilitate a narcotics transaction.

3. Assemblyman Gene Collins switched his political affiliation to the Republican Party. He said he had been disenchanted with the Democratic Party's reaction on matters that would not benefit his constituency and the black community as a whole.

4. Ray and Ross Transport was granted 8(a) certification under the Small Business Act of the SBA which allowed the

firm to bid competitively for federal contracts under the set aside provisions of the certification. Recently Ray and Ross received a 3-year \$10.2 million contract through the SBA to provide bus service between Las Vegas and points on the Nevada Test Site. The contract was previously held by Westside Charter Service.

5. During the month of April, the then Las Vegas SUN reporter Bob Palm filed battery charges against Rev. Albert Dunn who the journalist said attacked him as he tried to leave one of the Westside taverns. Dunn took offense to a SUN article which was said to have "offensively discribed Dunn who participated in a community meeting with low attendance.

Palm had not written the subject article.

6. Sarann Knight-Predy, again, dazzled Las Vegas with a display of her entrepreneurial vision and ability when she and her

husband, Joe Predy, reopened the Cafe Rouge in the Moulin Rouge Hotel during the month of May.

7. McCarran Airport new central terminal had its grand opening Oct. 4. Evan and Olivia Williams of Dalton Properties received an award to open MEMORIES AND MORE. It provides lingerie, loungewear in the specialty category. Another award was made to another black entrepreneur to open NIKA's--where handcrafted items such as floral arrangements, ceramics, etc. are offered.

8. State Sen. Joe Neal, D-North Las Vegas, moved into a tie with Sen. William Raggio, R-Reno, as the Senate's third most senior member. Neal also became the assistant majority leader.

9. Dr. William U. Pearson was sworn into office as Clark County Commissioner on January 7, 1985. He succeeded businessman Donald Clark who was named interim replacement on the Commission by Governor Richard Bryan. Clark had served the term following Woodrow Wilson's resignation from the Commission.

10. Governor Richard Bryan appointed Clark County Justice of Peace Earle W. White, Jr. to the Eighth Judicial District Court.

The runners-up were the

shocking upset given to IBF heavyweight champion Larry Holmes, 48-0, by challenger Michael Spinks via a unanimous decision in the title fight during September at the Riviera Hotel. The defeat shattered Holmes' attempt to equal Rocky Marciano's undefeated heavyweight record of 49-0.

Yvonne Atkinson, a 28-year-old native of Las Vegas, was appointed by the Clark County Board of School Trustees, during the month of March, to replace Trustee Virginia Brooks Brewster who resigned earlier. She is a management analyst for the Clark County Comprehensive Planning Department.

Las Vegas Chapter of the National Assault On Illiteracy Program, a nationwide community-building program on community motivators, was organized during the month of May. Willa Bywaters, a Clark County School Psychologist, was elected president. The local chapter is very active with a number of projects planned for the future.

The SENTINEL-VOICE started its statewide distribution expansion program by now covering 8 Nevada cities to include Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Reno, Sparks, Carson City, Hawthorne, Tonopah and

Henderson. The project was launched with its October 10, 1985 issue.

UNLV Black pioneer educator, Sentinel-Voice Editorial Director, Thomas E. Wilson died at 58. A 16-year resident, he was the first black professor in the UNLV Department of Education.

Governor Richard Bryan declared January 20, 1986, Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, a state holiday.

Afro American Cultural Services, Inc., gave a special salute to teachers who had rendered 25 years or more service in Las Vegas. It was "A Salute to the Black Teacher" held during Black History Month.

Jesse Hall, principal at Reno's Lloyd Diedrichsen Elementary School and Washoe County's only black principal won praise for removing racial barriers at his school. He's a former Nevada Teacher of the Year and holds a doctorate in education organization and leadership from the University of San Francisco.

In his month-long battle against the sale and use of illegal drugs in his District, Clark County Commissioner William U. Pearson met with top local and federal law enforcement officials to map out solutions to the problems. Pearson started the crime-drug task force in July.

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### Employment Program at SNETP Helps Reduce Crime

A special employment and training program is working to reduce crime by helping offenders find employment.

The program is operated jointly by the City of Las Vegas Department of Detention and Correctional

Services and the Southern Nevada Employment and Training Program. Between March and December of 1985, 162 inmates at the City Detention Center have been served.

Inmates are recruited for the program by the Detention Center Rehabilitation Officer. They are then tested and provided orientation by Southern Nevada Employment and Training Program staff. Once this is complete, a specific training or employment plan is made for each inmate. One example was a habitual prostitute who entered the program. She received training to obtain her GED and was trained as a nurse's aide by the nurse at the Detention Center. After completing this preliminary training, SNETP staff placed her on a job at a Convalescent Hospital. She is now employed full time in Salt Lake City as a nurse's aide.

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