

POLITICAL POINTS: "YOU MAKE THE CALL"

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UNLV SET TO KICK- OFF '92 CAMPAIGN

by W. G. Ramirez

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES W.L.V. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS

By Joan Shepard

The West Las Vegas economic development plans, which when completed will enhance the area and the city, recently got initial approval from the City Council. The Moulin Rouge received a \$200,000 technical assistance grant. Basic land improvements for Sleepy Hollow Townhouses also got a yes vote from the Council.

The \$200,000 grant will be used for architectural drawings and plans, an audited financial statement, an environmental impact statement, and a marketing plan. All of this information is required in order for the Moulin Rouge to submit a complete loan package to banks.

"There are no final figures yet," said James Walker, one of the owners of the Moulin Rouge. "I hope to get the financing from the private sector (banks) and the city."

The historic Moulin Rouge, which

has city landmark status, is currently operating a bar with slot machines. Walker said his goal was to completely renovate the 111-room hotel and build a complete casino. "When its finished, we'll have a small first class hotel," said Walker. "The market is there. I get calls all the time."

Although Walker said there are no final figures yet. He estimates it will take about \$4-5 million to complete the Moulin Rouge, which opened in 1955.

Renovation of the Moulin Rouge will mean approximately 40-65 new jobs, bring tourists to West Las Vegas and provide a glamorous focal point and asset to the community, all of which will be an economic catalyst to the area.

Walker is expecting the state to confer historic landmark status on the Moulin Rouge. With state landmark status, the Moulin Rouge could be eligible for grants.

In a detailed memo prepared by

Richard Welsh, director of the city's Economic and Urban Development agency, seven pros and five cons were listed on an analysis of the Moulin Rouge proposal. Some of the points in favor of the Moulin Rouge included: minority owned and operated; development could further enhance redevelopment of the area; existing Proforma Statement indicates project will be profitable.

Walker said that a real casino is needed to make the Moulin Rouge profitable. "Gaming is number one," said Walker. "People come to Las Vegas to gamble. In addition, I certainly would market to locals just like the Gold Coast and the Santa Fe."

Walker said he was also trying to raise about \$500,000 from private investors.

When the Moulin Rouge opened in 1955, it was a Life magazine cover story, recalled Walker. The hotel was a mecca for black entertainers. "Many



The L.V. City Council has approved a \$200,000 technical assistance grant for the historic Moulin Rouge.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

stayed here, because they could not stay on the strip," told Walker. When the grip of segregation ended, blacks drifted away from the Moulin Rouge seeking accommodations in the big,

glamorous, formally forbidden hotels. "There has been a change in attitude by many black people," said Walker. "They want to patronize black hotels." (See City Council, Page 18)

UNION SUPPORTERS BLOCK LAS VEGAS STRIP 179 ARRESTED AT LABOR DAY STRIKE

Sentinel-Voice

In commemoration of the Labor Day holiday, and in support of the ongoing Frontier Hotel strike, close to 180 striking union members were arrested Monday after blocking off part of Las Vegas Boulevard.

A total of 179 union supporters were cited at the peaceful sit-in, which lasted close to 2 hours, after they marched up the strip, stopped near the Frontier Hotel main entrance, and sat down in the middle of the street.

Culinary Local 226, Teamsters Local 995, Bartenders Local 165, Carpenters Local 1780 and Operating Engineers Local 501, currently represent over 500 workers who are opposed to the Frontier demands for wage cuts for most workers, the elimination of union pension fund contributions and employee seniority, and giving hotel management the power to fire workers without cause.

Frontier Hotel owner Margaret Elardi has been criticized throughout the course of the strike, which will celebrate its first year anniversary on September 21, for attempting to boost profits at the expense of employee benefits.



Defiant Culinary Union members squat on the Las Vegas Strip in front of the strike-ridden Frontier Hotel as the Metropolitan Police Department looks on.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

On the other hand, Hotel General Manager Tom Elardi, while watching the strike from the sidewalk in front of the hotel entrance, expressed that he thought it was a crime what the union has put its members through during the year long strike.

However, listening protestors threw the same charges back at him, while ordering the hotel to go back to the bargaining table.

Once the blockade of the Strip began, Jim Arnold, secretary treasurer of the Culinary Union, was the first to be arrested. While being taken away by police, Arnold gave the thumbs-up sign to the striking workers.

Arrested for unlawful assembly, the 179 blockaders were later cited and released and ordered to appear in Clark County Justice Court at a later date.

(See 179 Arrested, Page 18)

TENSIONS RISE AFTER KILLINGS IN SO. AFRICA

South Africa's white minority government and the Nelson Mandela led African National Congress, met separately Wednesday to study the damage done to their relationship by the killing of 24 Blacks by Ciskei homeland troops.

Both sides, unable to come together since the ANC ceased talks in June, blamed each other Tuesday for the killing of the ANC supporters. ANC leaders blame President F.W. de Klerk's government for having backed the Ciskei regime and for not ordering South African troops, present during the shooting, to shoot back at the Ciskeian troops.

Close to 20,000 protesters marched to the border of Ciskei, an independent South African homeland, to demand the dismissal of military leader Brig. General Oupa Gqozo. The march began in King William's Town.

Soldiers with semi-automatic weapons fired into the crowd as terrified people ran for cover. Witnesses

said the troops fired for at least two minutes before throwing tear gas. In addition to the 24 deaths, close to 200 others were injured.

Ciskei Defense Chief Brig. Gen. Marius Oelschig said his forces began shooting after being attacked by a group of marchers armed with handguns and grenades.

A group of 2,000 ANC backers held an all-night vigil near the border Tuesday, and ANC leader Nelson Mandela, escorted by heavily armed South African police, walked about 20 yards into Ciskei to lay wreaths at the site of Monday's slayings.

The killings deepened South Africa's political crisis, making it unlikely Mandela's ANC will return soon to talks on giving Blacks the right to vote and ending apartheid.

Wednesday, however, President F.W. deKlerk called for urgent talks with Mandela to halt spiraling violence, warning that reform efforts could not continue until the bloodshed ceased.

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