

Suge Knight gets 9 years in prison

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Death Row Records co-founder, Marion "Suge" Knight was sentenced to nine years in prison for violating terms of his 1995 probation.

Knight has been in jail since November when a judge revoked his probation for a 1992 assault case.

This week Superior Court Judge J. Stephen Czulegar rebuffed defense arguments that Knight's 1995 prosecution was unfair.

David Kenner, Knight's attorney, said that a prosecution witness lied on the stand and he also questioned the original plea bargain reached in 1995.

Knight pled no contest in 1995 to assaulting two rap entertainers at a Hollywood recording studio in exchange for five years probation.

Knight violated his probation by taking part in a fight at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas just hours before Death Row rapper Tupac Shakur was shot in a drive-by attack as he rode in Knight's car just off the Strip.

In the original plea bargain, Kenner argued, the charges were supposed to be reduced to misdemeanors and the "strikes" on his record removed. But under the state's three strike law, the felony convictions cannot be removed.

Officer's new court date March 13

By Nancy Watson
Sentinel-Voice

Las Vegas Police Officer Arthur Sewell, who was caught on videotape receiving oral sex from a downtown prostitute, will stand trial on two counts of kidnapping, three counts of sexual assault and three counts of oppression under the color of office.

Sewell, 30, was arrested last month after the woman told police that he had threatened to arrest her if she didn't perform a sexual act.

Metro set up a call-for-service scenario at the Del Mar Motel and videotaped Sewell's

response to the motel regarding a loud television.

According to a police official, Sewell could have responded to the call in a variety of ways, but he chose to request sex and he was arrested at the scene. The videotape was played during the preliminary hearing last week.

Sewell was out of jail on \$6,000 bail when he was arrested again on additional similar charges. Another woman has come forward with a similar complaint.

Sewell's attorney, Christopher Oram, stated in court that the woman at the Del

Mar was actually soliciting sex because she suggested to Sewell that "we do what we did last time."

According to Oram, the sexual act between the two was "something like wrongful agreement," but the woman was not sexually assaulted.

The second woman testified that Sewell picked her up while she was soliciting for prostitution, took her to a secluded place and asked her what she was going to do so he would not take her to jail.

He then told her to remove her pants and had sex with her, she said. She told the court she

did not protest, but she was crying because it was against her will.

"At what point is a woman responsible for saying, 'I don't want to do this?'" Oram questioned the court. He said human beings have to be put on notice that you do want to perform a sexual act.

But Deputy District Attorney Teresa Lowry said Sewell's badge belies a power position and a threat of potential force.

Sewell will enter a plea March 13 before District Judge Jeffrey Sobel.

MORE COP-SHOOTING AFTERMATH

Sheriff appoints team to review hiring procedures

By Nancy Watson
Sentinel Voice

Sheriff Jerry Keller has announced the appointment of Captain Bill Young to head a team that will review the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's hiring practices.

Young's appointment came last week, a few days after an article which appeared in a local newspaper, revealed that background checks were not being done properly on prospective police officers.

The article stated that 147 police officers were hired

without appropriate background checks. However, Young says the problem is worse than that.

He said that he and his team will be auditing personnel files and investigating the backgrounds of the police officers who graduated from Metro's police academy as far back as 1994, prior to Keller taking office.

There are two academies each year which graduate between 50 and 75 police officers so Young's team could be investigating upwards of

800 police officer backgrounds.

"The work will be tedious and time consuming. It will take months," he said.

The goal of Young's team will be to improve the system. To go through the hiring process and make recommendations for improvements, he said.

"This will not be a scan or whitewash of an investigation. Metro wouldn't do that and I wouldn't take part in if they did," he said.

He added that Metro will be

hiring 1200 personnel in the next four years. Of those, 800 will be police officers.

"We've become a big city with big city problems. These are growing pains," he said.

A recent check into hiring procedures disclosed that Ronald Mortenson, a Metro officer accused of the drive-by shooting death of 21-year-old Daniel Mendoza on Dec. 28 had not been recommended for hire due his combative behavior as a department store security guard.

Cat

(Continued from Page 1)

"I can remember that when I first came to Las Vegas, I knew I was going to be at that radio station (KCEP). I knew I could fit right in there. Then, to be given the opportunity to actually do that, and to turn people on to what I was about, it just really meant a lot. Words can't express it, really."

Louis "L.C." Conner, Jr., program director at KCEP said, "Cat has definitely left a legacy here at KCEP."

"When we first initiated jazz programming at KCEP, we put Cat on the air with a few CDs, and right now jazz is becoming one of the most popular art forms in the city. He created a renaissance while here at KCEP, and he's leaving some big shoes to fill, he's truly a legend and we wish him well in his future endeavors."

Lee's peers are equally impressed with what he has been able to accomplish in his time here in Las Vegas, and anxiously await the day when they will be able to, once again, work with "The Cat."

"Cat was after what I was after. He tried to educate people," said Rob Solomon of the highly successful "Jazz Progressions" program heard on UNLV's radio station, KUNV 91.5 FM. "He lived it. He believed it. He was serious about it. He made it matter."

"His main goal was to put the word out — put the music out — and he did that in a class manner, Solomon said. "He was about it. He was around it, he enveloped it — it was in throughout him — it wasn't just a surface thing with Bill. That's how we related," he said.

"We will miss Cat a great deal," added concert promoter Michael Schivo of Michael Schivo Presents.

"He was the kind of innovative jazz disc jockey, but more important, jazz fan, who took an interest in everything that was upbeat about jazz. He gave the greater Las Vegas area some of the best jazz programming over the years, regardless of what station he may have been on, and had a way about mixing his music, especially late at night, that made people feel comfortable and romantic."

"He's a man who had many good ideas that he could not fully implement in Las Vegas," Schivo said.

"I recognized his need to explore and be creative. We wish him every success and we hope to work with him in the future, whether it be in Reno or in another city," he added.

Nonetheless, Lee, who attended Virginia State College where he majored in English and minored in journalism, is looking forward to the challenge ahead of him, but left the door wide open for a return engagement.

"I'm really jazzed up about this move because I'm going to a winner," Lee said of his new position at KOZZ Radio 105.7 FM, Reno's classic rock station. The station is owned by Lotus Broadcasting Corporation, which in addition to three other stations in the Reno market, operates four stations in Las Vegas, including KXPT 97.1 'The Point,' where Lee ran the "Sunday Morning Spotlight" program weekly from 8 a.m. to noon.

"Any broadcaster will tell you, 'we don't get rich, but we can get paid,' and finally this is about to happen," Lee said.

"Here's a radio station that's been winning in their market for some time now that wanted me I'm ready to do it. It's long overdue."

"That's the reason I went ahead and took this opportunity, because it will open up the door for me," he added.

"I'll always be a jazz producer. That's my love, my passion. But classic rock is not really foreign to (jazz). Obviously, from my background, I heard a lot of that growing up too."

Lee says his ultimate goal is to get to a larger market, but admits that he would love to return to Las Vegas under the right circumstances.

"The idea is to do good radio and expose yourself to other folks," he said.

"I'm going to return to Las Vegas radio," he vowed.

"One of these days there will be a contemporary jazz radio station, and I will be back. I promise."

Ultimate Pest Control • Work Guaranteed

Office Hours: 8 am - 5 pm Mon.-Fri.

License No. 2340

New York Style Pest Control
(Put your pest to rest)

649-6868

Zyra & Robert Thomas, Owners & Operators

3424-C E. Lake Mead

North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030

NOW OPEN

North West Communications

CELLULAR • PAGING

♥ SWEET HEART SPECIAL ♥

Sunday Cellular Service — FREE*

Cell Phone — PRE-PAID*

Paging as Low as \$6.95*

Nation Wide and 800#'s available

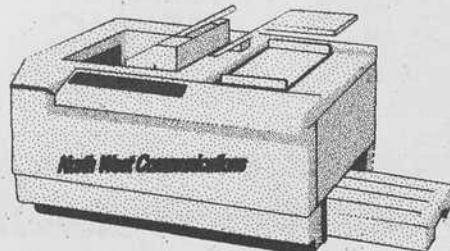
Now offering Pre-Paid Phone Cards SAVE, SAVE!!!

OFFERING:

• FAXING & COPYING

• BUSINESS CARD DESIGN

• TYPESETTING



3925 N. Martin L. King, Suite 111
(Hidden Canyon Cntr.)

631-7131

— Gift Certificates Available —

*Some restrictions apply. Special Runs from Jan. 21 thru Feb. 28, 1997