

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel



Voice

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 6

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

June 12, 1997

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

New Moulin Rouge owner Bart Maybie hopes renovations will restore the Bonanza Road hotel's luster and prestige.

Landmark hotel gets new life

By Damon Hodge
Sentinel-Voice

The murals inside the Moulin Rouge romance a story of the hotel's heyday.

Scantly-clad black showgirls strut their stuff vying for the attention of sharp-dressed black men in shiny cars. A lifesize portrait of the late former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis greets visitors. An accurate depiction, since Louis was the hotel's official host when it opened in 1955.

The exterior painting outside the Moulin Rouge hints at a return to past glory.

Progressive change is what the hotel's new owner, Bart Maybie, says will return the hotel, and the area surrounding it, back to prominence.

Maybie purchased the Rouge and surrounding properties for \$3 million last month. He has announced he will spend an additional \$3 million renovating the Strip shopping center, the Momart Housing Complex, the hotel and casino housed on the

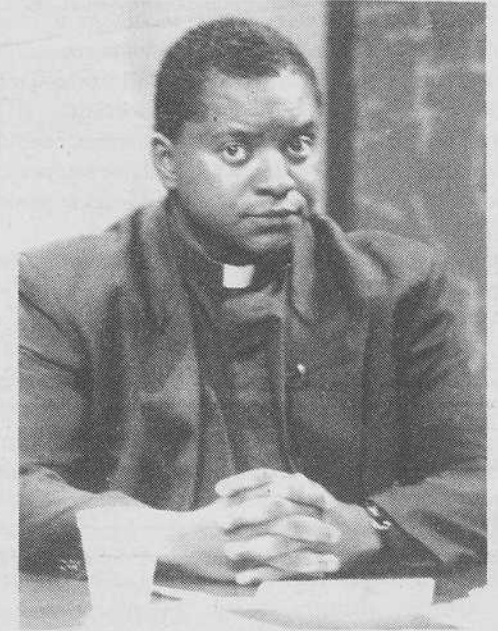
8-acre plot.

"I want to make the Moulin Rouge what it was in the 1950s," said Maybie, referring to the hotel's reputation as a hotspot for Hollywood elite and Las Vegas' finest.

But he has a long way to go.

Inside, the casino appears hurricane-struck, with empty boxes strewn about, furniture overturned and tissue drapes across the floors.

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REV. CHESTER RICHARDSON

Activist calls critics "crazies"

LV NAACP leader rescinds resignation

By Damon Hodge
Sentinel-Voice

Reversing his earlier stance, the Rev. Chester Richardson, an oft-quoted local NAACP spokesman, rescinded his resignation Tuesday and called the allegations leveled at him by group members "groundless."

Several NAACPers have filed complaints with the national office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People charging Richardson with sexual harassment and pocketing member funds and misusing office equipment at the local branch, 600 W. Owens Ave. Richardson has denied the complaints.

In an article published in Tuesday's Las Vegas Sun, newly elected third vice president Linda Howard confirmed complaints had been filed.

Howard said an ad hoc committee investigated (See Richardson, Page 4)

Group unveils housing plan

By Damon Hodge
Sentinel-Voice

Once a haven for crime, violence and drugs, Sierra Nevada Arms will get \$16 million in renovations, community leaders and government officials announced Wednesday.

"We must put our resources together and take control of our own destinies within our own communities," the Rev. Emmanuel Wasson told more than 50 people gathered in a park at the complex, just south of Lake Mead Drive and Simmons Road.

Wasson, co-founder of Shepherd Hills Development Corp., unveiled plans for the 12.5-acre swath his company purchased from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for \$1.

Before HUD foreclosed on the property in

1994, gunfire erupted nightly, criminals preyed on residents and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department received three calls a day requesting emergency service.

In stepped the Rev. A.J. Thompson, Shepherd Hills' other co-founder and chief executive officer.

Thompson said he visited the former complex manager who urged him to create a group that could revitalize the area. Thompson said he and Wasson created the company in 1994 to address the complaints of parishoners who lived in the area.

Thompson met Steve Brookins, president of Quality Neighborhood Housing (QNH) through a mutual friend. A black-owned Los Angeles-based company which assists nonprofit groups

(See Sierra, Page 4)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Rev. A. J. Thompson and LV Mayor Jan Jones share a laugh after the Wednesday event.