



General manager rebuts stories of hotel's future

Catisha Marsh
Sentinel-Voice

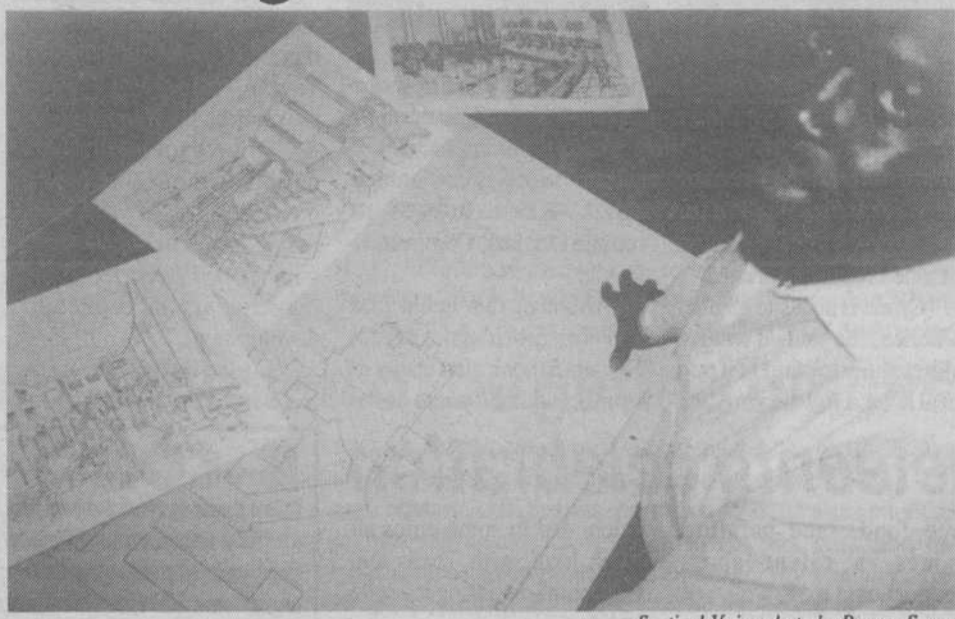
The press announced last week that casino-mogul and all-around colorful character Bob Stupak, plans to purchase and renovate the historic Moulin Rouge, Nevada's first all-race casino.

But, according to the Moulin Rouge's general manager, Fred Bilawey, that's just not what's going on.

"At this point in time," Bilawey said, "there's been no communication between Bob and myself or Bob and Bart." Bart being Bart Maybe, owner of the landmark hotel and casino and its surrounding properties.

Yet, somehow, Stupak seems to be moving full steam ahead with his plans.

"Me and Bart struck a deal



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

John Edmonds looks over plans for renovation of the Moulin Rouge.

up. We're going to do a swap. He gets the Thunderbird, which I own. ... We're going to renovate the Moulin Rouge, shrink the stage, restore the glass windows...

We're going to make it a real upscale place with entirely black management."

According to Stupak, his interest in the casino is nothing new.

"This has been going on for four years, now. I was the highest bidder when they tried to auction it off four years ago, but they ended up not accepting the bid."

The Moulin Rouge first opened in 1955 and was Las Vegas' first casino where blacks and whites could freely mingle. Although it wasn't black-owned, the hotel manager, some dealers and waitresses were black—a far cry from the absence of a black presence on the Strip. Although it closed after only six months, it has been partially open on and off through the years. It's currently on the National Register of Historic Places.

Many African-Americans in the community are concerned about Stupak's motives and want to preserve the integrity and historical significance of the casino.

One such party is John Edmonds, President of Nucleus Holdings and Nucleus Associates. Earlier this year, Edmonds' company

received a \$72,000 grant to research the feasibility of renovating the landmark hotel and casino. He's been working closely with the current owners to take over.

"I was shocked by Bob's announcement, but I don't think he has any real intention of buying the place," Edmonds told the *Sentinel-Voice*. "We are going on with our plan to develop the Moulin Rouge. We are making it a gaming and entertainment complex for African-Americans and everyone all over the country."

Stupak however, has other plans, envisioning more of a black entertainment Mecca. He said he's currently negotiating to bring in a high-profile black entertainer second only to Sammy Davis, (See *Moulin Rouge*, Page 2)

B-CON honors black seniors

John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

One by one, African-American seniors who successfully passed their proficiency exams and completed their credits, received the prestigious medallions from the Black Community Organizations Network.

"(I'm) happy to get out of high school and go to college," said 17-year-old James Holmes, who graduated from Western High School. "This is a very good event to reward black seniors for all their hard work."

The baccalaureate and honors convocation was held Sunday at Second Baptist Church, 500 Madison Ave. The annual event recognizes the work and achievements of African-American high school graduates. The 21-year-old event had as its theme, "Preparing for the Millennium Challenge."

"To the 1999 graduates I offer congratulations,"

Clark County School Board Trustee Shirley Barber said to more than 100 seniors, donning their schools' colors and graduation garb. "To the parents, I thank you for your support."

"This (graduation) represents a change in your life," said Clark County School District Superintendent Brian Cram. "Education is a blessing in our life because it is through education that we find freedom."

Amea Smouts brought the crowd to its feet with 'I believe I can fly,' R. Kelley's hit single from the "Space Jam" movie soundtrack.

Twenty-three schools were represented.

"This is a good idea to have all of the different high schools together like this," said 17-year-old Clark High graduate Rakisha Thompson. "We generally have graduation celebrations like this separately for our own high schools." (See *B-CON*, Page 2)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

PRINCE HOLDS COURT

The Artist formerly known as Prince held captive a receptive MGM crowd with a Saturday night performance that mixed his old songs with some of his new songs.

Police brutality case nears close

NEW YORK (AP) — Abner Louima first whispered his tale of police torture to an emergency room nurse two summers ago. Now a conclusion is near in the case that shocked the country and incited protests against police brutality.

U.S. District Judge Eugene Nickerson on Tuesday denied defense motions to throw out the case because of insufficient evidence, and the lawyers were to deliver closing arguments starting Wednesday.

Officers Charles Schwarz, 33, Thomas Wiese, 35, and Thomas Bruder, 33, are accused of violating Louima's civil rights by beating him in a patrol car en route to a police station Aug. 9, 1997. Louima had been

arrested during a disturbance outside a Brooklyn nightclub.

The officers' supervisor, Sgt. Michael Bellomo, 37, is charged with trying to cover up the assault.

Schwarz also faces the most serious charge: that he held down Louima in a stationhouse bathroom while Officer Justin Volpe sodomized him with a broken broomstick.

Volpe pleaded guilty last week, saying he believed — mistakenly — that the Haitian immigrant had punched him when police tried to quell the disturbance.

He said a second officer "saw what was going on and did nothing to stop it," but didn't name the officer. The jury was not told of his statement.

(See *Brutality*, Page 3)

Morgan Stanley hit with \$1.35 billion discrimination suit

NEW YORK (AP) — A former investment analyst has sued one of Wall Street's largest firms for \$1.35 billion, saying Morgan Stanley Dean Witter fired him because he is black and

had him arrested on trumped-up charges.

Christian Curry, 25, said last week that he suffered from bigotry and harassment for nearly a year until he was fired in April 1998.

Company officials said they fired Curry for expense account abuses, but he said it was because of his race and because they thought he was homosexual after nude photos of him appeared in a gay

men's magazine.

Asked to explain the \$1.35 billion figure, Curry's lawyer, Benedict Morelli, said: "When you punish someone who is worth \$45 billion, you" (See *Stanley*, Page 4)