

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel Voice

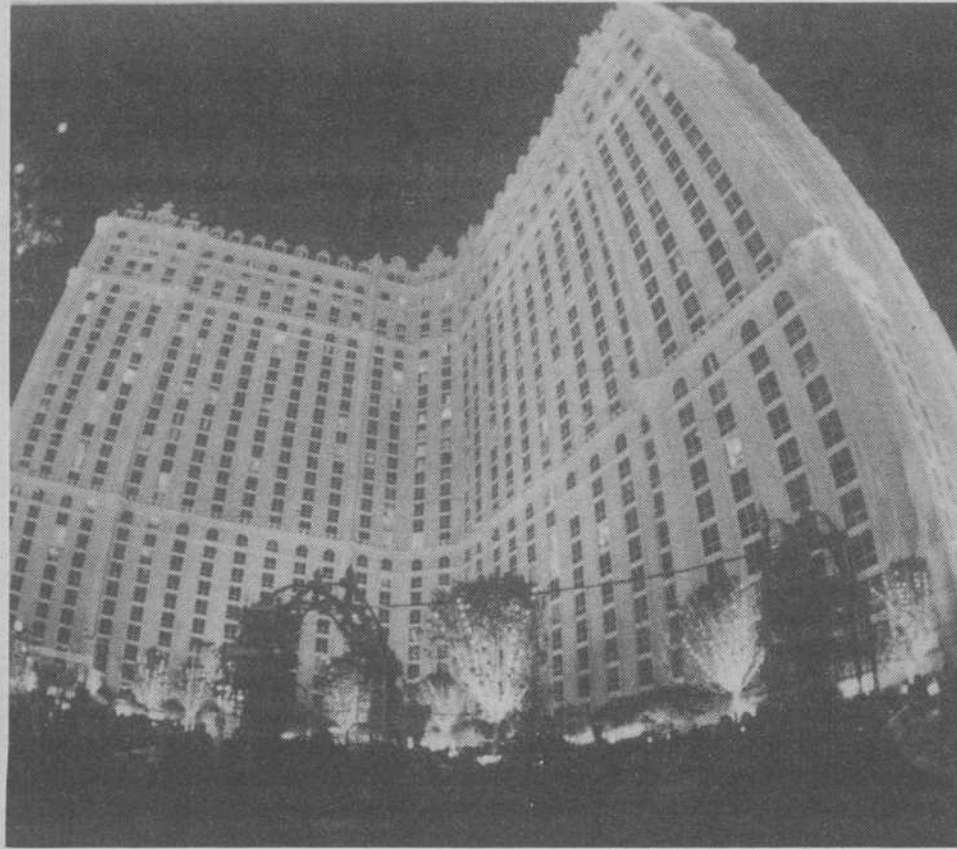


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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Fireworks and celebrities accompanied last week's opening of the \$785 million Paris hotel operated by Park Place Entertainment. Eiffel Tower replica is a one-third size of original.

Sentinel-Voice photos by John Broussard

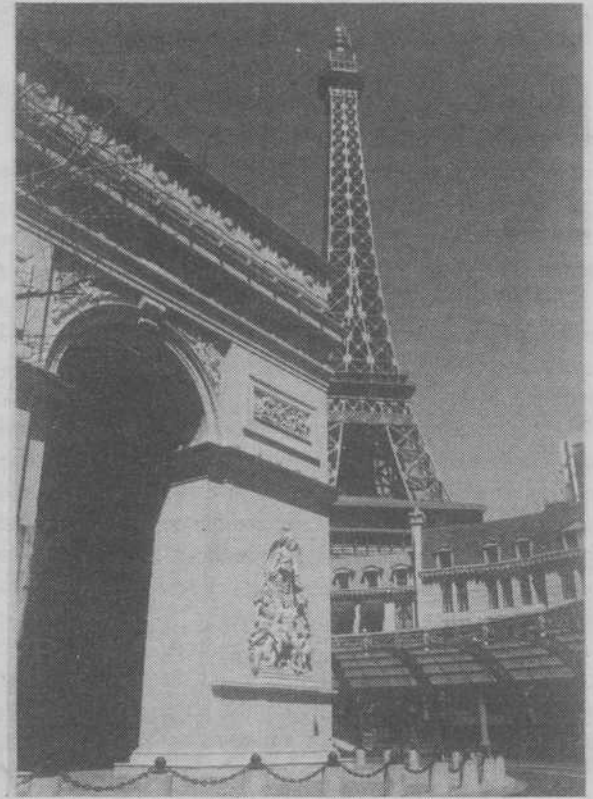
FRENCH OPEN

Strip gets French-themed hotel

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Thousands applauded as the great grandson of the Eiffel Tower's designer lit a 50-story replica of the famous French landmark on the Las Vegas Strip, heralding the opening of the new \$785 million Paris Las Vegas hotel-casino.

The mega resort, which opened last Wednesday, is the latest of four to open here in the past 11 months, with Bellagio opening in October, Mandalay Bay in March and The Venetian in May.

"What's wrong with recreating the most wonderful city God ever created?" Arthur Goldberg, chairman of parent Park Place Entertainment Corp., told a midday news conference (See Paris, Page 2)



Judge absolves Atkinson-Gates of ethics violation

Special to Sentinel-Voice

District Judge Jerome Polaha ruled over the weekend that Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates couldn't have known she was violating ethics code by helping friends win lucrative concession contracts at McCarran International Airport.

The vote ends a 2-year legal and image battle for Atkinson Gates.

In an 18-page decision, the Washoe County judge ruled that five sections of the ethics law were unconstitutionally vague and that the Ethics Commission used improper "ad hoc rule-making" when it expanded the scope of the people, public employees and officials are prohibited from assisting.

The ethics law prohibits a public official assisting any family member or person



ATKINSON GATES

with whom there is a business relationship, though it does say favoritism is improper. The Legislature didn't expand the list to include friends, Polaha concluded.

"While the Legislature may have intended to include friendships and other relationships (in the ethics laws), it has failed to do so in the 22 years since the law was passed," Polaha wrote in his decision.

Thus, he wrote, Atkinson Gates' actions "do not rise to a level of ethical purity the public would like to see."

The vagueness occurred in the Ethics Commission's vague interpretation of the limits on officials using their positions to grant unwarranted privileges to friends. The commission had found Atkinson Gates and commissioner Lance Malone guilty of favoring friends and

political allies.

The judge noted that the commission's expanded list has left some officials in limbo as to whether or not they should abstain from certain votes.

The commission ruled Atkinson Gates' actions weren't willful, and thus didn't fine her. The commissioner said her reputation was scarred nonetheless.

Black designers unveil millennium wear during MAGIC show

Marcello Sawyer
Sentinel-Voice

Black designers gathered last week at the Las Vegas Convention Center to showcase their gear for the new millennium at the biannual Men's Apparel Guild in California show, also known as the MAGIC show.

Designers attracted the eyes and ears of the passing retailers and consumers via live DJs mixing the hottest music, attractive women showing their stuff and runway-savvy models clothed in outfits bright enough to make you reach for your sunglasses.

Although the big hype this year seemed to be cargo pants, Hawaiian-print shirts, a matching Kangol or baseball cap, and a pair of rugged boots, many of the new designers used the standard formula of blue jeans and a colorful T-shirt to push their product.

The combination has become so familiar that Miles Adolph, general manager of Sun U.S.A. Corp., has set his sights pretty low. He represents H-Spider, a company specializing in team jackets, baseball caps and T-shirts. When asked about the company's plans for the next

century he said the goal was to remain "basic." It seems "basic" is all some consumers are looking for.

Other companies were more adventurous with their products. Denise Wilson, a representative for Nappy, was excited about one of their newest spokespersons, Redman. She said the New Jersey-based rapper has worn Nappy gear at some of his performances and seemed a natural fit as an endorser for the product. A growing company, Nappy was founded four years ago by Judith McQueen and Cey (See Magic, Page 5)



Robert Levy, founder of the Dalinkwent Clothing, was in Las Vegas during the recent MAGIC show to exhibit his new millennium line.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Joseph Sawyer III