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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Gutted Rouge holds lots of memories

LAS VEGAS (AP) - A historic casino that was once the only integrated gambling spot in Las Vegas and played host to the likes of Sammy Davis Jr. and Nat "King" Cole was destroyed by fire Thursday.

Three people were injured and about 100 others were evacuated from apartments in what were once the Moulin Rouge casino's hotel rooms. The apartments were separate from the casino and didn't burn. The injured, two residents and a firefighter, were treated at a hospital and released.

The Moulin Rouge, about a mile northwest of the downtown casino district, opened in 1955 as the only integrated casino in Nevada. Frank Sinatra, Cole and Davis were among headliners who appeared in the Club Rouge showroom.



Many of Hollywood's most celebrated stars often partied at the Moulin Rouge. It was common to see Rat Packers mingling with the likes of Sidney Poitier and Lena Horne.

The casino closed after only six months, but in 1960, city and gambling leaders met there to officially desegre-

gate the Las Vegas Strip.

"This is a big loss for Nevada and for the African-American culture," said Dale

Scott, chief executive of the Moulin Rouge Development Corp., which was renovating
(See Fire, Page 2)

Arson to blame for Moulin Rouge fire

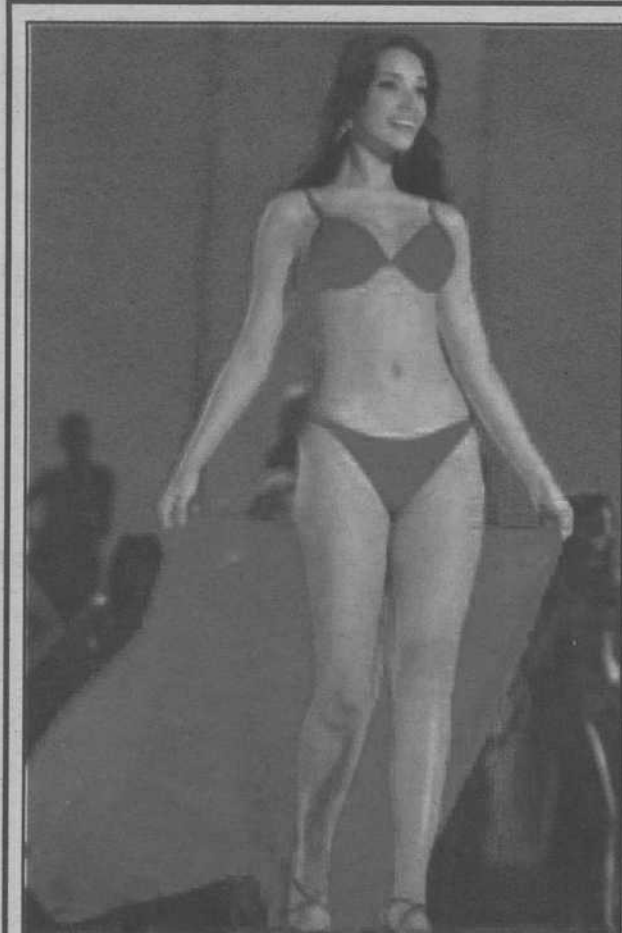
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Las Vegas Fire & Rescue officials and federal fire investigators announced Wednesday morning that the flames that gutted the historic Moulin Rouge were caused by arson.

"The fire that destroyed the Moulin Rouge Casino on May 29 was intentionally set," Las Vegas Fire Marshal and Deputy Chief Ken Ridel said. "The preliminary findings are the result of an extensive investigation that begun the Friday following the fire until late yesterday afternoon. The fire remains under investigation."

Ridel said city Fire Chief David L. Washington called the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms because of "the complexities of the fire," and the months and manpower it would take to investigate it. The ATF sent their special fire and explosives investigative squad, the National Response Team—agents came from Washington state, Florida and the Midwest—because the damage topped one million dollars and the building was historic.

"The investigation is continuous and there is no timeline set," NRT Special Agent Joe Real said. "At least 30
(See Arson, Page 2)



UNIVERSAL BEAUTY

Miss Dominican Republic, Amelia Vega, walks in her swim suit during the 2003 Miss Universe pageant in Panama City on Tuesday. Vega, an 18-year-old high school student, won the Miss Universe 2003 title at a sparkling ceremony in Panama City on Tuesday night, beating a field of 70 other pageant queens with her charm and charisma.

Mayor: NYC won't tolerate cop mistakes

NEW YORK (AP) - Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Sunday that the deaths of two unarmed New Yorkers during police raids are not signs of a trend, but added, "We won't tolerate mistakes."

Bloomberg was responding to questions about Alberta Spruill, a city worker who died after police mistakenly raided her Harlem apartment on May 16, and Ousmane Zango, a West African immi-

grant who was fatally shot by police in a Chelsea storage facility on Thursday.

"I don't think there's any evidence that there's a trend in police misconduct," Bloomberg said before marching in a Memorial Day parade in Queens. "There were a couple of incidents that should never have happened."

Bloomberg said Zango's shooting was under investigation "but it would appear

that something was done wrong, clearly" in the Spruill case.

"We will not tolerate to the extent humanly possible any kinds of discrimination," Bloomberg said. "We won't tolerate mistakes."

Also on Sunday, civil rights leaders held a news conference in front of the storage building where Zango was shot.

"There's a question mark that stands over the Police

Department when, in a seven-day period, two unarmed civilians are lost to this city at large," said Lt. Eric Adams, who heads the group 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care.

Norman Siegel, a civil rights lawyer and former head of the New York Civil Liberties Union, said the deaths demonstrate the need for an independent special prosecutor to investigate police mis-
(See Mistakes, Page 16)

Powell defends intelligence on suspected Iraq arms

Special to Sentinel-Voice

SHARM EL-SHEIKH - Secretary of State Colin Powell on Monday defended intelligence he presented to justify war against Iraq despite the United States' failure so far to find any weapons of mass destruction in the country.

Speaking to reporters in Rome and en route to Egypt, Powell appeared to be trying to beat back media reports questioning the quality of U.S. intelligence about Iraq's suspected chemical, biological and nuclear weapons pro-



grams.

Powell said he spent days culling down the masses of U.S. intelligence into the se-

"There were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. It wasn't a figment of anyone's imagination. Iraq used these weapons against Iran in the late '80s."

— Colin Powell

lection that he presented to the U.N. Security Council on February 5, rejecting some because he felt it was not

sufficiently substantiated to present in public.

Speaking in Rome, Powell said he thought the evidence that Iraq had continued to develop such weapons was "overwhelming."

"There were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. It wasn't a figment of anyone's imagination. Iraq used these weapons against Iran in the late '80s," Powell said. "There is no question, there is no debate here."

"There was no doubt in my mind as I went through
(See Powell, Page 2)