

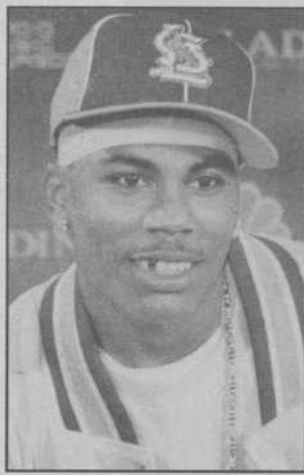
Casino alters rules for Nelly

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) - A Missouri casino faces a possible \$50,000 fine for allegedly giving the rapper Nelly special treatment.

State regulators claim the President Casino on the Admiral let Nelly skirt rules intended to limit the amount of money patrons can bet. The Missouri Gaming Commission proposed the fine Thursday.

The commission alleges the casino violated some 10 state laws and rules while accommodating Nelly, who in the documents is referred to only as the "Patron."

The casino hosted a late-night birthday party last November for Nelly, whose real name is Cornell Haynes Jr. Regulators allege he and his eight-person entourage entered the casino without first



NELLY

getting the required electronic identification cards that limit gamblers to purchasing no more than \$500 worth of gambling chips or tokens every two hours. Other rules also were broken, regulators say.

Gaming Commission executive director Kevin Mullally confirmed that the

patron in question was Nelly. He said Nelly is not being targeted for penalties because it is the casino that is responsible for upholding state gambling laws.

The casino has 30 days to appeal the case to a state administrative hearing office, which would gather more evidence and make a final recommendation to the Gaming Commission.

Ralph Vaclavik, President Casino's senior vice president and chief financial officer, said casino officials still are looking into the incident.

Nelly publicist Juliette Harris of Los Angeles said Nelly did not intentionally skirt Missouri's gambling policies.

The Grammy winner's hits include "Hot in Herre" and "Dilemma."

Racist group blasts rap concert

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) - A White supremacist group has circulated fliers questioning a scheduled rap concert, saying the music promotes violence. The flier, circulated by the local chapter of National Alliance, targeted last weekend's performance at the Casper Events Center of rappers Ludacris and Chingy and criticizes efforts by Casper city officials to promote diversity.

The flier also denounces the recent appearance of rapper Mystikal, who was sentenced last month to a six-year prison term for committing sexual battery on his hair stylist.

Mystikal, whose legal name is Michael Tyler, was

the featured artist at the Dec. 6 Rap Fest 2003.

The flier states: "Over a month ago, the city welcomed the racist rapper Mystikal. Now the city is throwing out the red carpet to welcome yet another Black rapper. Why are we allowing this violent diversity to be forced into our city?"

About 2,500 fliers were distributed in Natrona County, said National Alliance Membership Coordinator David Pringle, who's based in Alaska.

Pringle's group despises all rappers - even if they're White - because they promote a "criminal culture," he said.

The flier also criticizes the

city of Casper for promoting diversity, singling out Casper Vice Mayor Guy Padgett. The mayor said blaming a whole group for one person's crimes is outrageous. One of the fliers was left on the porch of Joseph VanLandingham, a Black Evansville resident. He said he returned home Saturday evening and tripped over the flier, which was anchored by a sandbag.

"I've been living in Evansville for two years now and this is the first time I've ever had a problem, and this is the first time I've ever heard of the National Alliance," VanLandingham said. "If it's a scare tactic, it's not working. I've dealt with this my whole life."

Agent sues Jackson over Vegas trip

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A travel agent is suing Michael Jackson, claiming the pop star failed to pay her \$18,000 for the infamous charter jet flight that brought him from Las Vegas to Santa Barbara where he surrendered to authorities on child molestation charges.

The lawsuit adds to the litigation swirling around the flight. Jackson's defense team is suing the jet's owner, alleging that cameras were covertly installed on the aircraft, and that Jackson and his lead lawyer were secretly videotaped during the flight.

Cynthia Montgomery, who has handled Jackson's travel arrangements for three years, said in her lawsuit that their practice was for her to pay for charter air travel in

advance and be reimbursed by Jackson.

The lawsuit seeks \$50,000 in damages stemming from the alleged failure to pay for use of the jet, which was chartered from XtraJet of suburban Santa Monica.

Montgomery's lawyer, Robert T. Moore II, said he has been trying to negotiate payment with Jackson's attorneys but has gotten nowhere.

"They told us in so many words that we're not going to get paid," Moore said.

He said Montgomery had to pay for the plane up front because "Michael Jackson is kind of a slow pay and XtraJet would not deliver the jet without payment up front."

Jackson's attorney, Mark

Geragos, and his brother, lawyer Matthew Geragos - who has been negotiating with Moore - did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment Wednesday.

The Nov. 20 flight from Nevada to Santa Barbara Municipal Airport created earlier controversy when it was discovered that someone had secretly videotaped Jackson and Mark Geragos during the flight.

In a lawsuit filed in November against XtraJet, Geragos claimed that the charter company covertly installed two cameras in the plane's cabin. Jackson's attorneys won a temporary restraining order against XtraJet, barring any release of the tapes.

Poll: Act not federal case

WASHINGTON (AP) - Most Americans think the exposure of Janet Jackson's right breast during the Super Bowl halftime show was crass, but few believe it's a federal case.

An Associated Press poll found 54 percent of those surveyed said they thought the act, in which singer Justin Timberlake snatched off part of Jackson's bustier and revealed her breast to millions of television viewers was bad taste. Only 18 percent thought it was an illegal act.

The Federal Communications Commission is investigating whether the broadcast violated federal indecency laws.

According to the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs, the FCC ought to spend its time on other things. Nearly 80 percent of respondents said it's a waste of money to investigate.

"I can see how parents wouldn't want their children to see it," said Diana Foster, a 50-year-old resident of Nicholas County, Ky., in the central part of the state. "But an investigation is a waste of money. Sure it wasn't very nice, but they're using our tax money for this."

In the AP-Ipsos poll, women were more likely than men to say the halftime show should be investigated, and Whites more likely than Blacks. Republicans were twice as likely as Democrats to favor an investigation. Young adults were less likely than other age groups to think an investigation was called for.

A fourth of those in the poll said the act was neither in bad taste nor illegal. Almost



Janet Jackson covers the controversial breast exposed around the world during January's Super Bowl in Houston.

half of young adults between age 18 and 29 said the display was neither. Unmarried men, people without college degrees and those who made lower incomes were more likely to think it was not in bad taste or illegal. Despite limited public concern about the incident, there is evidence of public support for government action to clean up regular television channels.

Recent polling found a solid majority - about three fourths - who say they would support stricter rules on nudity and sexual content on regular television channels.

"They need to clean up television generally," said Michael Zannella, a 70-year-old retiree from Wheatfield, N.Y.

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