

Don't miss Keno in Reno

By Melissa LeBahn
Community Reporter

"Ka-ching, ka-ching, ka-ching, ka-ching." There went another \$2 in quarters.

Turning 21 a few months ago was wonderful, but winning more than \$100 in the biggest little city in the world was even better, even if I got carded at every casino I went to.

When I thought about Reno, Nev., I thought of a huge city, lots of sunshine, warm weather, bright lights, elegance, limos and lots of money.

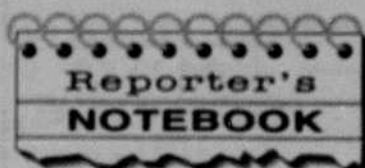
Well, Reno had bright lights, a little sunshine, a few limos and lots of money, but it was smaller than I imagined, and it was cold — almost as cold as it is here.

We got into Reno about 3:30 p.m. and were told that about two to four inches of snow was expected. So, yes, it was cold. I did remember to bring at least one sweatshirt along with all of the shorts I brought.

"Clank, clank, clank, ka-ching." There went a few more nickels.

We stayed at Circus, Circus. Before we had a chance to settle in, my mom was on her way down to the casino. She couldn't wait to start gambling. I, on the other hand, wanted to look around and see the sights.

That didn't last long because the first slot machine I saw, I put a quarter in. I didn't win any-



thing, so I went up to the midway with my sister and my niece. My niece is only 8-years-old, so she wasn't allowed in the casinos. We played several games, and my brother-in-law won a huge stuffed gorilla for me.

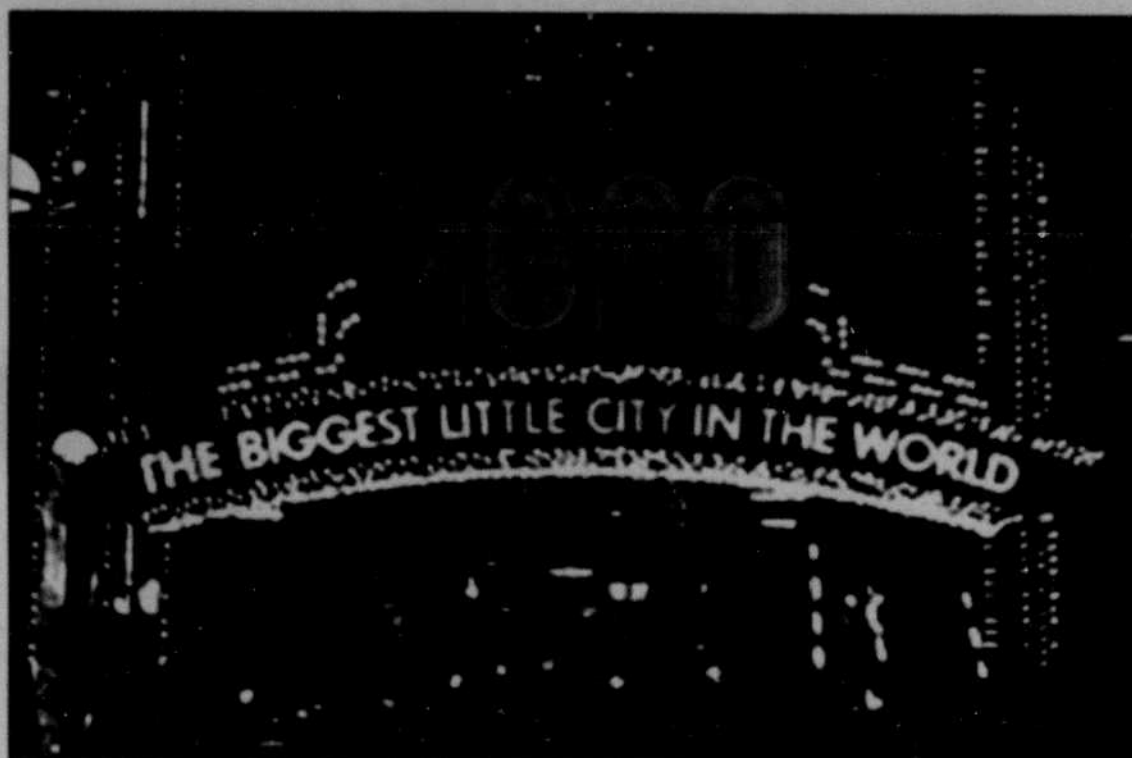
We ate dinner at a buffet, and after that I went down to the casinos to gamble with my sister. The casinos were huge, and there were many lights and mirrors.

We eventually worked our way down the strip, going into several casinos, including the Silver Legacy, Eldorado, Nevada Club, Harrah's, Flamingo and Fitzgerald's. Some places offered free prizes or free spins of a wheel just to get you to come inside.

I would win a quarter here and there on slot machines, but not very much. I got frustrated. Then my sister introduced me to video poker, black jack and Keno.

"Clank, clank, ka-ching, ka-ching." Bells go off, and lights flash in the background.

I started winning 10 to 20 quarters at a time. I was hooked. That first night I won a little more than \$50 in quarters on Keno. I was happy.



This sign marks the entrance to the main strip of gambling casinos in Reno, Nevada.

MELISSA LEBAHN/Emerald

The next day, I went out to the strip to browse through the gift shops and I went sight seeing. I bought a few souvenirs for myself to remind me of the good time I was having.

It hadn't snowed the first night, but the second night it snowed a little bit. It didn't stick, though.

I decided to go to the casinos with my mom. She liked to play

the nickel slots. I wasn't winning, so I decided to go back to Circus, Circus, where I won the night before.

I found a Keno machine and started playing. I wasn't having much luck, but then I started drinking the free Kahlua-and-creams I was offered. Every casino, as long as you are playing, offers you free well drinks. After three or four of those, I started

my winning streak again.

"Ka-ching, ka-ching, ka-ching, ka-ching." Jackpot!

That night I walked away with almost \$150 in quarters. In the two days I was there, I only spent about \$75 gambling. I was really happy.

Even though Reno wasn't as warm or as elegant as I thought it would be, I still had a great time. It was well worth the trip!

Mitsubishi battles class action lawsuit by recruiting employees for rally

■ **DEMONSTRATION:** Workers and managers picketed outside the offices of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

CHICAGO (AP) — Mitsubishi Motors shut down its sole U.S. assembly plant Monday and brought more than 2,000 workers to Chicago on buses to demonstrate outside a federal agency that accused the automaker of sexual harassment.

Blue-collar workers joined managers on the company-financed trip to picket the offices of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Dozens of buses brought the workers, who were paid for the day.

"Two, four, six, eight! We're here to set the record straight!" protesters chanted as they walked down Madison Street. Police closed the downtown street for several blocks during the 1 1/2-hour demonstration.

The EEOC filed a class action lawsuit against Mitsubishi two weeks ago after investigating complaints by 29 women who brought their own federal lawsuit in 1994. The EEOC said Mitsubishi management turned a blind eye to "gross and shocking sexual discrimination" at its plant in Normal.

Business experts said Mitsubishi's hardball tactics are almost unprecedented and may generate public sympathy for the company, but probably won't affect the lawsuit.

"It's very unusual," said Professor Myron Roomkin, a labor expert at Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management. But he added, "You can't intimidate the federal government."

The huge turnout raised suspicions that the company

pressured employees to participate. But protesters and a union official said participation was strictly voluntary.

"I work for the best company I've ever worked for," said Jane Hieser, a 43-year-old body shop worker. "I get fair wages. I get fair benefits. There's an opportunity for me to move up. I get better backing as a woman than I've ever gotten before."

The lawsuits allege relentless harassment of more than 300 women who worked at the plant, including insults such as "whore," demands for sex and retaliation against whistle blowers.

Mitsubishi has denied the allegations; shutting down Monday's assembly line and sending a bus caravan of employees 120 miles to Chicago for a demonstration was just part of its aggressive campaign to fight back.

The company also has set up a telephone bank so workers can call the EEOC, Congress and the White House to dispute the allegations. Mitsubishi is Japanese-owned; management at the Normal plant consists of both Japanese and Americans.

Employees who chose not to participate in the demonstration were required to attend company-organized training sessions on sexual harassment, said Patricia Benassi, an attorney for the 29 women who filed the first lawsuit.

Fourteen of them still work at the plant — most of them on the assembly line — and they have been shunned since their case became public, Benassi said. She derisively called the protest "the best demonstration money can buy."

Protester Kathleen McLouth, 42, a parts-deliverer, said she knows eight of the 29 women who sued. "Most of

these lawsuits are women looking for easy money and they don't want to work for it," she said.

McLouth said sexual harassment at the plant "has got to exist. You can't have 4,000 people and not have it exist. But if it's turned in, Mitsubishi acts on it."

"I would put my life in their hands," she added. "It's the best company I've ever worked for."

Bloomington Mayor Jesse Smart, who said he came to Chicago at the workers' request, joined about 10 employees who met with EEOC lawyers for about an hour during the protest. Bloomington is near Normal.

EEOC Chairman Gilbert F. Casellas said the agency would not back down.

"Mitsubishi and its employees are certainly free to express their opinions in any lawful manner. However, the EEOC will not be intimidated from pursuing this litigation," Casellas said in a statement.

Mitsubishi officials wouldn't comment.

United Auto Workers President Stephen Yokich, the National Women's Law Center and the Illinois office of the National Organization for Women all accused Mitsubishi of bullying employees into taking part in its public-relations blitz.

Don Shelby, vice president of the UAW local that represents the Normal plant's 3,200 union workers, denied the allegations.

He said the UAW local told members they were free to attend the protest, and both participants and non-participants were paid regular wages Monday. He added that 700 cars weren't made as a result of the shutdown.

"I work in the plant. I've never seen and I've never heard of anybody being pressured," Shelby said.

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MEETINGS

Black Student Union will meet tonight at 7 in the Multicultural Center. For more information, call 346-4379.

MISCELLANEOUS

College Republicans will sponsor a presentation by U.S. Senate candidate Jeff Lewis today at 3 p.m. in the EMU Walnut Room. For more information, call 334-0256.

Career Center will accept bids from companies until Wednesday at 4 p.m. Registration is mandatory for participation in the campus interview program. Information is available in Room 244 Hendricks or by calling 346-6001.

Multicultural Center will sponsor an Environmental Justice Forum and a general interest meeting for the Coalition Against Environmental Racism tonight at 6 in the EMU Ben Linder Room. For more information, call 346-4207.

Department of Germanic Languages will sponsor a lecture by Professor Birgitta Steene titled "Prophet or Scapegoat: The Swedish and American Reception of Ingmar Bergman" tonight at 7:30 in the Knight Library Browning Room. For more information, call 346-4051.

Outdoor Program will sponsor an equipment swap tonight at 7:30 in the EMU Ballroom. For more information, call 346-4365.