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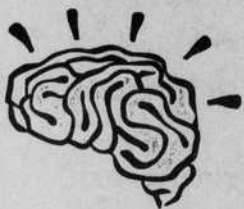
PREPARING FOR THE CBEST

Nov.: 1,3,8,10,17 3:30pm-5:00pm Practice Test: Nov. 15 3:30pm-5:30pm	Jan.: 10,12,19,24,31 3:30pm-5:00pm Practice Test: Jan. 26 3:30pm-5:30pm
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The fee of \$75 includes printed materials, 5 instructional sessions and a practice test. **Contact ALS to register: 68 PLC, 346-3226**

Academic Learning Services 

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Historic hotel scheduled to blow

RENO, Nev. — The historic Mapes Hotel, where Mae West and the Marx Brothers once entertained gamblers along the banks of the Truckee River, has a Super Bowl Sunday date with the wrecking ball.

Reno's city council on Tuesday approved the demolition of the 52-year-old downtown hotel casino for 8 a.m. on Jan. 30.

Preservationists tried for years to save the 12-story brick building, which was Nevada's tallest building when it opened along the banks of the Truckee River on Dec. 17, 1947. Its unique art deco style earned it a listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

During the Mapes' heyday in the 1950s and 1960s, entertainers such as Sammy Davis Jr., Marilyn Monroe and Frank Sinatra were

regular visitors. But since 1982, the Mapes has sat boarded up and vacant, much to the chagrin of city officials who view the property as key to the city's downtown redevelopment.

Some business leaders wanted to promote the implosion of the Mapes as a tourist attraction on the busy Super Bowl weekend. The city council decided Tuesday night to set up a public viewing area but decided to bring it down with minimal hoopla.

"There's no need to make a spectacle of it," Councilman Bill Newberg said.

Mayor Jeff Griffin said earlier he opposed a big promotion because he didn't want to rub it in the face of those who lost the battle to save the hotel.

"I just want to make sure it's a public process with a safe place

set aside to watch," Councilman David Aiuzzi said.

The Mapes was the first in the nation to house a casino, hotel and entertainment under one roof. Its window-walled Skyroom on the top floor featured some of the biggest names in the entertainment world.

Officials for a San Francisco developer, Nationwide Capital Services, made a late offer in September to refurbish the Mapes. They said they were willing to buy the building, pay off the city's \$2.5 million debt to the former owner, submit plans in four months and begin construction in nine.

But council members said they had waited too long and were moving ahead with the demolition.

The Associated Press

Babbitt pledges no changes for Steens

BURNS — Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt disarmed local groups ready to fight him over federal protection of Steens Mountain, pledging Wednesday there would be no presidential decree creating a national monument.

Babbitt met with Harney County officials, leaders of the Paiute Tribe and members of a citizen advisory board which had recommended against his proposal to create new legislation to provide environmental protection for the mountain that dominates the high desert of southeastern Oregon.

"I expected him to really deliver a mandate," said Harney County Judge Steve Grasty, the county's top elected official. "I was pleasantly surprised and optimistic that we will have a chance to end up with something that

keeps the mountain as those of us who know it appreciate it."

Steens Mountain, a 30-mile long, 9,700-foot tall fault block of basalt, is one of several areas in the West that Babbitt has proposed as worthy of new protections. The mountain is a mix of private and public ownerships.

Environmentalists would like to see the National Park Service take over the publicly owned portions of Steens from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to manage them as wilderness and buy out the grazing permits from cattle ranchers to improve conditions for fish and wildlife.

Many local residents fear that designation as a national monument would draw crowds of visitors that would interfere with their enjoyment of outdoor activities.

Harney County ranchers represented by The Friends of Steens Mountain would like management of the patchwork of private and public lands to stay just the way it is, with BLM continuing to allow 30,000 cow and calf pairs to graze on it each summer.

Babbitt praised the work of the advisory group saying he had little disagreement with the bulk of the recommendations it had made for the future management of the mountain.

Babbitt added that he thought grazing should continue on the mountain, and pledged that there would be no surprises, such as using the Antiquities Act to designate a national monument without going through Congress.

The Associated Press

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