

# BUSINESS

THE ADVOCATE

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

★ Tuesday, July 27, 1998



cents to \$20.52 a

Shire,

bine

berts

nd Shire

Two drug makers

ring and selling

ired. Licensed

ite in the research

n a \$1 billion

he Exton town,

l create a new

radical of such

and continue

ter of the phar-

## Battling papers strike deal in copyright lawsuit

BY WILLIAM PACK

Advocate staff writer

Gambit Weekly Baton Rouge has agreed to settle its copyright violation claim against the monthly newspaper Venue without a monetary penalty, Venue's attorney said Monday.

Attorney Leonard Cardenas III, representing Venue, also said the settlement would not contain any admissions or concessions by either side, if the final agreement coincides with the preliminary agreement the two sides reached.

Advised by the parties that they had reached an agreement in principle, U.S. District Judge Ralph Tyson signed an order Friday provisionally dismissing Gambit's lawsuit.

The judge said the lawsuit could be reopened

The judge said the lawsuit could be reopened within 60 days if a settlement is not concluded.

within 60 days if a settlement is not concluded.

Gambit sued Venue on June 16 contending the monthly newspaper infringed on Gambit's copyright by taking the wording from Gambit's restaurant listings and using it in most of Venue's restaurant listings.

Venue officials have denied they copied Gambit's listings but admitted the wording of their restaurant guide was similar because the restaurants provided much of the content.

Venue agreed in late June to change the wording of its restaurant listings beginning in the July issue.

Gambit Editor and co-owner Clancy Dubos said the settlement represents a compromise in which each side wins and loses some points.

"All sides are satisfied with it and are ready to move forward so both sides can continue publishing," Dubos said.

He declined to discuss details of the settlement because they are not final.

But Dubos said the details would be divulged when the settlement is filed in court, probably within the next few weeks.

The lawsuit was filed just months after each newspaper had published its first edition in Baton Rouge.

Three years ago,

Mortgage rates have been creeping up. The average rate on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage was 7.5 percent in June, up from 7.15 percent in May, according to Freddie Mac, the mortgage company. The rate was 7 percent in June 1998. So far this year, mortgage rates have hit a low of 6.74 percent set at the end of January to a high of 7.71 percent set at the beginning of July.

With mortgage rates up and mortgage loan applications down, some economists expect a slowdown in housing activity. "We believe that home sales have peaked," said Merrill Lynch economist Gerald Cohen. "The backup in interest rates has caused a significant decline in mortgage applications."