

# LAS VEGAS

# SHOWCASE

*Mark Tan*  
IN  
**LAS VEGAS**



**STRIP CHATTER.....ANTHONY "TONY" COSTA**, the musical director at the Union Plaza who does such a great job of re-charting musicals like the current "Sound of Music", "Oklahoma", "Funny Girl", etc. for producer Maynard Sloate, has a special reason for liking the latest production. It's the first time Tony has had to work with his lovely and talented wife, singer Jeannie Costa, since the couple worked together on Donn Arden's spectacular "Pzazz" at the Desert Inn. But how's this for a change-about in casting, in "Pzazz", Mrs. Costa was playing a hooker, in "Sound of Music", she's a nun. Also in "Sound", we find delightful character actress-comedienne-singer VIRGINIA JAEGER back to her role as Mother Abbess a role she's played in many many productions. But Vegas will remember Virginia best and most recently for her Strip outings in "Fanny Hill" and "Flower Drum Song".....CHAPTER ONE, the delicious trio of girls under the tutelage of choreographer JOYCE ROBERTS, are still glowing from their rave reviews from the Waldorf Astoria where the group just closed with headliner SERGIO FRANCHI. Better still, Joyce got word that Chapter One will be joining Sergio when he returns to the Flamingo on May 18, and has been given the task of whipping up a couple of new numbers for her trio including a song and dance number with Sergio. The Chapter - JERI KEAVER, JAME GAMETTE and GREAT FRANCHI - are all local Vegas who have been singing and dancing since they were teenagers. Strawberry blonde Miss Keaver is also quickly gaining a reputation for being a songwriter-composer in addition to her more obvious talents.....Femme Impressionist LYNNE CARTER will open his own hotel-nitery in Provincetown, the 300-year


old famous landmark The Pilgrim House, on May 17. The hotel officially opens its season on June 29 with Lynne headlining in the showroom thru Labor Day.....

**"NOTES FROM ALL OVER.....**Producer-star BRECK WALL ("BOTTOMS UP" opening this week at Harrah's Reno, and on May 4 at the Circus Circus Hippodrome Theater) just back from a week's holiday in New York. Breck visited with DEBBIE REYNOLDS backstage her Broadway smash, "Irene", who sends her many many Vegas friends fondest regards. Debbie returns to Las Vegas, and the Desert Inn, where she is the number one attraction in attendance records, in March of 1974.....The Tropicana plays host to the Second Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament sponsored by the NAACP on May 10-11. The tournament is open to the public; contact local NAACP office & R.J. Robinson for more info.....Happy honeymooning and best wishes to funny lady KAZUKO IJIMA, the giant sized lady dancer who stars in "The Ultra Three" act featured in the "Folies Bergere". Kazuko will marry her San Francisco beau on April 23 and be out of the show for two days for a quick honeymoon.....A distinguished brood of Murray's.....all belonging to current D.I. co-star JAN MURRAY and his lovely Toni, in town to visit the folks and celebrate Seder with Mr. and Mrs. GEORGIE JOHNSTON (TOTIE FIELDS). Jan and Toni's used-to-be tots are WARREN, a television writer and asst. prof at Cal State Northridge, CELIA, a USC senior; HOWARD, a USC cinema major and DIANE, now a Stanford freshman.....TERESA BREWER returns to the Sahara Congo Room with co-headliner FRANK GORSHIN following JOHNNY CARSON'S one-walker; opening April 28.....ENGELBERT, now a sellout as usual, at the Riviera, returns to that hotel for a June 13-July 10 engagement.....PETULA CLARK just closed at Caesars, will be back July 26 for her second of three Strip appearances this year. Petula will also be the December attraction at the Palace.....

**LIFE UPON THE WICKED STAGE.....**The one, and as far as one can tell, THE ONLY, Mr. Television himself, MILTON BERLE, returns to the Vegascene on May 29 opening at the Desert Inn Hotel. Milton was in the midst of taping his guest starring spot on the BOB HOPE SPECIAL (airing April 18) when he got word that BOB NEWHART had to bow out of the late May date to resume his series

tapings. Milton made his D.I. debut a few months ago with ABBE LANE. This time, his lovely costar will be FLORENCE HENDERSON.


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