



TRIPPING AROUND....Olympic decathlon gold medalist BRUCE JENNER has signed with the William Morris office for representation and the office of Rogers and Cowan for publicity. First report out of that camp was that Bruce is up for the title role in "Superman." Even if it's not true, it's a good idea. I just hope that Jenner doesn't end up like MARK SPITZ has. Filthy rich but no career. Wait a minute, is that so bad????...SUSAN ST. JAMES has been signed for her motion picture debut as the lead opposite PETER FONDA in "Outlaw Blues"....LUCILLE BALL made a guest appearance on "The Practice" DANNY THOMAS' NBC series. Lucy played a madcap clairvoyant and they taped the show on Friday the 13th....ALLEN LUDDEN returns to the game show biz as host of "Stumpers" set to debut on NBC, September 27... LESLIE UGGAMS will star in "Roots," ABC's 12 - hour mini series, this year's answer to "Rich Man, Poor Man." RICHARD ROUNDTREE co - stars....ran into SONY BUONO at Southtown, Hollywood's latest in - restaurant. SUZY and he took CHASTITY there to sample owner COCO McVEY's super soul food. The food is great and just up the street is Southtown Barbecue with the yummiest ribs in town, north or south.... BEN GAZZARA replaced ROD STEIGER in the two hour NBC television movie, "Ritchie." Steiger, as you know had emergency open heart surgery and happily is doing wuite well now.



IT'S CAPACITY CROWDS NIGHTLY IN HOTEL SAHARA'S CASBAR THEATRE WITH SIDRO'S ARMADA, FEATURING THE GROUP'S LEADER, SIDRO GARCIA (PICTURED) SHARING THE LOUNGE STAGE WITH THE FAMED NUDE REVUE, PINUPS 76, MID-AFTERNOON ACTION FEATURES PENNY & ANNIE. FREE HORS D'OEUVRES ARE OFFERED DAILY BETWEEN 4 AND 7 P.M.

"Ritchie" is about a 16 year old drug addict played by ROBBY BENSON (Ode to Billy Joe.) EILEEN BRENNAN plays the mother....YUL BRYNNER cancelled his appearance here in Los Angeles in "Othello" because of a viral throat infection which is still bothering him. He plans to finish his summer tour in "The King and I" and then spend some time recuperating...looks like there will now be two "Casanova" films coming out. FELLINI is still editing his version and now TONY CURTIS and URSULA ANDRESS have been signed for the other....RICHARD CARUSO has returned to the China Trader out in Burbank and as usual is captivating both critics and audiences and across town, ANN DEE has taken over and I mean taken over Studio One for "A Love Project." And isn't there a

producer at ABC that is seriously eyeing the two of them for a 1977 summer replacement show? It's about time those two got the recognition they deserve.....GEORGE SEGAL is the first "name" announced for "Rollercoaster", Universal's latest disaster movie. It's bound to be a movie with a lot of ups and downs. OUCH! Someone just kicked me....ALLYN/LUNNER PRODUCTIONS has set JAMES KIRKWOOD (A Chorus Line author) to script their remake of "To Be or Not To Be." MEL BROOKS and ANNE BANCROFT will do the JACK BENNY/CAROLE LOMBARD roles. Next on the Allyn/Lunner slate is a remake of "Old Acquaintance" which starred BETTE DAVIS and MIRIAM HOPKINS. "To Be" deal is for Fox and "Acquaintance" is at Universal....speaking of Universal and remakes, I went to the Vagabond Theatre to see the 1943 remake of "The Phantom of the Opera" and met SUSANNA FOSTER. She was the guest of owner TOM COOPER and she answered questions from the audience following the film. She looks great but says she only sings in the shower now. It was a pleasure to meet her. Cooper, by the way, is doing great business with his policy of showing new 35 mm prints of classic movies. This weekend, I had an orgy (of films) in his theatre. Saturday, I saw BETTY GRABLE in "Wabash Avenue" and JEANNE CRAIN & DANA ANDREWS in "State Fair" and Sunday, "Weekend in Havana" with ALICE FAYE, CARMEN MIRANDA, JOHN PAYNE & CESAR ROMERO and "Three Little Girls in Blue" with JUNE HAVER, VIVIAN BLAINE & VERA-ELLEN. Now that's entertainment! Theatre has also been attracting lots of celebs like DON KNOTTS, LUCILLE BENSON, JEAN HAGEN, KATHRYN GRAYSON, BEATRICE KAY, IAN WHITCOMB, JUDY CANOVA, JACK OAKIE and lots more...on the new movie beat, "Silent Movie" is certainly one of the funniest films out this year. As in any MEL BROOKS movie, there are some questionable lapses of taste but also in any Brooks you will laugh yourself sick. DOM DE LOUISE and MARTY FELDMAN plays Brooks' aides as he goes around Hollywood trying to get big stars to appear in his silent film.

And on that happy note, I take leave. Play some happy notes in your life this week.

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