

# LAS VEGAS SHOW EAST

## Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

The media will enjoy at least one aspect of the JOHNNY CARSON - ED NIGRO takeover of the Aladdin -- if and when. The something different will be Carson's press conferences. The one last week announcing the pair's step toward acquisition of the hapless resort found Carson in fine fettle answering reporter's questions via phone. I asked Johnny about his Sahara contract and if he was going to play the Aladdin. Replied Johnny, "Well, the only contract I ever had with the Sahara was a handshake deal. I'll play there next month because I have a commitment. As soon as we update our showroom at the Aladdin -- as soon as possible. That was one of the things that both Ed and I agreed, the room should be redone as soon as we can do it. And of course then I'll play there." Earlier, when someone asked what the entertainment policy would be, Carson replied, "First, we're going to get the 1980 Olympics and then we'll stage World War Three." He said the Aladdin chores would not interfere with his "To-

night Show" appearances. The final question posed was what financial hardship did Carson see ahead. "Well," quipped JC, "We plan to sell Ed's house, and his car. I told him he could keep one suit. Otherwise, we'll sell everything he has."

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As a member of the Meadows Playhouse advisory board, I was requested to use my juice among name male performers to find a BARNEY CASHMAN for NEIL SIMON'S "Last of the Red Hot Lovers," now on the boards through May 17. After attempting to get DON KNOTTS, TOM POSTON, AVERY SCHREIBER, TED KNIGHT and even TOMMY LASORDA on the phone, I did get through to MARTY ALLAN and JAN MURRAY, Allen in person and Murray on the horn between his Sahara Casbar shows. Well, my juice -- forget it. The point is, all of the effort, if successful, could not have brought in a better BARNEY CASHMAN than Las Vegas VIC VALLARO. His three femme partners in the typical Simon yickity - yockita are all engaging -- MARGARET FLORES as Elaine, ARLENE PEIKOFF as the weirdo Bobbi Michelle and MARYAN STEPHENS, broken arm and all, playing the frumpy Jeanette Fisher. Maryan busted her left wing in the previous production, "Diary of Anne Frank" and artistic director JOAN SNYDER jumped in mid - act and finished the play. At's showbiz!

Since his smashing comedy role is "Just Tell Me What You Want," ALAN KING has made inroads into the Hollywood upper echelon as witness the studio spectators at his recent annual tennis tourney at Caesars Palace. Applauders in the stands were SHERRY LANSING and ALAN HIRSCHFELD of 20th, former Vegan MERV ADELSON and DAVID PICKEN of Lorimar and FRED GOLDBERG of ABC along with such piquant picstars and celebs as FARRAH FAWCETT, DUDLEY MOORE, SUSAN ANTON, ALAN & MARILYN BERGMAN, BERRY GORDY (also visiting DIANA ROSS headlining in the Circus Maximum), DICK VAN PATTEN (cheering son Vincent in the tourney), RUPERT HITZIG, NEIL SIMON, WAYNE ROGERS, RON ELY, FRANCO HARRIS, LYNN SEANN, OLEG CASSINI, ELI WALLACH, ANN JACKSON just at a quick glance....Culinary Union dissidents ROBERT LANYON and BILL CAHALL tossed a fund - raising luncheon dinner at the Maxim to underwrite legal costs of fighting the big Local 226 bosses....Ah - ha! Metro police detectives say some prominent Vegas businessmen may be buying stolen merchandise as burglaries reach an all - time high.

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PHILIP MC KINLEY & JUDY BRENNER sing and tinkle the piano in Meadows Playhouse new bistro adjacent to the lobby. Liberace donated the piano. Lee and a host of other Vegas headliners including JULIET PROWSE



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