

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE

Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

LIBERACE moves down from the Sahara Tahoe to the Las Vegas Hilton for his June 15th final stand in that showroom before the advent of "Moulin Rouge" Sept. 1...LEE is box office champ at the Hilton...So, where's TONY BENNETT, onetime top headliner on the Strip, the fellow who signed a "lifetime" contract with Caesars Palace? You'll find him warbling in Honolulu's NBC Theatre next Saturday and a week later hitting all the faves in Toronto's Ontario Place...Spacey artist PAUL FARKAS opens his exhibit of far - out galaxies and sci-fi illustrations Monday at Charleston Heights Arts Center. Also showing in conjunction with PF's show are dox "The Making of Star Wars" and "The Making of The Empire Strikes Back"... Karate freaks can congregate at the Tropicana next Saturday for a special world championship knock - out event at 3 p.m. in the Sports Complex featuring WKA World Heavy Champ JIM WALKER va PKA World Heavy Champ DEMETRIUS "OAKTREE" EDWARDS...Looking ahead in the Sahara's Casbar after current BILL PINKNEY & ORIGINAL DRIFTERS are SIDRO'S ARMADA docking on the 14th and SUPER GOLD on the 21st...Posh affair upcoming at Las Vegas Country Club on the 21st will spot friends of "LAS OPERA VEGAS" and music director JAMES P. SULLIVAN in an evening of opera excerpts in "A Midsummer Night's Song," but expect to shell out \$50, with \$25 deductible... BILL NORVAS is writing special material for KEELY SMITH'S "coming home" at Top 'O the Dunes Monday night with GUS MANCUSO musical director...Quote BOB ARNO, comedy pickpocket in the Aladdin's 'C'est Magnifique," People say the most surprising things while I'm passing through the audience! One couple whispered, 'I've got drugs in my pocket -- please don't pull them out' while another said, 'I'm not with my wife, don't get me up on stage' Those addicted to watching arm wrestling will get their fix Saturday at Imperial

Palace when 32 big bruisers of pro football will grunt & groan in a TV taping. Men to beat are last year's champs, SCOTT STUDWELL & JIM HOUGH of the Minnesota Vikings. It's called the "Jeno's NFL Super Classic V"... Same day at Imperial Palace, RED McILVAINE emcees March of Dimes anni Award Dinner. RED hosted the highly successful MofD Telethon not long ago.

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Caesars Palace chairman CLIFF PERLMAN'S quote to Nevada Banking Association members at the Desert Inn "The greatest threat to Las Vegas is the legalization of casino gambling in other resort areas" was softened with his prediction "The status quo in the gaming business will remain for at least five years which will be a great benefit to us." He said special events were the savior for Caesars Palace. For instance, the LARRY HOLMES-GERRY COONEY fight June 11 will have the largest live gate of any sports event, more than \$8,000,000 with 32,000 tickets sold at \$250 each...Lesser special event at CP is the \$200,000 World Series of Tavern Pool sponsored by Lite Beer with Lite's all-star STEVE MIZARAK, member of Billiards Hall of Fame, hosting the nine - day event which started Tuesday, pulling 7-800 for national finals...PAUL ANKA'S set - to with Customs and Fed Court trying to whisk his luggage through McCarran Airport without inspections brought on "regrets, I've had a few" from his tune "My Way" and no choruses of "Jubilation." Judge HARRY CLAIBORNE ordered PA to donate \$25,000 to charity, so he handed over a check to the DA's Victim Witness program...Helldorado parade down-Strip from the Fashion Show to Convention Center was enlivened by grand marshals SIEGFRIED & ROY and Queen KAREN SMITH and 125 floats. Talk about special events, Neiman Marcus & radio KRAM are pulling off "Armadillo Rodeo Finals" Saturday at high noon in Fashion Show Mall -- for free.

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SIEGFRIED & ROY, looking fit after a month's vacation, returned to their SRO "Beyond Belief" at the Frontier Tuesday...SEG bout with ERIK ESTRADA over using union extras and Sands picketing "Honeyboy" was a partial victory thanks to SEG council members BOB BARRETT, exec chairman, LOIS SILVER, KAREN LAVONNE, BARRY LEVIN, MILICENT LLOYD, MOLLY PARKS and members LESIA OLIVIER, JACK CHANDLER and J. CARLTON ADAIR... "KELLY MONTEITH," the award-winning BBC11 vidseries the comedian wrote and starred in has been leased to RC Cable net. Initial U.S. airing of the three-year series begins June 4 while KELLY is in Blighty filming shows for the fourth year.

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ANN-MARGRET takes on a fortnight this trip to Caesars Palace...RICH LITTLE & LYNDA CARTER do their doubler at MGM Grand with teaming again in August...Another change in marquee at the Riviera finds BUDDY HACKETT & ABBE LANE for a frame, a repeater from their combo a few weeks ago...Sahara has brought back dinner shows in the main showroom with "Burlesque Scandals" starring MURRAY LANGSTON...TONY D'ANDREA is JOEY HEATHERTON'S comedy warmer-upper in the Tropicana's Fountain Theatre...L.V. Family Counseling Service and L.V. Jazz Society sponsor organist JIMMY SMITH with his Quartet and the JIM TRIMBLE orch Sunday aft in concert June 13 at the Hacienda...JEAN-LUC PONTY arrived Wednesday in UNLV's Ham Hall with special guest DENNY DENT & the TWO-FISTED ART ATTACK for a one-nighter.

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