

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE



(LADY) ESTHER LYNN COHEN, whose Sunday salon at Spectrum gallery in LIBERACE PLAZA is one of those must-attend affairs, is a most observant seer and savant of the Las Vegas whirl. It was she who reminded me about tooting my horn concerning an oddball WILLARD sculpture on exhibit at Spectrum titled "Dylan's Dream." Its a carved plaster head with superimposed graphics and on its initial statewide tour had no title, but carried the well-known numbers of "007" . . . Naturally a visit to LADY ESTHER would prompt a drop-in couple of doors away to ruminate along with the good jazz at LONEY's, which is another must-attend on Sunday aft. LOONEY's even gets some interested strays from the busloads of tourists visiting the LIBERACE MUSEUM . . . The outdoorsey set is getting its amusement in May when the 2nd anni Elks Helldorado Trailride gallops from Pahrump's rodeo grounds. Union Plaza PR director FRANK

MAGGIO, who sent forth this edict, "Work your horse, oil your leather and get plenty of exercise!" is stirring up plenty of interest for the three-day saddle event which winds up joining the Helldorado Parade behind the famous Horseshoe Club Stagecoach . . . Last November I was intrigued by BRIGHDE MULLINS' play, "The Last Ugly Man in Amerika," in UNLV's Black Box Theatre, which brought UNLV senior MULLINS a national finalist selection for the DAVID LIBRARY PLAYWRITING AWARD, sponsored by American College Theater Festival. JERRY CRAWFORD, prof of theater arts at UNLV encouraged her in writing the play which deals with the Vietnam War and its effect on people. MULLINS' father is a Vietnam vet and retired Marine and that influence also was profound. "When I began writing the play, I was thinking about how someone might feel before he had to leave for Vietnam," she explained. MULLINS has written three more plays since "The Last Ugly Man in Amerika," and writes poetry. She graduates from UNLV in May with a bachelor's degree in English and plenty of personal experience in the theater. MULLINS' play was not chosen by noted EZRA STONE in the ACTF competition, which may have prompted her remark, "I don't know if I'm a writer. I might be more useful in the Peace Corps." But BRIGHDE is a writer and a good

one and teaching children in underdeveloped countries as a Peace Corps volunteer would add lustre to the already expansive mind of this most unusual, sensitive and young playwright. But whether she joins the Corps or earns her masters degree at Washington U. in Seattle, it has been a pleasure observing this splendid talent in our midst.

★★★★★

The lusty choruses of Gilbert & Sullivan will resound March 30 - April 1 in UNLV's Judy Bayley Theatre as "Iolanthe" is slated to attract the many G&S buffs in the community. Produced by UNLV's Opera Theatre, "Iolanthe" will be sung by JAN STEARMAN, with BUD STEPHEN playing the Lord Chancellor. LOUISE SCHWER handles the comic role of Queen of the Fairies as CAROL PAULSEN & DEL DOTY portray the lovers Phyllis & Steven. Opera Theatre founder CAROL KIMBALL tabbed REGINA DOTY & GEORGE SKIPWORTH as "Iolanthe" directors. NEVADA YOUTH BALLET is also featured under direction of DOLLY RIDDERPLAAT . . . The Sands Copa Room again gets a splashing with return of GALLAGHER Friday through April 1. After cleaning out the watermelon rinds and seeds the room readies for WOODY HERMAN, FOUR FRESHMEN & PETE BARBUTTI opening on the 2nd for a week. TOMMY BELL has taken over the lounge with his country stylings along with the familiar harmonies of the LIMELITERS until DIAMONDHEAD returns next Tuesday . . . In the Flamingo Hilton's Casino lounge, POWER PLAY alternates with JOHN WILLS group, with POWER PLAY exiting Tuesday for ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE . . . Since the Sahara has gone Egyptian decor, there will be the first major showing of artist WILLIAM VERDULT's "King Tut Exhibit" March 25 - April 2 in the convention center. In the Sahara's food dept., ROBERTA JOHNSON is now

IRVIN FELD and KENNETH FELD present



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HOTEL/CASINO

"Lover's Leap" At Union Plaza

It's been said about show business that everybody wants to get into the act. In the current hit comedy at the Union Plaza Hotel, "Lover's Leap," it seems that it has to be said that here everybody wants to get out on the window ledge.

That's right. In this funny play almost all of the six very clever performers get out on a window ledge to conduct some part of his or her affair.

Getting into such a position is not that easy to do, especially when the window ledge is 17 stories above the city.

The hilarious Maynard Sloate production can be seen twice nightly at an 8:00 p.m. dinner and an 11:45 p.m. cocktail show.

"Lover's Leap," was written by Bill Daily, the successful actor and writer for the "The Bob Newhart Show."

This zany story by playwright Daily centers (Continued on page 14)