

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE

Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

KAREN NELSON BELL wrote one of those stupendous glory anthems, "Heroes of the Sky" to commemorate the deaths of the Challenger astronauts and quickly assembled a group of 40 people to sing the song at Powerhouse Recording Studio on Feb. 3. The anthem was sent to all the families of the astronauts, to PRESIDENT REAGAN and NASA. She sent me a tape and wanted me to plug the endeavor. As much as I feel sorry for all those killed in action for one cause or another, I cannot single out this particular incident. After the intense orgy of grief, the trauma will diminish in the weeks ahead. But the blow-up that consumed Challenger will raise serious questions about the fallability of the Star Wars or Strategic Defense Initiative plan. REAGAN is stepping up his personal hype campaign along with the techno-freaks and media

hacks to convince shovers and makers in the U.S. that it is logically possible and mechanically feasible to laser-zap our way into world defense supremacy and national security. But now, anyone looking at the scheme straight on with no blinders, can see the misfire rate will be as parlous as the shuttles or will be, as someone said, "an engine of national suicide." That same someone writing in the national publication, "The Nation," editorialized: "S.D.I. is no more a miracle shield than the shuttle is a vehicle for space exploration. Sensors explore, astronauts tinker. One launch of the unmanned Voyager has produced more exploratory science than twenty-four shuttles. Both Star Wars and the manned shuttle program are major military projects, lucrative corporate boondoggles and serious efforts in public relations and self promotion for NASA. The tragedy is that it cost seven lives to reveal the scam." I've been saying that for some time. The recent tragedy cinched it. So, to KAREN and her singers, sorry. Create a song about the nefarious NASA scam and I'll plug it.



RED BUTTONS, who will be appearing with FRANK SINATRA at the Golden Nugget next Friday and Saturday, has a funny routine in his act about "No one ever gave me a dinner" and lists people in history who have never been given a dinner. Perhaps GN boss STEVE WYNN will correct the oversight and give BUTTONS a buffet...A change in lead fem singers for the Maxim's "Playboy's Girls of Rock & Roll," returns DEBRA RAYE and former Clark HS grad MICHELLE ROHL to the fold with one of my faves, luscious MONE SWANN, held over...After her Carnegie Hall sell-out concert and socko tour, PIA ZADORA will be localizing, particularly in L.A., when she sings for the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation benefit March 15 at the Beverly

Hilton. SID CAESAR will present NORMAN COUSINS with the Humanitarian Award...Theater goers will welcome MARSHA NORMAN's Pulitzer prize-winning drama "night, Mother," directed by BRIAN STROM at Community College Theater this weekend and next with final perf on the 22nd, a matinee. Also this weekend finds MICHAEL McCLURE's "The Beard" and SAMUAL BECKETT's "Play," by Theatre Exposed opening Friday at the company's new seasonal home, the I.A.T.S.E. Local 720 Hall, 3000 So. Valley View Blvd. through March 3. Theatre Exposed has dropped its general admission price to \$5...A body of mine in Armed Forces Radio Service in Hollywood during and pre-WW2, LARRY GELBART, wrote "A Funny Thing Happened On the Way To the Forum" with collaborator BURT SHEVELOVE, with newcomer STEPHEN SONDEHEIM's music, a 1962-63 Broadway hit staged by GEORGE ABOTT. The musical is now playing at Union Plaza. GELBART will stage "AFTHOTWTF" a London revival starring English comic FRANKIE HOWARD in October after the anni drama festival at Chichester, Sussex, and short road tour. If you miss "AFTHOTWTF" here, you know where to catch it...In the Union Plaza's Omaha Lounge look for the ROYAL DIXIE JAZZ BAND afternoons from 2 to 8 p.m., then the SUNSPOTS from 9 to 3 a.m....Comic JOEY VILLA moves into JEFF KUTASH's "Spash" at the Riviera Thursday as the 5th DIMENSION sail away on the S.S. Norway cruise ship to "Splash" down again March 13 for another month. In the Riv's LeBistro lounge, TOM CHRISTI is ensconced again through March.

Just In Time For Valentine's Day - "Mixed Doubles" At The Imperial Palace



JOE PALMAROZZO, Manager of the Poker Room at the Imperial Palace, signs up Jean and John Norton for his new "Mixed Doubles" tournament Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Jean and John each paid \$12 to buy in to the 1st tournament, recently.

Roses are red, violets are blue, She loves to play poker, and you do, too! Football season is over, Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and Joe Palmarozzo wants to see more couples in his card room at the Imperial Palace.

"We had a ladies-only tournament Monday evening during football season," Joe says, "but now we're starting a new 'Mixed Doubles' tournament for couples. Buy-in is \$12 per person."

Registration is 6 p.m. Mondays and the game starts at 7 p.m.

So if you're looking for the perfect gift for the man or woman who has everything, give your sweetheart a buy-in for the "Mixed Doubles" Tournament. It just might be the gift that keeps on giving!

Paddlewheel Goes Live!



The CHOCOLATE BUTTERMILK BAND "churns it up" in the PADDLEWHEEL's Americana Lounge, Wednesday through Sunday, from 8 P.M. to 1 A.M. (L-R) Sam Cox, John Shipley & Ronnie Rathers.

Live entertainment in THE PADDLEWHEEL AMERICANA LOUNGE. Launching the new policy is The Chocolate Buttermilk Band, featuring John Shipley, Ronnie Rathers and Sam Cox.

Located at 305 Convention Center Drive, THE PADDLEWHEEL is primarily noted for its Family Entertainment Center and pizza. With the recent opening of the Captain's Country Kitchen restaurant, plus the new lounge, THE PADDLEWHEEL now offers something for everyone.

The Chocolate Buttermilk Band will perform Wednesday through Sunday, from 8 P.M. to 1 A.M., through February 22.

EL CORTEZ HOTEL & CASINO

\$375,000 SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER CONTEST

WINNERS NEED NOT BE PRESENT

FREE REGISTRATION
9 a.m. - Midnight Daily

TWO FREE \$50,000 CASH DRAWINGS DAILY

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As long as supply lasts No minors, please

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