

OF THE STARS

Take stock in America.



HUGHES would have moved heaven & earth & money to stop a movie titled "Flight of the Spruce Goose." It's a love story filmed in all places, Pittsburgh, but the boy and girl drive to Hollywood and tour the Spruce Goose airplane in Long Beach and start their dreams of a new life. It seems the Spruce Goose, which flew once (briefly), is analagous to the plot. It stars DAN O'SHEA & JENNIFER RUNYON. These two names alone should ensure millions crowding popcorn stands across the land...Come Sunday producer/director SANDY ZIMMERMAN shows her travel docu featuring Bryce, Zion & Grand canyons, commissioned by National Parks, all of the screening poolside or inside the Airport Inn Suite 81.

★★★★★

The Sahara is prepping a DON RICKLES fest next week after his opening on the 24th with Showtime shooting a spec in the Congo Room titled "Rickles on the Loose." Slated for the aft of Thursday the 26th, so far BILL COSBY, NELL CARTER, FRANK SINATRA JR. and DR. RUTH WESTHEIMER are celebs on the guest list. It's a freebie for the public and the 700 seats are expected to be filled in minutes after doors open around noon. RICKLES' family friend FRANK SINATRA JR. opens with the lovable snarler, a five nighter. Before Eddie Murphy windup of his Las Vegas Hilton two-nighter, he dropped by for some chats and joke-trading with Sammy Davis Jr. at the Desert Inn. Feeling dressy, Murphy put on his new tux, only to find the DI's maitre d', John Lopez, wearing the same outre design, black strip silk on black. A photog was called in

to record the sartorial similarity event for posterity...New pro football "Super Classic IX" team arm wrestling champs are WOODY BENNETT and MIKE CHARLES of the Miami Dolphins. The joust held at Imperial Palace, taped by ESPN for September release, was promoted by TONY CELESTE, prez of Arm Wrestling International (AWI). Guess the sponsor -- Myoflex Pain Relief Rub!

★★★★★

It's a long termer for Wayne Newton at Bally's Grand, closing just before the July 4 holiday span, then TOM JONES & GEORGE WALLACE and their pyrotechnics rocket for a fortnight...A UNLV survey shows that the typical Las Vegan would rather watch video and movies than gamble. S'fact, localites spend their leisure time camping, shopping and fishing rather than at casino tables and games....DAVID COPPERFIELD restructures his Great Wall of China walk-through with a huge steel plate onstage at Caesars Palace starting Wednesday until the end of the month.

★★★★★

The Polynesian Hotel, sans gambling and some months ago hyped as a gay resort, will open an ice show with rehearsals underway this week. Incidentally, y'all remember the gay proposition was killed...The other non-gambling resort, Alexis Park, spots comedian DAVE SWAN

with the NANCY COLLIER TRIO Sunday nights. SWAN, "clown prince of Wales," doubles from Imperial Palace and "Legends In Concert" other nights...MITZI SHORE brought in a quintet of MIKE BINDER, JANICE HART, JIMMY WALKER, DANNY STONE and FINIS HENDERSON for this week's Comedy Store at the Dunes...Meanwhile down-Strip rival BUDD FRIEDMAN plans a gala Hollywood contingent to kick-off his Dallas Improv franchise July 15. At the Vegas Riviera Improv his week's quartet has THE FUNNY BOYS, CHARLES ZUKOR, FRED WOLF and KAN KARAM for the funny stuff through Sunday...FRANK SINATRA JR. bowed for the Van Dells at the Four Queens last Sunday night, but is on standby for his DON RICKLES' Sahara date next week. This week, ALAN GRANT's Monday Night Jazz in the Queens' French Quarter combined LEW TABACKIN, sax and flute with trombonist CARL FONTANA. Next Monday, fellow tram wonder BILL WATROUS joins FONTANA for some wild jazz.

★★★★★

Legit theater stays on at Community College with West Coast Experimental Theater in association with CC Theater mounting WILLY RUSSELL's comedy, "Educating Rita," with CYNTHIA A. CASEY and ROBERT D. DUNKERLY, directed by BARBARA M. BRENNAN, long weekends through the 28th...JUICE NEWTON & MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY take the highroad from the Hilton Thursday with JAMES BROWN dancing in on Friday for a three-nighter. Then RODNEY DANGERFIELD explodes the showroom until the end of the month...PAUL ANKA, who danced with NANCY REAGAN at the White House wearing JUDI WOLFE's dancing pumps, tends to singing sans dancing pumps this week opening Thursday at the Golden Nugget Cabaret. They're gonna tear down the intimate Cabaret for more casino space, meanwhile building an 800-seater in the new tower.

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