

LAS VEGAS

SHOWBOAT

Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

About two months ago after delivering a talk before the NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY in Reno about what entertainment has contributed to the image of Nevada, I met with old acquaintance JIM HULSE. He was there with artist RICHARD GUY WALTON, getting a load of my speech. HULSE mentioned his book just published titled "Forty Years in the Wilderness," but the meeting being over, we didn't have time to talk about it. Seems that the book has been subject of articles around the state, even a Review-Journal editorial. A few thoughts in the book parallel my own opinions of local entertainment's downfall, one of the subjects explored in depth in my talk. HULSE described Nevada as an "institutional HOWARD HUGHES," noting that within the swelling influx of corporate power, "state leaders have become imprisoned by the darkness of the gambling economy." What HULSE advocates is a "Sagebrush Alliance" containing citizens of moral fiber who will begin and continue to assert authority with purposeful striving to create a Nevada not so heavily dependent upon gambling. "For too long they (Nevadans) have left the moral as well as the legal questions to

the politicians and bureaucrats, who have proven over the decades the Jeffersonian principle that they are not good custodians of social conscience for very long." I advocate FISTS ACROSS NEVADA to knock out these political incompetents before they tear apart our moral fiber further. Then, after this success, there will be FISTS ACROSS AMERICA. Now, won't that do a lot of good, save a ton of money spent foolishly, as well as satisfying America's craving for violence?

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The Stardust hotel-casino is sending up firecrackers throughout July 4th holiday span to celebrate its 28th anniversary. Drawing for a 1958 Chevy Impala in mint condition (the hotel opened in '58) will take place July 5. This restored job is said to be worth \$20,000, but if the Impala doesn't suit the winner's fancy, there is the alternate 8-day, 7-night vacation for two at Hilton's Hawaiian Village on Waikiki Beach, round-trip air fare plus \$500 cash, all tips, City Punch Bowl Tour and 24-hour use of a rental car to drive 'round and 'round Oahu...The Maxim is going full tilt afternoons as well as nights, those late night sessions gaining a reputation for being

the late, late dance spot of Vegas with the BAD BOYS & SIDRO'S ARMADA. JAY RAMSEY rumpages from 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. In the afternoons, cute 18-year-old country chirp TAMMY GRAHAM dishes up some crossover tunes as well. Note also that JUNE POLISTICO & VALENTINO alternate with SIDRO's ARMADA when the BAD BOYS vanish...The Showboat draws a fight crowd along with the bowlers. Witness the upcoming July 13 TOP RANK 10-round event nationally televised (CBS) between former World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight champ MILTON McCORRY challenging No. 6-rated middleweight DOUG DeWITT. The card begins at 1 in the aft in the Showboat Sports Pavilion. Wrestling at the 'Boat will have big holiday weekend fireworks on July 5 sporting some slambang tag team bouts sponsored by AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION. Bowlers who flock to the 'Boat, and there are a lot of flockers, will find the world's richest and most popular magabuck bowling event, THE HIGH ROLLER from July 5 through July 9. Some 1,000 bowlers throughout the U.S. will compete for a purse of nearly \$1 million with 1st prize of at least \$200,000 in this 5th anni tourney...

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It's Kool At Caesars Palace July 9 - 14

Kool & The Gang return to the Caesars Palace Circus Maximus Showroom July 9-14 as part of a multi-city U. S.

tour. The tour extends into the fall, when their new album, as yet unnamed, will be released.

Influenced greatly by the music of such jazz luminaries as John Coltrane and McCoy Tyner, Kool and most of the future members of "The Gang" formed a band called the Jazziacs in the mid '60s. It wasn't too long before the Jazziacs started heading in the direction of rhythm and blues. By 1969, the group took on the new name of Kool & The Gang and graduated into the world of pop music. Their gold singles such as "Jungle Boogie" and "Hollywood Swinging" established the group as one of America's foremost party bands in the 1970s.

Vocalist J. T. Taylor brought the group a new, softer sound first heard on the platinum albums "Ladies' Night," "Celebrate" and "Something Special." Their latest album "Emergency," featured four top-forty singles, including "Cherish," "Emergency," "Misled" and "Fresh." The album brought a host of accolades, including an award as Top Black Artists of 1985 by "Billboard Magazine." They also won two 1986 American Music Awards.



"Billboard" reported that the group had more number one rhythm-and-blues singles in the 1980s than any other artists.

Joining Kool & The Gang at Caesars Palace will be comedian Jeff Altman. Altman, seen most recently as guest on "Late Night with David Letterman" and in two episodes of the "New Love American Style," was known as the "campus crazy" during his college days at John Hopkins University. A veteran of television, movies, commercials and stage, Jeff creates memorable characters, such as prize fighter

Leonard Moon, and uses impressions and clever observations to keep audiences entertained.

Kool & The Gang and Jeff Altman will be appearing in cocktail shows nightly, July 9-14. For reservations, telephone the Caesars Palace Circus Maximus Showroom (702) 731-7333 or (800) 454-4544 (outside Nevada, within the U.S.).

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