

OF THE **STARS** ★

MICHAEL SKINNER drop by your table and amaze you with his sleight of hand with cards, the old shell trick and other fantastiks...JOE GUERCIO vanished from his entertainment consultant post at the L. V. Hilton. TERRY LITTLE was upped to that prestigious position aided by BARBARA KELLY. She was at one time major domo for the late WALTER KANE for the Sands and other Summa Corp. entertainment bookings...The cameras were busy at the Tropicana lensing a Cinemax special "Viva Shaf Vegas," starring PAUL SHAFFER, music conductor for the DAVID LETTERMAN NBC show to be shown sometime next year on Cinemax...Sudden thought: Do you suppose that if the Administration used CONTRA-CEPTIVES, this current scandalous Caesarian operation wouldn't have been born?...Special invite arrived for the MITZI SHORE COMEDY STORE press opening party come Monday at the Sheraton Premiere Hotel in Universal City where a similar format of standup comedians will be on the boards as the Dunes' Comedy Store. Opening acts for the Premiere will be TAMAYO OTSUKI & FINIS HENDERSON through New Year's Eve. This is the fourth in MITZI's Comedy Store chain. The Dunes comedy lineup beginning Friday includes TOM WILSON, JANICE HART, DAVE TYREE, BLAKE CLARK & HARRY BASIL through New Year's Eve...Another posh invite arrives, this one for SAMMY DAVIS JR.'s black tie celebration dinner show at the Holiday Inn Center Strip. The affair on Jan. 16 marks the official opening of the new casino expansion and kick-off of Harrah's 50th anni.

BUDD FRIEDMAN's anni Xmas party at his Improv Club on Melrose Ave. in West Hollywood last Thursday was a crush of celebs and pals of the FRIEDMAN comedy clan, described as a party-goer as THE PARTY to be invited to in Hollywood. Seen munching at the lavish sideboards, or gabbing amid the swarm were GENE NORMAN (he asked about his former partner MAYNARD SLOATE when they owned and operated the CRESENDO on the Sunset Strip), ROSEANN BARR, BYRON ALLEN, FRED WILLARD, MARK LONOWA (an Improv partner), CHUCK McCANN, PAT McCORMACK, RUTH BUZZY, OLGA SAN JUAN, GARY BELKIN (another Improv partner), DICK SHAWN, BILLY BERLE (UNCLE MILTIE's son), BARRY NEWMAN, ZELDON ZOLLOSHITZ, BUD ROBINSON (DOC SEVERINSEN's personal manager now enthusing with a stable of young upcoming actors, some present including his son DANNY, MARK SADALLE, ALAN CAMPBELL, RICK PODELL, ALLAN KAYSER, B.L. COLLINS, also JOHNNY DARK and WILL SHRINER who were due to arrive sometime during the party), LOIS NETTLETON, JACK CARTER, MAUREEN MURPHY, DAVID STEINBERG & MAX ANDERSON. ANDERSON's overflowing party presence is nudging outer confines of the Riviera's Improv stage this week along with TOMMY SLEDGE, RICK ROCKWELL & SANDY HACKETT.



MARY ANDERSON, who was the youngest columnist on Las Vegas publications a few years

ago and later handled press for impressionist JIM BAILEY, is now exec director of National Academy of Video Arts & Sciences. She'll be coordinating honor plaques for ABC's "American Video Awards" in the Spring...AF-TERBURNER, the localite jazz/fusion/rock band among our midst some time back, returned Tuesday at Botany's for a special Xmas party under aegis of AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF JAZZ...Every holiday span, RALPH & BETTY ENGELSTAD open up their Imperial Palace Hotel for the GOLDEN GANG, local senior citizens, two groups of around 750 each. Their 5th anni party was held on the 14th and featured "Legends in Concert" show. With cast members, led by the show's producer/director JOHN STUART, carols were sung during the banquet in the Royal Halls...DARWIN's MIDNIGHT MAGIC CLUB holds its hocus pocus meetings of pro and amateur magicians from all over the world at Bourbon Street every Wednesday night. Says GARY DARWIN, founder & club leader, "We have no dues or formality, just as long as you like to watch, perform, enjoy, or wish to learn magic, you are welcome to the club." DAVID COPPERFIELD, SIEGFRIED & ROY, BLACKSTONE and many other legerdemainists have dropped by around midnight...Before the end of this column arrives, let me wish everyone a profound and lustrous HANUKKAH or XMAS or WHATEVER YOU CELEBRATE THIS TIME OF YEAR, also a most phosphorescent NEW YEAR 1987. And now the column is concluded. Aren't you glad you stayed to THE END?

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Planning is now underway for the Champagne Inaugural Ball honoring Nevada Governor Richard H. Bryan and First Lady Bonnie Bryan to be held at the Las Vegas Hilton Center on January 16, 1987.

For ticket information, please call 733-1986.



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