

OF THE STARS' ★

Take stock in America. 

HYSTERIA slot machine tourney March 29-31. This new promo is coming off the madness of the Flamingo's BLACKJACK FEVER, one of the first casino tourneys to be held in years, won by CHARLES HARKEY of Atlanta, Georgia, who pocketed 1st prize of \$33,516...BOB STUPAK denies he switched his Vegas World showroom to a clone of City Hall Council Chamber just in case he might take a shot for L.V. Mayor vs. RON LURIE, TOM WIESNER, THALIA DONDERO and/or other ego-trippers.

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Numero Uno media event, Star of the Strip and the entire city last week was the big bird Concorde, landing at McCarran International Airport only 159 minutes after leaving Honolulu. SIEGFRIED & RAY from the Frontier and cast member DOUG GARDINER of the Flamingo Hilton's "City Lites," plus glittery feathered showgirl CONNIE MORRILL greeted 100 passengers touching down in the continental U.S. after Cairo, Delhi, Singapore, Bali, Sydney, Fiji and the Honolulu stopover. The round-the-world flight was a special one put together by Kuoni Travel Ltd. of Great Britain at \$27,000 per person...Another highly hyped star was a young Phoenix college student, who, on a borrowed \$100 playing his last three coins, hit \$1,077,777 jackpot at Caesars Palace...Another off-Strip hotel-casino, 100-room Arizona Charlie's, costing \$20,000,000 is set for Spring construction startup in a

suburban area West of the downtown area on Decatur Ave., targeted to open for the late 1988 holiday season...PAUL LOWDEN, Sahara's top panjandram, sent out choice invites to attend a presentation of ANDY WARHOL's original graphics edition of "The Cowboys & Indians Collection" Monday aft in the Congo Theater, the collection owned by the late artist's friends ROGER THOMAS & ROGER PELTYN. "Everyone will be famous for 15 minutes," the invite read.

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Every week comes buzz of another Dunes Hotel prospective buyer. Latest is Harrah's and corporate parent Holiday Corp...TOM WILLER waves bye-bye to the Sands and his marketing veep job and heads for the Las Vegas Hilton to become entertainment director. And at the Flamingo Hilton, veep Horst Dziura was promoted to prez. His longevity record at the FH -- 25 years...WILLIAM SHATNER wasn't star trekking last weekend, but wrapped up a personal appearance at "World of Wheels," displaying over 250 custom cars, ELVIS PRESLEY's dream Caddy and the Batmobile. And if the Batmobile is around, ADAM WEST and BURT WARD can't be too far behind. Show was at Thomas & Mack Center.

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One of the larger conventions this month is Ski Industries of America with 15,000 slope buffs at Convention Center and the Hilton

through Thursday, part of the 92,000 expected to attend some 50 conventions and trade shows through the 31st...Las Vegas Sun columnist RED McILVAINE will be toasted and roasted April 1 at Palace Station, set up by JOE BEHAR's Community Drama Workshop.... Citizens v. nukes are flooding into town to participate in the Lenten Desert Experience at Nevada Test Site with daily vigils through April 19, Easter Sunday...GARY LeMASTER cleaned out his office as corporate entertainment director for the Boyd Group, booking the Stardust, Fremont, California, Sam's Town and Sam's Town Gold River in Laughlin, to become the 19th member in the 54 years of Sons of the Pioneers, replacing 33-year Pioneer vet ROY LANHAM, who dropped out because of illness...Another jumper is JIM AUSTIN, deposed after KORK-AM's new owners shook up the station and deejays like AUSTIN and his big band and memory lane disk spins. He's already at work on public relations for BUCK RAM and THE PLATTERS, latter group breaking records (not disks) during their five-week extended booking at the Four Queens, closing this weekend. DELLA REESE opens Tuesday. Also at the Four Queens, ALAN GRANT's Monday Night Jazz tossed its 5th anni party Monday night with TERRY GIBBS cutting the cake when not malleting his vibes. This coming Monday, ALAN brings on organist JIMMY McGRUFF and alto saxist, HANK CRAWFORD.

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BUCK RAM's other interest is The Stellar Unit at the Desert Inn Raffles lounge specializing in vocal harmonies mixed with complex brass charts and some straightaway Dixieland...KENNY DAVIS took some sage advice from me to soft pedal his combo activities and concentrate on comedy. He

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