

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE



That beautiful theme for Oscar winner "Platoon," SAMUEL BARBER's "Adagio for Strings," now high on record sales charts, was my theme for "Concert Hall for the Performing Arts," broadcast over KRGN-FM, owned by DON GILDAY in the mid-60s...While HAGLER & LEONARD were knocking themselves silly on Monday, concert-goers were mentally and spiritually knocked out at UNLV's Ham Hall as VIRKO BALEY conducted at the piano MOZART's "Concerto No. 27" and then took the podium to lead the LAS VEGAS SYMPHONY in MAHLER's "Symphony No. 4 in G Minor," with soprano ANN CHASE...Another outing for the cultivated souls of our community is "An Afternoon in Old Vienna," with the Las Vegas Civic Symphony conducted by WILLIAM GROMKO at Cashman Convention Center this Sunday afternoon. It's the 7th anni Vienna event and prizes will be presented to the best dressed couple and authentic dress for men and women harkening back to the times of JOHANN STRAUSS JR...ANFAN, the organization helping AIDS victims, has plans for a noble benefit on May 17 with stars and celebs aplenty. But, would you

believe there is tremendous difficulty in finding a hotel space for this worthy cause. All sorts of excuses are given by executives for looking the other way, but finally there came okays from the Alexis Park Hotel and Stardust. Stay tuned...And on the related subject of avoiding this plague, why don't the PRO-LIFERS & PRESIDENT PRUNEFACE go back where they belong -- to the Dark Ages. Sexual abstinence indeed -- for teenagers? Or other healthy males and females for that matter...Here's a soiree everyone is joining, the NAACP's May 14 tribute to FRANK SINATRA at L.A.'s Century Plaza Hotel. Look who's chairing -- BARBARA WALTERS, QUINCY JONES, LEE IOCACCA, STEVEN J. ROSS (Warner's Communications) & AUGUST BUSCH the 3rd. The black-tie gala honors SINATRA for his "Outstanding efforts to combat race prejudice in the United States for more than 50 years." Even at that tribute to OLD BLUE EYES, I once heard him tell the most degrading black racial joke I ever heard. That was about 10 years ago at Caesars Palace when he was appearing with the COUNT BASIE BAND. After he told the joke, the musicians' faces were frozen.



Everyone was intrigued at the newspaper ad hyping ACAPULCO SCHWARTZ recently. This is a restaurant on E. Desert Inn Road where "Acapulco Who" announced a whole live Maine lobster dinner for \$7.99 and a 12 oz. Kansas City Rib Eye steak dinner for \$5.99. A call to A.S. finds that the Maine lobster dinner is now \$8.99...A new Tri-Star movie, "Amazing Grace And Chuck"

was panned by Daily Variety with reviewer "CART" writing that the film with JAMIE LEE CURTIS, ALEX ENGLISH, GREGORY PECK and others, "is destined to go down in history as the camp classic of the antinuke genre." Behind the critique is prejudice that CNN's TED TURNER may be the true auteur of the film. The message of the film is that through a funny baseball comedy plot a secret summit meeting is convened at which is decided that nuclear weapons will be eliminated over the course of seven years. But young Chuck, played by JOSHUA ZUEHLKE, with the help of famous sports stars, holds out and gets a commitment for total nuke disarmament now! The Prez played by PECK and the Russian leader agree and the good news is broadcast over CNN. That's where the reviewer slants his review. "TURNER's recent sports and broadcasting initiatives with the Soviets link perfectly with the film's themes," he wrote. No wonder the film is called a Fantasy, our Prez would never agree to freedom from nukes forever, it's bad for biz...If you tuned in on NBC-TV-3 last night (Thursday) and the series "L.A. Law," you noted PETE WILLCOX, now starring in "Legends in Concert" at Imperial Palace, playing the role of REV. SIVLE (ELVIS spelled backwards) wearing his Eagle jumpsuit officiating at a wedding. Several of PRESLEY's hit recording titles were part of the dialogue. WILLCOX, of course, is ELVIS in "Legends in Concert"...How can a SHAKESPEAREAN actor become a stand-up comedian. At BUDD FRIEDMAN's Improv at the Riviera, PAUL PROVENZA illustrates how a onetime ROMEO in London at the Royal

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