

OF THE STARS

Take stock in America.



Academy of Dramatic Arts, segued from tragedy to comedy. But PROVENZA, as a college student, headed first for standup comedy with his sharp, streetwise material, then went SHAKESPEAREAN. He's at the Improv through Sunday.

★★★★★

The Super Fights have changed the direction of entertainment in Las Vegas over the years. Monday's HAGLER-LEONARD bout at Caesars Palace was touted as "The Fight of the Century." So have others been handed such hype. What happens during these extended weekends of Super Fights is highroller action of major proportions, bets at various sports books of unbelievable amounts, ancillary wagering and lotsa loot for our resorts. Other hotels spend money on ads, "Reserved Seating," but for closed circuit tv viewing. Bally's, for example, across the Strip from Caesars, blurred "Only at Bally's! No waiting in line!" Nonsense. Those giant screens were everywhere along the Strip and downtown, not only at Bally's. It's a matter of price. For the electronic viewing reserved seats cost \$50. But some ringside tix at Caesars were going for 50 times that amount, just to be in sweat-flying range.

★★★★★

NBC's "Saturday Night Live" had some Vegas biggies in a tizzy over a spoof about UNLV on the night the Rebels lost the basketball runnerup game to Indiana in N'Oleams. After a typical juvey

sketch about UNLV and the Rebels, smarmed by old union-buster antique actor CHARLTON HESTON, a "SNL" cast member at the end of the sketch editorialized that UNLV was an "easy school" in a "sleazy" and "tawdry" town. Shucks, local editorials have said worse things bout the city, but ed writers would be hung, drawn & quartered if they wrote bad things about the heroes of the courts, given a parade down Fremont Street and up the Strip to Jerry Tarkanian's Shark Tank, UNLV's Thomas & Mack Center last Wednesday eve...SHELDON ADELSON's Interface Group staged its 15th anni exposition & trade show at Convention Center wrapping last Thursday. He and American Film Institute's chair BONITA GRANVILLE WRATHER and AFI trustee JACK LEMMON recently signed a formal pact in Hollywood for Cinetex World Film and TV Congress marked for March 10-12, 1988, expected to lure 30,000 reps from the U.S. and around the world. Interface attracted more than 15,000 computer delegates and many viewed HARRY ANDERSON of NBC's "Night Court" sitcom muddle his hilarious comedy/magic act at Bally's.

★★★★★

Another magician who grew to become an illusionist, DAVID COPPERFIELD, will conjure up SERGIO MENDES & BRAZIL '88 and make the POINTER SISTERS & BYRON ALLEN disappear from the Circus Maximus in time for his abracadabra opening on the 15th. On the same night at the Omnimax Theater, Caesars preems

"Grand Canyon -- The Hidden Secrets," a 33-minute exploration...BILLY JOEL will have no opening act on Saturday night when he brings his Bridge Tour into Thomas & Mack Center...The Aladdin's first opening found the Sinbad lounge jumping with the SHAUNTEES, CHERRY BLOSSOMS, INDIGO and SERGIO ALBERTI. The main showroom unveils its talent at the grand opening next month, over Memorial Day weekend...STEPHANIE NIELSON, entertainment chief, who booked "Ipi Tombi" at the old Silverbird, has another exotica lined up, this one from Brazil...MITZI SHORE brings up a standup quintet from her Hollywood precinct for the Dunes Comedy Store Tuesday, limning TAMAYO OTSUKI, DARRYL SIVAD, MIKE BINDER, JIMMY WALKER and ANDRE PHILLIPE GAGNON...Vegas World boss BOB STUPAK's political advisor, CHRIS KARAMANOS pulled an oops with a fullpage ad of signatures petitioning the mayoral candidacy of the self-styled Polish maverick. Dozens of signatures were forged. Karamanos, who feeds film and tv crews on location here and has a Vegas World food concession, is a Nevada University Systems Regent and owns Production Services Group, blamed a lil girl somewhere down the line for the foulup and B.S. looks the other way innocently...Another candidate for Las Vegas Mayor is JIM (Vegas Vampire) PARKER, outspoken local personality who at one time hosted horror movies. PARKER's real cool about his campaign. At the filing, he showed the shoe-string he'll run on.

★★★★★

ROY JERNIGAN's lineup in Laughlin for DON LAUGHLIN's Riverside Resort this past weekend was MELL TILLIS & BAND. Next weekend, he brings into the Starlite Showroom T. G. SHEPPARD, now on the bill at the Desert Inn with JANIE FRICKIE...ALAN GRANT's Monday Night Jazz at the Four Queens jumped with PAPA JOHN CREACH on fiddle and shouting the

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