

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE



No matter how you swing it, be a refurbished Scrooge after ghostly visits from Xmas Past, Christmas Present and Chanukah Future and buy a big fat goose for BOB CRACHITT's family including TINY TIM, then go for real and send over a big fat turkey for JOHN 3:16 COOK's family and get all sentimental for the holidays. Also, toss in ST. VINCENT'S Dining Room and the SALVATION ARMY while you're in the mood...My fave choral conductor, DOUGLAS PETERSON will get you in the mood Sunday at the "Messiah Sing Along Concert" as he leads the SOUTHERN NEVADA MUSICAL ARTS CHORUS & ORCHESTRA in the main lobby of CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE at 3 p.m....LINDA HART has become a Broadway star in the Big Apple playing the part of Emma, the gun moll in "Anything Goes." She's also the understudy for the lead fem role, sez her mother, TONI HART, who also told me that son LARRY cheered and applauded sis LINDA on a trip to Montreal, where he's been commissioned to write the score for a musical...TONI is the best party-giver in Las Vegas and an invite to HARTLAND is to be treasured...More good holiday musical cheer is on the boards Saturday and Sunday when the

ACTOR'S REPERTORY THEATRE (ART) gives old NOEL COWARD a blast with "Noel, Noel," a musical melange of sketches from NOEL C's life. The show in Flamingo Library auditorium is directed and produced by GEORGIA NEU, with choreography by McGARRY CAVEN of OPUS DANCE ENSEMBLE, and guest musical director JAMES A. LOVENSCHMEIER is at the baton...Naturally, the NEVADA DANCE THEATRE's annual gift to Las Vegas mustn't be bypassed. "NUTCRACKER," the charming TCHAIKOVSKY musical creation is set to dancing by NDT's artistic director VASSILI SULUCH. He presents special choreography throughout the children's opus. The ballet will be performed through the 30th including Xmas Eve and Christmas Day...Another "Nutcracker" is the emboldened vision of the SANTA CLARA BALLET COMPANY, in Boulder City high school auditorium Saturday night, 7:30 p.m., sponsored by the BOULDER CITY CULTURAL CENTER. A meet-the-artists reception follows the ballet...And more holiday faves will be performed Sunday in UNLV's Ham Hall by the Las Vegas Symphony, VIRKO BALEY conducting and with violinist KALMAN BANYAK, featuring compositions by ALBINONI and WIENIAWSKI.



The Conde Nast superslick Traveler mag contains a regurgitation on Las Vegas in the December issue by British theater critic JOHN HEILPERN, designated in the table of contents as "distinguished." It further crooned that the critic "tested his critical mettle in the world's

glitziest showplace. Beneath the neon he discovered a time-warped small town where old-fashioned vaudeville and burlesque still steal the stage."Take it from an old Vegas critic of almost 40 years, HEILPERN's stuff ain't distinguished, rather if one should ask me what the piece is about, I'd say it's about as much as I can stomach...Friend ESTHER LYNN COHEN called to mention that onetime performer-about-town EDDIE DARE has returned and will toss a showcase in the Sands Copa Room Saturday night at 9 p.m....In the Four Queens French Quarter, those old INKSPOTS are still at it, while one of my weekly bright spots, ALAN GRANT's MONDAY NIGHT JAZZ, brings back Las Vegan MARLENA SHAW this Monday night and on the 28th, another fine jazz amphetamine, trombonist CARL FONTANA, also a Las Vegan...Down in booming Laughlin town, ROY JERNIGAN & BULLA PRODUCTIONS have MERLE HAGGARD Saturday night, fresh from his Golden Nugget sets cowntowing to the yahoo set a-ridin' and a-ropin' in National Finals Rodeo at Thomas & Mack, doin' his thang in Don's Celebrity showroom at the Riverside Resort...The male hunks from Hawaii, formerly showing off their biceps and triceps under the name "STRIPPINDALES" are now at Vegas World working as "Men of Paradise." Seems that producer DENNIS LEVINSON would have a bit of litigation competing with the original CHIPPENDALE male stripper title in the L.A. club...PETE BARBUTTI at the Paddlewheel has company in another male stripper outfit, this one moved down from the Marina showroom called THE MALE EXPRESS,

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