

OF THE STARS

Take stock in America.

now featured in an all-male revue "The Heat Is On"...One of the hot bands returns to firing up the Hilton lounge, the New Mexico-based rhythm & blues band, SANTA FE.

★★★★★

Las Vegas Hilton publicist BRUCE BANKE and entertainment director TOM WILLER hosted a luncheon for media last Wednesday all on account of ELVIS PRESLEY, the hotel's alltime entertainment hero, whose bronze bigger-than-life statue ornaments the showroom foyer. The latest ELVIS news is vidfilming of Priscilla Presley's "Elvis and Me" book six days starting Thursday mostly around the hotel, and "Elvis: An American Musical" multimedia extravaganza arriving July 1 and staying through Aug. 28 before going on tour. Elvis, with the machinations of his manager, COL. TOM PARKER, never sang to an empty seat in all of his 16 Hilton shows covering 47 weeks from 1969 to shortly before his death in 1977...And the Elvis beat goes on and on...Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority will be making out checks for \$1 each to FRANK SINATRA, DEAN MARTIN, SAMMY DAVIS JR., BILL COSBY, SIEGFRIED & ROY, WAYNE NEWTON, DAVID BRENNER, KENNY ROGERS and all the other stars who appeared in its vidblurbs, aired on West Coast, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Denver, Chicago and Detroit stations...National Black Caucus meeting at the Hilton and Convention Center had DICK GREGORY giving them yocks along with insights on politics and health...Grammy award-winning jazz great JOE WILLIAMS received

UNLV's Distinguished Nevadan award Wednesday amid a concert appearance with the UNLV Jazz Ensemble in Ham Hall. He's home for the holidays with JILLEAN AND THE FELINES.

★★★★★

Two other homebodies for the holidays are ROBERT and VERA GOULET on intermission from the "South Pacific" tour...JOSEPH BERNARD ACTING STUDIO's anni gift to Las Vegas this year is a collection of scenes from famous playwrights titled, "Simon, Mamet & Other Goodies" at his off-Strip studio Sunday and Monday eves...HERB McDONALD, exec director of Las Vegas Events, sez a deal is "very close" for a nationally televised sports fest promoted as a prelude to the '88 Summer Olympic Games, June 4-5, with NBC planning a pickup of four hours during the fest...Nice Xmas script: A group of Southern California seniors on a gambling junket to Vegas was ambushed and robbed up the freeway by two armed gunmen. JEANNE HOOD, prez of the Four Queens downtown, destination of the trip Oct. 16, decided to party the seniors and pay back all they lost, \$3800 to the 42 who agreed to return to Vegas. The tourbus was escorted out of Vista, down Oceanside way, by local police and the seniors were greeted at the Four Queens by a posse of white-clad "Good Guys" from hotel personnel. Enroute, to keep their spirits up, they kept playing their ace in the hole, a JOHN WAYNE shoot-'em-up VCR.

Showrooms at Bally's and Desert Inn are dark through the 25th, with Bally's really lighting up on the 26th with FRANK SINATRA through Jan. 2 and the Desert Inn coming to life with RICH LITTLE & TONI TENNILLE...Caesars Palace wants no part of darkness in the Circus Maximus, opting for a family show, "A Caesars Christmas On Ice" with world ice skate champs TAI BABILONIA & RANDY GARDNER, singer/impressionist BOB ANDERSON... "Oba Oba" moves out of the Aladdin Feb. 15 headed for Broadway's 1001-seat Ambassador Theater. Mystery of replacement is a Strip buzz, with insiders pegging "Dreamgirls." But Aladdin entertainment director STEPHANIE NIELSON is off to Australia, whether on pleasure or casting a show, no one knows -- or tells...MITZI SHORE's Comedy Store at the Dunes is another dropout for the holiday span, but BUDD FRIEDMAN's Riviera Improv keeps rolling this week with VIC DUNLOP, ROB BECKER, T.A. BURROWS. Next week's standups standing by are RICK ROCKWELL, SANDY HACKETT, ROB SCHNEIDER & VINCE CHAMP. Friedman sticks close by his Hollywood Improv where HBO shoots more funny fodder on the 22nd...The JEAN LUC PONTY concert, reskipped from Nov. 27 to Jan. 22, will have further inducements in UNLV's Ham Hall with champagne and cheese tasting and an art show...At Sam's Town, instead of winning a partridge in a pear tree during the hotel's 12 days of Xmas celebration, a lucky person can drive home a bright Xmas-red '88 Pontiac Grand Am -- if the name comes up in the Dec. 23 drawing.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — About 10,000 school children and Soviet Jewry activists packed the Yad Eliahu sports stadium here in a rally for the right of Jews to leave the Soviet Union.

They were addressed by the country's top leaders -- President Chaim Herzog, Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres -- who aimed their remarks at Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, in Washington at the time for the summit conference with President Reagan.

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