

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE



"Bedlam in Vegas" would be a suitable title for the New Year's Eve scenario, with over 100,000 people quaffing the bubbly, tossing confetti and blowing horns into the dawn Friday morn. Thereafter it was recovery time. Where all of the revelers slept is a mystery, there are only 58,500 rooms available. So around 40,000 didn't sleep in cozy hotels and motels...Another 100,000-plus converged upon the city after Thursday's opening of the 16th Consumer Electronics Show at Convention Center, Hilton, Riviera, Sahara and hospitality suites on the Strip and downtown. Among all the beauties in exhibit booths, trade show insiders will see alluring Las Vegas Lori Wagner and several other Penthouse Pets including '88 PP of the year Patty Mullen. Imagine the demonstration lingo from one of the pets: "This unique SBL unit, meaning small box loud-speaker, has an LF loading cavity compliantly isolated from the woofer and tweeter to minimize and distribute panel vibrations due to internal driver pressures"...Former Bally's pubrelations head, Stephen Allen, unceremoniously axed in an employee massacre a few weeks ago, has found a berth with Las Vegas News Bureau. He

and Neva Wells will hear wedding bells on Valentine's Day. She's in the marketing office of the new multi-hotel Southstar complex aborning on the south end of the Strip.



JOE NIPOTE, held over at the Dunes Comedy Store, is spotted in four GM auto vidblurbs with one important tag line and mucho dinero for the spots. His pals this week at MITZI SHORE's standup paradise are RONNEY KENNY, MARGARET SMITH, STEVE PEARLS and REX MEREDITH...Downtowners are shunning the new motorized Toonerville trolleys, blasted in a report prepped for the government: "At \$180,000 apiece, these cumbersome vehicles are probably the world's most expensive form of transit at over \$7700 a seat"...But the new maglev trains contemplated for the 70 minute Vegas to Ontario run set a new record on a 20-mile test track in Emsland, W. Germany at 252 mph on Dec. 11...Pals of survivor Christa Daniel watched her on "Star Search '88" (KVVU-TV-5) last Sunday, remembering her miraculous recovery from clawing by a giant Bengal tiger a year ago. She was crowned Miss Nevada in '83, Miss English Leather in '85 and is now intent on an acting career in Canada...Local news ratings from November sweeps give KLAS-TV (CBS) the crown, but the NBC affil, KVBC-TV, is again the most-watched station overall.



Rubber-faced CLARENCE LOOS replaced JIMMY MATHEWS as top banana in "Minsky's

Burlesque" at the Hacienda...Back to normal are show skeds after the holidays, but Caesars Palace had some revved-up booking as CHUCK BERRY with BILLY VERA & THE BEATERS took a fast and highly acclaimed three-nighter between POINTER SISTERS. POINTERS with comedian BYRON ALLEN again wallop the decibels in the Circus Maximus until the 13th when WILLIE NELSON & FAMILY begin their "Whiskey River" memories...BOBBY VINTON and comedy juggler DANIEL ROSEN made the welkin ring on New Year's Eve in the Sands Copa Room, with VINTON readying his down-river blast at the Riverside Resort in Laughlin on the 15th and 16th. Meanwhile in the Copa Room, BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS with DAVID CLAYTON-THOMAS opened Tuesday for a six-nighter. And stalwart GALLAGHER addicts get set to duck his Sledge-O-Matic deritus in the Sands Ballroom from the 10th to the 15th...Lifted pinky doesn't mean la-de-da at the Holiday Casino where DOUG BASHAM & SHERRY LUKAS as the Pink People make magic, sing and dance with a pink pony, two pink poodles and 15 pink birds. The two magicos have been working together five years, but went pink a couple of years ago...Soul and Motown advocates have their resplendent masters of the genres in B.B. KING and THE TEMPTATIONS closing Sunday at the Hilton...Tripping back to the '50s, the VANDILLS recapture all of that essence at the Four Queens. ALAN GRANT's Monday Night Jazz pulled in the faithful to watch and hear TERRY GIBBS play tricks on vibes in the Queen's French Quarter...On a different classical note, Las Vegas

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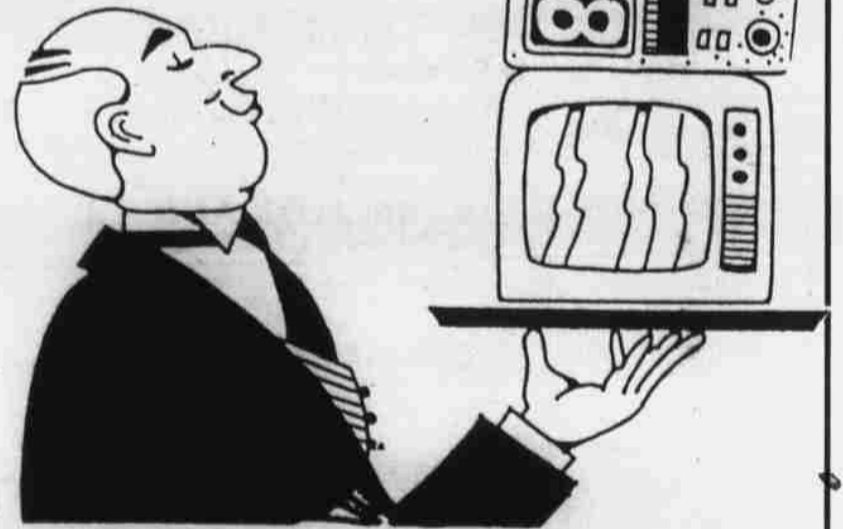
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Weekdays: 10 to 8
Saturday: 10 to 6
Sunday: 11 to 5