

OF THE STARS

Take stock in America.

couple of years ago or so, weep for poor BURT and CHRIS as that movie started a string of turkeys for REYNOLDS. Variety's New York film cricket write this about BURT's new turkey, "Rent-A-Cop" — "BURT REYNOLDS racks up three duds in a row on his current comeback trail (with two more pictures in the can) via 'Rent-A-Cop' a cheesy little crime thriller."

★★★★★

But it's a small uncomputerized hotel...Kyle Meenan, new anchorman on KTNV-TV news replacing Steve Schorr who departed for a possible political fling, made news immediately. He went into the back alleys among the homeless and unfortunate street people as one of them for his eye and ear opening intro series, a muy simpatico person.

★★★★★

A Martin Luther King film fest Tuesday and Thursday in City Hall council chambers continues the honors here for the slain civil rights leader. Last week the first leg of Highland Drive west of I-15 in North Las Vegas was named for him with Las Vegas continuing on a five-year renaming, street change plan after an intense battle from white businessmen...Sig Rogich's R&R Advertising exex suggested the best way to thank the celebs, who are cameo lensed in vid-blurbs promoting Vegas, would be to mount their blowup photos on a "Wall of Fame." Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority, which financed the project, may have the exhibit in a proposed visitor's center blueprinted in LVCVA's master plan, said the authority's marketing director Rossi Ralenkotter. The three 90-second spots are targeted for March 15 release to more than 100 U.S. tv stations...Dunes' floorman, Barney Vinson, who authored "Las Vegas Behind the Tables," is at the typewriter between shifts working on a sequel...La Mirage hotel-casino restaurant, off-Strip on Flamingo Road, has nixed smoking, a first on the local resort scene.

Headed by city manager Ashley Hall, Las Vegas officials pitched the superspeed train to Anaheim city council with beaucoup response, the took their plan to Ontario business leaders who remain skeptical of the projected 250 mph maglev whizzer between Vegas and the Southland...How suite it is — the opening of the St. Tropez, Ramada's first all-suite hotel in Nevada. Unofficial opening over a fortnight ago, of the upscale no-casino hotel next door to the Alexis Park, prototype of atmosphere barren of casino whoop-de-doo, took care of some Winter Consumer Electronics Show VIPs...The lowly nickel slot machine got a tremendous image boost last week when Julie & Monte Knous from Albuquerque dropped four coins into a progressive electronic keno machine for a 10-spot and hit the entire 30 row on the keno board and took home \$157,000...Jackie Mason's fortune continues with his Rodney Dangerfield replacement in "Caddyshack II" and now Bally's is paging him for a date later on in the year... "Magic, Magic," Michael Darin's daring midi-revue concept at the Landmark with Dirk Ar-

thur's hocus pocus and Darin's vivid choreos and costumes, marks the trend toward the illusion genre. After considering "Dreamgirls" and an Aussie revue "Starz," mounted by Jerry Jackson, Stephanie Nielson of the Aladdin chose "Abracadabra," produced by Peter Jackson to open in the Bagdad Theater March 30. She describes it as "A magical Arabian Nights show with a theme."

★★★★★

Rotund laughmonger Louie Anderson postponed his co-date with Suzanne Somers at Caesars Palace until their later Desert Inn weeks because of being paged for Eddie Murphy's new film in a role especially scripted for him. Tom Dreesen takes on the yoxables to warm up things for Suzanne...Mitzi Shore's Comedy Store at the Dunes finds Johnny Dark in closing slot after Karen Haber, Darryl Sivad, Barry Diamond and Roger Behr have tickled the audiences...More on laughs — Jimmy Aleck debuts at the Desert Inn opening for svelte Crystal Gayle through the 30th. The DI has returned to a three-night policy. Thursdays through Saturdays only...Marty Brill leads a contingent of comics into Budd Friedman's Riviera Improv this week joined by John Mulrooney & Spanky McFarlin...As for some striking sounds at Alan Grant's Monday Night Jazz in the Four Queens French Quarter, good vibes were malleted by Bubby Hutcherson...Paul Anka met the people in a rap session Wednesday in Ham Hall continuing the rap series begun by Sammy Davis Jr. last year for UNLV's Popular Music Research Center...Tuesday was a big night for Wayne Newton champions at the Las Vegas Hilton. They have until Feb. 8 to cheer "The Midnight Idol" in hyperaction starting with the mysterious space ship opening sequence to his wild display of instrumental finesse in "When The Saints Go Marching In" finale.

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