

OF THE STARS



opened his unisex beauty center, La Cage Salon, at the upscale Lakes community, known as "The Beverly Hills of Las Vegas" (hold the remarks). MARINO sez his place is the only OGGI ARTISTIC CENTER in town -- whatever that is.



On the Laughlin Strip, a new resort hotel is on the way as BRISTOL GAMING CORP. will build a 900-room hotel-casino on seven riverfront acres...More from the Colorado River bonanza village, JOHN GARY is starring in "Camelot" in the Riverside's Starview Showroom...Invites were sent to the haute monde for a wine reception to meet BARONESS PHILIPPINE DE ROTHSCHILD at a preview of MOUTON ROTHSCHILD Paintings for the Labels Monday at UNLV's Museum of Natural History. The exhibit is on a nationwide tour under auspices of the Smithsonian Institute...VASSILI SULICH has readied "Repertory 1" this weekend at UNLV's Judy Bayley Theater consisting of several ballets revealing contrasting styles of SULICH and guest choreographer DERRYL YEAGER for the third program of NEVADA DANCE THEATRE's 16th season. NDT hopes for a turnaway for the stampede of people aching to attend the second gala benefit on Feb. 16 sporting LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO in Ham Hall. KVVU-TV-5 will provide TV sponsorship for this hilarious bunch of guys who spoof ballets so mischievously and marvelously.

CHUCK DI ROCCO and EILEEN HUITCHINSON, Sports Forum publishers, tossed a post party up in God's Suite (where GEORGE BURNS was filmed as both God & The Devil) at Caesars. The Fantasy Tower digs was filled with Sports Form writers and columnists mingling with VIPS-ABOUT-TOWN. The purpose was to meet two bright chaps joining the organization, SERGIO LALLI, the brilliant writer formerly with the Review-Journal, and ALAN BAER, a most knowledgeable publicist formerly with the Tropicana. Talked with DICK ODESSKY, Sports Form columnist on the L.V. Sun back in the '50s when I was on a mind-breaking merry-go-round performing at the Silver Slipper with the beloved HANK HENRY & SPARKY KAYE, also touring all of the shows for VARIETY and managing to ease in some art works. Sports Forum editor JIM BRANN said a weekly sheet is on the way which just might compete with BOB STUPAK'S "Bullet."



LARRY CLOSE, former veep and g.m. of DEL WEBB's High Sierra at Lake Tahoe, formerly same positions at WEBB's Mint in Vegas and Nevad Club in Laughlin, sails off into the sunset destination Hawaii to become prez and CEO of former Windjammer Cruises, now Oahu Marine Cruises. The company operates the popular Rella Mae sunset and moonlight cruises around the islands, also South Pacific and Far East sailings...Referring to item about the CHUCK

DI ROCCO/EILEEN HUTCHINSON party, a surprise gift to attendees was a print by LLOYD M. BUCHER titled "SPORTS FORM in the Street." Who is L.M. BUCHER? Remember the commander of the ill-fated U.S.S. Pueblo, captured in North Korean waters 20 years ago during the L.B.J. administration? Commander LLOYD "PETE" BUCHER retired from the Navy in 1973, turning to art where he became a fulltime artist and exhibiting watercolors, portraits, seascapes and other subjects in other media. Now living in Poway, Calif., and a friend of DI ROCCO, BUTCHER brought his "SPORTS FORM" prints for gifts as a neat gesture to the host...BUDD FRIEDMAN has a new syndicated vidshow ready for Fall, "Improv Tonight," but probably no filming will be done at the Riviera Improv, choosing instead the atmosphere of the West Hollywood Melrose Ave. club, or possibly the Pacific Beach club near San Diego, the San Francisco club and Chicago, when it opens. FRIEDMAN will appear on camera introducing guest hosts from other areas of the performing arts. He usually sends off opening night standup comedians at the Riv Improv, Monday's influx including MIKE BINDER, JEFF MARDER, BILLY ELMER & MAURICE DAVIS...RAY STEVENS & LOUISE MANDRELL are at the Desert Inn through the 24th; HARRY BELAFONTE has a quickie at the Golden Nugget through Saturday followed by DIAHANN CARROLL & VIC DAMONE next Thursday. The CARROLL/DAMONE opening competes with FRANK SINATRA at Bally's...FORREST DUKE, the Visiting Fireman and NUMERO UNO entertainment columnist at the Riview-Journal and Variety show reviewer before his retirement last year, will be ringside for the SINATRA opening. Now hampered by an omnipresent oxygen tank because of his emphysema, DUKE & MRS. DUKE -- RENEE -- are expected by SINATRA, who called DUKE the last time he played Bally's and ordered DUKE's appearance in February. And when SINATRA orders ----.

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