### Anka Stars At Riviera



Superstar Paul Anka will headline in the Riviera's Versailles Theatre Jan. 26-29. Showtimes are 9 p.m. on Thurs., Jan. 26, and Sun., Jan. 29; and 8 and 11 p.m. on Fri., Jan. 27, and Sat., Jan. 28. No tickets will be sold for these special shows, but reservations can be made by calling (702) 794-9301. Show prices will be \$25 and \$35. Anka, often called "a man for all seasons" because of his diverse interests in entertainment, art and business, will appear in seven engagements at the Riviera in 1989.

### From Entertainer To Stunt Man Andre Astor Is A Real Professional



HE'S THE MAN OF MANY TALENTS — Whether he's a stunt man or a master ventriloquist, Andre Astor can handle just about anything. Smiling as he jumps 11,000 ft, and traveling 200 miles per hour, Andre loves skydiving as much as he loves performing nightly in the Aladdin's magical extravaganza Abracadabra, as a comedy star with his live talking dog Oscar. Showtimes are 8 and 11 p.m., dark on Tuesdays,

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#### The Weapon-Hungry Saudis

(Continued from page 4)

expanding Iran.

After the Iran-Iraq war ended (Saudi Arabia sided with Iraq), and with peace negotiations still in progress, the need for more and more weapons should have dramatically decreased. The threat of war was not much of an argument in the past. Now it has lost all credibility.

When the proposed sale of arms comes up in Congress, the Saudi lobby will not be short of excuses and explanations. But they will never give the real reason for their purchases of weapons.

Behind them is a long-range strategy expressed by King Fahd, who wants "to liberate Jerusalem."

Saudi policies have a sense of religious mission, an ever-present obsession to defend the sacred soil of Islam, resulting in an incessant drive for expansion.

Since World War II, the Saudis have taken over slices of potential oil-bearing lands from Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Oman. They sided with Iraq in the Gulf war. They have used their riches to support causes they approve of and which give them the opportunity to influence events.

They have been secretly financing the Contras in Nicaragua and the rebels in Afghanistan. Their money has gone to insurgents in Sudan, Somalia and Angola.

The 1981 agreement with the United States for the sale of AWACS planes included the Saudi promise to aid a number of anti-communist forces.

They are constantly looking out for opportunities to use their petro-dollars to gain a foothold in the economies of the West.

Lately, they have extended their influence to the retail business, becoming a partner in Texaco, the American oil company, with its thousands of gasoline stations.

Their role in the debt crisis of the Third World has been rarely explained. The Saudis and other oil producing countries of the oil cartel, OPEC, deposited the monies they extorted from the West in American and European banks.

The banks, in turn, gave loans to the Third World, never asking whether the interest on these loans or the loans themselves could be repaid.

They called this exercise in futility "recycling of the oil money." Next to American bank officers, we have to thank the Saudis and their kind for the crisis of our bank system.

Nevertheless, Saudi Arabia is cast in the role of a "moderate" state, despite the fact that the Saudis acquiring missiles threaten the entire Middle East.

Michael Winslow, whose ability to recreate persons and things has made him a top comedy club attraction, will headline Catch A Rising Star, Bally's Casino Resort, Las Vegas, Jan. 31-Feb. 6.

Appearing with Winslow will be singer Gina Eckstine and comedian Gabe Abelson.

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It is clear that Saudi Arabia has moved into the ranks of Israel's "confrontation states," those countries which have tried to wipe out Israel in four

When the Saudis consider the time ripe, they will attack Israel directly or transfer their store of war materials to other countries directly bordering on Israel, to be used by them.

Such a transfer is not new to them. In the past, they have given tanks to Sudan, tanks and aircraft to Yemen and artillery pieces to Iraq.

They have also delivered ammunition and small arms to the Palestine Liberation Organization and replaced any weapons this terror group lost in combat with Israel.

It is true that the United States incorporates in every arms agreement a provision prohibiting the transfer of weapons to other states or using them in aggressive combat.

Experience and prudence dictate viewing such a provision with a grain of salt.

Assurances of this kind have been and will continue to be easily disregarded if the situation should require it.

Moreover, in the case of the Arabs, any promise made to "infidels" can be broken any time. The British are more realistic in this respect. Their agreement with Saudi Arabia does not have a restrictive clause, while policymakers in the United States use their usual legalistic approach which has burdened our foreign policy with so many problems.

The picture of Saudi Arabia as a "moderate" state has been slightly tarnished. In the next round of arms sales, the fact that the Saudis did not give land bases to the American fleet protecting their oil tankers against Iranian attacks will have to be raised.

Looking at it in a different way, we protected their profits and we did not get reimbursed for the hundreds of millions spent on their behalf.

We will have the usual propaganda line that America would lose thousands of jobs if we would not sell weapons to the Arabs. The sale by Britain will be cited, although this sale involves planes and ships the United States does not have readily available.

Further, a proposed sale of helicopters and patrol boats by France totalling \$463 million will also be quoted as a decisive argument.

But this argument is not totally convincing. It depends how and in what form payments for armaments are made, whether in cash or, as in Britain's case, by delivery of oil.

Barter agreements of this sort ask for long-term financing to produce the desired weapons; they tie up productive resources until the delivery of the arms is made and the resale of the delivered oil is completed.

If payments are made in cash, they will come out of funds which would have been invested in activities which create jobs - the effects of arms purchases would thus be offset.

It is tragic that the argument that says jobs are created by the sale of deadly weapons is advanced at all, as if this is the best way to provide jobs and to reduce unemployment.

We can only hope that some day in the near future we will no longer hear this argument, that the superpowers will step by step come closer to a reduction of armaments and to an embargo on the sale of arms to the Middle East.

Such an embargo would go a long way to defuse a tense situation. It would help Israel and it would be a decisive step towards peace.

Arno Herzberg was the Berlin bureau chief for JTA in

## William Levine

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