

THE STARS

mightily this Sunday with DOUGLAS PETERSON & SOUTHERN NEVADA MUSICAL ARTS SOCIETY, he conducting, they singing "Verdi's Requiem." Soloists are Las Vegas REBECCA MARTINDALE, soprano; FRANCES SCHOPICK, mezzo-soprano; RICHARD BERRY, tenor, and returnee to our mid-st, GEORGE SKIPWORTH, bass...Another fine basso, singing the Verdi Sunday in UNLV's Ham Hall, 3 p.m., is the new Cantor of Temple Beth Am, GARY GOLBART, among the 110-voice MUSICAL ARTS CHORUS & MUSICAL ARTS ORCH.

★★★★★

As for poker, which I am not, consider the 2nd anni HALL OF FAME POKER TOURNAMENT at BINION's Horseshoe starting at 12 noon Dec. 12 with a Texas Hold Em fracas (\$500 plus \$25 limit) and wrapping Dec. 23 with the big one, the no-limit Texas Hold 'Em finals. On Dec. 22 FRED "SARGE" FERRIS will join 18 other lucky ones in the Poker Hall of Fame...Another chance to be a champ is in the offing next month when Circus Circus tosses the 14th anni NEVADA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP CHILI COOKOFF along with a country music contest Dec. 16-17. The champ, if surviving his/her cooking, will win \$3500, a huge trophy and chance to rep Nevada in the 1990 world championships. On the other hand, the country music winner only gets \$1000 and a trophy, probably an old Chet Atkins guitar...DONALD TRUMP, who is definitely in the market for buying the Strip is working on emcee chores aiming for the job at AMERICAN FRIENDS OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY 20TH ANNUAL SCOPUS AWARDS gala Jan. 14. Guess

who'll be honored? The guy he trumped when he unloaded that Atlantic City lemon, Resorts International. You guessed it, MERV GRIFFIN. Event will be held at the GRIFFIN-owned Beverly Hilton Hotel in Bevhills...Couple of appointees at THE SWORD, er, EXCALIBUR — director of sales DONALD STUCKEY, over from Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority, and ANDRE YVES PORTAL, director of food and beverage...Another in the food department ready for burnished pots and pans is LARRY VIGIL, new exec chef for Sahara Hotel's La Terrazza Italian ristorante. A rare one, LARRY is a Las Vegas native, working in the hotel industry since he was 15. Past positions included specialty room chef for Caesars Baachanal Room and the Tropicana's Rhapsody Room...Vaguely remembered is an item in local papers about FRANK ELLIS JR. starting up an automobile collective. It took an article in the financial publication Dollars & Sense revealing that FRANK is opening a theme park. This one's to be called "CAR COUNTRY," with 20 auto dealerships among a revolving exhibit, test drive track, movie theater, 100-lane bowling alley and fastfood restaurants. Didn't say where the car theme park would be located, but did mention "it is within betting distance of an on-site hotel and casino." And the closing clincher pounded the town's image this way: "For those dealers who failed to recognize the unique opportunity to sell cars to drunk people with money in their pockets, Car Country has made the leap for them. A publicity pitch to car-dealers promises 'buyers at their consuming best — relaxed and vulnerable!"

Take stock in America.



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I'm proud of my colleagues in SCREEN ACTORS GUILD. The board of directors voted to re-affirm its position of October 1983 "in support of the cultural boycott of South Africa," and to urge SAG members "to refuse to perform in South Africa or for a South African production company." Tell that to former PREZ RONALD PRUNEFACE and current PREZ QUACK 'N BUSH. Also tell the QUACK to read THE NEW YORKER issue of Nov. 13. In the opening editorial feature, "The Talk of the Town," is an indictment of QUACK's sneers at Nicaragua's PREZ DANIEL ORTEGA, referring to ORTEGA as a "little man," even called him an "unwanted animal at a garden party." The President's sneers did not sit well with THE NEW YORKER. Remember, it is a bellwether publication for sophisticates, New Yorkers, some of whom happen to be Republicans. Citing a new book by GEORGE BLACK, "The Good Neighbor: How the United States Wrote the History of Central America and the Caribbean," wherein BLACK tells of how in earlier and later years of this century, Central American countries were commonly depicted in the press as dark, petulant children. And it's time the administration and Congress got wise to how the El Salvador fascist boss AUBUSSON and his stooge, CHRISTIANI, is deceiving U.S. taxpayers out of \$1.4 million a day...Just for laughs, if you don't want to wait until the rodeo to see the Comedy Store's country-themed comedians, waltz to the Dunes for current crop through Monday of JIMMIE WALKER, LICASSI & SIEGEL, JOEY CAMEN, JOHN MENDOZA & FINIS HENDERSON...Opening for a Comedy Store grad, YAKOV SMIRNOFF, at Golden Nugget last week, FINIS won standing ovations for his smash funnies with uncanny impressions, particularly of singing celebs. His MICHAEL JACKSON, closing the FH near half-hour, is a superb sendup...JOE WILLIAMS sent on a bunch of info about the SOCIETY OF SINGERS, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing com-

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