

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE



For all of the fans breathlessly waiting for a review of the 25,000-perf WAYNE NEWTON's Sheraton Desert Inn shift, patience please. It will close the column - triumphantly ... Meanwhile, as a warmer-upper, let us kindly revert to earlier years about town when WAYNE was billed as the "MIDNIGHT IDOL." His for-sure opening act was usually my old pal from '40s Hollywood years, comedian DAVE BARRY. And this is what he usually said: "Las Vegas, the City of Ecology - when you leave, you leave clean. Isn't Las Vegas the most religious city? People walk around saying 'OH MY GOD' - and speaking of ecology, the state of Nevada is sending all of their prostitutes to the Virgin Islands for recycling. Boy, that's some business; you got it, you sell it, you still got it! Did you ever see so many losers in your life? Guy in the casino came up to me and asked if I wanted to buy a rented car. So I rented the money and bought it. What a real loser that guy was. He used to play piano in a marching band. He bought a

kidney transplant from a chronic bed wetter, joined the Ku Klux Klan and they made him wear rubber sheets; spent his whole life savings on a cemetery plot and then he drowned at sea!" (DAVE's closer for that seg of quips was an ethnic sally about Japan buying hotels in Las Vegas, which punch line will not be included because VEGASTARS is always politically correct.) That's the warmup, now on with the show ... Being politically correct, I received a pleading subscribe postcard from FORBES, the mag, not the Flat Tax nag, STEVE. Here's what RALPH NADER, columnist for The Nation, wrote about STEVE: "The press, which always complains about soporific presidential campaigns, should welcome FORBES' inadvertent contribution of a major issue to national politics - the power of money over the media. More than any other candidate, STEVE FORBES has written on regulatory and business matters. His political philosophy is, put concisely, Corporations Ober Alles. Progressives should wish him center stage in the presidential sweepstakes this year - that is if the media make a wider public assessment of his zillions of written words ... Here let's consider one formula for FORBES' profitability. Prepare a major feature with a pronounced bias, notify in advance the companies that have a vested interest in its slant and solicit their advertisements." (Note: a special Forbes mag supplement, "Insurers

Outnumbered" lured appeased insurance biz ads costing some \$450,000 after the mag's assault on lawyers who rep injured people against "corporate negligence and crime.")

★★★

Onward & upward with comedy in our midst take the Riviera - please. The joint fairly oozes with yockables. "CRAZY GIRLS: Sex, Passion," also features PUDGY. Don't get too near her, she'll pull you into her funnies. Then there's Las Vegas original comedy revue, "BOTTOMS UP." In the same space after BU's two afternoon epics a la burlesk, the COMEDY CLUB, 8 & 10 nightly plus 11:45 Fri. & Sat., now offers much hilarity with JIMMY "J.J." WALKER, SEAN CORVELLE, HELEN KEANEY & CHUCK CASON over the weekend. Come Monday, there's a week of LARRY CLARK, CHRIS FONSECA, my fave political zapper RANDY CREDICO & K.P. ANDERSON ... No info comes to this desk re Tropicana Comedy Stop & the Maxim's hooaha spot, and the other one, "Catch A Rising Star" is still off-limits until KK & underlings bring on the unions to shape up that Green Monster resort & ex-fun park now undergoing drastic revisions for fun ... THOMAS & MACK CENTER is touting advance tickets for "THE GREATEST GATHERING OF OLYMPIC & WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONS EVER!" July 5th at the start of a long, long, midsummer holiday weekend. Very showbizzy

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