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Casing The Casinos

By STUART M. JACOBS

Coz Shoots Back! Give Gambler What He Wants

Talk about hot ones! Got word out of New York that **Marilyn Beck**, a syndicated gossip columnist got a hold of **Bill Cosby** to get his views on Las Vegas and what Bill had to say may rock a few ears. It seems that the Coz is a bit fed up with repeated charges that entertainers are to blame for the woes besetting Las Vegas and that if the stars were to reduce their fees, then hotels could charge less for shows. Hogwash says Coz.

"Many performers have offered to reduce their salaries because they have had to, but I don't," Coz told Beck. "I'm proud of my drawing record — it's up there with the best of them. I would never ask more than I'm worth, but it's not fair to get less than I'm worth," he added.

Coz went a bit further in that interview. He didn't pull a punch while blasting away at the people he claims are responsible for the town's woes.

"Las Vegas has no one to blame for their problems but their own stupidity. They've (casino bosses) chased away so many gamblers with their new attitudes. They stopped giving free rooms, free dinners, free air fares to people who spend big in the casinos and those people have had it with this town. They're going to Atlantic City, to Tahoe."

Beck says that what got Cosby's ire was an article in Time Magazine written by former Aladdin co-owner **John Jenkins** in which he is quoted as saying of Vegas entertainers "which of those lousy monkeys are worth \$300,000 a week?"

Bill says that statement is a terrible slur and an unwarranted one.

"No one has printed the real story — that it was the management of the various hotels that boosted salaries so high by luring performers away from other hotels with their offers of more and more money. They caused the situation."

Upon reading the above, I made a call to the Hilton and spoke at length with Bill. The Coz didn't pull any punches with me either but he clarified a few things that rarely see the light of day.

"I was talking to a lady," Bill said, "who complained more about a sandwich she bought than the show ticket. What people don't realize is that we don't receive \$300,000 or anywhere near that amount. There are only two or three performers, stars of the stature of **Dolly Parton**, **Steve Martin** or maybe **Diana Ross**.

"Those people pack the showrooms to the point that there is no room to move. And when the people who are waiting to get in look around and see all the tables and the action, they go play. That's what it's all about," said Bill.

Cosby said the majority of the problems besetting the city aren't involved with showroom prices, rather they are a reflection of the continuing gouging of the customer. Breakfasts that cost \$7 on the strip versus 89 cents downtown. Rooms that go for \$70 at Caesars but \$35 at the Golden Nugget.

"The thing that bothers me is that everyone is being put in that (\$300,000) category. And we just don't get that kind of money."

"I get nothing from high prices in all areas of the casino and those high prices are what is aggravating the gambler."

Another point Bill made was the lack of publicity devoted to the showroom acts that are not expensive. He cited an example of a line show he saw that was "magnificent" but "who knew it was there?"

"I see a whole new future in Las Vegas. The future is in a new breed of casino owner that is running the hotel first and the gambling sector second. Shows and entertainment may come in fifth. That policy is good if it works. They don't need major stars, they don't need to charge \$25 a show. They've given up on the junkets.

"And when people rile against the supposed ridiculous prices, they fail to mention the free time we give. I know I appear at dozens of benefits, even between shows. So we are giving back to the community what we take."

"**Bill Harrah** has a good plan. Get the people in the door and give them whatever it cost to get there. Give them free rooms and see what happens. The business will improve drastically. It is already up at Harrah's.

"There needs to be an entirely new philosophy in casinos and in the entertainment segment of the industry. Let's see some new faces. Like a **Linda Ronstadt**. It isn't that bad here and if the operators begin to

use their imagination, the town will come out of this mess."

From one Philadelphian to another, Right on Coz!

Tabat Seeks Reelection As NLV Constable

Lou Tabat, Constable of the North Las Vegas Township, is seeking his third term.

Constable Tabat recently was elected to the presidency of the National Constables Association for a third term. The association is the largest organization of professional constables in the United States with a membership of thousands.

During the past 8 years, the Constables office expanded tremendously and the service to the community was unparalleled. In filing, Tabat stated, "As I look back at the past eight years in office, I am proud of the key role that my staff played toward progress in our community. The next four years are important ones with a greater acceleration in the growth of our Township. The North Las Vegas Township, more than ever before, will have the need for experienced and reliable leadership to meet the challenge of the future. As always, I will be accessible to the family and business needs of our community. I pledge to continue my support for worthy charitable functions and community programs that are in the need of our help."

In 1979, Tabat was named Nevada Lawman of the Year. He and his deputies have contributed more than 8,000 hours of donated time to various charities. Constable Lou is known for his dedicated work with the amateur boxing program both as a judge and official. He has judged 26 National Boxing Championships, such as the U.S. Olympic trials, Junior Olympics, AAU and National Golden Gloves. The Constable is also the U.S. Junior Chairman for the State of Nevada. As one of the most renowned professional boxing judges, Tabat has judged more than 30 World and National title fights.

Tabat strongly believes in working with the youth of our community and for the 15th year has been named

MONEY MANAGEMENT COURSE OFFERED

The first in a lecture series on personal money management will be held on Sept. 9 at 6:30 in the auditorium of the Flamingo Library.

The four-week course, through Sept. 29, is designed to provide participants with a new and more intelligent approach to personal money management. The series will also help people to better understand and plan their financial affairs and how to spend, save and invest wisely.


Murray Lummer, family financial counselor and former financial columnist, will conduct the series in everyday, easy-to-understand language. "Money," says Lummer, "is often more difficult to manage than it is to earn." According to Lummer, "It is mandatory, in this dynamic and fast-changing economy, that people acquire a working knowledge of money management and basic investment principles."

Co-chairman of the JOE LOUIS GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM.

A strong believer in Deeds not idle conservation, Lou Tabat is always up front in community affairs. He is a Director in the North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce; an advisory director of the newly established Jeffrey Halfway House; a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus and active in the St. Christopher's Church and School. He is also vice-president of the Girls Club of Nevada.

Tabat was recently awarded a gold medal by the President of Mexico for his international achievements. Tabat has recently been selected to be the National Constable of the Year 1982-83.

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