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## LETTER FROM LAS VEGAS

*"Serendipity was my tour guide, assisted by caprice"*

- Pico Iyer, travel writer

Viva Las Vegas. Yes friends, its time, once again, for a Vegas update, a look at just what the heck is going on in my favorite city (to write about).

So take out your gold spandex and put on the four pound pinkie ring, we're gonna sit in the El Dorado and cruise down Las Vegas Boulevard to see where those ever-twinkling lights will take us.

Let's begin with a look at the entertainment scene in Vegas. Drew Carey is in the main room at Caesar's, O.K., not Sinatra, but Drew's a funny guy, isn't he?

The Desert Inn has been taping Bill Maher's hot show "Politically Incorrect". Dennis Miller just left. Meanwhile Johnny Mathis is at the Hilton. I still get excited saying the name. Chances are you remember Johnny singing Chances Are. I'm talk that he still wears pressed white slacks and that he hasn't aged a bit.

The MGM Grand has an interesting series of booking. Carrot Top will be headlining over Thanksgiving. Do you know anyone who actually thinks that Carrot Top is funny? Last week, Gladys Knight performed at MGM, without her Pips. I wonder just how difficult it was for Gladys.

The MGM Grand is huge, of course, and it has several show venues. In December, guests will get to see "Riverdance ". This will be followed by a New Years performance by Neil Diamond. I admire the fact that Neil Diamond can still stay up past midnight.

They don't book talent at the Mirage Hotel – they just have Siegfried and Roy. The last time I saw their show, they made certain counties in Alabama disappear to a thunderous ovation.

Vegas insiders, and I'm surely not one of them, have long speculated about what the new, fabulously expensive to build, Bellagio was going to throw at the boys and their white tigers. Despite the fact that Steve Wynn and associates, owns both properties, there has to be a little show competition between the Mirage and its new neighbor. Well the answer is "O", a sexy, electric, version of Cirque du Soleil, the revue that makes you want to seek chiropractic assistance simply by watching the impossible moves on stage.

I am afraid that I am not familiar with any of the acts such as Better Than Ezra, Rob Zombie, or Chris LaDoux that will be headlining at the new, Hard Rock Café.

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