## So, When Do the Displays of Blinding, Biting Wit Begin, Poker Faces?

## 

 brity in toow who is over 50 .He himself is 62 , but because of f ferret-like ability todart tin many directionsatas once., , en eseems sounger
than anyone around him and talks in bursts of words than anyone around him and talks in bursts of words
that whistle by your ears like .50 - caliber bullets. Every sentence en eutters is sa statements, inclucuing the way he answers the phone ""This is Norby," though a n annoounceement is fortrcoming
I met him throug the comic Sheley Berman, who is my emotional alter ego. Almost exerything p.o.'s Berman, but no one can make adversity funinio or doom more entertaining. When the world ends, I
Norby Walters started out as a bar boy in his dad's saloon and ended up owning one of the most popular
clubs in Manhattan by the time he was 30 ITt was next to the Copa, and everyone came "It was next to the Copa, and everyone came
there," he said one day in his ornate, 1 1th -floor
 Sammy, Steve and Eydie, wise guys, Playboy
bunnies, they all hung outa a Norby's place. bunnies they all hung out at Norby's space, ', In
was Hollywood's sision of New York nightelub.' Was Holiywood vision ora New Yorr ith icciu. and anturuately, tele eadenede, callst, two guys were shot
there in 65 , and that was hat.

AL
MARTINEZ
But that was't that for Norby, who went on to
create his own talent agency and son create his own talent agency and soon was
representing people ike Dionne Warwick and groups sike New Kids on the Block.
He sold the business after an antemp gent got him big legal problems. (The charges wert thrown out of court.) But he still maintains the persuasive mannerisms of a deal maker, always
moving always computing never unbusy. Even moving, always computing never unbusy. Even his
handshake makes you feel like youve ust signed Madoonna to a world concert tour.

A small, white-haired guy with oversized glasses,
 you play tennis in February"" He keeps busy putting
celebrities together with charties, which he does for cele errities together with charities, which he does for
nothing, and a arranging the players for his Tuesday nothing, and arranging the players for his Tuesday
Night Poker Party
If youever get fan
is amall chance that you will be invited to p play poker at Norby's place on a Tuessay night. He's got a
list of about 3 Famous People who play in groups of
eight, including guys ike Milton Berle, Mel Torme, eight, including guys like Milton Berle, Mel Torme,
Sid Caesar and Tony Curris. They play a dollar--ante, dealer's choice game so that nobody gets hurt and vererbody has a good
time. You cant talwyss tell thy re having a good ime. You can't always tell they're having a good
lime, but since nobody walks out in he middle of a hand, I guess they are.
I say that because I hung out at one of their poker
games where hardly a clever word was uttered I've games where hardly a clever word was uttered. I've been around celebrities often enough to know
they're pretty ordinary people when they're off camera, picking their teeth and scratching their ehinds, even as you and I. But in pitching the group to me, Norby made it sound like the evening was nothing less than a Broadway revue, with explosions of wit bursting
Day. the poker table like fireworks on Independence it. I remember listening to my own agent selling me over the phone like I was Ernest Hemingway's spiritual heir, then hanging up, turning to me and
saying, "Try not to dump this one into the toilet, kid.", The poker players this Tuesday night consisted of
kat Berman, Charles Bronson, Elliot Gould, Charles
and Vince Edwards, who used to be ben Casey back They are all talented people, but wit was conspicuous by its absence. Actors without scrip are like hookers without mattresses-there's nothing to fall back on.

The funniest comment was Wuhl's observation that Charles Bronson is Charles Bronson because he can throw a dollar into the pot without looking.
Later, Bronson repeated the character trait by folding without looking.
The game was played on a glass-topped table
under an ornate chandelier, while a gold-plated under an ornate chandelier, while a gold-plated
statue of the Lion of Judah watched solemnly from place on the floor near a couch. Norby scooted around the room between hands,
and even when he was sitting there was kind and even when he was sitting there was a kind of
kinetic energy about him. He was always on the kinetic energy about him. He was aways on the
alert, like something might drop from the sky at any moment and carry him off. No doubt the wit began to fly shortly after Ileft.
Shelley Berman, who always looks as though he's Shelley Berman, who always looks as though hes
just discovered a worm in his baked apple, told me later he lost money that right. That made him happy.
Go figure.

## \$8 Million Raised for New LAPD Computers

## BCHING-CHING NI TMMES STAFF WRITER

A private sector campaign to
computerize the Los Angeles Police compautrize the Los Angeles Poicice
Department has raised $\$ 8$ million of its 815 -million taraget in three months. city officials said Monday
The Mayor's Alliance for a Safer L,A., a coalition of local business and civic eaders formed in August
by Mayor Richard Riordan, Police Chief Willie L. Williams and the hearp., Bruce Karatz, hopes to computterize the department, whose
officers currenty spend up to $40 \%$ ot their day comple ing paperwork.
The alliance hopes to start purchasing equipment as early as January
The
group on Monday also ${ }_{4}$ l-SAFE-LA-to encourage other busineseses and individuals to con-
tribute The tribute. The money is expected to
buy 1,700 computer workstations as well as electronic mail and voice mail equipment for the depart-
ment's is police stations, four trafment's 18 police stations, four traf-
fie bureaus and administrative fie bureaus and administrative
headquarters a P Parker Center.
 772\% of of officers's paper sprocessingl
time,", Riordan said in front of a time", "iordan said in front of a
20 -foot paper pyramid symbolizing
 by the LAPD each month " "om-
puters will add over 350 police

## FLEISS:

Continued from B10 parents and younger brother sat in the front row of the courtroom,
Fleiss did one turn herount When Fleiss did not turn around. When
court was adjiurned, her mother embraced her.
Since her arrest in September
after she tested atiter she tested positite for con--
suming stimulants and depresants suming stimulants and depressants
in vioilation of probation, Fleiss has been assigned toa a asadena-based diuug rehab program. Hearss arrest for pandering last
 tion babuse or werdespread specula-
tion hich was sadid to incled cientele, Which was sadid to include stars and
studio exeeutives. But for faththul studio executives. Bit for taththul
followers of the Fieiss saga, the true denouementen may not occur until
January when she January, when she and her father,
pediatrician Paul Fleiss, are schedpediatrician Paul Fliess, are sched-
uled to go on trial on federal charges of money laundering, bank frraud
and alleged ocospinary to conceal and alleged conspiracy to conceal
the young woman'sincome from her the young woman's
prostitution business.
officers to the street of Los Anggeles
every day, doing community -ased everc yay, dong community-based.
policing and making the eity safer:" The 16 maior private donors in-
cluded the Ahmanson Foundation,
 Cross of California, which gave 8.5
millo.
silion. Other donors of more million. Other donors of more than

$\$ 100,000$ were William Keck J. | $\begin{array}{l}\text { siono,00 were William Keck Jr. } \\ \text { L.A. Cellulur, Hollywood Leader- } \\ \text { the lar } \\ \text { LAPD. }\end{array}$ |
| :--- |



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