

Three showcase controversies highlight the "playful" agenda the next few weeks - each completely different and thought-provoking.

On the Broward scene, Brian C. Smith's OFF BROWARD THEATRE presents a one-woman offering starring Academy Award winning actress, EILEEN HECKART in MARGARET SANGER: UNFINISHED BUSINESS." Both anti-abortion and pro-choice groups are at odds and the phone lines at the theatre have been more than slightly buzzing since the show was announced. No, I haven't seen it, but I know several of those who did attend the opening night performance and they've all agreed that it's filled with emotional fireworks. Brian, you've done it again, your shows are certainly adventurous - in more ways than one.

Down south, "EXTREMITIES," that searing drama on rape and revenge, will be presented by the UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI'S THEATRE ARTS DEPARTMENT at BROCKWAY HALL October 24-28.

Another concerning drama, this one, also most frightening, is "DARKNESS AT NOON" presented at the RUTH FOREMAN THEATRE at BARRY COLLEGE thru October 29. When you refuse to follow the norm and aren't allowed to follow your thoughts and heart and are condemned if you do, it's a sorry state and in "Darkness at Noon," directed by Carbonell Award winner JOE ADLER, this is what is explored. Your mind floods with a turmoil of anguished thoughts and visions. Superb is ROGER PRETTO in the much demanding starring role of Rubashov. The entire company deserves the highest accolades for their commitment. This show is not an easy one to perform. Thunderstruck portrayals are so true to life that composure is often difficult for the viewer, as you feel every pain in brilliant hues. "Darkness at Noon" seethes, burning and churning a frightening pathway to horror, dark and angry. The music is haunting; the lighting mysterious as you're led by the hand to the beginning of life's end. Grasp if you will, the moment of truth, your truth, your beliefs and pray.

The "king" has returned - SONNY KING, that is, making his home at the DIPLOMAT HO-

IT'S SHOWTIME

by Dona Kay



Michael George Owens, John Fionte, Roger Pretto star in "Darkness at Noon" opening Oct. 4th and playing thru Oct. 29th at the Ruth Foreman Theatre at Barry University (11300 NE 2nd Ave., Miami Shores, 33161) Call our box office at 895-SHOW - (7469)

TEL'S TACK ROOM, now thru November 22. King, former partner to Jimmy Durante, is the "total" performer. He'll sing, he'll joke and you'll most heartily applaud. Relive the golden memories nightly, except Monday. Joining Sonny, will be the vibrant country sounds of DEBI LEE. Following her Diplomat engagement, Debi heads for Las Vegas and the Four Queens.

How about a bit of "DIPLOMAT" trivia. Did you know Lawrence Welk filmed his first TV show to originate from Florida at the Big "D"? That was in March 1962... that Arthur Godfrey taped his popular CBS Radio Show from the Tack Room in March 1965... around that same time, Maurice Chevalier opened in the Cafe Cristal... in February 1966 Judy Garland played the Cafe Cristal and that Frank Sinatra came out of retirement for a New Year's Eve celebration in the Regency Ballroom in 1974 and so much more. Today, the Diplomat is part of the Harbaugh Hotel family, but our memories do linger on yesterday, with hopes of new memories for tomorrow. Other hotels in the Harbaugh family include Ventura, California's Harbortown

Marina Resort and the Washington Court on Capital Hill.

Audition announcement from the FT. LAUDERDALE PLAYERS for three of their upcoming shows will take place Friday, October 20 at 7 PM and Sunday, October 22 at 1 PM at the HOLIDAY PARK ANNEX (behind Parker Playhouse). Looks like quite an interesting season with "DIAL M FOR MURDER," the musical melodrama "10 NIGHTS IN A BARROOM" and the "BAD SEED." All roles are available. Be prepared to perform a 2-min-

"Fight for Si

By Bob Logan

The opening gun of the season in the "Fight for Sight" campaign to combat blindness, acquired a welcome assist from "the National Society to Prevent Blindness". Kim Grissinger, chapter director, and Ruth Meisel, prexy of "Fight for Sight", joined forces with a shot heard 'round Florida.

For the first meeting held at Temple Beth-El of Hollywood, Kim Grissinger introduced Dr.