

BILLY ROWE'S Note Book

PUBLISHERS SHARPEN THEIR AX.

HOUSTON, TEX.---This oil rich, space program endowed city is saying something, beginning with newness and ending with progress. The pride in its promise as the 6th. largest in the U.S. has both its White and Black citizens riding tall in the saddle. As befits the time, there are no visible signs of racial barriers to befog the mirror of human dignity. Therefore Blacks can feel as spiritually and emotionally free here as they can in any "White owned city." like all things in Texas, the annual NNPA's convention was the organization's biggest in its 30-odd yr. history. The Lovely Lenora "Doll" Carter, publisher of the Houston Forward Times, was hostess, and she pulled out all the stops so that org. could express its way thru its 33rd gathering. Each program, unfolded in the posh Houston Oaks, a hotel second to none in appointments and hospitality, was meaningful and on the case of the Black thrust for a bigger mouthful of the fruits of democracy. Though parties and poker games were interspersed with the business at hand, there were no perverted incidents to incite official antagonism.

As if affirming a Note Book predication, Dr. Carlton Goodlett, pub. of Frisco's Sun-Reporter, was elected NNPA's prexy. In the ensuing months you will hear much about this world traveling medic when he takes on the giants of industry and sports, which have ignored the Black Press, and the Blacks who hold "policy making" positions with them, but do nothing to aid the brothers. Among his plans is one to "press-lite" what he terms "the wrong men in the right jobs." It all could be very interesting. Al Lockhart used all of his TRW corp. connections to secure a country club where Lieut. Gen. "Chappie" James could play a round of golf. Leroy Jeffries, the west coast PR-Guy, fashioned a jam-up bash to intro some of his high-powered 'chalk' clients to the pubs. His, and the ones Garth Reeves hosted, to say thanks to those who had made his 2-yrs as prexy of the NNPA successful, and MGM's, to set the proper tempo for an eye-view of "Shaft in Africa." were the most. Though this is her home grounds Congress Lady Barbara Jordan certainly isn't without honor on its turf. The esteem in which she is held is expressed in the hub of the Houston Airport. A full life-color photo of her is glass-encased topping two white gentlemen who also represents the city in hi-gov-mental places. To all the folks here she is, "Lady Barbara" and that's good!

There was no official judges, but those who discussed the after dinner speakers, over "one for the road," were in agreement that Vernon Jordan, Nat. Urban League exec. dir., made the most lasting impression. Commish Benjamin Hooks, FCC, received the greatest press attention and some of his words were repeated on the local teevee news. The beautiful Vonette McGee, whom they say refuses to fill with cotton what God has forgotten, was abound to give a pretty idea of whom Richard Roundtree made love to in "Shaft in Africa." Sherman Briscoe, exec-dir. NNPA, did a tremendous job of pulling the convention together. Near the end his long time friend, and former boss, John Sengstacke, made him hoppin' mad and he quit. John, publisher of many newspapers, and the board refused to accept his resignation, but are not sure that Sherm will reconsider, even

in the face of a fat pay hike. Dr. Carlton Goodlett, the org's new prexy, has instructed his aids to seek a summit meeting with Black board members of major corporations and on staff Blacks in exec. and semi exec. positions. The annual convention Journal was such a hit more had to be ordered half-way thru the event. The NNPA will publish a second paper to hi-lite the convention's important happenings.

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH---David Merrick who made more millions when he dared to star Pearl Bailey in a Black version of "Hello Dolly," is brewing another idea. He is out to get Flip Wilson for much of same with "Sugar." Vincent Tubbs is in town after coming in to oversee the opening of "Cleopatra Jones." Told us that Warner Bros. is going the full star route with long-legged Tamara Dodson who is a whole lot of beautiful girl-child... Harlem's Sharron Brown graduated from Louis D. Brandeis Hi with most of the top honor and a 5C's scholarship to the U. of Rochester's school of medicine. When Ken Sherwood celebrated his second yr. as a super-market owner in new Rochelle, Mayor Frank Garito was on hand to compliment him on the job he's always doing in the community...Charming Ana Maria Stephens is the new community relations director for WABC-TV. Now maybe the next time they co-sponsor a junket to H'wood they will include some Black writers...Ronnie Holly, whose new stores is the talk of the best dressed clan, gave 'em something else to rap about with a "Fun, Fashion 'N Flight" jetaway to the Bahamas...Don't listen now, but talk is that Mayor John Lindsay is thinking about an indie run for another term. Also some dope is telling Abe Beame, the Dem. designee, to "write off" the Black vote since he made such a bad deal of it in the run-off against Rep. Herman Badillo...Kiah Sayles won't be able to do any knee tricks for a spell, but he's out of the hosp... Thelma Randolph Saunders is the latest guest at Jewish Memorial hosp...The nicest fan letter this wk. is from young and wonderful Bret Spencer who says he enjoys this piece down to ---STAY LOOSE.

UNLV Deadline

High school graduates and other local residents have less than two more weeks to file an admissions applications for the fall term at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Deadline for receipt of transcripts is July 16, according to UNLV Director of Admissions Dallas Norton. However, extensions may be requested by persons unable to meet the cut-off date, especially those who have just moved into the community, he said.

Formal admission is required only for students wishing to take nine credit hours or more at the university. Community residents may still take classes part-time next fall without going through the admission procedure.

Application forms may be obtained weekdays at the Admissions Office in Frazier Hall.

Instruction for the first semester starts September 4. Registration is scheduled for August 28 through 30.

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