

# ENTERTAINMENT

## BILLY ROWE'S



### notebook

WRITE BIG BUCKS--George Foreman isn't the only one beefin' about his fite with Muhammed Ali, which stripped him of his title. The United Artists Theatres are allegedly setting-up a suit against Video Techniques for booking the fite in too many nearby theatres. The chain feels that this move was the reason it sold only 30,000 of the available 70,000 seats for the closed circuit go. The closed circuit sale was a bust, both at home and abroad, and what was estimated to reach a gross of \$40-mil, the now count looks more like a high of \$8-mil. Wherein the offering was the most successful promo ever held in Dallas, it was a dismal flop in England and a money losing dud in Germany when politics got involved and the plug was pulled to blackout at the last minute; the promoters ballyhooed direct coverage from Zaire. The group there reportedly dropped 225G's in ticket sales and a loss of 600G's spent on drum beating. The closed circuit 'bath' will not change the \$5-mil the principles were guaranteed for the 8-rd happy upset...H' wood film makers would like to bring to the screen the rise and fall, and rise again, of heavyweight title regainer Muhammed Ali. A group in the same make believe city is also interested in a top budgeted flick on the life of Joe Louis...The box-office surge of "Amazing Grace" is a tribute to the amazing drawing powers of Jackie "Moms" Mabley, whom the critics dubbed the queen of the silver screen, when the film grossed 67G's, opening in N'York. It's a low budget flick which rates no adjectives and is not superstar cast.

The lovely talented Nancy Wilson is part of a \$6-mil plus suit Edgar Charles has filed in the L.A. Superior Court against KNBC-TV, and the RCA Corp. He alleges that he has been denied credit and ownership of the lady's weekly teevee opus on KNBC...The Ella Fitzgerald Center for the Performing Arts, on the Campus of the U. of Maryland, cost a million-six. She received a silver plate from Gov. Marvin Mandel to commemorate the dedication and the accolades of Dr. Gerald Johnson, who heads the music dept. He said it was a deep honor to name the 1,200-seat theatre for her...Sammy Davis, Jr. bought out his remaining contract agreement with the Sands in Las Vegas, at a cost of 500G's. The deal opened the way for him to start a new fling, Nov. 28th, at Caesar's Palace where he will become the hi'est paid superstar in the history of the dice capitol. No wonder he had loot left to buy an office bldg on H' wood Sunset Strip for a new corporate hdq...Ossie Davis and spouse, the excitingly talented Ruby Dee, are back from Africa with hi expectation about his completed film, "Kusini". The major mind pleased is that it was financed by the Deltas, George Johnson, the black cosmetic mil-naire and some Nigerian biz folks. This is, perhaps, the first co-production set to the silver thru a merger of black American and African money...The critics were tough on the Wm Alexander - Bill Shiffrin production, "The Klansman". If it cost \$4-mil plus to set to the silver wonder is where did the money go. Maybe for the hi-priced stars, Richard Burton, Lee Marvin and co-stars Lola Falana and gridiron great O.J. Simpson, who was much better in his debut film role than the flick. The pic was disappointing and lost an opportunity to become meaningful as the first major production by a black producer.

RAMBLIN' WRITE ALONG---The Sept '73 marriage of Nora Davis, Ossie and Ruby's daughter, to African film producer, Ladi Ladebo, has ended in divorce...N'York's Freedom National Bank is trying to round-up its thousands of stockholders in order to change the par value of its

Common Stock, from \$10 to \$2.50 per share, and to authorize a new class of 60,000 shares of non-voting Convertible Preferred Stock. This would give its new prexy, Hughlyn Fierce, the expanding cash necessary to put the institution on its financial feet...The Boys of Yesteryear honored Man. BeePee Percy Sutton, the other nite out, and he was the youngest person in the hall... Charlie Head, he taught the tee-green art to Billy Eckstine and a number of golf enthusiasts, has bogeyed life's final green...The Hon Harold A. Stevens will be the Dec. honoree of the Catholic Interracial Council. The Judge, who just lost his bid for a continued position on the bench of the Court of Appeals, will share the spotlight with unionist Thomas Van Arsdale. Dr. John Holloman is chairperson of the event. The Las Vegas lads got the church folks to defeat New Jersey's gambling referendum. Jim Cuffee and the Hilton were the big bettors on its passage...Cab Calloway and Gordon MacRae will headline segs of Metromedia's tube salute to "Vaudeville"...Chuck Stone and Claude Lewis are heading a drive to bring Philly's almost 100-black air and print news folks under an organized umbrella...If you haven't heard or seen chirper Carol Cass, you've missed an eye-ear treat.

William C. Matney, the teevee news correspondent-journalist, has launched his drive to publish a black "Who's Who". Strangely enough there isn't a known writer-journalist on his long list of contributing editors, which includes congressmen, mayors, business, professional and community leaders. However, he says the book is intended to be a reliable and broadly based compendium...Fred Williamson, the feet'ball-flick superman, has made a deal with Dimension Pic to nationally distribute "Boss Nigger". He wrote., produced and is the star of the flick.. The Sarah Vaughn spec was the best thing yet seen on Public Television. Though a bit plumper, her voice is as powerful and sweet as ever and

sounding more like an instrument handled by a finished artist... Miss Capers read from the play "Raisin In the Sun" for the 2,500 guests at the dinner which was chaired by Richard Gerstenberg, Chairman of General Motors. The head of every major black civil rights and fraternal organization was in attendance...STAY LOOSE.

## minor key

SATURDAY - 2:30 P.M.

Join Vicenta Montoya and Ray Willis each Saturday for a look at what minorities are doing in Southern Nevada. The weekly special guests and national figures make this program a noteworthy cultural half hour.



## GLADYS KNIGHT AND THE PIPS ON SOUL

Gladys Knight and the Pips, one of the giant Motown acts of the past several years, is the headline attraction on 'Soul' Thursday, November 28 at 9 p.m., a special Thanksgiving treat for viewers of Channel 10. Also on the program are poets



Carolyn Rodgers and Norman Jordan.

Gladys and the Pips will do "I Heard It Through the Grapevine", perhaps their biggest hit, as well as "If I Were Your Woman", "Friendship Train", "Make Me the Woman You Come Home To", "Nitty-Gritty" and "I Don't Want To Do Wrong". In addition, Gladys will solo on "Help Me Make It Through the Night".

## BIG 'AL' PRESENTS

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Escorted Ladies - Drinks 1/2 Price

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