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BILLY ROWE'S

notebook

CONVERSATION ROWE---An in-house battle is allegedly in full swing over a WNET/13. The PBS chain is about to release, "Harlem: Voices, Faces," a 90-minute Swedish probe into an American ghetto. In appealing to management to withdraw this film from the local and national scene, Tony Brown, producer of its "Black Journal," said; "The bigoted sector of White America will have its prejudices frozen in place and reinforced, and the Black people who need positive images to overcome the despair the film so ominously reveals, will be even more psychologically destituted." The spec. is scheduled to hit the teevee eye-lanes in mid-May...Former Attorney General, Ramsey Clark, is pen pleaing for two causes, Funds for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and Pennsy's State Senator Louis G. Hill who plans a democratic primary assault a-against Philly's incumbent, Mayor Frank Rizzo. He said that the Mayor of the city of brotherly love is "A man who uses heavy artillery and brute force, disregarding human dignity, to solve problems...Charles Bowser is mustering his forces to make the run of the Quaker City top office, also...Human stars twinkled across the world when Elida Webb Dawson was a young part of show biz. Beautiful, and bountiful, with a personality to match, she was a moving force in the Black artists' step across the line separating acceptance and acclaim. The first Black choreographer, she added rhythmic class to several Ziegfield shows, "Shuffle Along" and the fabled Cotton Club. Both Jo Baker and Lena Horne were on her protegee list, but a number of other show biz greats, still being followed by spotlites, are saddened by her passing, and those who have gone on before her, welcome her in the Valhalla of the deedful dead.

Jim Farmer, he made his mark as a civil rights warrior, a seeker of political office and an appointive official of the Federal Gov., has changed his thrust. He has formed a new non-profit org., headquartered in DeeCee, to aid home buyers seeking low-interest mortgages...Gloria Thomas, the WCBS dir. is going back to Columbia U. to seek her Masters' Degree...The salute to Joe Yancey, the internationally renowned coach, was fabulously fitting in the posh Starlite Rm. of the Waldorf. A rendezvous with the past, it was renewed reascent with a thlite greatness...Delores Martin, former adv. dir. of Houston's Forward Times, has hitched her ambitions to a Travel Agency. She's currently setting-up a side trip to Hawaii for the Publishers after their annual meet in Frisco in June...Marian Thomas, Dr. Alf's lovely widow, had to spend time in Dee Cee Hosp. to shake a pesky virus...The Dept. of Justice threw a legal punch at the Natchez, Miss' YMCA for excluding Blacks. The civil suit seeks to enforce Title II of the '64 Civil Rights Act...Bob Nemiroff, producer of "Raisin", the '74 Tony Award winning "Best Musical", quired, in his congrats tele to "The Wiz," the '75 standout in the same category, "Whoever called it the Great White Way?" Both of these full-cast Black musicals are enormously successful on the stem...Dr. Gloria E.A. Toote ran the clock out on her time as the Ass't Secy of HUD for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, in grand style with a 2-day "Conference of Fair Housing and Funding" in Arlington, Va. It attracted fair housing groups from all over the country and Dr. Carlton Goodlett, publisher and prez of the NNPA, was chairperson. It was a meaningful thrust in the drive she started when she took on HUD's E/O job to make this a nation of neighbors thru fair housing.

Joe Louis, the immortal heavyweight, stopped off in N'York enroute to DeeCee and tee-off time in "The Lee Elder Golf Tournament" in which Prez Ford was a 'maybe' walker from tee to green...Everett Lee was the conductor and Erick Friedman was the violin-soloist marking the 10-annsy of the Symphony of the New World at Avery Fisher Hall. In an effort to broaden the platform

of the Symphony, the posh new Westchester Premier Theatre spotlighted the group 5-days before its move to lower Manhattan...Lovely and ageless Modeen Broughton and banker Davis Means took their vows in the quiet invirons of Yorktown in the rich Westchester area. Invitations were limited to veddy close pals to watch and listen in the historic 250-yr old First Presbyterian Church...Mayme and Dave Bondu loved the success of their Bon-Adventure Golf Tourney at Disney World so much they have already contracted to tee-up there again in '76...Mayor Warren Widner's re-election victory in Berkeley could widen the political gap between he and Cong'man Ron Dellums of that city. The Congressman endorsed a Chinese lady who lost with sharps reasons for his act...The invites are out for Prez Ford and VeePee Rockefeller to address the July convention of the National Education Ass'n. Some 14,000 delegates and visitors are expected to jam Los Angeles for the event. Danny Kaye and Bill Russell, along with the International Children's Choir, are also expected to be on hand...Security measures to protect Big Bird, the star of "Sesame Street" are almost as rigid as those to protect President Ford. It seems when Big Bird appears in public, everyone, children and adults alike, want to pluck his feathers for souvenirs. So when CTW presented its "Feeling Good" Health Festival at the Lincoln Center Plaza, extraordinary precautions had to be taken to see that Big Bird didn't wind up a plucked bird...First Artists Productions plans to produce "Give Us This Day," a story about a Black priest and his use of the martial arts to establish communications with ghetto street gangs in Boston...Two new electronic devices which are the size of a pack of playing cards and which enable a heart patient to have his condition checked by his physician over the telephone have been announced. The device, weighing five ounces each, featured integrated circuits designed and developed by ITT Semiconductors, a division of International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation...Here's how Rev. Jesse Jackson worded it out at the recent NAB Convention in Vegas, "There is no diversity of voices in this bleak and rigidly controlled marketplace. The voice of CBS is that of NBC is that of ABC. And in Black and Spanish-speaking ears these are the collective voices in bigotry; the voices of oppression; the voices of emasculation, exclusion, elimination."...STAY LOOSE.

Football to Footlights

Fred Williamson, ex pro football star turned actor/producer/director, has wrapped up the production of his own film "The Hero" in which he starred, directed and produced. The motion picture is a non-message, sensitive film with highlight action scenes that portray what happens to a silver star war hero when he returns home from Viet Nam and becomes embroiled in an urban Mafia gang war.

Rated as a PG film, and scheduled for a mid-summer release, "The Hero" also features Stuart Whitman, Roddy McDowall, Luther Adler, Tony Caruso, Jerry Sherman and Aaron Banks (renown Karate expert/actor) with a cameo appearance by Elliott Gould.

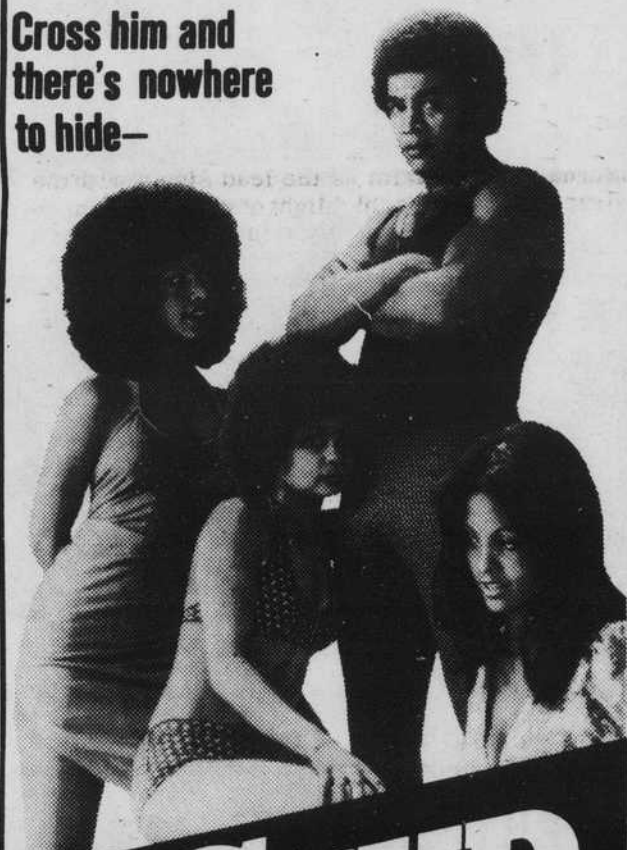
This finished motion picture kicks off a series of movies which will be made under the banner of Po Boy Productions, a newly formed independent motion picture production company with Fred Williamson at the helm as star, director and producer with the company's next production targeted for the month of September.

In keeping with his flamboyant outgoing ways as a pace-setter, Fred Williamson works towards constant employment, which means, as he states, "I give the people what I think they like. If they stop buying the things that I do, and they want art instead, then I'll give them art. It's that simple."

In his new role as a director/producer, Fred Williamson is still a very controversial personality...He doesn't know the old school of directing or the new school of directing...He only knows the Fred Williams way of making it work and that's exactly what he did in the production of "The Hero" when he utilized a three-camera-technique and finished the picture in a record 14 days of shooting to the amazement of veterans of the film industry.

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