



The Checkmates move to L. V. Hilton

HOLLYWOOD, California: Following a very successful two-week engagement at the plush Century Plaza Playboy Club, The Checkmates, Ltd. move their sparkling band of entertainment into the Las Vegas Hilton Casino Theatre for a four-week engagement beginning Thursday, May 22.

Prior to their opening at the Hilton, Bobby Stevens, Sonny Charles and Sweet Louie principal headliners of the Checkmates, Ltd., taped a one hour Veterans Administration syndicated radio show for the entertainment of hospitalized veterans throughout the world.

BILLY ROWE

ST. LOUIS, MO. --- Some folks in this city that's hard by the Mississippi are accusing Congr'man William Clay of a number of things which could bar re-election the next ballot time. With powerful Black-White voices being raised against him it is alleged that his chances of capturing Missouri's 1st-Dist. again, is about as good as that pervertible snow-ball in hell. A growing people's choice here seems to be Howard Woods, chr'man of the local Urban League, publisher of the St. Louis Sentinel, TV-commentator and heir to the presidency of the NNPA. He has a rapport with persons in hi and low places and perhaps could write his own political ticket. However, he's been a part of the national gov. scene and seeks no encore...Dr. Carlton Goodlett, prez of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, is leading 16-members of his org. on a government tour of the German Democratic Republic...The White House ordered a suite of offices opened for Dr. Gloria E.A. Toote to keep the former Ass't Secy of HUD's EO/FH in contact as it seeks another assignment to fit her astute talents. On the DeeCee front, many current job holders are biting their nails as the rumors of change begins to develop into a purge. Even Henry Kissinger, the headline making Secy of State, isn't expected to be around by Chunakah and neither will some of our hi titled ladies... "Raisin," the '74 award winning musical is bringing a new twist to add to the tradition of B'way. It has added a Thursday afternoon performance so that its cast can have the eve. off during the summer...Through his just introduced "Opportunities for Adoption Act of '75, Sen. Alan Cranston (D.-Calif), hopes to open the homes of America to some 120,000 adoptable but hard-to-place children." In lauding the compassion and humanity shown to the thousands of Viet and Cambodian orphans, the Senator asked that the same compassion be shown to American kids in foster homes and institutions who have not been adopted because of age, race, mental or physical defects or because they are in legal limbo.

Dick Griffey, the Black Los Angeles promotor, has lodged a \$30-mil suit against Bill Graham the White San Francisco promotor. Dick alleges that Bill called him names via the radio kilocycles he could not tune out...Meanwhile, back East Colonel Hubert Julian, the noted "Black Eagle," while recupin' from one of those male operations, announced that he plans to dump \$25-mil into a Harlem daily newspaper. The fabulous soldier of fortune told this scribe that though he's never been poor, he's richer now than a yacht full of Greeks... "It Seemed Like A Good Idea at the Time" is being primed for the Cannes Film Festival. Isaac Hayes is starred with composer-actor Anthony Newley and model-lovely actress Stefanie Powers in this comedy by John Trent and David Main...Philly's Ethel Allen, the get it done council member is expected to have re-election problems from a strong democratic adversary...Those of the reading class who have eyed the printed word of the book, "The Man,

The Movement, The Myth," are divided in their opinion of what Chgo Trib. reporter Barbara Reynolds penned about Rev. Jesse Jackson. It's alleged that the "Country Preacher" had the tome banned in Chgo...The economy being what it is, the boys are taking another look at marvelous Melba Toliver, who made the front page of the New York mag. as a 75G's teevee news correspondent...Starring in the nitemare thriller, "Poor Pretty Eddie," lovely-talented Leslie Uggams is billed over veteran "Oscar" winning actress Shelly Winters, who was a flick liberal before it became popular in the 60's and even after it died in the 70's... "Blazin Saddles," "Uptown Sadee Nite," "Claudine," "Foxy Brown," "Hell Up in Harlem," "5-on The Black Hand Side," "Black Belt Jones," "The Klansman," and "The Education of Sonny Carson," accounted for almost \$27-mil of the record box-office flick take for '74. Clevon Little's "Blazin Saddles" topped the Black group with a \$9,234, 062.00 take. It was seventh on the list of 99 pics which took in over a mil. \$. Sidney Poitier's "Uptown" was a rich second in the 17th slot.

Jim Cuffey, he owns more real estate in the East than any other Black, is having bias problems trying to close the deal for a motel on the Atlantic City Board Walk. The owner wants to go through with the sale, but his white neighbors are giving him dirty looks...The youngest daughter of the late Whitney Young, Lauren, is about to take herself a husband in Boulder, Colorado. However, the guest will have to jet it to the reception, as mama Mrs. Margaret Young, has it planned for New Rochelle, N. Y. in the beautiful home that 'papa' bought for them...The effervescent Jackie Russell, spouse of the Pepsi veepee, will use her get-away time to tour the Scandanavian countries...Two B'way oldies are gettin set for renewal runs, Pearl Bailey's "Hello Dolly" and "Hair," the original off with the clothes cast...Some standout Black performers you've never heard of, are being critically acclaimed by the London write-clan after opening at the Cambridge Theatre in "The Black Mikado." One critic wrote; "The recycled G&S score plays back in jazz, pop ballad, soul and soft rock variations, and the functional libretto is hooked up to suit the new ethnic ambiance. It's performed by a talented and versatile cast that's all Black but one. The result is an exuberant music-comedy that should do well in London and seems a fair bet for B'way adaption." The whole shebang could well be the "mother country's." to some, version of "The Hot Mikado" in which the late Bill Robinson starred in the '39 World's Fair and later on B'way...Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson has given his new Black appointed assistant a man sized job, to help him find jobs for the too many Americans who so desperately need work. The Stylistics, Dionne Warwick, The Mills Bros, Jerry Lewis, George Burns, and Frank Gorshin, will combine talents to make a BBC-TV summer variety series, "The Other B'way," lite up the tube...Sarah Vaughn and the Supremes are bartering their talents and window shopping in Hong Kong...Flick with any racial slurs have been banned in the Philippines...Flip Wilson's last teevee spec. was spectacular with laughs by the second...STAY LOOSE.

Raleigh Hughes

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