

BILLY ROWE

WRITE OR WRONG?

Emotions run a reverse field in the game of life and death. This is so despite the Divine rule that sadness should be reflected at its entrance and gladness should prevail at its exodus. The last rites for Jackie "Moms" Mabley was closer to this Biblical fact than any yet recorded. It was like the hearts and souls of her audience having a separate appraisal of her passing. The packed together humanity, in and outside of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, appeared aware of what she was in life, rather than of the lifeless form which filled the flower bedecked casket before the altar. The impassioned, yet articulate eulogy Dr. Samuel Proctor, minister, marked the living legato of this rare and talented human being. And this was good for it stemmed the tide of sorrow of both family and friends, but did not impinge upon their ardent love for this "mother" of the world who was a living symbol of unbiased affection for the imperfect creations of the perfect creator. In life she created a sea of laughter so it was altogether fitting that in death she was embrocated by it. And that was good for it is her immortality.

The flare for the dramatic is unrestrained in Col. Hubert Julian, the international soldier of fortune. At "Moms" final curtain he collected a half-dozen church members and led them to the open casket to place a dozen orchids he purchased in Paris to fulfill a wish. The most heartfelt effect was the "My Buddy" muted trumpet solo by Charles Click. The two most unusual happenings during the rites were the applause which greeted the end of Dr. Proctor's eulogy and the laughter thru his words when they were infiltrated by remembered jokes of the unforgettable comic queen. The just like "Moms" story came from Henry LeTang the dance prof who told how she left the hospital to take part in his troupe's show for Senior Citizens in White Plains. She returned to the hosp., and a few days later, she died. The stupid note was supplied by the print and electronic medias from downtown. The reporters they assigned to cover this closing paragraph of theatrical history didn't seem to know anybody or what the deceased had really contributed to the profession. Even John Johnson of ABC-TV, who's Black, seemed out of place and the greats and near greats, who peopled the proceedings, were alien to him and the others. It is understandable that these journalists are not aware as to where "Moms" is going, but unforgivable they did not know where she came from or any of the stalwarts who made part of the trip with her.

Muhammad Ali "T-Shirts" will be the next promotional sales item on the Sears' bargain counter... Dick Gregory is setting himself for his run to the coast and is expected to jump off the blocks July 4th, from N'York... Sterling Tucker, prez of the Black dominated DeeCee City Council, is doing some overtime lobbyin' to insure a fulfilled legal holiday observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. b'day in the nations capitol. The Council voted unanimously, over a month ago, to make it a city holiday. However, the action would not close city offices and courts as gov. workers are under federal Civil Sr. which do not include provision for observance that day... The political fortunes of Austin Norris, former editor of the Phila Courier, has taken a turn for the richer. He was one of the few Blacks who backed incumbent Mayor Rizzo who beat the 'machine' in a bid for re-election... Performing in the City O' Brotherly love, dyno' mite J.J. Walker allegedly didn't give parents a "Good Time" at all, but shocked the 'ell out of 'em... Folks who have been sending mail to Rick Willard at Atlantic Records had better find his new address... Tom Fortune, the N'York State rep. from B'klyn is looking for a post closer to home, the Borough Prez office... Now that Aretha Franklin and Gladys Knight and her Pips are no longer being booked out of the same office their agents seems to have them battlin' against each other for box office attention. Aretha at the Westchester Premier Thea. day and date with Gladys a car hop away at Westbury.

Lesley Traverse Williams Douglass, datter of Lois and the late Billy Williams, is among the top-graduates from Georgetown U. Law Center... Ingrid Joy Warrick and Fitzroy George Anthony have picked a June date. She's the datter of Jeri Warrick the NBC exec. and he's a U.S. Virgin Islands gendarme... Painful sadness was Eleanor Haynes when it took 10-stitches to knit her fin-

gers together after a lawn-mower accident. But so did some happiness when she was informed that her soldier based son has a chance at OTS.. Some of Bob Delon's close pals are wondering how he got to be a free man fast enough to take those quickie vows with lovely and talented Diahann Carroll. Those closest to him were aware that he and his pretty young former bride wasn't making it despite the presence of their lovely daughter... Evelyn Cunningham has made the switch to the staff of VeePee Nelson Rockefeller... If you think that Blacks on the Federal executive level have any clout check out the dudes and dolls they have tried unsuccessfully to have appointed to minor positions or get them "small" less than a mil-\$ government contracts... Bill Smith who's on the hi-side of 50 and a little heavier now than when he was a gal huggin' life guard and chorus dancer with the Cotton Club Boys, has won himself a Bachelor's degree from College of New Rochelle... Rev. Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, who has everybody hustling the latest record of his tremendous church choir, is this yr's gen chr'-man of the Uptown Rotary annual golf outing. The group will tee off across the green expanse of the Lakeover golf and country club... The odds are in favor of Jim Dent becoming the next Black to tee off in the illusive Masters. Unless our man Lee Elder gets back on his game it is doubtful he will face those Georgia fairways in '75... "We got no Black entertainment in this joint" is the letter cry of Karamoko Baye, chr' man of the Black Culture Society of Marion, Ill. Federal Pen. This scribe would like to help him change this, will you with talent help?... B.B. King was again Mayor Charles Evers co-host of Fayette, Miss' annual Homecoming tribute to slain Civil Rights leader Medger Evers. The mayor showed off the tremendous progress of his city but was a mite bitter about the number of super-Black stars who now ignore his invitation to come home not that the movement isn't making headlines anymore. --STAY LOOSE.

Rawls, Tillotson playing MGM

Soul and blues king Lou Rawls, and country pop favorite Johnny Tillotson have been signed for a record eight-week run at the MGM Grand Hotel.

The two stars will appear back-to-back as co-headliners during the June 11 through August 5 booking in the Grand Lion's Den Lounge.

"This will be the longest scheduled booking in the history of the MGM Grand," said Bernard Rothkopf, the hotel's executive vice president.

"We're especially excited about this engagement because of the tremendous stature of Lou and Johnny. They're both super entertainers and have a large and loyal fan following."

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