

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

N'YORK CITY - Remember the hilarious "Our Gang," the Hal Roach comic-buster which vied with Charlie Chaplin for the affection and the admish prices of movie goers in the Roaring 20s and 30s. If you're past 30, or a teenage teevee a.m. watcher, you're well aware of the antics of Porky and Marmalade and the downright rascality of their playmates - Speck, Spike, Spud, Stymie, Spanky, Buckwheat, Bubbles, Bouncy, Alfalfa and Farina. Sunshine Sammy who played "Buckwheat" in the original "Our Gang," was a big star in his day, emoting in a world of Stepin Fetchit's "Way Down South," "The Littlest Colonel" with Bill Robinson and Shirley Temple, and a few other forced Uncle Toms. His image didn't fair badly, in fact, "Our Gang" or "The Little Rascals" was before its time for both the classroom and the backyard "club house" was integrated. Well, then, you gotta believe "The Little Rascals" may live again in a teevee series now on pilot out California way by none other than the irrespressible Norman Lear, the producer who is a genius in parlaying the extremes of T-Viewing. Lear capitalizes on wide appeals, from the ghettoish "Good Times" to the affluent "The Jeffersons," from the low life to the high, and whether you agree with him or not, he has thrown together for good measure smash hits as "All in the Family" and "Sanford & Son" to name a few.

SUDDENLY THEY'RE BLOWING HIS HORN It's like they had just discovered Dizzy Gillespie, the man with the funny trumpet during Jazz Festival run in the "Big Apple" . . . Jimmie Walker 29 year old native of N'York's South Bronx and a talented comic has not yet reached the biggies. So far he's remembered by his one-line teevee war whoop - "Dyn-o-mite!" But he tempers his blood-curdling yell with soulful talks to his plants which fill his Sunset Strip apartment. He also tries his jokes on his horticultural friends to remind him of "What is real and what is not, and who I really am." What he wants is to be a black Mort Sahl . . . Malombo, the black African group is heavily booked on a European tour which includes the Montreux Festival (Switzerland), Antibes (France and the Hague (Holland) . . . At his hilarious best is Richard Pryour when he plays three parts in the now being made universal uproarious comedy, "Which Way Is Up?" . . . Corliss Taylor Moore is the new "Ella," the ingenue lead in "Bubbling Brown" still knocking them dead on Broadway. It has grossed \$7 million in the year and some month's on the stem. It topped \$3 million on its pre-Broadway tour.

SEEN ON THE SCENE - Some are wondering h'cum Basil Paterson, who may have been elected Lt. Gov. if the office was on a ballot slot on its own, isn't running for surrogate? Others are saying that Judge Bob Magum, who never had to run for public office, would like to . . . Because the Jazz Festival operates on such a small profit note, Nina Simone's no show could cancel George Wein's take home pay . . . The Vivants bash #8 is on the house, Cathy Chance's that is, for a bar-b-que and swim. But no skinny dippin' . . . Up on the Vineyards, the Nathan Mayhew Seminars have invited a select go-about-few to an evening of music and dinner with Eddie Heywood. Tickets are limited at \$50 for boy and broad. Now if you want to go to the exciting Eleanor Haynes splicing to John W. Price of Atlanta, her good service and group travel agency is offering a full wk'end package in Carter's Country for just \$239 per person. However, you've gotta be friendly cause it's double occupancy and over the long Labor Day wk'end. Long before that friends of Larry Byrd will be hosting a fun-fund raising bash for him as a financial aid to his bid for the New Rochelle City Council . . . That ABC teevee flick about "Black Widow" is not about black folks, but a spider.

Out Las Vegas way, where everything is a gamble, it is not a good bet to refuse to rent to black persons in at least two all-white apartments. So says the Dept. of Justice which has filed civil suit against a 122-unit manager charging discrimination and misrepresentation to blacks that apartments were not

available . . . Symphony of the New World, America's only truly integrated, interracial orchestra, has reserved Carnegie Hall for Sunday afternoon series of concerts with dates extending from Oct.16, 1977 through June 18, 1978. Charles A. Vincent, Symphony's chairman gained fame by setting up a high-towered office building on Harlem's 125th St.

. . . Sure enough, it's a girl for Melba (Mrs. Charles Huggins) Moore. The little lady weighed in at 6 lbs 12 1/2 ozs., and has 20 1/2 inch stretch. They call her Melba Charli . . . At the return to the 30s party Schenley tossed to toast the intro of its Cocktails for Two, Lou Gossett was among the youngest invitees. However, he was justly thrilled when Mae West chirped, "Why doncha come up and see me sometime" . . . Mike Douglas has Stephanie Mills, "The Wiz" - bang Broadway star, set for his telecast interview of Teen Success Makers.

George Wein will take his Newport Jazz Festival out of N'York comes '78. The N'York bottom line, after expenses, is too thin . . . That Bobby Short one nite concert in Parea for Pieree Cardin, at his Theatre L'Espace Cardin, should keep the piano delineator in suits for years. Bobby's chores were also filmed for teevee and some day soon should be seen in the states . . . Universal missed a bet by not inviting old war correspondents to the spotlite premiere of "Gen. Douglas MacArthur". I know for sure this scribe was't, despite the fact he was with General Mac when he kept his, "I will return promise," and was on the USS Missouri when he signed the peace treaty with Japan. How could ya Universal?! Guess you don't know anything about us black folds.---STAY LOOSE.

BOB ROSE

"President Carter's emphasis on human rights has the Soviets upset and perplexed," said Nevada Lieutenant Governor Bob Rose who recently returned from a three-week political study tour of the USSR.

"The Soviets feel human rights is an internal affair. They feel that how they treat protestors and dissidents is their business," noted Rose.

The Lieutenant Governor praised Carter's human rights efforts, however, saying "if the U.S. doesn't do it, no one else will stand up for human rights."

"We have the Soviet Union on the defensive for the first time in a decade. They find they must defend an issue that is very difficult for them to defend. This puts the U.S. in a strong position," noted Rose.

He added however that there are inherent dangers. It could jeopardize the Belgrade Arms Limitation Talks, threaten gains between the two nations, and make the situation worse for dissidents in the Soviet Union. Rose also believes that the U.S. may have to be more flexible on the human rights issue in the future if it truly becomes counter-productive.

Lieutenant Governor Rose, who was co-chairman of the 12-member delegation from the American Council of Young Political Leaders, observed during his tour of Moscow, Kiev, and Alma-ata that the USSR is a large, diverse, powerful country and its leaders are tough and uncompromising.

"We can look for the ideological struggle between the Soviet Union and the U.S. to go on for decades and the U.S. must meet the challenge head on in the years to come," declared Rose.

Citing the lack of freedom of the press, freedom of expression, individual initiative, and individual responsibility, the Nevada found Soviet society "stifling".

During his tour, Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny was removed from office and American journalist Robert Toth was detained and interrogated by Soviet officials.

"It is incredible," said Rose, "but those in the U.S. knew more about what was going on in Russia than we did while we were there. The newspaper article on Podgorny was comparable to the size of our want ads and there was no public discussion on the matter. There is no room for contradiction of opinion in the Soviet Union."

"The average Soviet probably feels there is freedom of the press in the USSR. They have no conception of the true meaning of freedom of the press and freedom of expression. If you have never enjoyed real freedom, you truly don't know what you are missing," declared Rose.

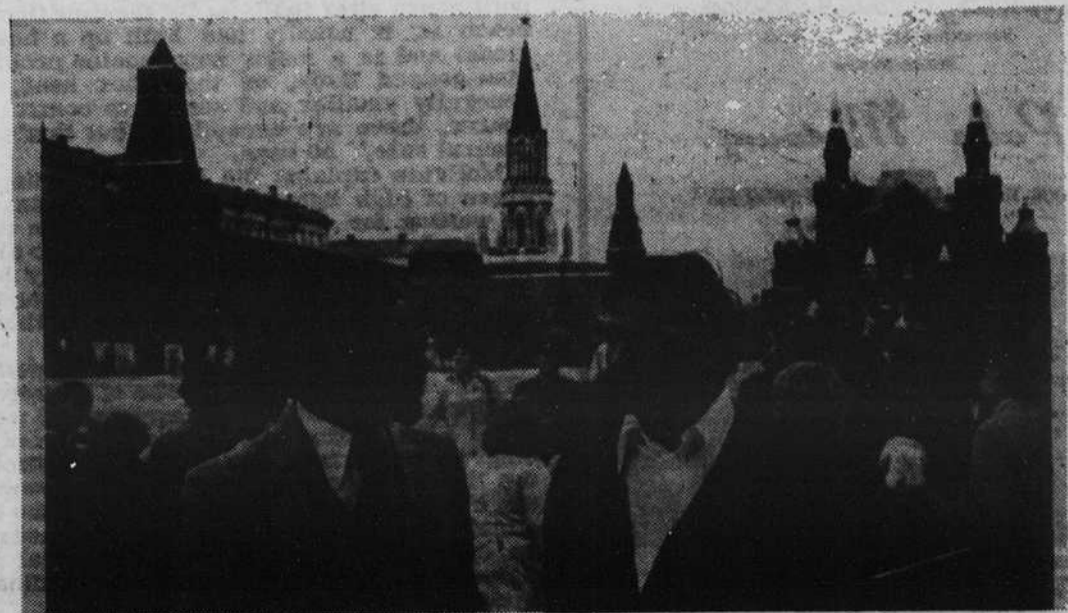


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A stop at the Lenin Mausoleum in Moscow's Red Square was part of Nevada Lieutenant Governor Bob Rose's political study tour of the Soviet Union. Rose was co-chairman of

the 12-member American delegation of young political leaders, which included Benjamin Brown of Washington, D.C. Deputy Chairman of the Democratic National Committee.