

BILLY ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

My wife said to me the other day that I write like I have a chip on my shoulder. For information that's no chip, but a whole darn ship and it's sinking write under me. What I mean, in this here episode, for instance, is that us blacks have to sit night after night watching teevee brothers constantly portrayed as pimps, informers, gang bosses, wallowing in dope with a lust for killing cops. The script writers seem to have a fixation, if not a chip on THEIR shoulders that many blacks are violent and a menace to society, and that goes double for the Lords of teevee who continue to paint blacks as the Bad Guy, a free-wheeling dope peddler with a diamond stick pin stuck in a gaudy tie. Or a stickup artist out to do mayhem in his "pimpmobile."

"The Rockford File" rollicks along with a Black Canary, a pimp of a fella who turns in the baddies as he continues on his criminal ways. The ABC series, "Starsky & Hutch," has a Black snitching saloon-owner who rats on his unsavory patrons.

What hurts the eye'in and ear'in is that more and more we are being typed with every passing reel which has begun to hurt the image of our real life. The film weighs heavy on the minds of folks, and the race which comes out more often as marauders, bent on doing in the elderly, fill the young with death causing drugs and force young girls into a life of prostitution, are looked upon as thus in real life. The constant terror that was "Seige," the TV flick about the plight of the elderly in the concrete jungles of any big city. In this dramatic special ne'comer Dorian Harewood, whom I understand, in private life is the soul of gentility, portrayed a gang boss of urban Black and Puerto Rican guerillas. He did a hellva job spewing his wrath on Sylvia Sidney in her fortress apt. The depressing realism, as he came to grips with Martin Balsam must have caused some senior citizens to attempt to lock out bitter off screen memories. It was great drama and we do not castigate the producers because the heavy was black, but tell them that unless he runs the gamut of the total acting scale, little old white ladies will see me in the street and call a cop.

Plunder and pimpery are not the methodology of the black American. Nor is rack-eteering the "Godfatherly" way of all Italians. And surely a Jew should not always be typed as the pushcart vendor selling cheap on the lower Eastside. Nor should the Irish be depicted constantly spending their ditch-digging wages over the bar of the corner saloon. Germans are not all Nazis shouting "Achtung" in a "Holocaust" concentration camp. To carry these absurdities to comical conclusions would mean that all Scotchmen should portray penny-pinchers and that WASPS must always be painted as tan shoes wearing, thin-lipped, imperious, forever looking down on ethnic fellows who don't sing, "Long Live The Queen!"

Let's get off it fellows, variety is the spice of life. Just as blacks were not the eye-rollin', shufflin' characters of the "Way Down Dixie," "Halleluja" era of Stepin Fetchit, Willie Best, and the like, nor are they the hi'flying pimps and hustlers of the present day teevee bad guys and gals. Law inforcers are wasting enough blacks without, "To Kill A Cop," which starred Lou Gossett, Jr., hitting the network to add fear to the daily ryme and reason to blowup another. Though it's just a reel drama it colors the minds of real folks and oftimes causes death dealing very live, through not living action.

If I seem to be a one-man anti-defamation league, it's because many of you who eye this corner and the boob-tube are charter members with no soap box to yell from. One of the kind of flicks there should be more off is "Law Man Without a Gun." This NBC made for TV film is heavy and depicts the life of the first black man to be elected sheriff of an Alabama County. Lou Gossett Jr. stars in this one also and does his usual fine acting job. This is the kind of variety which will keep minds of balance to

prevent folks from putting races into a given category. We are not out to make the same mistake the NAACP did in the gory-days of the late 30's and early 40's. At that point it entered into a major drive to get H'wood to stop our stars from shufflin' and eye'rollin' and put our ladies into the drawing rooms as well as the kitchens. Well "Mr. Charlie" got up tight and scripted all roles around them. So instead of expanding their opportunities, they reduced them.

It seems to us that the time has come to become aware of this flick-fact: There is an overkill on violence---of any color. Really, we just don't need film reminders that there are urban dungeons of despair, that they breed poverty, the off shoot of crime. It has become sociological old hat that there are jungles out there. Everybody is aware of that, and one should not forget that there were jungles in the old south where white lynch mobs galloped weaving those movie plots. The electronic media is a powerful thought spreader. Those who control it should keep in mind it's only make believe to the camera people, the script writers, directors and actors. To a vast number of those who watch, it's reels are as real as life and people who act in them are also for real down to the last action.

TEE TEMPER JAMS BROWN---An Inglewood Municipal Court Commish., Wardell Moss, has ruled that gridiron great, turned-Moss, has ruled that gridiron great, turned actor, Jim Brown was off the fairway when he used a "handwedge" to beat and choke his golfing partner in L.A. last yr. The Hall O' Fame pigskin carrier faces a 6-mo. slammer stretch and a fine that would reduce his bank account by a grand. He's due to be sentenced late in June. Perhaps it's a small price to pay for doing what many tee'persons always wanted to do but didn't have the nerve . . . Ironically the title of his next starring flicker chore is, "Do They Ever Cry in America." This is a WW II saga which has just been completed and is about a true incident in war torn Philippines . . . "Ain't Misbehaving," the critically acclaimed musical forged out of the genius of the immortal Fats Waller, has been selected as the "Best Musical" of the 77/78 season by the 22-member N'York Drama Critics Circle. The all-white aisle sitting write hand group includes such play makers or breakers as Clive Barnes, Walter Kerr and Douglas Watt. "Ain't" snagged 9 of the 17-votes cast leaving 4-for "Runaways," 3-for "20th. Century" and one for "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." . . . STAY LOOSE.

Answer to Puzzle

AHS	MESAS	RAN
RAT	ALERT	EGO
CLAW	STREAMER	
STRAP	SORTED	
	NAP	WEED
FIDDLE	SO	ITE
ODES		CAIN
GAS	ID	FILLED
	PANE	ANA
	MISSAL	KNEES
DISPIRIT		SWAT
ALE	STREW	ERA
RED	THANE	SLY

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Continuing Education

If you can't get away this summer, consider spending your vacation at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

The Division of Continuing Education at UNLV has coordinated almost 40 credit and noncredit classes for adults and children that are outlined in a "Classes for People" brochure which is now available in Frazier Hall on the campus.

Arts and crafts classes will be offered in the dance, mural painting, cabinetmaking, lapidary, pottery, stained glass, basic photography, canning and breadmaking.

Parents should plan to have their children attend the "Summer Thing," a physical education program for youngsters aged 7 to 15, or the UNLV rebel wrestling camp, pre-ballet and baton twirling programs.

Special programs in the area of personal and professional growth include adult and junior high level speedreading, the dilemmas and conflicts of growth, personal energy, yoga and career counseling for high school students.

Credit courses this summer will cover painting, archaeology, biology, professional writing, driver education training, radiologic technology and a reading conference on June 9 and 10.

Contact UNLV's Division of Continuing Education for dates and fee schedules.

School Trustee Speaks

The statement, "It is Good for the Children", cannot justify every action in our school district.

Representing you for the past three months, as a school trustee, I, Jim Dreitzler, have taken many opportunities to observe, firsthand, the Clark County School District.

You can be proud of modern facilities, good financing and community support of our schools.

However, for some teachers there is constant frustration because of harassment by supervisors to achieve unrealistic goals. The teachers find themselves eyeball deep in paper work, receiving constant criticism and have little time to teach children. God help the teacher who tries to be creative in the classroom. He soon learns that being creative is not rewarding, if he plans to continue work in the school district.

As a trustee, I find two attitudes among our board members concerning problems. I, along with others, believe that we are not doing the best possible job for everyone, but with the right approach every child can be helped. Others admit that there may be problems, but feel that we can't help everyone.

I am disturbed that a pre-occupation to control people seems to prevail among some administrators. Although not openly discussed a system of divide and conquer operates among supervisors in order to control teachers. By some, this method is known as the killer of the ape theory. This misdirected effort effects progress to solving student achievement.

Why so many unrelated programs? I am told that some programs are even set-up without even contacting teachers who are expected to run them. This lack of direction and purpose is frustrating to me and other taxpayers who pay the bill for incompetence.

I have been told by district employees that they feel intimidated and are reluctant to discuss anything with trustees for fear of their job. Perhaps this is one reason some board members are not always fully aware of district problems.

Who is responsible? Why the inconsistencies?

My commitment to you is that I will not accept excuses, or compromise for the children and citizens of Clark County. We can solve our problems, but we must recognize the fact that they do, indeed, exist.