

BILLY ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

WRITE TO-DO-ABOUT SOMETHING: Somebody had better send teevee producers in for a series of tests. Would you believe that Richard Pryor and Sonny Bono, lightweights, Dan "Grizzly Adams," Haggerty and football Hall O'Famer Jim Brown, heavyweights, have been inked by Burt Sugarman to trade punches in a teevee special dubbed "Celebrity Boxing." The bell will ring for this new 'farce' late in July and if the show attracts enough eyes it will become a monthly happening with superstars who're "into the art of boxing." . . . The 5th. annual Award Dinner of the Black Athletes Hall of Fame looks like a gas, out-doing all the others. As usual Bill Cosby is the hardest working honorary chairman to ever appear on an appeal letter. The June 28th. bash at the Waldorf will be televised to bring the large contingent of superstar athletes and performers into homes throughout the country. Spotlight spotted will be Nathaniel "Sweetwater" Clifton, Floyd Patterson, Frank Robinson, O.J. Simpson is expected to dash thru, Vivian Reed is expected to join Ben Vereen, Buddy Rich Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis and the Alvin Ailey Dance Group on a 90-minute syndicated teevee'r. If that isn't enough to grab y'r \$100., Pele and Joe Namath will be among those receiving their Hall O'Fame location from Wilma Rudolph and George Benson among other gliters.

SO WHAT!?---A number of opulent first-niters are not that thrilled over the announcement that the \$28-mil screen version of the all black B'way hit version of "The Wiz" will dump its "Big Apple" opening nite proceeds into the coffers of the foundation that operates the landmark Astoria studio. The event is to be sponsored by N'York City Oct. 24th. at Loew's Astor Plaza Theatre. Since the Diana Ross starrer was shot around the Apple and in the Astoria studio, guess it's okay for the spot to get some of the loot and earmark it to tidy the place up some we can get more flick tricks on our turf. However some of the Harlem grown theatrical projects should benefit from this tremendous film that was inspired by the award winning all-black exciting musical now in its 4th. yr on the great illuminated lane. The Harlem Dance Studio, which has eleven members in its cast could be among the deserved beneficiaries. With the city in the "cat bird" seat this one will probably turn into a political spaced out ego trip from which few hurt feelings will ever return.

WRITE CHATTER---Atlanta's Mayor Maynard Jackson, Jr., is the proudest citizen of his town over the success of teenager Lark Ruffin. The young lady has excited film critics in her first major role in ABC-TV's miniseries, "Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry." The made for teevee flick is finishing up a 3-nites run on the network, and it's based on the Mildred D. Taylor children's novel themed around black famers during the depression. Claudia McNeil has a big role in this one . . . Lovely H'wood veteran actress Olivia De Havilland has accepted a guest-star cast position in "Roots: The Next Generations." . . . Some of the folks who make conversation in smoke filled rooms are trying to talk Ga-State Sen. Julian Bond to nix the red clay state and set up political action in Harlem. The feeling is that he would fill the niche thats been nothing but a crack since the late Adam Clayton Powell left the scene. Army Secretary Clifford Alexander is better than their second choice, but the feeling is that he's an odds on favorite to make political paths right in the corner where he is. Another fine feather of a politician, who made history thru the voting booths, turned down a major position on the national scene when he didn't check out too well with the probers.

Myrna (Mrs. Roy) Hamilton, wife of the late great delineator, is adding to his memory thru "Funtainment benefits to help strike-out strokes. Her Roy met his untimely end as a result of one in N'Rochelle where she put together a show at The Palace Disco to aid news-gal Doris McNeil Richards who is re-

covering from a recent heart attack . . . Has Diahann Carroll gone bonkers? She's set to appear on the Hudson Bros' syndicated variety series next season . . . Candance Caruthers, the only black-lady editorial director for a major (ABC-TV) electronic media, is playing a "come-aboard" role in the NAACP's national drive for members . . . "Eubie," the musical to depict the time and talent of octogenarian and some, Eubie Blake, has regenerated all the goodies and is almost ready for trial runs in the hinterlands. The City of Brotherly Love will be its first stage'in board. Alaina Reed, Marion Ramsey, Ethel Beatty, Linnie Godfrey, Lonnie McNeil, Mel Johnson, Maurice Hines, Jeffery Thompson and Janet Powell, who have all won their spurs on stage, teevee and screen, are the featured players . . . Public Television must smell something, and from the odor it could be a 'dead rat.' A show for its channels has already been produced, for Robert MacNeil and Jim Lehrer to host, to be eared the nite of the Supreme Court decision on the controversial Bakke case.

Titled, "After Bakke: Who Gets Ahead." Wondah is PBS is aware of something we don't know? The show is to be b'cast live, with videotape and segments and discussions examining the issues raised by affirmative action programs and charges of reverse discrimination.

WRITE TO THE END---The South African Freedom Committee, chaired by Ossie Davis and Sipo Mzimela, will mark its 2nd.anny'y, and that of the student uprising in Soweto, South Africa, with a fund raiser at Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum . . . The folks in the know are sure that the \$6-mil track meet which Andy Hatcher was drum beating for will never make the stretch . . . CBS is busy with premiere plans for mid-July of its 260Gs financed recording studio in B'kly's Bed-Stuyvesant. The edifice will be operated as a commercial venture, but with a meaningful apprenticeship program. Otis Troupe of the B.Stuy Restoration Corp. is the adminstrator . . . They gave Herb Wright a dinner last wk., which means that after 30-yr of giving his best, he's retiring from his well done job with Philip Morris. Too bad it was a suprised event, and without Herb's list, too many of his pals were not there to express LOVE! . . . STAY LOOSE.

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