

Tribute To Martin Luther King Jr.

"Livin' Fat"

by Bernie Vegas



Russ Binion (left), president, American Federation of Government Employees Local 12, and Labor Department employees in the background join singers and dancers who participated in a program commemorating the birthday

of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In the foreground are children from the Day Care Center at the Labor Department and children of Labor Department and children of Labor Department employees.

CBS Contributes \$50,000 To King Center



Pictured during the donation ceremonies at The Martin Luther King 50th Birthday Celebration are, (L to R), Paul Smith -- Sr. VP & General Manager Marketing/CBS Records, Martin Luther King, Sr., Jesse Hill -- Chairman

Of The Board Of The Martin Luther King Center For Social Change, Coretta Scott-King -- wife of the slain civil rights leader and President Of The Center, and LeBaron Taylor -- VP Black Music Marketing/CBS Records.

January 15th, 1979 marked what would have been the 50th birthday of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, slain civil rights leader. To honor the occasion, The Martin Luther King Center For Social Change hosted the Martin Luther King 50th Birthday Celebration in Atlanta, Georgia.

CBS Records, long-time staunch supporters of The Martin Luther King Center For Social Change, donated a grant of \$50,000 this year to ensure the continuous growth of the center. The presentation of the \$50,000 check was made at The Center's Annual Board Meeting Luncheon where Paul Smith (Sr. VP & General Manager of Marketing/CBS Records) and LeBaron Taylor (VP Black Music Marketing/CBS Records) gave the check to Jesse Hill (Chairman Of The Board Of The King Center), Coretta Scott-King (wife of the late Dr. King) and Martin Luther King,

Sr.

This year marked the continued support CBS Records has always given The Center throughout the years. Last year, for example, CBS Records sponsored its second successful fundraising concert which, featuring such artists as the incomparable Patti Labelle, keyboard virtuoso George Duke, the dynamic Teddy Pendergrass and the funky rhythms of Heatwave; grossed \$70,000 for The Center.

In addition to the \$50,000 CBS Records donated, this year's festivities were highlighted by the appearance of such dignitaries as President Carter who, in a letter to Mrs. King, said . . . "this anniversary reminds us forcefully of what one life can mean and of what can be done in a relatively short time to remove the obstacles

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 COLUMN 2

Judi Ann Mason's "Livin' Fat" is currently premiering at the Las Vegas Meadows Playhouse. Ms. Mason is the recipient of the first Norman Lear Award for Achievement in Comedy Playwriting. She is currently Technical Consultant for C. B. S. Television's "Good Times." A graduate from Grambling State University Theater Guild and two-time winner in the American College Theatre Festival, Judi Mason is currently a freelance drama critic for the Los Angeles Times.

"Livin' Fat" means Blacks enjoying what some Whites have been enjoying all their lives, as said by Mama, the ever-glowing Ruth Brown. Ruth's portrayal of Mama is a special treat. She appeals to the total audience giving "Livin' Fat" life, depth and a strength that goes undenied throughout the play.

The supporting cast of our own Las Vegas Debra A. White as Mama; Eddie B. Fleming, Daddy; Robert L. Dixon, Boo; Donald Lane, David, and living energy Sylvia Ross as Candy took command.

The actors mellowed the scene transitions with a strong element of Black disco expressionistic dance. The actors' movements were understandable communication that was well received by the audience. They took control and they gave their characters life, essence, real identifiable meaning. The Meadows Playhouse audience gave the actors its first standing ovation in recognition of a total stage happening.

What did I really think? "Livin' Fat" has a message, humor and realistically deals with the human element of people, any color. I enjoyed it.

The Meadows Playhouse has limited seating. I suggest you make reservations now. The play will remain three more weeks. The total capacity is less than 200 people. The audience on Opening Night had an attendance Judge Guy and wife; Don Won Wiggins and lady; Jan Anderson, myself and seven other Blacks. The rest were Playhouse season ticket holders. The audience (white) was no real indication that we didn't support our own, because brother and sister, they were judged and supported by a full house.

Thank you West Side Art Gallery/Bookstore (formally known as the Nubian Kefentse Kultural Kommunity) and their artists for lining the walls of the Meadows Playhouse with strong Black expressions of art.

1980 Convention Site

The Republican National Committee selected Detroit as the site of its 1980 National convention at its recent mid-winter meeting held in Washington, D.C.

Detroit was chosen over six other cities that also vied for the GOP convention at which the party's presidential candidate will be nominated. It has a population that is 55 per cent black and is labor oriented.

"Last July, the Republican National Committee met in Detroit's Renaissance Center," Bill Brock, Chairman of the Republican National Committee said. "Before the actual meeting began we held an urban conference for county chairmen from every region of the nation. The purpose of that conference, the first of its kind held by Republicans, was to discuss our initiatives in the areas of health care delivery system, employment, education, housing, crime and transportation. These are problem areas that concern city residents throughout the country," he said.

Brock added that he felt that Detroit is symbolic of the nation's urban areas and the problems they face. He called Detroit's "renaissance" status, both economically and architecturally, "an inspiration to urban residents everywhere in America.

"This will be an exciting and tremendously significant convention. We will come out of it a stronger party and Detroit will be a stronger city economically. It will also have the opportunity to show the nation its significant development."

Detroit officials expect the convention to bring to the city approximately \$40 million in new revenue.