

**Alexander's
Album**



by Clifford Alexander

"DEEPER ROOTS"

Now that we have digested the general condition of Blacks in this country through that informative second series, "Roots", we might develop a new appreciation for our present. Many persons I talked with have suggested a new desire to succeed, despite the odds and awesome difficulties. Many felt the story told their family situation in great detail, but most of all it was not a disappointment.

The second series of "Roots" on A.B.C. Television was inspiring, informative, courageous and as true-to-life as the first series two years ago.

According to national television polls, "Roots" had the largest segment of viewers during that week than any other program aired to the public.

I have talked with some viewers who supposes that the very fact that the latest segments were closer in time to their present generation may have had something to do with the number of viewers. For many of us, it is harder to accept truth when it is closer to home and the present. But like it or not, it tells a story that many of us can relate to and in which we can find a scene that drives the point of hatred and hope home.

No matter how you look at it, there is a lesson to be learned in the presentation. There will be endless discussions over the literary form, some calling it "fiction", because they say that facts dressed up like fiction are fruitless. The truth is hard for many to accept, whether or not it happened to the Haley family, but most of those facts certainly happened to Black people as a race.

Or course, much of the value of this presentation lies in the fact that it serves as an educational tool, both for Whites and other nationalities who have been deprived of learning Black history and for our own younger generation, who may have taken too many things for granted.

The greatest lesson is for the television industry and the broader community. A.B.C. has demonstrated that a Black prime time series can be created which will avoid stereotypes, slapstick, Blacks against Blacks, or contrived circumstances. Unlike what passes for Black programming at present, "Roots" did not rely on forced caricatures, or even on Black-face duplications of White situation comedies.

Black historian, Dr. John Reid, said that "Roots" should teach all of us that the television industry is capable of quality Black programming. It should cause all alike to insist that the curious are of fatherless and husbandless homes, middle-class Amos and Andy antics, White surrogate parents, and White heroes leading Black school teams, is unnecessary and inexcusable. If this is all television has to offer, it is now surely obvious that this is because the industry wants it that way.

He continued by pointing out the "Roots" has proven that there is an eager audience for socially redeeming, realistic, meaningful and sympathetic Black television shows.

If you didn't see "Roots II", you missed a treat. But, more than that, you missed an even deeper revelation.

U N Column

by Laura Parks

OUR CHARCOAL BROILED WORLD

Recently, there was one of those crazy weeks that drove almost everybody to their own wailing wall. The two Yemeni nations of southern Arabia were busy violating their territorial integrity in the broiling Equatorial sun just at the moment when Tanzania was reportedly moving into Idi Amin's Uganda province. At the same time the Arab Peoples Democratic Republic of the Western Sahara was staging elaborate raids into the Iranian Shah supporting Kingdom of King Hassan's Morocco. Meanwhile, in Iran, which was supposedly the center of all the worlds attention, momentarily took a back seat in the drama of the nations as diminutive Teng Xiaoping of China launched his armies against Vietnam.

By weeks end it was clear that the worlds rocket artillery was pointing into everybody's back yard under the impersonal command of pre-set computer programs, ready to respond to the whimsical ways of the worlds leaders.

But if you an I were a bit confused and angered by events consider the plight of President Carter who not only had to contend with overseas turmoil but was battered by ominous news about domestic inflation and abundant signs that the nations working population was growing increasingly restive under the merciless hammerblows of inflation.

But President Carter might have found some comfort in the fact that Britain was in much worse shape with strikes and winter storms slashing at the foundations of the royal realm. Prime Minister Callaghan in desperation sent the Royal Queen to visit the disturbed Arab lands which reassured a few Arab princes, but left most unimpressed. The Queen's visit to Araby provided some relief to the winter and strike weary British, who still believe that somehow east of Suez the empire yet lives.

In France the steel workers were laying siege to police stations with Molotov cocktails as they protested the French government plan to close down steel plants across the nation. Strong anti-German feelings surfaced among the steel workers who blamed the French government to bowing to the wishes and the power of the German steel combines. French government was trapped because the Germans for some years past have agreed to buy French agricultural products at the high subsidised prices demanded by the French farming sector.

In near bankrupt Rome, the Italians were still trying to form a new government. The various political wizards were engaged in all kinds of subtle and confoluting antics to keep the Italian Communists from entering the Cabinet. Meanwhile, kidnappings and knee-cappings were still going on in all parts of the country.

Last week in Germany the Holocaust was still a bad dream not quite believed by the nation, not quite understood by those who wanted to instruct the heirs of the nations criminal past. Last week too Willy Brandt, who fled Nazi Germany rather than serves its war machine and who later on became a German Chancellor suffered a severe heart attack, but yet lives and hopes.

Yes it was a most unusual week. It was a week of crisis in which nothing was resolved and foreshadowed the turmoils yet to come.

In Rhodesia the Patriotic Front launched its first major attack on Salisbury air-field and installations. Militarily the situation goes well for the Front. But diplomatically the Patriotic Front fears the dyed-in-the-wool old Imperial games of the British and the neo-colonial machinations of Washington.

Right now the Patriotic Front is deeply concerned about an American proposal to lift economic sanctions against Rhodesia after the March 20th elections. Fear is expressed that the proposal to send an American Congressional Delegation to monitor the Ian Smith white Rhodesian inspired elections will further encourage the Smith clique that they still have a

chance to ward off their demise.

These and oter ideas are reportedly being worked out by the former academic semanticist and now U.S. Senator Samuel Hayakawa, Republican of California and U.S. Senator Jessie Helms, Republican of North Carolina. Both men were responsible for inviting Ian Smith to the United States last year. Both are the enemies of the Patriotic Fron and the six million Zinbabweans fighting for their independence, according to the leadership of the Zimbabwe African National Union.



*The
BLACKSIDE
of
Washington*

*By Sherman Briscoe
NNPA*

**JOE LOUIS' SON PLACING ADS
FOR ENERGY IN BLACK PRESS**

The Brown Bomber's son, Joe Louis Barrow, Jr., an official in the U.S. Department of solar energy, is promoting the commercialization of solar energy. Through Amalgamated Publishers, Inc., he has placed a number of ads on the project in the Black Press. Young Joe, a University of Denver graduate, came to Washington form the United Bank Of Denver where he was an assistant vice president.

NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY

Because of the rash of robbery murders of black taxi drivers here in Washington by young blacks, many of these drivers have announced a policy of no pickup of black riders. For the time being, only whites for the most part, may ride in cabs.

INSIDE THE POLITICAL POT

D. C. Mayor Marion Barry may have pulled a political blunder, insiders are saying, by announcing a move to help the \$15,000-to-\$30,000-a-year residents to buy homes of their own, before he offers a helping hand to the people closer to the bottom, who started his ball rolling toward the mayor's office.

It was all right in Germany a few weeks ago so long as pretty Kathleen Carpenter, a white deputy assistant secretary for manpower and equal opportunity at the Pentagon, dated white GIs, but when she and a black date showed up at a Disco, they were turned away. What the Germans didn't know was that Ms. Carpenters' mission there was to investigate racism.

When you hear of White House successes on Capitol Hill, rmemeber to give a lot of the credit to brilliant and charming Valerie Pinson, special assistant for Congressional Relations.

PROBABLE SHAKEUP IN HAITI

Don't be surprised if youny "Papa Doc" Jean Claude Duvalier, president-for-life of Haiti, shakes up his eight-member Cabinet between now and April 11, when the 58-member unicameral legislature convenes.

First to go may be Foreign Misister Gerard Dorcely, who has been hanging by a thread ever since Pope John Paul slighted the Haitians (mostly Catholics) by not showing up after his recent visit next door in Santo Domingo.

Dorcely's troubles stem not so much from the Pope flying right over Haiti en route to Mexico, as from the Foreign Minister's premature announcement that the Pope would visit. He even called a press conference to make the announcement.

Don't swallow whole everything you read or hear: CHEW it awhile.

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