

# Entertainment

## *Farewell, Ipi Tombe... We Love, appreciate and respect you!*

*By Bernard Rivers*

The brothers and sisters of Las Vegas have a special pride that the Ipi Tombe show has instilled. We have enjoyed sharing our deep African cultural heritage with the audience world. The audiences were surprisingly rewarded with the depiction of Black life in South Africa. Very few of us could identify with Africa before as well as we can now.

Your natural portrayal of style, dress, rhythm and dance not only deserves the awards and recognition it received, but you have also earned the respect that is necessary for true professional success.

Everyone will miss you and will be looking forward to your return. We would like to think that Las Vegas is your American home.

"Thanks, Sandy."



**By Ed Brown**

The Silverbird Hotel and Don Hughes Productions have confirmed the report that the pulsating African revue IPI TOMBI will cease May 26. The revue has been at the hotel's Continental Theatre since August 1979. They were originally scheduled for two weeks but the con-

stant filled houses caused the management to continue the run.

The Silverbird had intended to let this highly successful show run in- definitely but the delicate contract negotiations with Hughes Productions caused the producer to send termination notices to the 23-member cast of

dancers and musicians.

The show had been without a contract with Hughes since April 1, according to Mark Tratos, Las Vegas attorney representing the cast. He said the negotiations are continuing.

Entertainers Ray Charles and George Lin- dsey of "Hee Haw" fame

have filed \$190,000 and \$150,000 lawsuits against the Silverbird, claiming the hotel broke their performance contracts. Both suits are pending.

A string of headline entertainers, including Ray Charles, Tina Turner, Roger Miller, Freddie Fender and George "Goober" Lindsey, will

replace the African revue. Hughes Productions rents the showroom to produce the revue, but Dennis Gomes, Silverbird executive vice president,

said the individual top name entertainers' contracts had been signed long before Ipi Tombi's long successful run. Hughes said he was

planning to tour Ipi Tombi, probably starting a road show in Los Angeles. "We may even return to Las Vegas in the summer," he continued.

Recently, two members of the cast had been fired, but were reinstated last week, bringing the cast back to its original strength.