

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

SUITS THROWN AT IKE TURNER
HE WOULD RATHER NOT WEAR

Creditors are battling over the assets of Ike Turner like yard dogs over a hambone. Three legal efforts have been instituted against him. One by schoolteacher Andrew Francis, and teenager Shannon Lewis. They are asking for \$3-million in punitive damages for assault & battery and causing emotional distress. All this allegedly happened when Ike shot the teacher in mid-April in Inglewood, Cal. with the young fella close by. The educator is also seeking damages for medical services and loss of income. There are other monied demands from the U.S. Treasury and the County of L.A. However, the Imperial Thrift & Loan Ass'n has asked the courts not to give anybody a sou until it receives \$306,488, plus 29 percent interest...Former record co. biggie, Otis Smith, has hauled Chaka Khan into court in hopes of stripping her of \$500,000 should his claim, before the Los Angeles Superior Court, for breach of contract, withstand legal scrutiny...Without any legal demands, the Warner Communications for the Arts awarded a 3 year \$75,000 grant to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The largesse will go for a videotape archive to document the career achievements of artists who have been awarded

Center honors. Marian Anderson, Aaron Copland, Leontyne Price, Leonard Bernstein and Ella Fitzgerald are among them.

WE WERE WRITE: — That contract you first read about here wk's ago, that Haskel Ward & Assoc., his spouse, inked with the People's Nat'l Party of Ghana, is worth \$175,000 annually. That's green proof it's more lucrative being an ex NYC deputy mayor... Eyebrows are still elevated over the lyrics bluesuper Joe Williams added to a song on Part-1 of the Playboy Jazz Fest. in the H'wood Bowl. Some



JOE WILLIAMS

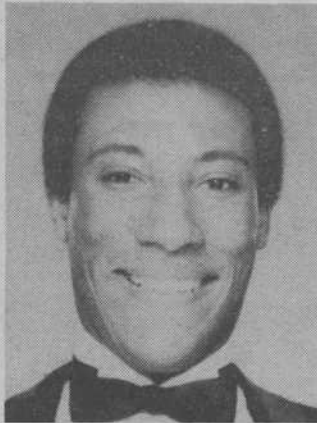
listeners said they were the most X-rated this side of Redd Foxx. Be that as it may, the critics bathed Count Basie in adjectives that were family rated. They said, he's looking good, sounding great and showed a new spirit and vitality. It was also noted that the 88-thumper, who has been in poor health for about

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BYRON ALLEN AT CAESARS

BYRON ALLEN, co-host of NBC-TV's "Real People" series is now appearing in the Circus Maximus Showroom of Caesars Palace making his first Las Vegas "Strip Debut" with long-time favorite of the entertainment world, Sammy Davis, Jr.

Allen is a whiz kid with a unique life story.



BYRON ALLEN

At age 18, Byron was an aspiring young comedian who turned down "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" because "high school midterms were coming up. I wanted to get into USC, and I wasn't training for one shot — I was training for a lifetime."

The show's talent coordinator Jim McCawley appreciated Byron's priorities and offered the wise young man a guest spot on the popular NBC-TV talk show after the exams.

Now 19, Byron's time is divided between his studies as a fulltime student at the University of Southern California, his stand-up comedy act at L.A.'s famed Comedy Store and Improvisation, and his co-host duties for NBC-TV's highly rated "Real People" series.

Four Tops Hit Silverbird Aug. 7

The magical musical artistry of the original Four Tops — Levi Stubbs, Renaldo "Obie" Benson, Abdul "Duke" Fakir and Lawrence Payton — will be on a three week display at the Silverbird (August 7 thru 27), it was announced today.

These are the original Four Tops, the ones who got together at a highschool party in Detroit, called themselves The Four Aims in their gigs in and around the Detroit and Cleveland areas.

Early on, they worked with the legendary Billy Eckstine. They say they will be forever grateful for his advice and encouragement in the formative years.

The Four Tops are marked for nightly appearances at 9 p.m. and midnight with Maitre d' Gino Pardini suggesting advance reservations (737-1766).

BILL LANE

HOLLYWOOD

THOSE "nice" people have been trying to make Pushkin, Dumas, Cleopatra and Hannibal white for years. But when world whites who for generations have been accepting Shakespeare's Othello as black suddenly begin to try to paint Othello as a white character it's time to take active note. Years ago, when white actors, like Maurice Evans, et al., played Othello they darkened their faces to depict better the dark-skinned Moor. Recently, regarding BBC showings of

Shakespeare plays a white chap named Jonathan Miller rapped publicly: "When a black

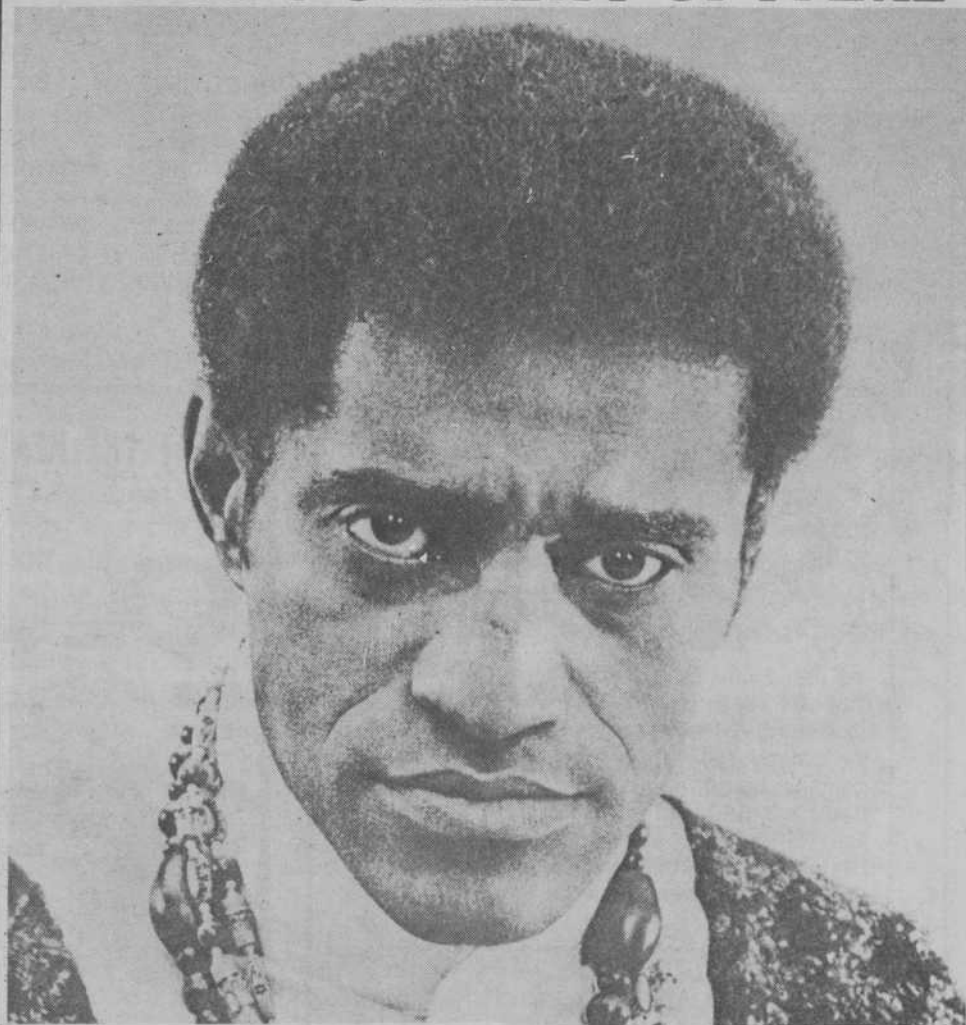


PAUL ROBESON

actor does the part ("Othello"), it offsets the play, puts it out of balance. It makes it a

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EBONY'S GALLERY OF FAME



SAMMY DAVIS JR., born New York City, December 8, 1925; actor, singer, dancer, once described as "Mr. Total Talent;" starred in numerous movies and television productions and two Broadway musicals, MR. WONDERFUL and GOLDEN BOY.. Incidentally, Sammy Davis, Jr. is currently appearing at Caesars Palace.

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