

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

HORNE IS PLENTY MAD

N'YORK CITY — Too many soapbox orators, those megalomaniacs who fashion themselves leaders of "their" people, too often forget those who made it possible for them to take such a stand without having to take a fall. Lovely Lena Horne's situation in Dallas, Tx., is a case in point. Here's how the story was carried nationally, and we quote.

"Lena refuses to be Pawn:" — Lena Horne has canceled an upcoming engagement of her (special) Tony Award-winning musical in Dallas to avoid being "Caught in the middle" of a local racial dispute.

The dispute involved a charity showing of "Lena Horne — The Lady And Her Music." Tickets to the opening night show were to range from \$50 to \$600, with proceeds to go to "Action For Cultural Arts," in Dallas.

When tickets prices were announced, City Councilwoman Elsie Faye Heggins, who is black, charged that the price was a form of discrimination against blacks.

"Charity is something which should be supported by people who can afford it; regardless of their color," said Ms. Horne.

"Ms. Heggins used my name to draw national attention to a local issue, and I was made a pawn of some

local politicians. I do not want to be caught in the middle of a local dispute."

END-OF-QUOTE: To be sure, Lena Horne, whose beauty lay in face, deeds and



LENA HORNE

character, deserves better than, to put it in her words, to be made a "Pawn" in a local, or national for that matter, punitive political wrangle. She has paid heavy dues for her station in life. Since she has reached the pinnacle she has pulled many up to attain its height. She was among the earlier carriers of the revolutionary message for social justice which exploded against the bigotry of the land in the turbulent years. Her noble and courageous conduct added strength and dignity to the titanic emotion which crashed across the sixties.

I am sure there are a number of blacks in Dallas who could have afforded the price and the charity must have been for the benefit of all, else Lena would not have been appearing in the first place.

B-WAY BEAT: The

most eye catching thing about "Cats," B'way's latest hit musical, is the fantastic junkyard scenery by John Napier. Next you're awed by the choreography of Gillian Lynne who has his fabulous felines of all sizes creeping, crawling up the aisles and climbing the walls in the audience. The theme song, "Memory," haunts you as you watch the paced dancing of 'CATS' at play. There's no doubt that the actors are enjoying themselves and so will you. It's a great mixed cast of gifted performers well suited for this unusual musical on the boards of the Winter Garden Theatre. I have heard that cats have nine lives, but I think these "CATS" will count theirs in years ... "Good," a play with music by C.P. Taylor at the Booth Theatre, is distinguished by the acting of its star, Alan Howard. His portrayal of a German Professor during the demoniac surge of Adolph Hitler is magnificent. His transformation from an easy going, friendly professor into a "Stone Nazi" can be felt as it emotionally swallows up the entire audience. At the height of this capture, the entire packed theatre was so quiet you could hear a playbill drop. "Good" is undoubtedly a play which hits home for many who felt the boot of Hitler and could have an extended go on the big street.

THE WRITE HAND of the astute of Ers

Poston, the vice chair, of the Federal Merit System's Protection Board, informs that our line about her leaving the Bd. this Dec. is off target. Said she, "I do have plans, however, to change posts at the end of my current term, June '83." ... A letter from Rosetta James wrapped our write hand for calling "The New Odd Couple," starring Ron Glass and Demond Wilson, an opus with a tired plot that "whitey" had worn thin. She felt such a reference made us look less journalistic and less professional and would not have liked it had a white scribe described one of my plots as "Blackie," or whatever term was popular at the moment. I say "write on" Rosetta; when you write like that, you're right ... ASCAP should be about \$5 million richer by '84 based on the Oct. refusal of the U.S. Supreme Court to review the jukebox operators' appeal of the Copyright Royalty Tribunal's adjustment of their compulsory license fee from \$8-to-\$50. This action leaves standing the finding of the U.S. Court of Appeals that the Tribunal's decision

was "lawful in all respects." The annual fee now paid by jukebox operators, on a \$25 interim rate, '82 thru '83 amounts to about \$3 million. It should jump to about \$6 million when it's hiked to the \$50 rate in '84.

THE WELCOME MAT is out for Illinois Jacquet and his band on a command concert tour of Europe through mid-Nov. He will be home for Xmas and blow in the N'Year at Sweet Basil in the Apple ... Rev. Gardner Taylor is singing the

praise or his talented daughter, and so is Lionel Hampton. Marti Lynn by name, she just cut a record with the vibe king in DeeCee which is expected to perk up ears all over the listening area ... Out Detroit way, Sunnie Wilson will celebrate his b'day just before Halloween. The festivities will take place in Sunny's Celebrity Rm. so it shouldn't cost him much, just the profits from 12-to-2 ayem ... STAY LOOSE. (Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist).

Stars To Shine At "Nite Of Stars"

The 16th Annual Nite of Stars will be held on Nov. 12 at the Las Vegas Hilton. The gala event, featuring a gourmet dinner and show, will benefit St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Boulder City. The list of stars scheduled to appear include Frank Sinatra, Bill Cosby, Lovelace Watkins, Freddie Roman, Robert Goulet

and Dave Swan, with additional names to be announced. Ed McMahon, who will serve as the show's Master of Ceremonies, is also expected to bring a group of Hollywood celebrities to Las Vegas for the event.

Tax deductible tickets at \$65 and \$125 may be obtained by calling 648-5159.

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THE LIST
THIS WEEK LAST WEEK

★	1	1	
	2	2	777-9311-THE TIME-WARNER BROS-7-29952
★	3	6	BIG FUN-KOOL & THE GANG-DELITE-DE622
	4	5	PACK JAM-JONZUN CREW-TOMMY BOY-TB826
	5	7	IF THIS WORLD-C. LYNN/L. VANDROSS-COLUMBIA-18-03204
★	6	9	MUSCLES-DIANA ROSS-SILK ELECTRIC/RCA-JB13348
★	7	12	LOVE'S COMIN' AT YA-MELBA MOORE-EMI/AMERICA-8126
	8	*	BAD BOY/HAVING A PARTY-LUTHER VANDROSS-EPIC-03205
	9	10	1999-PRINCE-WARNER BROTHERS-7-29896
★	10	13	WHO'S STICKIN' IT-SUNRIZE-BOARDWALK-NB-11151-7
			GIVE ME YOUR LOVE-PEABO BRYSON-CAPITOL-S-5157

★ **ZOOPER**
The Rapper Sez:

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