

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

NOTHING YAMMY ABOUT GRAMMYS

N'YORK CITY: From this eye and ear point of view and hearing the 25th spotlighting of the Grammy Awards was nothing to write home about. This personal opinion is that it was a

public showing of how the Record Industry has been masticated and segregated to insure the dominance of whites in a wax whirl that was originally built through the talented efforts of a mixed number of stars. In the days when the names of

Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Chick Webb, Billie Holiday, Fletcher Henderson, Ethel Waters, Bessie Smith, Nat King Cole, Cab Calloway, The Mills Bros., W. C. Handy, Fats Waller, Woody Herman, Louie Armstrong, Guy Lombardo, Teddy

Richie, Willie Nelson, Ella Fitzgerald, Leontyne Price and Kenny Rogers kept the eye-earring from being a complete boor.



Ray Charles

PERSONALITIES:

The black-owned Bennett Medical Systems, Phila., has come up with a new blood container that will save gallons of the life sustaining liquid from patients to lab. Elmer T. Bennett, prexy, expects the product will add millions of gallons to the blood bank because of the lesser amount that will have to be drawn for testing... The Handy Bros. Music Co., founded by the immortal W.C. Handy, "The Father of the Blues," ended Feb., Black History Month," with a tribute to black composers, artists and musicians through its recognition of the outstanding accomplishments of members of the National Ass'n. of Negro Musicians... The Dance Theatre of Harlem, which racked up its usual impressive session at the City Center in lower Manhattan, will be a part of the May-June "Spoleto Festival U.S.A. scheduled for historic Charleston, S.C. It will be joined by the North Carolina Dance Theater and the companies of David Gordon and Elissa Monte.

A CELEBRATION:

One of the most significant, but least publicized celebrations of Black History Month, was the Africatown second annual folk festival to commemorate the history of the people of Prichard, Plateau and Magazine Point, Alabama. The event points out how the first settlers of the area survived, worked and created the existing community. Located on the Gulf Coast, within the county of Mobile, it is the oldest African community in the State of Alabama. With a population of approximately 10,000, many of their foreparents came from the African countries of Ghana, Peoples Republic of Benin and Nigeria. In fact, the history of Africatown, U.S.A. originated in Ghana West Africa, near the present city of Tamale in 1859. The official opening of the festival by Major John H. Smith, was applauded by U.S. senators and congresspersons, state and local elected officials. Prichard's Blount and Vigor High Schools showcased their bands. The arts and crafts exhibits were used to capture the customs, tradition and ceremony of Africa. According to Emile Jones, public relations director, it integrates the Nigerian African experience with a philosophical perspective of the present and future African American reality... STAY LOOSE. Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.



Wilson, Count Basie, Lionel Hampton, Dinah Washington, Lena Horne, Pearl Bailey, Sarah Vaughan and Billy Eckstine graced the records labels, the sound was music and not bastardized into meaningless biased categories to polarize the business along racial and geographical lines of a nation already too marked by racism. Too many of the Grammy winners are cast in categories to which they don't seem to belong. Many are overnight sensations that are acceptable to the ears of but one generation. So doing, they spin their stuff for an industry which has been taken over by the lords of the quick buck and is bound to self-destruct since too few of them are solid superstars with the proven ability that can withstand the tide of changing taste. Count Basie, Ray Charles, Lena Horne, Marvin Gaye, Lionel

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ALBUMS

1. ALL THIS LOVE-DEBARGES
2. COMPUTER GAMES-GEORGE CLINTON
3. POWERLIGHT-EARTH, WIND, & FIRE
4. THRILLER-MICHAEL JACKSON
5. TOUCH THE SKY-SMOKEY ROBINSON
6. TOO TOUGH-ANGELA BOFILL
7. LET ME IN YOUR LIFE-MARLENA SHAW
8. LIVING MY LIFE-GRACE JONES
9. CHAKA KHAN-CHAKA KHAN
10. SKYJAMMER-SKY
11. LIONEL RITCHIE-LIONEL RITCHIE
12. SWEAT-THE SYSTEM
13. JUICY-JUICY
14. 1999-PRINCE
15. GIVE EVERYBODY SOME-RICHARD D. FIELDS

16. SECRET WEAPON-SECRET WEAPON
17. JADET JACKSON-JADET JACKSON
18. VISIONS OF THE LIGHT SLAVE
19. LOVE-ROBERT HINTERSAHL
20. WELCOME TO MY LOVE-DIANNE REEVES
21. TYRONE DAVIS-TYRONE DAVIS
22. IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME-HARRY RAY
23. GAP BAND IV-GAP BAND
24. PROPOSITIONS-BARKAYS
25. STEVE ARRINGTON'S HALL OF FAME-STEVE ARRINGTON
26. YOU AND I-ORRYAN
27. GET READY-KEEP
28. MIDNIGHT LOVE-MARVIN GAYE
29. ELECTRIC SILK-DIANNA ROSS
30. JEFFREY OSBORNE-JEFFREY OSBORNE

SINGLES

1. I'M FREAKY-OBRIAN
2. KNOCKOUT-MARGIE JOSEPH
3. TRY AGAIN-CHAMPAIGN
4. HEARTBEATS-YARBROUGH & PEOPLES
5. TOO HOT TO BE COOL-ERONET WEBB
6. PEOPLE NEXT DOOR-LAY PARKER JR.
7. KEEP THE FIRE BURNING-GWEN MC CRAE
8. NOBODY CAN BE YOU-STEVE ARRINGTON
9. I JUST GOTTA HAVE YOU-YASHIF
10. IT'S PAINING MEN-HEATHER GIRLS

11. LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT BEAT-SOUL SISTA LARGE
12. SHE'S OLD NOW-BETTY WRIGHT
13. YOUR'F THE ONE-JAMIE LYNN-GENE CHAMPLER
14. BE MINE TONIGHT-THE JAMMERS
15. STICKY SITUATION-TYRONE BRINSON
16. NO STOPPIN THAT ROCKIN-INSTANT FUNK
17. LOVIN YOU-MARCUS MILLER
18. LIFE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL-N.Y. PEACH BOYS
19. BUFFALO GALS-MALCOM MC LAPEL
20. MAGIC WAND-MHODINI

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