

# Entertainment

## BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

**N'YORK CITY:** WPBT-TV, a member PBS station serving South Florida, which first came under my sound and sight when it announced the production of "A House Divided," back in '80, is up to some good again. As I recall, "A House" was to be a series of 8-TV dramas depicting the history of slavery in America. To my knowledge, only the pilot production, "The Denmark Vesey Rebellion," has been completed. It was produced with a super cast including Yaphet Kotto in the title role, Bernie Casey, Cleveon Little, Brock Peters, Ned Beatty and Rosalyn Cash. It even opened with some fanfare in Columbus, O. to launch a black historical museum. This time WPBT has taken off the drawing boards a documentary which examines the essence of democracy. Titled "American Journey," the production has been underwritten by a grant of \$400,000 from the Cooper Industries Foundation. Additional funding is being provided by the corp. for Public B'casting.

This doc'drama goes back in time to 1831 when a young French magistrate, Alexis De Tocqueville, came to America to report on the penal system. With a more ambitious agenda he traveled some seven thousand miles across the then new republic, interviewing Americans about their "great experiment," democracy. His travels took him from the commercial centers of the Eastern Seaboard, through the frontier cabins of Michigan and Wisconsin and through the Southern Plantation Society. He added to his knowledge of "Democracy" through conversations with Scottish, Irish and English immigrant Americans and African slaves. He viewed the availability of land on an endless frontier as a safety-valve for social tensions. He expressed an aristocrat's surprise

at the effectiveness of middle-class rule, despite the "mediocrity" of American politicians. Thirty years before the Civil War, he predicted that racial tension would always be our nation's "great rankling sore." Tocqueville's appraisal of America and Americans was published in two volumes, "Democracy in America." It was a best-seller and remains an accepted classic commentary on our country and its people.

The upscheduled WPBT-TV documentary, one hundred and fifty yrs later, after 5-yrs of research by journalist Richard Reeves, hopes to capture the spirit of the Frenchman's journey.

**NEWS BEAT:** Lovely Lena Horne's parcel of nationwide black fans are set against her doing an album with Frank Sinatra. That objection was intensified after the announcement that the chairman of the board was going to Bophuthatswana, the "Sodom & Gomorrah of South Africa, again. How can you, Francis? ... Dick Clark Presents, the syndicated radio show, will pay tribute to Stevie Wonder come mid-April. He's putting together a slew of supers to make the evening unforgettable and wonderful ...

... Odds are that the Bill Cosby lawsuit will never make it to a jury. Friends on both the super actor-comic-TV pitchman and the Whitehead brothers are working on a settlement ...

From an ear point of view Dionne Warwick's "Take The Short Way Home" should spend a long time on the charts ... The asking price for Diana Ross' Bev'hills manse can only be reached by an oil baron. The talented one loves N.Y. and is looking for the proper condo ... **STAY LOOSE** ... Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

## ANDRAE CROUCH APPEARING AT SAHARA SPACE CENTER

"An Evening of Praise and Worship" takes the spotlight on the glittering Las Vegas Strip Tuesday, Mar. 29, when Gospel music stars Andrae Crouch, Wayne Cochran and Morris Chapman take the stage in the Sahara Hotel Space Center for the first-ever event of its kind in the Entertainment Capital of the World.

There is no admission charge for the 8 p.m. event that will unofficially kick off the "Celebration of Love — Jesus '83" crusade expected to draw thousands of Christians from all over the country to a spiritual renewal June 24 through 30 in the Space Center. The "Celebration of Love" is sponsored by Wayne Cochran Ministries.

The Gospel in music will be highlighted in Tuesday's concert and the music will be the finest in the field. Andrae Crouch is widely recognized as one of the top Gospel recording artists in the world today, having won five Grammy Awards for his records.

Andrae Crouch lives the life of God and sings his works in his songs. He is founder of Andrae Crouch and The Disciples which have sold millions of records world-wide. His songs have been recorded by the likes of Elvis Presley and Paul Simon. Stevie Wonder has performed on his album and one of his most ardent fans is rock legend Bob Dylan. His concerts have been well-received nationwide, including Carnegie Hall.

The Crouch sound has been carried in churches and over television broadcasts world-wide. But it was first heard in his hometown of Los Angeles where he became a Christian at age nine. His father, a street-corner preacher at that time, is now pastor of Church Memorial Church of God in Christ in San Fernando, Calif.

Crouch first per-

formed professionally with a group called the Cognics. Billy Preston was a singing partner. In 1972, he formed An-

other Gospel sounds.

"What I'm trying to do is help educate the minds of religious people to know that music

As composer, songwriter and producer of his albums, Crouch's main source of inspiration comes from prayer and meditation. He keeps a tape recorder and writing tablet near his bed to write down lyrics that float through his mind. Admittedly, he often forgets what he wrote, but he says the Lord always makes a way for him to get back to it and continue on.

"Sometimes the chords juts talk to me," he says. "They make a certain sound. It's just an open sound and it dictates certain words to go along with it. Sometimes it even seems to say a particular word, and then I write the lyric to fit those words."

Sahara owner Paul Lowden, who also owns the Hacienda Hotel, made it all possible. Las Vegas singer Morris Chapman is also on the bill.

This promises to be a major event for Las Vegas and the world of Christianity — and there is no admission charge.



ANDRAE CROUCH

drae Crouch and the Disciples. His twin sister, Sandra, a former member, still works with him.

Light Records founder Ralph Carmichael heard them perform and signed them to a contract. In 1980, he went solo.

While Crouch still sings traditional Gospel, he has pioneered

has such power," he told one interviewer. "It can teach Biblical principles to a non-religious person as well as persons of different faiths. And I enjoy hearing all types of music because it's God given, it's a gift, and as long as the story of it doesn't tear down the principles and morals of God, then I can enjoy it."

Please join us  
for an evening of  
praise and worship  
with  
**Andrae Crouch**  
**Wayne Cochran**  
**Morris Chapman**

March 29 8:00 pm  
**Sahara Hotel Space Center**

**SAHARA**

No Admission Charge