

# Entertainment

## BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

### A WRITE HEARTY WELCOME BACK AM'NEWS.

NEW YORK CITY:-- Among some sage and aged sayings are "You never miss your water until the well runs dry, or your lovin' until you gal leaves home." So it has been with the Amsterdam News whose true meaning only came through to a surprising number of N'Yorkers, in and out of "The Big Apple," soon after it was hit by a crippling Newspaper Guild strike. Though the paper never missed a publication date, the damaging almost 5-months strikeathon hit a lot of its readers write between their news levels. Though our words fill space in several fine publications throughout the U.S., The Virgin Islands and Canada, their absence from the Am'News created a void where we live. So a write hearty welcome back to my home town newspaper. May labor peace bless its continued service to a community which needs its voice and demands its dedication.

**NAMES MAKE NEWS:**  
--In this so-termed democracy of ours why are all those jive rear-end turkeys making so much to do about a black talking about making a run for the White House? Nobody said, nor anything is written in the book to say that it's a house for White folks only. This corner defends Ben Hooks', its favorite bias headhunter, right to take any stand he damn well please, but soulfully disagrees with his reasoning about a black making a primary bid for the top elective office in the land...Michael Jackson has put the finishing



touches on a "Jackson Gallery Memorabilia" for his home that is said will rival any such thing about any such superstar in the finest museums anywhere. Only the family and select friends will have eye-rights. He is also working on an extravagant stage show centered around his quadruple platinum LP "Thriller"...Wondah h'cum a praise agent out of the Don King camp was passing out wedding photos of the top fight promoter's son, Carl, to publishers at the NNPA confab in Gary almost a wk. after his wedding to lovely Michelle Lockett...The London Times writes Cleo Laine, the internationally known jazz singer, into paragraphs as the "Best singer in the World." The N'Y Times refers to her as one of England's national treasures. You can let your own ears be the judge when this extraordinary singer offers a one concert at Kennedy Center in DeeCee next Saturday.

**PEOPLE CHATTER --**  
Barry White is a changed artist and he's high on his latest CBS wax work, "America." Said its an original tune which raises social and political questions and calls for a reawakening among people. He's also thrilled about his up scheduled trip to Israel where he will co-host the 1st annual "One Nation Under God" gospel festival. James Cleveland, Andrae Crouch and Shirley Caesar will be among the sing alongs...

...Lovely Quanta Price is hunching the convention dept. of the Tropicana in Atlantic City while hubby Lloyd ("Mr. Personality") continues to hobnob with the rich and politically powerful in Nigeria...Jim Cuffee is in America on a buying break from his super store building in Liberia. He has completed three with two more under construction...Statesiders turned it on for Donald and Libby Stanford of the Virgin Islands when he came to



## ARTIST OF THE WEEK

By Lady Essence

The voices of Fredi Grace & Rhinstone have already been partially responsible for two major successes: one of the blockbuster hit records of 1980, and victorious political campaign. The chorus hook that helped take the S.O.S. Band's platinum single, "Take Your Time, Do It Right" to the top of the charts was executed with the vocal support of Fredi, Keigh and Sweeper. And when Andrew Young ran for mayor of Atlanta, this trio wrote, sand and produced the rousing jingle that became Young's campaign anthem.

Fredi, Keith and Sweeper come from diverse areas of the country, but they discovered each other through their common passion for music in the city of Atlanta. Sweeper and Keith both had parents who were ministers, while Fredi's grandfather was a minister -- in other words, all three were singing in church choirs from an early age, but as they point out, not necessarily loving every minute of it.

Fredi and Keith met in college, where both were involved in music. Keith, in fact, was musical director of one of the major plays done at school. They met Sweeper when she came ot Atlanta after graduation, and, in 1976, the three of them hooked up with an 11-person group called Shine, which gave them limited recording experience. They met in the evenings to write songs, but in order to survive, they got into background singing and studio work, sometimes as a trio, but often going their separate ways.

The session singing period brought the members of the group into contact with some interesting people. There was onstage work with the rock group Sea Level, a spinoff of the Allman Brothers, and for Fredi, there was a memorable experience working as a backup vocalist for Freda Payne. The most fateful meeting though, was a demo session that Fredi and Sweeper worked on, for a song called "We're the Best of Friends." Written by Ed Howard, it was originally intended for Roberta Flack and Ed's friend and colleague Donny Hathaway, who died tragically before the song could be recorded. It eventually became a big hit for Peabo Bryson and Natalie Cole, but for Ed, the real discovery was meeting Fredi, Sweeper and Keith at that demo date. The group's most important RCA

meet her returning from her holiday around Hong Kong and a few other exotic places. The festivities were culminated by Raymond and Marion Rogers' pawty in their posh Eastside apt. overlooking the East River. Just about See ROWE, Page 9



FREDI GRACE & RHINSTONE

debut was produced by the same Mr. Howard.

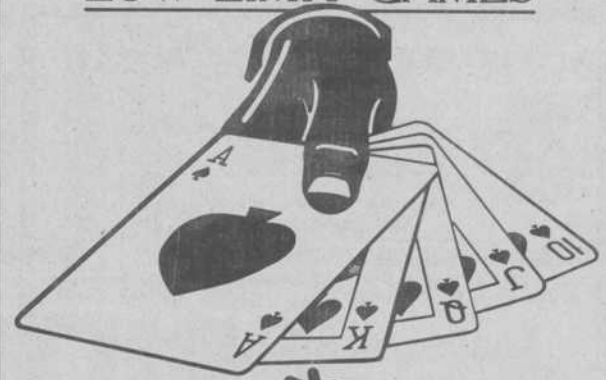
**GET ON YOUR MARK**, was a labor of love recorded at Atlanta's legendary Bing Studios, with the help of sessions stars like drummer Yogi Horton and guitarist Anthony Lockett of Cameo fame. All songs are original, except for "Tell Me What's On Your Mind," wirtten and produced by Peabo Bryson, who shares the same management company with the group.

Their latest LP entitled **TIGHT** is fastly moving up on the charts. It includes singles such as "One Man's Woman," "Work It Out," "Dog Eat Dog World," and the title tune "Tight."

Whatever brought these three talented individuals together now promises a long and fruitful recording career ahead.

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