

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

Holiday Fit
For A King In '86

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Informed White House sources have it that President Reagan's opposition has softened regarding a national holiday reminder of the immortality of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and democracy's obligations to all Americans. The expectation that he will not oppose the bill to make January's third Monday a national "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday" has all but insured passing action by the Senate where defeat was heretofore anticipated. The House has already passed a bill to start such a day, fit for a King, in '86. It's ironic that Howard Bennett, the King of the grass-root activists, did not survive long enough to enjoy the fruits of his long and tireless campaign. Over the years he collected millions of signatures employing the Congress and the White House to so honor Dr. King and democracy by declaring

the first legal national holiday in recognition of a Black American who brought so much national and international honor and dignity to a nation's promise of equality to its huddle of humanity. In good health and bad, sunshine and rain he made his unappointed rounds of cities and towns in pursuit of backers from all levels of society, political and pulpit. So when this day passes let us not forget Howard and perhaps every now and again bow our hearts in reverence to his unyielding crusade.

UNCROSS YOUR HEART — The lovely and talented Lola Falana is no longer in Sunrise hosp.'s intensive care. This is where she was taken when she developed peritonitis after surgery elsewhere in Vegas for adhesions. She's mending well, but has cancelled all engagements other than a "Love Boat" stint next wk ... If you think you look like Duke Ellington at 30 there's a part for

**24 HOUR
POKER!**
LOW LIMIT GAMES



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A multi-million selling recording artist, a multiple Grammy Award winner whose hit records have consistently topped jazz, pop and soul charts, George Benson's distinctive combination of voice and guitar has created new standards of musical excellence.

Breezin' was Benson's first album on Warner Bros. Records' label and it proved to be an auspicious debut. "This Masquerade," the only vocal cut on an otherwise instrumental album became the first song in music history to hold the number one spots on jazz, pop and soul charts. *Breezin'* went on to earn three Grammy awards in 1976, including Best Pop Instrumentalist and Best R&B Instrumental. It remains the best selling jazz album of all time.

In Flight was George's million-selling 1978 follow-up. Later that year he scored another smash single with a live version of the Drifters' classic, "On Broadway," from yet another platinum selling album, *Weekend In L.A.* That LP garnered him a Grammy for Best Male R&B Performance in 1978. *Living Inside Your Love*, Benson's 1979 offering, was followed a year later by *Give Me The Night*, home for two more top ten hits, the title cut and "Love X Love."

In Your Eyes is George Benson's seventh album. It contains ten songs by some of today's top composers, with instrumental and vocal support by a host of special guest artists. It includes the hit

you in the flick to depict the glory days of the famed Cotton Club. Oh yeah, you should play a little piano ... Natalie Cole got the worst of it from a critical review of a bill she was cosharing with Lou Rawls at the Sahara, Tahoe in Vegas on her trail back to the big time. His bottom line allegedly found her not ready ... Critically Al Green came off much better at the Greek Theatre in L.A. Write from his enjoyment one pen pusher wrote: "Green's message may have changed, but his impact on audiences is as riveting as before." ... Cross country, in Albany, Eartha Kitt fell on bad critical lines like these: "The sex kitten has grown older and re-

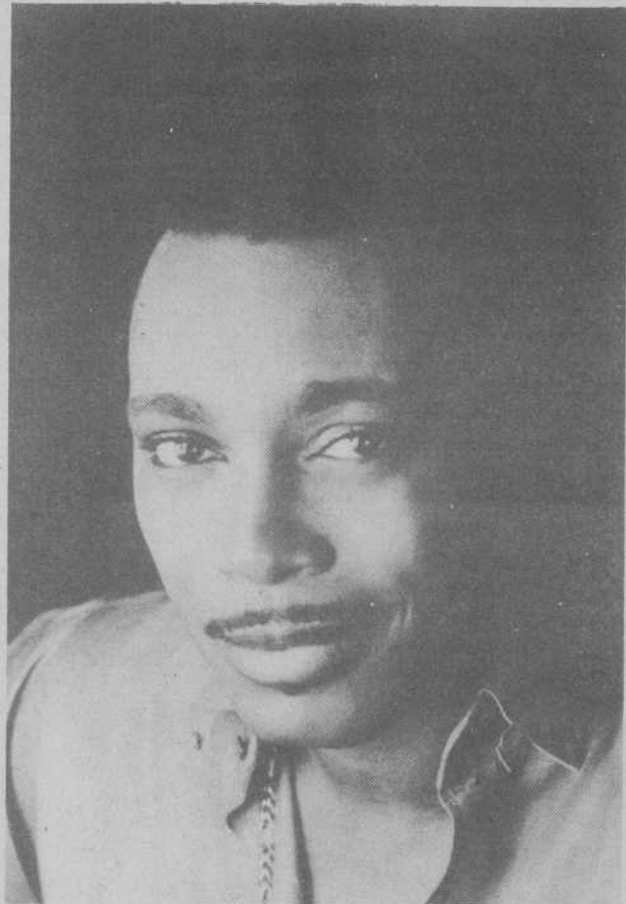
quires more intimacy than is provided in a 3000 seat arena theatre with a large house ork." On the same bill, Ken Page, the old "Deuteronomy" of the B'way hit *Cats*, received all the adjectives ... Eddie Murphy is beginning to act like the rich kid on the block. He's building a 5-bedroom, tennis court-pool manse in Alpine, N.J. that will cost almost as much to secure. However, he isn't expected to spend much time there with all the flic and teevee plans in the making. Big on the agenda is a camera date with Richard Pryor and Dudley Moore to say nothing of Robin Williams, whom he has promised to team with to grind out

singles "Inside Love (So Personal)" and "Lady Love Me One More Time."

George Benson began playing the guitar at the age of 8. He sang in a R&B combo led by his cousin. At age 19, he joined veteran grit organist Jack McDuff's group in the early 60's.

Besides leading his own bands, Benson has worked and recorded with an impressive roster of outstanding artists who are as varied in esthetic sensibility as saxophonists Hank Crawford and Stanley Turrentine, singer Esther Phillips, and trumpeters Freddie Hubbard and Miles Davis.

George Benson has established a style of his own and he will continue to go "Breezin'" through the music industry and our minds for a long time to come.



George Benson

some film laughs. Then, too, there's Satdee Nite Laugh (Live).

AT LONG LAST somebody else has picked up on Melvin Van Peebles and he's one of the stars of a flick with the longest title that anyone has ever attempted to fit on a marquee. Would you believe: "The Utterly Monstrous Mind-Roasting Summer of O.C. And Stiggs." It's a Sand River Prods. just filmed in Phoenix Aug. end. It's believed this is the first pic that Mel has been in that he did not produce himself ... Art Rust, the mouth of a WABC-Radio talk sports show, has allegedly talked himself into syndication, and also a sports column in a local daily. A person

who can talk himself into many goodies and his friends out of big bucks, he supposedly talked another pal out of a grand and again slipped way past the pay back date. After a tele-chase he promised a half pay-back if the fella would do his last Satdee radio show. This debtor is waiting to learn the outcome ... Joe Black looks like he has struck up a love affair with time since he dropped over 50 lbs. Said he did it by laying off sweets during the week. He's now raving about how far he's hitting the golf ball. Seems the more yards he takes off his stomach the more he gets from tee to green ... Kenneth Field has not
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