

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

N'YORK CITY — Thanksgiving is particularly important in these chaotic times. It affords us an opportunity to stop cursing our woes long enough to count our blessings. It is one of those holidays that is analogous to the growth of Christianity. About it is a togetherness of family and friends to provide an emotional unselfishness, companionship, warmth and stability unmatched but few times during the year. It is a day which spotlights the best in human kind. It is the pause which refreshes the soul and draws you one step closer to the Creator of the universe and all that's in it. To this compassionate dreamer Thanksgiving offers a powerful incentive to go sleep walking through the past to avoid wide awake mistakes in the future. Be Thankful For The Best You've Got!

"GIMME ME BACK MY MONEY" could well be the them song of famed deejay Frankie Crocker who spins the wax table for Percy Sutton's Manhattan flagship station WBLS. He has taken Uncle Sam into court claiming the Fed-

eral government relieved him of too much cash for taxes and fraud penalties for '74/'75 and he wants \$317,273 back. According to the wax spinner and program director, the IRS took him for \$70,304 for his 1974 tax plus an additional 50%, \$35,152 fraud penalty, and \$101,16 '75 tax bite with a tacked on \$50,581 penalty . . . Actress Cicely Tyson Davis proved that she isn't at all green and came out a winner in her tiff with co-producer Zev Bufman of



Cicely Tyson

"The Corn is Green," the ill fated B'way show in which she starred. He had hauled her before an impartial panel, pulled from Actors Equity and the League of N.Y. Theatres & Producers, after he had "fired" her for missing a performance. The snafu came about when she missed a connection from Nashville where she went with

spouse, Miles Davis, who was being honored. After earin' the pros and cons of the affair, the panel ruled that her dismissal was unjustified as she had executed her contractual responsibilities . . . James Booker, whose musical flare and flavor was a major influence on N'Orleans' rhythm and blues, the 50s through the 60s, died there, his home town, of a heart attack the 2nd Tuesday of Nov. Known in musical circles as the "Piano Prince of N'Orleans," his flamboyant style attracted attention wherever he appeared. He recorded, and made stage appearances with some of the best in the business. Among them B.B. King, Lloyd Price, Ringo Starr, Wilson Pickett, Bobby Bland and the Doobie Brothers. A sought-after jazz festival attraction at home and abroad, his last album, "Classified" was released in '82.

CONVERSATION
ROWE: There is much to be said about the upcoming Norman Jewison film, "A Soldier's Story." The most prideful is that this new picture for Columbia is based on Charles Fuller's Pulitzer Prize winning play, "A Soldier's Play." Originally presented off and on B'way by the Negro Ensemble Co. Production, its screenplay is from the write genius of Fuller. It stars Howard E. Rollins, Jr., Adolph Caesar, Art Evans, David Alan Grier,



Howard Rollins

Dennis Lipscombe, Larry Riley, Robert Townsend, Denzel Washington and William Allen Young. Producer/director Jewison is best remembered by this scribe for his "In The Heat of The Night," which starred Sidney Poitier and won an "Oscar" for Rod Steiger. Patti la Belle is a last-minute super added

touch in the style of H'wood that will thrill ears. However, this one has got more going for it than just super great thespians. It has a spirit. It commits the talents, the will and the determination of Afro-American artists on all fronts within the world of make-believe. In the making of this film, on location, the mix is pleasing to the partisans of equal opportunity. Before and behind the cameras this mix continues where traditionally bias was boss . . . Rufus Harley is Philly's jazziest bagpipe star, an Afro-American complete with kilts . . . Rudy Langlais seems set with a real H'wood break. He's the designated executive producer of 20th Century-Fox flick, "Sexus," for which Norman Mailer authored the screenplay . . . West Point's Class of 1987 will graduate 112 Afro-Americans and 19 Hispanic 2nd lieutenants. That is, of course, if nothing bounce-worthy happens on the way to them becoming an officer and a gentleman.



Vernon Jordan

SUPERSTAR WATCH: The Academy folks are talking to Sammy Davis, Jr. about co-hosting the '84 Oscar telecast . . . Dr. Carlton Goodlett is back from the Peace Confab in Europe fighting made about the denial of corporate support of the Black Press . . . The "Jef-fersons" have been nudged out of the top teevee ten. Wondah if the new emphasis Michael G. Moye, the new exec. prod., is trying to put on the super tailor, has anything to do with the rating fallout? . . . Johnson Product breezed into the Apple last wk. in search of beauty with a bash at the posh Red Parrot on the far westside of 57 St. . . . The Nat'l Urban Lea-



SAHARA CHAIRMAN HONORED—Paul W. Lowden (right), chairman of the board of Hacienda Resorts, Inc., parent firm of the Sahara and Hacienda Hotels, accepts Love All People's 1983 Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Rev. Prentice Minner of the Love All People organization during the Love All People benefit concert recently held at the Sahara Hotel. Lowden was honored for his many contributions during the year to the group which helps troubled youths with rehabilitation through music training. Lowden serves on the advisory board of the Love All People Music Academy and also serves on the boards of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and Opportunity Village for Retarded Citizens.

gue packed 'em into the NY Hilton last Thursday for its annual Equal Opportunity Dinner.

WRITE TO THE END: What is this talk about Jermain and Hazel Gordy Jackson's marriage hitting sour notes? Could it have anything to do with his breakup with her poppa's wax factory? . . . The bedimpled Virginia Brooker would like to wash Eddie Murphy's mouth out with the kind of soap my mom used to make after eye/earing him on HBO . . . Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

Sammy Davis On Road to Recovery

LOS ANGELES — Song-and-dance man Sammy Davis Jr. is preparing to return to work following a two-week hospital stay for cracked ribs and cirrhosis of the liver, a spokesman said Monday.

Davis, 57, left Cedars-Sinai Medical Center last Friday, publicist Arnold Lipsman said.

Auditions Set For Black Musical



The Las Vegas Little Theater will hold open auditions for the black historical musical "And I Ain't Finished Yet" on Tuesday, Dec. 27 for actors and Wednesday, Dec. 28 for singers from 7-10 p.m. The musical was written by Eve Merriam and will be directed by Jack Bell.

Types needed: 3 black males and 3 black females, ages 25-50, and 1 white male age 25-35.

The singers will need a prepared piece of music.

For further information, call 735-0167.

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