

# Entertainment

## BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

### NO THRONE FOR SOUL QUEEN IN N'YORK

N'YORK CITY — Tax experts have informed us that Soul Queen Aretha Franklin will not have to worry about the 100Gs-plus she's accused of owing the State if she stays out of town. Last week, Ms. Franklin, whose legal residence is listed as Bloomfield



Aretha Franklin

Hills, a suburb of Detroit, was legally accused by the State of refusing to pay a judgement against her in excess of \$100,000 in back taxes, interest and fines. A spokesperson for the Department of Taxation said the case developed from income taxes of \$46,250 built up between '72/'77... Tab Buford, prexy of the Freedom Nat'l Bk., just dropped a dime to tell us that Jesse Jackson is the man for the rejected and dejected... The Hines



Gregory Hines, his daughter Daria and Maurice Hines.

are pocketing a big hunk of the "Cotton Club" many million dollar budget. Gregory is not only the star, but also enjoys a nice percentage arrangement. Maurice works with him in what is being advanced as the hottest tap routine since master tapster Bill "Bojangles" Robinson quit the scene. Their father, Maurice Sr., is a consultant on the flick and

Greg's daughter Daria, who is 13, is a member of the cast. Should you visit the "Apple," that Cotton Club facade you see on Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. at 132nd St., is a phony, a reel building. The real C.C. was located on the east side of Lenox Avenue at 142 St. Hope they know enough to change the street sign at shooting time. How about that Ralph Cooper. Speaking of that flick, up to press time Cab Calloway, who has been invited to watch the shooting, has said "no way." He felt that he should have been a paid consultant. After all, he could be the only major survivor of the legendary cabaret... Warner Bros. is making the big noise about its acquisition of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, "The Color Purple." The deal was made in association with Quincy Jones and the Guber-Peters Co., which will produce the flick for WB. Wondah h'cum WB let "A Soldier's Play" get away from them after its big buy deal when it won the Pulitzer?

**NEWS POINTS:** The wonder is, what was the real reason Senator Strom Thurmond reprised his invitation to million \$ comic Eddie Murphy to "come on down" and add laughter to an annual Xmas party for several hundred kids from state center throughout his area. The published facts are that the South Carolina law maker changed his mind to avoid the event being stormed by too many Murphy fans... Nat King Cole is voice alive in Sidney, Australia with an album in the top 10 and never without a play on Down Under's top 40 radio. He even tops Frank Sinatra who hovers around the fifteenth slot... A letter/card campaign to the Calif. Entertainment Commission would add weight to Toey Caldwell's request for that body to insure guaran-

tees against minority discrimination in the State Talent Agency Act. The protection should also blanket women over 35 and the disabled... Teddy Pendergrass fans are waiting with open



Teddy Pendergrass

ears for '84 when the Teddy Bear is scheduled to record a new album for Elektra wax works. Paralyzed from the shoulders down since March '82, after an auto accident, few ever expected him to ever enter a studio again. Film superstar Gregory Peck's letter seeking support for the Klan-watch thrust against the KKK is getting a lot of Afro-American support nationally. It is also winning a lot of new fans for him. His letter outlines how an act of the Klan in La Jolla, Ca. shocked him and strengthened his resistance against racial injustice... Which is a reminder that the National 4-H Congress is about to step-up a drive to recruit Afro-American teens to its ranks. Last year there were four state and one national Afro-American teenage girl winners of the General Foods-sponsored Nutrition Project.

**TAN TOWN TOPICS:**... Diana mite Ross, who has herself a dream pad on NY's posh eastside, has added a Conn. hide-away to her eastern holdings... The promotion wise Ruth Bowen is cooking up a goodie for the formal announcement of The Apollo Theatre Hall of Fame. That Part of Chairman Percy Sutton's international entertainment complex that will add a rainbow mix to the world of incandescent glare... Russell Moore, "The Big Chief," has sounded his final note. A member of the Pima Indian Tribe, he played trombone with Louis Armstrong and Noble Sissle. Stay Loose. Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

Nominated 10 times

## Michael Jackson Wins Award Of Merit

Singer Michael Jackson, whose "Thriller" album established him as one of the most exciting entertainers on the music scene, dominated the American Music Awards Monday with 10 nominations and a special merit award.

Jackson, 25, will be presented with the Award of Merit at the 11th annual show Jan. 16 for his "outstanding contributions over a long period of time to the musical entertainment of the American public."

Previous winners were Bing Crosby, Berry Gordy, Jr., Irving Berlin, Johnny Cash, Ella Fitzgerald, Perry Como, Benny Goodman, Chuck Berry, Stevie Wonder and Kenny Rogers.

In both the pop and soul categories, Jackson was nominated for favorite male vocalist, favorite single for "Billie Jean" and best album for "Thriller," which yielded six hit singles.

He won two nominations in the best video category for "Billie Jean" and "Beat It."

The nominations in three categories were compiled from year-end sales charts of music industry publications and winners are chosen by a public poll of 20,000 people in three categories.

Nominations in the pop-rock category included:

Favorite female vocalist: Pat Benatar; Stevie Nicks; Donna Summer and Bonnie Tyler.

Favorite male vocalist: David Bowie; Jackson; Billy Joel and Lionel Richie.

Favorite duo or group: Def Leppard; Daryl Hall & John Oates; Men at Work and The Police.

Favorite single: "Billie Jean," (Jackson); "Every Breath You Take," (The Police); "Flashdance," (Irene Cara), and "Total Eclipse of the Heart," (Bonnie Tyler).

Favorite album: "Flashdance," "Pyromania," (Def Leppard); "Synchronicity," (The Police), and "Thriller,"



Michael Jackson

(Jackson).

Favorite video: "Beat It" and "Billie Jean," (Jackson), and "Tell Her About It," (Joel).

Nominees in the soul category included:

Favorite female vocalist: Angela Bofill; Irene Cara; Aretha Franklin, and Donna Summer.

Favorite male vocalist: Jackson; Rick James; Prince, and Lionel Richie.

Favorite duo or group: DeBarge; The Gap Band; The Isley Brothers, and

Gladys Knight & the Pips.

Favorite single: "All Night Long," (Richie); "Billie Jean," (Jackson); "Cold Blooded," (James), and "Juicy Fruit," (Mtume).

Favorite album: "Lionel Richie," (Richie); "1999," (Prince); "Thriller," (Jackson), and "Visions," (Gladys Knight & the Pips).

Favorite video: "Beat It," "Billie Jean," (Jackson), and "She Works Hard for the Money," (Summer).

## 24 HOUR POKER!

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