

# Entertainment

## Nikki Giovanni To Be Presented At Sahara Space Center

On February 25, at 1 p.m. in the Sahara Space Center, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will present a program on the theme, "Martin Luther King, Brotherhood and the Humanities." Featured speaker will be poet, Nikki Giovanni,

*Men* (1975). Her *Gemini: An Extended Autobiographical Statement on My First Twenty-Five Years of Being a Black Poet* was nominated for a National Book Award in 1973. Although some of her poems include militant black sentiment,



Nikki Giovanni

who will give a lecture and reading of her works. Born in 1943, Giovanni came of age when the black struggle for equal rights was gaining momentum on southern campuses. She participated in the movement personally while at Fisk University, and in 1964 led students there in a campaign to restore the campus chapter of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. But politics was not to be her sole passion, and she eventually turned to the arts, enrolling in Columbia University, School of the Arts.

Her poetry, now plentiful, well-known and appreciated, includes the following: *Black Feeling*, *Black Talk* (1968); *Black Judgement* (1968); *Spin a Soft Black Song: Poems for Children* (1971); *My House* (1972); and *The Women and*

they more often reflect broader, humanistic concerns: love, life, and the individual's fight for survival. One critic has noted that "she sees her world as an extension of her problems... and she controls her environment — sometimes with her mind, often with her heart." Another commentator concludes that her prose and poetry arrive like bulletins, each of them "is a report about a life in progress that demands to be seen." A dynamic and powerful speaker (she is a major figure in the black oral poetry movement and has recorded numerous poetry albums). Nikki Giovanni is both a product of the King era and a unique black voice. She offers insights on the civil rights movement from multiple vantage points. A participant herself during the period, she looks back as

## BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

A ROBINSON GOES TO BAT FOR JESSE

**N'YORK CITY:** The astute eye-striking Rachel Robinson has come out swinging for Rev. Jesse Jackson in his bid for a chance to add color to the White House. The widow of baseball's historic Hall of Fame Jackie Robinson has summoned her friends and admirers to a \$100 nose count at the green aced estate in Stamford, Conn. that she shared with the super ballplayer who severed baseball's color line in the late 40s when he played with the B'klyn Dodgers. The posh spot is just a popfly away from any N'York

direction and is supported by some outstanding folks of national and international reps. Among them Earl Graves, Dr. Roscoe Brown, Amb. Franklin Williams, Lloyd Dickens and Eugene McCabe.

George Wein, the Newport Jazz Festival impresario, is reported hot to trot out of a serious production of "Black B'way." It was one of the more remembered and unusual hits of his '80 jazz bash and presented in association with Honi Coles, Robert Kimball and Bobby Short of the long piano fame. Among

the stars were Nell Carter, Gregory Hines, Adelaide Hall, Edith Wilson, Bobby and Honi, who has since won a Tony for his efforts in the current B'way hit, "My One And Only."

In an Ad'Age magazine poll questioning consumers as to who best came to mind as a product advertising spokesperson, comedian Bill Cosby won hands down. He was named by 103 of the respondents out of the 1250 who made up the telephone sampling. Lee Iacocca, Chrysler's CEO, was a middle line second. He was named by 56. Believe it or not, John Houseman,

only earned 7. Bob Hope entered the minds of 24 and former gridiron great, Lipton Tea lover Don Meredith received 16, to place 4th & 5th, but Rodney Dangerfield didn't get that much respect with 12 "calls."

PRIDE WAS COSTLY for vibe king Lionel Hampton, but it didn't dent his bank account or lessen his dedication. When he checked his Nov. bank statement he discovered that having the Astronauts, Dan Brandenstein, Commander, USN, Guion Bluford, Jr., Lieutenant Col, USAF, Richard H. Truly, Captain, USN,

See ROWE, Page 15

## NEW FELD MUSICAL TO PREMIERE AT DESERT INN

The premiere engagement of Irvin and Kenneth Feld's latest musical extravaganza will open at the Desert Inn Country Club and Spa March 27, it was announced today by Burton Cohen, the resort's president.

The new musical is much more than just another opening of another show, according to Cohen. While he introduced Broadway to the Desert Inn more than three years ago by featuring such Tony Award winners as "A Chorus Line," "Annie," and "Sophisticated Ladies," this is the first time that a new Broadway-bound stage musical has pre-

miered in Las Vegas.

The Felds, owners and producers of Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus, are no strangers to Las Vegas and the quality of their productions is evidenced by the very successful "Beyond Belief" starring Siegfried and Roy.

The new musical at the Desert Inn is being designed and produced entirely new from the conceptual stage to the final glamorous product which will have an indefinite run at the Desert Inn. Since this is a spectacular type show, it is intended for a Broadway engagement at the conclusion of its local run.

a humanist and artist whose vision draws on the past and points optimistically, like Dr. King's, to a better future.

The day's program will also feature special talent from local high schools and the well-known Love All People group, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The Smithsonian Institution Exhibition "Black Women: Achievements Against The Odds," which is being presented in Las Vegas by the Aro-American Cultural Services, Inc.

with funding by the Nevada Humanities Committee, will also be on display.

Luncheon, which is optional (\$9 per person) will be served at 12 noon.

The program is sponsored by Theta Theta Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., in conjunction with Clark County School District, National Conference of Christians and Jews and LOVE ALL PEOPLE, and is funded by the Nevada Humanities Committee with free admission to the public.

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