

# Entertainment

## SENTINEL-VOICE'S "RUDI" TAKES NEW DIRECTION

By Betty Brown

"The cultural arts are very lax in creating the poet's world here in Las Vegas," says Rudi Jackson, writer of the "Jackson Street and Me" column in the Sentinel-Voice.

Rudi, who is a poet and songwriter, has decided to do something about the dearth of poetic activity here in Las Vegas. As the newly-elected Director of the Poets Workshop, he is embarking on a campaign to heighten the level of recognition and appreciation of the art of poetry and to encourage poets and potential poets to let their talents be known. It is one of his goals to greatly increase the membership of the 15-member Poets Workshop, which meets once each month, usually on the last Wednesday or Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Las Vegas Library, 1727 East Charleston Blvd. in the Charleston Shopping Mall.

Rudi and the other members of the Poets Workshop are available to do poetry readings for parties, meetings, schools, churches, colleges and social organizations. While they usually charge a nominal fee for this service, they sometimes give free readings for special groups.

Actually, poetry reading is not new to Rudi. He has been writing and reading his poetry for many years, ever since he started participating in the Watt's Writers Workshop in Los Angeles. When he checked his records not too long ago, he was surprised to discover that he has given over 35 readings of his poetry right here in Las Vegas over the past 10 years. During this past year, his talent has been increasingly in demand and he has found himself reading for many church and social groups. He has also read his poetry on radio stations KCEP and KUNV and at Clark County

Community College and UNLV. During February he was the guest performer for the prestigious Afro-American Cultural Services Banquet, which was held in the Student Union Ballroom at UNLV. This latter engagement was especially appropriate since his favorite poetic subject to write about happens to be "the women of the world" and that banquet was in honor of 33 outstanding black women of Las Vegas.

This past Easter Sunday Rudi read his poetry at the Senior Citizens Easter Banquet, which was held at the Union Plaza Hotel. This coming Saturday, April 28, he and other workshop poets will read at the Special Open House program at Reality House.

Since business is picking up so well, Rudi intends to branch out into more poetry reading on his own. Brochures are being sent out to churches, schools and organizations in other cities and states, making his availability known. Eventually, he hopes to get on the tour circuit with his presentation. Hampton Reese is managing Rudi in this endeavor and Clarence Morgan, who has done PR work for Niki Giovanni, among others, is handling Rudi's Public Relations.

In addition to all this, Rudi continues to write, especially poetry. A very prolific person, Rudi has all in all penned over 100 songs and 300 poems, not to mention many short stories and other writings. Eleven of his songs have been recorded with success, among them "Angel In My Life," "Oh, Yes I Know," "How," and "Hearts of Stone," which was his biggest hit. In the past he has managed several recording groups and once sung in a group.

Presently, Rudi is working on several new poems and has completed a book of poetry,

## BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

THERE'S MORE TEEVEE BIAS THAN GREETINGS THEEYES!

**N'YORK CITY:** Sir Jimmy Randolph, whose mellow baritone is the favorite sound of the international set, habitue of exclusive posh resorts and millionaires who forge private parties, and who was critically acceptable in the B'way black cast version of "Guys and Dolls," is planning to life that voice against the thriving bias of the electronic media. In the words of this delineator - corr, "there is far more TV bias than meets the eyes. It is high time that those who believe in the basic principles of equality come together and stem this erosion which is impeding the growth of American cultural advance." Currently on tour, Sir Randolph has planned a summit meeting on his return to the Apple to ear the facts as to how the problem is subtly growing worse... An eye fan of this space dropped a dime to inform that the AFL-CIO has allegedly put together a committee of black members for Mondale to offset Jesse Jackson's appeal to a great number of its mem-

bership and his accusation that unions practice discrimination... The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center For Nonviolent Social Change has an invitation to set up a special panel on the application of the immortal "Peace Maker's" Philosophy of Nonviolence to International Conflicts at the 25th annual convention of the prestigious International Studies Ass'n. in Atlanta Mar. 27 thru Apr. 1. Dr. Jakob Sverdrup, director of the Nobel Institute, Norway, will be the Center's guest at that time...

**NEWS BRIEFS:** The Prez people goofed, so he didn't send a tele to Louisa Sanchez on her 100-b'day.

On the other front the American Music Awards folks are so pleased with the job Lionel Richie performed, he has already been re-inked to serve as solo host next yr.... During the tribute to big band series at the Rainbow Room, hi'atop Rockefeller Center, Cy Oliver will do Jimmy Lunceford and Tommy Dorsey while my earman Panama Francis will

come on with the Chick Webb sounds. Herb Jeffries, Maxine Sullivan and Julie Steele will lend vocal sounds... Dr. J may soon have to change that initial to a S-sign. Coca-Cola USA has just signed the super basketball legend of the Phila. 76ers to one of the largest product endorsement contracts ever. Coke won't tell, but word is that the Julius Erving deal is worth \$2.5 and

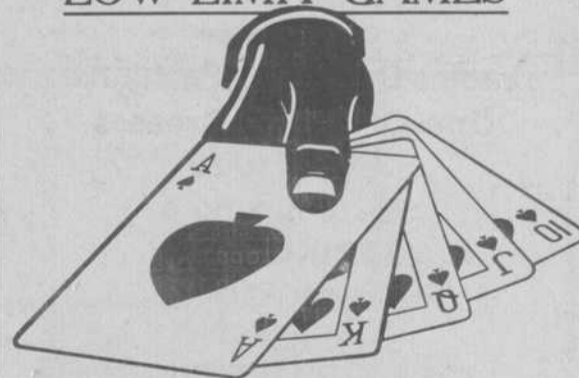
covers commercials and personal appearances through '88... If that don't make you think that you're in the wrong profession dig this. "Magic" Johnson is expected to move into his new \$2,500,000 Bel Air home. It's complete with pool, natch, sauna, all the trimmings and an indoor sports court... **STAY LOOSE... BILLY ROWE IS A SYNDICATED COLUMNIST.**

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