

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

WASHINGTON, D.C. — I am as happy as a baby boy and at my age, that's something. It seems Larry Holmes has finally heard the word and will not lift a glove against South African Gerrie Coetzee. Though this corner has been lift-

ing its write hand in protest against such a match, he did not give that as his reason for his change of mind. He made the startling revelation in N'York City at a hypo press show-off announcing his up-scheduled Don King

promoted encounter against James "Bone-crusher" Smith. "It doesn't matter how they'll want to accommodate me, I will not fight him; it's mainly because of the recent racial flareups in South Africa. Besides, Coetzee won't be (WBA heavyweight) champion too long, because he's not that good," said the IBF heavyweight title holder, who also said,

"I'll wait for somebody else to beat him then I'll beat that guy."

Our hope is that no American will fight South Africa's Gerrie Coetzee. In fact, no person from that apartheid country should be allowed to participate in any sport in the free world. The ruling race-hating class of that stolen country should be barred from our baseball diamonds, profes-

sional golf tours, tennis courts, boxing arenas and all the other turfs where free people match their skills in games for the enjoyment of people of all races, creeds, colors, religions and sexes. To this scribe, South Africans are the epitome of "Man's inhumanity to Man," and should be barred from the company of humanity and made to face the destiny they have created for themselves in another's land. One, which in the end will slide them all into a self-created hell. Let's hear it for Champion Larry Holmes!

NEWSLINE: The happenings in the Apple were many. Tops among them were Emma Bowen's Black Citizens For A Fair Media, Inc.'s 12th annual Community Meeting and the "Shades of Harlem" salute reunion party of former members of the legendary Cotton Club. The BCFM meeting was historic as it brought to Harlem the A.C. Nielson Co. and Arbitron, the two major electronic measuring organizations in the nation. Since it's a proven fact that, like other Americans, more of our homes have teevees than phones or toilets, how'cum we don't get the T.V. ratings, and as a result, the show representation we

deserve? It was an incredible gathering. It brought into our community electronic biggies some of us have never seen. It was a most revealing meeting, one which will undoubtedly change the electronic rating approach to the Afro-American communities all over the country. You will be hearing more about this one. It was a thrust in the proper direction.

SHADES OF HARLEM: This Cotton Club cabaret musical at the Village Gate Downstairs is a nostalgic event. It was more so the other nite when Tony Conforti and Jerry Saperstein, its presentors, threw a "Shades of Harlem Cotton Club Reunion Party." It was a ball, with former Cotton Club guys and gals gathering to greet each other for the first time in ages. The "Shades of Harlem" cast, Jeree Palmer, Branice McKenzie, Ty Stephens, Ludie Jones, Juanita Boisseau, Alice Wilkie and The Renaissance girls, all acted like fans. And no wondah, the CC alumni on tap were Cab Calloway, Tondalyo Levy, Edna Mae Robinson, Bessie Dudley, Estrellita Brooks, Hyacinth Curtis, Bill Smith, Harold Nicholas, Charlie Banks, Warren Berry, Phace Roberts, Cookie Cook, Honi & Marion Coles, the Copasetics and Mable Lee.

... STAY LOOSE ...
Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

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