

## BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

### Slain GI's Mom Eyed In Bias Attack

DETROIT, Mich. — The racial storm created by Dearborn's enactment of a "Residents only parks law," did not prevent Mrs. Alice Beecham from accepting an invitation to participate in that white dominated community's Memorial Day parade. She is the mother of Army Sgt. Kenneth T. Ford who was slain in West Berlin during a terrorist bombing attack in April. The act generated the U.S. attack on Libya. The last Nov. law, banning non-residents from using most Dearborn parks, has been legally attacked by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Detroit NAACP. Both organizations are in accord that the ordinance is racially intended in its design. In her statement Mrs. Beecham said that "Though she too believes the park ban was racially conceived, she however accepted the parade invitation to participate solely to honor her son. Parade chair Colin McGee, who is also a Dearborn policeman, said that the park

controversy should not be allowed to taint the parade, the largest in Metro Detroit. "Mrs. Beecham was asked to ride in the parade because her son is one of the most recent servicemen to die for his country." Another of her sons, Robin, is an Army private.

#### WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

The senior phrase, "Too big for your britches," has a different meaning in the case of Detroit's Mayor Coleman Young. It's a problem of girth, not personality. It could be one that diet-comic Dick Gregory could solve. During the course of celebrating his 68th birthday a Satdee ago the added pounds had no effects on his sense of humor or his enjoyment of the goodies. When asked how he felt turning 68. Said he, "better than not turning 68." Now in his record fourth term, he had a slew of friends and well wishes to help him to celebrate. The swank and "sway" hi'lite of it all was a Satdee'nite sail up the Detroit River with 300 who's who invited dinner guests aboard the Star of Detroit. Federal Appeals Judge

Damon Keith, a way back friend of the Motor City chief executive, when asked what the mayor wanted most for a present, said, "The chance to turn 69." Happy b'day Mr. Mayor."

**WRITE WORTHY:** Chee Chee Williams, ABC-TV anchor plus person, is showing off her cutie-pie new born with happy pride. Many of her tube eyeballers are wondering when will her maternity leave expire? It is hoped that the ABC-TV management isn't playing the contract waiting game with her. It's already out that Calvin Ballard was among the 40-pink slipped off the payroll recently. He was head of personnel and an 8-yr. company veteran. My coin dropper said he was replaced by an ofay . . . Whispers are gaining crescendo that just maybe the terrorists involved in that West Germany disco bombing April 5 were Germans. The theory is based on the facts that a large percentage of German males resent that many of their women have great affection for Black American G.I. Joes. It has even been said that several acts of bigotry have been swept under the top secret military rugs . . . It's no secret that William "The Refrigerator"

### New Edition "Catch The Wave" Coca-Cola USA-Sponsored 1986 Tour

ATLANTA, May 30, 1986-- New Edition, the teen supergroup currently being featured in black consumer market advertising for Coca-Cola, also "Catch the wave" in their Coca-Cola USA-sponsored 1986 "All For Love" concert tour.



RICKY BELL RONALD DE VOE MICHAEL BIVINS BOBBY BROWN RALPH TRESVANT  
New Edition

The 54-city tour began in March and is scheduled to run through June. New Edition is featured in new advertising for Coca-Cola with the theme "Catch the wave." The four young performers deliver a fun-filled, upbeat message, supported by high-technology graphics and special effects.

"New Edition is youthful, dynamic, fun-loving and very, very smooth," said Charles E. Morrison, vice president and director of Black and Hispanic Consumer Marketing, Coca-

Cola USA. "The group is an ideal match for Coca-Cola product daily." Also, these guys drink the

Perry came into mini-camp tipping the scale at 330 pounds and was ordered to melt it down to an even 300 by mid-July. Could this be another chore for Dick Gregory? . . . The Jackie Robinson Foundation '86 Award Dinner did itself and the immortal baseball legend cash proud. The annual Waldorf scholarship event added up to a healthy net support of \$230,000 in support of the JRF scholarship program . . . Of course the shouting at Howard U. is a mite louder. It has received \$1 million from Earl C. Broady to establish a professorship in

its school of law. Plus another \$200,000 from Honeywell, Inc. to aid programs in electrical and computer-systems engineering over the next two years. Who said nobody cared. **CONVERSATION ROWE:** The word is in from Cannes that industry pressure has finally broken the back of cinemas segregation in apartheid South Africa. The strong lobbying of American companies, which told the white government that white-only cinemas were unacceptable is believed to have been the final blow. The change is expected to be officially announced by the

South African government in July. There are about 460 theatres in the country and about one quarter are reserved for whites . . . ABC TV is plotting hour long specials for Diana'mite Ross, Robert Guillaume and Emmanuel Lewis for next season . . . Bill Cosby and his lovely spouse, Camille are putting chunks of the money the great one is making into several colleges. Central State U. in Wilberforce, is the latest to benefit from his largess of \$100,000 . . . The big timers are finally recognizing the film contributions of the late Oscar Micheaux. He was honored recently by the Directors Guild. However we only learned about it through a coin dropper who heard how proud his niece, Verna Crowe was to receive an award for him from Oscar award winner Louis Gossett Jr. . . . They are sure that making the cover of Time mag. is a jinx. Look what has happened to super moud'man Dwight Gooden since he graced the April front page . . .

Hollywood has changed its mind about shooting the "Beverly Hills Cop" sequel in London as before terrorism. Word is that Eddie Murphy will do his before camera thing in Beverly Hills. That is so logical it's totally unlike the Tinsel City of make believe . . .

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

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