

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

Networks Ignored Africa's Two Years

N'YORK CITY: Joanmarie Kalter eyelevelled some very revealing facts in the May-end issue of TV Guide. Appropriately titled, "The Untold Stories of Africa," the piece informs "why TV is missing some big ones," stories that is. Of course she didn't have to look that far away to discover that fact. "Write" here in their very own backyard that happens every blessed day as so many stories of Afro-Americans and other so called ethnic Americans are annually uncovered. Unless of course they have to do

with crime or sports, about our plight rather than our promise. Now back to Ms Kalter's piece, "A look at network blind spots that keep us from understanding the true problems of a continent rich in potential." It's "write" on target of all American, and perhaps, world media. Yet we honor those whom they let get a powerless foot in the door and nothing changes. The author of this article should be honored and I wish I could reprint it all. "Black Africa," she wrote, "receives less coverage than any major

region--though it spans an area roughly three times the size of the United States and has twice as many people. It is the most diverse and potentially the most abundant on earth. From '72 through '81 the networks mentioned sub-Saharan Africa in less than 6% of all foreign news stories, according to a study by James Larson of the University of Washington. As in much of foreign news, the coverage it did receive was most likely to focus on crises, wars, coups, floods, famines. But while crisis coverage accounted for an average of 27% of total coverage, it made up 38% of those about Africa."

"So it was perhaps not surprising that hunger in Africa was all but ignored by the networks for two years after it had been documented by the UN. When it did receive coverage, it had already become a crisis of unprecedented proportions." There is much more to this story than space here will allow telling. In her article Joanmarie said, "As journalists we should be watchdogs, but we're not doing that in Africa. We're not watching. And while the networks are not watching, Africa increasingly affects both our pocketbooks and our lives."

YESTERDAY'S news is the seed of today's history as New Rochelle's Lincoln School acres, now a playground, was added to

the "Queen City's" historic sites with official pomp and ceremony. As memory recalls the Lincoln School was the first northern institution to be destroyed by the legal onslaught of its own neighborhood. It happened in 1961. Dr. Paul Zuber Esq., now chair the Graduate Center of Urban and Environmental studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y., returned to the scene of his most historic victory to bask in the afternoon sun and community adoration. Early participants in the battle for desegregation, Marilyn Pierce, Milton Heimlich, Barbara Hall, Joshua Bogin and Pauline Flippin recalled the various peaks and valley of the 25-year old struggle. The children played, in what to them was just another playground. Their parents however did not enjoy the same emotion as they paraded signs of their unhappiness before visiting politicians as announcements of another pending fight. Twenty-two of them had been notified by the Board of Education that perhaps their kids would not be bussed next fall. It seemed the Board had suddenly discovered that the group now lives less than the required 1½ miles mandated for such transportation. A hot summer is expected over this issue. Rev. Vernon A. Shannon co-chair, coalition for Mutual Respect, spearheaded the event with



The third annual "Gong Show," presented on Wednesday at the Las Vegas High School Auditorium, Ninth and Bridger, had contestants such as 4 year old Bernard Powell, Jr. who did a Michael Jackson impersonation as well as break-dancing.

Photo by Don Walker



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Rabbi Amiel Wohl. Together they dedicated the Plaque which calls attention to the meaning of the historic spot. The Charles Dickerson Drum & Bugle Corps supplied the musical sounds.

WRITE MAD:--The Fair Play Committee, Clarence Jackson, prexy, has dropped a 22-center on the Black Music Industry (BMI) asking for immediate resignation of Dick Griffey and Ewert Abner as president and chairman of the Black Music Association (BMA). The open letter charges that the two officers with "Using BMA as their own personal fiefdom and are simply interested in furthering their individual aims and aspirations," "Write" happy to see a bro. who is big enough to chair a major charity bash. That's Robert A. Monroe, prexy Perennial Sales, House of Seagram Division. He's chair of this yr's

annual A. Philip Randolph Award Dinner. Harlem Dowling will benefit. It's a Dean Sayles promotion so don't you miss it...Our Nancy Hite just picked herself up another degree from Iona College and we are as proud as a poppa.

PERSONALITIES:

Wouldn't you know it? Lena Horne, the lovely talented "Miss America grandmother" and Sanka Coffee have struck up an unbeatable affair. They're now calling it "Grounds for Greatness." The commercial has received rave notices like a B'way show and the cup La'Horne sips out of is in great demand. Perhaps Maxwell House will put them on the market for Xmas...Since beer is taxed at a rate three times higher than that of other consumers goods, Henry Brown, Bud's veep, informs me that the

See ROWE, Page 9

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