

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

J.C. Sets \$8000 George Rhodes Scholarship

HARTFORD, CT — The Greater Hartford Junior Chamber of Commerce has established an \$8000 scholarship in the name of the late George A. Rhodes, longtime arranger and musical director for Sammy Davis, Jr. Directors of the 65-year-old Greater Hartford PGA Open Golf Tournament, the J.C. made the announcement during the annual concert spotlighting celebrities, sponsors and participants in the annual Greater Hartford PGA Open Canon/Sammy Davis, Jr. Golf Tournament. Its initial scholarship was presented to Jacinta T. Perry, a graduate from Weaver Hi school who also attended the Greater Hartford Academy of Performing Arts. A music major, she is proficient in music production and engineering. Her scholarship will take her into Hartt College at the University of Hartford. George Rhodes, who passed in Dec. '85, participated for twelve of the thirteen years Sammy Davis, Jr. has been associated with the Greater Hartford Open. It is the only regularly scheduled Professional Golfer Association's tournament carrying the name of a Black superstar.

LIBERTY WK'END - The Statue of Liberty is one of the Seven Wonders of the world as freedom's number one symbol. It has stood tall and unflappable on Liberty Island for a hundred years. Like many long standing adopted N'Yorkers, whose seed was deep rooted before Lady Liberty was cast in medal and stone, she was just another pretty symbol to lure people to these shores. After all my folks came here from freedom to subjugation. Though they were freed before she was cast in stone, her meaning, like an earlier one, "All men are created equal," was meaningless based on the treatment of many Americans who had a strong hand in building this nation. Nonetheless Liberty Weekend 1986 was a rewarding period in the history of this time. It kindled new hope within many that those involved, the movers

and the shakers, will remember this time to keep the promise of the permanent lady in the bay: "Liberty, Justice, Equality and Freedom for all" so that her next 1 to 100,000 years she will not be just one of the seven wonders of civilization, but also civilization's number one symbol of humanity. Few of us will forget Liberty Wk'end. The hope is that none of us will forget its meaning. That it wasn't a case that when people weary, and cease to be satisfied, somebody digs a reason for a party.

WRITE NEWS — Al Bell, whose Stax Records were a chart filler in the 60s through the 70s with stars like Isaac Hayes and Otis Redding, is starting up again. This time with Rick Frio who was also on the big time wax trail with the likes of MCA. The duo have formed, Edge Records and Ego Management. Publisher Alger Adams has put his County Press, Westchester newspaper up for sale. Bennie Batts, who tried for a congressional nomination in '84 is first in line to buy it. On the West Coast several Black publishers are up in arms because the so advertised biggest Black newspaper out there is allegedly owned by a white group. The standin Black publisher is paid six figures under a management agreement.

Cathy Conners is about to jet off to China and places with a ladies group of ten, Mollie Moon among them. Speaking of the Orient, the government of Taiwan, the other China, has invited a group of Black publishers to come visit, and soon, as guests of the country. Mayor Jim Usry, the now full term Chief exec., Atlantic City, may soon have reasons to go to the mat with Donald Trump over road improvements near Trump's Castle. Sooner or later "Native Son," Richard Wright's novel, will hit some eye-level. Cinecom is planning its widest break yet for a late fall release of the long ago B'way drama. Harvey Russell is home from his quiet hospital stay.

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Marilyn McCoo Joins Neil Sedaka At Bally Grand

Bally, Grand, formerly the MGM Grand Hotel, will mark a first on Thursday, July 24. Neil Sedaka will perform at the hotel for his first time. Appearing with Sedaka will be the beautiful and talented Marilyn McCoo.

Both will be holding forth at cocktail shows in the hotel's beautiful Celebrity Room.

The name of Neil Sedaka is one that is certainly not unknown in Las Vegas. The man and his music have been a part of the Las Vegas scene for many years, and a large number of fans have virtually "grown up" on Sedaka's music.

As one of pop music's legendary pioneers, Sedaka has scores of hit songs and countless platinum and gold discs stretching back over 30 years. Among his impressive array of hits have been "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do," "Love Will Keep Us Together," "Laughter in the Rain," "Solitaire," "The Hungry Years" and the beautiful hit that he did together with his daughter Dara, "Should've Never Let You Go."

As a result of having lived in England during the seventies, Sedaka and his music are almost as well known and loved in Europe as they are in the U.S.

Neil is the author of more than 1,000 songs, and between the years 1959 and 1963, more than 25 million copies of his records were sold. He has been inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame and has played with a number of symphony orchestras, a classical side to his talent that he also offers a bit of to audiences at his shows.

Marilyn McCoo is not just another pretty face — although she is certainly that too. While Marilyn first achieved fame as one fourth of the award-winning musical group "The 5th Dimension," more recently, she has become even better known as the co-host of the musical program "Solid Gold."

While she was with The 5th Dimension, she recorded "Up, Up and Away in My Beautiful Balloon," which became one of the most successful discs in the history of recorded music. In the late sixties and early seventies, The 5th



Marilyn McCoo

Dimension won six Grammy Awards. "It was one of the most wonderful experiences of my life," Marilyn says.

Although Marilyn and Billy are secure in their marriage, she has since gone on to establish herself as a solo artist. She has appeared at the hotel before when Bally's was still the MGM Grand.

While beauty is only skin deep, even if Marilyn were not beautiful and talented, she still has one final ace in the hole:

She has a degree in Business Administration from UCLA.

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