

# Entertainment

## BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

### Black Bothered and Bewildered Afro-American

Unless you're color blind your eyes can ascertain the fact that the only false colors, in all shades, of nature's conglomerate are those of human beings. In keeping with popular usage I am a "Black bothered and bewildered Afro-American" in a human sea of confused loyalties and human values. Before going any further, I added the Afro-American because that's what I am and I enjoy being a member of a race rather than a non-true human color.

As the year and the century grind down, nagging questions stem the flow of thoughts which nurtured this corner in the past. This write around I am preoccupied with thoughts of the malperformance of those headline hunters, problem pimps, and especially those self proclaimed adroit leaders of the oppressed who use their misfortune to increase personal bankable fortunes. The eyes sicken brought on by the deterioration of the neighborhoods one traversed in youth to face the ultimate realities of life. Many of these environments are no longer friendly and have become the fragile excuses some use to denigrate a people's purpose and worth. I am bothered by the media dialogue which has charged our thrust for quality education into a battle to sit next to some Caucasian's

youngster. Editorial opinions which turned our relentlessly hard fought for equal opportunity victory into a nat'l political game, which when implemented benefited "the man's" conscience far more than the intended upward mobility. The enemy within is not without blame for this personal perplexity. Black superstars of the theatre, the gridiron, the squared circle, the baseball diamond and the waxed boards of the basketball arenas would do well to check their payrolls and ascertain what percentage of their earned millions filters into the environment of their roots. Also how many lookalikes hold top positions in the executive towers their talent help to build and maintain. It is a travesty that with the tremendous contributions our side makes on the field of the games, and to their box office, theirs should be such a low profile within the decision towers.

Lionel Ritchie, Tina Turner, David Winfield, Pat Ewing, Herschel Walker, Michael Jackson, Doc Gooden, Bryant Gumbel, Don King, Sugar Ray Leonard, and all others in comparable positions, owe it to themselves to intensify their efforts to enrich the soul of their roots. It is also bothersome and bewildering that many of us in high positions are weakest in pulling others up. Then there are those who seem to feel that it's a major life time distinction to be "the first, or

the only Black." They are the other extreme of those who blame every set back on racism. The political system which eventually moves Blacks up in the arena, but are seldom Black replaced negating progress, further chilling the cold bone tossed our way. The ego of fame has created a vast vacuum of neglect between those who could help and the helpless within communities fortune snatched them out of. On the other hand the arrogance of power of those of us employed by the electronic or print media seems to have put them in a position of no need for their own. You seldom, if ever, see them in the Black community unless they're being awarded by some misguided org. for some madeup reasons.

Too many in fame's spotlight have come to scorn the bridge over which they have crossed to find ambition's fulfillment. They become obsessed with the notion that they got where they are because of who they are rather than WHAT THEY ARE, and that somebody before them had to have built the facility over which they crossed.

WRITEOUT NEWS:—Arthur W. White, Jr., president/CEO United Mutual Life Insurance Co., was a Fortune Mag.'s, "People to Watch" Dec. issue feature. An Equitable Life Assurance veep, he is on loan to bolster the battered business of this only Black owned/operated life insurance co. in the northeast. His resuscitating drive has brought United a \$100 million N.Y. State pension fund, and among other corps, big business from Philip Morris and IBM. His drive has upped Muturi's group life business from \$150-million to more than \$500-million...Coin droppers

report that ex Cotton Club lovely Ruby Dallas Young is out of the hosp...The same caller heard that song legend Maxine Sullivan, who took the low road to "Loch Lomond," took the high one to the pill pactory. Actress Ruby Dee Davis has had her thoughts embraced by the hard covers, under the title, "My One Nerve." Her book party is assured of major celebrity attention.

WRITE-IN-RUN:—Charges are spreading from the Bay Area that major American colleges have developed an Asian students quota system. The alleged move on the part of many of the elite institutions has shaken the calm of the campuses of Brown, Princeton, Stanford and the University of California's campuses at Berkeley and Los Angeles. All have been named in the charges. Admissions executives point out that Asian Americans and immigrants, roughly make up 2% of the general population, THEY MAKE UP 10-15% of the student population of many of the schools under charge...Mobile Radio WGOK celebrated with Irene Johnson Ware to mark her 25 continuous record spinning years. Jack The Rapper scribed that it was a zooper event. "The ballroom was packed tighter than a tick on a dog's back. Don't ask Jack to tell you what legendary record man Dave Clark invited him to do when he asked the retired deejay pioneer where he got those green suede Bally sneakers from...That DeeCee Hi'school which graduated the first Afro-American student has reopened as a Educational Museum. The 1972 landmark immortalized the name of Senator Charles Summer, Massachusetts. An abolitionist, he held office



Marianne Marks, pictured above, will be guest starring on "A-Team", on Friday, December 12 on NBC. She will portray the character "Lauren" in the "Spy Who Mugged Me" episode.

### Chubby Checker Coming To Union Plaza

Singer-dancer Chubby Checker charged into his rock-and-roll musical career in the late fifties and has raged unchecked ever since. Set to open in the star slot of "Rock 'n Roll Forever" at the Union Plaza Hotel

from 1951 thru 1874. The building fell on hard times after Brown V. Board of Education caused the outlawing of segregated schools...There was a happier ring to Thanksgiving in the household of Sam Walker Esq. His promotion to senior patent attorney, General Foods Law Dept., came just in time to add more joy to the joyous season. Shirley Murdock's new hairdo and single wax work, "As We Lay," are capturing eye and ear attention...STAY LOOSE...BILLY ROWE IS A SYNDICATED COLUMNIST.

Monday (Dec. 15), the man who changed the way couples dance has rolled along a road without a twist, except for the dance.

It was "The Twist" that propelled Checker to fame and separated the men from the women in the dance, as tradition departed and couples stayed out of touch on the dance floor.

While the other young stars of the musical medium faded forever or faded to return in the rock-and-roll revival, Checker steadily maintained his international stature with hundreds of performances a year.

Critics recently were "amazed, stunned, surprised" with his comeback album, the first in 16 years, and have termed "The Change Has Come" the "rock-and-roll style of the 80s."

## Lizzie R. Hatcher, Esq.

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PRELIMINARY COMPATIBILITY SCREENING—

- 1 I am easily irritated when required to stand in line
- 2 My level of refinement is average
- 3 Off-color language is embarrassing
- 4 Perfection is often just an accident
- 5 Most people would consider me unsophisticated
- 6 I dislike having to get dressed up to go out
- 7 Early hotel check-out times are annoying
- 8 People place too much emphasis on sex these days
- 9 Moral values are lower now than ever before
- 10 Love and commitment should precede sex