

## BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

### The Celebration of an American Kings Dream

**N'YORK CITY:**—There's a new sound going through our land that's penetrating the entire world this month. This sound has a name, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and it is in celebration and remembrance of his "Dream" of equality of humanity. In life he was aware of the denial of across the board freedom of soul and expression of all human beings at home and abroad. He realized that equality is not a gift graciously bestowed, no matter how much in principle people agree to it. It is something to be cherished, to be hard fought for and won. There are as many ways to win it as there are humans on this planet with burdens they must bear. But each person has an unrelenting desire to win a little piece for themselves. Something, maybe once in a lifetime, there comes a person whose gift is so unmistakably God endowed that his voice becomes heard as the voice of many. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, was such a man. His was the gift of compassion. He expressed it with warmth, understanding and feeling. He called it his dream. Maybe there is no other statement with which to define it. Maybe "I have A Dream," a simple phrase, is enough to describe all the fears and loneliness and desires of humankind. But for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. it was more. It was the sound of a woman crying, of a child dreaming of the future, of a poor drought-filled land seeking water. And more than that, it was the sound of a people expressing faith for tomorrow in the realistic terms of their daily understanding.

The world of the South, from a "Black" point of view

in his days, was like no other. Like south Africa it had standards and prejudices of its own. In this environment of American apartheid Martin Luther King, Jr. began to make himself heard. No need to repeat the many degrading terms which embraced his ears. They are easily recalled from the days of our youth. That sound is dying today and the world has come to recognize Dr. King's just struggle and because of it, the just desires of our people and others like us who share similar burdens.

Before his assassination in '68, the world honored him with its Nobel Peace Prize. One of the greatest honors of my life was in invitation to accompany his entourage of special guests to the presentation. In accepting the honor Dr. King said he realized the Prize was not exclusively the property of one man nor one people, nor to one race. He felt that it was bestowed upon him as a representative of a way of life which stands up for humankind and counts humanity as one kind. It is not a difficult nor complex way of living. It is the right way!

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a simple man. He never gave the impression that he thought of himself as a warrior, a knight in shining armor. He just fell in love with humanity, with a dream of a better world for denied people to live in. He went afar to forge that dream into a reality, bringing into focus and into reach the promise of freedom. Inside that dark world in which prejudice, discrimination and bias had locked our people, his spirit shone bright and is undimmed for even in darkness he taught us to see many wonders. It is these

wonders that make his legacy to the world an immortal gift. I end this heart and soul salute to this extraordinary human being with the second write hand opinion of Kay Gardella, TeeVee editor, N.Y. Daily News. In reviewing a ch.-13 presentation of "Remembrance of Martin" she wrote: "This is the kind of hour that makes you proud to be an American. Out of the ashes of prejudice and inequality emerged this great man honored today. It's a deserved reiteration of his accomplishments that became greater and more remarkable with time."

**WRITE ON:**—Without roots the most the most productive fruit will not survive. Bill and Camille Cosby's \$1.3 million gift to Fisk U. is monied proof that they haven't forgotten theirs. Wouldn't it be wonderful if more of our spotlighted bro/sis would kick in kind to some of our 100-plus institutions of learning to help them stem the erosion of financial difficulty. The Cosby's largesse left Fisk just \$2.5 million short of its campaign to raise \$25-million...St Valentine's Day shapes up as an expectation biggie for Louisa Sanchez. Elvera's mom and Sammy Davis, Jr.'s grandmother, will celebrate her 102nd b'day. Goodies from daughter and grandson are assured and perhaps a call from that fella in the White House...Motown folks threw a monster party for deejays and record industry writers fromthroughtout the USA. The pad-down was the Waldorf and the tab could be a huge tax write-off. Top gun Barry Gordy revealed that he has had a change of mind about selling the company. However, he turned away from answering the question about the rumor that Diana Ross will be coming back to Motown to roost.

**NEWS BRIEFS:**—The protest against that Chgo Suburban theatre's casting White performers in the lead roles of what has been considered "Black roles in

the once all-Black "The Wiz" was looked upon by some as counter productive. Me thinks that Ernest Perry, Equity ethnic minorities committee chair, blew this one. He should use that energy to hasten the adoption of non-traditional casting. Properly adhered to, it could rejuvenate the American theatre and greatly expand the employment of all ethnic performers. As Afro-Americans we have got to make up our minds as to what directions we are going to walk freedom's road. For sure we cannot have our cake and eat it too...Carl E. Singley was story material when he became the first of the race to be named a Temple University law dean in '83. He became the center of controversy in Sept. of '86 when he was requested to relinquish that position by the institute's prez., Peter J. Liacouras. The move set off a mild student demonstration within the Bill Cosby alma mater. Now the Black dean has been replaced and is threatening legal action wrapped in a charge of racism...An in-depth feature in the Village Voice has typed hung out Don King, the super promoter, to dry. Under the title, "The Kings and their Slaves," the article by Jack Newfield could cause the many worded promoter many problems. However, they have been after Don, the King of the squared circle ever since he took control of the lucrative art of mayhem. His last victory was a TKO over the Internal Revenue Service. He became one of the few no books barred winners in decimal point to the finish encounter with IRS sharks. It's a long article to read for a busy person, but the bold lead lines are eye arresting; "The King and their Slaves; How fighters end up broke"...STAY LOOSE. BILLY ROWE IS A SYNDICATED COLUMNIST.

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### Butts: His Star Is Definitely Rising

The first thing that grabs you is the smooth melodic sound that emerges from his horn, be it the tenor, alto or

The Drifters, Solomon Burke, Tavors and Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes.

This led to formation of his



soprano saxophone at the moment. And at the moment he is appearing in the Tropics Restaurant Lounge of the Tropicana Resort and Casino.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Butts paid his dues in small local clubs and was inevitably discovered by the superstars as they worked in and around that part of the country.

He gained valuable experience and a great deal of recognition in touring with such musical giants as James Brown, Willie Bobo, Sam Cook, Barbara Paige,

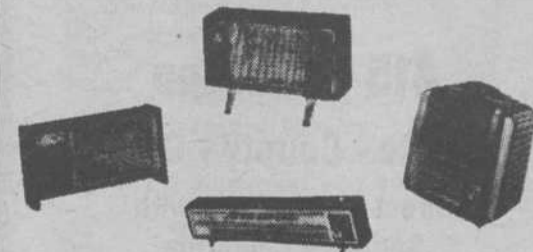
own group for appearances and recordings, culminating in the upcoming release of his own album, "I Love You So Much," with a full band and Butts' unique style of saxophone magic as well as performing vocals, against a trio of female backup singers.

In his current Tropicana engagement, Butts works with one other musician, Charles Kobrinsky, affectionately billed as "the wizard of the keys." The duo appears through January 25 alternating with local favorite Jerry Tiffe and his group.



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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