

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

"WILL GENUINE CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST
STAND," COSBY

N'ROCHELLE, N.Y. — B'casting kilocycles... The Boss, you're constantly calling me "Nancy the 'phoneaholic'" and claiming that I must be a major stock holder in the phone company, but had it not been for an early morning phone conversation, I would have missed a rare TV interview with the "Cos." Everybody's favorite TV dad, Dr. Bill Cosby—"Huxtable," is wondering why it is taking some of the major organizations so long to recognize that straight from the heart activist, Dick Gregory. According to the doctor's diagnosis, in the late 60's Gregory cut back on his paid humor gigs to use his wit to buttress the civil rights movement. Dr. Cosby—"Huxtable" thinks that some of the organizations that have been so quick to shower him with accolades for his "Success" should klieg light Gregory, who's been a long time soldier in the crusade for human and civil rights. He made these private thoughts public on Bill McCreary's new Sunday a.m. news show over Fox's

B'casting kilocycles... The "Lady's" a Dr. now. To highlight its 106th Commencement, Spelman College conferred an honorary doctorate on America's prettiest grandmother, Lena Horne. She also delivered the keynote address. Dr. Donald Stewart, departing college president, Leontyne Price, and Jacob Lawrence were other honorees... On the local scene Black Enterprise publisher, Earl Graves will be "doctored" upon to spice the closing exercises of Iona College. He will also be called upon to impart some of his hard learned wisdom to the graduating class... Pi Alpha Alpha, the National Honor Society, has geared up to induct Manhattan Borough Pres. Dave Dinkins and N.Y. State Atty. General Bob Abrams... Ortheia Barnes' debut gig at Sweetwaters gave N'Yorker's an ear opportunity to join her cult of admirers which include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mich. Gov. James Blanchard and Motor City Mayor Coleman Young. She can make any day feel like

Saturday night.

LET'S DANCE — The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre brought funk and grace to the intimate confines of the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts. The dancers built a bridge that allowed them and the audience to become one... After witnessing Dance Africa '87 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) its hard to relax, for the sights and sounds still echo in the mind. This annual event was started by Chuck Davis who

"Home," was a hi'lite of the trip... Hilda Simms is really a friend indeed. She has added to the memory of Langston Hughes and Abe Hill with posthumous memberships in the burgeoning Afro-American Guild of Performing Artists, Inc... The prayers of soul music lovers have been answered. Rhino Records will release five 'LPs of undiluted classic soul cuts featuring Robert "Barefootin'" Parker, Mel&Tim's "Backfield in Motion," Fontella "Rescue

ch's June International Holy Convocation. Some 140 churches are expected to participate... The Westchester People's Action Coalition, an org. for social justice, will salute Joanne Robinson, the tireless wonder who's dedicated to community activism. This apple didn't fall far from the tree; her mother Mae Morgan Robinson, 80yrs. young, has spent her entire life in the struggle... The British are coming and they are playing our songs on compact disks. The BBC Jazz Classic features tunes by Jelly Roll Morton, King Oliver, Earl Hines, Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Fats Waller and Cab Callaway among others. Pittsburgh's Mellon Jazz Fest, originally scheduled as a tribute to Maxine Sullivan, will instead be dedicated to the late delineator. The opening fete at Heinz Hall will feature clips of Sullivan, Billy Eckstine, George Benson, Dr. Lena Horne, Ahmad Jamal and Mary Lou Williams among others... At a BAM African Dance forum, Dr. Pearl Primus told attendees to beware and take steps so others cannot name it and claim it... In the "can they spare it department?" the Ford Foundation has doled out two \$25,000.00 grants to Howard U. and the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) to plan programs to strengthen the secular service provided by women in the ministry... While the Lilly Foundation coughed up \$59,700 for an institute on the Black Church at Vanderbilt U., it only gave the United Negro College Fund \$25,000 for support programs at Black Colleges. Guess the Lilly folks were not informed about the programs

END NOTES — Although set in New Orleans during the 19th century, Upstage at the Actor's Outlet's presentation of "Black Medea: A Tangle of Serpents" was still

a Greek Tragedy. The voodoo rituals and dancing kept interest levels high. Eric Veenstra's sets added to the atmosphere... Le Musique des Pulhs du Senegaal (musicians from Senegal) are on their first U.S. tour. Like Americans, they lay back as their music talks. However, at their set at Lehman Center, there was too much music and too little Eng. translation... Hoopster Michael Jordan outscored boxer Mike Tyson by 21pts., 198 to 177, to win the first quarter of the '87 Gordon's Gin Black Athlete of the Year survey, while NY Giant Lawrence Taylor was third with 140pts. Jackie Joyner-Kersey is in the fourth slot with 82pts, and Navy basketball star David Robinson is last with 48pts... Another one bites the dust: Middlebury College in Vermont will drop the SAT requirement as of '88. College officials say that the high scores of students coming from affluent zip code areas are due to expensive coaching techniques and not aptitude... Berry Gordy wants nothing to come between him and his newly appointed VeePee, General Counsel for Motown Industries Vince Parron, so he'll report directly to the boss on all matters... Dione Warwick, George Benson, the Temptations and Donna Summer will take in the sights of Monte Carlo this summer. They have been booked to appear at the posh Sporting Club... Folks are again talking about Grace Del Marco's eye-arresting models. The conversation became intense after her presentation of "Faces Going Places." Comedian Arnold "Hatman" Dover was serious when he said the girls were lovely to look at and wonderful to know... As usual it's been the Hite of Nancy's day to typesit for syndicated columnist Billy Rowe.



(L-R) FELICITY LaFORTUNE as Nurse Wilson, JASON ROBARDS as Cooper and LYNNE THIGPEN as Mrs. Baker in Bob Larbey's comedy, "A MONTH OF SUNDAYS."

is a dancer-choreographer and an artist-in-residence at Duke Univ. He revealed that his growing ambition is "to ensure that the children who danced at our 10th ann'y will enjoy an encore for our 20th..." Leslie Barlow, who has toured the whole country with "Ain't Misbehavin'," hi'lited 'Palace Disco owner Napoleon Holmes' Mothers Day B'day... The Negro Ensemble Co., back from its tour of Asia, has developed some new stage techniques. The tour was sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency. Samm-Art Williams' play,

Me' Bass, and Eddie "Hey There Lonely Girl" Holman, among others.... "A Month of Sundays" is a saying that continues to enjoy a long life. However, the play by the same name couldn't stay open that long on B'way, so the favorite critics' praise for Lynne Thigpen meant nought to the box office. Jason Robards starred.

DESK FINDINGS — Mr. R., a note from Jean Booker tells that she has chopped her ties with the Xmas Tree in Harlem drive. She's now diverting full energy to the Salvation Deliverance Church.

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