

SHUFFLE

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coast was clear. Then, in a style reminiscent of the Keystone Kops, everyone would pile out of the vans, hit their marks, do the scene, and at the sound of "Cut!" pile back into the vans and speed off to their next location. But there was also something deeper happening on the set of "Hollywood Shuffle," something epitomized by veteran actress Helen Martin's (NBC's "227") participation in the film.

Townsend had approached other well known actresses, but they were afraid to put their careers in the hands of a first-time director who couldn't promise them financial rewards or a starring role. Although Townsend was hurt, he said, "I'm not giving up." He approached Martin, even though he was told she wouldn't do it — she had roles in top television shows and had just finished "Repo Man." It was easier than he expected. Martin loved the script and signed on. A survivor, Martin saw the struggles she had endured in her own career brought out into the open in Townsend's script. She was also charmed by Townsend's unstoppable enthusiasm and drive. Martin loved the seat-of-the-pants style of the shooting schedule, and

dove right in. But some of the stereotypes she rallied against showed up in the way she was treated on the set, and Martin doesn't like being treated like a "grande dame" or an old lady — she wants to be "one of the gang." This lesson was brought home one day when the script supervisor said to Martin, "Could you walk a little slower, older, more like a grandmother in this scene?" Martin responded, "I am older, and this is how fast I walk, and this is how fast the grandmother I'm playing will walk. Just because you're older doesn't mean you're dead!" That incident brought the script into an even clearer focus for everyone, as they realized just how deep some misconceptions go.

Because it was a genuine team effort, with Townsend acting as "team captain," it was easier getting through the tough times than it otherwise might have been. And Hollywood finally responded to Townsend's spirit. Film stock was donated by the directors he'd worked with in the past, and Townsend found out that he could make use of even 60 seconds worth of film.

What Townsend didn't have in abundance materially, he made up for with inspiration and creative flourishes. Most shots were done in one take to save film stock, and the cast was well-rehearsed to achieve this. Everyone performed more

than one job on the crew, and more than one role in the film — a true ensemble effort. Townsend wore more hats than a men's haberdasher stocks. Within five minutes he could find himself discussing budgets as the producer, making sure the crew was ready as the assistant director, setting the scene as the director, and at the last minute jumping into the shot as an actor. Miraculously, it worked. Brought in on a \$100,000 budget, it is an accomplished film. From now on it will be easier for Townsend to obtain the means to get a project off the ground, because he has shown that an interesting idea and its execution are what make a movie. "Hollywood Shuffle" is the embodiment of that philosophy.

BROWN

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paign, a national network of Black-owned firms, says this production will also create a "movie-making opportunity" for Black entrepreneurs, promoters and non-profit organizations.

"The average Black movie is earning about \$15 million. And Blacks spend \$1.5 billion on movie tickets or one-half of the \$3 billion earned by the movie industry. However, they never share in these enormous profits. For the first time, Black entrepreneurs and organizations will be offered a role in the marketing of a movie in their own locality or state," the multi-media entrepreneur explained.

"That's why it will be the First Buy Freedom Movie," Brown announced.

Training Opportunity Offered

The Electrical Trade Council of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Southern Nevada, Inc., is pleased to announce that they will be accepting applications from interested parties for openings in the field of Construction Electrician. The Training Committee will be accepting applications through July 6. Applications will be given out from 7 to 8:30 am Monday thru Friday at 2310 Industrial Rd. #C.

All applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. At least 18 years of age.
2. A high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate.
3. A simple letter from your doctor indicating that you are able to work in the construction trade.
4. Be able to provide proof of U.S. Citizenship, or proper authorization to work in the United States.

Each applicant meeting the

above requirements and returning the completed application, will be interviewed by the Committee. The Committee will consider such additional factors as reliability, motivation, interest, attitudes, co-operativeness, and other personal traits. Candidates will be ranked by their numerical score.

All applicants will be received without regard to race, color, religion, national origin or sex. Minorities and females are solicited and encouraged to apply for these training openings.

Participating members of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Southern Nevada, Inc., are EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

The tuition for this year is \$550 and books are \$52.00.

Tuition must be paid for in full prior to attending any class. The books will be paid for when picked-up.

If you have any questions, please call Wilbur Kruse at 384-5322.

Statement By Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, Executive Director, NAACP on Commissioner Ueberroth's Affirmative Action Plan

The NAACP congratulates Commissioner Ueberroth, Rev. Jesse Jackson, and all

The producer for "The White Girl" is James Cannady and the executive producer is Sheryl Cannady. Some of the best skilled Blacks in the filmmaking business are being recruited as chief crew members.

Interested actors can send pictures and resumes to Tony Brown Productions, 1501 Broadway, Suite 2014, New York, NY 10036.

the major league baseball teams on their proposed agreement to develop affirmative action plans. Over the past several weeks, our local NAACP branches have been in contact with some 20 of these teams and we have been encouraged by the results.

However, the NAACP has seen too many preliminary agreements fail to abandon our ongoing efforts at this time. Therefore, the NAACP will continue to work with the individual teams to develop realistic, fair and workable affirmative action plans.

To the extent the Commissioner is able to have teams adopt affirmative action plans, we will support such efforts. We expect to be informed and consulted on the progress of discussions and negotiations. The NAACP reserves the right to evaluate each plan on our own.

After the plans are agreed upon, our local branches will monitor them and insist on compliance. They are in the best position to assure that whatever plans are adopted are adhered to.

Billy Dee, Haig Join Forces At Reception

Washington, D.C., June 17) Actor Billy Dee Williams was the special guest at a major Washington, D.C. fundraiser reception for Republican Presidential candidate Alexander M. Haig. The event, hosted by Haig's principal supporters from around the country, took place on June 10 at the Willard Hotel Ballroom.

Billy Dee, who has agreed to serve on Haig's National Advisory Committee, introduced the former Secretary of State to a gathering of over 300 people.

In this introduction, Billy Dee cited Haig's "well-rounded experiences and interest in human nature and the issues that have historically plagued us — no one can question his steadfast understanding of the intricacies of the political world or his clarity of the global reach."

"If we examine (Haig's) professional career," Billy Dee went on to say, "we find that his presence has not been built on platitudes, but 'in the field involvement' throughout the world. He has proceeded in a cautious, pragmatic way to bring about solutions... and enhance the interests that bring about trust between nations."

Billy Dee cited Haig's experience as qualifying him to hold the nation's highest office. Haig's military background, which included combat experience in Korea and Vietnam, should not be a hindrance to Haig's guest for the presidency.

"If we fear the military mind we must remember that one of our greatest generals, Dwight D. Eisenhower, understood the devastation of war and the loss of life... all military men are not warmongers. General Haig has devoted himself to alternatives — but always with a warning and with strength."

Haig, in his remarks, thanked Billy Dee for his support and friendship. He stated that leadership and experience should be the key factors in choosing a President in 1988. In a recent New York Times — CBS poll, Haig finished second among Republican candidates in the presidential race.

Among those attending the gala reception were Catherine Hughes, General Manager of D.C.'s WOL radio, and Bishop Alphonso Brooks of the Church of the Way of the Cross International in Washington.

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