

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

"BLACK CAUSE IS NATION'S CAUSE"

NORFOLK, Va. — This state's historic lieutenant governor, L. Douglas Wilder, uttered some significant thought-provoking words here a week ago in time. His stimulating keynote address highlighted a dual occasion. It was the centerpiece of the 40th anniversary of the immortal Jackie Robinson's severance of baseball's color line, and the passing of the Norfolk Journal and Guide publisher's "Torch" from Dr. Milton Reid to Ms. Brenda H. Andrews. She thereby became the first female publisher of this third oldest African American newspaper in America. Rachel Robinson, charming productive

widow of the baseball Hall of Fame barrier breaker, was special guest of the event. After acknowledging this gracious lady, the governor focused remarks on the African-American press. Here, in parts, is what he nudged into a roomful of ears to the accompaniment of break-in applause and an ending standing ovation:

"As the torch is passed, I think it is appropriate to reflect upon the history of the Black Press. However, we should not engage in historical reflection simply for nostalgia's sake. We examine the past to help understand where we must go in the future. The historical

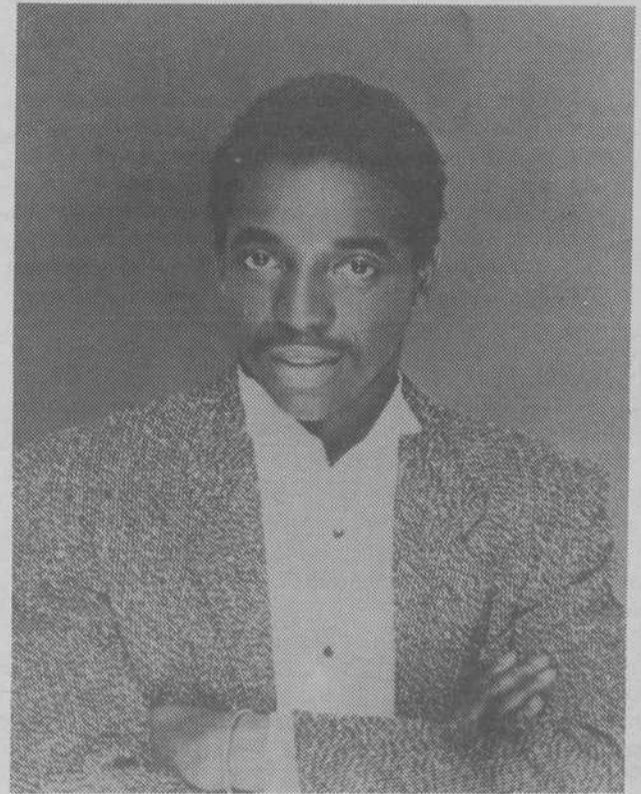
significance of the Black Press has been felt in each era of this nation's history. In the decades preceding the Civil War, Freedom's Journal and the North Star served as critical voices! They exposed the tragic flaws of the status quo and expressed hope for a just future. In this century, the Black Press has championed what, in retrospect, many have denominated 'The Black Cause.' For example, the Black Press offered needed encouragement during the fledgling years of the NAACP. However, that press has championed many other causes. So I ask you, why let anyone call Civil Rights a 'Black' cause when it has always been America's cause! Those who term this a 'Black Cause' actually demean it. Let me state my mind clearly on this subject: liberty, equality and justice for all has long been America's cause and I know

we know because we fought alongside other Americans to achieve it. The Civil Rights movement that continues today benefits all people. The de facto recognition of the rights of all people benefits all people."

WRITE NEWS:The Jackie Robinson 40th ann'y exhibit has moved to L.A. With Dodgers' Walter O'Malley having more than a passing interest, greater attention is expected in that city than it received in the Apple. It is also possible that he will personally beat some big bucks out of those H'wood monied bushes to enlarge the "do" of the Jackie Robinson Memorial Foundation . . . Syndicated columnist and outspoken teevee commentator Carl Rowan is exuding happiness. His project Excellence has \$160,000 waiting to sink into scholarships come May '88. Rewarded will be those who are proficient in writing and speaking English well . . . Jondelle Johnson's (the moving spirit behind the productive Atlanta Branch NAACP) posh convention party was sponsored by the Stuart-James investment bankers. Art Rocker, a member of the clan, not kkk dummy, is resident mgr . . . Tim Reid and spouse, Daphne Maxwell have invested more than their enormous talents in their scheduled CBS-teevee series, "Frank's Place." It's in an 8-to-8:30 p.m. eye/ear slot this coming season . . . Human Rights Commish. Marcella Maxwell played the perfect hostess when the International Ass'n of Official Human Rights Agencies invaded the core of the Apple. She told them that the denial of human rights is a silent declaration of social and physical warfare. They departed Manhattan with a shining image of the Big Apple.

CONVERSATION ROWE — The passing of Marion Rogers and John Hammond was the fulfillment of life's irrevocable promised cost of living. Our inadequate knowledge of death leaves us captives of pain and sadness unrelated to illness. John and Marion's eulogies are the recollections of better days and the knowledge that in life they made them so. That is the legacy they left with all those who were privileged to enjoy the war-

"AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' " STAR UNITES WITH CELEBRITIES FOR "CARING" CAUSE AND TV SPECIAL.



Hinton Battle

While Hinton Battle was certainly missed in the July 14, 15 and 16 performances of "Ain't Misbehavin'" in the Sahara Hotel's Congo Theatre, his absence will meet with the approval of his fans. Hinton was out of town taping a Dick Clark special entitled "Thanks for Caring" celebrating the 40th anniversary of CARE, the organization which feeds millions the world over.

Battle was in good company as his co-stars included Rich Little, the Fifth Dimension, the Jets, Melba Moore, Ben Vereen, the Oak Ridge

Boys, Lou Rawls (whom Battle joined forces with at the Sahara to raise funds for the Arthritis Foundation last month), Leslie Uggams, Pia Zadora, and Alphonso Ribiero. Battle teamed with Ribiero for a dance number choreographed by the Sahara star himself.

The special is in first run syndication and is expected to air anytime during the last week of August or the first week in September.

While we don't expect Hinton was "misbehavin'", we do think he did a terrific job for a very worthy cause.

month of their friendship . . . Shirley Rhodes is beaming over her new act attached to Sammy Davis, Jr. Pat Chenelle and Al Carter are a handsome couple seemingly just wks away from their first born. Of course they're wed . . . The manner in which the town turned out for Boro/Prexy David Dinkins' b'day, he's better than a long shot for higher office . . . Steve Fowler, Starlight Express and Crist Awann are lending Tina Sattin their talents to aid her Open Cage Theatre Co. The lady has a biggie set for W'chester's dinner theatre Aug. three.

The WRITE PEOPLE — Talladega saved \$1,500,000 and will not have to reinstate professors Belinda Heglar, Linda Hill and Howard Rogers. Its thanks is to the Alabama Supreme Court which upheld the decision of the College not to renew the contracts of the trio. Each had gone legal to be reinstated plus \$500,000 in damages per person . . . When Aaron Woodward, property. Uncle Sam's tab is allegedly 300,30G's . . . Luther Vandross has joined the clan of performers to have cancelled out of Arizona

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