

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

MILLIONS ARE DEAF TO RINGING SCHOOL BELLS

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y.—Hi Boss. While millions of children returned to school last week there remains an ever-increasing number who will not be readin', writin' and 'rithmetickin' it this year. The booklet "School Drop-outs: Everybody's Problem" lent to you by Dr. James R. Gaddy, superintendent of schools here, gets high grades for its insightful look at this devastating epidemic, which is as crippling as polio and as deadly as AIDS to society as we know it. For as you know, an educated public is the only way to maintain a democracy. Although there are eons of reasons students give for dropping out, they list three major ones: Poor academic performance heads the list. 36% of the males and 30% of the females cited this as the deciding factor in leaving school. It's no surprise that teenage pregnancy is second. "Every day 1,540 teenage girls give birth to a child; every day some 40 teenage girls give birth to their third child. Lastly, there are the economic conditions: "... Many students, particularly males, report leaving high school to go to work, which could involving supporting the family of origin or the youth's own family. . . . Further, some teens can make an enviable income through the unreported and illegal "street economy." Race-wise: 1.25 million white, 750,000 African-Americans and 305,000 Latinos leave school. Some remedies include: a committed teaching force, non traditional curri-

cula, experiential education and a positive atmosphere and supportive peer culture among others. . . . Went to a City Council meeting here last week and observed that although citizens live in different sections of the city, the level of frustration is the same. However, most are blinded by economic polarization. . . . Just as the mythological Egyptian phoenix rises from its own ashes, Bishop College continues to fight back after losing its accreditation last spring when the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools voted not to reaffirm same due to the college's \$7 - million deficit. President Levi Watkins said that he expected 400 students to arrive on campus last week and that 31 faculty members would be there to greet them. Later this fall, the school is expected to name an 18 member Trustee Board: it had been working with a six member interim Board. . . . "This year we hope to raise \$8 million by Black College Day," said Hilliard L. Lackey, coordinator of this year's event. Over one million alumni for traditionally African - American colleges and universities have been asked to send their alma maters donations of \$10.00 or \$25.00 by Sept. 28th, when students in Atlanta will celebrate. Sponsored by the Council of Natl Alumni Assoc., the funds will be used to help these institutions pay up delinquent accounts and provide scholarships.

IT AIN'T SO—Members of

the Duke Ellington Society were quick to call you to let you know that Alicia Kennedy's claim that she's the widow of the late composer is as phoney as a three dollar bill. She said this during the uproar over Woody Herman's

suspected. . . . Many former chorusgirls attended the funeral services for Olive Prince, the Apollo and Ubangi Club dancer, who with her sis Thelma formed the Prince Sisters. Folks say that Chickie Mar-

son, commish of the Maryland State Commission of Women, will highlight the 75th Anny. luncheon of the Maybell Chapter No. 18 Order of the Eastern Star Prince Hall Affiliation here in Oct. Tireless workers and past

where he and his six stringed Lucille will perform occasionally. . . . Prince can't seem to get out of the starting gate. His rumored concert tour, which was never officially announced, has been officially cancelled. However there are stirrings that he might have something cooking for Oct. . . . Depending on who signs your check, Penn. Secretary of Education, Thomas K. Gilhool is either a breath of fresh air, or a bad storm. It all has to do with his recent statement that the state's public colleges had an "abysmal" record in meeting court-ordered desegregation goals. "Almost 20 years of little or no progress is enough!" he declared. Proponents of civil rights were elated, while college administrators were calling it a low blow. . . . Rapper Doug E. Fresh is composing an original rap for his Public Service Announcement in honor of the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. Other participants include Lisa Lisa and Cult Jam, Deniece Williams and Grover Washington, Jr.

A MUST READING: — The politically astute would want to add two books from the DeeCee based Joint Center for Political Studies to their fall reading list. "Strategies for Mobilizing Black Voters," edited by Thomas E. cavanaugh, uses case studies: — "the Chicago Crusade," "Building a Base of Volunteers in Philadelphia," "Overcoming the Politics of Polarization in Birmingham," and "From Pool Hall to Parish House in North Carolina," to demonstrate its title. The annual "Black Elected Official: A National Roster" is worth the \$29.50. An excellent source of information, it gives a state-by-state breakdown of elected official and little known tidbits that might come in handy like: 71 African-Americans were elected to jurisdictions where none had ever held office before; and that the number of female African-American officials has tripled in the last 12 years from 530 in '75 to 1,564 as of Jan. 87. . . . As usual it's a gas for Nancy Hite to Typesit for syndicated columnist Billy Rowe.



Lisa Lisa and Cult Jam

money problems. They pointed out that Ellington never divorced Edna Thomas, Mercer's Mom, and that he and Bea Ellis were tight for more than 35 years. . . . Country meant Harlem when the endowed Dolly Parton, in search of a new angle, went uptown to the Apollo to tape a segment for her variety show. She interviewed comedian Nipsy Russell, Ralph "Amateur Nite" Cooper, house manager Clarence Gadson and former chorusgirl Baby Sanchez. Witnesses say that Dolly almost toppled over when she learned that Baby was 20 yr. older than she

tin's faithfulness to her during her illness exemplifies the friendship and devotions that these ladies feel for one another. . . . Why didn't you tell me that Sammy Davis, Jr. was South of the Border making a movie? . . . The New York Chapter of the Spelman College Alumnae Assoc. hosted a reception for Dr. Donald Stewart, president emeritus, at the dentemeritus, at the U.N.C.F./Urban League Bldg. A bevy of graduates and friends were on hand to wish him well as he tackles the presidency of the College Board. . . . Dr. Elizabeth Fran John-

matrons Beuenia and Thresa Brown (no relation) are honorees. . . . Since caterer Gwen Byrd's bid won her the snack shoppe concession at the city owned marina here she's been on cloud nine. Think it's the first time for our kind.

NEWS BITS:—Just as too many cooks spoil the broth, hope the NAACP's recent Fair Share discussion with Polygram, RCA and Michael Jackson won't butt heads with the Recording Industry Assoc. of America's (RIAA) plan to implement a minority intern and job bank program, resulting in a knock-out of efforts to eliminate bias in the recording industry. The NAACP also has plans to meet with Lionel Richie and Tina Turner. . . . Oberlin College has appointed J. Leon Washington Director of Admissions. Throughout America there are only about two dozen African-American Admissions directors at predominately white colleges — most are public or community colleges.

B.B. King is moving full stream ahead with plans for a nite spot on Beale Street

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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