

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

N'YORK CITY:—The past is dead. The present is a short lived casualty of time. Only the future is in all our tomorrows. However you can not see the future from the past or the present, but you can prepare for come what may. In this chaotic world of temper and tantrum it is unfortunate that Christmas comes but once a year. It's a great time of patience and perseverance. It is the guardian of a childhood fantasy which time has been unable to erase. A time when others become one's personal responsibility. It's an annual pause which allows one to abandon total weariness in the embrace of an environment covered with the glitz and grandeur of a genuine

fairyland twinkling with millions of human made stars undimmed by cloudy skies. Hope rekindles triumph at Christmas time to rebuild the spirit of "Peace on Earth Good will to human kind" and all God's creations." Happy N'Year.

CHATTER BOX: — This scribe agrees with Leo "Banny" Banfield, "Who needs '87? None of us. Hooray for '88." In this case we have too much update news to "write" back into '87 . . . For instance Dr. Marcella Maxwell, who chairs the Big Apple's Human Rights Commission, is talking summit meetings of the state's commissions. The agenda, "the rising tide of racial incidents on all sides

of the color and racial spectrum. Isn't it tragic that the nation's chief executive has maintained a closed mouth in the face of the continued flagrant assault on human freedom . . . A with-pride quote from Fortune mag's Jan. '88 issue. "In a year of tribulations, a baker's dozen of remarkable individuals changed the world of commerce." Reginald Lewis, who made takeover history with TLC's acquisition of Beatrice Int'l Food, was one of thirteen "Business People of the Year" selections by the world class mag . . . The Kennedy Center "Honors" is the entertainment industry's "Congressional Medal of Honor." The Dec. '87 bash, which finally tapped a long deserved Sammy Davis, Jr., raised over one million bucks for the Center. The inaugural "Salute," 10-yrs ago, in the words of George R. Stevens, Jr., who brought the event to

life. "One of our favorite moments was during the first year. We presented the late Alberta Hunter, who was 85 and retired. She sang three songs and tore the house down . . . Some concerns about Major Robinson have subsided. At deadline time he was resting easy in Harlem Hospital. He was de-toured there after a touch and go drive home from Betty Jackson's sumptuous dinner party in N'Rochelle.

BEAU GESTE: — '88's initial tip of the heart is to George Utendahl and the Bottle & Cork Club. This organization has come forward with a goodie to mark its 50th ann'y. Its "Christmas Tree of Learning" will distribute dictionaries and other books to inner city kids for the next 50-yrs. The "spirit" fellas showed just that with a \$1,500 donation to Mother Hale. The amount was matched by Bill Richardson, veep Schiefflin, Somerset & Co. . . Fred Rasheed, nat'l director, the NAACP fairshare program, expressed no support of the Beverly Hills/Hollywood branch's selection of Lionel Richie as "Entertainer of the Year."

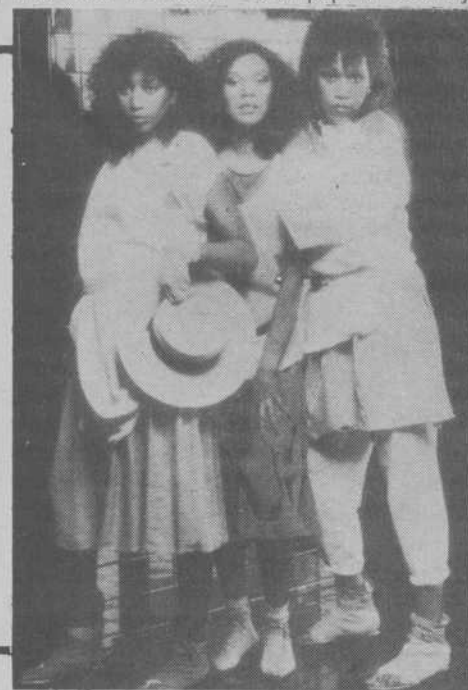
His objection received a verbal slap in the mouth from Nat'l Executive Benjamin Hooks, who approved the Richie choice. According to Dr. Hooks Rasheed is not an official spokesman for the Ass'n . . . An international coin dropped informed that longtime Motown praise agent Bob Jones has been named senior veep, public relations for Michael Jackson. He's to report directly to the super performer side stepping mgr. Frank Dileo. Motown execs supposedly were unaware of this development . . . Wonder if Sy Oliver's and Panama Francis' bandstand positions have been secured by the new management of the new look Rainbow Room. Official opening was Dec. 29th . . . The Dance Theatre of Harlem's mid' May thru Mid' June tour of the Soviet Union is a mega buck venture. Estimate cost is \$1,000,000.

TIDBIDS:—Look out Johnny, here comes Oprah Winfrey to the late nite talk shown "seen." The "after hour" telecast will become available this fall. Currently on eyelevel of 198 stations, it's third ranked on the top Nielsen list behind two game shows, The Wheel of Fortune

THE POINTER SISTERS/ BYRON ALLEN AT CAESARS JAN. 6-11

The Pointer Sisters return to centerstage in the Caesars Palace Circus Maximus Showroom Jan. 6-11, to headline cocktail shows which also star comedian

helped develop their musical skills. At first a quartet which included sister Bonnie, The Pointer Sisters' early style was a mix of jazz, scat, R&B and pop. A country single



The Pointer Sisters

Byron Allen.

Anita, Ruth and June Pointer have performed a variety of musical styles since recording their first album in 1973. They grew up singing in church, where their father, the presiding minister,

"Fairy Tale," won their first Grammy. Afterward, The Pointers became the first black females ever to appear on stage at the Grand Ole Opry.

In 1978, the sisters teamed See SISTERS, Page 11

and Jeopardy . . . It's quite a jump for Billy Dee Williams. He's booked to replace the tremendous James Earl Jones in "Fences," August Wilson's triple crown winning moving drama. Female lead, Mary Alice, will also exit the Pulitzer drama. Her replacement is Ethel Ayler . . . Denzel Washington will be seen next as a Caribbean police chief in "Finding Maude." An A&M flick for MGM is scheduled for a Jamaica location . . . They say that fans can hardly wait for the sunrise to snatch Aretha Franklin's two record gospel set. What a selection of featured guest artists. Dig, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Mavis Staples, The Mighty Clouds of Joy and Joe Ligon toppin' a bunch . . . Would you believe that a reissue of the late Nat King Cole's "When I Fall in Love" is top chart above British heartthrob Rick Astley . . . Phil Dixon's

book, "The Negro Baseball League: A Photographic History" is expected on book shelves any month now. He personally informed us that this hardcover historic insight is lavishly illustrated with some 500-photographs never ever published before . . . This Bud is for "Lou Rawls presents Black gold Hits." Syndicast is making the variety special ready for March one . . . Michael Jackson is so mad about the worldwide piracy of "Bad," he went public to express his disdain. "It cheats talented musicians and sells lesser quality recordings of artists to fans. Theft of "Bad" has been reported in eleven countries with court cases in England and Australia. Recording piracy, or counterfeiting, costs artists and wax works millions of dollars annually . . . STAY LOOSE . . . BILLY ROWE IS A SYNDICATED COLUMNIST.

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