

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

UNCF FOUNDER NAMED SPINGARN MEDAL WINNER

N'ROCHELLE, N.Y.:—His dedication has been tested in the valleys and atop the peaks of life. His unrewarded contributions to the betterment of countless hordes have allowed many to stamp their marks on the way of life of this democracy. In the soft twilight of an exemplary life, this farsighted warrior of education has finally been tapped to walk into a spotlight of recognition which should have shone on him

eons ago. However, in the words of an ancient sage, "It's better late than never." This corner keeper is overjoyed that he will be able to smell the roses as they are presented. All this is to inform his hordes of friends and admirers that a long overdue bill is being paid to Dr. Frederick Patterson. The former president of Tuskegee Institute, now University, and founder of the United Negro College Fund, will receive the coveted National Association for the Advance-

ment of Colored People's Spingarn Medal. This is the nation's #1 Civil Rights organization's highest honor for a most caring individual. His dignity and do have hewn a hi-way to success for countless students who perhaps otherwise would have been denied the opportunity to taste some of the promise of democracy. Presentation is scheduled for July 14th, '88. The halls should be fully decked with all who have been able to walk into the sunshine of knowledge and success because of the commitment of this dedicated human being upon whose efforts many have built their ambitions.

NEWSY NOTES:—The talk about our circle is that Forbes mag changed its millionaire listing rules which excluded John Johnson, founder and top executive of the Johnson, Ebony-Jet, Publishing empire. . . If that cash loaded fella has his say Rose Morgan will be getting herself more than just another business partner. . . Roosevelt Zanders is spending N'York time away from

his posh real estate holdings in Atlanta. The story is that the "millionaire chauffeur" tricks the gawkers when driving his Rolls Royce by wearing a chauffeur's cap. . . Dr. Gloria E.A. Toote laughed all the way to her Palm Springs abode remembering how she out poked the Satdee'nite boys. Though a stone Republican she nonetheless dispatched her winnings to the Rainbow's Rev. Jesse Jackson. . . H'cum there has been so little print attention given the grandiloquent gesture of James McQuay, the nation's top rated Afro-American furrier. He presented a made to order specially designed mink jacket to Doug Williams. The Super Bowl record breaker gifted him an autographed touchdown pigskin in return. . . LeRoy Jeffries is faith deep into "Born Again Christianity" and has singled out Major Robinson and this scribe to convert. . . Herb Douglas' eighth annual Jesse Owens International Trophy Awards Dinner attracted the usual top draw folks. However the likeable Howard Cozell's antics were amight much, especially when word playing with the dinner chairperson. . . The 100-Blackmen's annual "Brotherhood" gathering was on track with wall to window people. . . Billy Dee Williams added a touch of mucho excitement to Molly Moon's annual Beaux Arts Ball. More than half of the ladies seeking autographs pledged to make the B'way marquee scene to catch his emoting as James Earl Jones' replacement in August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize winning "Fences." Heard that he and Lynne Thigpen are doing well by this Lloyd Richards directed award winner. . . Dr. Eva Jessye, now 93 summers young, flew from Ann Arbor, Mich. without a companion, to East Stroudsburg University to open its "Black History Wk" in grand style. Her story telling and poetry reading were taped and will become a permanent part of ESU's archives.

"WRITE" OUT:—Bishop College is reeling from a stunning financial blow. That institute saving \$300,000 pledge which induced the Fed's Dept of Ed to give the historically Black College time to strengthen its financial muscles was cut off at the pass. With allegations

that sometime ago Texas biz' person Clifford A. Sugerman, who made the pledge, had been convicted of passing bad checks and had also filed for bankruptcy. This and other developments allegedly caused him to withdraw his pledged offer. Tough acting Prez. Levi Watkins is optimistic, the Fed Bd of Education has given the institute just until March's end to stabilize its financial underpinning. . . Jackie Hayes was happy to use some vacation time from his N'York State housing job to escort his spouse, Deputy Police Comm. Billie Holliday about Pearl Harbor. Her federal assignment to check-out drug free schools took her to the Paradise Islands.

NEWS WISE:—It's so easy to forget! How else can one explain that a tribute planned for Cholly Atkins in L.A. had to be cancelled for lack of enough participating artists. He just happens to be the fella who choreographed voices and movements. . . Friends and admirers of Dr. Revella E. Hughes marked March's second Saturday with a memorial service for the late writer. . . Hooray for Augsburg College, Minneapolis. Its ruling executives rescinded plans to name a campus building in honor of 1949 graduate Elroy Stock who gave the institution a record \$500,000 in '87. The building idea was dropped after a local TeeVee news program revealed that Mr. Stock was the author of 100,000, or more, letters over a period of years to

inter-racial families with derogatory messages. To quote: "A dog breeder would not think of producing mongrel dogs, so why should the human race be mongrel?" . . . Group study of Philadelphia doctors says some twenty to fifty percent of all pacemakers implanted in heart patients are not medically necessary. . . An anonymous donor has enriched the University of Kentucky endowment fund by \$100,000. The cash will be used to organize a national competition to recognize outstanding research in Afro-American history. . . Viewers are still talking about the documentary that PBS eye/ear leveled on pioneer entrepreneur Madame C.J. Walker. Many are hoping it will soon be repeated and should also be made a part of school curriculums. . . Everybody isn't supposed to like Spike Lee's "School Daze." However why boo the young fella. His success in the long run will be ours just as his failure in short time will also be ours. All those ofay flick moguls didn't become rich and famous pleasing all of the folks all the time. They just scored at the bank with money supplied by theatregoers who both hated and loved pictures they turned out. . . Rev. Jesse Jackson is the assured pot of gold at the end of the RAINBOW. . . Be sure to register and vote, you hear. . . STAY LOOSE!

Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

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