

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

LETTER TO THE EDITOR'S BEEF BOX

N'ROCHELLE, N.Y. — To whom it may concern: Neither Sy Oliver or Panama Francis were invited to the opening of the revamped Rainbow Room. This inspite of the fact that between the two of them 15 years were used making dinner and danceable music in the spot on the sky end of Rockefeller Center. When Sy was the mainstay, Panama's Savoy Sultans was substituted for one night and stayed for five years, closing the room in '85. It seems that the room has changed policy and so has the new man in

charge of music, Tony Cabot. The feeling now is that the only way Sy Oliver or Panama Francis will get a return call is if business takes a downward slump. Now this brings the letter writer to a growing, but unnoticed trend. Today club dates and single engagements are the most lucrative in the music business. A musician can average between \$500 and \$1000 per week on this circuit. However not one Black bandleader, or Black musician is included. This is the most racist part of the music business. Blacks have been discouraged by the system to try and get into this arena.

First they are told that the reason they are not hired is because they don't read music. So most Blacks learned. After they accomplished that, they were told they didn't know enough tunes by ear.

Since integration everything has moved "downtown," including ballrooms and major cabarets. The resulting effects have made the major social affairs of fraternities, social, civic and religious organizations of color to desert their turf and go where the accommodations are. When they hire these halls they are sold a package deal. Of course this includes an orchestra. To satisfy Black eyes two-three musicians are added to give that integrated look to the bandstand. Dig the same podium when the revelers are non-Black and the hue turns lily white. Those one to three Black musicians for the "Black nite" may not receive another call from a bandleader/employer, who are all white, until another black affair appears on the downtown hotel or ballroom circuit. When Black organizations ask a band in kind, the package offer is rescinded and they will have to pay extra for a piano and microphones.

It is alleged that even the union is guilty, allowing its representatives to ignore the "equal opportunity employment" mandate. In 1985, a meeting was convened by the union to forge a collective bargaining agreement for leaders who engage musicians for club and single engagements. Though Sy Oliver had retired, Panama Francis was still playing at the Rainbow Room. However he was not invited to this major

FRENCH QUARTER FEATURING THE PLATTERS

The Platters are returning to the fabulous French Quarter of the Four Queens Hotel & Casino. A group who may well be worth its collective weight in gold, at least gold records, will once again be proving that it has retained its "Magic Touch" for over three decades.

In the 1950s and '60s, The Platters recorded some of the most beautiful and enduring songs of all time. Who can forget "Only You," "The Great Pretender," "Magic Touch," "Twilight Time," the songs which launched the quintet to world wide fame. The Platters' many hits created romantic memories for an entire generation.



The Platters are appearing in the French Quarter through June 12. Perform-

ance times are 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. with special shows on Friday and Saturday at 12:30 a.m.



Ms. C.L.'s Black Pearl Fashions
Carlean LeFear

STOP IN AND SEE OUR NEW SPRING AND SUMMER FASHIONS

Infant Wear to Ladies sizes 1 to 26

SALES! SALES! SALES!

HOURS:

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday thru Wednesday
10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday thru Saturday

Ms. C.L.'s Black Pearl Fashions
900 W. Owens
Nucleus Shopping Plaza

646-1377

Wesley's Barber Shop

1320 North "D" Street Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

Elasta Technical Consultant
See JoAnna

Specializing in Complete Hair Care & Cuts for Men, Women & Children
Scalp Treatments, Shaves & Facials

Rev. J.L. Wesley, Sr. is now working all day Tuesday & every morning
Grandpa Rev. William Wesley will be shining shoes each day
Manicurist Available

Open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

A Family Shop Working Together
It pays to look well!

Call for Appointment or Just Walk In

646-9876

policy confab. As an aftermath a list was sent to the N'York Times of union approved bandleaders to hire musicians and baton the crew when working affairs at various establishments. Of the 45-listed Local 802 "Single Engagement Leader/Employers," THERE WERE NO African-Americans. This "keep out policy" has become so bold that for a recent NAACP affair an all white band graced the music stand. In these times we are encouraged to play jazz, for which the pay is low, and not any other music that can make us a decent living. We need the backing of lovers of the musical idion around which the total spotlighted arts revolve. When a great contributing African American musical genius dies his or her music is interred with them. Black radio should dedicate portions of its kilocycle time to keep alive the music and lyrics of the late W.C. Handy,

"The Father of the Blues," Andy Razaf, Mary Lou Williams, Fletcher Henderson, Jimmy Luncheferd, Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller, Earl "Father Hines, Noble Sissle, Don Redman, Luther Henderson, Luis Russell and Robert Henderson to name just a few of many who made giant strides in establishing America's world class culture. You, and your "write hand" pal, Jack the Rapper Gibson, should challenge Black radio to use portions of their kilocycles to keep young people aware that there were other immortal big bands besides Benny Goodman, Jimmy Dorsey and Glenn Miller. That the music that Americans, their mothers and fathers, danced to was created by African Americans. Tell the Black radio stations that our musical greatness did not start with Rock N Roll or peaked with Rap.

NOW NEWS: The hue and tears over the meager media coverage of Rev. Jesse Jackson's bid for the residence of the president can now be hushed and dried. His message and showing has bogged down his detractor's determination to decapitate his herculean efforts to give the White House some class of "We The People" concern and color. His Rainbow showing, his sense of cross-over human needs have catapulted him into the forefront of the Democratic surge to recapture the Chief Executive Office of the land. Writing in the N'York Times Norman Mailer paragraphed some quotable facts about this modern champion of demo-

cracy. "Koch's statement that any Jew who would vote for Jesse Jackson is 'crazy' may have succeeded in blasting the last rickety old catwalk of communication between Jews and Blacks in this city. That is unforgivable. I write these words as one of those crazies who will support Jesse Jackson for President. Jesse Jackson is not perfect. I have no idea if I would like him if I knew him. Of course, the same may be said for Bush, Dukakis and Gore. What does count for me is that Jackson offers a cogent sense of sympathy for human suffering. He can appreciate the paucity of identity among the underprivileged. Of all our candidates, he speaks to our powerful passion for human promise and improvement... Already, he has come the longest way of all the candidates. He has to be a man of more-than-ordinary courage or he would never have dared to run. His victory could open a great counterattack agasint the metastases of the drug problem; a nation goes over to drugs when it ceases to believe in its collective purpose."

"The need of any vital American future must still break through the century old hard-pack of hate, contempt, corruption, guilt, odium and horror. but the seed is there, the potential love of Black and White for one another. Jesse Jackson, elected as President and growing in stature, could illumine our lives and give us dignity again as Americans. I want to believe in that. I am

See ROWE, Page 11