

# Entertainment

## BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

### THE LADY AND HER HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. - A major event took place here Friday which rekindled memorable knowledge about a legend and remarkable lady. She was Madame C.J. Walker, whose visionary business acumen elevated her to the pinnacle of success. In fact, she became the first female self made millionairess in that inhumane American arena of disgust and discrimination and so doing lifted the hopes of all African Americans. On Friday the Madame C.J. Walker Urban Life Center, keeping hope alive, launched a week long celebration of the life and achievements of this remarkable lady. The event was highlighted by an additional corporate pledge of \$325,000. The Melvin Simon and Associates led the donors with \$150,000, Eli Lilly and Co. Foundation fattened the kitty with \$60,000 followed by a \$50,000 check

from the Indianapolis Power and Light Co. Indiana National Corp. dropped in \$45,000 while the Merchants Nat'l Corp. added \$30,000 to total this count. This financial largess added unrestricted joy to the blazing spotlight focused on the ceremonies Friday to celebrate the opening of the refurbished Walker Theatre. In the days of 'apathate' beyond the boundaries of South Africa.

The Walker building, in which the theatre is housed, has been described as "a city within a building." Erected and embellished in an African and Egyptian motif, the Walker Theatre is regarded as one of the "most unique pieces of architecture in America." Both the building housing the theatre and the center are now on the State national Register of Historical Places. Later this fall both will be joined by a Madame Walker Memorial Room. Dr. Daisy Lloyd, PhD.,

who chaired the event, recruited several corporations, among them Philip Morris USA and Continental Air to insure the opening day appearance of stars Gregory Hines, The African American Choral Ensemble, Roscoe Lee Brown, Isaac Hayes and Rosalind Cash. Also A'Lelia Bundles, Madame Walker's great, great grand-daughter and Alex Haley.

Haley, the "write" genius of "Roots," has a miniseries on his schedule depicting the life and times of Madame Walker. It has been publicized that Oprah Winfrey will assume the name role. The event will continue through the week with a film festival under the title, "Freedom: A lens on Black America and the third world."

MEANWHILE BACK AT HOME The N'York Urban League paid

MEANWHILE BACK AT HOME The N'York Urban League paid deserved tribute to some of its long timers who have toiled, sometimes without pay, but always hard in its vineyard. 99-year old William M Ashby, Clarence D. Coleman, Wendell G. Freeland and Gernoria Johnson were the '88 recipients of the coveted Whitney Moore Young, Jr. medallion. A special appreciation award went to the Zale Koff family owners of Astoria Press, which through three generations, and over 50-years have had continued working relations with the League, but didn't always have its invoices honored. Has Evelyn Harding Holt reached that milestone which isn't repeated when the cry is, "How old are you?"...Morgan Freeman.

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## AWARD WINNING MUSICAL OF THE EIGHTIES 'DREAMGIRLS' COMES TO ALADDIN'S THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



PICTURED—Victoria Jones, Lyn MacDonald, Lee A. Munn as the "Dreams." *Dreamgirls*, the dazzling and innovative Broadway musical that won six Tony Awards, comes to the Aladdin Theatre For the Performing Arts on November 16 for a limited engagement of 5 days as part of its international tour. *Dreamgirls* stars Lynette G. Du Pre, Alton White, Lyn MacDonald, Phillip Gilmore, Victoria Jones, Reggie Phoenix, Stephen Finch, Lee A. Munn and Terrence T.C. Carson. The original Broadway was directed and choreographed by the late Michael Bennett who won a 1982 Tony Award for his choreography. The current production is directed by David Thome and choreographed by Danny Herman. *Dreamgirls* is produced by Columbia Artists Management, Inc., Guber Gross Productions, Inc. in association with Candlelight Dinner Playhouse with Manny Kladitis as executive producer.

*Dreamgirls*, the last of Michael Bennett's many successes, will grace the stage of the Aladdin's Theatre for the Performing Arts November 16th through 20th. Featuring an original Broadway cast and the original costumes, *Dreamgirls* makes Las Vegas one of its last stops before retiring the Broadway cast and costumes. Bennett's last effort shines and

his presence and touch is felt throughout the production.

Called by the Wall Street Journal "The Musical of the Eighties!" and by the London Times "A work of genius! A dream musical, the hottest I've ever seen.", *Dreamgirls* is a personalized history of the black music movement of the 1960's and 70's, when the effort to cross over into the white world of popular music was achieved. It is the story of three young girls from Chicago who start out singing backup for a rhythm and blues star and end up as solid gold superstars - The Dreams - who come face to face with the consequences of success.

Showtimes for Wednesday and Thursday night are 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday night, the performances start at 8:30 p.m. and Sunday evening the musical will begin at 7:30 p.m. A matinee on Saturday and Sunday will begin at 2:00 p.m. Ticket prices for evening performances are \$35.00, \$30.00 and \$25.00. Matinee ticket

prices are \$32.00, \$27.00 and \$22.00. Tickets will go on sale at the Aladdin box office on Monday, October 24. Box office hours are 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information or group sales inquiries please call the Aladdin at 736-0420.

The Aladdin does it again bringing Broadway excitement to Las Vegas and the Theatre for the Performing Arts.

### EPA To Hold Open House

On October 31, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold an Open House at its Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory. The public is invited to visit the Laboratory between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. where they can learn what EPA is about and enjoy a narrated tour of the facilities. The Laboratory is located at 944 East Harmon Avenue, on the UNLV Campus.

# VOTE

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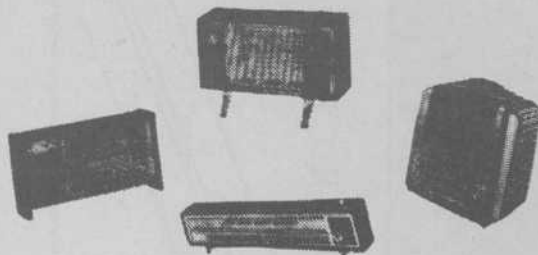
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