

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK



Backstage At "Black 'N' Blue" Like A War Zone

HI BOSS!! While your medicine-man gave a thumbs-down to plans for you to travel to the parties surrounding the Gov. Lawrence Douglas Wilder's historic Va. victory, he did give a thumbs-up to you to attend several local happenings. It's a good thing too, as your desk is beginning to overflow with first of the year invites. First off the mark was the installation of the newly elected



Douglas Wilder

executive board and officers of the NY Guardians

Association. Mayor David Dinkins swore in the officials who represent members of



David Dinkins

the 'N' York City Police Dept. in the confines of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. After that, Gerald Lynch, president of John Jay, will host a reception for NYC's newly appointed top cop Lee P. Brown; your RSVP is on his desk. Way uptown at 135th and Malcolm X Blvd. the African-American Guild of Performing Artists will host its first meeting of the decade at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture... As a kick-off to African-American History Month, the New Rochelle School of the

Performing Arts will present Dr. Billy Taylor in concert in the Whitney M. Young, Jr., auditorium of New Rochelle High School... Soon after that, the Jesse Owens International Trophy Awards dinner will celebrate its 10th year of doing good at the Waldorf Astoria. Due to his anniversary we're sure that Herbert P. Douglas, Jr., pres., and Dean Sayles, events coordinator, have planned a number of surprises... On a not so happy note, your favorite coindropper spent at least .75 cents to let you know that backstage at B'Way's "Black & Blue" is like a war zone. According to the source, battlelines have been drawn between some of the stagehands and cast members. Case in point are the ofay dressers, who are said to have a cold and callous attitude. One person labeled the atmosphere "plantation like." It's even been allowed that one of the producers "came out of her face" all wrong to one of the female stars in front of a group of fellow cast members.

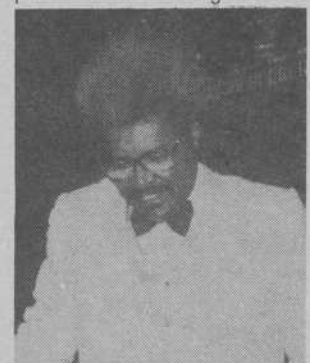
LONGTIME COMING:-- Sidney Poitier will return to teevee after an absence of 40 years, when he assumes the role, look alike or not, of then lawyer Thurgood Marshall. He'll portray Justice Marshall in a small screen movie about the NAACP Legal Defense Fund's historic battle to end school segregation. Before ascending and Educational Fund... Jeffery Sinensky, director of the An-

ti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, believes that rappers Public Enemy have again included anit-semitic



Public Enemy

language in the group's new single "Welcome To The Terrordome." While he has written a letter of protest to higher-ups at CBS Records, the company that distributes the group's label, "Def Jam," he has yet to receive a response. In the spring of '89 the group was called on the carpet due to some anti-semitic statements made by Prof. Griff in a "Washington Times" article... The ann'y of teevee gabber Arsenio Hall's first year on the tube racked up a personal best ratings high in the Big Apple... Will Don King do to.



Don King

and for, basketball, what he did for boxing?" Now that he's got his license as an NBA agent we'll soon find

out... Sammy Davis' dedication to, and bestowal of his NAACP Hall-of-Fame award to wife, Alto vise was the highlight of the Annual Image Award Show... By the time you read this, ret Air Force flying ace and Gen. Foods VP, Lee A. Archer, Jr., will have just gotten back from a fact finding mission to Uganda, Nigeria and several other African countries. All that's known is, that he's travelling with several other business men... The Harlem School of the Arts (HSA) put its best foot forward during the opening reception of the N.Y. State sponsored "Black Women In The Arts" photo exhibit. "The HSA's Ethnic and Jazz Dance Ensemble" got nothing by raves from former film star and chorus girls Francine Everett, Elvera "Baby Sanchez" Davis, Chickie Martin and Mabel Lee, who summed up the ladies' sentiments when she told the audience that

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Diana Ross Stars At Caesars Palace

Diana Ross returns to the Circus Maximus Showroom spotlight at Caesars Place, starring in cocktail shows Jan. 24 -- Feb. 5 (dark 1/30).

Ross, one of the city's most popular headliners, recently completed her world tour, "Workin' Overtime," named for her 56th and latest album. It was her first tour since her marriage to Norwegian shipping magnate Arne Naess in 1985 and the subsequent birth of their two sons. She returns to Caesars after 15 sold-out dates in Australia and Japan.

She says she is pleased to be back performing live. "There is no place as exciting for me to be as up on a

stage performing for an audience. It's exhilarating not just because of the thrill of live performance, but because it really represents my total effort. I've worked on every aspect of the show, from songs to lighting, so a concert really lets me share all parts of myself with the audience."

With the Supremes, Ross scored gold and platinum singing such classics as "Why Do Fools Fall in Love," "Stop! In the Name of Love," "Reach Out and Touch (Somebody's Hand)," "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and "Baby Love." The '80s have found Ross climbing the charts as a highly successful solo artist,

with "Endless Love" (with Lionel Richie), "Mirror, Mirror," "Muscles," "Telephone," "All of You" (with Jukio Iglesias) and "Eaten Alive." Her career has brought accolades not only for hit records, but also for screen successes "Lady Sings the Blues," "Mahogany" and "The Wiz."

At Caesars Palace, Diana Ross performs nightly in shows that also feature comedian Jimmy Aleck. Showtimes are 10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Monday through Friday shows are scheduled at 8:30 p.m. and midnight. For reservations phone 702/731-7333.

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