

Entertainment



BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

OSCAR COMMITTEE TO RE-READ STEVIE WONDER—FUL'S LIPS

HOLLYWOOD, CA. — The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has read super star composer, delineator and pianist Stevie Wonder-ful's lips. However the body's musical committee has tabled its expected action until after this year's ceremonies. The chart topping entertainer may have to give back the Oscar Award



Stevie Wonder

he won as the composer of the song, "I Just Called To Say I Love You." The tune was 'Best Original Song Oscar Winner in 1984 for the flick, "The Woman In Red." However, in a recent court case, Wonder's defending testimony against a copyright infringement suit, was alleged to be contrary to what he put in writing to the Academy in '84, that he had composed the ditty specifically for the film. Notwithstanding, in court he testified that the song was started in '76, inspired by a visit to his mother, and was recorded in '76. The Academy rules are that a musical "work must be created specifically for an eligible feature length motion picture." This reads kinda technical to this scribe. How

about you out there?...Because he sold in excess of 110 million records worldwide, Michael Jackson has been crowned the number one selling musical act of the '80s...Wonder what



Michael Jackson

happened to Bob Brown's Nelson Mandela tee shirt deal?...An international Mandela Reception Committee, headed by Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, has a major gala set to fete the freedom advocate in London comes April...N'York's mayor David Dinkins, heading N'Yorkers, is expected to top anything that they do abroad...The media didn't go into ecstasies about philanthropists Walter H. Annenberg's \$50-million gift in support of higher education of African-Americans. His statement in doing so was just as shocking to some Americans, and we quote, said he, "Unless we do something about the tragic problems of Blacks, we're going to have a great deal of trouble on our hands in the next 10-to-20 years." Write on, Mr. A.

NEWS & VIEWS: —Temple U., Bill Cosby's alma mater, Western Michigan and Bryn Mawr have intensified their efforts to recruit minority graduate students. Temple is really going all out. 65 African-Americans and Hispanic graduate students who are studying to become college professors are given full financial support...If this isn't an incentive, what is?...Every African-American entering Florida Atlantic U. this fall can do so on a scholarship good for free tuition for the next four years. Tuition here for in-state freshmen is about \$1,350 annually...In the meantime, militant South African students continue in the trenches in their battle

thrust demanding the apartheid nation expand opportunities for native South Africans. The readmission of hundreds of students who have been expelled is high on their list... "Eyes on the Prize" was a delightful and knowledgeable shocking television episode, a major thrust of the ability of Henry Hampton, creator and executive producer. However, I wonder h'cum his thank you advertising did not appear in any of the Black Press of America in which this corner appears...The annual "exclusive" party of the National Urban League attracted its usual rich and influential N'Yorkers. The org.'s 17th annual event was the magnet which attracted the rich from all the posh environments of the City. Chaired by Mrs. Edgar Bronfman, Jr., the affair added a record \$263,000 to the League's cash flow...The Hite of my pin-chitting fancy dropped these lines: - "While I'll take the "Soul Train" Awards over the Grammys any day, I was a bit shocked when Arsenio Hall's name was announced as the 1989 recipient for the "Sammy Davis, Jr. Award." According to the build-up the awardee is supposed to embody the multi-talented spirit and dedication of its namesake. The committee must have been asleep, 'cause while Hall is knockin'em dead in the ratings with his late night teeveer, he has yet to live up to the multi-talented watermark set by Mr. D. Somehow his two movie appearan-

ces and gag record and video don't count."

END NOTES: —The Hatch-Billops Collection, Inc. was blessed with fond memories a Sunday ago. Elvera "Baby" Sanchez Davis, Sammy's mom, was interviewed by Delilah Jackson, the culture historian of African-American show business. The happening resuscitated memories of the glory days of the Lafayette, the Harlem Opera House, The Franklin in Philly and the Howard in DeeCee and several others in Baltimore and Chicago to fill the then "colored theatre chain." All owned by whites, of course. Baby's glamour added to all their spotlights. The Hatch-Billops programs are made possible in parts by Public Funds, the National Endowment for the Arts, N.Y.C.'s office of Cultural Affairs and ConEdison...The legendary Dorothy Donnegan with Trio and the multi-talented Novella Nelson were the highlights of part of an ongoing celebration of Women's contribution to the World of Jazz...Charlie Rangel and other members of the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control are headed to London to attend an international drug confab comes April...Folks at the Brooklyn Museum are all excited about the opening of "Facing History: The Black Image in American Art 1710-1940." The exhibit provides an opportunity to examine the history of the African-American image in the American fine arts from this country's founding to the

Harlem Renaissance. The show is set to open in later April...

The 18th annual Black Roots Festival of poetry, prose, drama and music starring a panel of noted writers including Lucille Clifton, Carolivia Herron, Yusef Komunyakaa, Haki Madhubuti, Sonia Sanchez, Ntozake Shange, Quincy Troupe, actress Danitra Vance and jazz musician Randy Weston, sponsored by and for the benefit of the Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center, Inc. in New York, will be held Sunday, April 29 at 5:00 p.m. at the New York Society for Ethical Culture. The Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center was founded in 1971 by Artistic Director Fred Hudson and Budd Schulberg to encourage and develop creative talents in young writers...The National Urban League will pull out big guns as speakers at this year's convention comes July. Professional convention goers are hurrying to make hotel arrangements in the Apple, as they know its gonna be a sellout. It's a toss up between the Hon. L. Douglass Wilder, Gov. of Virginia, or the Hon. David N. Dinkins, Mayor of N'York, as to which is the hottest ticket. Slated for the New York 'Hilton and Towers, it's just too bad that the organizations keep giving money to the enemy. Somehow, their message of self determination gets lost in their love for grand surroundings...STAY LOOSE...Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.



<p>KEY Miller KUNW MARCH 30 Jazz with Brian Bromberg</p>	<p>April 1, 2 ROBIN TROWER</p>
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Gina Eckstine Performs in Aladdin Sinbad Lounge

Gina Eckstine, daughter of popular Big Band singer of the 40s and 50s, Billy Eckstine, will perform in the Sinbad Lounge at the Aladdin Hotel and Casino, March 26-April 8.

The youngest of seven, Gina was the only Eckstine child to "follow in her father's footsteps." Gina took five years of private vocal coaching and then two years in Phil Moore's Performer's Workshop before her father heard her perform for the first time. It was during her graduation performance at Donte's Jazz

Club on No. Hollywood, and he immediately incorporated Gina's talent into his shows.

During the three years that followed, Gina's performances with her father earned her some rave reviews. She has shared billing with Count Basie, Sammy Davis, Jr., The Houston Pops, to name a few.

Gina Eckstine is loved by Las Vegas audiences and as

so aptly put by Don Usher, "The lady has a set of pipes...she provides music that allows one to dance or sit and listen, with equal enjoyment."

See Gina perform nightly except Sundays in the Aladdin Sinbad Lounge from March 26-April 8. Also appearing - Sonny Turner in the evenings and newcomer Patrick Tuzzolino.

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