

Entertainment



BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

HATE MAIL INSPIRES LOCAL NAACP

N'ROCHELLE, NY: -- No it wasn't the \$100 million lotto that sent Rachel Robinson, Betty Adams and Billy Rowe to Daytona Beach, Fla., it was the unveiling of the Jackie Robinson statue at the entrance of the same named ballpark, the site where Robinson played his initial game and hit a homer for full participation by all in the major leagues...However, Rowe did take the dreams and dollars of Irv Reeves, co-owner of Flatbush Ave. (Brooklyn) Chrysler Plymouth, this typesetter and



JACKIE ROBINSON

a host of others with him. He's been forewarned that should he high tail it with the winnings the only place he might be able to hide is Iraq...The New Rochelle Branch of the NAACP must be doing something right. After successfully negotiating the end to the color line at this city's Wykagyl Country Club, it received some hate mail. Postmarked Arkansas, Greensboro, N.C. and West Palm Beach, Fla., the letters reflect the under belly of this society. We quote: (letter 1.) "Why does the NAACP demand to invade white social organizations like country clubs?...Blacks promote racism, not the white race...White athletes are discriminated against -- you don't see equal players (Black and white) on the field or basketball court." (Letter 2) "If the PGA wants to play at a club it (NAACP) has no right to force that club to change...a minority mean just Black to you people. But there are many minorities in the US. Nobody by choice

wants an ugly Black face in their club." The third and most hateful letter was full of the "n" word and other vulgar language, but the message was the same. Branch Pres. Nap Holmes, backed by the executive board and the entire 700 plus membership, is braced for more, as the org. has lodged a complaint with EEO charging the New Rochelle Police Dept. with bias and has put a spotlight on the lack of participation by Black people and companies working for the Department of Public Works. Things are going to get even hotter, as the branch is readying another action that promises to throw the already disorganized city govt. into a tailspin.

IT'S IN THE BLOOD: -- A growing number of people of mixed heritage no longer feel that their one drop of Black blood is enough to make them check the Black or African-American box on the census form. This has resulted in various opinions on the subject: 1) "The white man made this rule to insure racial purity. Now that their number is shrinking, their media is promoting this debate to divide people of color and use the mixed group as a buffer much like the Coloreds in South Africa." 2) "Let 'em go, since other races also value ethnic purity they are not so willing to claim their mixed brothers and sisters." 3) "We're all Americans and should not have to have any other nationality." All seem to agree, however, that people of color have pressing survival issues that should take the front burner...Last we heard, the Canadian Army had given the Mohawk nation until 11:40 p.m. on

Sept. 12, 1990 to surrender or else. Our last fax said that all communication was being cut and the water was the next to go...Gerri Kennedy chartered a bus to take a slew of show people to the Atlantic City funeral of Helen Branker. Included were Vivian Brown, Elvera "Baby Sanchez" Davis, Leroy Myers and Louie Simms. The word of her death shocked many who were still talking about the great party she threw at the Flash Inn in 'May...There will be a reunion of former showgirls come Oct. Gerri Kennedy is putting it together and reports that she's received registration and photos from far and near. The souvenir journal will display then and now photos. Maybe Alice Key will recite some Paul Lawrence Dunbar...Theatrical historian Delilah Jackson felt that the general media obits did little justice to Pearl Bailey's Black show biz roots. So she put together a memorial at Lin Chin the other Sunday featuring Mable Lee, Lord Burbage, Laurel Watson and Pat Hood.

pointed businessman Bertram Lee to its Board of Directors. However, Lee may have put his foot in it. In an interview in the Wall Street Journal, he said he believed he was added to the Board because of "my assumed business acumen, my interest in sport (he's a part owner of the Denver Nuggets) and my enthusiasm for human rights." He said, "Reebok was thrown an added incentive because I happen to be an African American." Get Real, Bert!...It's the end of a proud era at Mt. Hope A.M.E. Zion Church in White Plains, N.Y. I naming Rev. Gregory Smith pastor, the Conference brings to a close the brilliant career of Rev. Ralph Gullette, who guided the church for 35 years. Smith, like his predecessor, is a man of today and tomorrow.

MOVING ON UP: -- It's a promotion of sorts for Nipsey Russell. When he appeared in the TV series "Car 54" he played a switchboard operator. In the up-scheduled movie, he's now a captain. Then the Ossie Davis charac-



Jack the Rapper with Berry Gordy

FOOT IN MOUTH: -- In an effort to extend its market, Reebok International has ap-

ter must be either the commissioner, Mayor, Congressman or Governor, as he was a patrolman... "Berry, Me and Motown" is the latest book about the former Detroit-based company. Written by Raymona Fordy Singleton, who cofounded the company with her former husband, it is said to give details about their sometimes violent relationship and Gordy's affair with Diana Ross...Can't wait until Jack the Rapper writes his Tome...Jesse Jackson's call to folks from the Islands to become U.S. citizens in order to vote is really as easy to do as he said, since many of

See ROWE, Page 11

SHOW & DANCE NEW TOWN TAVERN

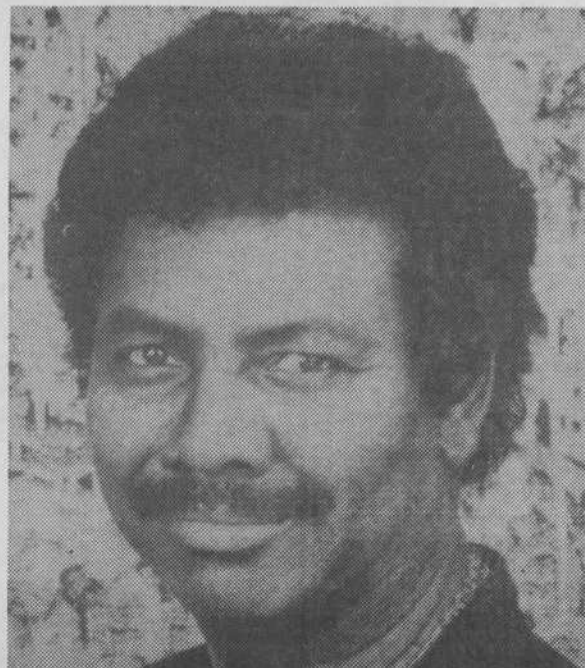
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