

Entertainment



Billy Rowe's Notebook

NAACP HONOREES GO INTO CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS

N'ROCHELLE, NY:—A surprise accolade double highlighted the 24th annual fundraising award dinner of the Queen City Branch of the NAACP Sunday, November 4, 1990. Without forewarning Congressperson Nita M. Lowey, Democrat, 20th District, unleashed an ap- plausable surprise. She announced that the names of each of the honorees will be placed into the Congressional Records. The gesture etched added importance to the awards and the achievements of those selected for jobs well done. Also the pomp and ceremony of this dinner was held in the posh confines of Napoleon Holmes Palace Entertainment Complex. Eight categories were earmarked for full accolades and marked for the

Congressional records. The Youth award went to the 11 members of the Flyers Track Team—Ebony Cole, Erica Cole, Yolanda Coleman, Sharon Footes, George Greene, Erika Hanami, Endira Reid, Kandi Ricks, Kim Lando and Rich Minott. These are the young folks, ages 9 to 13, who made headlines earlier in 1990 on a self-inspired eleven leg relay race from the steps of New Rochelle's City Hall to the front doors of the U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. The historic achievement was team dubbed "Running Away From Drugs, Running Towards The Future." Other honorees were Walter Brown, the Flyers' coach. He was awarded the Community Service plaque along with Joseph F.

Fosina. Special Recognition accolade was bestowed to Yvonne Tucker Young. Emma P. Elmore received the Education plaque. Alfred L. Holmes, Sr., owner Al's Barber Shop, was awarded the business award. The Corporate accolade spotlighted WVOX/WRTN, the Westchester radio complex operated by owner chairman William O'Shaughnessy who was also the event's emcee. The Westchester County Press received the Media Award, M. Paul Redd publisher. The branch's number one award, "Member of The Year," was bestowed on Barbara Wilson. The late Dr. Frederick Patterson was posthumously awarded an Education award for his unselfish dedication to the survival of the nation's historically Black colleges and founder of the United Negro College Fund. Nancy Hite of this corner, sometimes filler-in, was general chairperson.

The piece de resistance of the 1990 NAACP Branch event was the keynote address of the honorable New York Congressperson Charles Rangel. He used his allotted time to unlock the closets of the Bush Administration's resistance to Civil Rights and his flimsy excuse for vetoing the 1990 Civil rights Bill. Though Westchester is out of his vote-getting range,

he embraced its people as if their ballot boxes were smack dab in his district. The Congressman is the kind of friend that never gets in your way unless you are falling. He is a statesman of purpose, a safe deposit for Americans who have hopes and dreams. He rides no band-wagons, but respects those that are headed in the proper direction. His and Hazel Duke's talks added spice to the event. Both uttered words that should have been said rather than just those that perhaps some wanted to hear.

B'WAY:—Don't you believe those dissenting critics. David Merrick's "Oh, Kay" is a brash and beautiful musical of dash and dignity. A warm and imaginative love story which embraces one's imagination and fills your ears with wonderful music and your eyes with inventive dancing feet. The theme of this original "white cast" opus is new to B'way with its all African-American cast. In the eyes of some critics they are unappreciated in a love story, in a rich atmosphere of intelligent dignity. All the cast is beautiful and well dressed in an environment of the rich and famous. This scribe was thrilled beyond all his adjectives and discovered nary a dissenting opinion from a capacity audience. All of us applauded

loud and long at curtain down time. You go and see it. Your eyes and ears will bless your choice. So will co-stars Angela Teek and Brian Mitchell, aided and abetted by Helmar August Cooper, Stanley Wayne and Mathis and Kevin Ramsey. It's at the Richard Rodgers Theatre so go see it. If you are a theatre-goer you will hate your choice if you don't...On the Harlem scene it was celebration time. So with pomp and ceremony Barbara Ann Teer happily opened her long dreamed about National Black Theatre complex. In the area Schools Chancellor Fernandez even excused some 2000 students to take part in the historic event. The affair didn't go off like clockwork, but it was on time...Quincy Jones Entertainment has dropped one co-executive producer of the "Jesse Jackson Show." He has been replaced by Adam Clayton Powell III...The Council of Retired Police Guardians Assoc. is polishing up for its 17th Annual reunion and awards feast...Mable Lee is up to what she does best in the new off-B'Way musical dubbed "Chittlin Circuit." Take it from here, she still looks good in any spotlight...No one will be happier than John Hope Franklin, prof. emeritus at Duke Univ., should Harvey Gantt unseat too

long seated Sen. Jesse Helms...It's good news so both the print and electronic media have soft played Mayor David Dinkin's drive to create a united front of cities. Some 30 mayors have accepted so far, and a summit is in the works for this fall. Bill Lynch, the Mayor's number one fella, is doing the organizing.

DISGUSTED:— is the emotion that best fits the H'wood Branch of the Natl. Assoc. for the Advancement of Colored People's attitude toward the dearth of African-American females in leading roles in H'wood. So much so that they pointed out that this is the fourth time in the last 10 years that the organization has been unable to include a "Best Actress" category. Again, this year they are only able to recognize Supporting Actress. According to Branch President, Sandra Evers-Manly, "If by this time next year no real change has happened it is my hope that instead of presenting the "Image Awards" we will present the "Damage Awards." The object of the Damage Awards would be to spotlight those who continue to aid in the imbalance of diversity that is so evident in H'wood. The good news is that the show will be aired in primetime on January 16th over NBC stations...STAY LOOSE... Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.



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