

Entertainment

Billy Rowe's Notebook



THE NEWS-GOOD-BAD AND -INDIFFERENT

N'YORK CITY:—You will never know it by browsing through the dailies or earing the news on the boob tubes. However, truth is that the lovely and talented Robin Givens attracted more legitimate attention at Cannes '91 than Madonna. In fact, Whoopi Goldberg, whose performance in "The Long Walk Home" has added a new glitter to the star on her dressing room door, gloried in the attention

spotlight like a queen of the realm. She even dumped the tacky look for the biggest event of her career. Bill Duke is also enjoying the warmth of the spotlight for his sensitive and masterful direction of "A Rage In Harlem" which departed that Manhattan boro with raves aplenty...Spike Lee's "Jungle Fever" also has him in competition...While on the subject, the NAACP's Fair Share

negotiations with Hollywood must have been stymied. The absence of African Americans cast in a whole slew of flicks, scheduled for production, is a slap in the face of equal opportunity. The only faces of color this scribe recognized on the 1990-'91 cast lists are Eddie Murphy, O.J. Simpson, the gridiron "great" who must be making a film comeback. The too long screen absentee Richard Pryor, Vanessa Williams, Louis Gossett, Jr. and new Hollywood favorite on the color side the fine performing Danny Glover. In that same category the magnificent voiced James Earl Jones. Then too Charles Dutton, who electrified B'Way in the Pulitzer Prize winning playwrite August Wilson's "Piano Lesson" has tapped to make a belated screen debut. He will probably do it twice should Wilson come away convincing traditional Hollywood that a Black director must tune direct the screen version of his "Piano Lesson." African-American Lloyd Richards filled that chair when the play made its

award capturing run on the "great white way."

EYE THIS:—For this scribe the "Will Rodgers Follies" resuscitated some magnificent memories of Flo Ziegfeld and his eye-arresting show girls decked out in smashing costumes complemented by lavish back-drops with an override of the scintillating music with a will voderly touch. And it's housed on the boards of the Palace Theatre, one time mecca of all vaudeville artists at home and abroad, like Bob Hope and the King of Taps Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, one of a very few artists of color to embrace its spotlights when segregation degraded democracy, Keith Carradine came through like a resurrected Will Rodgers in speed and words...A just concluded AIDS patients' study has come up with findings that AZT prolongs the survival of minorities as well as whites. This dumps another myth. The study, however found that seniors, minorities, women and drug users are less likely to afford AZT than young white gay males...The annual sign that summer is just around the bend has been confirmed. Tickets have just gone on sale for the annual JVC Jazz Festival. The nine days show will encompass some 33 events attracting all races and ages.

THIS TOO:—Two New Yorkers found they were not without

honors away from home. Roosevelt Zanders, the Apple's retired millionaire chauffeur is the centerpiece of dual honors by Atlanta's politicians and clergy hierarchy. He even had a day declared in his honor...In Atlantic city Jim Cuffee didn't venture that far, however, he filled his ranch with more than expected lay and political eastern seaboard well knowns to celebrate Jackie Hayes' birthday. He is the lucky spouse of Deputy Police Commissioner Billie Holliday-Hayes...LaBaron Taylor, one of Sony Music Entertainment's top executives co-chairs the June program, "Celebrating The Soul of American Music," Co-Chairs are Jay Berman and Jack Valenti... Comes July Dr. Joseph B. Johnson will remove his president's quarters of Talladega... Look for Newark's Mayor Sharpe James to be trooping to Russia any day, but not at tax payers' expense. He made a big impression on a group of fifty Soviet legislators visiting his city. Each implored him to return the visit.

QUESTIONS:—A number of magazines are using Joe Louis' famous "You can run, but you can't hide." We wonder if his estate is being compensated for its use...If you're in the market for a house and have the necessary cash, the city of Newark, N.J. has a public real estate

auction comes mid-June. Need more information call City Hall 201-733-8004 Pamela E. Goldstein...According to Columbia Pictures its new screen offering, "Boys 'N The Hood" is a powerful drama about coming of age in black urban America. It marks the directorial and screenwriting debut of 23 year old John Singleton...Invitations are out for the fifth annual Miss Collegiate African-American Pageant to be held in June at the Universal Studios in H'wood. Actors Kadeem Hardison ("A Different World") and Holly Robinson ("21 Jump Street") will host the event. En Vogue, Johnny Gill and Another Bad Creation are celebrity performers...It's about time! There's gonna be an all star tribute to Mr. Blues, Joe Williams, in Mid-June. The invite list reads like a who's who of the world of incandescent glare. Invited to appear are: Henry Mancini, Dinah Shore, Billy Eckstein, Keely Smith, Louis Bellson, Toni Tenille, Vikki Car, Nancy Wilson, George Kirby, Herb Jeffries and many more. Thanks to Jack The Rapper for pulling our coat.

END NEWS:—Letters continue to clog the mail to protest the demise of the Jesse Jackson talk show. The main argument is how could the station owners expect a prime-time eyeing from bedtime viewing audience. The opus had something and did it with unbridled candor...Despite the announcement that another has garnered the rights to the book version of the life and time of the lovely Dorothy Dandridge, who answered the promise of her maker before what we believed, was her time, Stephanie Givens, sister of the beautiful and talented Robin Givens, is still gung-ho about her well researched film version. It will mark her debut into a world which has already been captured by Robin whose latest movie, "A Rage In Harlem," is enjoying world wide attention...Freddie Guinyard, the closest confidante of the late immortal world class heavy weight champion, Joe Louis, is refusing to divulge intimate secrets about the ring gladiator whom the late Jimmie Walker, then Mayor of the City of New York, crowned "A credit to his race." Those interested in matters related to the former boxing legend should contact his son, Joe Louis Barrow, Jr., or Louis-Rowe Enterprises...STAY LOOSE...

Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

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