

Entertainment

Billy Rowe's Notebook



CABLE CO. USES AMOS 'N' ANDY OVER BLACK ENTERTAINMENT TV

N' ROCHELLE, NY: - Hi Boss, it seems that TV racism is becoming more overt, as some Americans forget, or don't know, what life was like for African-Americans when "Amos 'N' Andy" reigned over the airwaves. Over the weekend UA Columbia Cablevision of Westchester, Inc., aired a program called "Curtain Going Up" which included both versions of the controversial "Amos 'N' Andy" show. The blackface movie version, starring creators Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll, and the T.V. version, with African-Americans Alvin Childress, as Amos, and Spencer Williams, Jr., as Andy. What makes the situation even worse is that the company, UA Columbia Cablevision of Westchester, Inc., has refused requests from African-Americans to carry Black Entertainment Television. Drop the Note Book a line, 455 Main Street, Suite 99, New Rochelle, NY 10801, and let us know your opinions.

ADDING INSULT TO INJURY: - The airing of this program coincides with the just published "The Adventures of Amos 'N' Andy: A Social History of an American Phenomenon," written by Yale history professor Melvin Patrick Ely, which chronicles the popularity of the radio program, during the '20s and '30s, and TV show that captured audiences during the '50s. Subsequent book reviews, by Mel Watkins in the "New York Times" and Peter Bart, editor of "Variety," the showbiz bible, have a-ok'd the book. Bart said that Ely's book shows how the program brought Blacks and Whites together, as everybody laughed at "Amos 'N' Andy." Watkins, however, stuck to the book's sociological aspects. Quoting from his

review that quotes from the book: "Mr Ely, however, is more assiduous in exploring the effect the program had on white America. He acknowledges how the show affected him as an adolescent and writes that he learned "not merely that Afro-Americans could be funny, but that being funny was one of their chief functions in life." Still, he writes that Gosden and Correll — by 'humanizing' the minstrel caricature of the Negro, occasionally to a 'low-level' ferment in the racial thinking of many Whites." That ferment, he suggests, (writes Watkins) made nonblacks more receptive to the civil rights movement of the 1960's. "However neither mentioned that during this time, when all America was laughing, African-Americans were being lynched and denigrated at every turn.

NEWS CLOSE TO HOME: People, Black and white, are wondering what's the real reason that Earl Graves' bid for membership was rejected by the Winged Foot Golf Club Board of Directors. Graves supporters Charles McCabe, executive V.P. of Manufactured Hanover Bank, and William Fugazy, a businessman and friend of Frank Sinatra, played down the notion that the Mamaroneck, NY, club rejection of the Black Enterprise magazine publisher had anything to do with race. According to early reports in the Westchester Gannett Newspapers Fugazy is quoted as saying, "From what I hear around the club, the feeling is very friendly toward bringing qualified Blacks into the club. To not do so is out of step in our times today." Winged Foot, the site of four U.S. Opens, is one of the major Westchester clubs that has not admitted any African-Americans despite the PGA Tour announcement that it would not grant tournaments to clubs that continue to practice racial discrimination. Westchester County Executive Andrew O'Rourke has appointed Mack L. Carter, Jr., to become the County's new hospital commissioner. Carter is a bro. who is currently deputy executive director of Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center in the Bronx. The selection of Carter has search committee members up-in-arms and charging that he is a political "pawn." The appointment must be approved by the The Westchester County Board of Legislators which has two African-American members. If confirmed Carter join's Corrections Commissioner Norwood Jackson as the second African-American in the O'Rourke administration. Wonder if Spike Lee knew that when Malcom X was a waiter at Small Paradise, he was also a news source for then Pittsburgh Courier columnist Billy Rowe. It's about time that you (Billy Rowe) got honored in your own

SENTINEL-VOICE TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1) Motown Philly - BOYZ II MEN
- 2) Let The Beat Hit "Em - LISA LISA
- 3) Things That Make You Go Hmmm - C&C MUSIC FACTORY
- 4) Now That We Found Love - HEAVY D & THE BOYZ
- 5) Summer Time - D.J. JAZZY JEFF & THE FRESH PRINCE
- 6) Down 2 Earth - MONIE LOVE
- 7) That's The Way Love Goes - YOUNG MC
- 8) Turn It Up - OAKTOWN 3-5-7
- 9) Good Vibration - MARKY MARK & THE FUNKY BUNCH
- 10) Elevate Your Mind - STEREO MC's

Top 10 listing compiled by
Willie-Will, D.J., Fuddy Duddy's Night Club.

home town. Thanks to the Uptown Chamber of Commerce who saluted you when Uptown went Downtown to City Hall to present its Lifetime Achievement award in Journalism and Media. It's been brought to our attention that Earl Graves was rejected because he wanted his son and another friend to join him in membership. However, close watchers of the situation say that's a poor excuse for rejecting Graves and the Winged Foot has always been prejudice.

NO LAMB TO THE SLAUGHTER: N' York City College Prof. Leonard Jeffries has been under constant fire for telling an Albany, NY, Black art festival audience that Jews and Italians were in a conspiracy to purposely disparage African-Americans in the beginning of the film industry. The smoke screen that those in control are attempting to throw up is really about the curriculum of inclusion, and not anti-Semitism. Jeffries, who heads the African-American Studies dept. at CCNY, has worked on New York State's multicultural curriculum, by discrediting Jeffries, so far has not worked. The propaganda machine, the white media, has not been able to undermine Jeffries' support. Even politicians who originally castigated him have changed their tune, since his statement can be backed up by the writings of others, including Jewish and Italian scholars. While they agree that Jews and Italians did start H'Wood and negative images of African-Americans were created, most stop short of Jeffries' conspiracy theory. On a trip to Africa when the controversy erupted, Jeffries was met at the airport by thousands of supporters and a handful of Jewish protesters. Most supporters agree with the New York State chapter of the NAACP which posted a resolution stating: "It is our belief that no useful purpose can be served by launching assaults on any one racial, religious or ethnic group. The issues before us today are not about an isolated comment, taken out of context, but instead, they are about the urgent need to provide a curriculum of inclusion and educational process that teaches the true history of all peoples in our state, nation and world." To quote National and State President Hazel Dukes, "Leonard Jeffries did not go to Albany to beat up on Jews. What he did was make isolated comments that could be taken out of context as bias or bigotry." As usual its the Hite of Nancy's Fancy to typsit for syndicated columnist Billy Rowe.

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