

CELEBRITIES SALUTE NAACP

New York - The NAACP Prison Program will host a "celebrity night" benefit on Sunday, October 28 beginning at 8 p.m., at the luxurious Red Parrot disco at 617 West 57th Street in Manhattan. The program promises to be a spectacular event featuring internationally known stars in the performing arts who will join the NAACP Prison Program in their efforts to "supplement contributions from other sources," said Leroy Mobley, director of the prison program.

Among the featured artists will be actor Tommi Johnson of Broadway's "Your Arms Too Short To Box With God," Marion Ramsey and Anita Moore both actress/singers, Chico Hamilton and Lester Sterling, two top musicians in their own areas. To add to the elegance of this enchanted evening, music will be provided by the Bobby Crenshaw Quintet and "D.J." Winston Blake, whose musical selections should keep everyone on the dance floor.

"Don't be surprised to be rubbing elbows with other famous celebrities that night," said Yvonne Jones, New York Prison Coordinator. She expects many other stars to attend the benefit, even though they will not perform.

The NAACP Prison Program was established in 1972 with the creation of the first branch at the United States Federal Penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pa. Since then 30 branches have been chartered in such states as California, Georgia, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, Delaware, Kentucky, Michigan, West Virginia and Iowa with a membership of more than 4,000.

The program was created to fight discrimination and inequalities in the nation's prisons, which

house a disproportionately high number of Blacks and other minorities. It seeks to facilitate communication between inmates and their families. It helps rehabilitate inmates by channeling their energies and talents into constructive programs. It assists prospective parolees in securing employment before their release.

Through the program, says Mr. Mobley, "the NAACP has been able to reduce the nation's recidivism rate by returning more ex-offenders to their communities as assets rather than liabilities."

NAACP Prison branches sponsor educational instruction in English, reading and math as well as preparation for high school equivalency examinations. Many branches also sponsor job training seminars, sickle cell drives, Christmas gift projects, monthly religious concerts, sale of greeting cards and stationery and Black history classes.

Benjamin L. Hooks, NAACP Executive Director, says that while the program seeks to work cooperatively with prison administrators toward attaining mutually satisfactory goals, "it will not allow racially discriminatory practices to go unchallenged."

"We have not forgotten our isolated-from-society brothers and sisters," Miss Jones said. "When many have turned their backs and forgotten them," she said, "the NAACP is there to pick up the pieces and offer hope and guidance."

The NAACP Prison Program receives the bulk of its operating funds from foundations and corporations. Special fund raising events are also held during the year. The NAACP welcomes individual contributions to the program.

Galaxy Pageant Contestant Receives Scholarship

Eve Hudson, a graduate of Foothills High in Sacramento, California has received the Youth Together Inc/Miss Galaxy International Pageant four year scholarship to Prairie View College in Texas.

Miss Hudson was presented the scholarship by Mrs. Velma Stokley, National Coordinator and Board of Directors member of Youth Together Inc., the producers of the Miss and Teenage Galaxy International Pageants.

Miss Hudson was chosen the first runner-up over thirty other contestants from across the United

States and foreign countries in Dallas, Texas earlier this year.

Youth Together Inc. makes available some \$58,000.00 in college scholarships to the youth each year. Contestants or state pageant directors interested in scholarships or competition should call or write Youth Together Inc., 4310 West Verde Lane, Phoenix, Arizona, 85031, (602) 272-5496.



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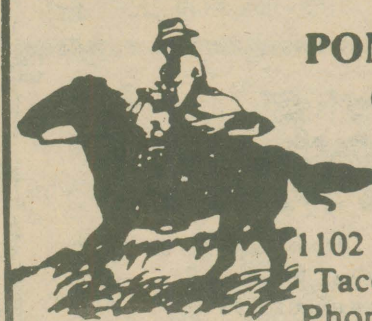
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