



PROUD-Charles T. Williams, Vice President, Schenley Distillers Co., proudly announces a special offer of "The Little Black Book 1976" prepared under Schenley auspices as a bicentennial tribute to Black America's contributions. The booklet, which focuses on significant Black historical events, is being offered for a contribution of \$1 or more to the United Negro College Fund. Checks, made out to UNCF, may be mailed to Mr. Williams at Schenley Distillers Co., 888 Seventh Avenue, New York, N.Y., 10019, or to any of the Black organizations featured in the booklet.

Blacks Fit Any Format

One of the things marvelously revealed at the recently held national political convention in New York was the visible, dynamic, articulate and soulful participation of Black people. And all this was beamed to the nation via TV. This demonstrates once more what TV can do in terms of smashing myths and presenting people - all kinds - in real life, interesting, sometimes compelling roles.

It also succinctly revealed, if such was needed, what a terrible loss this country has when it does not permit the full participation of all its people in its manifold endeavors.

Most Blacks have always stated that Black people have an awful lot to offer this country, and indeed have done and are doing just that, and that we don't necessarily have to be called on to deal with those issues that are strictly Black in presentation on the tube. But recognition of this mostly goes unnoticed.

Rep. Barbara Jordan (Texas) who gave a stirring keynote address, is a striking example of what this country has cut itself off from for years. She is the embodiment of what the country has lost in not allowing women full participation in the political process.

Her important presence at that convention plus the integral part she played in it was even more unique in that she is not only a woman, but a Black woman.

Throughout this convention, sterling Black female leadership figures - Rep. Yvonne Burke, Mrs. Coretta Scott King in addition to Ms. Jordan - and strong Black male personalities - Rep. Andrew Young (Ga.), a peerless Black insider of the Presidential nominee's camp; big city mayors Coleman Young (Detroit) and Tom Bradley (Los Angeles); Reps. Ron Dellums (Calif.) and John Conyers (Mich.); and the venerable Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr. - were the fleshed-out bold reality of our historical dream.

I listened proudly as they covered a wide range of issues and addressed a multitude of causes that in my judgement touch all American citizens - white, Black, brown, yellow, red: the inequity in tax rates, the growing deterioration of our cities, diminishing services, crime in the streets, inadequate police protection, scandal and corruption in high offices, sewage-clogged gutters, uncollected garbage, bigotry in home financing (red-

lining), insufficient support for our poor and indigent citizens, pollution of the environment. We are, in fine, affected by issues that affect all other Americans.

What I am saying is we don't have to talk about just "Black issues" all the time, nor be star athletes or outstanding entertainers to be significant contributors to the on-going dialogue of issues. Not that we ever intend to shy away from vigorous advocacy of issues which peculiarly affect us because of our Blackness. But more and more, given the opportunity to express ourselves, the country is learning that we can make significant contributions to the general welfare and the on-going progress of this country.

Indeed, if America is ever to realize its historical destiny, it will have to call on all the vast resources of its diverse peoples for their best thinking and best ideas. If we deliberately exclude people and shut them behind a wall, we not only lose the benefits of what they might contribute, but we create hostility and resentment that erupt in violently anti-social behavior - behavior that is irrational because the treatment that triggered it is irrational. Desperate people do desperate things.

It is to be hoped that the television networks would notice that from the deep south to the far north, and all across this nation, there were outpourings of expressions of approval of the performances of these Black folks at the convention.

It is a fact that there is a great spectrum of American people who are no longer hung up on color if one has something to offer. That is not to say that conservative Blacks, or what have you, approved of all the sentiments that were expressed.

As we move on in the vast television field, it seems this is a signal for more Blacks to become news anchor persons. All of the cities with significant radio and television stations should have Blacks, even those radio stations which do not necessarily program to Blacks or are located in areas where Blacks are not a significant percentage of the population.

For the convention proved again, if it needed proving, that Blacks can transcend color and race and present dynamic and talented ideas and ideals that can fit into the format of any station's programming.

Introduces Funny Car

Tommy Hendricks Joins Forces With Lede-Jenkins Racing Team

Tommy Hendricks, an account executive at WGIV, has recently joined forces with R.S. Thomas and Charles Marquez of Charlotte to complete the drag racing team of Thomas, Marquez, and Hendricks.

Their team effort is appropriately represented by their funny car, professionally referred to as the "Soul Shaker".

Over the last six months they have creatively constructed an AA fuel nitro burning funny car from two 230 mph AA fuel dragsters. The "Soul Shaker" funny car was built under the meticulous supervision of Charles Marquez, the team's mechanical expert, and construction advisor for the City of Charlotte Community Development Department.

Thomas and Marquez met Hendricks while professionally campaigning their top fueler in 1974, as Hendricks toured his own top fueler that he had purchased from national TV drag star, Tommy Ivo. Last year, at US 30 Dragway in Gary, Indiana, Hendrick's dragster recorded a blistering speed of 237 MPH with an elapse time of 5.97 seconds. The current World Record is 250 MPH with an elapse time of 5.63 from a standing start to the end of a quarter mile. The record is held by Big Daddy Don Garlits, the King of Drag Racing, who Hendricks raced on several occasions last year.

In 1975 at Bristol International Raceway, R.S. Thomas piloted the Thomas-Marquez dragster to a scorching 239 MPH in 6.29 seconds. Their individual efforts have been



RACING ENTHUSIASTS Ken Goldblats, Tommy Hendricks (crew chief), R.S. Thomas (driver), Charles Marquez (mechanic), and Manny Clark, program director of WGIV radio station pose with Hendrick's prized racing car, "Soul Shaker." Photo by Jim Black

highly impressive in view of their persistent struggle. Their struggle or handicap has been their inability to gain national recognition, and acquire a sponsor that would ease their financial dilemma.

Their plan was to put together the very best Black talent in drag racing, which they feel they are, as documented by their past performance and individual efforts. Their primary goal was to build a funny car, which they did and they call it "Soul Shaker." The "Soul Shaker" funny car weighs about 1,900 pounds "loaded", sports a beautiful

fiberglass Chevrolet Monza body that weighs about 75 pounds, and is powered by a potent nitromethane fuel burning, supercharged Chrysler Hemi that develops about 1,800 horsepower.

R.S. Thomas, who has been assigned the driving chores, will attempt to pilot the potent "Soul Shaker" funny car from a standing start to speeds in excess of 230 miles per hour within 6 seconds. These shake-

down runs will be made over the next months to get the bugs out of the new machine in preparation for the upcoming

1977 racing season. Hopefully, they can gain local and national financial support that will be helpful to their 1977 racing season.

The "Soul Shaker" will be based in Charlotte, racing on weekends from New York to Florida. The "Soul Shaker" AA fuel funny car is the only funny car in Charlotte and the only Black funny car race team in the country. Their investment of about \$30,000 and a lot of hard work have made them the most progressive Black professional talent in drag racing.

Dr. Brayboy Dies, Funeral Will Be Friday

Continued from page 1
Board of Directors of the Metrolina Bank and a member of the Board of Directors for Dimensions for Charlotte-Mecklenburg. He was a Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and a member of Memorial United Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Brayboy served for three years as President of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association and was the past president of the Charlotte

Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, a professional education fraternity.

He is survived by his wife, the former Jeanne E. Martin of Camden, S.C.; a son, Jack S. Brayboy III; and a daughter, Joyce, all of the home; two brothers, Dr. Thomas L. Brayboy of Montclair, New Jersey and Mr. Herman Bray-

boy of Detroit, Michigan; and one sister, Mrs. Eula Chavous of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Brayboy family resides at 1608 Patton Avenue.

Memorials may be sent to Johnson C. Smith University or to the American Cancer Society.

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