

**Broadway Is My Beat**

# Alex Haley Is Faced With Plagiarism Suit?

By JOEY SASSO

Special to the Post

Observations in Covering the Night Beat: Comedian Redd Foxx is being sued by the father of a teenage hotel bus-girl in Las Vegas. Charles A. Branda claims the entertainer made sexual overtures to his daughter, Cheryl, 15, and called her obscene names when she rejected him at the Silverbird Hotel and Casino on Aug. 19.

Foxx was not available for comment on the charges. Allegedly, Foxx, whose real name is Jon Elry Sanford, touched the girl while she was working and proclaimed, "This is the one I want." He then shouted obscenities at her when she told him to leave her alone, according to the suit. The Brandas are seeking \$20,000 in damages, contending the girl became hysterical and nervous after the alleged incident.

Digging for the roots has had its rewards and setbacks for famous author Alex Haley of "Roots" fame. Haley's

faced with a menacing plagiarism suit over a book he claims he never read before writing his internationally acclaimed "Roots." Yet, a U.S. magistrate has found that Haley had "access" to the 1966 novel "Jubilee" penned by Margaret Walker Alexander, director of black studies at Jackson State U. in Jackson, Miss. She claims Haley did read the book and that part of his "Roots" was largely copied from "Jubilee." Meanwhile, Henry Fonda's already slated for a role in "Roots: The Next Generation," coming up next as a TV spectator, and Marlon Brando has asked for a part.

"Love Boat's favorite bartender, Ted Lange, who is known for making delicious Teacher's Scotch Sours, and Sherry Thompson surprised everyone and got married in a quiet ceremony. They've dated openly for a long time, but no one expected a wedding.

Sammy Davis's stunning wife, Altovise, makes her dramatic acting debut in Dimension Picture, "Kingdom of



Alex Haley  
...To be sued?

Spiders" with Bob Mitchum's son, Jim. "Sammy went around telling everyone I was doing a National Geographic special," Altovise reports. "There's nothing scientific about the picture no way—just plain scary."

The fame brought by LeVar Burton's performance in "Roots" drove him to a psychiatrist and nearly ruined his life. "I tried not to let the pressures of stardom get to me, but I kept wondering what all the fans who constantly

hounded me wanted. I got so confused," LeVar relates. "I was puzzled about many things. Where I was going—everything. People warned me quick fame would change my whole life, and they were right," confesses the 21-year-old actor who played Kunta Kinte in the popular mini-series. "I've had to go through some severe adjustments. I didn't trust anybody. One day no one heard of me, and the next day people were staring at me and getting tongue-tied because they didn't know what to say to me," explains LeVar, who stars in "One In A Million," the true story of how Detroit Tigers centerfielder Ron LeFlore went from criminal to sports superstar.

"All of a sudden I wasn't dealing with my friends and family. I was involved with people I never met before. I thought everybody wanted something from me. Everyone kept saying, "You're going to go through some changes," and I listened to them, but I didn't know what

they meant."...Old friends, Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier, seen sipping Hennessy V.S.O.P. the other night at a Hollywood party.... Gladys Knight has a pip of trouble on her hands. Her husband, Barry Hankerson, is divorcing her. He's tired of show biz people....

That's Show Biz: Dionne Warwick was talking about the good ole 60's, a time when all the songs she sang from "Alfie" to "Promises, Promises" became hits. Big hits.

But, she really wasn't thinking about the kudos. She was remembering Tim Brown, the running back for the Eagles, "the man I damn near married. I saw him not too long ago," Dionne told me. "I ran into him in a drugstore in L.A.

We talked for a while. He's got a family now. But what can I do? I'm not sorry. You make choices in life and you've got to live with them." Sometimes that is difficult, Warwick divorced actor Bill Elliot three year ago.

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