



The Outspoken
**CRAIG
WILSON**

From Hollywood

Dionne Warwick is best known as one of the most glamorous women in Hollywood, a top singing star and nightclub performer. Few people are aware that Dionne has always been a devoted mother to her two pre-teen sons, David and Damon, putting them ahead of her career. Dionne is now being besieged by real estate brokers wanting to list and sell her three million dollar Beverly Hills estate before the singer moves to Aspen, Colorado. The move is rumored to be so her sons can pursue their love of skiing and other winter sports.

Lots of southern dialects are being practiced these days since we reported that producer Charles Fries was seriously considering adapting the book, *Selma, Lord, Selma*, into a multi-million dollar television movie. Naturally, *Selma, Lord, Selma* is about the situation in that Alabama town in the early 1960s, where a major fight for civil and human rights was organized and brought Martin Luther King, Jr., into the national spotlight as a forceful leader.



CLIFTON DAVIS

GRACE JONES

FREDA PAYNE

One-time bald disco artist Grace Jones is changing musical and performing directions. We hear that Grace, along with many other artists who began on the disco scene, is moving headlong into rock and pop. She became a popular disco lady with her cat-like moves and whips, with which she beat up white, muscle-bound boys.

Beautiful *Vogue* cover girl Beverly Johnson has filed suit against her long-time manager-husband Danny Simms in New York. At one time it appeared Danny could mold the gorgeous model into a singing sensation, but his efforts failed. Danny now manages Betty Wright and reggae king Bob Marley.

The hottest rumor in town centers around actor Clifton Davis and that alleged fight in which he was engaged at a local health club. The cornerstanders say that Clifton entered the club and was attacked by another patron, following very angry words. None of the cornerstanders are willing to admit that they witnessed the event.

Congratulations to our friend Freda Payne upon her selection as "Ms. Black Yank of 1980" by the black members of the United States military. Freda certainly deserves this and many other awards for her beauty and talent.

Our San Francisco spy called to report that while Diana Ross was performing in the Bay Area a strange man approached the stage, asked for a kiss and produced a mean-looking knife to reinforce his request. Diana allegedly didn't argue the point and bussed the dude on the cheek, whereupon he instantly fainted and was hustled off by security forces.

Few folks know that Johnny "Guitar" Watson is a self-taught musician who began recording at the ripe old age of 14 with the Federal Records Company. Johnny still credits T-Bone Walker, Clarence "Gatemouth" Moore, Lowell Fulson and Wes Montgomery among his early inspirations.

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"Choosing Suicide" Premieres Monday

"I don't think of myself now as 'killing myself.' I feel no desire to kill, or injure, or maim. To me, that's the difference between rational and irrational suicide; irrational is neurotically involved with killing..."

These words, spoken by New York artist and psychotherapist Jo Roman 32 days before carrying out her carefully planned suicide, are the opening words of CHOOSING SUICIDE, premiering Monday, June 16 at 8 p.m. on UNC-TV, Channel 58. This one hour documentary focuses on Roman's determination to end her life with dignity and on her own terms. A panel discussion on the concept of "rational suicide" will air following the documentary.

Roman believed in planned self-termination and opposed the inforced prolongation of life upon anyone who wished to end it.

For the last ten years Roman has intended to end her life sometime in her 70s and was writing a book advocating her thoughts on "rational suicide." At 62 Roman discovered she had breast cancer and began organizing for an imminent departure.

When the advance of the disease seemed to threaten her ability to finish the book, Roman asked a friend, documentary producer Richard Ellison, to record her ideas and plans on tape. Ellison in turn recruited videomakers Leah Siegel and Don Blauvelt. Together they taped 19 hours of intimate conversations and confrontations with close friends and relatives, some of whom strongly opposed Roman's intentions.

A Catholic friend felt that he wanted to convince her to live

because of his own fear of death; another friend, a lawyer, said "Nothing will persuade me that accepting suicide is going to improve the quality of my life."

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