Is Alex Johnson quite that bad?

By SAM LACY

The home base of the AFRO is 3,000 miles, give or take a few, from home plate in Anaheim, Calif., so no one here wishes to pose as authority on the rift between outfielder Alex Johnson and the California Angels.

But no one here, particularly this writer, is ready to indict him on the basis of news reports. In fact, there is some difficulty in believing that the 1970 American League batting champion can be as bad as he is painted.

* * *

The major leagues' June 15 trading deadline passed at midnight Tuesday, and the Angels allege they were unable to make the deal they hoped would rid them of the controversial slugger. Obviously, other clubs which normally would have an interest in obtaining Johnson were scared off by the reports that he is a bad actor, a non-conformist and a poor influence on team morale.

The nearest Johnson has come to presenting his side of the controversy, was when he declared recently that "other things" were at the root of his disenchantment with the Angels, and vice versa.

"There are answers I could give for all the charges against me," he said, "but that would involve other people and it is not my nature to do that."

* * *

At any rate, the mystery continues. Continuing also is the dark relationship between California and Johnson, because Angels general manager Dick Walsh said Wednesday he had been unable to make a satisfactory deal for his unpopular star.

"We did not make a deal," Walsh said. "We are going to stay with the club the way it is now constituted. We talked to several clubs especially Milwaukee and Washington.

"The people we were offered were not worthy of any deal."

* * *

Walsh said the most serious discussion involved Milwaukee's Tommy Harper but he said when Harper had two doubles and a home run a few hours before the deadline, the deal fell through.

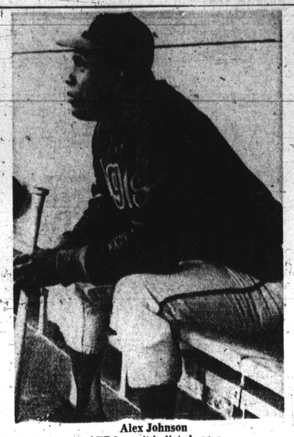
Walsh said he planned to have a short session with Johnson to resolve the club's difficulties with the outfielder. But he said it would be up to manager Lefty Phillips as to how he planned to play Johnson.

* * *

Johnson was in the Angels lineup Tuesday night as a starter for the first time since June 4, and collected three hits in four times at bat.

Johnson, who has been with a half a dozen clubs, had been at odds with his teammates as well as with manager Phillips.

"I'm going to put his name down and let him play regularly," Phillips said.



Alex Johnson
AFRO won't indict slugger

Colorful history of Birds in print

A new updated version of The Home Team, "the long and often happy story of baseball in Baltimore" by James H. Bready, has been published in paperback and is now available through the Orioles public relations office, Memorial Stadium novelty stands, and in Baltimore area newstands.

The author, a long time baseball and history buff, describes the excitement of the city's 15 pennant winning seasons and deals in depth with the many great baseball players and personalities who have had roots in Baltimore; men like John McGraw, Ned Hanlon, Babe Ruth, Jack Dunn Sr., and Lefty Grove, as well as Orioles of more recent vintage. The book also contains a year-by-year chronicle of the most significant elements of each of the Birds' 17 American League seasons since 1954.

Recreation events set

Here are the events scheduled by the Bureau of Recreation for the month of June:

June 19 — Sr. Municipal Gafes, Northwestern; 12 noon.

June 20 — SAA girls' and women's championships Druid Hill, 12 noon

June 21 — Opening of summer playgrounds and recreation centers

June 21-26 — Recreation Week in Baltimore proclaimed by Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro; Special Kick-Off Program at 11 a.m., 1129 N. Calvert Street

June 21-27 — Md. State Jr. Tennis Tournament at Clifton Park

June 25 — Jr. Municipal Games Track at Poly-Western, 1 p.m.

June 26 — CYO Swim Meet

O's to prod fans on Viet prisoners

Prior to the beginning of tomorrow (Saturday) night's Oriole-Yankee game at the stadium, volunteers from the Baltimore Chapter of the American Red Cross will distribute printed cards as part of the national "Write Hanoi" campaign requesting humane treatment of prisoners-of-war.

* * *

Attending the game as special guests will be members of the families of the 40 Maryland prisoners-of-war and missing-in-action.

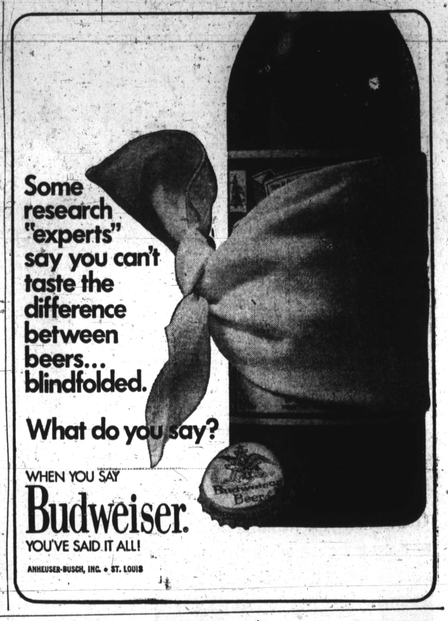
The Red Cross letter writing campaign, which began over a year ago and has been endorsed by the governors of all 50 states, implores the North Vietnamese, Viet Cong, and Pathet Lao to acknowledge and to comply with three major provisions of the Geneva Conventions.

These provisions state that all prisoners are to receive proper medical treatment, that the International Red Cross be allowed to inspect the POW camps, and finally, that a complete list of names of all the prisoners be released.

* * *

Since the "Write Hanoi" campaign began, the mail received from U.S. prisoners has increased threefold.

In addition, the number of prisoners identified by the North Vietnamese has tripled, and since February of 1970, Hanoi has allowed food parcels to be shipped to known prisoners every other month.



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- Four full plies of Dynacor® rayon cord give a smooth, quiet ride.
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- A Series 78 tire—low and wide for stability in cornering.

SIZE (replaces)	BLACKWALL (with trade-in)	WHITEWALL (with trade-in)	FED. EX. TAX
E78-14 (735x14)	22.54	25.57	2.21
E78-15 (735x15)			2.22
F78-14 (775x14)	23.29	26.32	2.38
F78-15 (775x15)			2.42
G78-14 (825x14)	26.46	29.50	2.55
G78-15 (825x15)			2.64
H78-14 (855x14)	28.94	31.97	2.74
H78-15 (855x15)			2.80

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$3.20 Fittings extra if needed.
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- Lubricate to manufacturers' specifications.

Atlas Plycron Tires.
$24.12 with trade-in, plus $1.76 Fed. Ex. Tax for 650x13 tubeless blackwall. Whitewalls $3.35 more each.
- Our best-selling tire.
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- Husky wrap-around tread.

SIZE	BLACKWALL	WHITEWALL	FED. EX. TAX
735x14	26.55	30.28	2.01
775x14	28.09	32.02	2.16
825x14	30.77	34.95	2.32
825x15			2.37
855x14	33.72	38.53	2.50
855/845x15			2.54

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- Two fiberglass belts, polyester cord body.
- Up to 29% wider than conventional tires.
- Whitewall on one side, red stripe on the other.

SIZE	White/red sidewall	FED. EX. TAX
G70-14	45.20	2.84
G70-15		2.86
H70-15	49.86	3.11

Similar values on all our Atlas Hi-P tires.

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JULIAN TESTIMONIAL — Friends and supporters of City Councilman Emerson Julian gathered Monday evening at the Martin's West to salute him. Shown in left panel are Councilman Emerson Julian, and his son, Emerson, Jr. In the right panel are teenage hostesses, Miss Angie Thornton and Miss Toni Johnson. Councilman Julian announced last month that he would seek re-election as councilman for the 4th district and not run for mayor, but rather, support mayoralty candidate George L. Russell, Jr. (AFRO Staff Photo by Ben Phillips)

Congress again brought into rift over athletes

The uneasy peace which has been tolerated by both sides since Congress stepped in three years ago, appears ready to explode once more between the United States Track and Field Federation (USTFF) and the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU).

* * *

The battle for control of America's young amateur athletes (college, independent, club and otherwise) was becalmed in 1967, with the appointment of the late Gen. Douglas McArthur as intermediary.

Several times since then the old wounds were reopened, but not until Tuesday did the animosity take on serious proportions. That occurred when USTFF president Wayne Coiley fired off letters to Arkansas congressmen J. William Fulbright, John McClellan and William V. Alexander.

The letter asking their support reads:

"The United States Track and Field Federation governing council, in behalf of Arkansas State University and its student-athlete, Tom Hill, protests in the strongest terms possible the arbitrary and discriminatory refusal of the Amateur Athletic Union to process the world record track performance of Tom Hill.

"In its craze to maintain monopoly power over American track and field, the AAU is discriminating against a skilled black athlete and by this act and others it has shattered the peace which has prevailed in American track and field for three years.

"Hill set a world high hurdle record of 13.2 seconds June 13, 1970, at the USTFF championships in Wichita, Kan. The statistics and certification are in order, and under identical circumstances, the AAU processed the world half-mile record performance of Jim Ryun of the University of Kansas established at Terre Haute, Ind., 1966.

"This constitutes bias against a fine athlete of a minority race.

"Arkansas State University trongly supports this petition tht you use your influence to persuade the AAU to proceed immediately with the record application."

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INDIANNAPOLIS, Ind. (UPI) — Four more players have agreed to take part in Sunday's Martin Luther King Jr. benefit basketball game here.

They include Billy Keller of the Indiana Pacers; Elvin Hayes of the San Diego Rockets; ABA corookie of the year Charlie Scott of the Virginia Squires, and Mack Calvin of the Floridians.

Players from both the National and American basketball associations will be divided into two teams for the nationally televised game.

Previously announced were Mel Daniels, Roger Brown, Freddie Lewis and Bob Netolicky of the Indiana Pacers; Earl Monroe, Baltimore Bullets; Connie Hawkins, Phoenix Suns; Joe Caldwell, Carolina Cougars; Steve Jones, Don Freeman, Texas Chaparrals; Walt Frazier, New York Knicks; Dave Bing, Detroit Pistons;

Rick Barry, New York Nets; Willie Wise, Zelmo Beaty, Utah Stars; John Brisker, Pittsburgh Condors; Cincy Powell, Kentucky Colonels;

Jimmy Jones, Memphis Pros; Walt Hazzard, Atlanta Hawks, and Cazzie Russell, San Francisco Warriors.

King benefit cage tilt on TV Sunday

The Second Annual East-West Pro-All-Star Basketball Classic featuring some of the top players in the NBA and the ABA will be telecast Sunday, at 2 p.m. on WJZ-TV (Channel 13).

Baltimore Bullets' standout "The Pearl" Monroe, plus Walt Bellamy, Zelmo Beatty, Rick Barry, Cazzie Russell and many other stars of the NBA and ABA will compete in this championship contest from the State Fair Grounds in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Gal rider passes first test in trial as jockey

CLEVELAND (UPI) — Cheryl White, 17, wants to become the first licensed black female jockey in American racing history and she apparently passed her first test Tuesday at Thistledown even though her horse finished last.

"As we expected, she handled herself well," was the consensus of track stewards Bryan Steele, William Cull and Don Shanklin.

"She broke good from the gate," said George Cunningham, the official starter.

"She did well under the circumstances," said her father Raymond White, owner and trainer of the maiden filly Ace Reward which was ridden by Cheryl in the first of her two scheduled probationary rides.

"The filly is knocking her shins and her tendons started to bother her in the latter part of the race," said White. "She ran as far as she could.

"I didn't expect to win," said Cheryl. "I expected to be nervous but found out I wasn't. I just wanted to look as good as I could because I knew the stewards were watching me."

"I just want to be a good rider regardless of race," she said.

The stewards will decide whether to grant her an apprentice rider's license after her next probationary ride.

CHERYL WHITE
clears first hurdle

SWEARING IN—Capt Peggy F. Heidemann, (r), WAC Recruiting Officer, swears into service 2nd Lieut. Jacqueline E. Whitley in ceremonies held recently at the Recruiting Main Station in Baltimore. A June graduate of Morgan State College, Miss Whitley is the daughter of Mrs. Mary E. Skinner. She will leave for Ft. McClellan, Ala., in Aug. st.

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