EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Bo Diddley

by FREDRICK I. DOUGLASS

"I Opened the door and everyone ran in but me," declared Bo Diddley after his sensational appearance at Norfolk, Va.'s Scope Amphitheatre.

"I been around nearly 50 years and I created the music that they are playing today. Dig the sounds these white boys have been putting out! They're all belting out my stuff, making a fortune while I'm still scuffling to make it. The Rolling Stones recorded "Mona" and sold way over a million copies . . . Those cats are getting rich by acting Black."

Having written and performed some the classics of contemporary music, Bo Diddley, the ORIGINATOR is more than justified in being bitter. His hits include such black diamonds as "You Can't Judge A Book By Lookin' At Its Cover," "Say Man," "Hey, Bo Diddley," "Who Do You Love," "Cannonball," and "Willie And The Hand Jive," all of which have been recorded by oday musicians who have made far more bread of his creations than he has. However, unlike many bluesmen, he has recorded copiously such albums like "Bo Diddley is a Gunslinger," "Have Guitar, Will Travel," "The Originator," "Bo Diddley is a Lover," "Another Dimension," "Black Gladiator," and many more.

Currently traveling with promoter Richard Nader's "Rock and Roll Revival," Brother Bo is lambasting the world with his frenetic brand of music. "I dig being a part of this thing because it gives me the opportunity to reach a whole new audience that never heard of Bo.

"This time Bo is going to catch the gravy train . . . I'm tired of everybody getting rich off my stuff but me. Tell those people out there to watch out for Bo Diddley 'Cause he's going to take over the Space Age . . . I'm going to be the first Black astronaut and a guitar will be my rocket ship."

Considering some of the fantastically shaped, fur-trimmed guitars Bo has designed as his trademark, this does not seem far-fetched.

Having electrified Norfolk with his fiery guitar playing and volcanic showmanship, Bo was ready to rap about his integral role in the development of modern music. "I was the first one that made those huge amplifiers, big ones that looked liked caskets.

"All of a sudden this company was making these amps and one of the guitars I designed . . . I never got a penny out of my inventions either. People with a little electric technology thing in their knowledge box figured out what I was doing and put it into transistors and things. Every time I come up with something hip some grey dude steels it and makes a fortune.

"I'm coming back," he continued. "I'm coming back in a big way, but it seems that my biggest audience now is white. It's hard for me to draw my people across the street and I been trying and trying.

"Bo's music is nothing but an old jungle type one, you know, like BOOM da BOOM da BOOM da BOOM BOOM! But when I fall back into my real thing, everybody backs off and says 'Wow, he must be from the Congo . . . what kind of music is that?'

"Like that's where my music comes from, Africa. But it's so primitive for some folks to dig on. My problem is that I'm mostly known to the white musicians who come and record my songs. I still haven't reached the white public that buys all the records like B.B. has.

"The average white cat doesn't know who I am. My thing is to reach my people so they can check out the story I'm trying to tell in my music. When I say you can't judge a book by lookin' at its cover, that's exactly what I mean . . . If you want to understand people you have to dig beneath the surface. People are beautiful, it just takes time and patience to figure out where somebody is coming from."

"I want to see all the people of the world get together and exercise this love trip. There's too many bad trips going down now like Watergate and the so-called peace in Vietnam. What I'd like to do is start a firm for black artists, yellow, grey, white and green ones too, just as long as they're good. I want to do an honest thing without steeling from anybody. I know I can make a few bucks without taking bread from people by lying to them on paper. Believe me brother Fred. Bo Diddley is a gunslinger . . . He's going to make it."

FRED WILLIAMSON, second from right, refuses to negotiate with slave owners as Denise Nicholas, young Kirk Calloway and D'Urville Martin watch and George Allen, second from left, grows angry in Paramount Pictures' "The Soul Of Nigger Charley." This rugged saga continues the dynamic adventures of Charley in the violence-laced Western plains.

REGINALD DORSEY is "June Bug" and signs up as a runner for the numbers bank set up by Dave Greene, Phillip Thomas, Blueboy Harris and Raymond St. Jacques in "Book of Numbers".

CLINT EASTWOOD returns to the role that made him famous as the stranger in his latest thriller, "High Plains Drifter" starting Wednesday.

Morgan

SATURDAY, MAY 26 . 3:00 p.m. — Alumni Day — The Annual Alumni Business Meeting ,Class Reunions ,Cocktail Hour and Dinner Program will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 101 West Fayette Street. For further information, contact the Alumni Office, 322-2270, ext. 357; Department of Military Science—ROTC Commissioning Exercises, Speaker: Brigadier General Julius W. Becton Jr., U.S. Army, Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Training Center, Infantry, Fort Dix, New Jersey. Murphy Auditorium

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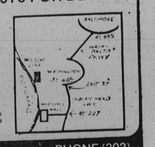

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Remember Nellie Lutcher?

Remember Nellie Lutcher in the photo herewith when she used to sing at the old Royal? Remember when she was a Capitol Recording Artist and was known as "The Female Nat Cole"?

Today, Nellie Lutcher, jazz singer and pianist is back in New York after a 25-year absence at Barney Joseph's Cookery through June 30.

She's singing such old time favorites as "Fine Brown Frame", "He's A Real Gone Guy", "Keeping Out-of Mischief Now".

Back in 1947, she featured unusual arrangements highlighted by a sparkling personality and an amusing contralto voice.

She's a native of Lake Charles, La. She started playing organ music in church at the age of eight and went on to appearances as a feature singer and pianist with orchestras and small combos in Southern California night clubs and nation wide tours.

Her first big hit was "Hurry On Down" and "The Lady's In Love With You".

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TEMPTATIONS at Civic Center Memorial Day.

More What's Happening

MOTOWN NONSENSE

Last Tuesday, in the mail, I received a small silver card from Motown Records.

Thursday, I got a silver card with a red "X" and the name Reuben Howell.

Today, I got a record, "I'll See You Through" by Reuben Howell.

The card with it said . . "Enter this contest immediately or maybe you'll die".

It went on to say . . "O.K. So maybe you won't die. But listen, what we're trying to con you into see, is listening to this here record by famed Motown recording artist, Reuben Howell who you've never heard of. You're gonna like him and jump up and down ....., and say that son . . . is so good he must look exactly like me. Which is your cue for entering "The Reuben Howell Look-Alike Contest". If you win, we'll hire a Rent-a Groupie to take you to your live appearance on a TV Show (for real). If you lose: tough. We'd really like you to enter. You see, you may actually be Reuben Howell's attractive twin brother who was sold to an average middle class couple unbeknown to anyone many years ago. If so, you'll win an additional prize. Your Mommy and Daddy will be stuffed and presented to you in a recording booth we've selected just for the occasion."

O.K.... I listened to Reuben Howell's "I'll See You Through". Everyone in our P.R. office agrees it will be a big hit. The flip side... "Help The People" . . . got a negative vote. Do I win Motown?

Optimist Club

Ralph Durant and Edward Widgeon are the catalysts behind a group of 22 young men attempting to start a chapter of the Optimists Club, International for Inner City-Urban Baltimore.

Chapter members will meet at the Carroll Park Recreation Center, Bayard and Herkimer Sts, June 17 at 5 p.m.

Optimists Clubs are organized throughout the suburbs but there are only four black groups in America. The sponsoring group will be the Loch Raven Optimists.

The Optimists Clubs are interested men in their communities who join together to promote wholesome activities for their youth.

This group of young men already have worked with youth in support, have encouraged them in their school work but individually cannot afford to reward them with uniforms, trips etc.

Therefore, by forming an Optimist Club they hope to initiate a program to take care of inner-city youths. They are asking like-minded young men to join them by calling Ralph Durant at 523-9004.

Charter members include:

Benjamin Williams, Robert Herndon, Samuel Johnson, Jesse Tramell, Johnson Davis, Harvey Robinson, George Johnson, Dave Seabrook, Charles Howe, Donald Schribner, Isaiah Rhineland, Richard Gale, Cordell Jefferson, Xavier Quarles, Howard Greer, Dural Suite, James Baskerville, Dave Pipkins, and Cornell Johnson.

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Tuesday, May 29

"The American Revolution," film at the main Pratt Library, Wheeler Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.

"Five on Treasure Island" (Part 8), film at the main Pratt Library, Children's Department, 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 30

"Curious George Rides a Bike" and "Peewee Had a Little Ape," films at the Pratt Library's Pimlico Branch, 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 31

"A Visit to Washington with Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson," film at the Pratt Library's Broadway Branch, 1:00 p.m.

Exhibit

"From Jean Buck's Sketchbooks: CHILDREN OF PRATT." Sketches of youngsters making use of the Pratt Library's Children's Room, by a well-known local artist. At the main Pratt Library, and second-floor cases, through June 30.

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