

Thursday's People



Jimmy Stewart and Bette Davis, sharing.

Old friends, new movie

Academy Award winners **Jimmy Stewart** and **Bette Davis** not only share a friendship that goes back many years and a place among the movie industry's immortals, but now the two 74-year-olds share top billing in a new made-for-pay movie for Home Box Office, "Right of Way." They appeared at a news conference Tuesday in Los Angeles to announce completion of the film. The story deals with an aging couple who resort to drastic measures when illness threatens to separate them.



Linda Ronstadt: Surprise.

New Linda

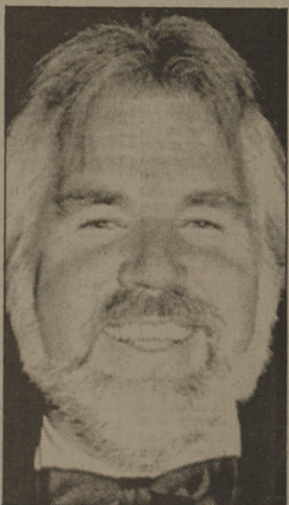
For those of you who venture to the Capital Centre tonight to hear singer **Linda Ronstadt**: You're in for a mild surprise. Ronstadt, the one-time queen of country-rock, is changing her tune. No longer is she shaking the boards with the likes of the Eagles: Her new direction is more likely to include **Nelson Riddle**. Yes, she's been bit by the jazz bug, and her new album, due out next spring, reportedly treats all the great standards — with Riddle's considerable assistance.

The New York Times observed that Ronstadt "has been working at turning herself into a singer of standards and jazz numbers...in public she is still singing rock and country songs (but) the lure of jazz singing has her in its grip."

Not everyone approves of the change. Ticket sales are down all over the country at her concerts, and in Denver her show was cancelled. Maybe some fans miss her hot pants and peasant blouses. We say her new style — jackets and dresses — "Swonderful."

Chapin's dream

When singer-songwriter **Harry Chapin** died in a fiery car crash on the Long Island Expressway last summer, his dream of ending world hunger did not die with him. Friend **Kenny Rogers** is keeping it alive. Rogers' gift of \$1 million will fund the Annual World Hunger Media Awards program for the next 10 years, starting Nov. 23. That's the night of the first awards ceremony, to be held at the United Nations and hosted by **Hugh Downs**, chairman of the U.S. Committee for UNICEF.



Kenny Rogers — for Harry.

"I was tremendously impressed with Harry's..."

Zulu seeks 'power sharing' in South Africa

INTERVIEW

Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi of South Africa on apartheid and resistance.

Chief Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi, chief of the Zulu tribe of South Africa, head of the largest black liberation movement in that country and a thorn in the side of the South African government for many years, recently was awarded the 1982 George Meany Human Rights Award by the AFL-CIO in Washington.

The award, shared posthumously by Dr. Neil Aggett, a white officer of a black workers union in South Africa who was found dead in a Johannesburg jail in February, is the second George Meany award to be presented by the AFL-CIO. The first went last year to Lech Walesa of Poland's Solidarity Union. When International Federation of Labor President Lane Kirkland introduced Buthelezi as the chief minister of Kwa Zulu, his tribal state, he called him "the single most potent force in resisting the onward rush of apartheid."

Buthelezi has led relentless opposition to apartheid in South Africa since the government imposed a system of "Bantustans," or homelands for his 5 million people, a system he has refused to accept. He has prepared an economic and political case for merger with the white-controlled region of Natal. In addition he is head of Inkhata Yenkululeko Yesize, a national cultural liberation movement of 350,000 which is putting up increasing resistance to the system of apartheid.

State Department reporter Peter Almond caught up with him here and prepared this edited interview:

Q: How do you feel about the International Monetary Fund's giving a huge loan (\$1.1 billion) to South Africa?

A: The needs of black people are really vast, the disparities and the backlogs are of horrendous proportions, and in terms of these — education, housing and whatever, you name it — the basic needs of having enough to eat and so on, basic needs of schooling, the numbers of desks and teachers that are needed in terms of the rate the population is growing.

The problems are so vast I couldn't possibly discourage it (IMF loan) and have them turn around and say, "Well, it's your leader, Buthelezi, that you should blame." But I wouldn't say they should be given loans to buy guns to keep us in oppression. If there is a way of safeguarding it I don't see why they shouldn't be given loans.

Q: Tell me about Inkhata. What is its role in South Africa?

A: Our main aim is to bring about change in South Africa through non-violent means. Our aim is to bring about the participation of black people in power sharing with white people.

We are struggling, we have been under this for a long time, we're determined to continue, to get people to use their worker power to force whites to negotiate with them. We want them to use their consumer power, which is rising all the time.

We have, through the Kwazulu Assembly, Inkhata has produced the Buthelezi commission which spells out a formula from which you can start, where it calls for KwaZulu and Natal as one region with all race groups — coloreds, Indians, whites and blacks — to participate in one government.

Q: Can you tell me some specific things your people have done in terms of consumer or economic power?

A: When I left South Africa to



Kimberly Haught Washington Times

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come here I started a boycott by blacks which is catching on throughout South Africa because the government raised the price of bread. They wouldn't subsidize it, and the price skyrocketed. I was addressing a meeting of the Inkhata Women's Brigade and suggested to them that they could easily remove the bread from the table by boycotting it. When I arrived in Soweto I addressed thousands of people at black alliance meetings, and the black alliance passed a resolution, so that when I left it was just beginning.

Q: It sounds very difficult. To remove bread from the table?

A: Ah, white bread. This is white bread. There is a difference. Brown bread is available. There are spinoffs to boycotting white bread because white bread is in any case not nourishing. Black people are malnourished, children suffer from malnutrition. Brown bread is cheaper, so they will be saving money and having good nutrition.

Q: It sounds like racism in itself. White bread is boycotted and brown bread is good?

A: (chuckle). If you say so. It's a new play on those words. People have already played on them.

Q: You reject the idea of violence to achieve your goals. Do you also reject the African National Congress, which has formed guerrilla units outside South Africa?

A: What do you mean by the African National Congress?

Q: The ANC that is banned.

A: No, you see I was a member of the African National Congress myself. It was a movement that was committed to peaceful strategy right through. There was not a single

national conference of the African National Congress that ever passed or endorsed any violent strategy. But then a few people established an external mission that has opted for violence which I perfectly understand even if I don't endorse it myself. People glibly call them the African National Congress, but they are not us.

Q: Did you not say at one point that you would be prepared to take up the gun, if you couldn't succeed with your mission through peaceful means?

A: That is a distortion of what I said. I've said that the options I'm pursuing are my people's options. If my people want me to decide to do that, then I will lead them through those dark waters, if that's what they want. There's a difference between this and what you said.

Q: OK. But are you not a dangerous person to the (Prime Minister Pieter Willem) Botha government?

A: Actually, when I left home, I can show you some of the clippings of threats which I had a few days ago. There is nothing I have gone through that all black people in South Africa have not gone through. I've had my passport taken away for nine years.

Q: Do you have a South African passport?

A: Yes.

Q: Not Zulu?

A: No, I rejected that... Transkei has its own passport and I think some people have actually traveled on it.

Q: What do you see in the next 10-20 years for South Africa, particularly for the blacks?

A: I'm very worried about the future. It seems to me that after Mr. Botha has had the mandate from the four provinces of South Africa,

then he's quite ready to impose his federal concept, with all the independent homelands around him. We don't accept it in KwaZulu. So if they pursue this I cannot predict what may happen. It narrows our options in such a way that it might make it a Hobson's choice situation in terms of violence. Now I'm not saying that I'm going to violence. I'm just being analytical in terms of the situation. And that is why I said that a few days ago the minister of law and order threatened me because I said this.

Q: What do you think the United States can do to help?

A: I think the United States is very creative. I believe the United States has started to move in the right direction in setting up the fund which the members of Congress, like Mr. Solarz, were responsible in setting up. That is a fund for the education of black people. But my only feeling is that the money should be used in South Africa itself. It would be easier than to bring students here. Because with \$20,000 you could do much more for black people than bring one student here.

I think this country is the most highly developed in the world for medical needs. We need projects for people to help themselves.

Q: Inkhata is closely allied with the trade union movement. How do you feel about increasing labor action and strikes as a political weapon?

A: Yes, that should be done. But at the moment there are such enormous problems that I think in a recession it would be unwise to indulge in that before they are even on their feet. I've always been cautious in that respect. One shouldn't do a good thing before its time has come.