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BREAK SUCCESS

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BLACK RADIO EXCLUSIVE

Volume XV No. 26 July 20, 1990 \$5.00 News

HER SITUATION IS CRITICAL

"MILIRA IS THE BEST YOUNG VOICE TO COME INTO POP MUSIC SINCE WHITNEY HOUSTON..."

Geofrey Himes WASHINGTON POST "MILIRA PROVES HERSELF EQUALLY ADOPT AT SINGING CONTEMPORARY R & B, POP, GOSPEL, AND QUIET STORM TUNES, BRINGING SCATTING BACK IN VOGUE" Bill Francis

"SHE'S A WINNER" Hurricane Dave KMJQ-HOUSTON

NOT ALL CRITICS CRITICIZE. WHETHER THROUGH HER **OVERWHELMING LIVE** PERFORMANCES AT BRE AND YBPC. OR HER **POWERFUL ALBUM VOCALS, MILIRA WINS** THE HEARTS OF RADIO. **CRITICS AND** CONSUMERS ALIKE. NOW THE NEXT HIT SINGLE FROM THE ALBUM "MILIRA", **GO OUTSIDE** IN THE BAIN MOTC-2029

MOTOWN

ONTENTS

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WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO?

MIDWEST REPORT



JULY 20, 1990 VOLUME XV, NUMBER 26

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We salute our pioneer, our publisher— Sidney Miller as does the NAACP.



HBLISHER'S

Ronda R. Robinson Attorney at Law

Dear Sidney:

It's with much pleasure that I commend you for presenting a fine conference.

In addition to your well-organized and cooperative staff, BRE Conference '90 provided a wealth of information and an invigorating array of activities.

Thanks for inviting me to participate. I am, indeed,

proud of my alma mater (smile).

Continued Success,

Ponda Jobenson

Ronda Robinson, Esq.

Azoff Entertainment Company Dear Sidney and Ruth: I'd like to congratulate the two of you on the best BRE Convention yet! I know how hard you both worked to create a conference atmosphere where networking, information and education all go hand in hand. I feel you truly achieved your goal. I know this conference will set the standard for all those to come, and therefore, your future is soooo Congratulations again! You've earned it! Sincerely, Cassandra Mills Head of Black Music Giant Records Jo-Ann Geffen & Associates

Dear Sidney, Susan and Ruth, Although I normally never take the time, I had to stop to tell you how terrific the Conference was this year. Not only was it the best organized Convention I've ever been to, but the seminars and festivities alike were enlightening and enjoyable, often simultaneously! I look forward to the next one. Continued success to all of you. Best personal regards,

Jo-Ann Geffen

FRONT PAGE NEWS

NAACP Outlines Struggle at '90 Confab

By Ruth A. Robinson

On the heels of a report circulated at the NAACP Annual Convention on the dismal state of black executives in film, nearly 500 conference attendees crowded into the Los Angeles Convention Center's Hall B to participate in a panel focusing on the obstacles associated with the financing, distributing and marketing of African-American-produced films and records.

The panel was part of the program of the 1990 NAACP Annual Conference which ran in Los Angeles July 8-12.

According to the report, prepared by the Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP and discussed at length on the panel, some studios in Hollywood "are worse off now than they were ten years ago." Chapter president Sandra Evers-Manly says, "Ten years ago, at least there were producers and production companies that were a viable part of the system."

"Many projects, especially those dealing with positive perspectives of African-



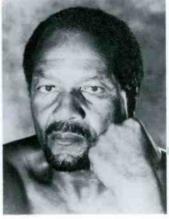
Marla Gibbs

American life, are generally passed over in favor of more mainstream fare," the report said.

Evers-Manley said a final report is expected later this year, along with a report card that will grade the performance of each studio in its hiring policies.

Currently, only Walt Disney Studios is reported to have "actively searched for more African-Americans" to serve in key studio roles.

Meanwhile, panelists at the spirited session included



Jim Brown

actor/producer Jim Brown who, emphasized the need to balance the emotional aspects of the subject matter with the need to "learn how the establishment does business."

Attorney LaGrand Clegg received a standing ovation for his presentation during which he maintained that "before you can talk about distribution, you've got to talk about the images" being portrayed by recent films. Clegg said many films' images are "suspect," citing in



Sidney Miller

particular The Color Purple.

Actress/producer Marla Gibbs said, "Filmmaking must be approached from the point of view of images," noting that she was there as a mother and concerned with the images that affect the family structure.

On a more pragmatic note, Fred Williamson responded to queries from the floor as to how to get a film distributed, how to have a film brought to a smaller market such as Cincinnati and if the *continued on page 8*

Stickering Hot Potato Emerges

By Coy L. Oakes

Some serious maneuvering is taking place as various players square off around the political hot potato—the issue of stickering. Louisiana has taken an ultra-conservative stance and rushed a labeling bill through its legislature, tossing the paper onto Gov. Buddy Roemer's desk this week for his action.

Roemer isn't all that ready to pick up the pen saying he favors warning labels on recordings that the industry has voluntary placed there. The governor also is pondering the constitutionality of the legislation.

About two months ago, a voluntary labeling system

had begun in an effort to halt the various bills pending in four states. All bills, except the one in Louisiana, were withdrawn pending study of the effect of that voluntary labeling. Labels have already begun to appear in stores nationwide under the voluntary stickering program.

Apparently, the guidelines used didn't satisfy backers of the Louisiana bill which would label all recordings with themes of rape, suicide, incest, illegal drug use, child abuse, murder and satanic worship.

Under the legislation, record companies would be required to label; retailers would be subject to misdemeanor charges for selling labeled product to a minor, under 17.

If the governor does sign the bill or if his veto is overridden by the legislature, the Recording Industry Assn. of America (RIAA) plans to sue the state of Louisiana.

A draft of the suit was circulated earlier this week to all the major record companies who would be named as co-plaintiffs in the action. The suit will be filed in the U.S. District Court in Louisiana.

Other players in this dance are the National Assn. of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS), which has made public its vow to halt any forward progress on New Orleans as a site for the proposed Grammy Hall of Fame and its opinion that the Crescent City would never host the Grammy Awards.

Roemer has 20 days to make his determination after it reaches his desk. If he vetoes the bill, it would carry over to the next session.

Meanwhile, the bill's sponsor, Ted Halik, has noted that the bill, if passed, will not go into effect until 1992 and should the industry harden its voluntary guide-lines, he would move for a repeal of the law.

Payola Problems Plague Industry

Payola continues to plague the music industry as various cases proceed in the courts.

Joe Isgro, the record promoter indicted for a host of charges, including mail fraud, tax evasion, conspiracy to distribute cocaine, violation of the RICO statute and defrauding record companies, has lost a legal skirmish, according to federal judge James Idelman.

Isgro's defense had based its case on government and other related papers which they said would allegedly prove that U.S. attorneys were directed to investigate Isgro to steer them away from pursuing a controversial investigation involving MCA. But the federal judge declared that those papers "contain nothing to show government misconduct in choosing to proceed against the defendants" and put them under seal, away from the eyes of the defense and the media. "There is nothing in there to assist the defense at all," Idelman said. "It just shows a lot of internal squabbling at the Justice Department."

İsgro was indicted along with former CBS Records promotion man Ray Anderson, currently an artist manager, and Jeffrey Monka, allegedly a former business associate of Isgro's. Meanwhile, independent record promoter Howard "Howie" Goodman was convicted on all five counts of felony and 10 counts of misdemeanor charges concerning commercial bribery offenses on July 2. Goodman could be sentenced to up to 31 years and fined no more than \$60,000 or both.

"I am not going to go into hiding on this because I haven't done anything wrong," Goodman said, citing the jurors' "lack of understanding of the music industry" as the cause for the verdict. He added that he was going to continue running his promotion company based in Memphis, TN, but did not comment on whether or not he would appeal.

This case was a result of an extensive three-year federal investigation in the Memphis area, which focused on Goodman when Kirk Klyatt, formerly pd of KDON, Salinas, CA, and WQID, Biloxi, MS, allegedly claimed that he had received money from Goodman in exchange for advance information on station adds reported to a trade magazine.

Goodman is expected to receive sentencing within the next month and a half. \Box

Writers, Pubs vs. Sony's DAT

Concerns among songwriters and music publishers over the recent selling of Sony's digital audio tape (DAT) recorders and blank tapes has resulted in a classaction suit that charges the company with infringement of copyright laws. The suit urges the courts to declare that unauthorized DAT taping violates the federal copyright statute and to prohibit Sony from selling anymore DAT recorders and blank tapes in the U.S.

The plaintiffs, songwriter Sammy Cahn, Jae Music Co. Inc., Fort Knox Music Inc., and Peer International Inc., filed the suit Monday, July 9, in U.S. District Court in New York and are receiving legal representation from Marvin Frankel and Michael Oberman, partners in the New York City law firm Kramer, Levin, Nessen, Kamin and Frankel. The plaintiffs will also receive legal counsel from the National Music Publishers' Assn., which had pledged previously to file a suit against Sony when the company began importing the DAT recorders and selling them to the public in late June.

The suit will take the position that "this equipment is truly designed and intended for the purpose of infringing on musical copyrights," Frankel said, while speaking to the media recently at the NMPA annual meeting in Los Angeles. He added that

itions."

A study by the Office of Assessment, released in February, stated that Americans tape more than one billion musical pieces a year. Industry people believe the DAT will considerably increase this amount.



Sony has focused its promotion on the machine's duplication capabilities and little else, indicating to the public that the main purpose of the machine is to reproduce copyrighted works, as opposed to the analog audio recorders and VCRs, which have a variety of uses that don't solely involve unauthorized copying.

The suit will also contend that DAT players, unlike earlier technologies, are capable of making virtually "perfect" duplications, "inaugurating a new era in unauthorized home taping of copyrighted musical composIt is anticipated that the Roper survey conducted for the Copyright Coalition, of which NMPA is a member, will be used in the case as well. The survey suggests that "almost every person who is interested in purchasing a DAT recorder and using its recording capability intends to tape prerecorded music."

Other manufacturers planning to introduce their brand of DAT machines will be dealt with in the same way, Frankel said.

The association will continue to encourage manufacturers to meet with NMPA to negotiate a royalty settlement of the dispute over DAT recording by the public, according to Edward Murphy, pres/ceo, NMPA.

The potential copyright harm done to the songs "Three Coins In The Fountain" (owned by Cahn), "What The World Needs Now Is Love" (Jac Music), "Fever" (Fort Knox Music) and "Walk Like An Egyptian" (Peer International) will be addressed by the lawsuit.

This suit comes at a time when industry people are seeking legislation which will limit DAT copying by preventing digital duplication. The music industry thought it had found a solution to the problem by agreeing to include a special copyingprotection circuit, known as the Serial Copy Management System, in each DAT machine. This circuit would still allow consumers to make direct digital copies of compact discs in unlimited quantities, but would prevent them from making copies of the DAT tapes. However, this type of legislation has been delayed by publishers and songwriters who felt the bill wasn't extensive enough to cover upcoming technological developments.

Exec Stats





Adams

Ganis

MICHELE ADAMS has been promoted to mgr, nat'l mktg, black music, Capitol Records. Previously serving as marketing coordinator for the company, she is now responsible for the coordination of radio promotions, marketing campaigns, artist promotional campaigns and advertising.

ANDREA GANIS has been named sr. vp, Atlantic Records, and will be based in the company's New York headquarters. Ganis has been with Atlantic for over 10 years and most recently held the position of vp, nat'l promo, for the company.

TOM CALLAHAN was appointed to the post of nat'l mgr, AC, Virgin, and will be based in the Los Angeles office. In this new position Callahan will be responsible for managing the AC and New AC formats. Previously, Callahan was mgr, nat'l promo,





Jacobson

Thuring

adult formats, IRS Records.

RON WILCOX was promoted to sr. vp, business affairs/admin, CBS Records. Wilcox will oversee talent and music properties negotiations on behalf of CBS Records and supervise all business matters with artists, producers and other contracted persons on the Columbia, Epic and Epic/Associated labels on a national basis.

WAYNE ISAAK has been appointed vp/exec dir, publicity/ oper, EC, A&M Records. Prior to his promotion, Isaak was vp/exec dir, publicity, for the label. In his new capacity he will oversee the operations of A&M's Manhattan office and will take





Callahan

Isaak

a strong role in the label's programming relationship with MTV, as well as continue to direct the company's publicity efforts.

BETH JACOBSON has been placed in the post of dir, press/ media relations, Elektra Entertainment. Jacobson joined Elektra as mgr, nat'l press/media relations in '89.

ROBERT SCOTT ADAMS was named mgr, promo/mktg, Mid-Atlantic, Elektra Entertainment. Adams comes to Elektra from KCEP radio in Las Vegas, where he was gm.

LEE THURING has been promoted to asst vp, mgmt info serv (M.I.S.), Atlantic Records and will be based at the New York headquarters. Thuring joined the company 20 years ago as a keypunch operator and most recently held the position of dir, M.I.S. \Box

Blacks Reduce Educational Gap

The dropout rate for black high school students decreased from 1978 to 1988 significantly closing the gap between their white counterparts.

The annual high school dropout rate for black students aged 14 to 24 declined from 10 percent in 1978 to 6 percent in 1988, while the rate for whites fell from 6 percent to 5 percent in 1988.

About 75 percent of blacks and 82 percent of whites aged 18 to 24 were high school graduates in 1988, compared to 68 percent for blacks and 83 percent for whites in 1978.

The dropout rate is the proportion of 10th-12th grade students who drop out in one year. \Box

NAACP

continued from page 6

opportunity for major distribution should occur, which studios could be trusted.

Williamson offered the name of indy distributor Jeff Ruff for organizing distribution into smaller markets and Pathe and 21st Century for distributors where he thought "you could get a better count."

BRE publisher Sidney Miller was queried about the status of Luther Campbell's black-owned, blackproduced label, Luke Records, and the current forces Campbell is battling. Miller noted that the proper images begin in the home and offered his concern for image-making within the family. Miller also defended Campbells' First Amendment right to make any type of records he chooses.

The session, chaired by Paul Brock, Tony Brown Prods., ran forty-five minutes past its allotted time.

BRE FLICKS



Landmark Performers at Chess

As the original Chess Records building was being declared a Chicago landmark, the men responsible for producing, writing, arranging and performing most of the early records were on hand to celebrate. Pictured are (I-r): Ralph Bass, Willie Dixon, Billy Davis, Reynard Minor, Gene Barge and Gerald Sims.

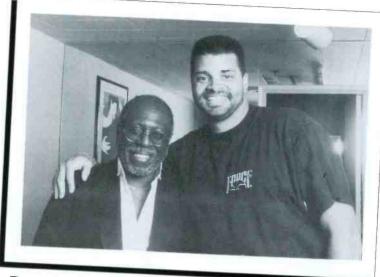


Randy Crawford Performs at Wiltern The popular singer was joined by Warner Bros. execs (I-r) Joe Grant, dir, nat'l mktg; Ray Harris, vp, promo, black music; Crawford; Oscar Fields, vp, sales, black music; and Leonard Richardson, dir, A&R



Atlantic Records Execs Rejoice

In celebration of the release of Rejoice, Bob Baldwin's debut LP, Atlantic Records execs hosted a reception and live performance at Candon's nightclub in New York. Pictured (I-r) are: Sylvia Rhone, sr. vp, Atlantic; Baldwin; Larry Maxwell, mgr; Merlin Bobb, vp, A&R, black music, Atlantic; and Ken Webb, air personality, KISS, New York.



People Get Ready for Sinbad Comedian/actor Sinbad, pictured with legend Curtis Mayfield (I), threw a party in Los Angeles to celebrate his recent signing to Wing/Polygram Records.



UDS Shines in Netherlands

Arista Records' Urban Dance Squad performs in the group's home country at the 21st Annual Pinkpop Festival. Pictured are (I-r): Silly Sil, Rudeboy Remington, lead singer, and DJ DNA.



A Friend Indeed

Marvin Winans gets an appreciative hug from fan Gladys Knight after a Winans performance in Southern California.



Finally Lisa Finds Barry

Arista recording artist Lisa Stansfield beams with admiration after having finally made the acquaintance of her musical muse Barry White during her sold-out engagement at the Ritz in New York.



Answered Questions Goes Worldwide EMI recording artist Morris Renti (he along with Marva King make up the duo Answered Questions) was joined by Warner/Chappell execs to celebrate his signing a worldwide co-publishing deal with them. Pictured (I-r) are: Rick Shoemaker, sr. vp. creative, Warner/Chappell; Peter Lopez, attorney; Renti, Les Bider, ceo, Warner/ Chappell; and Rachelle Fields, vp, creative, Warner/



High Fashion On Fifth Avenue Raphael Wiggins, of the Polygram Records trio Tony! Toni! Tone!, busted a high fashion move on Fifth Avenue in New York as he showed off his funky fresh attire.

376

	_					NGLES IART
			JULY 20	,	1	990
	LW	WOC	ARTIST TITLE LABEL	W LW	WOC	ARTIST TITLE LABE
	1	6	JOHNNY GILL, My, My, My, Motown	D 68	4	KWAME & A NEW BEGINNING, Ownlee Eue, Atlantic
	2	7	KEITH SWEAT, Make You Sweat, Elektra	2 67	3	MELBA MOORE, Do You Really Want My Love, Capitol
	8	9		3 29	9	STACYE & KIMIKO, Wait For Me, MCA
1	5	7	AFTER 7, Can't Stop, Virgin	4 84	3	DIGITAL UNDERGROUND, Doowutchyalike, Tommy Boy
1	7	10		5 61	3	LAKESIDE, Money, Solar/Epic
1	6	12		6 34	9	STEPHANIE MILLS, Real Love, MCA
1	12	6		7 20	13	M.C. HAMMER, U Can't Touch This, Capitol
1	10	7		8 63	5	THE CHIMES, Heaven, Columbia
+	11	10		9 77	3	Z'LOOKE, Girl Danz With Me, Orpheus/EMI
	14	5		0 65	3	TEDDY PENDERGRASS f/Lisa Fisher, Glad To Be Alive, Elek
+	13	8	SNAP, <i>The Power</i> , Arista	-	10	EARTH, WIND & FIRE, For The Love Of You, Columbia
	18	5		2 40	9	ALYSON WILLIAMS, Not On The Outside, OBR/Columbia
+	16					
+		6			4	JANICE DEMPSEY, Do You Really Want Love, Epic
+	15	11		4 42	13	SOMETHING SPECIAL, / Wonder Who She's Lovin', Epic
+	4	14		5 41	10	GAP BAND, We Can Make It Alright, Capitol
+	22	4		6 75	3	RUBY TURNER, It's A Crying Shame, Jive/RCA
4	49	3	M.C. HAMMER, <i>Have You Seen Her,</i> Capitol 6		4	U-KREW, Let Me Be Your Lover, Enigma
+	18	10		8 73	2	THE JAMAICA BOYS, Pick Up The Phone, Reprise/WB
+	25	8	ANGELA WINBUSH, Lay Your Troubles Down, PolyGram		3	THE WINANS, A Friend, Qwest/WB
1	37	3	JANET JACKSÓN, Come Back To Me, A&M	0 80	3	BODY, Touch Me Up, MCA
	23	9	JEFF REDD, Love High, MCA	0 ☆	\triangleright	LALAH HATHAWAY, Heaven Knows, Virgin
	28	8	BARBARA WEATHERS, Master Key, Warner Bros. 7	2 48	11	DIANNE REEVES, Come In, EMI
	24	5	KOOL SKOOL, My Girl, Capitol 7	3 50	13	JANE CHILD, Don't Wanna Fall In Love, Wamer Bros.
	26	5	GEOFF McBRIDE, Gotta Good Thing, Arista 7	4 44	7	NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK, Step By Step, Columbia
I	38	3	TONY! TONI! TONE!, Feels Good, Wing/Polydor	5 81	3	CALLOWAY, All The Way, Epic
1	17	11	TROOP, All I Do Is Think Of You, Atlantic	6 85	2	BOO-YAA T.R.I.B.E., Psyko Funk, 4th & Broadway/Island
1	31	5		0 ☆		THE 2 LIVE CREW, Banned In The U.S.A., Luke Records
t	32	9	ROBBIE MYCHALS, One Mile From Paradise, Alpha International	-	2	MAXI PRIEST, Close To You, Charisma
1	35	5	ERIC B. & RAKIM, Let The Rhythm Hit 'Em, MCA		\triangleright	THE AFROS, Feel It, JMJ/RAL/Columbia
1	36	5	TERRY STEELE, If I Told You Once, SBK 8		2	TEEN DREAM, Games, Malaco
t	3	10	LISA STANSFIELD, You Can't Deny It, Arista 8	-	3	DAVID PEASTON, Take Me Now, Geffen
ł	53	5	BASIC BLACK, She's Mine, Motown		\triangleright	HOWARD HEWETT, If I Could Only Have That Day Back, Elektr
t	45	5	WEST COAST RAP ALL-STARS, We're All In The Same Gang, WB		2	THREE TIMES DOPE, Weak At The Knees, Arista
t	46	5	CARL ANDERSON, How Deep Does It Go, GRP/MCA	-	\triangleright	PERFECT GENTLEMEN, One More Chance, Columbia
╉	43	5	ANSWERED QUESTIONS, What You Deserve, EMI			BLACK BOX, Everybody, Everybody, RCA
t	47	4	SEDUCTION, Could This Be Love, Vendetta/A&M			
+						BODY, Touch Me Up, MCA
+	55	2	WHISPERS, Innocent, Capitol 8	-	8	STARPOINT, Midnight Love, Elektra
$\frac{1}{1}$	56	3	NAJEE/VESTA, //II Be Good To You, EMI			WAS (NOT WAS), Papa Was A Rolling Stone, Chrysalis
ł	54	3	PUBLIC ENEMY, Brothers Gonna Work It Out, Oef Jam/Columbia 8		9	MADONNA, Vogue, Sire/WB
+	21	7	SOUL II SOUL, A Dream's A Dream, Virgin 9	0 66	16	TODAY, Why You Get Funky On Me, Motown
ļ	57	3	EN VOGUE, Lies, Atlantic 9	1 76	7	GLENN MEDEIROS, She Ain't Worth It, MCA
1	9	12	MICHEL'LE, Nicety, Atlantic 9	2 78	9	SIR MIX-A-LOT, My Hooptie, NastyMix
1	30	13	KLYMAXX, Good Love, MCA 9	3 72	4	LONNIE L. SMITH f/Phyllis Hyman, Obsession, Startrak/Ichib.
1	64	2	THE BOYS, Crazy, Motown 9	4 89	10	JERMAINE JACKSON, I'd Like To Get To Know You, Arista
	62	3	BARRY WHITE, When Will I See You Again, A&M 9	5 87	15	QUINCY JONES f/Tevin Campbell, Tomorrow, Qwest/WB
	27	8	POINTER SISTERS, Friends' Advice, Motown 9	6 92	13	MILIRA, Mercy, Mercy Me, Motown
I	59	4	POOR RIGHTEOUS TEACHERS, Rock Dis Funky Joint, Profile 9	7 94	16	JAMAICA BOYS, Shake It Up, Reprise
t	33	8	KOOL MOE DEE, God Made Me Funke, Jive/RCA 9	8 90	7_	D'LA VANCE, Itchin' In My Pants, Columbia
t	51	5	TASHAN, Save The Family, OBR/Columbia 9		8	SUPERIORS, Temptations, Columbia
+	52	5	ERIC GABLE, In A Sexy Mood, Orpheus 10	+	14	TONY! TONI! TONE!, The Blues, Wing/PG

KISSED BY SUCCESS **OSEPH** AND OLDS

he woman sat in the window, the chiseled features of her face turned to gaze upon the gardens spread like a colorful rainbow below her. Her thoughts were clear as she closed her eyes, letting the sun warm her. Just then, the scented breeze moved through the trees and lifted her long dark hair gently as it caressed her face.

Kiss Me With The Wind is the latest album from talented A&M recording artist/ writer Brenda Russell. The album's title cut was composed by her because of the above scene she experienced, and Russell explains that her best work always comes from seemingly common occurences, inspiring her to compose and create.

BY

was in the sill, thinking about nothing really, simply enjoying the fresh air when I felt the wind blow across my face. I remember thinking how it felt like I was being kissed. It was such an enchanting moment. Anyway, that's how I developed the song 'Kiss Me With the Wind.'"

A self-proclaimed romantic, Russell digs deep into her inner self to find reflections of life which bring about the melodies and lyrics she writes with much enthusiasm. "I become inspired in many ways," she comments. "I love history and traveling. I think you get a deeper appreciation of

life when you have a variety of perspectives to draw from."

Russell recently returned from a visit to the Soviet Union, Russia specifically. She was asked to participate as guest of honor at what turned out to be a talent competition for various entertainers from around the world. Soviet television invited her to attend the taping of the show, originally billed as an international pop concert. "I wasn't involved in the competition, but I was surprised along with everyone else as to the nature of the visit I made to Moscow. It's always an interesting visit when you go there because they don't always tell you the whole story behind why

they're inviting you to their country."

This wasn't the first time Russell had been invited to the USSR. Two years ago, she and 25 other American performers were invited to collaborate on a musical project which allowed her to take a train trip to Leningrad during the stay. "It was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the Russian scenery and participate in another wonderful international event," she smiles. The trip also ended up giving her the idea for another one of the songs on her album, "Night Train To Leningrad."

"While I was on that train trip, I was struck with the history of how many of the creative Russian minds in the '30s had to flee their own country because of the oppressive government that was in power under Stalin. This was one of the routes the people had to take when trying to leave," she says solemnly. "A lot of them didn't make it."

On a brighter note, Russell's career is in full bloom again with her latest LP. It follows on the heels of her Grammy-nominated album *Get Here*. That project shined with artistry in 1988 and produced the hit song "Piano In The Dark."

Russell credits her long-time friend and coproducer Andre Fischer for helping make her latest project so successful. "Andre is a fabulous

[•] **L** just love

when an album

project or song

comes together.

It's almost

-A&M RECORDING ARTIST BRENDA RUSSELL

magica

person and wonderful producer. He worked with me on my last album and the very first one I did with A&M. We have a unique working relationship which has spanned a decade. He brings out the best in my writing without losing the essence of what I'm trying to express."

"Stop Running Away" is the first single on *Kiss Me With The Wind* and is one of two tunes which were produced and cowritten with Narada Michael Walden. The other was the album's title cut. "It was such a pleasure working with Narada," relates Russell. "He's an amazing person filled with talent and creativity."

filled with talent and creativity." Talent and creativity have been a part of Russell's life ever since she was born. Both of her parents were involved in music. Her father was a member of the music group The Ink Spots, while her mother was a singer/songwriter. "Music has always been with me," says Russell. "I picked up guitar and piano while very young, but in the beginning I originally wanted to become a journalist. It was only later on that I decided that I wanted to make music my career."

Discussing why she creates the type of music she does, which is rich in R&B, sprinkled with jazzy themes and romantic overtures, Russell says it has to do with the music she was exposed to as a child and how she feels during the time she is composing. "I'm influenced heavily by whatever

IMPORTANT RECORDS

SINGLES

STEVIE V.—DIRTY CASH (MONEY TALKS)—MERCURY/POLYGRAM—A hot dance number for the clubs and radio, this single features hints of Latin, club and pop rhythms. Heavy drums and percussions make this groove sizzle. "Sold Out Mix" emphasizes the percussions even more and the intro begins with African-influenced beats. Demos: Young Adults, Clubbers, Teens.

U

RUBY TURNER—IT'S A CRYING SHAME—JIVE/RCA—Turner has continued to light up the airwaves since she first hit the States. This midtempo follow-up to her last release, "Paradise," has the usual powerful vocals by Turner and a jazzy, mellow feel. Demos: Young Adults, Adults.

PRECIOUS—LET'S GET IT STARTED—BIG BEAT—A hip house jam in the same style as Queen Latifah's "Come Into My House," this tune is already a big club groove in New York. The mixes and the bass keep your interest rising as late '70s classics are mixed with the '90s jack swing. The thump mix is the purest mix to jack to. Demos: Teens, Clubbers.

PERRI—SOMEONE LIKE YOU—MCA—A great mellow jam with a strong hint of The Jones Girls. A real take-it-easy sound that should be a monster for all those Quiet Stormers on those scorching summer nights. Perri has excellent vocals that should make these siblings' forthcoming album a smash. Demos: Adults, Quiet Stormers.



ADEVA—**ADEVA**—**CAPITOL**—One look at her album jacket, which displays a picture of the artist, and you can tell Adeva is not afraid of taking risks. That's exactly what she's done by remaking the all-time classic "R-E-S-P-E-C-T," written by Otis Redding and sung to a standstill by Aretha Franklin. Adeva dared to remake the song for the clubs. Redone with a house-oriented groove, it's definitely meant to move the feet. Other tracks on the album are also in the same house/club vein. Demos: Clubbers.

BLACK BOX—DREAMLAND—RCA—After taking Europe by storm, these Italian funksters bring their house and disco stateside. From "Everybody, Everybody" to the even more infectious "I Don't Know Anybody Else," this group shows it has class. The Earth, Wind & Fire classic "Fantasy" has been given the Black Box touch and could be the next hit on a scale with "Ride On Time"—the hit track that samples the great Loleatta Holloway. Great production by Groove Groove Melody. Demos: House Lovers, Young Adults.

OLETA ADAMS—**CIRCLE OF ONE**—**FONTANA**/**POLYGRAM**—Adams is a female vocalist sure to have a future if her strong vocals on this album are any indication of her capabilities. Blending jazz, gospel and blues, she offers a mostly Quiet Storm LP. In "You've Got To Give Me Room," she seems to be using a singing style that could be compared to Barbra Streisand. Remakes of Brenda Russell's "Get There" and George Benson's "Everything Must Change" showcase her vocal style, strength and versatility. Great LP. Demos: Young Adults, Adults, Jazz Lovers.

JANICE DEMPSEY—THIRSTY—EPIC—Although the first track, "Do You Really Want Love," was produced by Paul Laurence, it seems to jump to a Minneapolis beat something Cherrelle might have done. A few songs with upbeat grooves and catchy phrases include "Heartbreaker" and "Love Stupid." Dempsey adds her sometimes whispering yet rich voice to a quality-produced package. Demos: Young Adults, Adults.





* * * * * TOP **5** SINGLES * * * * *

	ARTIST TITLE		LABEL			
	JOHNNY GILL	MY, MY, MY	MOTOWN			
2	KEITH SWEAT	MAKE YOU SWEAT	ELEKTRA			
3	REGINA BELLE	THIS IS LOVE	COLUMBIA			
4	AFTER 7	CAN'T STOP	VIRGIN			
.55	MIKI HOWARD	UNTIL YOU COME BACK	ATLANTIC			

SINGLE OF THE WEEK BELL BIV DEVOE DO ME

MCA

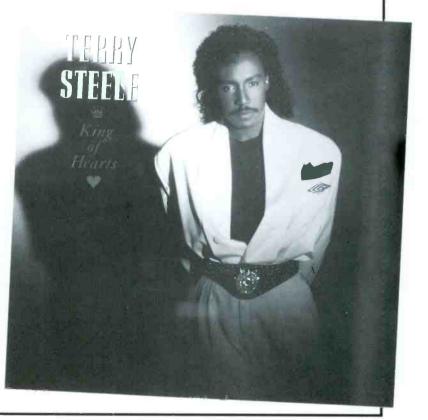
BBD's latest is b-b-badder than the first single if that's possible. BBD asks simply "Do Me," can you? Vocals are live as usual. Musically you'll be partyin' down all night to this jam. Hot summer video should propel sales. This remains a smashing success for three-fifths of New Edition. Demos: Party People.

DEVOE TATTEN TO MET

ALBUM OF THE WEEK TERRY STEELE KING OF HEARTS SBK

CD45 18382

Terry Steele has the talent to be one of black music's leading male vocalists for a few years to come and the ability to write stunning music for himself and others—this makes an unbeatable combination. Straight off the bat, "Prisoner of Love" is a beautiful cut backed by Steele's current single, "If I Told You Once." With the superb background vocals of James Ingram, Philip Bailey and Howard Hewett, this album has markings of a definite hit, stylishly produced by Ollie E. Brown. "Tonight's The Night" also deserves a mention. With Ingram and Hewett contributing vocal support, this surely will end up as a single from this classy album. Demos: All.



RAP, ROOTS & REGGAE

By LarriAnn Flores

Hey, they can't do the right thing no matter what it seems. People get crazy if **Luke** and the **2 Live Crew** show up, and people get crazy if Luke and company don't show up. Well, it's too live.

Also on the rap tip, ignorance, violence and obscenity are just a few words people will insist on associating with rap music despite the fact that there are so many positive rap artists out today such as **KRS-One**, **Young M.C.**, **Def Jef**, **Intelligent Hoodlum** and the **Poor Righteous Teachers**.

But to give people a better perspective and because of the violence that took place in Virginia Beach, VA, last Labor Day, the Urban League of Hampton Roads, Inc., and a group of outstanding college students have come together to form Positive Image Rap Movement. The organization will stage a series of events to precede the annual Laborfest in Virginia Beach where they expect 100,000 African-American students to visit the city.

The same group also plans to begin issuing rap awards, patterned along the same lines as the Grammys, scheduled for next year in Feb. On the same positive vein, KRS-One, Ziggy Marley, Run-D.M.C, Queen Latifah, M.C. Lyte, L.L. Cool J, Big Daddy Kane and others are busting a new curriculum: Human Education Against Lies. Look for a joint recording effort designed to give each artist space to talk about the issues that they need to rap about—from AIDS to the plight of the American Indians.

African groups continue to emerge onto the world consciousness and stages. There's more product out there, including some classic tracks from **Joseph Shabalala** and company, otherwise known as **Ladysmith Black Mambazo**. *Classic Tracks*, the title of the LP on Shanachie, takes a look at the group's 20year career. Also touring the U.S. is the group **Loketo**, which is a soukous band from Zaire.

There are rumors running around town that all the musicians who fled South Africa and now live in exile in the States are going to be permitted to go home for a massive concert. It would be a world-shaking event.

On the 'soon come mon' tip, it's about that time of year when the sun splashes Jamaica and the bass and



What did you get for signing your deal? When Compton's Most Wanted signed with Orpheus, they got a custom Corvette. R/R/R queries who will ride where between Chill MC, Charles Huggins, DJ Slip, Eight, Walter Lee and the Unknown DJ, all pictured here.

beat are heard for days on end. On the island next week at the **Bob Marley** Memorial Performing Arts Center will be **Burning Spear**, **Freddie McGregor**, **Marcia Griffiths**, **Shinehead**, **U-Roy**, **Shelly Thunder** and the **809 Band**, among others.

Also on the sunny side, that man from Nassau, **King Errisson** is releasing "Street Dance" from his *Global Music* LP. Errisson, aside from his percussion duties with Neil Diamond for the last dozen years, was most recently seen in the **Sammy Davis-Gregory Hines** film "Tap," in the drum/tap duel with Hines.

R/R/R REVIEWS

MASTER ACE

ME AND THE BIZ

A slow jamming rap cut, but Marley Marl puts it right in the groove. Master Ace raps over the headrocking biz. If you like the funky '70s and rap, this is your kind of groove. Demos: Rappers.

THE BIZZIE BOYZ

IF YOU DON'T WANT ME YO!

Tipped to be one of the hottest rap groups of the '90s, The Bizzie Boyz show well on this single and live up to their press clippings. "If You Don't Want Me" is an excellent debut single. The group also features a sixyear-old rapper in C.J. Smooth. That's starting young. A stylish cut that should keep the enthusiastic quotes coming. Demos: Rappers.

PHASE 'N RHYME

SWOLLEN POCKETS

Hard-hitting single with a message that is just as hard. Great horns and bass all through this self-produced cut. A real get-up-and-party sound that should guarantee the success of this record. Demos: Hardcore Rappers. *(continued on next page)*

HOT RAP

Priority

"U Can't Touch This" M.C. Hammer Capitol "The Power" Snap Arista "Let the Rhythm Hit 'Em" Eric B. & Rakim MCA "One Time Gaffled 'Em Up" Compton's Most Wanted Orpheus "AmeriKKKa's Most Wanted" Ice Cube

STETSASONIC

SPEAKING OF A GIRL NAMED SUZY TOMMY BOY



This tongue-in-cheek uptempo song about a female groupie makes it easy to dance and laugh to, or at least smile at. It begins with George Clinton's "Atomic Dog" and mixes various melodies and beats. Also, on the "B" side, "Anytime, Anyplace" is a hard-biting rap with references to Wrecks-N-Effect and others who think their new jack rap is happening. Demos: Rap Lovers.

PARTNERS IN KRYME UNDERCOVER SBK RECORDS



Partners In Kryme, first heard as part of Ninja Turtlemania, have come with a single from their own LP. This is pop rap, with fresh lyrics and a def beat so you can shake your body down. Written by James B. Alpern and Richard A. Usher Jr. Produced and mixed by Partners In Kryme. Demos: Rappers, Young Adults.

BLACK AND PROUD

INTELLIGENT HOODLUM A&M

It's an old saying, and this new rapper does it justice. He is intelligent in his discussions of serious issues—gangs, violence, drugs, street life and basically how to hold your head high—to make you proud to be black. Marley Marl's wonderful touch as producer is clear. Demos: All Rappers.

KING TEE

RUFF RHYME CAPITOL

An ace cut off the album *At Your Own Risk.* Great production by DJ Pooh. Should jam wherever it is thrown down. Strong lyrics that blend perfectly with DJ Pooh and E-Swift's mixing. Demos: Rappers, Young Adults.

SIDE F-X

THIS IS A JOURNEY NASTY MIX



Side F-X must be very pleased with this album. The way '70s funk is mixed with rap brings a delight to the listener's ear. The excellent "Rhyme Animal" could be the standout track on this album. The house orientated "Rock The House" has a real underground beat and could become a big club jam. "Stickup Kid" also deserves mention on this well-produced Rod "Rundi" Whitehead LP. Demos: Rappers, Clubbers.

WHODINI GREATEST HITS

RCA



For all you Whodini fans who have been missing the "whosome," here's

a batch of true "greatest remind you of their power. Fi first cut to the last, you wil this album. Production by Larry Smith, Sinister, Whodini, Roy Cormier, Full Force and Thomas Dolby. Demos: Rap Lovers.

ALPHA BLONDY

THE BEST OF ALPHA BLONDY SHANACHIE

Blondy's blend of African rhythms with the reggae sound has made him one of the top reggae stars in Europe and Africa. This LP demonstrates why. His voice rises sweetly and rides the melody over the pulsating, rasta rhythms. Fine backing by his band, the Solar System. Demos: Rastas.

ANNABOUBOULA

ANNABOUBOULA SHANACHIE



This is a futuristic-sounding LP with traditional Greek overtones. There are hints of blues and funk that jam together on a number of cuts, including "Let's Go To Jail." The group's name translates as an unholy racket. Demos: Adults.

LUCKY DUBE

PRISONER SHANACHIE

Lucky has risen to world-wide prominence as the most important requae artist to emerge from South Africa. Although his message, borrowed from his brothers across the ocean and infused with his own pain, was banned in his homeland, it made inroads in other lands. With the winds of change blowing, Dube's music is even more popular. The material on this album ranges from classic reggae to the dancehall-style beat. Each song is different from the last and combined make for a real treat. Demos: African, Reggae Lovers.

THE BRITISH INVASION By

By Dotun Adebayo

Sunset Radio's Shaft Finally Resigns

The future of radio in the U.K. was once again thrown into turmoil after the resignation of **Mike Shaft** as ceo of Manchester's Sunset Radio in the north of England.

Shaft's resignation came amid an outcry about the way the station has turned its back on its black listeners and commitments. A despondent Shaft said simply, "I'll work any notice they want me to, then I'll take it from there. I have no plans for the immediate future."

Shaft, who has been hailed as the pioneer of black radio in Britain, hit the headlines earlier this year when he was sacked by the station in a controversial move. Following Shaft's reinstatement, which occurred shortly thereafter, Manchester's black residents—who have campaigned for the need for a black station—felt it was vindication of their belief in Shaft and the work he was doing at Sunset.

However, despite Shaft's reinstatement, it was reported that he was largely ineffective after returning to his post. It has been rumored for some time that he has not been getting the full support of board members on policy issues. But Shaft, 37, is remaining tightlipped about his decision to quit the station.

Since Sunset was launched last October as the first of Britain's new black radio stations, it has been beset with management problems. Its policy has changed so much that Manchester residents are now saying that the station can no longer be considered black.

There are also problems at the Manchester-based BBC outlet Piccadilly Radio. Former West Indies cricket captain **Clive Lloyd** has resigned from his post as director of community affairs with the station.

Lloyd says that he hasn't received a job description in his two years at the station and feels that he was brought in to jack up popularity among black listeners. The station's only black dj, **The Scotsman**, was removed from his reggae show two weeks ago due to what management describes as "poor listener figures." In town recently were **Tony! Toni! Tone!, Bell Biv Devoe, Johnny Gill** and reggae legend **Bunny Wailer**. Touch This," **Bobby Brown** with his remix single "The Free Style Mega Mix," **En Vogue** with "Hold On,"



On The British Charts

Reggae singer **Maxi Priest's** "Close To You" is less roots reggae and more of a collaboration with Soul



Yazz

II Soul's **Jazzie B.** It has that distinctive "sound of the moment" and has proven to be his biggest hit, achieving more than his previous success—a cover of Cat Stevens" "Wild World." White female rapper **Betty Boo** is "Doin' The Do" at hot British club label Rhythm King. Steaming up the charts..."Treat Me Good" marks the return of peroxideblonde black soulstress **Yazz**. Since having a baby recently, Yazz has stayed quiet on the recording front. but she's back in fine style.

Americans trotting hot on the British charts include **M.C. Hammer** with his first British hit, "U Can't Tony! Toni' Tone!

Glenn Medeiros with Brown on "She Ain't Worth It," Boo-Yaa Tribe with "Psyko Funk," Anita Baker with "Talk To Me," BBD's "Poison" (a big hit favorite among disc jockeys on British black radio stations, but has as yet failed to repeat its American success) and Paula Abdul's "Opposites Attract."

* * * * * *

Chris Williams at the London office of Luther Campbell's Luke Records (here still called Skyywalker Records) says that this summer will mark the big push for the record company in the U.K. "So far we have only released two singles and an album (Professor Griff's Pawns In The Game album and single and 2 Live Crew's "Me So Horny"), but we are hoping to put out the 2 Live Crew's new album in the next few weeks, followed by a dozen other records by September."

Does the reason that As Clean As They Want Wanna Be will be the debut album from 2 Live Crew in the U.K.—rather than its more controversial predecessor As Nasty As They Wanna Be—have anything to do with problems with censorship on the British side? "Not at all," is Williams' reply. "So far the 2 Live Crew has only been available on import records from the States. That means that outside the hip hop/rap community they are pretty much unknown."

BRE

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO? By Spider Harris "Blinky" Motown West Coast Queen

When Motown Records first relocated to Hollywood, one of the priorities was to discover and develop West Coast talent. The first female signed on the coast was Brenda Holloway. However, there was another female sensation named Sondra Williams, better known as "Blinky." She was discovered in the mid '60s at the popular night spot on Crenshaw Blvd., Maverick's Flat. Several members of the original Temptations brought her to the attention of Hal Davis, head of Motown's artist relations department.

Blinky talked about her life before the Motown discovery. "I'm originally from Stockton, CA. The only other famous people I know from my hometown are **Dick Bass** (former running back for the L.A. Rams) and **Flip Wilson**." Another popular person in Stockton was her father, the first black president of the Board of Education. He was also a minister and in 1959 was called to minister a church in Los Angeles.

"I entered into the singing world only after my father died," Blinky related. "My mother was overwhelmed by the death and was deeply concerned by my career choice. But I kept everything in perspective and did well.

"Hal Davis had made arrangements for me to go to Detroit and record. I kept telling them 'okay' and not going. Plus I didn't want to leave the choir I was directing. I was still working at Maverick's Flat as well. On the Fourth of July, after three months of putting off the offer, I finally picked up the ticket that was still waiting at American Airlines.

"Forgetting it was a holiday, I arrived at Motown. Their office was closed. I went to the hotel where many of the artists stayed while recording and was later picked up by some of the producers. We went to a barbecue at **Eddie Kendricks**' house. **Berry Gordy** put me on a 'recording block out'—all I did was eat, sleep and record. I worked with every producer in the house."

How did she get the nickname "Blinky?" "I have blinked a lot since my school days. One day in my dressing room Hal Davis saw me putting on eye makeup and I kept blinking; so he started calling me 'Blinky.'"

Her first record on Motown, "I Wouldn't Change the Man He Is Now," was written and produced by Ashford and Simpson. That song charted with some positive regional impact. After her first release, Williams was approached by Shelly Berger, manager of Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight & The Pips and The Temptations. "He put me on The Temptations' tour and billed me as their discovery. I was their opening act for two years during the early '70s. Later I recorded an album with Edwin Starr, entitled Just We Two."

Williams was again approached by Berger while performing in France. This time she would be opening for none other than **Sammy Davis Jr**.

"I thought he was joking but it happened. I was working with The Temptations at night and preparing to go on the road with Sammy during the day, changing hairstyles and gowns.

"Sammy heard me in the studio and liked my voice. We were recording on the same night and my voice was being picked up in his earphones. I thought he was going to be very upset, but instead he wanted to know who my manager was. I stayed with Sammy Davis on the road for many years. He was a wonderful person and would often headline me equal to his billing. He was just great."

She also did the movie soundtrack for "Lady Sings the Blues." It was Williams' voice singing the blues classic by **Bessie Smith**, "T'aint Nobody's Business," for which she did get credit.

By the mid '80s Williams was tired of the traveling and wanted to spend time with her only daughter at the time, Dana. Williams moved to the Bay Area and opened a choir robe factory.

"I was the first black woman to own a manufacturing company in Oakland," Williams remembered. "I



had 28 employees. We made all types of robes for judges, choirs and priests. The company started growing very fast. I had saved my money from touring. Then I came back to Los Angeles and began selling real estate. Today I sell commercial properties and specialize in investment real estate.

Yes, I plan to enter the singing business again because I'm even better. I feel great. Producer Ivan Levine, who is recording many of the former Motown artists, and I have been doing some things together and I will be returning to London in August. Also, Edwin Starr and I talk often. He's doing well in London and I'm sure we'll team up again. But I really want to thank my beautiful 70-year-old mother who has always been there and inspired me to start the robe business-something I really wanted to do. But now it's time to get back to my first love.

Blinky feels that the maturity wasn't there the first time around, despite the fact that she did make a little money. "I started singing out of rebellion, but this time it'll be out of experience and I am ready."

ON STAGE

By LarriAnn Flores

Smokey Robinson—A Lovers' Night Out

Smokey Robinson was in top form in what was to be a night to remember at the Universal Amphitheatre last week. It was truly a wonderful evening for lovers, young and old. A good-looking, fit Smokey took the stage and proved that although, as he cheerfully admits, he cannot dance, he can still cut a rug and deliver an emotional, beautiful show. Hitting each note to perfection and with precision, the man lives up to his recent designation by NARAS as one of the Grammys' "Living Legends."

Over his long and distinguished career, Robinson has always had the ability to reach deep inside the listener and hit that responsive chord. His songs have always meant so much to so many.

Starting off the show, he sang "Being With You" to a house full of enthusiastic fans. Smokey sounded so-o-o good as he sang many of his hits, much to the crowd's pleasure.

Robinson dedicated his show to Sammy Davis Jr. and said that if Sammy hadn't opened the doors, he "wouldn't be able to stand on this stage and perform. He did so much for black entertainers and will be missed by all."

It's a long tradition that Smokey likes to take requests from the



audience and there were many, starting with "Bad Girl," "Mickey's Monkey" and "More Love"—a real crowd-pleaser; then he sang "Quiet Storm" and the crowd went wild with excitement.

In a show that was perfectly paced, Robinson went right into the next phase and performed some Miracles classics like "Second That Emotion" and "Ooh Baby, Baby," followed by his personal versions of Temptations songs that he wrote such as "It's Growin"," "My Girl," "The Way You Do The Things You Do" and "Since I Lost My Baby."

His band was wonderful under the direction of Sonny Burke, Smokey's musical director for several decades. Of course, sweet memories were provided by Robinson's musical compadre, Marv Tarplin on guitar. The L.A. String Section contributed strongly as did the sizzling saxophone of David li on the duet "Save The Best For Last." From his latest album he sang "Everything You Touch."

In a classy addition to his act, Robinson paid tribute to all the songwriters-himself no slouch in that arena-noting, "Without them there would be no songs to sing." He gave thanks to Jimmy & Tommy Dorsey, Ira & George Gershwin and others. Robinson sang "My Sweet Embraceable You," bringing some fans to tears as they witnessed his exceptional performance. A few more crowd-pleasers and the audience leapt to its feet for the alltime classic "Tracks of My Tears," and stayed there through "Cruisin" and "Just To See Her."

Super-ized, Super-packed, Superfest

The Budweiser Superfest was super-long, lasting more than six hours and super-jammed—the only available seats would have given the sitter dizzy spells. It was also superpacked with the super talent of Tony! Toni! Tone!, Regina Belle, After 7, Patti LaBelle, Bell Biv DeVoe, Maze featuring Frankie Beverly, Big Daddy Kane and The Gap Band.

Despite its running time, the event proved to be a good time for most, with a minimum of punches thrown—fights are typical for events this size, in this heat.

As the concert got started with the Tonies, they brought their album cover to life with some colorful outfits and dashed off short but sweet versions of their recent charters "The Blues" and "Feels Good."

Next on the mic was Regina Belle,

who looked hot in her tight, white dress. She sang her heart out as the men in the crowd went wild for her performances of "Good Lovin"," "What Goes Around"—a real crowd pleaser—and "Baby Come To Me." Her band, The Undisputed Truth, was very tight, hitting every lick to the letter. Belle's voice was soft and powerful as it rang out over the Rose Bowl.

Unfortunately, in a concert of this kind, nobody gets to do all their favorites for those in the crowd who came just for them. After 7's stay was brief but memorable although the young ladies in the audience couldn't get enough of them. They sang "Can't Stop" and "Ready or Not." Their dancing and singing were top-notch.

Next up was Lady Marmalade herself, Patti LaBelle. She came out

struttin' her stuff, looking great in a flowing black gown, and kicked off the set with "On My Own" (featuring Tommy Johnson, who sang Michael McDonald's part) and did a fine job at it. Suddenly, LaBelle took off her gown to reveal a wonderful, short see-through minidress with sequins to accentuate the positive. LaBelle was in top form as she gave her best in this performance. Showing what a pro she really is, it didn't seem to faze her that her mic went out during "Lady Marmalade"-she just kept on singing until she got another mic. She went on to sing "If You Don't Know Me By Now" on which her female saxophone player, Pam, did her thing viciously. Then for the show stopper she sang "You Are My Friend," which she dedicated to her sister who passed away one year ago-July 7-the same day of the

concert. LaBelle is known for her emotional peaks and this certainly was one of them.

BBD was next in another brief stay on stage, performing their hits "Poison" and "Do Me." The music was jammin' but the vocals were lost in the sound system—but it wasn't too great a disappointment to the BBD fans. They just partied their brains out anyway.

Maze featuring Frankie Beverly proved to be the highlight of the day. These veterans got a rousing standing ovation as they started with "We Are One" and the crowd agreed. They followed with "Can't Get Over You," "Joy & Pain" and the famous "Mandela." Frankie's voice is so incredible, it rang sweetly over the notes and into the hearts of the crowd. The crowd was on its feet for the entire performance, dancing and singing along with all the songs. His fans, young and old alike, will never stop loving him, as their roars of approval clearly demonstrated.

As Big Daddy Kane took the stage, he did favorites like "Lean On Me," "I Get The Job Done" and "It's A Big Daddy Thang." The big daddy did his thing well and the crowd ate it up.

By the time the Gap Band hit the stage, the crowd was drifting away,

lured homeward after a long day in the sun and the passing of time. They did their past hits and some of their new stuff as well. The fans who remained loved every minute of the hard-hitting offering of old Gap and new Gap.

All in all, it was a surprisingly wellorganized event, no doubt the reason for its continued success year after year. *–L. FLORES*



ROFILE Barbara Weathers

Barbara Weathers Moving To Another Star

hough her name isn't new, it may be unfamiliar. Her voice will immediately bring to mind

the sound found, until recently, in the heartfelt love ballads of R&B group Atlantic Starr.

For four years, the presence of Weathers' strong vocals on such ballads as "If Your Heart Isn't In It." "Silver Shadows," "Secret Lovers" and "Always" was heard by many. Now Weathers leaves the security of the group to make a name for herself and become a stronger presence in the music industry as a solo artist.

"I'll be out there on that tightrope alone," Weathers said. "But I think it will be fine. I've always wanted to sing, whether it was with a group or as a soloist. I just felt it was time now. It's time for me to grow into a new role."

Weathers won't be completely alone, though. With an amicable parting from the group, she has received the support and assistance from its members, most specifically Wayne Lewis, who brought her into the group. He produced three songs on her debut album and played on some others as well.

Weathers started singing in church in her hometown of Greensboro, NC. Interestingly, she began her pursuit at age 13 in a series of local pop bands, which performed at clubs, talent shows and dances.

Later, while looking to sign a record contract as a solo artist, Weathers relied on the professional assistance of Wayne Lewis, one of Atlantic Starr's founders and frontmen. But when the group lost its lead female vocalist (also



to a solo career) and Weathers had just been turned down by a record company, the two felt it was best for Weathers to take her place as one of the lead vocalists for the group. Weathers hasn't looked back since.

With the release of her debut solo effort on the Reprise label, Weathers uses her experience and the strength of her voice to make a compilation of memorable songs, some with catchy hooks. The first released single, "Master Key," produced by Surface's David "Pic" Conley, is a perfect example of an easy-to-singalong hook. Weathers, with the help of EWF's Maurice White, also does a good job of remaking The Supremes standard, "Where Did Our Love Go?"

"I went into the project wanting to do some kind of remake," Weathers said. "At first, I thought about doing 'Someone To Watch Over Me.' But it had been redone so many times, we started looking at different songs. Maurice suggested this song to me. When I heard it I liked it. I really liked the way he had redone it."

Besides working with Conley and White, Weathers worked with Chuckii Booker on one song as well Rex Salas (of Vanessa Williams/ Janet Jackson fame) and Lewis on a few other tracks.

"I love Babyface and L.A., and I had thought about working with them," she continued, "but the producers I worked with are the ones that I'm pleased with. I guess it was meant to be because it happened."

This debut album showcases Weathers' familiarity with love ballads and midtempo love songs.

"For some reason, people like the midtempo songs and ballads that I do best. But I can really do some funky songs, too. I love ballads and I think they may be my best. They come from the heart. It will depend on what works what people accept from me, as to whether I do more upbeat, funkier songs in the future."

No, her name is not familiar, but it will soon shine just as brightly as her voice has for the past four years.



NTRO...

She: On the Rise

here are few R&B acts who are able to break on to the competitive music scene today as

part of independent labels. She is an exception. This trio of young females is made up of Cheryl (Cairo) Hunter, 24; Shauna (Laynni) Smith, 24; and Kennethia (Kenne) York, 18. With their debut single from the Brooklyn, NY-based Warlock Records-a remake of the Barbara Lewis hit, 'Hello Stranger''-these ladies burst onto the charts with a Quiet Storm ballad that features bebopping vocals backed by the smooth sax of labelmate Kim Waters. Their entry into the enter-

continued on page 45



Something Special Living Up To The Name

pecial el/adj ily dis able fr in th catego

pecial /speshel/ adj. 1: Readily distinguishable from others in the same category. 2: Dif-

ferent from what is ordinary or usual. 3: Exceptional. —Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary.

Fulfilling the requirements of talent and experience and living up to a name like Something Special, which implies a group with exceptional qualities, didn't come easily for Bobby Foster, Martin Radden and Danny Thomas. But after eight years of forging a name for themselves, six of which were spent in Atlanta, the trio proved themselves to be worthy of such a name.

The blending of their voices brings powerful harmo-

376

nies to their material, especially the a cappella version of "U Can Get Me Anytime" on their Epic/CBS Associated debut album, which shows off their harmonies best. Perhaps that is why the group has received requests for a longer version of the 26-second a cappella track.

All childhood friends from Richmond, VA, the three formed their first group under the direction of Radden's older brother, Eddie, who taught the young boys the classic group harmony of The Drifters, Temptations and Miracles. However, it wasn't until 1982, after the group had split up for awhile and then reunited, that they became serious in their musical pursuits.

We realized we were on a continued on page 45



					FORMAT			
LABEL	ARTIST TITLE	RECORD			COMPACT DISC		CASSETTE SINGLE ALBUM	
			45	LP	SINGLE	ALSUM	SINGLE	ALBUN
MAJORS:	DOD WEIGHAN CINCE WEFNELL IS US OF ST	-					-	
ATLANTIC	BOB WEISMAN: SINGS WRENCH, In Her Dream		-					
CHRYSALIS	G LOVE E, Dance Baby	+-			•			
COLD CHILLIN'/WB	KOOL G RAP & D.J. POLO, Streets Of New York	+			•			
COLUMBIA	HARRY CONNICK JR., We Are In Love	-	-		I	•		
	NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK, Tonight	+		-		•		•
	SANTANA, Spirits Dancing In The	-		<u> </u>		-		
	HARRY CONNICK JR. TRIO, Lofty's Roach Souffle	+-	-					•
ELEKTRA	SHAZZY, I Don't Play In Vain	•			<u> </u>			
EMI	VARIOUS, EMI Rap Priority Advance	-		-	<u> </u>	-		•
	ANSWERED QUESTIONS, Happiness Is	-			I			•
EPIC	D'LAVANCE, D'LaVance	-		<u> </u>				•
MCA	KLYMAXX, Private Party	-		<u> </u>	•			
POLYGRAM	VARIOUS, It's A Beautiful Thing	4		1	L	•		
RCA	TYLER COLLINS, Second Chance	•			1			
WARNER BROS.	MONIE LOVE, Down To Earth	-						•
INDIES:		-						
4 PLAY 212-398-1900	HEADS ROLLE, Heads Rolle							•
ATCO	BAD COMPANY, Holy Water							٠
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CARDIAC	IMAGES, Tell The Truth				•			
	KICKING BACK WITH TAXMAN, Everything				•			
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CRUSH MUSIC	M.C. SMOOTH, Smooth & Legit					•		
ISLAND	AND WHY NOT?, Move Your Skin					•		
	AND WHY NOT?, The Face				•			
JIVE	D-NICE, Call Me D-Nice							•
MALACO 415-763-6015	WALTER HAWKINS, Love Alive IV			•				
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	VARIOUS, Spring 199D Sampler					•		
NEXT PLATEAU	POOR POCKET PRODS. F/ADAM ICE, Kick Your Legs	•				-		
REPRISE	MICHAEL FRANKS, The Art Of Love							
SAM	GARY'S GANG, Keep On Dancin' 1990				1	Contraction of the second	•	
SHANACHIE	LUCKY DUBE, Prisoner			•	1			
of white the second sec	ALPHA BLONDY, The Best Of Alpha Blondy		1	•	1			
SKYYLINE 305-573-0599	ANGEE GRIFFIN, The Bain (Remix)	•						
	EDWARD ANTHONY LUIS, Truly	•	1					1
SKYYWALKER 305-573-0599	POISON CLAN, The B***h That I Hate	•		1				
SLASH/REPRISE	FAITH NO MORE, The Beal Thing		1	•		•	1	
VIRGIN	BALKAN, Mysterious Voices Of	1	1	1				•
THIGHT	THE DAILWARY CHU DDEN Aleting Place	1			1	-	1	

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ON THE RADIO WITH JAMES ALEXANDER WJLB



James Alexander Captain Of WJLB



W

inner of BRE's Drummer Award for Radio Station of the Year, WJLB in Detroit

is captained by James Alexander, prog/oper mgr. Leading his team, Alexander originally began his radio career in Cincinnati, his hometown. "I got my first job in radio while I was still in high school. Tom 'TKO' Knox was at WCIN and took me under his wing. I was lucky because soon after, he got me the chance to do a shift. Because of his willingness to give someone a break, I ended up doing the station's afternoon show. From then on I was hooked."

Citing planning as one of his basic philosophies for running a good station, Alexander says positioning and understanding are key to the survival of a station. "I'm only the catalyst," he says modestly. "But it's my job to make everyone on my team understand what the station's basic goals are and then ensure that they are implemented."

Describing what goes into the formula of a winning station, Alexander becomes very specific. "You have to know what your demographics are, both in a basic sense and on a focused level. We position WJLB as an 18-44 station in a broad sense. Tightening that demo, we're after the 25-34 age group, with a slant towards the female gender.

'Following this line of thinking, we focus everything we do to those demos. Our promotions, music...everything we air is broadcast with this demo in mind. As an example, we recently conducted a promotion in which we offered a car as a giveaway. Now we could have given a Lincoln Continental Town Car, but through research we discovered that that particular car was not the kind of vehicle the listeners we're targeting drive. Don't get me wrong, that model Lincoln is a very fine automobile, but it just didn't 'fit.' What we decided on was a 1991 Firebird GTA. It was the perfect car for our target audience."

Continuing his station's prescription for success, Alexander explained that his management style was one of common sense, combined with practical knowledge of radio marketing. "I don't rule with an iron fist. I've never endorsed that. Instead, I try to choose the right people for my staff. When I need a morning man, I hire a morning mana person who is qualified to work that shift, both style-wise and from an experience standpoint. With regard to dis in general, I select people who have good personalities and have their own style of jocking. That means good, crisp delivery and communication without rambling.

"If air personalities are trying to convey information and have to repeat themselves over and over in order to make a point, then I don't think they're being efficient. It takes a the old school of radio, which means I favor djs having their say. But I don't believe a dj should 'freestyle' when on the air. Rather I try to find people who are personable. And being personable leads to personality. Everyone is different and I want them to express themselves on-air."

DIO

According to Alexander, WJLB has no direct competitors. "But we do have what I refer to as 'flanking competitors'—stations which try to penetrate our market by programming some of their music to be similar to ours in an attempt to lure listeners away." To combat that, Alexander practices a tried and true method of dealing with the would-be pirates.

"What we do is keep our own ship intact and sailing true. We work hard to keep the station the best it can be. We conduct plenty of research to know what it is our listeners enjoy hearing. We run the best promotions

and let our station's programming speak for itself..."

-JAMES ALEXANDER, PROG/OPER MGR. WJLB

special person to be a dj. Another thing I look for is a person who can function well internally as well as on the air. If a person is a good dj, but a disruption at the station, he's a liability."

When it comes to personality radio versus having a jock who only spins records, Alexander says, "I come from we know how; we air stories in the news which are most pertinent to our demos. From our djs to the administrative people who keep this place running efficiently, we all do the very best we can and let our programming speak for itself. So far that formula hasn't let us down."





By J. R. Reynolds

Downlink

What's Your Position on Obscenity?

With the current controversy surrounding the recording act 2 Live Crew, radio's involvement has been, in many cases, very supportive. This is not to say that most programmers support the *content* of Luther Campbell's lyrics. Rather, as advocators of free speech, several stations have taken strong stands for the protection of the label-owner's right to be as nasty as he wants to be.

In locations across the country where the group's album has been banned from sale, some local stations are giving the product away in protest. The position of many other stations, however, is not to play any of the music, regardless of whether or not the group has issued a "clean" version.



Stevens

hey should be using their talent in a positive way and not only to make a quick sale at the expense of our society's morality."

-RICK STEVENS, PD. WCKX, COLUMBUS, OH-

In Columbus, OH, Rick Stevens is pd for WCKX. Having been in the business for more than 21 years, Stevens takes the position that young children today are growing up too fast. He feels much of the lyrics used by many of the rappers (and other recording artists) offer little in the way of creativity, opting instead to "shock" their audiences into listening to their music.

"First of all, I want to say that I think Luther Campbell is not being treated fairly by being singled out for the type of music he creates. I think there are dozens of musicians out there who have lyrics just as bad or worse than Campbell's. Guns N' Roses comes to mind. That group has lyrics which are as inflammatory as anything Campbell uses but they have not been grilled like young Campbell has."

Stevens says he favors stickering and that he wouldn't mind one bit if groups with obscene lyrics were banned from selling their product. "One or two groups are not the only ones out there playing this type of offensive music. I feel they all should be prevented from selling that type of music for the benefit of the young, impressionable kids out there today. They should be using their talent in a positive way and not only to make a quick sale at the expense of our society's morality."

While Stevens' comments sounded harsh, he was just as pointed in his evaluation of how the media has used Campbell as a scapegoat for a much larger problem.

Chris Clay is music director and an air personality at KQXL in Baton Rouge, LA. Clay has a different opinion of the 2 Live Crew situation.

"While the group does indeed have obscene versions of its music for adults, their record company has also provided clean versions for radio and minors. I think Campbell has been somewhat responsible with the marketing of his music and has provided these two versions which cater to different audiences. At our station for example, we play 2 Live Crew's "Me So Horny." We play the clean version and the audience has given us a positive response."

Clay agrees with Stevens and thinks Campbell has been given a raw deal in terms of being caught in the storm surrounding the obscenity controversy. "It seemed like everything was fine with 2 Live Crew as long as they remained small. Their last album was out almost half a year and had gone platinum before the special interest groups targeted Campbell. It was as Campbell has developed a gimmick which has allowed him to be very profitable in the music business."

-CHRIS CLAY, MD/AP, KQLX, BATON ROUGE, LA



Clay

if to say, 'it's okay to make obsceme music as long as you don't get too good at it.' Once those people found out Campbell had become a very rich man, they came out of the woodwork to try and knock him down."

While Clay also agrees with Stevens that minors should not be allowed to buy the obscene versions of Campbell's product, he disagrees that the music should be banned completely. "I think Campbell may be personally relating to situations in his life or certain communities which can be best communicated in his own manner. I also think that on the business side, he has developed a gimmick which has allowed him to be very profitable in the music business.

"Every man has the right to earn a living and Campbell is doing a fine job of it. That's not to say you can do whatever you want in life, legal or illegal. But I think he's playing within the rules, especially since he has both clean and dirty music available for sale to the different buyers."

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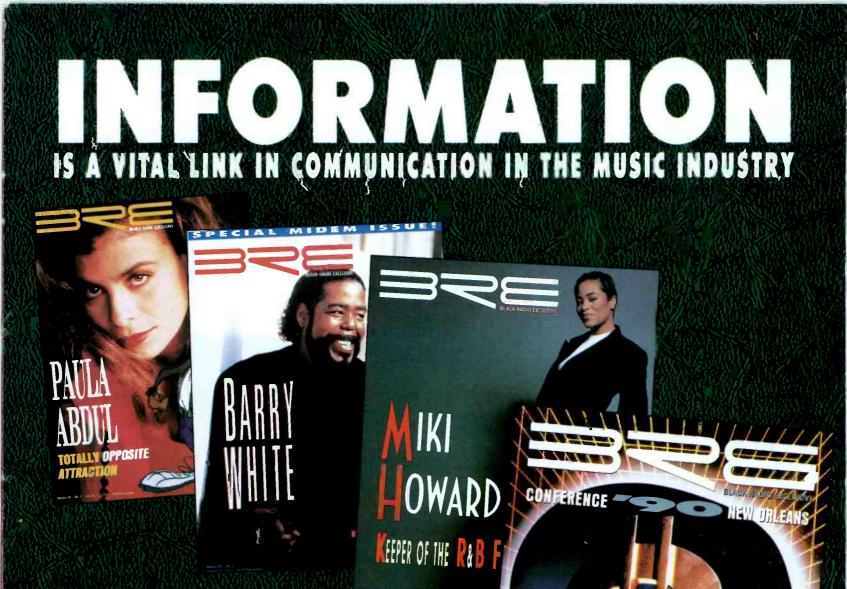
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Will Downing, Wishing

Bobbie Mychals, One

Jamaica Boys, Pick

M.C. Hammer, Have

T. Pendergrass, Glad

Was Not Was, Papa

2 Live Crew, Banned

Black Flames, Watching

Boo-Yaa Tribe, Psyko

Dig Underground, Do

Frighty/Colonel, Life

T. Pendergrass, Glad

Angela Winbush, Lay

Beat System, Walk

Dupont, Hurricane

Ezee Posse, Love

M. Cooper, Over

Navohe, Llove

Winans, Friend

Judy Torres, Missing

Najee/Vesta, I'll Be

Oleta Adams, Rhythm

BBD Do Me

Black Box, Every

Maxi Priest, Close

Seduction, Could

Kwame, Ownlee

Master Ace, Me

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PD: Sam Weaver

Greensboro

NC 27405

919-275-1657

PD: Cy Young

MD: Dr. John

Raleigh

NC 27615

919-848-9736

PD: Angela Smith

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8601 Six Forks Rd.

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WZFX-FM

Black Box, Every Body, Touch Chi-Lites. There's Dia Underground, Do Lalah Hathaway, Heaven Maxi Priest, Close Rude Boys, Come The Boys, Crazy Winans, Friend Z-Looke Girl

PD: Tony Lype MD: Tony Lype 225 Green St Suite 700 Favetteville NE 28302 919-486-4991

NEW JERSEY

WUSS-AM Howard Hewett, If I

PD: Maurice Singleton MD: Maurice Singleton P. D. Box 7539 Atlantic City NJ 08404 609-345-7134

NEW MEXICO

KKSS-FM

2 Live Crew, Banned After 7, Can't Indecent Obsess, Tell Kid Frost La Troop, Spread

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KCEP-FM 2 Live Crew, Banned

Calloway, All

Jamaica Boys, Pick

Perfect Gent. One

Perri Someone

Lenny Williams, Gotta

MD: Louis Conner Jr 330 W. Washington Las Vegas NV 89106 702-648-4218 Poor R Teachers, Rock

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WACR-FM PD: Stan McIntosh

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WALT-AM

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The Boys, Crazy Times 2, Set

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WOKN-FM

PD: Reggie Swinson MD: Jenv Moore Howard Hewett, If I P.O. Box 804 M.C. Hammer, Have Goldsborg NC 27530 919-734-4213

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Diatra Hicks Heart Grea Willis, Give Maze, Songs Milli Vanilli, Hush R. Crawford, Cigarettes

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PD: Michael Ector

WVKO-AM

Carl Anderson, How Najee/Vesta, I'll Be Robbie Mychals, One Terry Steele, If i Tony!Toni!Tone! Feels PD: K C Jones MD: E. Taylor 4401 Carriage Hill Lane Columbus DH 43220 614-451-2191

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Carl Anderson, How En Voque, Lies Public Enemy, Brothers The Boys, Crazy Whispers, Innocent

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Nancy Wilson, Don't

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WHYZ-AM

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Barry White When

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WLBG-AM

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Calloway, All Five Star, Treat Lisa Stansfield, You Midnight Star, Love

КСОН-АМ

Body, Touch Chi-Lites, There's Gladys Knight, Strong M.C. Hammer, Have MXM, Nothing Omara, Smokin PartnersNKryme, Under Salt-N-Pepa, Indep'ndt

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KHRN-FM

Dia Underground, Do PD: A .| Whiteside Elaine Stepter, Sweetness MD: A. J. Whiteside Lakeside, Money P.O. Box 1075 Milira, Go Hwy 6 South Najee/Vesta, I'll Be Heame Terry Steele, If I TX 77859 The Boys, Crazy 409-279-9211

KHYS-FM

Afros, Feel

Afros, Feel

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KIIZ-AM

3X Dope, Weak PD: Dwayne McCalvne MD: Frankie Jave Body, Touch 5902 East Business Clarke/Duke, Lady Hwy 190 Ice Cube, Amerikka Killeer Lalah Hathaway, Heaven TX 76540 PartnersNKryme, Under 817-699-5000 The Boys, Crazy West Coast Rap, We're Whiz Kid, Let's

KJMZ-FM

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Afras, Feel

Cameo, I Want

Whiz Kid, Let's

B. Weathers, Master PD: Cedock Easter 1154 Angelina St. Babyface, My Kinda Suite B Soul II Soul, Dream Austin TX 78756 513-472-7102

KMJO-FM

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Anita Baker Talk Babyface, My Kinda Johnny Gill, My New Kids, Step The Time, Jerk

VIRGINIA

WANT-AM

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WHOV-FM

Adeva, i Don't Anita Baker, Perfect Barry White, When En Vogue, Lies M.C. Hammer, Have Michael Franks, Art Milira, Go Stanley Jordan, Lady T. Pendergrass, Glad Whispers, Innocent

WILA-AM

En Vonue, Lies Mary Davis, Have Paul Jackson Jr, My Terry Tate, In Less Whispers, Innocent Z-Looke Girl

WJJS-AM

Calloway, All En Vogue, Lies Jamaica Boys, Pick Naiee/Vesta, 1'll Be T. Pendergrass, Glad The Boys, Crazy

WMYK-FM

Body, Touch En Vogue, Lies Melba Moore, Do You Seduction, Could The Time, Jerk Will Downing, Sometimes

WPAK-AM

Barry White, When Basic Black, She's Bootsy's, Jungle En Vogue, Lies Janice Dempsey, Do You Lakeside, Money Najee/Vesta, I'll Be

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VA 24572 804-847-1269

PD: Reginald Foster

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804-392-8114

PD: Kevin Brown MD: Frank Mille 168 Business Pk Dr. #100

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PD. Billy Young MD: Billy Young 4222 W Capitol Drive Suite 1290 Milwaukee WI 53216

WNOV-AM

Answered Quest., What Geoff McBride, Gotta M Cooper Over Perfect Gent., One Tres, I Can't Whispers, Innocent

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KKFX-FM

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- PD: Deacon Baker MD: Deacon Baker 2815 2nd Ave Seattle WA 98121 206-728-1250

KRIZ-AM

En Vogue, Lies Howard Hewett, If I M.C. Hammer, Have

PD: Bailey Coleman MD: 8ailey Coleman PD Box 22462 Seattle WA 98122 206-329-7880

WISCONSIN

Public Enemy, Brothers T. Pendergrass, Glad The Boys, Crazy

Whispers, Innocent

WMVP-ДМ

Z-Looke, Girl BBD, Do Me

Virgina Beach VA 23462 804-671-9400

MD: Preston Brown 1101 Front St.

PD: Max Myrick MD: Angel Morris Lalah Hathaway, Heaven 3267 Crader Boad Petershuro VA 23805 804-748-4199

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WVJZ-FM

WPLZ_FM

Isley Bros Come

Kipper Janes, Shack

Maxi Priest, Close

Ruby Turner, Crvin The Chimes, Heaven

Nayobe, I Love

Melba Moore, Do You

Tany!Tani!Tone!, Feels

PD: Al Gaige MD: Dean The Dream 271 Spcier's Mill Rd Orange VA 22960 703-672-1000

WVST-FM

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JAZZ NOTES

The Flecktones In New York



Warner Bros. recording act Bela Fleck and The Flecktones recently performed at New York's Bottom Line where they were visited by saxman Michael Brecker. Pictured are (I-r) Bela Fleck, Roy "Future Man" Wooten, Michael Brecker, Howard Levy and Victor Wooden.

Father And Son



Surprise performers at Columbia Records' "Month of Mondays" at the Blue Note Jazz Club in New York were Wynton and father Ellis Marsalis. Shown here are (I-r) Dr. George Butler, vp, progressive/jazz, Columbia; Ellis Marsalis; Wynton Marsalis; Don Lenner, pres, Columbia; Joey DeFrancesco; and Tommy Mottola, pres, CBS Records.

Rare Collaboration



Art Blakey, Dr. John and David "Fathead" Newman join forces to produce *Bluesiana Triangle*, a Windham Hill Jazz project. Pictured are (front row, l-r) Newman; Blakey; Sam Sutherland, vp, Windham Hill; (back row, l-r) Joe Ferry, producer; B.B., op dir for Dr. John; Dr. John; Joe Bonadio and Essiet Okon Essiet.





BRENDA RUSSELL continued from page 13

is going on around me. When I feel in touch with something, then I can write about it. And growing up in a household abounding with music also helped guide my music style in the direction it has developed "

Russell says she really enjoys the recognition she gets from being a top recording artist. "It helps me to remain motivated when I get letters from fans and friends who compliment me on the work I do. It aives me the incentive I need to reach even higher, exploring the boundaries of myself and stretching further. I just love when a project or a song comes together. It's almost magical.

Another magical aspect about Russell's life is her 13-year-old daughter. "She's wonderful. Hove having her in my life. She's a real trooper when it comes to my career. I try to take her with me whenever I travel. I think she gets a real kick out of the whole show business scene when she's with me on the road."

Because there is a business side to singing and writing, many recording artists find they must wear more than one hat in their profession. "That's the down side to what I do,' she confesses. "Handling the business part, I find, can sometimes rob you of your creative time or energy. But on the other hand, if you don't stay involved with it you can find yourself robbed blind

Sizing up the music world from the creative

side, Russell feels encouraged by the young performers entering the business. "One thing I wish, though, is for the really creative artists to get a chance to show their talents to the general public. There are a lot of people out there who aren't getting a chance to use their creative sides and are forced to do the 'formula' stuff which guarantees a successful song. I'd like to see some of the young up-and-coming artists do what



they want to do for a change, instead of what they think will keep them on a label."

Due to the incredible potential this album has and her past reputation to support it, Brenda Russell is set to charge the hill of prosperity and is certainly destined to be kissed by the winds of success when she again reaches the top of her field with this project. \Box

SOMETHING SPECIAL continued from page 25

mission," said Foster, "and that mission was not completed. We called ourselves Something Special because we wanted to give something special to the world."

The name actually came about after a conversation between the three and one member's relative, who jokingly told them that they "were not anything special." Believing to the contrary, that they did have something special to give the people, they adopted their current name.

Two years after the reunion, they moved to Atlanta. According to Foster, Atlanta hadn't achieved its current status in the industry as a "hotbed" for black music, but "we saw it coming." He said that moving to Los Angeles or New York was decided against because those cities already had enough artists trying to make it. "It's like a fight, so to speak," Foster explained. "Before you're ready to fight the number one champion, you have to fight contenders. We saw Atlanta as a contender, a place where we could find the weaknesses. We wanted to



hit in a different place to really make an impact. And I think that's what we did. I think we did the right thing in moving to Atlanta."

It took the group six years, but living in a station wagon and touring on the "chitlin" circuit" paid off. Discovered by the writing team of Pjaye Scott and Douglas Knyght, the trio was soon signed to Epic/Associated Records in 1989

It's clear that Something Special is not your average group. They are definitely different from the ordinary and the usual. Their album shows that they can do much more than just deliver the goods.

positive input into our

"We want young people to understand that they can do anything they want as long as they believe in themselves," Cairo added. "I mean, as long as we're focused, we as a people can lean on each other, rather than depend on others for our success."

In thoughtful reflection, Kenne went on, "She is presenting a positive image. There are so many children

productions.

-BY RACHEL WILLIAMS

SHE continued from page 25



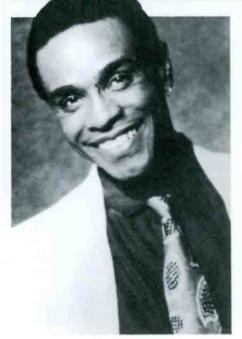
tainment industry was a long time coming, but nonetheless inevitable. Each of them, prior to coming together, was pursuing other interests. Cairo studied theatre and music at New York University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree; Laynni had a 9-5 job and did a little modeling on the side; and Kenne, who was still in high school, was 'improving on the singing career she had started at age 12. It was during a holiday party that the three began to harmonize. Although they were only playing around, their producer (who is also Kenne's father) was impressed with the combination and decided that these were voices he wanted on wax. Now out of the studio, the trio prepares to release its album, *Hello Stranger*, which is a compilation of club music, R&B and a few oldies. Although their journey to a top 40 hit has been a long one, She realizes that there is still a long road ahead. With tangible goals in mind, the three prepare to make quite an impact. "Because our best interests are always looked out for at York Productions," commented Laynni, "we want to make sure that we offer the same for our own people. We have quite a bit of leeway, so we are able to provide some very looking for direction and guidance. We want to show them the power we all can

have if we unite and work together for common goals." It seems that the group uniformly agrees that their positive outlook will help boost them even further in their music endeavors. Their LP, expected to be released at the end of July, should prove to be an unforgettable experience.

She's next release, with the strong backing exhibited by black radio for ''Hello Stranger," should bring the talented vocalists a step closer to where they want to be—on top.

BY LYNETTE JONES

GRAPEVINE



Carl Anderson

DEEP DUDE—Grape hears entertainer **Carl Anderson** will be spreading his love songs on TV's "Santa Barbara." It seems his popular single "How Deep Does It Go" (#46 with a bullet on last week's BRE singles chart) will be the theme song for soap opera characters Amado and Laken, who are romantically linked on the show. This is not the first time Anderson's talents have been used on a soap. In 1986 he recorded "Friends and Lovers" with **Gloria Loring** for the soap "Days Of Our Lives."

MARLEY ON FILM—The life of reggae legend **Bob Marley** may soon be preserved on film in the form of a theatrical feature. The undertaking is the front-runner project by Allied West Entertainment, a film production and music publishing company. The organization was formed by producer Tim Van Rellim and Tim Hollier, former joint ceo of Filmtrax.

GET THIS—**Rev. Allan Boesak,** an anti-apartheid leader in South Africa, resigned his position in the church following press allegations that he was having an affair with an Elna Botha, white star and producer of the country's popular news and entertainment show "Good Morning South Africa." Grape is also sad to report that Botha's husband, TV news anchorman Colin Fluxman, had to be taken off the air after breaking down as he read the news report about his wife and Boesak during the morning show. WHO'S COUNTING—Lawyers for Paramount Pictures and columnist Art Buchwald have begun the second phase of their trial over who is entitled to profits from **Eddie Murphy's** "Coming To America." At the rate this business is going, none of the original principals involved in the case will be around for the final verdict.

BOUNCING BABY—Congrats to Bianca Ferguson Taylor & **Meshach Taylor** ("Designing Women"), who brought a beautiful son, Tariq Anwar, into the world.

KNEE REPLACEMENT—Well wishes go to entertainer **Pearl Bailey**, who underwent surgery to replace her left knee. The 72-year-old suffers from degenerative arthritis.

L.A. MAYOR GIVES CITY SOUL— Los Angeles mayor **Tom Bradley** has proclaimed July 20, 1990, **Soul II Soul** Day. The proclamation comes on the heels of **Jazzie B**'s visit to the City of Angels for a concert at the Universal Amphitheatre. Along with the declaration comes several promotions, one which includes an all-expense-paid mini-vacation to New York City and a Virgin Records "gift pack," in which lucky winners receive cassettes of recording artists **Lalah Hathaway, Kipper Jones,** and the "Get A Life" Brit, Jazzie B.

A NEW DAWN—It seems actress **Rae Dawn Chong** couldn't work it out with her "Soul Man" husband of about one year, C. Thomas Howell, so they're calling it quits. Bad news for hubby, but good news for all those available Hollywood bachelors.

GRAPE LOOKS BACK AT THE PAGES OF BRE: Ten years ago this week, Larry Depte, pres, Philadelphia International Records, announced the revitalization of The Sound of Philadelphia (TSOP). The top three jazz albums were Catching The Sky, Spyro Gyra; Wizard Island, Jeff Lorber Fusion; and Brazilian Love Affair, George Duke. Stanley Clarke made an appearance on Dick Clark's "American Bandstand." The annual Commercial of the Year Award-Metro Radio was presented to WANT radio (Richmond, VA) by the Virginia Association of Broadcasters at its awards banquet. REMEMBER, TIME PASSES PEOPLE CHANGE, BUT WE ARE YOUR MAGAZINE OF RECORD AND YOU WILL READ IT HERE FIRST.



ARIES (March 20-April 19)

Your Mars ruler will rekindle your interest in the film or music projects you've put aside for years. Step cautiously and be ye not deceived.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Grasp at *sound* business possibilities, as you may not see anymore for a number of years. Enjoy poetry and art, in them lies information and self-discovery.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

When making deals, come up with reasonable offers. Your financial gains may not always be the bottom line. Friends figure heavily into making a wise decision.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Relax this week. Don't let others' problems and inconsiderations put you in a blue mood. Restraint will bring you blessings further down the road.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Not much of anything will be happening for you this week. Attempts to push creativity will leave you frustrated. Allow the next few days to be mundane and begin anew next week.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Domestic matters once again come to the forefront. As you debate your worth in relationships, others bring positive news concerning career goals or family.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You may need a little bit of motivation to get you through the final part of the week. Although good times abound, fatigue will get the best of you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Dreams of planets come to surface as you find a new fascination in the complexity of the universe. A focus on Saturn will cause more mysteries to surface.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Your contacts will serve you well this week. Though luck has been down recently, look for a Pisces to play a significant role.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

It is not apparent, but one with whom you have daily contact loves and appreciates you for the person you are. Don't fall into traps of deception. Express emotions to others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 18)

Don't hesitate to act quickly on an artistic idea. As the tides change, encourage your desire to teach and philosophize. Be prepared to listen and learn as well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 19)

As challenges present themselves, weigh the consequences heavily. Suffering builds character and you may need a little discipline to carry you through upcoming obstacles.

ThE AFrOs are:

KOOL TEe HURriCaNE DJ KiPpyO

produced by JAm MaSteR Jay... 1990...it's an Afro Invasion!

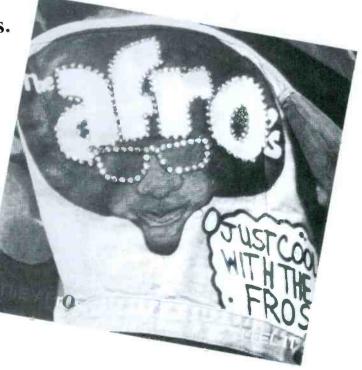
"Feel It" run up the charts.

Stay tuned to learn how

you can cool it in the Caribbean

on the Afro tip.





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MICHAEL COOPER

The New Single And The New 12"Maxi-Single

side one "Over And Over" (Quick Slick Edit) "Over And Over" (LP version) "Over and Over" (Instrumental)

side two "Over And Over"/(Single Edit) "Over"And'Over" (Club Me Down Edit) "Should Have Been You" (Jeep Mix)

"Over And Over" Edits By Michael Cooper

Produced by Robert Brookins for Sac-Boy Productions From The Album JUST WHAT I LIKE Management: Pacific Cal Management

AND

