

IN ONE EAR & OUT THE OTHER

Your article spotlighting Eddie Murphy was very interesting and entertaining, but should your front cover attract "such racial overtones" as "Saturday Night Live's Darkest Comedian Makes New Album and a Major Movie"? Racial suggestions of this type should be avoided, or do you really mean to call Mr. Murphy a "darkie"? It is so easy to say Black, or leave it out completely.

Vandella Brown
Iowa City, Iowa

As a black student enrolled at the University of Calif. at Santa Barbara, I found your recent publication of *Ampersand* insulting. In the issue, Eddie Murphy is featured on the cover while the caption below states "Darkest Comedian Makes New Album and a Major Movie." Apparently for the *Ampersand* editors, it is Murphy's color rather than his comic prowess that is most interesting. Similar mockery is not new to Afro-Americans who have, in the past, been labeled as "coon," "blackie," "nigger" and other insulting terms. And now in your October issue of *Ampersand* we are being mocked "darkest." I doubt that an Anglo-Saxon comedian would be subjected to the same ridicule. If Steve Martin appeared on your cover would the caption read "Whitest Comedian"? I am proud of my heritage and of our cultural contributions to the American stage, screen and the arts; and I resent the implicit racism represented by the *Ampersand* caption. I hope in the future your "collegiate" publication will be more cognizant of how you portray Afro-Americans. It should not be too much to expect it to be in a sensitive, fair and reasonable manner.

Enthusian Exum
UC Santa Barbara

It was simply a play on words, and we liked the double entendre — referring not only to Mr. Murphy (who is undeniably darker than the other pasty faces on Saturday Night Live), but also to black comedy, a kind of humor that is best described as "getting laughs from something that is not intrinsically funny." Black humor is a distinctly non-racial term, first applied to Lenny Bruce in the Fifties. Black humor is angry, bitter, sarcastic, modern — and funny. Much like Mr. Murphy.

We did not call him a "darkie."

As a matter of historical fact, we did call actor Christopher Walken "The New Wasp Heartbrod" on our May 1979 cover, but Ms. Exum's suggested Steve Martin headline is far better than the one we used for his cover blurb.

Last, but certainly not least, we did choose Mr. Murphy for our cover. Were we really racist, we probably would have used someone of a more beige persuasion.

Regarding your article on Donny & Marie being dropped from Hawaiian Punch's ad-campaign because they're no longer "hot." Frankly this annoys me. Your column gave no factual reason for their termination but inferred

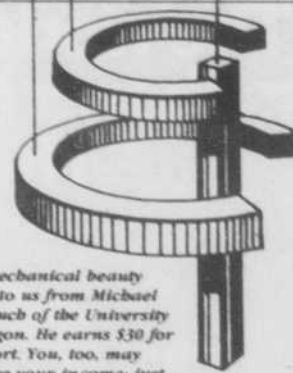
their lack of popularity was the reason, and that they weren't connected with "fun & sun." The reason this annoys me is because the Osmond family is a rarity in the entertainment business concerning their beliefs in family, in religion, and in avoidance of liquor & drugs. If kids today can't identify with good, clean, decent people as role models, without being laughed at, we're in trouble. That leaves the likes of Alice Cooper

to idolize. P.S. the principal export of Utah is copper.

Jamie Rackley
UC Davis, CA

Send us your comments, complaints, compliments (especially your compliments), your philosophy of life or even your SAT scores. We like to get mail—any mail. Send the goodies to *In One Ear*, 1680 North Vine, Suite 900, Hollywood, CA 90028.

This mechanical beauty comes to us from Michael Schafbuch of the University of Oregon. He earns \$30 for his effort. You, too, may enhance your income: just submit your original *Ampersand*, rendered in black ink on white paper, to *Ampersand of the Month*, 1680 North Vine, Suite 900, Hollywood, CA 90028.



BY STEVEN GINSBERG

Meet McCartney

PAUL MCCARTNEY is in London starring in his first feature length solo film since the Beatles days. Called *Give My Regards to Broad Street*, it features McCartney's wife, Linda, Ringo Starr and guitarist Eric Stewart in a story that traces a fictionalized day in the life of McCartney. The former Beatle is also writing the screenplay and composing its theme and other songs. (There will also be other music from the Beatles and Wings.) The picture is being done through McCartney's own company, MPL Communications. Incidentally, Paul and Ringo did star in their own short film, *The Cooler*, which unspooled at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year.

Ampersand Jokes

So many yucks! We could barely get any work done, what with all the guffawing, chortling, giggling and tittering. Finally, at gunpoint, the editors and the publisher forced themselves to choose. The winners below were picked on the basis of apparent originality and downright funniness. Just remember, one person's tee bee is another's yawn, so shut up if you don't like 'em.

However, if you're anxious to earn an easy \$20, as do these three happy contributors, send your jokes to *Ampersand Jokes*, 1680 North Vine, Suite 900, Hollywood, CA 90028.

1. What's black-and-white and red and can't turn around in a telephone booth?
A penguin with a javelin through its head.

David Nicholls Montague, Jr.
Charlottesville, VA

2. What is the difference between erotic and kinky?
Erotic is when you use one feather; kinky is when you use the whole chicken.

Rebecca A. Winfield
Normal, IL

3. Did you realize that San Francisco actually has gay schools now? They teach the kids about the birds and the birds.

Rob Gold
Sacramento, CA

Future Flicks

WARREN BEATTY, who is not exactly collecting unemployment, just signed a deal to star in *Mermaid*. His salary: \$5 million. The script (by C. J. Carruthers, to be rewritten by Robert Towne) is about this mermaid who is kissed by (and, as legend goes, subsequently falls in love with) a handsome young rake, but he betrays her and she ends up with the older brother, Maybe. Robert Redford was originally set to star, but as one Hollywood wit observed, "I just couldn't see Bob getting in any tank with a girl in a mermaid skin."

Obviously, someone in charge should hire Bette Midler for the mermaid. She already has the costume.

THE STARS OF *Officer and a Gentleman* are busy — but separately (although there is talk of a sequel, since the aforementioned flick was the only one to give *ET*: a run for its greenbacks). Ms. Winger will play Shirley MacLaine's daughter in *Terms of Endearment*, to be written and directed by Jim Brooks, who created *Taxi* and *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* (good) and the Burt Reynolds film *Starting Over* (bad). Mr. Gere is off in Mexico starring in *The Honorary Consul*, after the Graham Greene novel. It also stars Michael Caine and Britain's irresistible Bob Hoskins (*The Long Good Friday*).

GOOD NEWS FOR *Saturday Night Live* fans. Dan Aykroyd (you remember him from the old show) and Eddie Murphy (the new kid) will begin work on a new comedy film in December directed by John Landis (*Blues Brothers*). The only problem is the title: *Black and White*. The powers-that-be don't think it's exactly the right image for this particular project, so they're offering a cash reward to crew members to come up with something better. The rest of us are excluded from the competition, they say, because the picture's subject matter is very hush-hush. Big deal.

WE CHECKED THIS ONE TWICE. Yes, there will be yet a third in the hugely successful series of *Smokey and the Bandit* films. No, this one will not star Burt Reynolds or Sally Field. But it does once again feature Jackie Gleason as both the dumb hick sheriff, *Smokey*, and as the Bandit (Burt's role). Hence the title *Smokey Is the Bandit*. Argh.

ter) and screenwriter Dennis Potter (*Perries from Heaven*). William Hurt stars as Arkady.

PROLIFIC WRITER HARLAN ELLISON has signed to write the screenplay for *None of the Above*, based on a political novel titled *Bug Jack Baron*. Costa-Gavras, who recently directed his first American movie, *Missing*, helms this one beginning in June.

Shake, Rattle and Roll with the Punches

VETERAN ROCKER JERRY LEE-LEWIS, who was nearly scandalized into oblivion 25 years ago when he married his then 13-year-old cousin Myra Brown, may find his personal life the subject of a new movie. Polygram Pictures has optioned the film rights to Myra's tell-all book *Great Balls of Fire*.

Big News for Small Screens

WITH MORE THAN 50 features to his credit, famed Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman says he is giving up the big screen and will instead work only on the stage or in television. The reason? A loss of energy. "But I love to have a camera and a small crew and to make things for television," he said in a recent *Variety* interview. "You can make it and then in one evening it is finished. Nobody thinks about it anymore." We try not to.

THE PAPER CHASE has been a movie, a canceled network television show and a regular rerun on PBS. What else is left? Well, cable biggie Showtime has just ordered seven new hour-long episodes of the program at a cost of \$500,000-\$600,000 each, making it the first pay service ever to have a regular dramatic series.

Quote of the Month

EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD STUDENT and unknown actress Jennifer Beals is the star of *Flasdance*, a much talked-about picture concerning a woman who goes through the motions of stripping at a bar filled with men but actually remains clothed. She recently spoke about beating out thousands of others for the role:

"I had moved into the dorm at Yale and didn't have a phone so the producers had to go through the New Haven police to track me down. When they told me I had the part I said I would only do it if Yale would give me a deferment. If Yale said you can't defer I would've stayed in school." Yeesh.

Best Sellers

HOTEL NEW HAMPSHIRE AND *Gorky Park*, two recent best-selling novels, are all set to be made into movies in 1983. Jodie Foster and Marty Feldman have signed to start making *Hotel* (a strange saga about five kids in a family) this spring in Montreal and Vienna under the eye of writer-director Tony Richardson. *Gorky Park*, a thriller about the ramifications of a triple murder in Moscow, starts earlier in the year in northern Europe with director Michael Apted (*Coal Miner's Daugh-*

Kiss Off

BY PAUL ROSTA

"If they spent this kind of money to promote an unknown band," grouched one wishing-to-be-anonymous guest, "it would make their career."

Kiss is hardly an unknown band, but they have been rather ignored lately. To get the once-reigning bubblegum stompers back in the public eye, and to promote their 100-city tour for a new LP called *Creatures of the Night*, Casablanca Records threw a shindig like no one in the pinched record business had done for years. At a Zoetrope Studios sound stage in Hollywood the bar was open and so was bass player Gene Simmons' mouth. "We're the best show on Earth," he informed the assemblage.

Before the buffet was cleared and the room forcibly emptied by means of playing the group's new single at top volume, over and over, someone asked Simmons if he didn't think the band's flamboyant garb was perhaps a wee bit out of style. "We're above style," Simmons shot back.