



# Entertainment Guide

by Allan Jones

## RETROSPECT — JOAN ARMATRADING

It comes as a surprise to many Black people that the Joan Armatrading they hear on the radio and read about is indeed Black.

Part of the problem is that Armatrading doesn't fit the standard r&b female singer mold. While she's been compared vocally to Billie Holliday and Nina Simone, other writers have likened her to Joni Mitchell and Elton John.

The situation gets even more laughable when one notes that, as a guitarist, she's been compared to Richie Havens and Jimi Hendrix, because Joan Armatrading is one woman who doesn't pose with a guitar; she plays it as well as any musician — Black, white, male or female — around today.

Who is this proud and private Black English woman who has earned such critical praise at such a young age?

Historically, Joan Armatrading was born December 9, 1950 in St. Kitts in the West Indies. She and her five brothers and sisters moved to England when she was seven. Her earliest childhood memory is "seeing snow fall for the first time."

Her father did not encourage her musically. In fact, he even went to the lengths of hiding his guitar. She admits that "maybe that was why I got so interested in music, although I was originally interested in studying law." When

her mother bought a piano she was assigned the task of cleaning it. It wasn't long before she taught herself how to play it as well. When her mother traded in two old baby carriages for a guitar, earlier thoughts of going into law were dispelled forever and she made the decision to try music as a career.

It is interesting that her first influences weren't The Beatles or The Rolling Stones. Instead, she thrived on Nat King Cole and Jim Reeves. (When one of her older brothers heard her songs and persuaded her to sing at the local school, she quickly learned one Bob Dylan and one Paul Simon song. "I'd never heard any of their music before that.")

When a friend auditioned for the London Company of "Hair," she went along as a lark. The friend didn't get hired but Joan did and she toured in the show for eighteen months. (She also composed on the pit piano when no one was around.) She wrote songs for a year after the tour ended, and, when she met Pam Nestor, the two decided to write together. In 1973, Joan recorded "Whatever's For Us" on England's Cube label. (A&M released it in the U.S.) It was an exciting first LP and the presence of Gus Dudgeon (Elton John's then-producer) served to draw attention to what was already promising work; however, problems with Cube resulted in no more records for eighteen months.

The difficulties ended when Armatrading met Michael Stone, her manager. Formerly associated with Jimi Hendrix and Randy Newman as a music publisher, Stone negotiated a release from Cube and a new contract was signed with A&M. Her record album "Back To The Night" released in 1975 earned her a single hit (the title cut) and her first critical recognition. It also marked the end of writing with Nestor, though the two remain friendly. The album made the top ten list of several English critics and big things began to be expected of Joan Armatrading.

As her performing grew more self-assured, her songs got better and her resolve to have her songs heard grew even stronger. The interplay between talent and practice culminated in "Joan Armatrading" which went gold in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and England. "Sounds," the British pop

magazine, called it the best album of 1976. A year later, "Show Some Emotion" earned similar plaudits worldwide. Undertaking her first international tour as a headliner, Joan played to 200,000 people in forty concerts, playing eight countries over a five-month period.

In recognition of her accomplishments on stage, "Performance" magazine named her 1977's Most Promising Female Vocalist. Her playing hasn't gone unnoticed either. She's also written her first movie theme for the \$18,000,000 film "The Wild Geese" and recently played to over 100,000 people supporting Bob Dylan at a London concert.

Success has made very little change in the basic Joan Armatrading. "Bloomin'" is still the extent of her cursing. She doesn't smoke or drink and has never taken drugs. On stage, street clothes are still the order of the day and "jewelry" is confined to the housekey that dangles from her neck. She is still fiercely protective of her privacy. Commenting on this point, George Arthur wrote in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, "If privacy is what's needed for her artistry to flourish, it's a small price to pay."

In her Hampton Wick home, she is content to "be boring like everybody else at home." She likes to draw cartoons, collects antique autos and clocks, ancient British comic books and is currently on an Agatha Christie kick. She also finds time to expand musically and is currently studying both the clarinet and mandolin. As always she writes songs.

Despite critical acclaim, record sales and bankable box office, Joan Armatrading remains unimpressed with herself. Some sample quotes... "I write a song. I listen to it. If I don't cringe, I keep it"... "I haven't much to say when it comes to writing songs. I'm not telling anybody what to do or how to run their lives"... "I write about silly things and hope the lyrics don't sound too rubbishy." Fortunately, others are less hard on Joan Armatrading than Joan Armatrading herself. Most critics find her forms of musical expression both delightful and pithy. Summing up an Armatrading evening, Rob Patterson of "Circus" declared, "After the spotlight is out, it's all been said."

## Bits and Pieces

by Ruth Spencer

Mrs. Bernadette Plummer and her daughter Mrs. Olga Talley, returned December 8th from an exciting, interesting and educational trip to Moscow and Leningrad, Russia. They visited many historical sites including the Kremlin.

The tour was sponsored by Portland State University. Russia is the largest country in the world. It covers more than half of Europe and nearly two-fifths of Asia.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Black population growth in the suburbs in 1977 reached, 5,596,000 up 34% since 1970. The total population growth in the suburbs reached 83,114,000 up 12% since 1970.

Mr. Charles Patterson (Pat), Auditor, Department of Estates and Trusts, State Revenue Department is retiring December 28th after 23 years of service.

The Portland Public School's legal staff, Miller, Anderson, etc. would welcome court litigation for integration. They would pocket at least two to five million dollars of the taxpayers money, depending on how long they could delay the court order.

Zeta Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority sponsored a formal dance to celebrate its twenty-third anniversary, December 17th, at the Sheraton Hotel.

Los Angeles Unified School District opened September 14, 1978 with 2,100 buses criss-crossing the 750 square mile district to achieve court ordered racial integration in the City's schools.

The District had doggedly insisted on exemption from the Civil Rights Act of 1964 mandating integration of all sectors of society on the grounds that the City's "racially isolated" schools were the result of housing patterns, and that segregation, while de facto, was not de jure.

Ms. Novella Long, eighth grade teacher at Boise School, is recovering from surgery at the Bess Kaiser Hospital on Greeley.

The Portland Public Schools has one Black regular school Social Worker, yet, the behavior problems of Black children are reported to be three to four times that of white children in the schools.

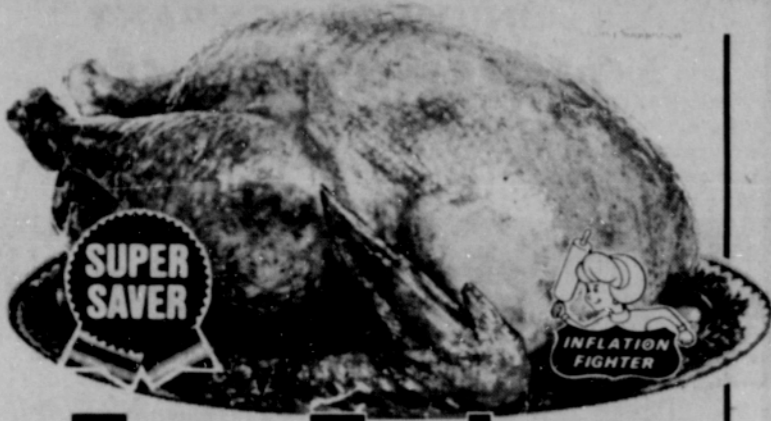
In early November a New York appeals court upheld a malpractice award of \$500,000 to parents against a school board. A youth had been mistakenly assigned to a class for mentally retarded youngsters.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Johnson (Doug and Beverly) are the proud parents of a baby girl. Mrs. Johnson teaches at Dunwavy School. Doug is a city planner.

Miss Sylvia J. Gates, Brown University medical student, is home for the holidays visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. O.J. Gates. Miss Gates is a National Health Service Corps scholar.

Ron Sykes, Sports Editor of the Observer, has been named to the Board of Directors of the Columbia-Willamette YMCA, to complete the term of Ellis Casson. Sykes was a member of the Urban Services Committee for one-and-a-half years.

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**Tom Turkeys**  
Lb. **69¢**

With Pop-Up Timer  
Manor House  
Grade A Toms  
17 to 24 lbs.



**Tangerines**  
lb. **19¢**

25-lb. Box \$4.69

Sweet Algerian  
Zipper Skinned  
Fruit. Favorite  
Stocking Stuffer



**Crisp Celery**  
Bun. **19¢**

Medium Size  
Sweet Celery.  
Wonderful  
Stuffed with  
Cream Cheese

- Poultry Stuffing** 2 1/2 lb. \$1.19
- Fryer Gizzards** For Gravies or Stuffing 1 lb. 89¢
- Cooked Salad Shrimp** 3 lb. \$3.98
- Fresh Whole Crabs** (Cleaned & 1/2) In-shell crabs lb. \$1.49

- Yellow Onions** No. 1 Sweet Onions 7 lb. bag 79¢
- Brussels Sprouts** Fresh and Green lb. 49¢
- Red Emperor Grapes** No. 1 Grade Golden Sweet 3 lb. 59¢
- Baking Yams** No. 1 Grade Golden Sweet 3 lb. 59¢

- Granny Smith Apples** Extra Fancy 49¢
- Grapefruit** Ex. Large Pink or White Famous "Indian River" 29¢
- Large Avocados** California Sliced Fruit 3 for \$1
- Lemons or Limes** Junkies Fresh Juice Laden lb. 49¢

**Christmas Poinsettias or Mums**  
Fancy Decorated \$5.98

**Pancake Mix**  
Krusteaz Buttermilk 3.5-lb. Pkg. **99¢**

(Kitchen Craft B'milk Mix... 3-lb. 79¢)

**Fresh Butter**  
Shady Lane Quarters First 1-lb. Ctn. **99¢**

(Additional at regular price)

**FRUIT BASKETS**  
Packed Fresh to Order  
Give a Gift of Fresh Fruit. Make your selection from 3 different size baskets, and we will pack it fresh for you.

**Make Your Own...**  
We have basket kits in 3 sizes ready for you to make up your own gift pack. Just Add Fruit.

**Pumpkin Pie**  
Bel-air Frozen 24-oz. Size **59¢**

**Brown & Serve Rolls**  
Mrs. Wright's Brown & Serve 13-oz. Pkg. **39¢**

(See R-11s... 12.5-oz. Pkg. 39¢)

**Cranberry Sauce**  
Town House 16-oz. Cans **3 for 85¢**

First 3 (Additional at regular price)

- Nilla Wafers** Nabisco Cookies 12-oz. Pkg. 69¢
- Soft Saffola** Margarine 1-lb. Tub 89¢
- RyKrisp** Raisins, Reg. 8.5-oz. or Seasoned, 8.5-oz. 81¢
- Tea Bags** Red Rose Tea 100 Count Pack \$2.29
- High Point** 3-lb. Coffee Decaffeinated \$6.39
- Kleenex** White Facial Tissues Box of 200 25 Ft. Roll 12" Wide Aluminum Foil 69¢
- Reynolds Wrap** 39¢

- Cocktail Juice** Town House Cranberry 48-oz. Size \$1.09
- Fruit Cocktail** Town House 17-oz. Can 49¢
- Mandarins** Town House Oranges... 11-oz. 2 for 89¢
- Coconut** Town House 14-oz. Flaked or 16-oz. Shredded \$1.19
- Marshmallows** Comfrey 10-5-oz. Miniatures 39¢
- Snack Crackers** Boy Baker 11-oz. Pkg. 59¢
- Nutmeg** Crown Colony Ground... 1.37-oz. 89¢

- Egg Nog** Lucerne Quality (Half Gal. 11.29) Qt. 69¢
- Pie Shells** Bel-air Premium Frozen, 10-oz. 49¢
- Coke or Tab** Plus Deposit 8 16-oz. Btl. \$1.65
- Fruit Mix** Scotch Bay 29-oz. Can 69¢
- Napkins** Scotch Bay 1-Ply Paper... 140 Count 59¢
- Paper Towels** Scotch Bay 1-Ply White 133's 55¢
- Bath Tissue** Scotch Bay roll pack 4 for 79¢

**Stocking Stuffers**  
**Brach Bulk Candy**  
Brach Assorted Individually Wrapped lb. **88¢**

**Whistle Pops** Peter Paul Reg. 10 Size 5¢

**Kool-Aid** Unseasoned Assorted Flavors Pkg. 10¢

**MR. COFFEE Filters**  
The genuine fluted Filters to fit your Mr. Coffee Maker. **78¢**

**Crest**  
Reg. or Mint Toothpaste Leaves Mouth Refreshed 9-oz. Tube **99¢**

**Extra Absorbent Pampers**  
Disposable Diapers with Custom Fit Tapes. 24 Daytime **\$2.59**

**SAFETYWAY COUPON**  
Coupon Redeemable thru Dec. 24, 1978  
**Stimulegs Panty Hose**  
Ex-Wide... Assorted Shades Reg. \$2.78 Save 50¢ Pr. With Coupon Limit 6 Pr. **\$2.28**

**Magicubes** Sylvana... 3 Pack **\$1.48**

**Flip Flash II** G.E.... 8 Guaranteed **\$1.48**

**Kodak Film** Color Print 110 or 126-20 **\$1.36**

**Kodak Instant** PR-10 Color Print **\$5.19**

**Shampoo** Faberge Wheat Germ Oil & Honey 15-oz. **\$1.38**

**SAFETYWAY COUPON**  
Coupon Redeemable thru Dec. 24, 1978  
**Stimulegs Panty Hose**  
Assorted Colors, Proportioned Reg. \$2.48 Save 50¢ pr. With Coupon Limit 6 Pr. **\$1.98**

**SX 70 Film** Instant Color Print Film **\$5.19**

**Polaroid 108** Instant Color Print Film **\$4.99**

**Fuji Film** Color Print 110 or 126-12 **88¢**

**Lighter** Thumb Thing Else, Disposable **3 for \$1**

**THIS WEEK'S FEATURE**  
**Funk & Wagnall's Encyclopedia**  
Volumes 14 & 15 **\$2.69**  
Now on Sale