

ENTERTAINMENT



BEHIND THE SCENES

by Lisa Collins

No Rape Charges Will Be Filed Against Al B. Sure: The Los Angeles District Attorney's office says it will not press charges of gang rape against Warner Bros recording artist Al B. Sure, his bodyguard Solomon Miller, and friend, Christopher Williams. All three had been arrested on charges of rape by force. But according to an LA County sheriff's detective, authorities aren't sure what happened. Sure admits to having sex with Edwards, but says it was with her consent, and that he was the only one of the three to have sex with her. It also seems that allegations made by both 23-year old Monique Edwards and her brother, actor Stoney Jackson, did not check out. Edwards claimed to have never dated Sure before the incident. Reliable sources say Edwards became angered when Sure allegedly extended her sexual favors to the others.

DeBarge Back On Track: El DeBarge writes and sings about love. He says he can't help it. It's how he is. So then no one should be surprised that his newest LP, Gemini, is about just that, --love. He's proud of his latest work, and music he says reveals that he's "willing to give love as much as I want to receive it." Up til now, the 27-year-old singer says his career has suffered from complications. "I had a lot of complications here at Motown, careerwise. I never really got to where I wanted to be. But Motown, --before MCA took over, had a lot of problems... Nobody ever got to where they should have been, and the success we did achieve could have been even better, but now that I have a new chance, I know that I will soar with eagles. I'm going to the top." DeBarge was in Los Angeles to promote "Gemini", which is slated for release next month. Of course, most took the opportunity to ask him about the drug scandal his brothers were involved in. Said DeBarge: "I don't feel bad about it. My brothers are men and they can handle the consequences, and basically I think it worked out just fine. My oldest brother, Bobby, has gone to a correctional camp, and he's the only one who's been sentenced." For the record, El says he doesn't mess with drugs.

Superstar Michael Jackson will be on hand to pick up the third annual Heritage Award at the 1989 "Soul Train Music Awards" to be held in Los Angeles on April 12. According to executive producer Don Cornelius, Jackson will be presented the award by Sammy Davis, Jr., and Eddie Murphy. Along with Jackson, Anita Baker, Bobby Brown and Guy led in nominations. Others capping top nominations include Bobby McFerrin, Vanessa Williams, New Edition, Karyn White and Al B. Sure. The two-hour primetime award show will air live (via syndication).

Murphy On The Lookout: Eddie Murphy is scouting around for a gorgeous, light-skinned, black female for the female lead in "Harlem Nights", his next feature film, according to a Las Vegas talent agent, who's reportedly been commissioned by the superstar's LA production company to find one such talent. In the film, which will co-star Richard Pryor, Murphy will portray a very cool, "Mr. Quick". "Harlem Nights" is set in the Harlem nightclub scene, circa 1938.

Riperton Remembered: Minnie Riperton was remembered in a very special way in a concert dubbed "A Very Special Evening With Stevie Wonder & Friends". Funds made from the extravaganza went to benefit the Minnie Riperton Fund For Cancer Research. It's been nearly a decade since the R&B singer died of breast cancer in 1979, at the age of 31. Quincy Jones, who announced that he recently underwent a mastectomy after having been diagnosed with breast cancer, served as honorary chairperson. **Short Takes:** Natalie Cole is off to the Bay area to record a duet with Freddie Jackson called "I Do." Cole, who is excited about her upcoming LP, has also announced plans to record a tribute to her father with Linda Ronstadt...An attorney for Kenneth Clay, who was shot by Todd Bridges on February 2, has filed a \$20 million lawsuit against the 32-year old actor...**Next week:** A look into reported suicide attempts by actor Todd Bridges.

On The Money

Topping Off In TV: "Never let anybody tell you that you can't", are words from one of TV's most successful blacks. And as co-creator and executive producer of the Fox-TV network's smash hit and most controversial show, "Married With Children", Michael Moye should know. Moye got into the business in 1977, when while studying marine biology in college, he entered an American College Theater Festival playwriting contest on a lark, and won first prize. The chance to write an episode of the Norman Lear/Tandem show of his choice, came with it. He chose "Good Times", and some months later got an offer to work on the show full-time. Before moving to the Fox Network, Moye worked with "The Jefferson's", "Diff'rent Strokes", "Sanford & Son", and was a cocreator of "227". (He doesn't like to talk about money, but conservative sources put him at well over \$500,000 per year). Two and a half years ago, Fox network execs ignored an in-house testing analysis of the show suggesting that major script changes be made to insure the show's success, and instead gave Moye and his Jewish partner the green light to move ahead. Moye recalled, "it was the best moment of my career."

On the Rise At Carnation Company: Upon graduating from business school some fifteen years ago, John Harris saw himself running a large corporation. Today, at 37, Harris is a vice-president and general manager at Carnation Company. He is the company's first black vice-president, and with a multi-million dollar budget. Harris manages one of the firm's most profitable divisions, boasting such product lines as Carnation's Evaporated Milk, Instant Breakfast, Carnation Breakfast Bars, Hot Cocoa Mix, and Coffeemate. He took over the somewhat stagnant division a year and a half ago. Since, sales and profit dollars have increased, but Harris won't take all the credit. Said Harris, "the key thing is moving the business ahead. I can take all the credit, or I can take all the blame. It doesn't really matter. In reality, I'm just part of a team, and the team is what will move the business ahead." Does being black make it more difficult? "In some ways, yes, but I don't deal with it. What's more important is to communicate to people what's possible. I don't have any special, unique talents...It's just a matter of finding an opportunity or situation where they can do well."

Llewellyn Sets New Sights: J. Bruce Llewellyn, new owner of the New York Times Co. cable-TV operations (at pricetage of \$420 million), is quoted in a recent USA Today piece as saying he plans one day to pass along his Coca-Cola bottling plant to his partner "Dr. J" --Julius Erving. **Some gift,** --last year alone, the plant--the Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Co., ranked as the third-largest, black-owned business, posted annual sales of \$165 million. Meanwhile, Llewellyn has announced that he's now in the market to buy a pro team.

NMBC Honors Top Ten Corporate Supporters of Black-Owned Business: The National Minority Business Council recently paid tribute to ten major American Corporations for their support of black-owned businesses. Dubbed the "best of the best", the firms were specifically honored for their efforts to attract, recruit and/or help develop minority suppliers. The top ten were American Express, Frito Lay, General Motors, JC Penney, Pepsi-Cola, Philip Morris, Pfizer, NYNEX Enterprises, McGraw-Hill and Time, Inc.

BROADWAY BOUND REPORT

MICHAEL GRANT RE-SCHEDULES HIS NEW PLAY AT IFCC

by Garland Lee Thompson

LIST OF SUGGESTED READING MATERIAL

1. BLACK THEATER IN AMERICA, by James Haskins, Publisher: Thomas Y. Crowell, New York
2. VOICE OF THE BLACK THEATRE, by Loftin Mitchell, Publisher: James T. White & Co., Clifton, New Jersey
3. BLACK DRAMA, The Storey of the American Negro in the Theatre, by Loftin Mitchell, Publisher: Leswing Press, San Francisco, California
4. DRUMBEATS, MASKS, & METAPHOR, Contemporary Afro-American Theatre, by Genevieve Fabre (translated by Melvin Dixon), Publisher: Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. and London, England
5. 9 PLAYS BY BLACK WOMEN, The Black American Woman as Playwright - A Powerful & Exciting Force in Today's Theater, by Margaret B. Wilkerson (edited & with an introduction), (Signet Book), New York
6. BLACK DRAMA ANTHOLOGY, edited by Woodie King Jr. & Ron Milner, Publisher: New American Library (Signet Book), New York
7. BLACK THEATER, by Lindsay Patterson (compiled with an introduction), Publisher: Plume Book - New American Library, New York
8. NEW BLACK PLAYWRIGHTS, edited and introduction by William Couch, Jr., Publisher: Bard Books/Avon, New York
9. THE NEW LAFAYETTE THEATRE PRESENTS, Plays with Aesthetic Comments by 6 Black Playwrights, edited by Ed Bullins, Publisher: Anchor Books - Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York
10. CONTEMPORARY BLACK DRAMA from "A Raisin in the Sun," to "No Place to Be Somebody, edited and introduction by Clinton F. Oliver, Publisher: Charles Scribner's Sons New York
11. BLACK DRAMA IN AMERICA: AN ANTHOLOGY, edited and a critical introduction by Darwin T. Turner, Publisher: Fawcett Premier book, Fawcett Publications, Inc., Greenwich, Conn.

Passinarts Theatre Company is re-scheduling the opening Michael Grant's new play, "Escape by Land," at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, to this week, Friday, March 31, 1989, for a tryout, the first in the new year and season of 1989. Write on, Michael and Passinarts!

IN SEARCH OF AFRICAN THEATRE

The Title of Scott Kennedy's book, "In Search of African Theatre," aptly puts the focus of the new Spring Term Black Studies' course on African-American playwrights and Black Theatre in America, being planned by Chairman, Dr. Darrell Millner. (Scott Kennedy is a Black Tenured professor at Brooklyn College in New York.)

To survey the scope of the books and text available on Black Theatre, in our local Multnomah County Library and book stores, since I will be the guest instructor for the new course, I visited the North Killingsworth branch (which has the Black Resource Center Section), the Central Library downtown and Powell's Books Store and of course, the Library of Portland State University.

At the Black Research Center at the North Killingsworth Branch, I was shocked and amazed to find among other books, The Directory of Blacks in the Performing Arts, edited by Edward Mapp, that listed myself, your Broadway Bound Reporter. The book mentioned my birth, career data, theatre and honors.

MY HONORS!

I never fully realized until I read it that I had won the 42nd Annual One Act Tournament (1973) in Washington, D.C.

"Sisyphus And The Blue-Eyed Cyclops," was being performed at Howard University by the Howard Players, whom had played it well "somewhere off-campus" to win some acting prizes. But I wasn't invited to D.C., and didn't understand that the play had won too. I think the Howard company was shocked too, and it never occurred to them that they should invite me, working in New York (as production stage manager for the Broadway play, "The River Niger," 1973).

The Theatre Department of Howard University, never sent me any press mention, reviews or releases on the production, doing that entire period, leaving me pretty much "in the dark." Do you believe it? I had to read about it, years later here at our local county library, in the block of my old high school, Jefferson. It a good reason and appropriate right here to promote applying for "your own library card" and the regular use of our Multnomah County Library. You never know just what secrets you might discover there. Write on, Easy Readers!

"AFRICAN-AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHTS, THEIR CRAFT AND LEGACY"

"African-American Playwrights, Their Craft and Legacy," is the formation of the special new 10 week-course at Portland State University. Dr. Darrell Millner, Chairman of the Black Studies Department at PSU, announces the new course to be held weekly, starting on March 29th, Wednesday, 6:40PM - 9:20PM, in Lincoln Hall, Room 319. For further information and enrollment, contact the Black Studies Dept., Neuberger Hall 308, (503) 464-3472. Write on, Easy Readers!

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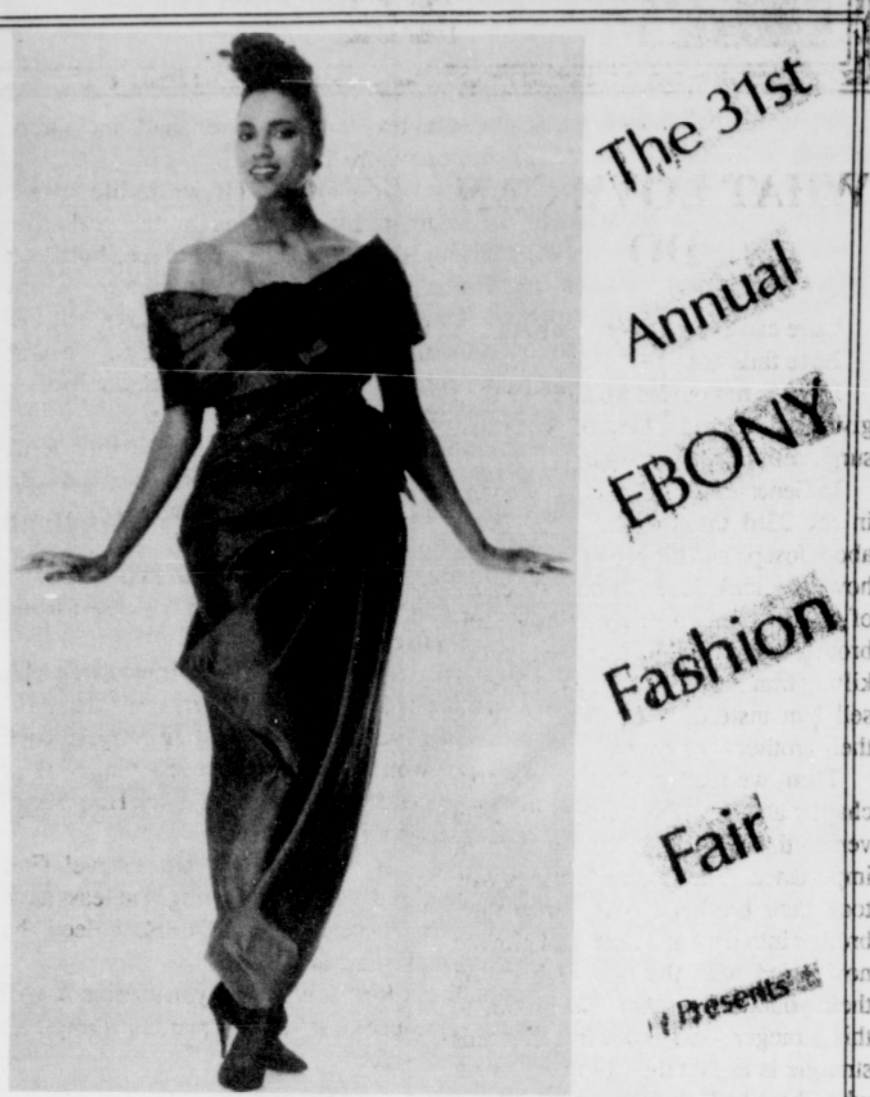
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