

ENTERTAINMENT



BEHIND THE SCENES

by Lisa Collins

Pebbles To Wed: Well, after all the rumors and innuendos about the romance between MCA recording artist Pebbles and The Deele's Antonio "LA" Reid, also one of the record industry's hottest producing teams,-- LA & Babyface, Reid was quoted in a *Radioscope* exclusive as saying that the couple will be wed. While no firm date was announced, Reid indicated the nuptials could take place sometime in June. The couple expects their first-born sometime in November. Reid is placing odds on a boy. It will be the second child for Pebbles, who is currently putting together material for her next LP.

Happy Birthday, Ella: On hand for the tribute to 71-year old jazz superstar Ella Fitzgerald recently in Los Angeles were Quincy Jones, Barbara Streisand, Dionne Warwick, the Manhattan Transfer, Marilyn McCoo, Mayor Tom Bradley, and jazz great Joe Williams. Bill Cosby (who said she was "responsible for more hits than the Mafia), emceed the black tie affair, while Clint Eastwood presented her with an award. Nervously, she accepted, saying "all of you singers can understand how you can be nervous at such an occasion." As is her custom, Fitzgerald returned the honor with another, the privilege of letting all hear her rendition of "Honeysuckle Rose."

It's Always Been A Different World For Cree Summers: She was raised on an Indian reservation in Canada, has a 9-year old brother called "Rainbow Sun", and attended school for the first time at 10, in braids, a second-hand dress, and moccasins. "today at 19, Cree Summers is secure in who she is, and finds most other kids her age to be "far more curl-activator than vocabulary." But "A Different World's" youngest cast member says her first reality check after moving to Hollywood a little more than a year ago, was "to walk into a room stuffed full of little tragic mulattoes and saying I'm just another one." Brought on the show for the sole purpose of chasing Dewayne Wayne, "Freddie" has perhaps become the show's most endearing character. However, Summers says she has little in common with the character that is making a name for her. "I've got alot more scratches. I'm a lot more aware. She's a baby." She paused. "I will admit I can run off at the mouth like "Freddie." In fact, she loves the drama. "I'm so dramatic, it's gross. Acting is just a way for me to get away with how I act anyway."

Porscha Martin Debuts In Atlantic Starr: Atlantic Starr's newly released LP, "We're Movin' Up" marks the debut of 23-year old Porscha Martin. Martin replaces Barbara Weathers who left the group nearly two years ago. She came out from Atlanta and someone heard that Atlantic Starr was looking for a new vocalist, burst into their management offices, put her tape machine on and started singing, and got the gig. Meanwhile the Lewis Brothers (the force being Atlantic Starr) have thrown their hats into the producing arena with tracks on upcoming LP's for George Benson and The Mac Band. In other recording news, Paula Abdul is suffering with a pinched nerve and is trying to get some minor surgery scheduled to relieve the discomfort. Jody Watley is slated to begin a national tour next month.

Short Takes: Jasmine Guy has snagged a starring role in Eddie Murphy's "Harlem Nights... Bobby Brown has a cameo in "Ghostbusters II" due out June 13... Bill Cosby was named to the TV Hall Of Fame, formed by TV Guide to honor broadcast and entertainment stars on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of television. Among those receiving honorable mentions were Dr. Martin Luther King... Next week: Joyce "Fenderella" Irby, former lead singer for Klymaxx, now accepts that being voted out of the group could have been a blessing in disguise.

ON THE MONEY

Emerge Sets New Launch Date: Emmerge, the much-talked about magazine targeting buppies, which was originally slated to debut last September, has set September 18 as their new launch date. A lack of promised financing was the reason for the delay, but this time Wilmer Ames, the man behind the magazine, says he has signed documents and that the money is in the bank. What's more, on top of the original investors, Ames inked a deal with District Cablevision, Inc. (out of Washington D.C.) for additional financing. Meanwhile, advertisers have remained interested in the magazine that will be published ten times a year, and will cost \$1.95 per newsstand copy (or \$14.95 for a year's subscription). Fact is, Ames is so sure of his magazine that he is guaranteeing a circulation of 150,000 to prospective advertisers.

These Shoes Weren't Made For Walking: Prince has joined Talking Heads and Phil Collins in putting his best shoe forward in an effort to raise funds for Leukemia, Cancer and AIDS research. More than 50 pairs of Reebok high tops, handpainted by those stars and other tops in music, will make the rounds of eight US Hard Rock Cafe's. At each stop, sneakers will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Transportation is being provided by Brinks, while Lloyd's of London has extended over \$1 million in insurance coverage.

Reach Out & Touch Someone For Free? At least for one hour. It's all part of an attempt on the part of MCI to expand its marketshare by offering one hour of free calling for new customers who sign up before June 30. What's more, MCI has launched two new plans to attract callers. The first, MCI's "PrimeTime: plan, customers will pay as little as \$8 a month for an hour of out-of-state calls anywhere in the US. Additional calls will be billed at \$6.80 an hour. In MCI's second plan, customers may make an hour of out-of-state calls on Saturdays for \$5 a month. MCI claims the services could save callers 25% to 38%, compared with AT&T.

Executive Turntable: Matt Williams, the creator and former executive producer of "Roseanne", has signed an exclusive agreement with Walt Disney Television, as well as theatrical films for the studio. Williams left the hit TV show in January in a creative rift with the show's star.

In short: Superstar-recording artist Lionel Richie and his wife, Brenda have pledged \$500,000 to Tuskegee Institute to endow a chair in the school of business. Both are graduates of the university.

Surveying The Nation's Top-Rated, Black-Owned Restaurants: More and more blacks are dishing up fine cuisine around the country from Oprah Winfrey's newly opened "The Eccentric" in Chicago, to Joplin's in Washington, D.C. to Chez Helene in New Orleans. (Chez Helene, incidentally, was the inspiration for "Franks' Place"). In New York City, B. Smith's and Jezebel's rate among the city's top-rated black-owned restaurants. Jezebel's was recently the scene for a colorful party in honor of Alice Walker's latest novel, "Temple Of My Familiar". And while, most of these top-rated black-owned restaurants are for the most part, undercapitalized. That's according to Adolph and Mary Dulan, a husband and wife team who own one of LA's top-rated, black-owned restaurant in LA's prestigious Marina area, which caters to upscale Buppies and whites. "If you want to compete in the mainstream, the rents are extremely high and so much money has to go into it, before you start to get anything out of it. Then too, you have to have an extremely good marketing, advertising and PR program. The food becomes secondary." R&B vocalists Ashford & Simpson tried to cash in on New York's restaurant scene, but chucked their efforts just last year. According to industry experts, start-up costs for the average mainstream restaurant can run anywhere from \$300,000 to \$500,000. Next week: More on the state of dining with America's black restaurateurs.

BROADWAY BOUND REPORT



A SPECIAL BROADWAY BOUND REPORT: THE NEW WASHINGTON ELLIPSE IS A GREAT PLACE TO ROLLERSKATE

By Garland Lee Thompson

The Oregon Historical Society celebrated its grand opening of the new George Washington Ellipse of the Oregon Historical Center, Sunday, April 30th, 1989, 3:00PM at 1230 SW Park Avenue, in downtown Portland. Thomas Vaughan, executive director of the Society, Oregon's recognized, first official Historian Laureate, kicked off the mementos, well attended occasion, as the master of ceremonies.

"The guns of Oregon," members of the First Oregon Volunteer Infantry Fife & Drum Corps, dressed in their little period uniform costumes, "blew off three loud rounds and sounded the drums. Bells rang and a seven-trumpet fanfare by the David Douglas Trumpeters, blew the salute to announce the beginning of the dedication (by Vaughan & Donald H. McGraw, pres. of the Society). The spectacular, Washington Ellipse, with its imposing metal gates, encloses the clean design of a large red brick and cement wheel (circle), with twelve parts, focusing toward its center, that turns out to be a great place to rollerskate! A great wheel to "wheel" around!

"Oh, I've got a brand-new pair of rollerskates," so the song on the commercial goes, and I feel just like a kid again! I only spilled once. Losing my sense of balance, while circling fairly slowly, counter-clock-wise (I wonder if that has any mystical, arcade meaning toward "the times?" Washington was a Freemason mystic, I've heard), while I am getting "my skating legs" back, after a long winter and layoff from skating, since Venice Beach, California, during the '84 L.A. Olympics period (I'll be ready after a few more workouts and some good weather).

I recall that, a good friend of mine, Micki Grant and Director Vinnette Carroll, once wrote a musical, several years ago in New York, entitled, "When Hell Freezes over, I'll Skate!"

Well, long since that fateful time, when George Washington first took the oath of office as President of the United States, 200 years ago on April 30th, 1789, when at that point in the history

of this new young country of the Americas, there was just some 4 million people, not counting the millions of Native Americans (because who bother to, could or cared), of which 700,000 or more, were slaves! It was truly a "hell" that was indeed a time of "frozen over assets" for the new forced Black "emigrants" from "the darkest of Africa," whose "skate," and escape out of that silly, psychedelic, but painfully horrific period, had not been invented yet! It was too "sci-fi" for "the New York Times" affair, that was busy installing "the king/prez-elect, George, the First," in his white wig, stockings, wooden teeth and "do!"

A COSTUME PARTY MARKS THE WASHINGTON LEGACY AND TRIBUTE

Therefore, in honor of that series of facts, I showed up, this sunny, Sunday afternoon, following "C.P. and Indian time," after all "the gun play, smoke, pomp, hoopla and circumstance" was over, wearing leather chaps, Eagle Spirit beaded necklace, red bandana, cowboy hat, beaver-skin backpack and carrying my newly overhauled rollerskates! "Get down!"

Everybody was in somebody's "period costume," period! (Whether it was eighteen, nineteen or twentieth century) "Martha Washington" was (played by Valerie Ball, the great-great-grandniece of Mary Ball Washington, George's mother) as was the man in "the role of "George himself," Paul Bragdon, the former president of Reed College (why not), who is now the assistant to the governor for education. I GOT THOSE BICENTENNIAL BLUES!"

"Yes, I got those bicentennial blues!" So, after a quick tour of the new O. H. C. wing (where I ran into a few old friends, Tommy Unthank, the Black Portland artist, Berna Plummer, Donna Maxey and Cora Smith, Ms. Black high fashion), I went outside and rollerskated there in the shiny new "G. W. Ellipse, until the building custodian started to lock up the new gates to the space.

Yes, it is Portland's newest mini-outdoor, open air rollerskate rink and historical landmark, that I can tell my children and grandchildren that I was the first person in history, of "any color" to ever skate a few turns there! Thanks, George, and the O. H. C. Write on, roller and skateboard fans! Have a great, safe summer on the wheels! And don't forget your crash helmet and kneepads, you hear!

A Special Broad-way Bound Report Metal Sculpture Artist Loses Piece In Yard Burglary

Al Goldsby, Portland metal Sculptor, who has achieved national fame, numerous commissions and recognition for his brilliant work in bronze, aluminum and brass, discovered Monday, May 1st, that a bronze turtle outdoors piece of his, is missing from the backyard of his house in Northeast Portland. A planned eight foot security fence had not been completed and installed at the artist, who plans to replace the missing art piece.

The police have been called in to investigate the backyard theft, that revealed it had been ripped from its base and damaged. The artist stated that "he was glad the burglars like the piece so much, but said that it would be very difficult to sell the works," since it was damaged and his work is so well known in the arts circles in this region of the country.

A reward will be offered for its return or information (call 288-0033) if it whereabouts that will lead to its recovery, in the concern that the piece may have been taken, unknowingly for metal scrap.

In the Lloyd Shopping Center, one of the large sculptures of this artist is in the main Mall, that he calls, "Free Form."

This, a working water fountain, portrays Oregon's beloved salmon climbing the fish ladders of the great Columbia River.

He has exhibited in several one-man and group shows in galleries throughout the Northwest, and his work can be seen in numerous private and corporate collections. A eighteen-foot bronze sculpture of Goldsby, is scheduled to highlight the new Central Oregon Welcome Center in Bend, Oregon in the summer of 1989.

An exhibit of the artist's work is on currently on view, through May 24, 1989, at the Randall Associates, 7460 S.W. Hunziker Road, Suite H, (503) 620-2026, in Southwest Portland.

California Cooler Introduces Cranberry Mist To Portland



Portland, May 2 -- A captivating new taste will emerge on the wine cooler scene in Portland this month with the introduction of California Cooler Cranberry Mist.

California Cooler is the first wine cooler available in refreshing, zesty cranberry. The "adult" fruit drink carries a more sophisticated image and is less sweet than other popular cooler flavors.

"Cranberry is an original for the cooler industry, and since it was previously unavailable, we expect consumer curiosity will spark Cranberry Mist sampling," said Brand Director Jovan Jovanovski. "New television ads and point-of-sale display items should peak consumer curiosity and drive product sales growth."

California Cooler will offer Cranberry Mist in 4-pack cartons of 12-ounce bottles and 2-liter PET plastic bottles. California Cooler is also available in five other premium fruit flavors: citrus, orange splash, tropical berries, peach and wild cherry splash. Currently, California Cooler ranks as the third largest-selling cooler in the country. It is distributed by the California Cooler Company.

CHOCOLAT

A FILM BY CLAIRE DENIS



"In French slang, 'chocolat' means both to be dark-skinned and to 'get caught.' Director Clair Denis's subtle, shimmering movie about the waning years of French colonialism in Africa during the '50s deals with both senses of the word. Everyone is caught -- the blacks are trapped in a decayed political system, the whites cling to the paternalism of a 'superior' race. But CHOCOLAT is not about the politics of imperialism, it's about the texture of human lives under a system where injustice has become mere routine."

Now playing at The Movie House
(1220 SW Taylor
Thursday, May 11th
7:00 pm

KMHD's Annual Fundraiser begins May 1, 1989 - 10 a.m.

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