

# ENTERTAINMENT



## BEHIND-THE-SCENES

by Lisa Collins

**The War Of The Colemans:** In a surprise move, the mother of Diff'rent Strokes star, Gary Coleman, recently filed a petition in L.A. Superior Court, asking that a conservator be appointed for her son. This stemming from her claim that Coleman's former manager is controlling his fortune, which is estimated to be upwards of \$6 million. She further argued that both his physical and mental condition was deteriorating, and that he appears to be disoriented. Coleman, who had two kidney transplants, requires dialysis and medication. In response to his mother's petition, actor Gary Coleman says his mother's latest legal action stems from her "frustration at not being able to control my life." According to his lawyer, the allegations are false. In February, the now 21-year old actor sued his parents for diverting profits.

**Actress Beverly Todd Pleads For Justice:** Actress Beverly Todd, who co-starred in "Lean On Me" is presently in Salt Lake City to see that justice is served in the case of her son, Malik. 18-year old Malik, was killed in an unprovoked attack at a teenage disco while there on a spring break, earlier this year. In fact, 19-year old John Leota beat him because he danced so well. Yet, while Leota admitted striking the fatal blow to his head and then kicking him in the head as he lay on the floor unconscious, a jury returned with the verdict of "criminal negligence" (which is a Class A misdemeanor) after just three hours of deliberation. Beverly, who is outraged, is asking your help in letting Utah know that it's not okay to kill young blacks. You can help by addressing your letters to: Judge Homer Wilerson, 3rd District Court, 240 E. 400 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111. Or you may write to the Salt Lake City Tribune, Letters to the Editor, 143 South Main, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111.

**Home Is Where Erinn Cosby Isn't:** Superstar Bill Cosby, who recently authored a best-seller on the subject of "Fatherhood," has called his 23-year old daughter Erinn, irresponsible, and was recently quoted assaying that she was not welcome in his house. The younger Cosby was released from a drug rehab center in September after being treated for cocaine, marijuana and alcohol abuse. However, according to the elder Cosby, his daughter has never held down a job, kept an apartment for more than six months, and she uses her boyfriends. Said Cosby: "you think you're not a good parent because you don't answer the call. But you can't let the kid use you. We love her and want her to get better, but she has to beat this on her own."

**Talk About Sibling Rivalry:** The Supreme Court has ruled that Prince can keep all the proceeds generated by his hit single, "You Got The Look." In so doing, it dismissed the lawsuit filed by his half-sister, Lorna Nelson, which claimed that the song's lyrics were similar to her unpublished song, "What's Cooking In This Book."

**Short Takes:** Spike Lee teamed with Debbie Allen on the streets of New York last month in search of new talent, in conjunction with an upcoming TV special "Do It A Cappella" to air on PBS "Great Performances." The program will also showcase the talents of such contemporary groups as Take Six... And TV actor-producer Robert Guillaume is doing his own bit to showcase Black talent colleges and universities. The project is intended to spark interest in writing for television... Denzel Washington suffered a broken foot only days after completing work on Spike Lee's latest film, "A Love Supreme." Washington's next project may be his portrayal of Malcolm X in the film version of Alex Haley's best-seller, "The Autobiography of Malcolm X." Next Week: Lou Gossett gets back into high gear.

## Michelob Class Act Tour: James Ingram and Patti LaBelle

by Danny Bell



Patti LaBelle



James Ingram

Thursday night December 28, 1989 Portland was treated to a Holiday repast of Extraordinary soul singers James Ingram and Patti LaBelle gave performances that will be long remembered by those in attendance.

Opening act James Ingram started the evening with a strong performance fronted by a 7-piece band and two female dancers his show was crisp, and fast paced. His smooth baritone showcased in the songs like "It's Real," and "Find One Hundred Ways."

However, for the uninitiated in the audience nothing could have prepared them for the intensity and emotionally moving show of Patti LaBelle.

Entering with of diversion of a look-alike on stage, (her niece Traci) Patti surprised the audience by strolling down center aisle to take the stage.

Resplendent in a rhinestone studded black velvet gown. The first of three custom changes.

Fronted by a 10-piece band that included 3 back-up singers, she opened the show with the title song from her new album "Be Yourself."

Her unique style carried her indelible signature that has been her trademark evolving from her days with Patti LaBelle and the Bluebells on through the sci-fi appeal of LaBelle and into her solo career.

She endeared herself to the sold-out house with off-the-cuff observations about being oneself, caring for one another, and with insights into her personal loss of family and friends.

Characteristic of her reputation she put on an outrageous performance strutting her stuff, rolling on the floor and inviting fans onto the stage.

However her singing brilliance always shone through like a beacon showing us the way to the plateau the human spirit can reach.

Whether it was the ballad "On My Own" sung with co-star James Ingram or the legendary up tempo song "Lady Marmelade." Her voice was clear and caught the nuances of each song ranging from gospel to cross-over pop.

The LaBelle concert was musically raucous and intimate experience shared with us by a gifted entertainer who always displayed an extraordinary vocal presence, with a blend of human empathy and caring making for a very special evening.

## The Parchman Farm Enters The '90s With Its Well-Received Jazz Calendar

Continuing a two-year stay at the Parchman Farm is the Marianne Mayfield Quartet, a solid favorite for weekends around the cozy Parchman Farm fireplace.

The group, featuring Mayfield's vocals, plays every Friday and Saturday in January except Saturday, Jan. 20, when another veteran Farm favorite, the Dick Blake Trio, returns for a single night. Singer Nancy King will join the Dick Blake Trio to offer her scintillating jazz vocals.

Action on week nights caters to jazz variety. The Gordon Lee Trio anchors the Monday Night Jam Session, which in six months has become the city's best, and popular guitarist Larry Adair returns to kick Tuesday nights into jazz orbit. Adair is a on-man jam session who works solo but who's frequently joined by others.

Offering their particular brand of swing every Wednesday is Le Jazz Hot, the duo of guitarist Turtle Vandemarr and bassist Tom Miller, Le Jazz Hot will intrigue and satisfy anyone's need to peek back to the jazz swing of the '30s.

Rapidly gaining a reputation as one of Portland's finest jazz pianists is Darin Clendenin, who returns on Thursday nights this month along with bassist Dan Presley.

The Parchman Farm is the city's leading jazz club with music six nights a week and a full-service restaurant and bar. There's never a cover at the Farm, located at 1204 SE Clay, one block south of Hawthorne Blvd.

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**Broadway Bound Report**  
by Garland Lee Thompson

## "IDA B. WELLS - A PASSION FOR JUSTICE"

A new film by award-winning African American filmmaker William Greaves, premiered on OPB Channel 10, Tuesday, December 19, 1989, 9:00 P.M., "Ida B. Wells - A Passion For Justice." This leading New York, Harlem filmmaker's latest piece, is part of the second season of "The American Experience," an ongoing PBS series dedicated to telling the stories of dynamic American heroes and heroines who struggled against racism and to make a better America for all people of color. The same series featured a documentary on Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. in November that this writer has to catch on the second airing, as many of you who missed the first showing of the Ida B. Wells film, will have to do.

The film, written and directed by William Greaves, contains additional readings from the Ida B. Wells book, "Crusade For Justice," that were read by the Pulitzer Prize winning author, Toni Morrison. It gives us one the few glimpses that we have ever seen of the award-winning writer, Morrison, who could be the subject of her own segment of "The American Experience." But then again, so could actress Ruby Dee, who could give us a stronger reading of the Wells text and narration.

### WHO WAS IDA B. WELLS?

Ida B. Wells was born in 1863, a slave on a small plantation in rural Mississippi. Her father was the son of the white slave who made trustee of Rust College, a school for freed African Americans known as "freemen" in Holy Springs, Miss.

Wells's mother attended the school also. In 1879, both of Wells's parents died during a yellow fever epidemic. To keep her family together, she made herself look older and got a job as a school teacher. In 1885 at the age of 22, Ida B. Wells was thrown off a train for refusing to move from the newly segregated all white ladies car. She filed suit against the railroad, and wrote newspaper articles exposing the injustice.

She attended Fisk University for a time and wrote for the school newspaper. She also wrote for a local Black newspaper in Memphis called the Living Way. She wrote under the nom de plume - Lola.

### FOUGHT AGAINST JIM CROW REIGN OF TERROR

After a few years, she became co-owner and editor of the Memphis Free Speech. The paper was militant in speaking

out against racial injustice and became embroiled in an incident of race killing when it spoke up to expose the lynching of three Black businessmen. The paper alleged the Black men were killed by white-business competitors.

Wells produced one of the first studies on mob violence called "The Red record." And she became a loud opponent of the reign of terror that was sweeping the South at the turn-of-the-century. The terror was called Jim Crow, and for its sake white mobs were murdering Black men, women and children by hanging, burning at the stake and shooting, usually for the flimsiest of charges.

Wells went to a conference in the East and while she was gone her newspaper offices were burned down and her printing press destroyed. Under threat of certain death, she moved to Chicago, and married a lawyer, Ferdinand L. Barnett in 1895. Barnett was part owner of a Black Newspaper in Chicago, the Conservator.

Wells also wrote for The New York Age, under William Monore Trotter.

### FOUNDERS OF THE AMERICAN BLACK PRESS

She was a natural journalist and newspaper woman, who along with such as "giants" as Thomas Fortune, and Monroe Trotter, W.E.B. DuBois, and Langston Hughes, formed the backbone of the Black press at the turn-of-the-century and their influence extended well into the 1920s and played a key role in the birth and life of the Black Renaissance in this country.

Wells was opposed by moderate Booker T. Washington, who saw her as a radical and too hot for his agenda. During the 1920s she became disturbed that so many young Blacks were unaware of the contributions made by Black people for their own freedom that she wrote her book, "Crusade For Justice."

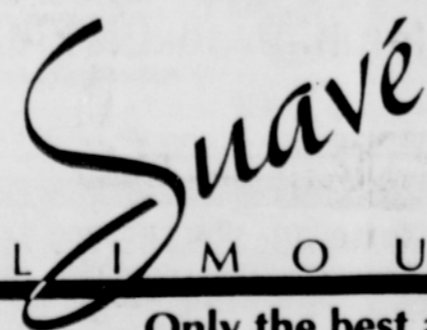
She was very active in women's clubs and gained prestige for her efforts on behalf of her race and womanhood. She and her husband raised several children and she died suddenly in 1931 at 68 years of age, leaving a living history of a gifted African American writer, her craft and legacy. She was one the truly great Black "heroines" and "mothers of the modern Black journalism in the history of the United States."

This is a very important documentary by Greaves, that could be the basis for a major motion picture or series. Write on Bill Greaves.

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