

ENTERTAINMENT



BEHIND- THE-SCENES

by Lisa Collins

Don Cornelius Does It Again: It's hard to believe that Don Cornelius could have topped last year's brilliant Soul Train Awards, but leave it to Don. Fact is, aside from a couple of hardly noticeable slips, the show, hosted by Dionne Warwick, Patti LaBelle and Luther Vandross went on without a flaw. And you would have thought the halls had come screaming down around you had you been on hand for the performance put in by El DeBarge, Al B. Sure, James Ingram and Barry White on "Secret Garden," a cut from Quincy Jones' "Back On The Block" LP.

Other highlights included Quincy Jones acceptance of the Heritage Award (even if they pulled the plug on Jones' somewhat long-winded speech), and the presentation of the Sammy Davis Jr. Award to Arsenio Hall. Hall, who was visibly touched, said he had "a long way to go before he deserved anything with Sammy's name on it." Hall went on to say "the things that frustrate me are things that you never get to see. For every trophy and award, there is also a lot of pain in this business too." Hall also sees his show as a vehicle for greater things. "I look into my audience and see kids of all colors laughing and clapping and then we leave and screw each other over the next 23 hours. I don't understand it. I just hope that at some point people can look around and see what's going on in my little playpen as an example of what we can really do." However, Hall has got to be breathing a sigh of relief now that a Los Angeles Superior Court judge has dismissed one of two \$10 million defamation of character lawsuits filed against him by Willis Edwards, former president of the Beverly Hills/Hollywood chapter of the NAACP. Edwards accused Hall of calling him an "extortionist" as well as a "tennis-show wearing pimp."

Meanwhile, other Soul Train winners are as follows: Janet Jackson—Best R&B single, female ("Miss You Much"); Best R&B album, female ("Rhythm Nation"); and best music video; Soul II Soul—Best

R&B single as well as album, group ("Keep On Movin'"), and Song of the year—"Keep On Movin'"; Best R&B single, male—Luther Vandross ("Here & Now"); Best R&B album, male—Babyface ("Tender Lover"); Best rap album—Heavy D & the Boyz ("Big Tymie"); Best jazz album—Quincy Jones ("Back On The Block"); Best gospel album—Bebe & Cece Winans ("Heaven"); and best new artist—David Peaston.

Black Entertainment Community Grieves: Members of the Black entertainment community are still in shock over the passing of comedian Robin Harris. The 36-year old entertainer was found dead in his room after having performed at the Regal Theater in Chicago. Results of an autopsy to determine the cause of his death, were not available at press time. However, all indications are that Harris suffered a heart attack while in his sleep. Harris looked exuberant when I last saw him at the Los Angeles premiere of "House Party." In fact, "House Party" was the latest in a string of films Harris appeared in, beginning with his portrayal of "Sweet Dick Willie" in Spike Lee's "Do The Right Thing." He is also featured in Lee's upcoming film, "A Love Supreme," which stars Denzel Washington. Harris, who also has a comedy album due for release, is survived by his wife, Exetta (who is reportedly four months pregnant), and a son

Short Takes: Actress Debbie Morgan who recently left the cast of "All My Children" has now joined the cast of "Generations." Morgan recently moved back to Los Angeles to be near her actor-husband. Meanwhile, "Generations," TV's only soap opera featuring Blacks as key players is celebrating its first year anniversary this week.

Next week: Find out just which members of the Jackson clan will appear in an upcoming TV ministries tracing their rise to fame.

Mr. Music: Marlon McClain

by Danny Bell

Marlon McClain a Portland native has had a profound influence on the face of urban contemporary music in the northwest and consequently world-wide both as a musician and producer.

An original member of the groundbreaking Portland band Pleasure. Marlon began playing guitar at 14. Evolving from just jamming with neighborhood friends Nate Phillips and Doug Lewis. These friends later formed a group which eventually merged with the soul masters to form Pleasure.

Marlon relates that his time spent with Pleasure was a "good experience" and led to opportunities that enabled him to be where he is today.

It was during his tenure with Pleasure that he met Wayne Henderson who produced several of the bands albums. Through his interaction with Wayne his was exposed to the craft of record producing. When the band decided to produce the Future Now album he was one of the co-producers.

After leaving Pleasure in 1980 Marlon went on to work with Jeff Lorbar and Kenny G. as a writer, musician, and producer.

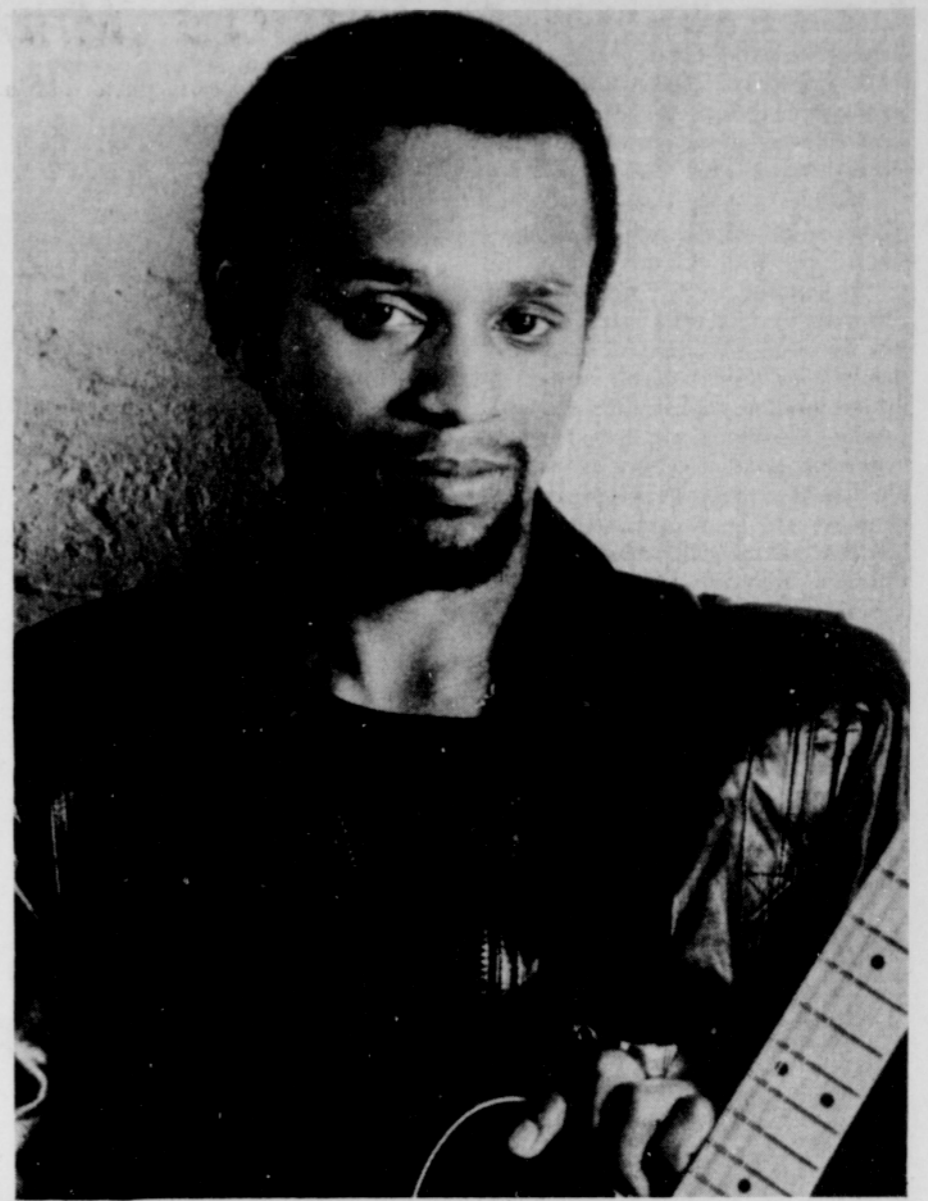
Eventually a mutual friend Reggie Andrews told him of opportunity to play with the Dazz Band. After a teleconference with the groups leader Bobby Harris he became a member. He is still with the Dazz Band and is the co-producer on their soon to be released new album.

Marlon returned to live in Portland in 1987 and about that time met Mike Marrolas. They discovered a mutual interest in the management phase of the music indus-

try, and from informal discussions decided to create Dark Horse entertainment. Together with Dave Leiken they offer an array of services to primarily local area artists. Marlon says he believes that there is talent in the Portland area deserving of wider exposure, and that Dark Horse entertainment has been effective in promoting some local groups that major labels at first resisted. Two success stories like this are U-Krew and Shock. U-Krew is presently touring and doing well with the single "If-U-were-mine" on the national charts. Late last year they signed a contract with Enigma Records. Shock last year had a top ten dance chart single "Talk About Love."

When ask for his insight into the music industry, his comments reflect his commitment to his home town. He feels that the Portland music environment fosters a climate where when an individual achieves some success they are prone to view their success with jealousy and a mentality possessiveness. This attitude often leads to a breakdown of the creative unit. He further feels on the other hand that talented artists more often enhance and heighten one another's work. His personal experience has been that stars like Stephanie Mills and Bobbie Harris work as peers rather than competitors. Basically he believes that the sum is greater than the individual parts.

To the end of creating a nurturing environment for local talent Dark Horse entertainment is hard at work, with Marlon McClain the nucleus of a dynamic atom that could easily cause a positive fusion on the world of entertainment.



EXCEPTIONAL EXPO '90

A resource fair of services and information for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.
April 6, 1990
4 to 8 p.m.
Whitaker Middle School
5700 N.E. 39th
Call ARC-M, 223-7279.

Kindness is a hard thing to give away; it usually comes back.

House Party: A Movie Review

by Danny Bell

The new released movie "House Party" is an African-American cast film, in a word is hilarious. The movie is about a teenage son, Kid (Christopher Reid) going against his single-parent father's (Robin Harris) wishes to an unchaperoned house party.

The comedy is a raucous and non-stop. The substance of the film deals with essentially thoughtful issues confronting youth, such as parental authority, sexual responsibility and teenage drinking among them. However, with its 'R' rating parents should be advised that profanity is liberally used in the film.

Rap artists Kid 'n Play are Sharane (A.J. Johnson), Sidney (Tisha Campbell), Kid and play show off their finest moves. Photos by: Bill Nation



They portray two teenage friends from African-American middle class families. In the course of the evening kid has various encounters with some neighborhood hoodlums, the police, and a romantic encounter with Sydney (Tisha Campbell of the TV series Rags to Riches fame).

All this is set against the backdrop of the hip-hop rap culture. Those over 35 may have difficulty translating the slang used to their generation. But young people will thoroughly enjoy the dancing, comedy, and fashions reflecting their culture.

NEW LINE CINEMA

From Stage 29 at Paramount Studios, It's Sprite Night With Arsenio Hall National Promotion for Sprite Features Sweepstakes to See 'The Arsenio Hall Show' Live

ATLANTA, GA--The "People's Choice" Favorite Late-night Talk Show Host, Arsenio Hall, will add his own comic twist to Sprite this spring.

Coca-Cola USA this month launches a major national promotion exclusively for Sprite, the nation's leading lemon-lime soft drink, and diet Sprite, one of the country's fastest-growing diet soft drinks.

The extensive spring emphasis period for Sprite will combine the "I Like th Sprite in You" campaign with a national "Sprite Night" sweepstakes centered around one of America's hottest entertainers. Mr. Hall will be featured in television, print and point-of-sale advertising, and his alter-ego/brother rapper Chunky A will be featured in radio spots.

On May 18, the studio audience of "The Arsenio Hall Show" will be packed with more than 300 sweepstakes winners for an exclusive "Sprite Night" taping of the highly rated talk show.

The "Sprite Night" guests also will be invited to a private backstage party



Arsenio Hall

hosted by Mr. Hall after the program. Coca-Cola Bottlers around the country will give away trips locally to the special night.

Many of the 201 "Arsenio Hall Show" affiliate stations also will be participating with local promotions and giveaways.

"Sprite, with the unexpected twist of Lymon, goes with those lighter, funnier moments in people's lives," said Michael A. Beindorff, vice president, Marketing Planning, Coca-Cola USA. "And we think the people who line up for tickets and watch Arsenio Hall on TV are the kind of people who drink Sprite."

Ten national sweepstakes winners and 300 local winners will be selected for the four-day, three-night Hollywood trip.

Entry forms will be available beginning March 26 through Sprite displays at participating stores. Forms also will appear in advertising in Rolling Stones, People, TV Guide and Jet magazines.

Cleared in 97 percent of U.S. viewing households, "The Arsenio Hall Show" is produced by Arsenio Hall Communications in association with the Domestic Television Division of Paramount Pictures, a Paramount Communications company.

Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz Signs Grammy Winner Anita Baker to 1990 Friday Night Event

Budding superstar Anita Baker has been signed to the 1990 Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz Friday Night Event. Baker, a multiple Grammy-award winner, will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, August 3, at Mt. Hood Community College.

She is the first act named to the ninth annual jazz event, according to Paul Kreider, Festival of Jazz Foundation President.

With only two albums to her credit for Elektra Records, Baker has served notice that she is a singer for the '90s. She has achieved gold and platinum status for her landmark LP "Rapture," and last year's "Giving You the Best That I Got," honored with a Grammy award for both albums.

Baker is equally at home singing R&B, pop or jazz. Serving as executive producer of both her albums, she had complete creative control over the product and gathered songwriters and musicians around her whose credits have been derived from those areas of popular music.

Her next album will be released in June, according to Elektra Records.

Baker's musical career began at age 12 when she started singing with her minister grandfather as he travelled around Detroit. Soon, she was listening to WJZZ in Detroit, learning the secular side of music and joining with schoolmates and choir members in various "basement bands." That experience included singing everything from jazz to rock.

She spent two years after high school with several bands before landing with one of Detroit's top club bands, Chapter 8, a relationship she says taught her everything she knew about music. She made her initial recording with the band in 1980, a minor hit called "I Just Wanna Be Your Girl."

Beneficiaries of the Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz are the Gresham Area Chamber of

Commerce and Mt. Hood Community College Foundation.

Additional information may be obtained from the Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz office by phoning (503) 666-3810.

Vanessa Williams: Success Is The Best Revenge

Still savoring the success of her gold debut album, her happy marriage and growing young family, singer and former Miss America Vanessa Williams proves that for her, "Success Is The Best Revenge," reports the April EBONY.

Mrs. Williams, 27, who launched her entertainment career two-and-a-half years ago amidst pressure from many who hoped that she would fail, has now found happiness and contentment by artfully balancing music, marriage and motherhood. "Black women have been doing this [working and rearing a family] forever," Vanessa says. "Being a Black woman, I think that is one of the roles, the strengths you just acquire. I think we are a strong people," she adds.

Passing the lesson her parents taught her about believing in herself on to her two young daughters by example, Mrs. Williams' future clearly has no limitations, as she today anticipates the release of a brand new single from her soon-to-be-completed second album, a summer concert tour and several TV acting roles.

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"THUMBS UP!"
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and Lectrodes

Monday, April 2nd
Heart of
Darkness

Tuesday, April 3rd
Tesseract

Wednesday, April 4th
Big House