

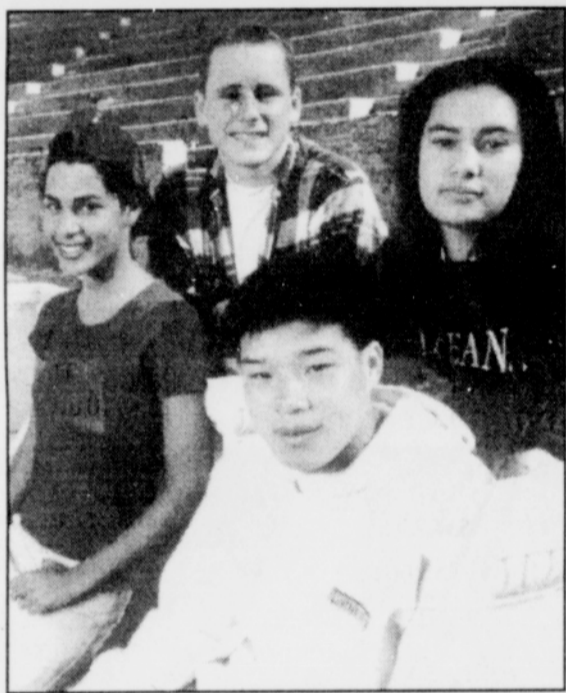
# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer



## SCHOOL COLORS

For the last three years, Berkeley High School principal Jim Henderson, (above - at center), has made "racial harmony" a paramount goal at his large, urban, multicultural high school in Berkeley, California. Mirroring the country's larger struggle with its ethnic diversity, the school is deeply divided by growing racial and ethnic tensions. Students at Berkeley High such as Faith Blakeney, Eddie Mezincescu, Art Yee and Xochitl Rios (right) struggle to come to terms with their own identities while confronting conflicts over political correctness, multiculturalism, and race. "School Colors," a co-production of the Center for Investigative Reporting and Telesis Productions for Frontline, airing Tuesday, October 18 at 9 p.m., on PBS, follows Henderson and a diverse group of faculty and students through the 1993-1994 academic year at Berkeley High.



## Karyn White

"The basis for this album was simple: it was about trusting my 'gut' feelings. It wasn't about over-singing but about doing what was natural. Although there was no overall lyrical theme, the songs really addressed women's needs, songs that women in particular can embrace."

Make Him Do Right, Karyn White's third Warner Bros. album, does indeed focus on sentiments and feelings that women of the Nineties will easily identify with. Check out the upbeat, no-nonsense first single "Hungah For Your Love," one of the songs Karyn co-wrote and co-produced for the album - "a sensual tune that I wrote when I was singing in the shower! I wanted to do something that was in the vein of a Donna Summer '70's kind of tune...although we don't push the same kind of buttons as much as she did!"

Reflecting the album's diversity, the beautiful ballad, "I'd Rather Be Alone," a cut Karyn co-produced with Flyte Tyme Productions' Jellybean Johnson, contrasts with the propulsive, insistent "Weakness."

And, in the tradition of her 1991 classic "Superwoman," there's title track "Make Him Do Right," a soulful, straight-ahead piece (written and produced by hitmaker Daryl Simmons) that Karyn notes, "is about how we women want to be treated. It's like, if you can't make a man do right, what you can do is raise your own level of self-respect. The lyrics are telling women that it's better to be alone than to be mistreated or disrespected. There's one line, 'if he don't want to get married, then he can't be no man of mine,' and I'm a good example of that viewpoint my-



Singer - Songwriter, Karyn White

self!"

Karyn is referring to her marriage to master producer Terry Lewis, who (with partner Jimmy Jam), co-produced seven tracks on Make Him Do Right. She says, "My marriage and the birth of my daughter Ashley have been like the opening of a whole new beautiful chapter in my life." Reflecting on the past, she adds,

"When I recorded 'Superwoman,' I was singing about my own mother, but now I understand even better what it really means." Karyn smiles, "The changes in my life have certainly affected how I relate to my music. During my pregnancy, I had time to think and do some soul-searching. I come to this album with a lot of ideas for lyrics and melodies."

## The Selector

The reactivated Selector have been busy for over three years now, touring extensively throughout Europe and America in support of their of their live reunion LP, Out in the Streets. Their most recent outing was the much lauded all-star ska tour, Skavoovie, which barnstormed the U.S. in late 1993. At that time, The Selector released a CD-single containing three vision of the ska-standard "Madness," recorded with guest star/ska legend Prince Buster.

The current summer/fall tour of America is in support of the brand new LP of patented Selector ska, entitled The Happy Album. It's the band's first collection of all new songs since 1981. The record features many new favorites made popular via the Skavoovie tour, such as "California Screaming" (already getting heavy play via Wayne Jobson at the world-famous KROQ in Los Angeles), "Neurotica," and "Whip Them Down." It also features a fine remake of Toots and the Maytals "Sweet and Dandy."

Formed in 1979, The Selector spearheaded the Two Tone/Ska Movement in the U.K. Led by vocalist Pauline Black, the band scored a number of hit singles, such as "Three Minute Hero," "On My Radio," "The Whisper," and "Too Much Pressure." The hits led to the albums, most notably Too Much Pressure and Celebrate the Bullet. In addition, they had four



The reactivated Selector.

songs featured on the Dance Craze soundtrack -- both the film and the soundtrack were hits worldwide.

The band split-up in 1981. Vocalist Pauline Black stated making television appearances and eventually had her own BBC show, Black on Black. Ten years later, in June of 1991, Pauline reformed the band, recruiting former Bad Manners members Martin Steward and Nick Welsh.

After a few U.K. warm-up dates, The Selector toured America for a month of sold-out appearances. In October of '91, they embarked on a 60-date tour of Britain and Europe, resulting in their live album Out in the Streets released by Triple X. The LP featured all of the group's well-known hits, including "On My Radio," plus "Train to Skaville," and a ska-ed up version of the "James Bond Theme."

## Aaliyah's Number Is One Million

Age is proving a double edged sword for Jive recording artist Aaliyah (ah-lee-yah). While meaningless in catapulting her debut disc "Age Ain't Nothing But a Number" to sales of over 1 million (certified platinum), it's held her back from performing on the Budweiser Superfest.

Aaliyah, the youthful protege of

sexy superstar singer/songwriter/producer R. Kelly, is experiencing incredible chart success, with two singles in the Top 25 on the Pop and R&B charts. Hits from the album keep coming from the gold lead single "Back and Forth," a mellow party record, to the romantic Isley Brothers remake "At Your Best (You Are Love)." Cur-

rently her album reigns at number 5 and 25 on Billboard's R&B and Pop charts. In keeping with the album's title, the admitted teenager refuses to divulge her exact age in interviews, however it is clearly under the legal drinking age, forcing her to cancel her scheduled performances on the Kelly-headlined Budweiser Superfest.

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