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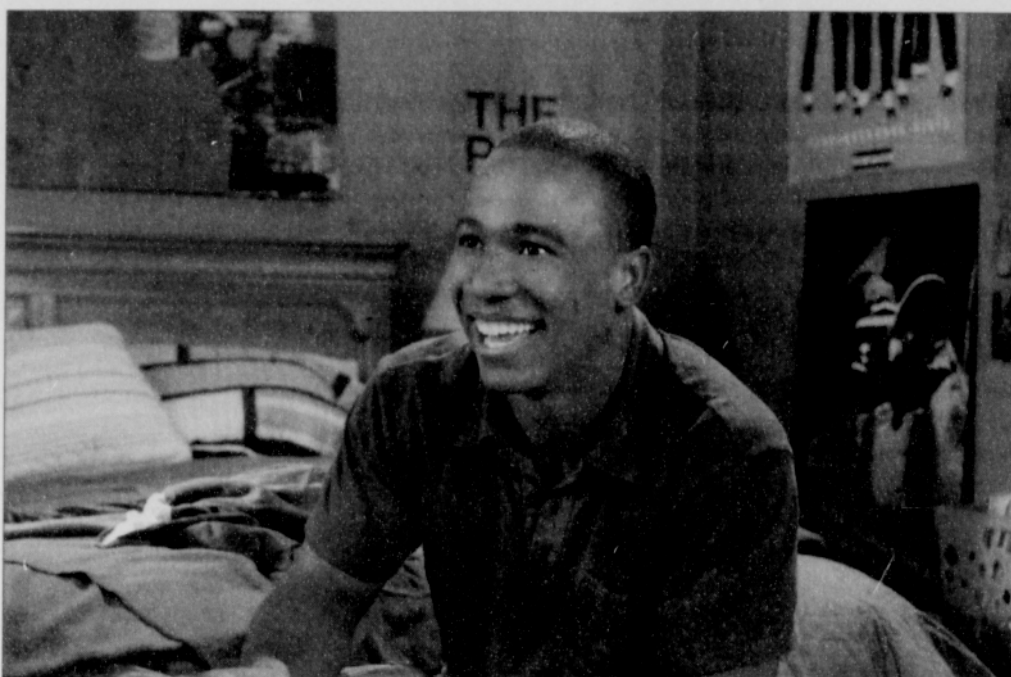
Short Stands Tall in 'Accepted'

Columbus Short stars with Justin Long in 'Accepted,' Universal Pictures' socially subversive comedy for anyone who has ever felt the sting of rejection.

The story follows two graduating high school seniors who smooth-talked their way through the system and now are in a quandary they can't charm their way out of: College Admission.

Out of desperation, the two create an "illustrious" institute of technology with a few eccentric friends in an abandoned psychiatric facility. Under their care, the school becomes a place where they can make their own rules, design curriculum and maintain complete control over their education.

The off-the-grid school appeals to scores of college cast-offs who gratefully (and un-



Columbus Short stars in the new comedy 'Accepted.'

expectedly) show up once they learn of the "we accept anyone" mentality of this new university.

A young African American actor, choreographer and dancer, Short is making a name for himself. His previous film credits include roles in

"War of the Worlds" and "You Got Served." His television credits include roles on ER, Judging Amy and That's So Raven.

He has taken acting roles with pop superstars such as Britney Spears, Ashanti and Brandy.

An Evening of Stars Salute

Aretha headlines college fund special

The United Negro College Fund will present Aretha Franklin, the undisputed "Queen of Soul," its prestigious Award of Excellence during the taping of 'An Evening of Stars' television special next month.

Franklin will be the first female artist to receive the award. Previous honorees have been Lou Rawls, Quincy Jones and Stevie Wonder. The three-hour concert tribute will air nationwide in late January.

Franklin will receive the honor for her longstanding and generous support of the UNCF's mission to provide deserving students with access to higher education, as well as for her well-known activism and



Aretha Franklin

philanthropy on behalf of numerous other causes.

A music industry legend,

Franklin has contributed her fame, talent and money to numerous other causes and organizations, including the Dance Theatre of Harlem, the NAACP, sickle cell anemia research and drunk driving awareness and prevention.

"UNCF is delighted to show Aretha Franklin some of the R-E-S-P-E-C-T that she has shown us for so many years," said Michael L. Lomax, president and CEO of UNCF. "As an artist, an entertainer, and a citizen, her career has established a standard of excellence that exemplifies the educational distinction to

which our member colleges are dedicated and to which they hold their students."

As one of the most revered artists in the music industry, Franklin has earned 17 Grammy awards, 17 No. 1 R&B singles, a Presidential Medal of Freedom, a Kennedy Center Honor, a National Medal of Arts, and was the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Her long list of hits includes "Chain of Fools," "You Make Me Feel (Like a Natural Woman)," "Think," "Baby I Love You," "The House That Jack Built," and of course "Respect" her most famous hit song, which became a symbol of both feminine and black pride in the 1960s.

Franklin's last studio album, So Damn Happy, was released to critical acclaim in 2005. Her debut release on her very own Aretha Records, "A Woman Falling Out of Love," is currently being readied for a January 2007 release date.

Rap Superstar Adopts World Cause

Jay-Z promotes 'Water for Life' campaign

(AP)--Jay-Z boycotted premium champagne Cristal at his clubs after the brand's owner made some remarks he didn't like. Now the rap superstar has a new favorite drink: water.

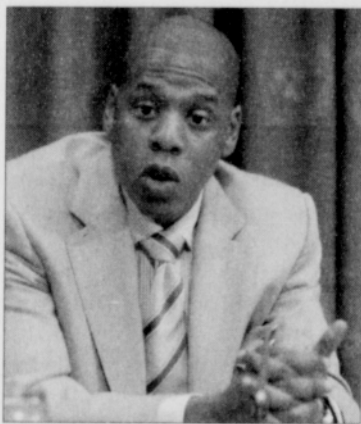
Jay-Z, president of Def Jam Records, teamed up with the United Nations and MTV last week to get children involved in the fight against the worldwide water crisis. He cited statistics that 1.1 billion people live without clean drinking water and 2.6 billion lack proper sanitation.

"I figure that once I stumbled

upon that, if the information was out and young people knew that these problems exist while we're having Poland Springs at Cipriani and things like that, that we'll get involved," said the 36-year-old rapper, referring to the high-class restaurant chain.

Jay-Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter, said he had been looking for a way to help people, and when he visited Africa on tour he was struck at how many of the world's poor lacked such a basic necessity.

"As I started looking around and looking at ways that I could become helpful, it started at the first thing - water, something as simple as water," he said at a news conference at U.N. headquarters. "It took very little, very little to see these



Jay-Z

numbers."

MTV film crews will follow the rapper on his worldwide tour, which begins Sept. 9. "The Diary of Jay-Z: Water for Life" will feature first-person accounts of meetings with

people around the world who lack water, MTV President Christina Norman said.

Jay-Z said he wants to build 1,000 "play pumps" in Africa by the time the tour is over. The device features a rudimentary merry-go-round that pumps water from a well into a storage tank as it spins.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan recalled how President Kennedy once remarked that anyone who could solve the world's water problems would get two Nobel Prizes - one for peace and one for science.

"Together, we may yet inspire a young viewer to take up President Kennedy's challenge, and claim both those Nobel Prizes," Annan said.

Jazz Icon Welcomed Home

Allan Jones at LV's Uptown

LV's Uptown jazz club, 310 S.W. Lincoln St., near Portland State University, will welcome home drummer, composer and Portland jazz icon Alan Jones on Friday, Aug. 25, and Saturday Aug. 26.

Jones will appear both nights with a stellar quartet featuring bassist Tom Wakeling, pianist Darrell Grant and special guest, award-winning Canadian tenor saxophonist Phil Dwyer.

Shows are scheduled both nights at 7 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. with a \$5 cover charge. For reservations and information, call 503-221-0140.

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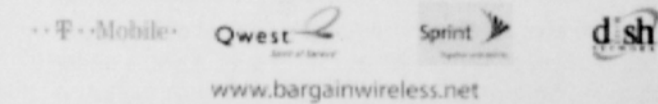
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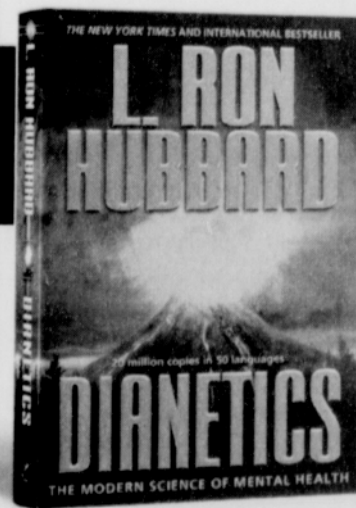
The Theatrical History of Doctor Faustus (2005); Ensemble Intimate Apparel (2006); Guendolyn Mulamba, Tiffany Adams. Photos: David Cooper and T. Charles Erickson.

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