# STROBE

by Tim Walter

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## *Newlywed Niecy's Most Embarrassing Moment*

"There I was with my dresser, running down the corridor," confides **Deniece Williams**, whose **Thom Bell**-produced "It's Gonna Take a Miracle" has just become the biggest pop and r&b hit of her career, "getting ready for what was going to become the most embarrassing moment of my entire life!"

Niecy was in London, performing with **Johnny Mathis** for **Prince Charles.** Mathis became so excited that he missed cueing Williams, skipped two of his songs and proceeded with her introduction. "We had only seconds to get on stage and I was still in my dressing room," explains Niecy of the 1978 incident. "Until now, I've never told anyone; only my valet knew."

Williams arrived on stage breathless "and never knew my hair piece was on backwards. I must have been setting a new style for the British public, I guess. Later, backstage, when I realized what had happened, I just died! I suppose I should be grateful that no one seemed to notice; maybe it shows that sometimes we worry too much about little things. But luckily, I was able to fix my hair before meeting the Prince at a reception after the show."

For Niecy, the big success of her new Columbia LP "Niecy" has made life better than ever. "I've just been asked to write some songs for **Andy Williams,**" she glows. "That's a signal of my success, to be writing for someone of his caliber." In August, she'll be appearing at the Sunsplash reggae festival in Jamaica, then head for Europe and Japan before launching a U.S. tour in the Fall. Then, copying last year's calendar, she'll spend November in the studio.

"I'm just trying to be in the will of God," she explains of her personal philosophy, "That's what works for me. Anytime I've been out of order with Him, then everything else has been chaos. Being a single parent for eight years, managing that, there had to be a source of strength from somewhere. It's my belief that God was on my side."

When you listen to the album, you'll discover that three of the songs have something to do with the telephone, either waiting for the phone to ring or having trouble getting through to a lover. I asked Niecy if there was a reason.

"Well, I didn't realize it when I did the album, only after it came out," she admits, "but in fact, I'm a newlywed and those songs were written last year when I was on the road and dating my husband-to-be. I guess the telephone was pretty important during that period."

Is life hard on the road? "I get bored and lonely a lot," she reveals, "and with my husband working and the boys (Kevin and Ken, ages 9 and 10) in school, it's not possible for them to be with me. So I spend much of my time reading. The boys will probably go with me to Europe and Japan this summer," she adds.

Niecy says that other children carry her special interest, too. "I really respond to my fan mail," she says. "If someone writes and asks me to come and lecture at their high school, I make an attempt to do it. I believe God put me in this position for a reason and I want to share the talents that I have." She notes that she has started to make herself available for fund-raising benefits for orphanages and children's hospitals; "It's something close to my heart."

Having just come from an advance screening of Universal's "E.T.", I asked if that was a movie that would appeal to her sons. "I know they want to see Rocky III," she says, "but they're spending the summer with their grandparents, I expect they'll worry their grandmother until they see them both. They're big movie buffs."

Niecy isn't into astrology, simply pointing to her Christian faith as all-encompassing, "but I just celebrated a June 3 birthday, and people tell me that means I have a split personality (Gemini). Sometimes I feel like five people. I don't like labels, though. I'd rather evaluate people as individuals after I get to know them."

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**Spielberg's** incredible "E.T." grossed $34 million in the first ten days. . . .special effects buffs will be intrigued by the high gore content of **John Carpenter's** "The Thing" (amusingly gross). . .did Polygram miss on **Stephanie Mills'** single "Last Night"? My test pressing of her new LP shows "I Can't Give Back The Love I Feel For You" as possibly the best song she's ever recorded. The Casablanca labeled album will be in your stores Monday, July 12. . . .national touring company of "Sugar Babies" short on entertainment value and why an all-white cast? **Eddie Bracken & Mimi Hines** are no match for tired burlesque.

# Tuesday Evening

July 13, 1982

| | WFMY CH. 2 Cable 11 | WPTF CH. 28 Cable 3 | WTVD CH. 11 Cable 6 | WUNC CH. 4 Cable 9 | WTTG CH. 5 Cable 10 | WRAL CH. 5 Cable 12 | WTBS CH. 17 Cable 13 | WGHP CH. 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7:00 | CBS News | NBC News | M.A.S.H. | MacNeil/ Lehrer | Welcomeback Kotter | Good Times | Green Acres | Joker's Wild |
| 7:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 7:30 | P.M. Magazine | Family Feud | Jeffersons | This Old House | M.A.S.H. | P.M. Magazine | Atlanta Braves | Tic Tac Dough |
| 7:45 | | | | | | | | |
| 8:00 | Universe | Bret Maverick | Universe | Danger UXB | Incredible Hulk | All-Star Game | | All-Star Game |
| 8:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 8:30 | CBS Movie: "The | | CBS Movie: "The | | | | | |
| 8:45 | | | | | | | | |
| 9:00 | Greek Tycoon" | Cassie & Co. | Greek Tycoon" | Mystery! | Merv Griffin | | | |
| 9:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 9:30 | | | | | | | | |
| 9:45 | | | | | | | | |
| 10:00 | | Flamingo Road | | Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy | News | Hart To Hart | | Hart To Hart |
| 10:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 10:30 | | | | | | | TBS News | |
| 10:45 | | | | | | | | |
| 11:00 | News | Benny Hill | News | Alfred Hitchcock | M.A.S.H. | News | | News |
| 11:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 11:30 | Alice | Tonight | M.A.S.H. | Dave Allen At Large | Odd Couple | Nightline | All In The Family | Nightline |
| 11:45 | | | | | | | | |
| 12:00 | McCloud | | Rockford Files | | Perry Mason | Fantasy Island | Atlanta Braves Replay | Fantasy Island |
| 12:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 12:30 | | David Letterman | | | | | | |
| 12:45 | | | | | | | | |

# Wednesday Evening

July 14, 1982

| | WFMY CH. 2 Cable 11 | WPTF CH. 28 Cable 3 | WTVD CH. 11 Cable 6 | WUNC CH. 4 Cable 9 | WTTG CH. 5 Cable 10 | WRAL CH. 5 Cable 12 | WTBS CH: 17 Cable 13 | WGHP CH. 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7:00 | CBS News | NBC News | M.A.S.H. | MacNeil/ Lehrer | Welcomeback Kotter | Good Times | Green Acres | Joker's Wild |
| 7:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 7:30 | P.M. Magazine | Family Feud | Jeffersons | Last Chance Garage | M.A.S.H. | P.M. Magazine | Atlanta Braves | Tic Tac Dough |
| 7:45 | | | | | | | | |
| 8:00 | Mr. Merlin | Real People | Mr. Merlin | National Geographic Special | The Waltons | Greatest American Hero | | Greatest American Hero |
| 8:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 8:30 | Adams House | | Adams House | | | | | |
| 8:45 | | | | | | | | |
| 9:00 | CBS Movie: "The Killing Of Randy | Facts Of Life | CBS Movie: "The Killing Of Randy | American Dance Festival: | Merv Griffin | The Fall Guy | | The Fall Guy |
| 9:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 9:30 | | Teachers Only | | | | | | |
| 9:45 | | | | | | | | |
| 10:00 | Webster" | Quincy | Webster" | Hitchcock | News | Dynasty | | Dynasty |
| 10:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 10:30 | | | | | | | TBS News | |
| 10:45 | | | | | | | | |
| 11:00 | News 2 | Benny Hill | News | Alfred Hitchcock | M.A.S.H. | News | | News |
| 11:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 11:30 | Late Movie: | Tonight | M.A.S.H. | Dave Allen At Large | Odd Couple | Nightline | All In The Family | Nightline |
| 11:45 | | | | | | | | |
| 12:00 | | | Rockford Files | | Perry Mason | Love Boat | Atlanta Braves Replay | Love Boat |
| 12:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 12:30 | | David Letterman | | | | | | |
| 12:45 | | | | | | | | |

# Thursday Evening

July 15, 1982

| | WFMY CH. 2 Cable 11 | WPTF CH. 28 Cable 3 | WTVD CH. 11 Cable 6 | WUNC CH. 4 Cable 9 | WTTG CH. 5 Cable 10 | WRAL CH. 5 Cable 12 | WTBS CH. 17 Cable 13 | WGHP CH. 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7:00 | CBS News | NBC News | M.A.S.H. | MacNeil/ Lehrer | Welcomeback Kotter | Good Times | Green Acres | Joker's Wild |
| 7:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 7:30 | P. M. Magazine | Family Feud | Jeffersons | T.Brown's Journal | M.A.S.H. | P.M. Magazine | Andy Griffith | Tic Tac Dough |
| 7:45 | | | | | | | | |
| 8:00 | Magnum.PI | Fame | Magnum.PI | Paper Chase | Metromedia: "The Parallax View | Mork & Mindy | TBS Movie: | Mork & Mindy |
| 8:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 8:30 | | | | | | Bosum Buddies | | Bosum Buddies |
| 8:45 | | | | | | | | |
| 9:00 | Simon & Simon | Diff'rent Strokes | Simon & Simon | Sneak Previews | | Barney Miller | | Barney Miller |
| 9:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 9:30 | | Gimme A Break | | HitchHiker Guide | | Taxi | | Taxi |
| 9:45 | | | | | | | | |
| 10:00 | Knot's Landing | Hill Street Blues | Knot's Landing | Austin City Limits | News | 20/20 | TBS News | 20/20 |
| 10:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 10:30 | | | | | | | | |
| 10:45 | | | | | | | | |
| 11:00 | News 2 | Benny Hill | News | Alfred Hitchcock | M.A.S.H. | News | All In The Family | News |
| 11:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 11:30 | Quincy | Tonight | M.A.S.H. | Dave Allen At Large | Odd Couple | Nightline | TBS Theatre: | Nightline |
| 11:45 | | | | | | | | |
| 12:00 | | | Rockford | | Perry Mason | VegaS | | VegaS |
| 12:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 12:30 | McMillan & Wife" | David Letterman | | | | | | |
| 12:45 | | | | | | | | |