

## WEEKEND

■ Reviews ■ Ask Yolonda ■ Poetry Corner

## Broadway Is My Beat

## About that story Mr. T told Barbara Walters the other night...

By JOEY SASSO  
Syndicated Columnist

Observations in covering the night beat:

**Mr. T** continues to add impact to his menacing image, in spite of charges by the National Coalition on Television Violence that his "A Team" portrayal and the violence of the series itself have a harmful effect on children.

During a taping of a recent **Barbara Walters** special, he talked blithely about once joining his seven brothers in a chase for a trio that had robbed and threatened to kill their mother. To hear him tell it, "We tore up the town to find the guys, slapped people around, kicked down doors, went to the funeral home and told them to get three caskets ready."

Were those caskets used? The "A Team" star would like the world to believe they were. As he informs Barbara, "I'm not outright going to say I killed those guys, but nobody will ever see 'em again."

Personally, I wouldn't take his "confessions" all that seriously....

At the peak of his career, **Michael Jackson**, who has always been uneasy in the limelight, is thinking very strongly of retiring to take a break from the burden of his success. He also has turned to good friend **Diana Ross** for advice only shortly after he made a joke of the American music Awards by walking off with wins in eight major categories.

"Anyone who knows Michael knows how he really is and how difficult he finds all this publicity to take," says a show business insider and close friend of the singer.

"After all, what a way to go out, he's don just about everything. What more could be expected of him? He leads a good life and he doesn't want to self-destruct."

Adds the friend: "All his fame and publicity scare him. He's so shy he almost always wears dark glasses in public to avoid people's eyes. He's very sensitive...."

**Lena Horne's** in demand for a diet and exercise-class book, but she doesn't know if she'll oblige, her simple recipe for keeping her glorious figure simply is

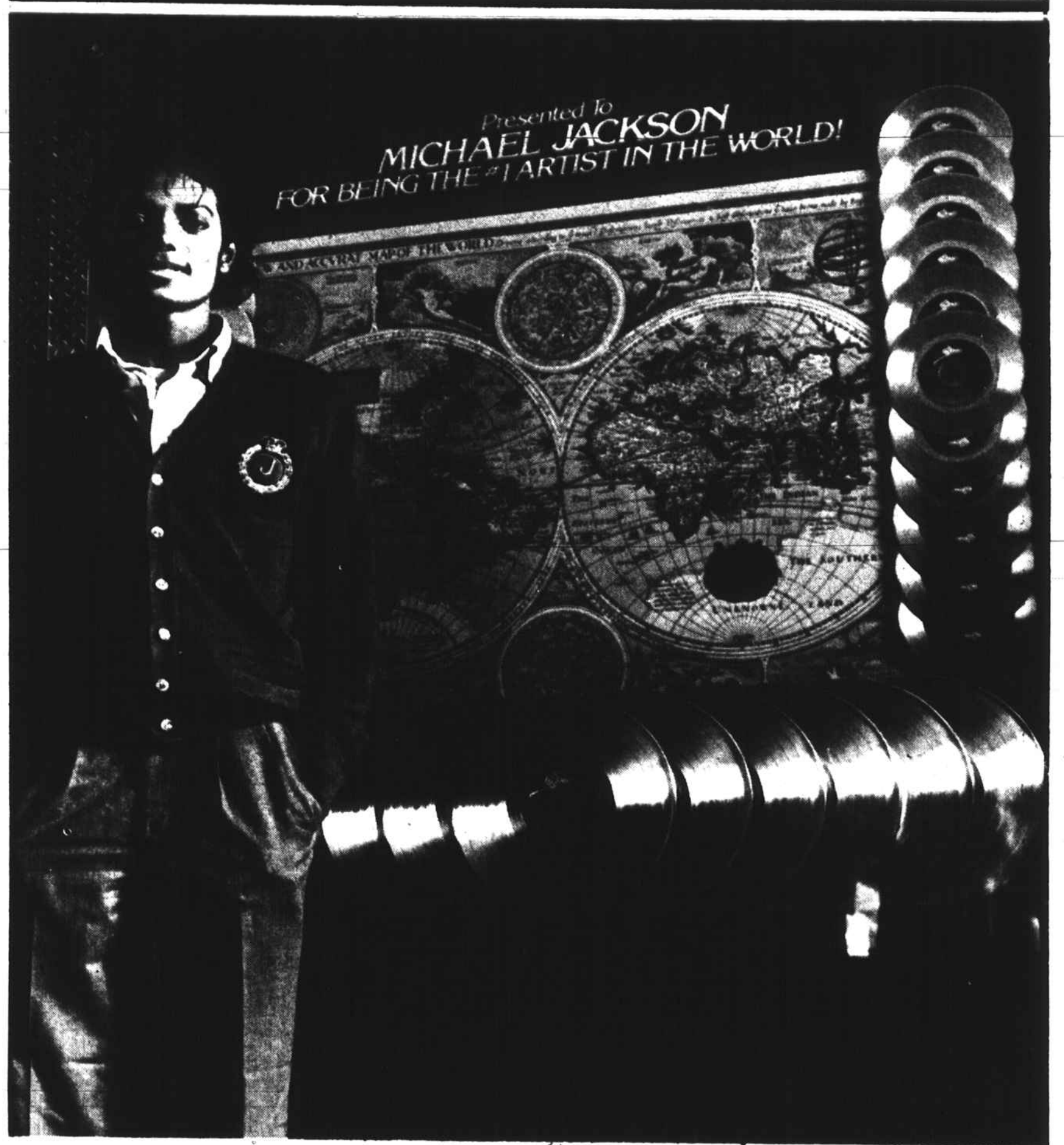
to work constantly a the last two years of her one-woman concert tour: "I lose two pounds every performance," she says "I sweat a lot." Oh...."

**Sidney Poitier** will direct "Shootout" for Columbia Pictures and may appear in a cameo role in the musical drama scheduled to begin production this spring. Poitier, who directed "Stir Crazy," one of Columbia's biggest recent hits, wrote the original story for "Shootout," on which **Richard Wesley's** screenplay is based. The film deals with the current street-dancing craze called break dancing....

Rumors about the forthcoming **Jacksons** reunion tour are flying, but this much, at least, is true: So far, the eagerly-anticipated concert tour, which will take the singing Jackson brothers, including superstar Michael, to cities across the country, has not been booked into Philadelphia. According to **Bill Cherry**, spokesman for the Jacksons' flamboyant promoter, **Don King**, no dates have been set there. An announcement of all of the 40 to 60 dates on the tour will probably be made early next month, Cherry said recently. The tour is scheduled to begin in May and continue through the summer....

Every minor star in Hollywood seems to have written a kiss-and-tell memoir, but how many can brag, as **Sammy Davis Jr.** can, that their literary efforts are being used to educate American high school students? Sammy's "Hollywood in a Suitcase," which came out in 19080, has won the distinction of being included in a high school curriculum called "The Holocaust and Genocide: A Search for Conscience," developed and tested over six years by New Jersey's education department and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The course is now going national....

RC recording artist **Marilyn McCoo** will be seen Feb. 22 on the nationally-syndicated late-night show "Thicke of the Night," where she will perform "Heart Stop Beating in Time," the first single from her RCA debut LP "Marilyn McCoo... Solid Gold." Marilyn, who recently signed with RCA, was a founding member of the **Fifth Dimension**, the group that topped the charts throughout the late 60s and early 70s with such smash hits as "Up, Up and Away" and "Aquarius...."



**Michael Jackson stands beside one of his most recent awards, a 5-foot wall display containing 37 platinum and gold records naming him "No. 1 Recording Artist in the World." The display, along with many other elaborate decorations, including his signature etched in gold on the door, adorn the new Michael Jackson Suite in the Hotel Royal Plaza in Florida. Daily rates are \$280 for one-bedroom and parlor, or \$420 for the entire two-bedroom suite. And from the reception that Jackson got at a special CBS Records party in his honor Tuesday, there will probably be a waiting list of patrons.**

## Ask Yolonda

## Tempted wife requests help

By YOLONDA GAYLES  
Syndicated Columnist

**Dear Yolonda:** Please help me stay away from this single man! I try to stay away from him on my own, and I do well for a couple of weeks, then he calls me (at my job) and I'm right back with him. He knows it's hard for me to break away because we seem to know one another so well.

The bad thing is that I'm really happily married with two beautiful sons. This is really tearing my insides out. You see, my husband doesn't satisfy me sexually. He doesn't care about that kind of thing. What should I do?

A reader in Huntsville

**Dear Reader:** From your letter, your problem is not how to come up with ways to stay away from your single friend. The question is how entice you husband to become more involved in the sexual part of your marriage.

I suggest that you begin at your local bookstore (that's right). You'll want to ask for popular books on marriage, most of which include a chapter or two on this subject. Make sure your husband reads the books, too.

If you find no help there, begin seeking the services of a marriage counselor.

In terms of your single boyfriend, you have to do no more than avoid his phone calls.

## Reply From Reader

**Dear Yolonda:** I saw the article, "Inexpensive things parents can do to reinforce their love," and I was truly impressed. I sent a copy to several friends.

I wonder had you seen this? It's a little book from the U.S. Government Printing Office (Wash., D.C., 20402) called "Toys: Fun in the Making." It contains ideas and directions for making children's toys and games from things you normally throw away. It only costs \$3.75, and it's heaven-sent for parents like myself who don't have the money to buy their children all the toys and games they would like.

Evelyn M.

**Dear Evelyn:** I hadn't seen it, but it is an informative book. Thanks for sharing.

For anyone who wishes to order a copy, you can write directly to the U.S. Government Printing Office. Include the stock number: S/N 017-090-0052-6.

Please see page A12



## VIP Boosters

"Voting is one of the things that makes achieving your dreams possible," says **Koolhaa and Moore**, who, along with **Melba Moore**, participated in the **VIP (Voting is Important) non-partisan voter registration marathon** at the Lincoln Center in New York. The marathon was sponsored by the **Black Radio Council of New York** and supported by many other groups to encourage voter registration.

## Hollywood Today

## Dorothy Dandridge finally gets her Hollywood Boulevard star

By VINCENT TUBBS  
Syndicated Columnist

The late actress **Dorothy Dandridge** now has her star implanted in the sidewalk of Hollywood Boulevard, thanks in no small measure to actor **Joel Fluellen**, who honchoed the project for years.

**Sidney Poitier** and **Fayard Nicholas**, of the famed **Nicholas Brothers**, were among the late actress' star friends who turned out for the occasion, among dozens of others.

Meanwhile, **Jayne Kennedy** has optioned the Dandridge life story for a future biographical film.

L.A.-based concert promoter and record mogul **Dick Griffey** and other **Solar Records** biggies were on

the French Riviera again this year for the **MIDEM (Marche Internationale du Disque et de L'Edition Musicale)** where the **BIG** music people get together to sell, just as Hollywood film folk do in the spring at Cannes.

Griffey's stated objective: "To discuss marketing and creative concepts to enhance black music worldwide, as we (Solar) sincerely feel that black music is universal."

Bantam Books begins marketing the **Jeff Rovin**-written biography "Richard Pryor: Black and Blue" this month, right while **Poor Richard** is up to his "personals" with applications from what insiders describe as the "weirdest sources you can imagine."

They're seeking to replace **Jim Brown**, the Pryor-

fired president of his Columbia Pictures-backed \$41 million **Indigo Productions Co.**

Stay tuned for the details.

**WHO'S WORKING** -- **Richard Roundtree** teams with **Burt Reynolds** in the upcoming film, "Kansas City Blues," along with **Clint Eastwood**. It's gotta be a hit.

But K.C. won't see Richard or Burt or Clint. Universal is spending \$1 million to build a **Kansas City** replica on its backlot.

**Dorian Harewood** is coming up in Columbia Pictures' "Against All Odds," due out March 22, while **Hal Williams**, last seen on the "Private Benjamin" TV series, is on the upcoming "Cooter's

Confession" segment of TV's "Dukes of Hazzard."

**INCIDENTALLY:** L.A. Lakers basketball star **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar**, when asked who he would like to have been, said, "I probably would have liked to have been **Clark Gable**, but since that didn't work out, I'll settle for who I am."

Come March 21, the Los Angeles Urban league will bestow upon **Ella Fitzgerald** the 1984 **Whitney Young Award** for all that the Queen has been and meant to all of us.

And superstar **Lionel Richie** will be the honored **Man of the Year** performer come October, when super-rich Denver entrepreneur **Marvin Davis**, owner of 20th-Century Fox, etc., holds his annual star-studded **Carousel Ball** to raise money for diabetic children.