

# Weekend

The Arts, Leisure, Music, Columns

## Musical Notes

### Tina's video features strenuous dances

The Fixx' Cy Curnin and Jamie West-Oram have just finished backing Tina Turner on a video choreographed by yet another artist known for a top-10 hit, Toni Basil (remember the single "Hey, Mickey"?). Curnin and West-Oram had originally co-written and sung back-up vocals on "Better Be Good To Me" at Farmyard Studio in England's Buckinghamshire.

When Tina asked the Fixx members to fly to the States to help make the video for the two songs, they were more than willing to comply. But little did they suspect the kind of workout choreographer Basil had planned for them.

Says Curnin, whose Fixx videos are based on some of the most intellectual lyrics in rock, "She had us doing things I never thought we could do -- jumping, spinning and dancing barefoot all day."

#### An Incisive Request

At the shooting for the video of Gary U.S. Bonds' new song "Standing In The Line of Fire," one of the thousands of people who had gathered in New York's Washington Square Park to participate stepped up to Bonds, pulled out his switchblade and asked Gary to autograph the blade.

Said U.S. Bonds as politely as possible, "Couldn't you find something else? My pen won't write on this."

#### Arrest Me

The Jacksons' Victory Tour has been free of security problems than a night at your neighborhood bar. The first night of the Dallas shows, for example, there was only one arrest -- on a drunk and disorderly charge.

Jackson security team members asked the offending gentleman if he'd like to leave the stadium.

"Look," said the inebriated music fan, "if I leave, I'll have to

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### Tina Just Wants To Have Fun

Tina Turner with Fixx members Cy Curnin and Jamie West-Oram: Choreographer Toni Basil put 'em all to work on Tina's new video.

### Broadway Is My Beat

## Marla Gibbs: Florence 'represents the masses'

By JOEY SASSO  
Syndicated Columnist

Observations in covering the Night Beat:

During her first two years as Florence the maid on "The Jeffersons," Marla Gibbs kept her night job as a United Airlines reservations clerk. Just in case. That was eight years ago, and viewers' enthusiasm for the Jeffersons and their cohorts shows no signs of abating; the series quietly rides high in the ratings week after week.

Gibbs, as graceful and elegant as Florence is saucy and flip, offers her explanation of the show's success over a 3 p.m. lunch at a Beverly Hills restaurant. She has just come from speaking about leadership at an inner-city junior high school, a typical activity for the actress.

Marla believes the show has survived the networks' high casualty rate because it offers something for everyone, from the example of George Jefferson (who has achieved the American dream of owning his own business without a college education) to the younger members of the Jefferson clan.

As for Florence, she "represents the masses, the employees," Marla says, adding that she believes this identification was one of the main reasons that the attempt to spin Florence off into her own series a few seasons back didn't work. Something was missing with Florence playing a boss: She became the establishment."

Is she weary of Florence after all this time? "I'm not," she answers quickly. "I don't know any place we can go and earn this much money."

As for recurring charges that "The Jeffersons" characters don't provide terrific role models for blacks, Marla is philosophical.

"We can't be everything to everybody," she says. While she would like to see a strong black family man on television, she notes, "People are always telling me that George reminds them of their father. And everybody has a mother or an aunt like Florence."

Marla also has no complaints about her role as a maid. "Housekeeping is an art," she says.

On her seemingly unlimited reservoir of energy, Marla says: "There are five or six of me. I have to satisfy all those people running around inside..."

Michael Jackson maintains his eerie, girlish way of speaking with a secret daily ritual that threatens to damage the singing voice that is piling millions of dollars into his bank account.

The wispy, ghost-like voice has spawned some of the most shocking rumors surrounding the 25-year-old singer. His family has consistently denied stories that he has been castrated or failed to mature sexually. They also deny speculation that he takes female hormone treatments to stave off deepening tones. But one of Michael's closest friends admits that the star forces himself through a daily routine of excruciating vocal exercises to keep the pitch of his voice high.

"Michael works hard every day to keep his voice the way he likes it," the friend explains. "He practices singing and talking in falsetto tones just like he practices his dancing."

Dr. Roy Langer, a speech therapist and specialist in voice disorders from Miami, says, "Michael has been using his voice to an extreme since he was a child. He no doubt has strained it, and working to maintain its present level is making the problem worse."



### Partners

Unlikely songmates Julio Iglesias and Diana Ross team up on "All Of You," Iglesias' latest Columbia records single. Spokesman for the label say the record will be featured on Iglesias' next LP and set the stage for his current U.S. tour.

### Ask Yolonda

## Her daughter's problems are own doing... not friends' fault

By YOLONDA GAYLES  
Syndicated Columnist

Dear Yolonda. I have three daughters. The youngest one attends high school and is a fairly good student. She is no problem to us. The oldest has a job and is trying to make something of herself. My problem is the middle one: She is 19, and it seems as though she wants to be a failure in life. She already has two children (one is now in a foster home). She won't go to school and she won't look for a job. She receives a small check from the department of public welfare, and apparently this satisfies her. She spends her time talking on the phone, looking at the soap operas, or visiting some people that she has befriended, a group of "low-life's" who live in a neighborhood where I'd be afraid to visit.

I have no idea what's come over this child. She didn't inherit her faults from either me or her father. We both are hard-working individuals, and we tried to give her our best. I know she's picking up her ways from her friends because all of the ones that I've seen spend their time looking at the soaps and wasting their young lives. Not one of them has a job or any type of ambition. We don't allow them to visit our home.

We don't know what to do. We tell her to get out and find some sort of program to enroll in for training purposes, but nothing we

say fazes her. She's the black sheep of the family. What do you advise?

S.T.

Dear S.T.: First, let's face the facts: It seems that your daughter lacked a direction or goal, and then she sought out like-minded friends -- not vice versa, as your letter implies.

If you daughter changes her life, it won't be because you want to see her change. She's got to want to change.

The key is to get her around a parenting or vocational counselor who approaches her from this angle: Instead of suggesting that she "go find some sort of program," I urge you to go through the phone book with her to help her find such a program. You may even have to physically escort her to one of the counseling sessions.

Sometimes kids (even adult kids) need to know that their parents care enough to make them do things that they otherwise would not do.

#### She Went Too Far

Dear Yolonda: I went and did something stupid. I was invited to a party. Well, it turned out to be a little more

than a party. There were some drugs there, and things turned pretty wild.

Well, anyway, I let this man bring me home. To make a long story short, we got involved, and went too far.

That's bad enough -- but there's more. First, the man is not on my level. I'm a junior in college. He's a high school dropout and is unemployed. But the real big problem is that he has up and told three other people I know about the situation.

I'm so embarrassed that I could die. What can I do about this? Should I say something to the man involved?

Gwen B.

Dear Gwen: You can't change what has happened in the past. What you can do is to put things in the right perspective -- and refuse to allow yourself to give in to those feelings of embarrassment.

What to do? If another friend mentions what he or she heard, say something like: "He said that? He sure is nuts, isn't he?"

Don't say anything at all to the man. Believe me, he knows what he did wrong.

Got a problem or a gripe? Write Yolonda Gayles, P. O. Box 19112, Chicago, Ill. 60619.