

Weekend

The Arts, Leisure, Music, Columns

RENEWAL

MISS AMERICA IN FRESH NEW LOOKS FOR FALL

ENHANCE YOUR FABULOUS FIGURE

YOUR FEET: AHH, RELIEF!

SURPRISING COLORS FOR EYES AND LIPS

BEAUTY PAGEANTS: THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY

CON GAMES: CAN YOU BE HAD?

BLACK MEN ON RELATIONSHIPS: SURVEY RESULTS

NIKKI GIOVANNI ON MOTHERING

Miss America, Vanessa Williams

An Ironic Coincidence

The former Miss America, Vanessa Williams, appears on the cover of the latest Essence magazine, her title intact, because the issue was planned "months before these unfortunate events," says a news release distributed by the magazine. Williams stepped down after Penthouse magazine published nude photos of her in its September edition.

Ask Yolonda

Her over-the-phone romance: will the truth disconnect it?

By YOLONDA GAYLES
Syndicated Columnist

Dear Yolonda: I'm a 29-year-old woman with a problem. I'm writing you because I could never discuss this face to face with anyone.

A few months ago, I was making telephone calls for my boss. A man to whom I was trying to introduce to our company asked that I call him back a few times. Well, after about the third phone call, he admitted that he did not need our company's services right now, but he liked my voice and wanted to get to know me better. He lives in the same state, but in another city.



Yolonda

During the next few weeks, he began calling me, and things got pretty personal. He started asking me things about myself -- things such as my physical appearance, marital status, education, etc. To be truthful about it, the only correct answer I've given him is the one about my marital status: I am single.

I didn't tell him the truth about my education, or about how I look. I told him that I have a college degree in personnel counseling. Really, I'm a secretary in this department, but I do so much personnel work that I don't feel like a secretary at all.

Also, although I have a cute face, I'm a little overweight (about 40 pounds). This I didn't mention, either.

The bad thing is that this man is so serious that he's practically asked me to marry him, sight unseen. He tells me that he likes the fact that we communicate so well. He says that this has been the biggest problem that he's had with other women in his life.

Yolonda, I'm afraid that once he sees me, he'll

stop liking me so much, and I'll lose him. He's planning a two-week trip here in October. He has also asked me several times if I think that I could find a personnel job in Raleigh, his hometown. I want him to like me as I really am, but men are so figure-conscious. What should I do?

Karen

Dear Karen: Let me put it this way: You say you want this man to like you as you are, but clearly, you don't like yourself as you are. If you did, you wouldn't have found it necessary to be so evasive.

What should you do? You can try the positive approach and sign up for a neighborhood aerobics class. Perhaps you can knock off a few of those pounds between now and October. You can also sign up for an evening course in personnel work. But please, don't do all this for your blind date. Do it because evidently you want to see yourself as a more physically-fit and educated woman.

And don't be too hard on yourself in reference to your omissions. Ten to one says that he has left out a few unattractive details about himself, too.

Dad Acts Fatherly Only After Separation

Dear Yolonda: I'm a 26-year-old black woman with two children. I lived with my children's father, but we never legally married. Today, other than the kids, we have nothing in common and have problems communicating.

Several months ago I began dating a man who is almost too good to be true. He is very concerned about me and the kids. He has moved in and has helped me provide for them in ways that their father never did. My boyfriend treats my kids as though he is their father.

Please see page B9

Hollywood Today

The lesson Eddie Murphy's fat lip taught him

By VINCENT TUBBS
Syndicated Columnist

Just like Popeye, *nouveau riche* star Eddie Murphy, who's adding to his millions with a role in Paramount's "Best Defense," seemed to have momentarily dropped his guard (forgotten his spinach?) in a local watering hole recently.

News reports said Eddie was talking, and at least one listener (gay maybe?) wasn't digging -- and somebody threw a glass, somebody else threw a fist and stuff like that. When the smoke had cleared, Eddie had a fat lip, and the threat of an even fatter law suit.

Oldtimers in Tinseltown are hinting that maybe fast-talking Eddie should take a note from his once-wild-swinging peer Richard Pryor, who, when faced with the same problem of dealing with the "He's so rich, I'm gonna test him" detractors, kept at his elbow a sort of middleweight Mr. T named Raoul....

OOOH, LA LA! -- Paramount Pictures, the studio that made the too-long-neglected "Jesse Owens Story" -- which has turned out to be the TV hit we told you it would be -- is belying up to another surefire blockbuster. Diva Diana Ross is going to star in "The Josephine Baker Story," according to the *Hollywood Reporter*, "after a two-year hassle over terms."

Joseph Bailey, who wrote the screenplay for "Garden," is writing the script.

Meanwhile, Diana has said nothing -- just as she won't say anything or sing nary a note in the Allan Carr film "Silence," for which she is now reported to be signed.

And Al Jarreau has been set to star in "The Nat 'King' Cole Story," a two-hour CBS docudrama on which the late crooner's son, Kelly Cole, is working as a research assistant....

Sherman Hemsley is making the leap from "The Jeffersons" TV series to the movie screen in a film titled "Benny and Buford," currently filming in Mexico. It's about a couple of New York cops trapped in a Dixie mansion inhabited by a bigoted ghost....

Ernie Hudson, who appears in Columbia's current box office smash "Ghostbusters," seems to be on a winning roll. On the heels of a deluge of national publicity, Ernie's just been signed for 10 recurring guest spots on NBC's "St. Elsewhere" series.

JUST FOR THE RECORD -- Oscar-Winning actor Sidney Poitier, who continues to mine gold in the rich vein of black Hollywood screen workers, has another heavy lineup working on Columbia's new dance musical "Fast Forward" (formerly "Shootout").

The crew includes Candace Allen, the bright Radcliff grad, who is 1st assistant director -- and the first black woman to fill that slot on a major film for a major studio. And there are 20 more: production accountant Margaret Mitchell, who handles the money; Jill

Please see page B5



Eddie Murphy: Like Richard Pryor, learning that fame and fortune, literally, can be painful.

Movies

Rock star Prince: He's no actor but he sure sings up a storm

By RHONDA BRANNON
Syndicated Columnist

Let me begin by saying I'm a fan of Prince.

I enjoy his music and attend his concerts. As a singer, composer and performer, he is, in my estimation, superb. But as an actor he leaves much to be desired.

"Purple Rain" is Prince's first movie and it depicts the stormy rise of a young singer-composer (Prince) named "The Kid." The Kid is an embittered young man, due, in part, no doubt, to his father, a frustrated composer who beats his wife and bounces The Kid off the walls a few times, too.

Clarence Williams III, last seen in the TV series, "The Mod Squad," turns in a mediocre performance as the father. All it seems he's called upon to do is beat his wife and son, mumble, grimace and make profound statements after his beating sessions.

Olga Karlatos portrays the mother (To be honest, I shouldn't use the word "portray." That's usually applied to acting. Maybe "appears as" is a better choice of words). She also mumbles between screeches and whines.

Appolonia Kotero is Prince's love interest. Miss Kotero has a passable singing voice and makes a nice clothes hanger for the somewhat sleazy black and red outfits she wears in the movie -- and that is all. I am sure she got this part because she is a friend of Prince, not because she wowed him with her acting abilities.

There is, though, one device Appolonia does employ rather well: the ability to cry on cue. Whenever Prince sings a song she bursts into a stream of tears. I guess the songs affect her so deeply.

Morris Day, a member of the group the Time, portrays himself as The Kid's nemesis and I must admit that I found him to be quite funny. His comic timing and delivery were excellent and he comes across as the type of performer who believes his own publicity and tries to live it to the utmost.

Jerome Benton is Day's personal manager and best friend. When he teams with Day, the results are hilarious. In one scene, they try to devise a password so Day can get away from his other women and get to know Appolonia better. The exchange between Day and Benton will make you chuckle, especially when Day raises an eyebrow and laughs as only he can.

As for Prince, what can I say? In a performance that might be

expected of a first-semester drama student, he seems uncomfortable without his guitar, an audience and a song. When given a script, scenery and another person to deal with, he falters. He's not bad, mind you -- with lessons, he could become quite good -- but in this movie he's just adequate.

Prince is, however, mesmerizing and dynamic on stage, doing what he does best. He's in his element there and rivets your attention to the screen. The songs are electrifying and Prince is, too, but if you've been to any of his concerts, you already know that.

If this is just a one-shot endeavor for Prince, it will be a very lucrative one. Each showing has been a sellout, and in its first week, "Purple Rain" outgrossed "Ghostbusters" in box office receipts.

If Prince continues to make films, however, let's hope, for the sake of his fans who appreciate good acting and adult dialogue, that he'll hire stars who can act and writers who can write from here on out.

"Purple Rain," rated R, is playing at the Reynolda Cinema. It contains profanity, some violence and nudity.