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THE CHARLOTTE POST

"Charlotte's Fastest Growing Community Weekly"

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Michael Jackson To Appear On Annual Black Gold Award

The soulful sounds of some of the nation's hottest rhythm and blues artists will be coming your way from 6-8 p.m., Saturday, April 28, when WPCQ (Channel 36) presents the First Annual Black Gold Awards.

Hosted by entertainer Lou Rawls, this one-hour special promises to be an intoxicating evening of entertainment with such soul-stirring stars as Michael Jackson, Donna Summer, Herbie Hancock, Thelma Houston and others. Singing sensation Deniece Williams will join Rawls as co-host, along with the fabulous Gladys Knight and the Pips, as



Michael Jackson
.....Top entertainer

they bring the show to you from the famed Coconut Grove.

The Black Gold Awards

will recognize the top soul entertainers in 13 categories including Top Male-Female Vocalist, Top Vocal Group, Hottest Male-Female Newcomer and Song of the Year.

Along with the award presentations, there will be live performances by Jeffrey Osborne singing "We're On The Way," Evelyn King singing "Shake Down" and Angela Bofill performing her hit "Special Delivery."

In addition, there will be full-length videos by the electrifying Michael Jackson, Herbie Hancock and Donna Summer.

Presenting the awards will be LeVar Burton, Andrae Crouch, Al Green, Herbie Hancock, Janet Jackson, Ray Parker, Jr., Shalamar, Thelma Houston and The Weather-girls.

There will be a special tribute paid to Jackie Wilson, and a Black Legend Award will be presented to Joe Williams.

Concert Canceled

Two performances by Robert Guillaume, star of ABC-TV's comedy "Benson," have been cancelled by mutual agreement Boris Sellers, executive director of Spirit Square, announced this week.

Sellers said that ticket sales for Guillaume's May 5 shows were slower than expected and that Spirit Square and Guillaume's agent mutually agreed to the cancellation. Sellers said he has no plans for a replacement so close to the concert date.

The Spirit Square Box Office, located at 318 North Tryon Street, will make refunds to ticket buyers who do not wish to trade their Guillaume tickets for another performance. Box Office hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.



RAY CHARLES

Genius of soul

Charles' Music Transcends All Barriers Of Language

By Loretta Manago
Post Staff Writer

"When you take a song and make it a part of you...a part that's so true, so real, people think it must have happened to you," you have done something so incredible and rare that you deserve to be called a "genius" at what you do.

Although the above quotation is Ray Charles' definition of soul, it is also the epitome of what entertainer Ray Charles has done throughout his 30-year career. Through each performance, through each recording, Ray Charles has bared his soul to his audience, leaving no one untouched.

"His music transcends

all barriers of language, culture, educational differences and runs the gamut of musical fashions, making rhythm and blues, country and rock and roll uniquely his elements, communicable to no less large an audience than the generic group - 'homo sapiens.'"

Like so few artists, Ray Charles seems to have an understanding of music that far exceeds notes, and captures the pure beauty that music offers.

"I was born with music inside me," stated Ray Charles. "Music was one of my parts...it was a necessity for me - like food and water."

No doubt, music served as Charles' food and water.

At the early age of four, he was already banging away on the piano keyboard. Today an accomplished musician, Charles has taught himself how to play and write for every brass and wind instrument in an orchestra, specializing in piano, organ and saxophone. He composes and arranges as well.

What Charles has accomplished musically has not come easily. Charles learned early in life that you have to fight for what you want. Losing his sight at the age of six, Charles was given a bit of wise advice from his mother. She told him, "You're blind, not stupid. You lost your sight, not your mind." See Charles On Page 1B

Popular Three Ring Circus Coming To Tryon Mall

Leanne Earl is neither an airplane pilot nor a stewardess, but most of her working hours are spent in the air. That's because Leanne is the featured aerialist with Roberts Bros. Three Ring Circus coming to Charlotte on Friday and Saturday, April 20-21.

Born to parents who were trapeze performers, Leanne was introduced to the daring profession at an early age. Her training in the graceful art began almost as soon as she could walk.

Working without a net, Leanne performs a routine of mid-air gymnastic marvels with grace and artistic showmanship that ranks her as one of the world's foremost aerial stars today.

Acrobats, jugglers, equilibrists, tumblers and clowns are also among the talented performers on the circus bill. Trained goats, dogs, ponies and an elephant acts are other program highlights.

Roberts Bros. Circus is one of a very few circuses appearing under a big top still touring America today. Showgrounds will be at Tryon Mall, with performances scheduled at 6 and 8 p.m. Friday with the midway opening an hour earlier, so you will have time to enjoy the many varied concession stands.

The circus appearance in this area is being sponsored by Tryon Mall Merchants. Advance tickets are available from any members of the organization at a reduced rate prior to circus day.

Country Fair

You are invited to a "Country Fair" on Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Albemarle Road Elementary School. There will be crafts, games, refreshments, a white elephant sale, face painters, and lots of fun for the entire family.

This event is sponsored by the school's PTA.