

★ MOVIES  
★ THEATRE  
★ DINING

# Entertainment

★ DANCING  
★ SHOWS  
★ LOUNGES

## THE CHARLOTTE POST

"Charlotte's Fastest Growing Community Weekly"

Page 1B - THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, May 10, 1984

### Television's Benson

### Is "Real Life" Benson

By Tony Brown  
Special To The Post

In 1977, television gave America one of its most memorable characters: the feisty, sharp-witted butler Benson in the television comedy "Soap." But what do Americans know about the man who captivated audiences with his award-winning portrayal of a black man who moved from the kitchen to the

board rooms of state government? In a rare and candid look at the man behind the image, "Tony Brown's Journal" goes behind the scenes to reveal the complex personality of Robert Guillaume on the upcoming episode, "The Other Benson."

"Tony Brown's Journal" is America's longest-running and top-ranked Black-Affairs television series. It has been sponsored by Pepsi-Cola Company for nine consecutive years. It will be seen in this area on WTVI, Channel 42, at 5 p.m. Sunday, May 13.

Robert Guillaume has driven street cars, shined shoes, worked in the post office and was raised poor in a ghetto in St. Louis. On the program, this multi-talented entertainer talks about his childhood and his continual battle to keep his character on television from becoming another stereotype. "It's been a little difficult for me not to take myself seriously when I'm going to appear before millions of people every

week, and I know the crying need for black people to be able to look at this product and not wince and not be ashamed," Guillaume tells Tony Brown in one of his most provocative interviews to date. "At the same time, I have to be funny and I was always trying to find a way to be funny without being a fool."

Robert Guillaume, who has his own production company, is also critical of blacks in the movie industry: "I think that we are the first ones seduced by the glamour of what it is we're doing. And we're the first ones who buy the nonsense. Not to do any disservice to anyone, I just think that we don't realize what power we have and what we ought to be doing with it."

### Rockaway

### Revue To

### Appear Here

The Charlotte Chapter of the Second ward High School National Alumni Foundation, Inc., will sponsor the presentation of the Rockaway Revue of Jamaica, N.Y., Thursday, May 17, 8 p.m. in West Charlotte High School.

The 1984 performance is entitled "Music, Music, Music." Rockaway Revue, Inc. is a group of senior citizens, all over the age of 60. They are retired professional musicians and dancers. According to Dr. Mildred Y. Mosley, chairperson for the show, the group formed under the auspices of the Rockaway Revue, Inc. which is a senior citizens center in Jamaica.

The 90-minute program will be singing, dancing and orchestral music. During the intermission, three door prizes will be given away. "Members of the Charlotte Chapter are very proud to present this dynamic group and cordially invites everyone to purchase a \$6 ticket," Dr. Mosley stated.

The organization promises an evening of laughter and enjoyment.



THE BAR-KAYS

...Popular pop-funk-soul band

## Bar-Kays Keeping True To Their Rhythmic-Conscious Roots

By Loretta Manago  
Post Staff Writer

Making it in a business like entertainment takes more than talent. That's only the beginning! To become successful means that despite the setbacks and rough spots the thought to quit never results in action.

The popular soul group, Bar-Kays should know this better than most bands in the industry today.

Just when they were beginning to gain name recognition during the 60's, disaster struck. An airplane crash took the lives of all of the Bar-Kays except James Alexander. He was on another flight. It took a lot of courage and guts to rebuild the group, but Alexander did.

"It all happened so fast," recalled Alexander.

"I didn't really have much time to think. I was only 17 years old and I inherited it all. I was asked if I was going to continue the Bar-Kays and I just said yes. All of the original members were like brothers to me and I thought they'd really want me to take the name further."

"It took roughly a year to reform the group." But for Alexander there was never any turning back.

Nor did the Bar-Kays turn back when Stax Records folded. The original Bar-Kays were a major foundation of the historic Stax Records. Simultaneously, while the Bar-Kays were recording at Stax they were also playing as the late Otis Redding back-up band. Everything seemed to be going well for the group until Stax Re-

ords declared bankruptcy in the early 70's. This announcement left the Bar-Kays in a web of contractual red tape and litigation. Still, the Bar-Kays had the determination to keep their aggregation together until the legal hassles were resolved.

In 1976 the Bar-Kays signed with Mercury Records. With the majority of their problems behind them, the Bar-Kays were now free to do what they did best - make music. "They released six great albums in a row--"Too Hot To Stop," "Flying High On Your Love," "Light Of Life," "Enjoy," "As One," "Night Cruisin'" and "Proposition."

But with all the accolades that the group has received from their pre-

vious albums, it is their latest album, "Dangerour," of which they are most proud.

According to group leader James Alexander, "This album captures what we've

been heading towards for the past few years. Over the past few LPs we've

been developing our sound to create the catchiest melodic structures, while also keeping true to our rhythmic-conscious roots. I

think this is the kind of music that appeals to everyone. It's not bound by any artificial generic classification."

The Bar-Kays will be appearing with Kool and the Gang and Evelyn King at the Coliseum on Saturday, May 19, at 8 p.m.