

BLACK HISTORY - BLACK CULTURE

John H. Sengstacke

John H. Sengstacke, head of Chicago's **Daily Defender** newspaper, is president of the Robert S. Abbott Publishing Company and several other publishing companies. He is a nephew of Robert Sengstacke Abbott, founder of the **Chicago Defender**.

Sengstacke was born into a family of writers. His father, the Reverend Alexander Sengstacke, published a small newspaper in Savannah, so John naturally developed an interest in printing and journalism. He graduated from Hampton Institute with a degree in business administration in 1933. After graduation, he went to work for his uncle (Robert). Within one year, Sengstacke was vice president and general manager of Abbott Publishing Company.

Upon his uncle's death in 1940, he became president of the company. By 1956, Sengstacke increased the frequency of the publication and transformed the **Chicago Defender** into the **Daily Defender**.

He is founder of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and has served as its president several times. He is on the boards of several companies, and has held many leading positions in professional, educational and civic organizations.

Zora Neale Hurston

Zora Neale Hurston was born in Eatonville, Florida and was one of eight children. Hurston was very spirited and could draw an audience to her like a magnet. She came from a poor family but she managed to save money for college. In 1918 she entered Howard University. She excelled in classes she found interesting and failed those she did not. She obtained her B.A. from Barnard College.

Hurston's celebrity status grew easily. In 1921 her first story, **John Redding Goes to Sea** was accepted by Howard's distinguished literary club magazine.

During her life she wrote seven books and more than fifty articles and short stories. Hurston managed to avoid many of the restraints placed upon women, blacks, and specifically black artists by American society during the first half of the twentieth century. She was a complex artist whose persona ranged from charming and outrageous to fragile and inconsistent, but she always remained driven and focused. She died January 28, 1960.

Thelma "Butterfly" McQueen

Born in 1911 in Florida, McQueen received

her B.A. from New York City College. Her acting career began on radio, where she played on "The Goldbergs," "Jack Benny Show," "Kaye Show" and "Beulah Show." In the early 50s she recreated the role of Oriole for television's "Beulah Show." Her film credits include "Duel in the Sun," "Dood It" and "Amazing Grace." She gave her most memorable performance as the hysterical maid Prissy in "Gone With the Wind." McQueen appeared in the Broadway plays "Brown Sugar," "Swingin' a Dream" and "Steal Away."

A drama teacher, she wrote, produced and starred in the playlet, "Tribute to Mary Bethune."

Louis Gossett, Jr.

Born in 1936 in Brooklyn, he majored in drama at New York University. He appeared in numerous Broadway plays before winning an Emmy Award for his portrayal of Fiddler in the miniseries "Roots." He later starred in the television movie "Sadat."

He received an Academy award as Best Supporting Actor for the movie "An Officer and a Gentleman." His other movies include "Enemy Mine," "Iron Eagle" and "Iron Eagle II."

Vibes, Beats, and...

BY RHONDA REYNOLDS, MILDRED GUMBS
AND ALICIA TURMAN
Staff Writers

The Entertainment Staff of **The News Argus** presents reviews of three albums that you should definitely listen to or purchase.

Included are Brian McKnight, Patra and Aaron Hall.

Brian McKnight - Brian McKnight

This is an extremely talented artist who is often overlooked and doesn't get his props. Brian McKnight is a multi-talented artist who in addition to singing also plays several instruments. He's a man who doesn't need a band or back-up singers to succeed.

Through songs like **One Last Cry**, **The Way Love Goes**, and **After The Love**, McKnight is able to creatively express feelings of hurt and sadness after losing a loved one.

One set back of the album is the similarity between songs. They all seem to focus on the same theme, heartbreak. Don't be mistaken,

McKnight's songs are all hits, but he tends to wear the heartbreak theme a little thin.

Queen of The Pack - Patra

On the rise on the reggae/ hip hop charts hails a 19-year-old Jamaican Queen of the Pack, Patra whose first single on the Epic label **Think (About It)** captured the attention of hip hop fans. Her album is a combination of reggae/ hip hop on the R & B tip.

Her songs especially those on the Hardcore side expresses her sexual desires, the way in which she wants to be loved on tracks like **Queen of the Pack**, **Romantic Call**, and **Worker Man**.

The only focus on this album seems to be that of love making. Patra's lyrics all say I need a man to love me the way I want to be loved and to be satisfied.

Poor People's Song is an anthem to their strife and the only song that does not contain lyrics about sex.

The Truth - Aaron Hall

When thinking of male vocalist that get you in the mood for romance, there is no way we can leave out Aaron Hall. The former member of Guy, has a new flavor of the month, **The Truth**.

Aaron Hall moved us all when he first released **Don't Be Afraid**, but as we all know entertainers can always seem to amaze us by going that extra mile. **Don't Be Afraid (Version I)** was "jammin", but **Don't Be Afraid (Version II)** is outstanding.

Don't Be Afraid (Version II) is a personal favorite of mine. The song has such a soft, easy listening sound that they converts into a smooth, rhythmic, melody, with a hint of jazz.

The Truth speaks for itself. Aaron Hall has a definite winner. The vocal arrangement has some very entertaining tracks. If you plan to explore your romantic side, or you just enjoy soft, soulful tunes don't hesitate to review the sounds of Aaron Hall in a musical speciality shop nearby.