

# arts and leisure

## The Moment Of Truth Has Arrived: The Envelope, Please...

### Our Own Chronicle Awards

Chronicle columnist John Slade inspired what you are about to read, so you can place the blame on him for what follows.

Some time ago, Mr. Slade, who every now and then -- more than now recently -- reviews movies and television shows when he is not teaching high school English in Hillsborough, came up with his own movie awards, including a number of novel categories -- such as "The Worst Actress" and "The Worst Slasher Movie."

Not to be outdone and not -- at least in this case -- to be accused of originality, the Chronicle's phantom entertainment columnist offers his own slate of award-winners.

Without further ado, may we have envelope, please.....

**The But Can They Sing? Award** -- To the new singing group Vanity Six, whose PR material expounds more on the "candidly sexual lyrics" in their music rather than whether they can carry a tune.

**The I Can Imitate Chaka Khan Better Than You Award** -- To a number of pretenders to Chaka's throne, including Mother's Finest ("Love Changes"), Rose Royce ("Best Love") and Atlantic Starr ("When Love Calls" and "Circles").

**The Most Off-the-Wall Lyricist Award**: To Richard "Dimples" Fields for "She's Got Papers" and "If It Ain't One Thing, It's Another," which includes such poetic gems as "I ought to flush myself down the toilet...."

**Most Over-Rated Sex Symbol**: To Billy Dee Williams, who appears



Vanity Six: Recipients of The Chronicle's "But-Can-They-Sing Award."



Ronald Reagan: "Best Performer In A Leading Role."



Chaka Khan: Her best imitators include Atlantic Star, Mother's Finest and Rose Royce.



Midnight Star: Joint recipients of "The Everybody is a Star Award."

to over-rate himself as much as his female admirers do.

**The Only My Dentist Knows For Sure Award**: To Leon Spinks, for obvious reasons.

**The She Looks Alright, But Come On Y'all Award**: To Diana Ross, who has blossomed from a skinny kid with a big wig and false eyelashes that seemed to weigh more than she did

to a very attractive, often glamorous lady who can sing with the best of them -- but is hardly one of the most beautiful women in the world.

**The Everybody Is A Star Award**: To Atlantic Starr, Midnight Star, Stargaard, Edwin Starr and the Stars On Forty-Five.

**The I Wish We'd Make Up Our Minds Whether We're Going**

**To Be A Positive Black Show Or Poke Fun At Black People And Further Negative Stereotypes Award**: To the cast and writers of "The Jeffersons," who will do high-quality shows one week and then insult us with garbage the next.

**The Best TV Commercial Award**: The Miller Lite Beer commercials, of course.

**The Best Imitation Of Slave Award**: To Odyssey, whose "Inside Out" sounds like a clone of Slave's "Watchin' You."

**The Most Photographed By United Press International Award**: To Lena Horne. Somebody at UPI must be in love with the ageless beauty -- or maybe her relative, because, when the

Chronicle subscribed to UPI photos, we received pictures of Lena doing something or with somebody what seemed like every week.

**The I Betcha I Can Make Black People Pay Money And Cheer To See A White Hope Beat A Black Man Award** -- To Sylvester Stallone for "Rocky III."

**The Most Unnecessary Product On The Market**

**Award** -- This one's a tie, folks, between "Mr. Microphone" and "The Step-And-Dine," a gadget that allows your dog or cat to step on a platform and trip a mechanism that flips the lid off of his or her feeding dish.

**The Worst Program On Television Today Award** -- To "Joanie Loves Chachi," "The Dukes of Hazzard,"

"Dance Fever," "That's Incredible," "Happy Days," "Too Close For Comfort," and two dozen others.

**The Best Program On Television Today Award** -- To "Hill Street Blues," "MASH," "The Muppet Show" and "Lou Grant."

**The Biggest Rip-Off Award** -- To the countless radio stations

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### Television And Radio

## The Demise Of Channel 12's 'Straight Talk': An Analysis

Ironically, as we were in the midst of this series of black affairs programming on both the local and national levels, the only show in this area that was produced with the minority community in mind died a quiet, unceremonious death.

Rudy Anderson's "Straight Talk," which debuted on Channel 12 in 1979 as the successor to Jane Harrington's "Shades of Ebony," aired for the last time Sept. 11.

Probably very few people saw Anderson's final show, since it competed with the A&T-Winston-Salem State football game.

Of course, not a great many people watched "Straight Talk" anyway, according to the ratings,

but whether the show simply didn't measure up or wasn't properly promoted by the station can be debated.

From this corner, I'm inclined to believe that it was a little of the former and a whole lot of the latter.

First, it was painfully obvious that Channel 12 hardly considered "Straight Talk" a priority item.

As I mentioned last week, seldom did the station air promos to alert the audience to when the show would be aired and who the guest or guests would be.

Also, as I mentioned previously, that lack of concern and resources carried over into the program's appearance on the air. The show's set was amateurish and, well, downright ugly: Moreover, the show

usually consisted of an interview conducted in the confines of the studio. Seldom, if ever, did the crew go on location to do interviews or features.

Contrast that format with "Reflections," a similar program aired on WTVD, Channel 11, in Durham, which weekly features a melange of segments, including studio interviews, location interviews, taped visual essays set to music and guests that range from members of the Communist Workers Party to the Commodores.

One "Reflections" program featured an interview with Chronicle Publisher Ernest Pitt (from Winston-Salem) and interviews with CBS newsmen Ed Bradley and PBS' Tony Brown.

That is what black affairs TV ought to be.

Another point that should be made clear: "Reflections" host Cathy Thompson-Stowe is not also a full-time news reporter, as Rudy Anderson is. She has more time to devote to her show and does not have to juggle her schedule with myriad other responsibilities.

And it is obvious that Channel 11 pumps more resources into "Reflections" than Channel 12 pumps into "Straight Talk."

I make the comparison because WTVD and WXII serve communities with sizeable, active black populations.

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### Leisure Log

## Teddy Pendergrass, Another Big Football Game Are On Tap

Clearly one of the most exciting aspects of the game last weekend between Winston-Salem State and A&T was the halftime show, in which both bands did their level best to show one another up and the Rams, as they did in the game itself, emerged victorious.

Nobody held back in this battle. From the drum majors to the

Sousaphone players to the cheerleaders to the majorettes, everybody got into the act, shaking parts of their anatomies that I didn't know could be shook.

This halftime, I suppose, was as much a game as the one involving the funny-shaped brown ball and was only one aspect of a weekend that offered something

for everybody. Speaking of everybody, some of the area clubs did take advantage of the Carolina Streetscene/Aggie-Ram Classic weekend to draw overflow crowds and, although they probably won't do quite that well this week, they're certainly going to try.

Take **Illusions**, for instance. Fresh on the

heels of its "Mini-Skirt Contest" comes a new wrinkle (pardon the pun): an "Astrology Night" and "Ladies Night" rolled into one.

The club's doors will open at 9:00 tonight and all ladies will be admitted free until eleven.

On hand will be a professional astrologist to read patrons' charts, provide forecasts and of-

fer astrological advice.

Friday's attraction will be "Alligator Contest and Noisemaker Night." The doors will open at 9:00 p.m. and members will be admitted free until ten.

Finally, **Illusions** will cap the week's activities with a "Super Saturday Night Disco."

Football connoisseurs will have another choice

game to savor this week as the **WSSU Rams** will take on highly regarded **North Carolina Central** in Durham Saturday afternoon.

In what promises to be a stiff test for the Rams (for the uninitiated, that's sportswriter talk), the Eagles are likely to be primed for another victory on the heels of their surprise comeback win in

their opener over defending conference kingpin Virginia Union.

Kickoff is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

And for those of you who are able to squeeze a little television viewing among all the alligator contests and astrology nights, shaking cheerleaders and whatnot, HBO has another fine concert on tap this

month. Following the fine performance of Earth, Wind and Fire taped in Oakland, Calif., is heart-throb **Teddy Pendergrass** in an appearance taped before his tragic auto accident earlier this year.

A big-screen offering that may be of more than passing interest will be "Inchon."

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