

# Weekend



## Somebody's Watching Him

Who is Rockwell? According to *USA Today*, the 20-year-old writer, producer and director of his own music is a "macho Michael Jackson and a sophisticated Prince!" But Motown Records simply refers to him as one of the hottest selling recording artists in the world. And what does Rockwell attribute his success to? "I guess I was just at the right place at the right time ...." he says. "And, of course, having wonderful buddies like Michael Jackson never hurts."

## Movie Review

### 'Footloose': A rousing, new-breed, '80s musical

BY RHONDA BRANNON  
Chronicle Columnist

I love musicals.

The energetic dancing, the beautiful costumes and scenery, and the memorable songs have been a source of delight for me for as long as I can remember. When I tap my feet to the beat of a rousing song in the movie and afterward hum and sing it as I go through my daily routine, I've seen a good musical.

"Footloose" had me tapping, humming -- and smiling.

Kevin Bacon, Lori Singer and Christopher Penn portray teen-agers in a small town where dancing and playing rock music are against a local ordinance. Bacon is the new kid in town, Ren McCormick, who has moved there with his mother from Chicago. Ren loves to dance and listen to rock music, so he's shocked to discover that both are illegal in the town.

Ren's friend Willard (Chris Penn) explains that, several years ago, a group of teens, one of them the local minister's son, were killed in a car acci-

dent on the way home from a dance. So the town council created the ordinance to protect teens from what the adults consider the menacing influence of rock music and dancing.

Ren witnesses the effects of the ordinance when he asks Willard if he likes the Police and Men at Work and Willard answers by inquiring if he means the men in blue and if he might tell him where the men work.

Ren then decides to hold a senior dance and instantly runs into opposition from the adults, especially the minister, portrayed by John Lithgow.

Lithgow turns in another excellent performance, this time as a man of God torn between running the lives of his congregation and family and trusting them to do it for themselves.

In the old-time musicals, the characters would burst into song, but in an '80s musical, the songs burst from the soundtrack. What bursts forth in "Footloose" is great! The energetic theme song, written and performed by Kenny Loggins, will be the dance song for 1984. "I Need a Hero" Please see page B12



## Video Voyage

Kool & The Gang's video for their new single "Tonight" (De-Lite/Polygram Records) is filled with strange celestial lights, a jungle prowling with animal people and the rituals performed in a temple of love. Directed by Martin Kahan, who has previously made videos for Loverboy, Kiss and Ed-

die Money, the video shows Kool & The Gang lead singer James Taylor growing from adolescence to manhood with the help of a fetching young lady, Wendy Edmead, one of the original dancers from the Broadway show "Cats."

## Broadway Is My Beat

### Ailing 'Diff'rent Strokes' star waiting for a new kidney donor

BY JOEY SASSO  
Syndicated Columnist

Observations in covering the night beat: Gary Coleman is in a desperate race with death to find a new kidney before he's doomed by infection or the complete failure of the transplanted one he has now.

The tiny "Differ'ent Strokes" star undergoes dialysis four times a day, but experts say the treatment is dangerous and that each time the procedure is carried out, Gary risks infection that could kill him because of his weakened condition. Dr. Oscar Salvatierra, of the transplant program at the University of California at San Francisco, says: "With ambulatory dialysis, there is the great danger of infection because it requires an open spot in the skin.

"The survival of any dialysis patient is at best unpredictable," Salvatierra says. "The principal problem is the possibility that the dialysis will just stop working."

Adds Dr. Albert Enrique-Gomez, an internist and kidney disease expert at the University of Mexico School of Medicine: "there is a fairly high rate of infection, and infection is potentially deadly to a kidney patient."

Gary is on the National Transplant Registry's "urgent" list for another transplant, which could save his life. "But he'll have to wait until we find a suitable match," says a registry spokesman. "And he doesn't have a special place in line."

Gary's mother, Sue Coleman, says doctors discovered that he had a rare kidney ailment when he was only five. "He received a transplant then and everything was going fine until two years ago, when it started to fail," she told an interviewer.

He was scheduled for a transplant early in 1983. However, at the last minute, his hopes were dashed when doctors discovered an abscess around an old surgical scar.

The registry spokesman says: "The infection and abscess made it too risky to operate. Gary has already taken all the immunosuppressive drugs one normally receives with a transplant, and they've worked all along, so we know that part will be no problem: It's just a question of finding a donor...."

Music circle insiders report that the reason no firm dates have been set for the Jackson Family tour is

that Michael wants Don King out as promoter. No comment from the Jackson camp about the matter. However, they do say the tour will get under way in May -- maybe....

Sammy Davis Jr. says that presidential candidate Jesse Jackson is a good friend and that he's a longtime supporter of Jackson's PUSH organization, but the entertainer won't get involved in the campaign this year. "Politics is the most thankless job there is," says Davis, who has been appearing at a Dallas dinner theater the past week. "I don't think people want to know what really goes on behind the scenes in the caucus rooms with people trying to lobby...."

Comedian Richard Pryor and actor Billy Dee Williams were among several entertainers recently inducted in the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame. The organization held its 11th annual Oscar Micheaux Awards ceremony as part of the San Francisco Bay Area's observation of Black History Month. Also inducted into the hall were comedian-actor Manton Moreland and dancer Carmen de Lavallade. Singer Jennifer Holliday, 23, who gained fame from her role in the Broadway musical "Dreamgirls," was presented the Clarence Muse Youth Award....

Unlike many television women, the versatile star of NBC's "Gimme A Break," Nell Carter, is not worried about getting old. She plans to fall back on her talent. The 4-foot-11-inch actress who got her start singing in her church choir in Birmingham, Ala., and went on to win a Tony for her role in the Broadway hit "Ain't Misbehavin'," says she prefers working on television. "I have been very lucky," she says. "My ultimate dream at first was to be on Broadway. Then I got on Broadway ('Dude,' 'Jesus Christ Superstar,' 'Don't Bother Me, I can't Cope')."

"My ultimate dream then was to win an award. I got the award. My ultimate dream next was to do a TV show. I did one (NBC's 'Lobo'). Then my dream was to have my own TV show. I have my own TV show.

"Now, I don't know what I want. I'm happy with what I have."

Television -- especially her three years as Nell Harper on "Gimme a Break" -- has given Nell Please see page B12

## Ask Yolonda

### Her hunch is right: Divorce rate's higher in black community

BY YOLONDA GAYLES  
Syndicated Columnist

Dear Yolonda: When I listen to friends and look around my neighborhood, I get the impression that marriage breakups are higher among blacks than whites. I've heard that one out of three marriages ends in divorce, but the rate appears to be even greater for black couples. I've been married for 15 years. We are in our mid-40s and none of our friends who married right after high school are still together.

Is there a concrete evidence concerning racial differences in marriage breakups? And, if what I

suspect is true, why?

Glenda H.

Dear Glenda: According to the Bureau of Vital Statistics, in 1982, 233 out of every 1,000 divorces involved black couples. That's a 23 percent increase over the last 20 years. The



Yolonda

bureau's figures also indicate that blacks, indeed, have the highest divorce rate when measured against whites, Hispanics and other races.

Why the high statistic in this category? I have my theories, but I'd like to hear from my readers first. Write me and give me your opinions on why blacks have a higher divorce rate.

I'd also like to hear your views on the implications these figures have for black family life in the future.

Child Abuse Everyone's business

Dear Yolonda: During a recent visit to a grocery

store, a woman in line behind me hauled off and slapped her child (about age 6) as if she were fighting an adult. The kid hit his head against the candy counter and started hollering as if he were in immense pain.

The woman threatened the kid, and looked as if she were going to hit him again when I followed my first reaction, which was to say: "Miss, don't you think you're being a little too hard?"

She snapped back: "Look, I went through the pain to have this child! I have to worry about feeding him."

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