

# Weekend

The Arts, Leisure, Music, Columns



## On Their Own

Ernie Isley, Chris Jasper and Marvin Isley, all formerly with the Isley Brothers, have stepped out on their own and released their first single, "Look the Other Way." The single has been rated on the Radio and Records and Billboard's charts. "For some time we felt we

wanted to record our own material and we chose this time to do so," said Jasper. "We wanted to record something in a different vein." In late October, the group was scheduled to make a video that will be filed at Silver Cup Studios and directed by Steve Kahn.

## Frank Wills: A victim of Watergate

Before the morning of June 17, 1972, Frank Wills, then 24, lived a life indistinguishable from that of thousands of other hardworking black men. But on that June morning, Wills, making a routine check as a security guard at the Watergate Complex in Washington, D.C., discovered a mysteriously taped lock — behind which, it turned out, five men were hidden in the offices of the Democratic National Committee. Now, 12 years later, the lives of those criminally involved in Watergate have returned to normal. They have been pardoned, forgiven, relegitimized and, by and large, become prosperous. But for Frank Wills, life has hardly been prosperous since that fateful morning in June.

In the November *Essence* (on sale Oct. 23), investigative reporter Jill Nelson-Ricks traces the poignant story of Frank Wills, who left his job at the Watergate a few months after the break-in because, he says, he was "under a lot of pressure for being involved in union activities." He currently resides in North Augusta, S.C., with his mother, finding work when he can, doing odd jobs and tending a small backyard garden. For the last few years his income has never exceeded \$10,000 and

more often has been substantially less.

Says Wills, "I always thought that for people who tried to do the right things, good things, that good would happen to them. But evidently society feels a different way....It is not that people are obligated to me, but I still think people could have reacted more positively to what I did. Nixon and those people could have taken over the country, and they are all doing fine, all out of jail and making big money, and I....," he trails off.

It is reported that political activist Dick Gregory recently signed Wills to join him on the lecture circuit in a campaign against drugs, alcohol, nicotine and caffeine.

Other features in the fourth annual men's issue includes:

- **The Male Sex Drive:** adapted from "The Changing Definition of Masculinity" by Clyde W. Franklin II, Ph.D., this provocative article provides fascinating information on the significant differences between the masculine roles played by black and white males in American society.

- **Spotlight on Miles Davis.** The master trumpeter blows away his legendary mystique and celebrates 40 years of

Please see page B11

## Ask Yolonda

# Mother fumes when daughter's labeled mentally handicapped

By YOLONDA GAYLES  
Syndicated Columnist

**Dear Yolonda:** My daughter, age 13, has always been an active child and has some problems settling down and doing her homework. But she is not a stupid child and she certainly is not retarded. But this year, when it came time for school to resume, she had been transferred from the class with her friends to a class for slow learners. She's classified as educable mentally handicapped. I don't like it.

When I learned of the change, I visited her class and I'm here to say that some of the kids in her room are in real poor shape. They don't have the same difficulty as my child. My daughter is simply not motivated by school. She wasn't studying and isn't applying herself, but she is not mentally handicapped as her classmates seem to be.

I asked her teacher how the change happened and they told me that she had been tested and had been found to have problems, but I don't believe it. I tried to explain to the teacher that anyone can fail a test. That doesn't mean that they are mental-



Yolonda Gayles

ly handicapped.

And, frankly, I just don't like the term. Suppose this kind of negative label does permanent emotional damage to her? It certainly can't help to motivate her, which is what she really needs.

I tried to make an appointment to speak to the school's principal, but he hasn't bothered to return my calls. Meanwhile, my little girl is an a

class where everyone is called "mentally handicapped."

What can a parent do?

Hazel D.

**Dear Hazel:** I called your local school board and after explaining your problem, I was told, "educable mentally handicapped is a nonbiased, universal concept that does not mean the same to educators and trainers as it does to others. EMH simply refers to a child with special needs."

"Yes. But we're concerned with what it means to this parent, and the psychological impact on her child," I said.

"Then have that parent write the principal and say that she would like her child reassessed because she feels her daughter has needs other than those addressed in EMH. She should send a carbon copy of her letter to her district administrator." So do that, and let me know what occurs.

## Ill Co-worker Causes Office Unrest

**Dear Yolonda:** I work around a man who is in his mid 60s. He has a few medical problems, including high blood pressure. He is very high strung, and thus, easy to upset.

Because everyone in our office knows that he is edgy, we walk around as if we were walking on eggs. We have to watch what we say and do because we know he'll explode. Mind you, he is not the head of the office, or even a manager, yet he's been here so long that he practically runs the place.

I wouldn't care about all of this if he would keep his problems away from me, but he doesn't. He sits right behind me, making my life miserable. If it wasn't for him, this might be a nice job. What should I do? Please don't say go to the boss. Our boss goes out of his way to keep from upsetting him, too. Please advise.

Karen J.

**Dear Karen:** Chances are great that your co-worker is very much set in his stormy work habits so whatever you do won't change him -- so you make the change. Ask for a desk change.

## Spotlight

# Russ twins debut with 'Mirror' LP

Jeanette and Claudette Russ, identical twins, comprise the recording duo Twin Image. Their current LP, entitled "Mirror," marks the debut of this harmoniously tight-knit twosome, whose voices melt with a grace and ease beyond compare.

Jeanette and Claudette grew up in a suburban area of San Diego, Calif. Like many of the popular artists of today, they were first discovered as part of their church choir where, incidentally, they can still be found on any given Sunday morning.

Evolving from a musically inclined family who

*"We wanted to help people. We wanted to bring some happiness to the people around us and we thought that by entering the para-medical field, we would be able to do just that. Now, we can bring happiness through our music."*

-- Russ Twins

sing throughout Southern California, Twin Image developed their vocal skills both at home and at church. In fact, they were discovered by Capitol Records while performing at a Los Angeles church.

The girls were originally inclined towards the field of paramedics, but when Capitol Records was so impressed with their talents that they of-

fered them an immediate contract, the girls decided to accept the musical challenge and signed on the dotted line. According to the girls, "We wanted to help people. We wanted to bring some happiness to the people around us and we thought that by entering the para-medical field, we would be able to do just that. Now, we can bring happiness through our music."

"Mirror" was produced by Todd Cochran and Sigidi, who co-wrote the stylish "My Baby Loves Me (Do Do)" for the LP. Housed in this delectable platter are tunes ranging from the dance-oriented to the balladic. The premier single, "Kiss And Make It Better," written by Jerry Knight, is an upbeat R&B gem which showcases the girls' instinctive harmonic ability at its best. Other cuts include the riveting ballad "Undivided Love," the energetic "Turn The World Around," and the cooker "Love Lesson," whose funk-flavoured rhythms are suggestive of the girls' R&B roots.

Though barely out of their teens, Jeanette and Claudette boast a highly developed musical expertise. The fact that they are twins and have been singing together since childhood accounts for their uncanny ability to sing as a single voice. Backed up by the producing wizardry of Cochran and Sigidi, Twin Image offer a powerful first LP in "Mirror".



Jeanette and Claudette Russ: Doubling the pleasure.