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## Musical Notes

### Still Bill hits the road

Columbia recording artist **Bill Withers** is set to embark on a national concert tour (his first concert series in nearly eight years). Withers will share the bill with Jennifer Holliday and the tour will kick off in Birmingham, Ala. on Oct. 25. "I'm really looking forward to performing publicly again," comments Withers. "I've got a great band -- all bright, energetic, young musicians, mostly from Boston's Berklee School -- which makes it even more exciting. I like having fun with people who enjoy my music and that open exchange of affection."

Withers has also released his third single, "We Could Be Sweet Lovers," from his latest LP "Watching You, Watching Me," composed and produced by Withers. "We Could Be Sweet Lovers" has an infectious, pseudo-reggae groove driven by stellar session musicians John Robinson (drums), and Paulinho da Costa (percussion). Along with Withers' trademark "smooth-as-glass"

delivery, "We Could Be Sweet Lovers" is enhanced by the "island sounds" of synthesized steel drums.

In addition to his tour schedule, Withers has been involved with a series of other activities. He recently performed for 20,000 people at the Hart Plaza River Front Amphitheatre in Detroit to benefit the Afro American History Museum and to celebrate their dedication of an Achievement Award to Winnie Mandela. Withers also made a Sept. 21 appearance at the Museum Soul Food Festival/Sickle Cell Anemia Benefit at Jackie Robinson Stadium in Los Angeles.

"These are all causes that I care about," said Withers. "If I don't get involved as a black person, who will? I've been involved with many of these causes for years but I've always done them quietly. However, since I'm putting myself back in the public's eye again, then the things I've

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## Television

### Sheila E. tells all about Prince

Prince protege Sheila E. and basketball wizard Magic Johnson are in the spotlight on Ebony/Jet Showcase the weekend of Oct. 25 through Oct. 27 on WLXI-TV in Greensboro/Winston-Salem.

Sultry Sheila E. tells what the glamorous life is really like; explains how she became a percussionist; talks about her new film, "Krush Grove;" talks about her new video, "Sister Fate;" and sheds light on the relationship she shares with music superstar Prince.

"He's changed me somewhat," Sheila says. "He's helped me decide what I want to do. He

gives me suggestions on 'what do you think about this or that,' but he would let me make the final decision.

"He's been like a best friend. Because we've been friends for so long, we've influenced each other a lot. It's like having a real good, close friend with you all the time."

Los Angeles Lakers magic man Earvin Johnson tells how it feels to be only 26 years old and the highest paid basketball player in the NBA, explains why his injury in his second year in the pros was good for him, discusses his feeling on athletes and drugs, talks about his motivation, tells when success becomes a problem and what being in the NBA means to him.

The man with the \$25-million contract also opens the doors of his sprawling Southern California estate which includes a high "disco quality"

stereo system and a gameroom complete with pool table.

Actor LeVar Burton, who received an Emmy Award nomination for his role of Kunte Kinte in "Roots," tells how that experience changed the entire course of his career; talks about his association with PBS; explains why so many of his characters are touched by pain; and tells why he is now ready to branch out into situation comedy.

"Because we've been friends for so long, we've influenced each other a lot."

-- Sheila E.

Then get ready for a foot-stomping, hand-clapped recording session with Grammy Award-winning gospel artists Andrae and Sandra Crouch. Andrae and twin sister Sandra explain why their ties are more than relative, and they talk about how their musical give and take brings together a melodious whole. In addition, Andrae testifies about his commitment to gospel music.

Tune in the glorious seventh edition of Ebony/Jet Showcase, hosted by Greg Gumbel and Deborah Crable, now seen in nearly 60 markets across the nation.

The Ebony/Jet Showcase is a weekly series that interviews newsmakers in entertainment, sports and business. The half-hour show also features additional reports on a wide variety of subjects from the pages of *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines.

Linda Johnson Rice is the executive producer of the show.



### All In The Family

No doubt you've heard the Family's single "Screams of Passion" on the radio and wondered just who the Family is. The Family is the latest group to emerge from the Minneapolis music scene that has produced stars like Prince. Two of the group members, Jerome and Jellybean, co-founded the group the Time. The Family, says Susannah Melvoin, is "a band about people who come from entirely different backgrounds. But we all connect, we all feel one. We keep each other on our toes. We hug each other all the time."

## On The Air

### Ferraro: Wrong woman, right time

By TOM SHALES  
Syndicated Columnist

Every modern national-political candidate has probably felt he was abused by television. But in 1984, that changed. It was the year a national candidate felt *she* was abused by television. Geraldine Ferraro has bones to pick in her just-published book, "My Story," written with Linda Bird Francke.

Ferraro doesn't go so far as to blame television for the fact that she and Walter Mondale lost resoundingly to Ronald Reagan and what's-his-name. But in the course of recounting the campaign and the experience of being the first woman vice-presidential candidate of one of the two major parties, she cites a few offenders among those who questioned her for TV.

It seems Geraldine ran into a few male chauvinist pigs.

Marvin Kalb of NBC News, host of "Meet the Press," is singled out for having asked Ferraro on that program, "Are you strong enough to push the button?" Ferraro says she was asked that simplistic question only because she is a woman. "It was so endlessly annoying to be presumed as weak and indecisive simply because I was a woman," she

writes.

Then she gives it to the "arrogant" Ted Koppel of "ABC News Nightline" for the way he "grilled me to the point of rudeness on my position on antisatellite weapons..."

"There I was," Ferraro writes, "less than three weeks from Election Day, still undergoing a foreign-policy exam instead of examining the differences between the two tickets. How counterproductive. And how arrogant of my interrogators."

Next on the firing line is Phil Donahue, on whose show Ferraro appeared late in the campaign. In the book, Ferraro scores the press for leaping too lustily and voraciously on suggestions of irregularities in her husband John Zaccaro's finances. She thought she was going on "Donahue" to discuss "The Issues." When will candidates ever learn that "The Issues" don't often make for a very good television?

"Instead of discussing the issues or even the significance of my candidacy to women," Ferraro writes, "Donahue spent at least half the show on my finances, my family background, and John's finances. I was getting increasingly disappointed at the turn the show was taking." Luckily, she writes, a questioner in the audience managed to get

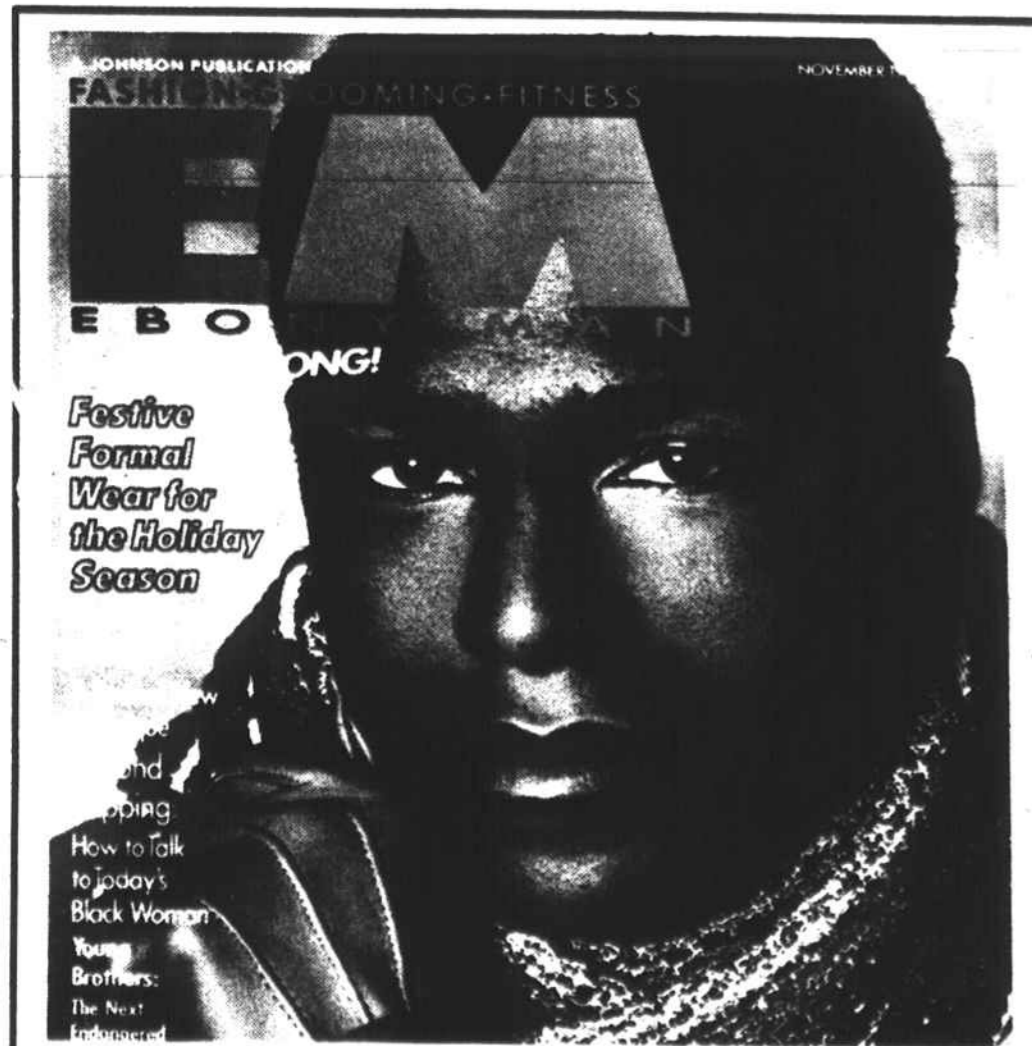
the show "on a more substantive track."

How much attention should be paid to Ferraro's complaints? Probably not much. As the first woman to be in this situation, she was bound to get the worst of it as well as the best of it. Near the end of her protracted postmortem, she declares that the "fallout" from her candidacy will help women achieve higher status in all lines of work, including journalism. Her candidacy made newspaper editors and TV news producers "aware that the majority of their women reporters were still automatically hired in 'light' news areas and allowed to have no political experience. I'm sure that won't happen again so easily."

It would be beneficial if Ferraro's candidacy made women more visible in political reporting on T.V. About every Sunday on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley," one sees four middle-aged white men sitting around and chomping on the news. Rarely is a woman present.

There are other references to television sprinkled through Ferraro's book. She makes the rather alarming confession that, during preparation for a TV debate, she fell asleep while watching a rented copy of Frank Capra's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington"

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### Males Only

Traffic-stopping fashion, sophisticated grooming, exhilarating health and fitness, creative living and stimulating essays are all a part of the November premiere issue of EM, *Ebony Man*. The monthly magazine is published by Johnson Publishing Co., publishers of *Ebony*, *Ebony Jr.* and *Jet*.