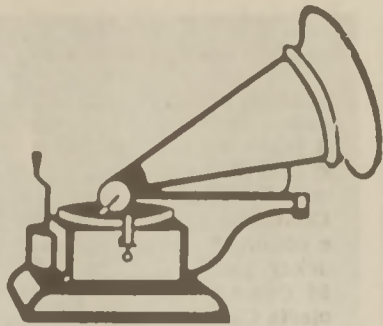


LICKS



And The Winners Are...



Donald Harrison, Herbie Hancock and Terence Blanchard.

**By Pauline Barfield
Special To The Post**

New York. -- Two Art Blakey jazz disciples and a 19-year-old rhythm-and-blues artist are Sony Corporation of America's 1988 Sony Innovators. Terence Blanchard and Donald Harrison, who perform under the name Harrison-Blanchard, and Al B. Sure! will accept their Sony Innovator Awards from Masaaki Morita, chairman of Sony Corporation of America, at the Sony Innovators Awards Ceremony at The Pierre in New York on March 1.

Renowned musical artists Quincy Jones and Herbie Hancock, Sony's 1988 Master Innovators, personally selected Al B. Sure! and Harrison-Blanchard, respectively, in this first year of competition for the new awards program. Mr. Jones and Mr. Hancock will join Mr. Morita in presenting the Sony Innovators Awards at the March 1 ceremony. Grammy Award-winning artist George Benson and 1984 Miss America Suzette Charles will host the Sony Innovators Awards Ceremony, which will feature live performances by the Sony Innovators.

Sony Corporation of America established the Sony Innovators Program to recognize Black performing artists on the brink of national prominence who demonstrate unique and daring qualities in their work. For 1988, Sony is honoring artists in the field of music. To help further the careers of the Sony Innovators, the company is providing them with a collection of professional electronics equipment. The Sony Innovators will also be seen and heard in Sony advertising.

Al B. Sure! is a keyboardist, vocalist, composer, lyricist and producer who knew at age 16 that he was destined to be a professional musician. The former rap singer ultimately turned down a football scholarship to Iowa State University to focus on his new career.

Mr. Sure! is recently signed with Warner Bros. Records, and his first album is expected to sweep the nation once it is released in March. His single "Nite & Day" from the album will be available in French as well as English. He describes his current style as a little bit of the old mixed with the new, citing Quincy Jones, Johnny Mathis and Michael Jackson among the artists who influenced him.

Says Quincy Jones of his Sony Innovator: "Al has a talent that's hard to come by. As soon as I heard him, I knew he was something special. He has a fresh attitude. He uses today's technology to break new creative ground."

Both Terence Blanchard and Donald Harrison were featured soloists and composers with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers before forming their own group. They released the album *Nascente* on Columbia Records in August of 1986. In that same year, they became the first jazz act ever to be featured at the renowned New Music Seminar. They are currently working on their next release.

Both musicians are New Orleans natives who studied at the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts under Ellis Marsalis and other accomplished artists. Mr. Harrison, now 27, began playing the saxophone in 1974 at the age of 14. He attend-

ed the famed Berklee School of Music, working weekends with drummer Roy Haynes and organist Jack McDuff. Twenty-five-year-old Mr. Blanchard first played piano and then switched to trumpet in elementary school. While attending Rutgers University, he played with Lionel Hampton's band for two years.

"Finding young artists who demonstrate a real appreciation for great jazz isn't easy," says Herbie Hancock. "Harrison and Blanchard play with an emotional style that comes from a deep understanding of tradition."

Mr. Jones and Mr. Hancock selected the Sony Innovators from two separate groups of finalists identified by a panel of three judges representing the music industry. The judges selected the finalists from a field of nominees solicited from the nation's major recording companies.

The three judges were: Debra Cain, membership representative with ASCAP, Nelson George, Black music editor, *Billboard* Magazine and popular traveling disc jockey Tom Joyner of WCCI in Chicago and KKDA in Dallas.

The Sony Innovators Program, created by Mingo-Jones Advertising, Inc., reflects Sony Corporation of America's own tradition of innovation in the development of professional and consumer electronics.

For further information about the Sony Innovators Program, the public may write to:

Sony Innovators Program, P.O. Box #4454, Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163.

Not Bad, Mike!

Michael Jackson was named "Best International Solo Artist" of the year at last night's sixth annual BPI Awards, winning over contenders which included such talent as Whitney Houston, Madonna, Prince and Luther Vandross. Jackson's *BAD* LP, released only four months before the year's end, was Britain's best-selling LP of 1987, currently standing at 6X platinum (1.8 million).

The "Brits" Awards, as they are called, are Britain's equivalent to the American Grammy Awards. Last night's presentation was seen by approximately 300 million viewers in the U.K., Europe and the Soviet Union. The Soviet broadcast, which was seen by 50 million, was the first such transmission of the awards to that nation. The "Brits" will be broadcast in the U.S. within the next several weeks (specific date and network are unknown at this time).

In acceptance of his honor, Jackson stated: "This is a very short speech, but straight from the heart. I am very honored and very happy. I love you all; thank you very much."

Jackson will be enthusiastically welcomed by 360,000 British fans in his, unprecedented, 5 sold-out Wembley Stadium concerts in July.



"Bad" Man, Good Deed

**By Maureen O'Connor
Special To The Post**

The United Negro College Fund announced that Michael Jackson will be honored at a special dinner celebrating UNCF's 44th anniversary in New York on Thursday, March 10th.

The Epic and CBS Records recording star will receive the organization's "Frederick D. Patterson Award" named in honor of UNCF's Founder and honorary president.

Liza Minnelli, Yoko Ono, Whitney Houston, Quincy Jones, Stephen Spielberg and other close friends of Mr. Jackson will also participate in the festive occasion. Each of these individuals has agreed to be a vice chairman for the dinner.

Nell Vander Dussen of Sony Corporation of America, Walter R. Yetnikoff of CBS Records Inc., and John S. Spencer of Barclays Bank of New York will serve as honorary chairmen. William E. LaMothe of the Kellogg Company is the dinner chairman.

Supported by major underwriting from Sony Corporation of America and CBS Records Inc., the dinner is expected to attract a sell-out crowd and should raise substantial funds for UNCF's 42 member colleges.

The "Frederick D. Patterson Award" is given in recognition of distinguished public service. Michael Jackson began his involvement with the United Negro College Fund in 1984 when he contributed half of his "Victory Tour" proceeds to the formation of a scholarship program. Since then, 97 scholarships have been awarded to students enrolled at UNCF colleges.

Known by the motto: "a mind is a terrible thing to waste," the United Negro College Fund is an umbrella organization, representing 42 private historically black colleges and universities. Since its inception in 1944, UNCF has raised more than \$400 million for black higher education. For additional information, write: United Negro College Fund, 500 East 62nd Street, New York, NY 10021.

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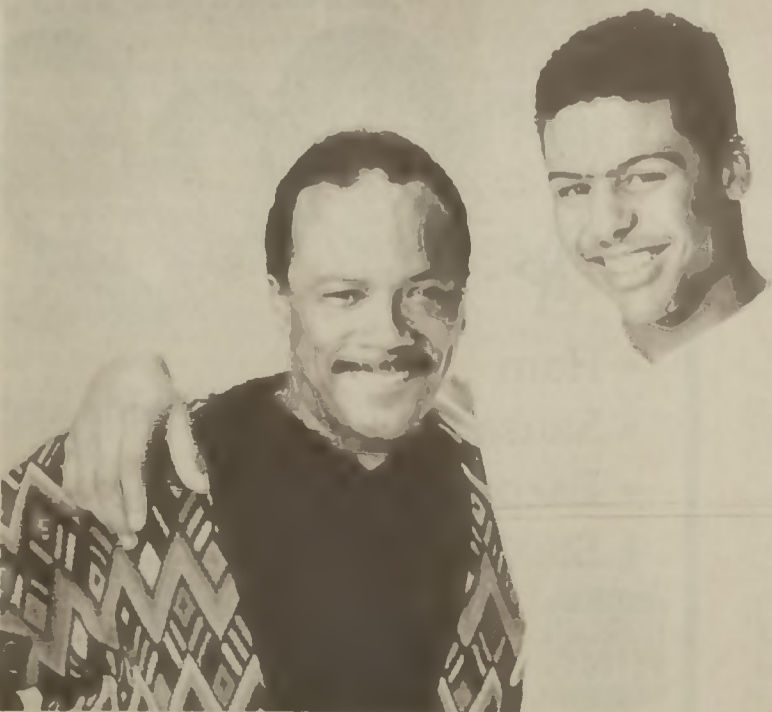
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