

BEHIND THE SCENES

with Lisa Collins



Franklin Kennedy Roundtree Fitzgerald

Blacks Honored By Blacks For Their Excellence In Film: Sidney Poitier gave both a tearful and touching acceptance speech upon receiving the pioneer's award at the annually held Black Oscar Nominees Dinner. The star-studded black-tie affair is hosted by a group of East Coast black businessmen to honor the achievements of black oscar nominees, who all too often leave the celebrated award ceremonies without the trophy. The group also honors those who may have been overlooked. This year, it did a little of both, presenting awards to the Academy's two, lone black nominees (Lamont Dozier for best original song and Willie Burton for best sound engineering), as well as handing out awards to Eddie Murphy and Forest Whitaker, who many think should have been nominated for his outstanding performance in "Bird"...the life story of Charlie Parker.

Avery Brooks Moonlights At The Kennedy Center: Avery Brooks, star of "A Man Called Hawk", recently opened his two and one-half hour, one-man show--"Paul Robeson"--at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. Turnout is expected to be near sellout for the one-month run. Meanwhile, by day, Brooks is at work wrapping up this season's "Hawk" episodes. R&B singer Valerie Simpson (of "Ashford & Simpson") will guest on the last episode to air April 29th. An accomplished songwriter, Brooks (who helped to score the show's theme song) penned both of the tunes Simpson will sing in the episode--one of them, a duet.

It's Nobody's Business But...Laker's all-pro guard Earvin "Magic" Johnson is quoted as saying that he has never dated actress Robin Givens (as recently reported in a Supermarket tabloid), nor does he intend to...On the home front, actress **Jayne Kennedy is set to give birth any day now.** It will be the second child born to Kennedy and her husband, Bill Overton.

CBS Will Roll With Whoopi Goldberg In "Bagdad Cafe" Lead: New World and CBS have teamed with New World TV for a half-hour CBS-TV sitcom based on last year's surprise movie hit--"Bagdad Cafe." The ensemble comedy was purchased by the network for the 1988-89 season. At last word, exec producer Zev Braun is now negotiating for a major name to costar with Goldberg, who stars as the proprietor of a red-neck bar in the California desert, populated by oddball barflies. The series has a 13-episode commitment. According to Braun, Bagdad Cafe "isn't your typical movie-into-series property. They're (CBS) taking a chance here. But...they can afford to be more daring because they don't have as much to lose."

All-Star Lineup For Gala Tribute To Ella Fitzgerald: Bill Cosby will head up an all-star tribute to jazz superstar Ella Fitzgerald. The ceremony is scheduled for April 28th, just three days after her 71st birthday. Among those set to participate are the Pointer Sisters, Patti Austin, Dionne Warwick, Clint Eastwood, and Carol Burnett. Funds from the gala will go to the Society of Singers--a group offering assistance to singers in need. A series of annual trophies to be known as "The Ellas" has been established. Of course, Ella will be first to get one.

Short Takes: Actress-choreographer Debbie Allen is still after the title role of a film chronicling the life of famed dancer, Katherine Dunham...**Richard Roundtree nabbed a major role** in an upcoming movie called "Bad Jim" with John Clark Gable in "Bad Jim"... Aretha Franklin's next album, "Through The Storm" will be in the stores at the beginning of May. The album features a duet with "The Godfather of Soul" James Brown, who is currently serving time...And in other music news, the first cut from "2300 Jackson Street"--the long-awaited endeavor on the part of the Jackson clan--their first family effort since the Victory tour, is due out later this month. The Epic album will be released in May, with the official lineup of Jermaine, Jackie, Randy and Tito. Of course, Michael and the clan's offspring are featured on the title track...Next week: we'll go backstage at this year's Soul Train Awards.

JCSU Student Places High In Bud Showdown

Johnson C. Smith University student Gregory Williams has placed 2nd in the Charlotte Region Songwriting/Production competition known as the Budweiser Showdown. Williams, a music business major at JCSU, placed on the top 10 out of 10,000 entries last year and was in the top five in 1984.

For seven years, the Budweiser Showdown has sought the best of local talents in songwriting and performing. First and second place winners take home a share of \$1,500 in local competition alone. From there, regional winners are selected and five national finalists will compete for over \$35,000 and a national recording contract.

Williams, who appears regularly in local clubs, will graduate from Smith this December. A native of Chicago, Williams, known locally as Gregory "Geeh," hopes the Budweiser Showdown will be the big step in an early promising career. He recently performed at Mr. Pee's in Charlotte and during the CIAA Basketball Tournament in Norfolk,



Williams with his background singers.

Virginia.

Last week, Williams received a call from England's Timeless Records who are requesting permission from him to release his "Love Touch" song on their label. "Love Touch" elevated Williams to last year's success during the Budweiser Showdown. He expects to hear from the judges in the next few weeks regarding the regional finals for this season's "Showdown."



E.U.



Kiara

JCSU Celebrates Annual BULLFEST

Ahh, the rites of spring. The warm winds are blowing, the trees and flowers blossoming and the students all wore biking shorts on Tuesday. Johnson C. Smith University students are celebrating spring again this year with the Annual "BULLFEST '89 Celebration, a week of music, activities and fun. BULLFEST '89 is appropriately titled "WHATEVER WE IMAGINE."

Held all this week, April 10-16, BULLFEST '89 will be highlighted by a 6 p.m. concert Saturday night, April 15, with the likes of KID & PLAY, E.U. and KIARA. The concert will be held at the Grady Cole Center, adjacent to Charlotte Memorial Stadium. Tickets are \$8 non-students and \$5 for students and are available at JCSU and Shazada Records and Tape locations.

Throughout BULLFEST '89, students at JCSU will hold tra-

ditional spring events such as the Miss JCSU Pageant, a candlelight dinner and Student Government Association elections.

WPEG radio will host a Block Party Friday on Blue and Gold Day from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the University Plaza, before the Pre-Dawn Dance kicks off at midnight and goes through the night until 6 a.m. Other events include Saturday's volleyball competition, Step-Show Competition (12-2 p.m., Science Hall) and a band and food festival from 2-3 p.m. in the University Plaza. On Sunday, the JCSU Golden Bull Awards Banquet will bring an end to what should prove to be the best BULLFEST yet at JCSU at 8 p.m.

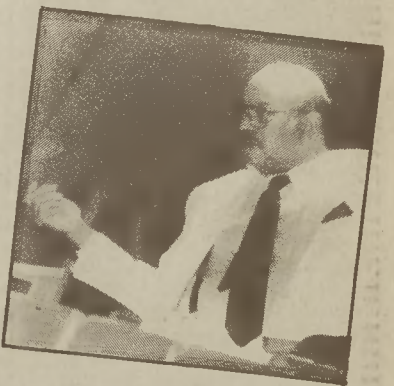
For more information, contact Ms. JoAnn Craft, 378-1046, or the JCSU Student Government Association, 378-1133.

Black Music Origins Taught At Afro Center



Guest lecturers Danyne Romaine and Worth Long (photo, right) discussed the origins of slave work songs and the blues during the second session of "Drums, Hollers, Shouts and Horns: The Cultural Circle of Afro-American Music" held at the Afro Center Sunday. Program participants, such as Ruben Hines (photo, left) raised important points concerning the development music of Afro-American music.

The program continues this Sunday with lecturer William T. Dargan and a live gospel performance.



Photos/ M.L. LaNEY

Portraits Of The Blues

Gwen Jackson, Administrative Assistant at The Afro-American Cultural Center, provided a tour and information to visiting youth on the "Blues Legacy" photo exhibit currently on display at the Center.

The 50-piece exhibit, by James Alexander of Atlanta, portrays various blues and R&B artists. It will be on display at the Center through April 30.

Photo/ M.L. LaNEY

