

BEHIND THE SCENES

with Lisa Collins



Guy Ashe Vanity Goldberg

Everyone is still talking about the statements Apollonia made with regards to another Prince ex, when asked whether or not they were even in competition. Apollonia, whose reply appears in this month's issue of *Spin*, said, "Not really. I mean her I.Q. is equivalent to her bra size--which must be 32 now. I have nothing positive to say about her." **Speaking of Vanity**, things are going well for the beauty who has just recently been cast as the bad girl in "A Heartbeat Away," which stars Brigitte Nielsen as a secret agent who stumbles into a presidential assassination plot. The film is set to begin shooting next month.

Ike Turner Will Once Again Have To Face The Music: Things have not gone well for singer Ike Turner (Tina's ex), who will be tried on charges of transportation of cocaine and being a convicted felon with a concealable firearm, as well as possession of cocaine. All this is in connection with a drunk driving arrest filed in West Hollywood on May 22 after Turner was spotted running a stop sign.

Champion Black Cyclist Becomes Hot Hollywood Property: While few know the name Marshall "Major" Taylor, Hollywood is finding him to make pretty good copy. In fact, at least three projects, based on the life of the champion black cyclist, are currently underway. Orion-TV appears to have a head start with production slated to begin this summer on "Dark Wind," which was inspired by Taylor's life. The TV mini-series will feature Malcolm Jamal-Warner in the title role of Taylor, who incidentally was recently inducted into the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame. Meanwhile, Whoopi Goldberg took an \$80,000 film option to make a film based on the 1988 Taylor biography and the sports marketing firm, ProServ, is said to be coordinating a two-hour TV movie (based on Taylor's life) at the suggestion of Arthur Ashe.

"There's no one singing like me," said Gerald Alston. "The sound that I had with the Manhattans, the producers brought over here (Motown) to a contemporary sound, let me sing the same way and put the music around me." It's been two years since Alston left the Manhattans to pursue a solo career. "At first, I was afraid, but my faith was strong. When I was with the group, if I hit a wrong note they were there to cover. No one's there to cover now." However, the success of his first release, "Take Me Where You Want To" shows that Alston just may have made the adjustment. Alston, a balladeer, says the key to singing great ballads is "to take each song for its personality. I'm emotional, a sentimentalist. Every song I sing, I put me in it--as though it happened to me, or that I know it could happen to me, and I deliver it just that way." Alston's latest release is an R&B version of the former Eagles' hit "I Can't Tell You Why." ...**In other recording news**, the industry's hottest producing team--L.A. & Babyface are looking forward to producing "After 7," an R&B group just recently signed to Virgin Records. But then it's really a matter of family ties as the group features two of Babyface's brothers and one of L.A.'s cousins. After two years out of public view, **Klymaxx is hard at work on album number five--"The Max Is Back."** Due to be released the end of August, beginning of September, the album will feature some hip-hop and a little of the go-go sound.

Short Takes: "21 Jump Street" actress Holly Robinson is putting the finishing touches on her debut album and then preparing to go out on tour. Of course, that will make it hard for her to spend time with her boyfriend, Brian Robbins (who stars in "Head Of The Class"), but those are the breaks...**Jasmine Guy is hard at work** laying tracks for her debut LP with producers Rex Salas, who is fast becoming one of the most requested producers on today's R&B music scene...**Next week: Find out what's become of Sister Sledge.**



BeBe (l) and CeCe (r) Winans

BeBe And CeCe Return To Charlotte

By LORA VANDERHALL
Lifestyles Editor

Singing sensations Benjamin and Priscilla Winans, better known as BeBe and CeCe, will return to Charlotte on June 17th, at Hickory Grove Baptist Church, 6050 Hickory Grove Road.

Prior to them becoming household names, the duo performed on the PTL Television Show, for more than two years. In a recent telephone interview CeCe Winans revealed how the move to Charlotte came about.

"Our first professional job was at PTL. A friend of ours, Howard McQuery, was the music director at PTL, at that time and he asked us to come down and audition because they were looking for singers. We weren't busy so we came to the audition...they liked us and we got the job," said CeCe.

The relocation to North Carolina was their first move away from their home in Detroit. CeCe was 17-years-old and BeBe was 19.

"We're really excited about coming back to Charlotte because this will be our first time coming back as BeBe and CeCe," she added.

Having come from a gospel singing family, the Winans, it was almost inevitable that BeBe and CeCe would do as well as they have.

Even though CeCe had a talent for singing, she went to school and became a licensed cosmetologist after high school.

"We come from a family of 10 children and singing has always been a part of our home," she said.

Their first album, "Up Where We Belong", was published on the PTL label. The debut album won a Grammy for best female gospel performance and was nominated for two others. In addition to topping the gospel chart, singles from the album--"IOU Me," "Love Said Not So," "For Always," and "Change Your Name" also scored on the pop and black music charts.

"Our music is crossover. But we did not go in with that idea. We just wanted to reach as many people as possible with our music," CeCe commented.

The sound this brother-sister duo has created is unique in that its gospel but more upbeat and positive than traditional gospel.

They are bridging the gap between traditional gospel and contemporary Christian music. It is not necessary that the listener be a believer in order to enjoy the inspirational lyrics.

Not taking any credit for the lyrics of the songs, CeCe says, "BeBe writes most of the songs. He writes about daily experiences. He and our producer Keith Thomas, who writes most

of the music, have a very good chemistry together.

"I sing and that's it...I don't write or play any instruments...I just sing," she added.

Having crossed musical lines, CeCe says they have not received any resistance to their music.

"For a long time gospel music did not get the quality production it deserves. We've been lucky to have a good producer and other who have helped us," she said. "When you're serving the 'King of Kings' it should be done nicely."

Produced on the Capitol label, their newest album, "Heaven", has flooded the soul and top 40 stations in recent weeks.

Some of the hits of the album includes, "Heaven," and "Hold Up the Light," which features Whitney Houston.

This is the first album on which they've collaborated with Whitney Houston, however they know each other for some time.

"She was going to sing on another song entitled "Celebrate," but she ended up singing on "Hold Up the Light," said CeCe.

"The song (Hold Up the Light) has a lot of meaning and you could take it a lot of ways. It has an anti-drug meaning and it also says, to young people, that they don't have to follow their friends...they have to "Hold Up

the Light."

The title cut "Heaven" is a number one song, says CeCe. "It's a song that you can listen to. It's (Heaven) why we live...its our testimony and we plan to make it our home," she said.

Currently, the duo is working on their second video. But in spite of their hectic schedules, they find time for their families.

BeBe and his wife, Debra, live in Nashville, Tennessee. CeCe and her husband Alvin Love, II, live in Detroit with their two children; Alvin III, and Ashley Rose.

CeCe says her son seems to be a born performer. "He's three years old and he loves to sing but he won't sing unless you introduce him."

When asked if she would mind if one of her children decided to become performers she said, "I have no problems with that, if that's what they want to do."

"It's hard work and it has to really be a part of you. Because I love to sing and have been called to sing...it's a part of me," she concluded.

The show will start at 8 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets for the show are \$15.50 in advance and can be purchased at all Ticketron locations. On the day of the show the tickets will be \$16.50 at the door. Also a group of 15 or more can purchase tickets for \$10.50 through Regal Ventures by calling 1-739-3838.

Black Writers Gathered In Charlotte For Conference

Photos/CALVIN FERGUSON



Delvico Dunn, 9, receives an award from Ethel Guest for his poetry.



Les Brown was the keynote speaker at the banquet.



C. Maria Macon, chairman of the local IBWC, receives a check for \$7,000 from Ron Smlley of Anheuser-Busch.



Ron Beverly (left) won first place in scriptwriting.



Milton Harvey's Ebony Bookstore display was popular.



C. Maria Macon and Mable Terrell, national director of IBWC, present an award to Dr. C. Eric Lincoln.