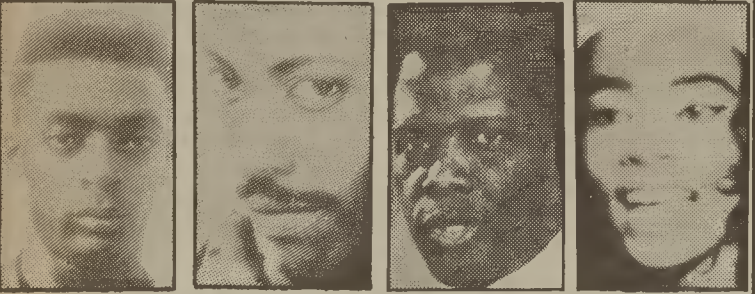


BEHIND THE SCENES

with Lisa Collins



Lee Hall Poiter Watley

Spike Lee Denies Dogging Arsenio Hall Out: Statements made by Arsenio Hall (that talking behind his back could lead to a ghetto ass-whipping) on a recent edition of Lee Bailey's nationally syndicated "RadioScope," with regards to Spike Lee's criticism of both Hall and Eddie Murphy drew heated response from Lee. On a subsequent edition of RadioScope, Lee denied ever going behind Arsenio's back "dogging him out." Said Lee, "If anything, he tried to dog me out when I was a guest on his show...I think it's unfortunate for him to get out in the media and say he's going to kick my ass. I thought more of the brother than to say something like that. Arsenio has my number and I know he has a phone, so if he thought that way, he should have called. I mean, this is the same kind of stuff we discussed when I was a guest on his show. If he heard I was saying stuff behind his back, he should call me up, but he didn't. He's fallen prey to the same kind of stuff he was chastising me for."

Bobby Brown's Cancellation Fallout: Bobby Brown's recent cancellation of the final 20 dates of his U.S. tour come amidst rumors that the MCA Records superstar has been checked into a drug rehab. But if you listen to those close to Brown, there are at least three reasons why you shouldn't believe this rumor. His attorney says the dates were cancelled so that he can begin pre-production on his next album (which is not slated for release before the end of this year), particularly as he wants to do a great deal more of the writing. Liz Heller, MCA's vice president of artist development, implied "general burnout", in a recent LA Times article, while another MCA executive, Louil Silas maintained that Brown doesn't do drugs. Added Silas: "at what point in his career are these rumors going to be put to rest? They've been going on vir-tually his entire career."

Judge Concurs With Reference To Actor Phillip Michael Thomas As A "Mama's Boy": Miami Vice's Phillip Michael Thomas lost his \$14 million appeal of a libel suit against the National Enquirer as a Federal Court upheld the earlier dismissal of the suit filed by the actor, as well as his mother and brother. Thomas filed in 1987 after the tabloid reported that Thomas' brother was serving a 27-year prison term for raping three Sacramento women. A year earlier, the paper described Thomas, one of eight children, as a "momma's boy" and the child of a "welfare mother". In dismissing the suit, U.S. District Judge William Orrick ruled that the story was substantially true.

It's A Wrap At "Ghost Dad": Production has just winded down on the set of "Ghost Dad", which reteamed Sidney Poitier and Bill Cosby for the first time in over ten years (even though Poitier's role in the film is behind-the-scenes, as director). Denise Nicolas, who co-starred with the pair in "Let's Do It Again" and "A Piece Of The Action", once again plays Cosby's love interest. Nicolas is happy about the chance to work with Bill again. "The best work I've ever done has been comedy, and working with Bill is an opportunity to learn more about comedy and timing and precision. Because he takes such wild trips and if you're open and can go with him, it works. It's just a good chemistry." The film also features "Head Of The Class" co-star Kimberly Russell in her motion picture debut.... **Short Takes:** It appears that singer **Jody Watley is a prime contender for the role of Catwoman** in the "Batman" sequel "A Different World" star Dawnn Lewis is shuffling between recording studios in Chicago and Detroit putting together a demo she hopes will attract the attention of a major record company, as she's getting serious about launching a singing career.... **Next week: Is actress Jonelle Allen emerging as the "Erica Kane" of Black America with her new role on "Generations"?**

GO HAMMER!!



M.C. Hammer & The Posse

M.C.'s Ready To Get It Started In Charlotte

With their Capitol debut, *Let's Get It Started*, M.C. Hammer & The Posse are poised to continue the critical and commercial success they achieved on their own --- a level of success they always knew was possible for a rap band from the "wrong" coast. Conceived and nurtured in the Bay area, M.C. Hammer & The Posse did things their way, breaking ground for West Coast rap groups with two independent 12"s and an LP on their own Bustin' Records --- attracting a major record label's interest in the process.

M.C. Hammer is the founder and leader of the eight-member group. Oakland born and raised, Hammer credits his musical style to the "old school" pioneers in rap music: Afrika Bambaataa, Grandmaster Flash, Treacherous 3 and especially Melle Mel.

In 1987, Hammer founded Bustin' Records, releasing two 12"s: "Ring 'Em" (voted the No. 2 hip-hop song of the year in 1987 by the nation's No. 1 college station, Berkeley's KALX, and the

title track of their Capitol debut, "Let's Get It Started."

Let's Get It Started, produced by Hammer (who is also producing two new groups, 3.5.7. and Ace-Juice), is an 11-song hip-hop medley with across-the-board accessibility. Songs like "Pump It Up," "Here's The News" and "They Put Me In The Mix" feature the turntable skills of the red hot DJ, "The Lone Mixer," Kent Wilson. For the hardcore hip hopper, songs like "Feel My Power," which celebrates the rise of West Coast rap artists, and "That's What I Said," will have much appeal. Blues fans will appreciate the BB King guitar licks on Hammer's version of "The Thrill Is Gone."

The most awesome forum for

M.C. Hammer & The Posse is Live. Hammer, originally a solo performer, decided to form a group of dancers, singers, DJs, and a "hype" man to back him up. They are one of the growing number of rap groups that not only understand, but have mastered the concept of "entertaining" a crowd while in concert. To see this group perform is quite a treat. Their stage shows are exciting, energetic and involve lots of movement and dancing. Full of bass, full of thump, full

of bells and packed with energy -- M.C. Hammer & The Posse's music will reward you. Their beat is always fresh, so no "Let's Get It Started."

The Most Awesome Forum For M.C. Hammer Is LIVE!



Stephanie Mills

SEE HAMMER! and Patti LaBelle, Stephanie Mills, Guy, Tony! Toni! Tone and Guy at the Charlotte Coliseum for SUMMER FESTIVAL OF STARS. Tickets are \$17.50, general admission.

Reception For Batik Artist At The Afro Center Friday August 4

This Friday at 6:30 p.m. the public is invited to meet noted artist Dr. Leo Twiggs at a reception to be held at the Afro-American Cultural Center.

An exhibit of Twiggs' new batik paintings are currently on display at the Center. A lecture/slide presentation by the artist will be held during the reception.

Twiggs was born in St. Stephen, SC. A summa cum laude graduate of Claflin College, he later studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, earning his Master's from New York University.

He began developing his unique batik painting process in 1965. Since then his work has won international recognition and numerous awards.

Twiggs has had over 40 one-man shows and has exhibited at the Mint Museum, Charlotte; Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, the Gibbes Art Gallery, Charleston; the Studio Museum, New York; and others.

Presently, Twiggs is Professor of Art and Executive Director of the I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium at South Carolina State College. He has served on the Arts Commission and is currently a member of the South Carolina Museum Commission.

The batik paintings by Twiggs will remain on exhibit at the Afro Center through August 27. On Saturday, August 12, Twiggs will hold a workshop on the technique of batik painting. For more information, please call the Afro Center at (704) 374-1565.

The Artist's Statements About His Work

Every artist must create out of his own being, out of the result of his own encounter with the world. I was born in the south and needless to say, the things I remembered, the scents, the atmosphere, all acted to shape the imagery I use in my paintings.

Very often people ask me how I came to work in the medium of batik, why I picked this ancient medium to explore rather than the more traditional techniques. Some have even written that it is my African ancestry that drew me to the medium because batiks have been done in Africa to decorate textiles.

Frankly, all I know is that I wanted to get a feeling in my work. We were always poor folks and I remember there was always a dignity in it all. Soon I came to realize that the struggle we had was the basic struggle of mankind --- we were not alone.

Thoreau once said, "The mass of mankind live out of quiet desperation." Perhaps it is the quiet desperation I sought to portray in my work. I know that somewhere along the way I saw the spidery web-like linear patterns and mottled surface as expressive of an aging process, the struggle to survive, not just the world but time itself. As I look back on it all, perhaps that is why my figures evolved to be no longer just black or brown, but purple (lots of purple, even now I don't know why) red, blue, yellow and white.

A medium is merely a tool for the artist. He uses it only if and when it can help him achieve his magic.

LEO TWIGGS

