

Turning back the dial?

Television networks choose stereotypes over wit and writing

Continued From 1B

Marshal Bill and Blaine and Antoine characters are proof of that.

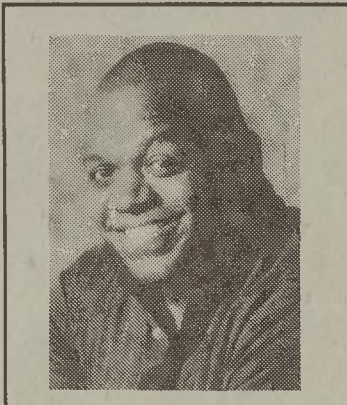
And what about the mammy? She resides on ABC this year in "Thea," a comedy about a single parent (yes, that theme is back, too) raising a house full of kids. Played by comedian Thea Vidale, Thea is loud, brash and buxom. What more could you ask from a mammy stereotype except a handkerchief wrapped around her head? Shhhhh. ABC might hear me.

Even NBC's "Fresh Prince Of Bel Air" is starting to lean more toward the stock stereotype format. A recent episode had Carlton (Alphonso Ribeiro) losing his virginity to a married woman. Black men can't keep their pants zipped to save their lives and black women can't keep their hands off the zipper.

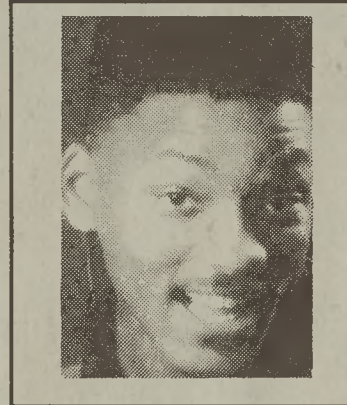
To be sure, there are, and always have been shows centered on white people that have been silly and stereo-

typical. The difference, however, lies in the fact there have always been shows with substance that balance the silliness. For every "Partridge Family" and "Brady Bunch," there's been a "Marcus Welby, M.D.," "The Fugitive" or "L.A. Law." Blacks are not getting that.

All may not be lost, however. Fox has stuck behind "Roc," still the best black comedy on television, even though it's not a ratings success. "Townsend Television" is showing signs of improvement. And it has introduced two very good comedies - "Living Single" (starring Queen Latifah, Kim Coles, Kim Fields and Erika Alexander) and "The Sinbad Show" (which features the writing of Charlotean Calvin L. Brown Jr.). Both shows have shown a nice touch in character development and writing. "Single" does go a bit overboard at times with man-bashing, but at least the female characters don't promote themselves as super-women.

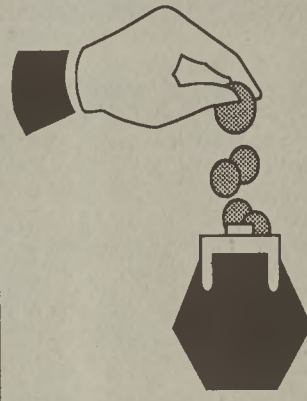


Charles Dutton



Will Smith

SPECIALTY STORES AND BOUTIQUES



The Charlotte Post

THE PLACE TO BE SEEN!! TO ADVERTISE CALL 376-0496



READ THE POST FOR YOUR LIFE
Healthy/Body Healthy/Mind

ROOM ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS

"FINANCING AVAILABLE"

Free Building Plans With Signed Contract



The PHOENIX

& CONSTRUCTION PLUMBING CO.

NEW HOMES • ADDITIONS
VINYL SIDING • DECKS & GARAGES
PLUMBING

Licensed • Bonded • Insured
Jack London

Licensed General Contractor • Free Estimates
NC Lic. #15103 • SC Lic. # 12422

377-6905

Pre-Columbian Karaoke?
This weekend, discover the secrets longheld behind this smile.



RIVER OF GOLD

Pre-Columbian Treasures from Sitio Conte

...and discover our Robicsek Gallery, home to one of the premiere pre-Columbian art collections in the South.

MINT MUSEUM OF ART

2730 Randolph Road 704/337-2000
Hours: Tues 10-10, Wed-Sat 10-5, Sun 1-6

Soul Mission

Continued From 1B

while the musicianship is phenomenal.

The talent on this record is staggering. The musicians include Booker T. Jones (of Booker T. & The MGs), Michael McDonald (Doobie Brothers), Steve Cooper and James Gadson. Combined with a bumpin' horn section, this group of musicians form the nucleus of this rousing testimony in song.

The singing is something special. The recording opens up with Tata Vega (Motown and Andre Crouch) belting out "Table In The Wilderness." Vega starts singing sweetly, but as the song progresses she growls, moans and screams herself into a frenzy, lifting an already excellent song to a higher quality. Vega's performance is up there with "Oh, It Is Jesus" and "God Is Trying To Tell You Something," both done by her.

But Vega almost out does herself on "He Is Amazing," a passionate testimony of a person realizing her past has been erased by the blood of Christ. Vega sings: *Wasn't it me who persecuted/Denied the coming of the Lord/When for their faith I made them suffer/Now he's erased my days before, my lord.* A listener who is not moved by such a performance - no, by such a testimony, can't have much of a soul.

The "voice," Mavis Staples is also here. Staples eats up "Some Sweet Day (Ain't It

Wonderful)" as if she wrote the song herself. She too growls, huffs and shouts her way through this song, in true yesteryear church form. Her fervor is unrelenting. Staples doesn't give up until 10 minutes after the song is over.

There are several other songs that deserve mentioning. Lynn Davis' "Salvation Road" is heart-tugging. Victor Cook uses his elastic tenor to take "Cross Of Stone" to the heavens. And that's about where Alfie Silas ends up with "Give It All To Jesus" - the clouds. I don't think there would have been a better way to close this recording.

Sony Music must be proud of this recording because it is pushing it into the pop arena. The company should. This music is too good to stick in one category. And some good news has never hurt anyone.

Rating:

★★★★ Classic; ★★★ Excellent; ★★ Good; ★ Fair; ☆ Why?

If You Would Like To Gain In The Money Market Read This Month's

Business Monthly

This Month October 28, 1993 In The

The Charlotte Post

ALEXANDER'S VARIETY STORE

118 TOM HUNTER ROAD • 598-9613

OLD FASHION MERITA BREAD

99¢

WITH COUPON EXP. 10/28/93

PROP. ROBERT ALEXANDER SR.
"STOP THE KILLING"

HERBS

...FOR A HEALTHIER YOU!

...They feed, regulate and cleanse the body naturally.
...Were created for the use of man.

...Do not build up in the body or produce harmful side effects like synthetic drugs.

For A Full Line of HERBS Such As

EXTERNAL SKIN HEALERS

- PETRIE OIL (Fungus, Acne)
- ALOE VERA GEL (Scar Tissue, Etc.)
- BLACK OINTMENT (Pulls Toxins Out)
- GOLDEN SALVE (Healing/Antibiotic)
- PAU D'ARCO LOTION (Cancer, Fungus)
- TEI FU OIL (Relieves Pain on Contact)

Try SNAPPLE (a natural Drink)



Another Chance Herbal Garden

129 Brevard Ct. • 10am-5pm M-F • 12pm-3pm Sat. • 344-0011
In Latta Arcade Esther Montgomery

1993 Joseph E. Seagram and Sons, New York, N.Y.
Blended Canadian Whisky. 40% alcohol by volume (80 proof).

Taste royalty. Crown Royal

Those who appreciate quality enjoy it responsibly.