

LISA COLLINS

Behind The Scenes



Gearing up for TV's prime-time slate: The summer hiatus is over and production on the 1996-97 season is shifting into high gear. And the upcoming fall TV schedule is likely to contain some surprises for blacks.



SMITH

The announcement of NBC's fall lineup, which marked the end of a tradition, was the first surprise in that no new or returning series on their schedule has a minority theme. "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" is ending its six-year run and "In The House" is moving to UPN. But if NBC isn't going after black viewers, UPN, is sporting six new comedies with predominantly black casts, including "Malcolm & Eddie" - starring Malcolm Jamal Warner and Eddie Griffin as two buddies who share an apartment over a local bar; "Goode Behaviour" - starring Sherman Hemsley as a con whose son is an upstanding college professor; and "Sparks, Sparks, & Sparks" - which centers around a black family law firm in Los Angeles and features former "Fresh Prince" co-star James Avery and Robin Givens. "Minor Adjustments" was dropped from the lineup, but making its return is "Moesha," which ranked No. 2

among teenagers for all programs during the February sweeps. (This year, she's going to get a new boyfriend).



SINGLETON

The WB network is adding "The Steve Harvey Show" and the "Jamie Foxx Show" to its lineup, which already includes "Parenthood" and "Sister, Sister." New to Fox is "Lush Life," starring former "Fresh Prince" co-star Karyn Parsons and Lori Petty as two single friends in New York. Over at CBS, the pressure is on Bill Cosby. The network gave him a 44-episode order on his upcoming comedy series "Cosby," along with opportunities to produce other shows in order to get him back to TV. CBS Entertainment president Leslie Moonves is banking on the combination of "Cosby" and Ted Danson's new comedy series to drive Monday ratings up 20 percent. Cancelled shows include "Matt Waters," "Dangerous Minds" is a go for ABC, as is "Clueless" with Stacey Dash recreating her film role. Not making the primetime lineup, but penciled in as a possible back up is "Hangin' With Mr. Cooper."

From the "Nipping It In The Bud" files: You can believe "New York Undercover" stars Malik Yoba and Michael DeLorenzo won't try another contract holdout. When the stars didn't show up to begin filming on the show's third season last month as scheduled in a holdout for salary increases, creative input and other perks, such as a gym, star trailer and better food, producer Dick Wolf got tough. Instead of sitting down with the actors - who wanted

their salaries increased from an estimated range of \$20,000 - 25,000 per episode to \$75,000 per episode - Wolf took a harsh stand and began the process of auditioning new leads and rewriting a season premiere in which their characters would be killed off. Universal TV, which distributes the show did likewise, taking steps to file a \$1.2 million lawsuit against the pair charging breach of contract, while stating that the delays cost the production company \$60,000 per day. Not surprisingly, they wasted no time in getting back to work under the conditions of their original agreement, and for the moment things are back to normal. Meanwhile, the season premiere is set to air Aug. 29.

By the way: If early radio buzz is any indication, the long awaited New Edition reunion album (due next month) could put the group - which includes Bobby Brown, Johnny Gill, and Ralph Tresvant, along with the members of Bel, Biv, Devoe - back on top. Their first single "Hit Me Off" is already shaping up to be a radio smash...Will Smith, reeling with the success of "Independence Day" just completed work on his next film, "Men in Black," which is being produced by Steven Spielberg...John Singleton, who is presently in post production on his film "Rosewood," had announced that his next project will be a remake of "Shaft" that he intends to produce and direct from his own script. The original "Shaft," now considered to be a classic, starred Richard Roundtree and was released in 1971...Finally, UPN's first miniseries will be "Shaka," a sequel to "Shaka Zulu."

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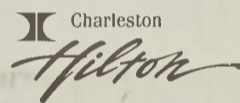
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Cover 2 Cover: Book encourages black women

By Jeri Young THE CHARLOTTE POST

Will the Real Women Please Stand Up! Uncommon Sense about Self-Esteem, Self Discovery Simon & Schuster \$21.00

Will the Real Women...Please Stand Up! is the question that author Ella Patterson asks.

Patterson, an educator, health educator and founder of Knowledge Concepts Educational Systems, a motivational company dedicated to women, asks this question and many others in her delightful guide to women's sexuality.

Witty and informative, Patterson's guide answers all of those questions that you

have been afraid (or too embarrassed) to ask. Patterson's premise is simple, black women need to be more aware of themselves in order to appreciate themselves as women and individuals.

According to Patterson, African American women tend to be more uncomfortable with their sexual selves. Patterson believes that through education, black women can find themselves.

Not quite a conversation with your best girlfriend, Patterson's book is more like a talk with a sage gym teacher. At any moment you expect her to break out with slides or at least transparencies.

Patterson's book is not for the squeamish. She goes into fairly graphic detail about numerous topics and occasionally uses a profanity.

Patterson covers all aspects of female sexuality, from the simple to the complex, and leaves no stone unturned.

She encourages women to spend time alone, to focus and to gain a greater sense of self. She also stresses the importance of developing a sense of accomplishment. Patterson believes firmly that only a woman sure of herself can have a successful and fulfilling relationship.

Patterson also is a firm believer in "loving yourself as you are." She encourages women to first like themselves, then someone else.

Patterson's book worth reading, if only because you are guaranteed to find out something that you did not know and she really does have interesting ideas about women.

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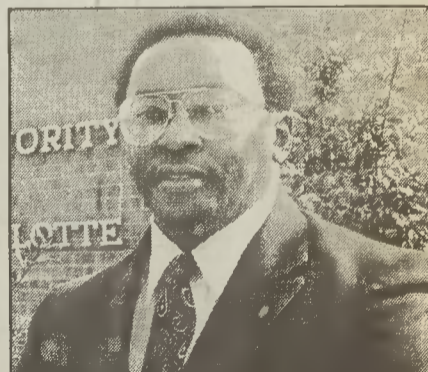
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COCA-COLA "CITIZEN" OF THE MONTH

JOHN CRAWFORD
MANAGER, Human Resources
General Steel Drum Corp.



Children and their potential have always been on the forefront of John Crawford's mind. From being a Physical Education Major at Johnson C. Smith University, to the development of a scholarship for Charlotte Housing Authority, nearly everything Crawford touched has had children as the beneficiaries.

He taught physical education and health, and coached basketball at West Charlotte High School. In 1970 he became Director of Community and Youth Services for The Charlotte Housing Authority, and worked in that position for more than 19 years. In 1983 when his own funds would no longer do the things he desired, he founded the Housing Authority's scholarship fund. The fund has given over two hundred scholarships to date, 57 in 1996.

John has often been recognized for his unselfish dedication to the community through board seats and positions, but most of all through awards of recognition.

For the past two years John has chaired the McCrorey YMCA Golf Tournament, he was chair of the steering committee that organized and chartered the Clanton Presbyterian Church, founded in 1993. In 1991, John received the NCCJ Humanitarian Award, which he shared with NatlonBank's CEO Hugh McColl. Other awards include: 1988 Focus on Leadership for Education, 1985 NAACP Freedom Award, 1985 Friends of Johnson C. Smith - Theopolis & Martha McClary Award for outstanding community service, Cenie J. Williams, Jr. Community Service Award from the Metrolina Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers, 1988 Urban League Community Service Award, 1990 Freedom Fighter Award for Charlotte Equal Rights Congress. In 1991, John was entered into the Sports Hall of Fame by the 100 Club of Johnson C. Smith University.

John is currently on the Clanton Covenant Partnership Committee, working on diversity and relationships with members of local churches. No wonder he has been chosen Citizen of the Month.

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