

LISA COLLINS

Behind The Scenes



Musically speaking: The artist formerly known as Prince, presently without a record deal, has pacted with Capitol/EMI for the manufacturing and distribution of his latest release called "Emancipation." The three-disc set is slated for release on Nov. 19. Calling it the album he was "born to make," Prince recorded it while trying to break free from his longtime pact with Warner Bros Records. He termed his arrangement with the label as "slavery" and had the word "Slave" branded on his face to illustrate the point.

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the landing of "the mother ship," Funkadelic and George Clinton has a "Greatest Funkin' Hits" album due Oct. 29. Included is a new version of his popular "Atomic Dog," for which he teamed up with Coolio on both the video and the single. With the exception of a never-released version of "Bop Gun" with Ice Cube, the album features remixes of classic Parliament-Funkadelic hits like "Flashlight."

In other music news, James Brown will have to fork over to Uncle Sam the sum of \$120,000, which is roughly half the money seized at a Boston airport last year. The money - accounting for almost half of the \$260,000 in proceeds from one of the famed Godfather of Soul's European tours - was seized by the Customs Service. Seems that federal law aimed at curbing both money laundering and tax evasion requires formal documentation in cases where someone enters the country carrying more than \$10,000 in cash.

Under an agreement that was recently reached with federal prosecutors, the 63-year-old entertainer will get to keep \$140,743 of the monies brought from Paris.

To the silver screen: Sidney Poitier is revving up for a starring role alongside Richard Gere and Bruce Willis in Universal's remake of "Day of the Jackal," the 1973 film based on a novel about an attempt to assassinate Charles DeGaulle. On-location sites include Washington D.C., Moscow, Montreal, London, and Chicago...Meanwhile, slated to begin filming in Atlanta this month is HBO's "Miss Evers' Boys." Starring Alfre Woodard, Laurence Fishburne, Joe Morton and Ossie Davis, it is based on the famed "Tuskegee Experiment," where in an attempt to study the fatal effects of syphilis, the U.S. government conspired to withhold treatment from a

group of black men with the disease. The telepic has been scheduled for a February 1997 bow.

Magic Johnson was reportedly so impressed with the Muhammad Ali documentary, "When We Were Kings," that he has offered the use of his Magic Johnson Theatre complex in the Baldwin Hills section of Los Angeles for a one-week qualifying run next week with the hopes of getting Academy Award consideration.

The film, slated for wide-spread release in February, details the events surrounding the 1974 heavyweight bout between Ali and George Foreman that was billed "the Rumble in the Jungle."

On the home front: It is Meshach Taylor's flamboyant style in his co-starring role on "Designing Women" that he's best remembered for. Turns out that his lifestyle might also suit his character.

The 44-year-old actor reportedly purchased a 6,000-square foot home that was built in 1924 by Egyptian artisans for Egypt's ambassador to the United States. The pricing on the house, which is located in

Altadena, Calif., was just under \$1 million. Taylor, who currently co-stars in the CBS comedy "Dave's World," shares the house with his wife and four children.

Charles Dutton has opted to sell his Studio City, Calif., home for a more bi-coastal lifestyle. The asking price for the five bedroom, gated country French-style house with two family rooms, a library, pool house, pool and motor court is \$1.45 million.

By the way: It was four decades ago in 1956 that Nat King Cole was attacked by white racists during a performance in Alabama. He never performed there again. But now Cole's home state hopes to trade in on his fame with the use of his classic "Unforgettable" as a part of the state's new tourism campaign. The new slogan will be unveiled Nov. 4, replacing the old theme of "Stars Fell on Alabama."

THE EXCELSIOR

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COCA COLA "STUDENT" OF THE MONTH

JENNIFER RENEE FREEMAN 7th Grader WILSON MIDDLE SCHOOL



When asked who would be a good student to feature, Mrs. Daisy Walker, principal of Wilson Middle did not hesitate to submit Jennifer's name.

This outstanding 12 year old, comes from a family of 7, three sisters, and four brothers. She maintains a 4.0 grade point average as a 7th grader at Wilson Middle School.

Jennifer has dreams of becoming a veterinarian or a marine biologist. As a career to fall back on, Jennifer says she would consider becoming a lawyer for animal rights. She considers herself to be a very unique person, very talkative but at the same time, shy, and does not follow any one particular crowd.

Jennifer's mom is a 9th grade science teacher at Ranson Middle School, and is very supportive of her daughter.

When asked by her fellow classmates, how she maintains her 4.0 grade average, Jennifer replies by saying that she "listens and focuses on her studies and teacher rather than playing around in the classroom. Her favorite subject is math, and her least favorite is science. Her hobbies include piano & voice lessons, reading, and experimenting with different activities.

Some of her favorite moments are the long drives with her family.

Motto: "Animals were here first, we ought to protect and respect them."

Jennifer was interviewed by Ms. Meadows, dance teacher at Wilson and her 7th grade home base students.

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