

Clemons released on bail after facing domestic battery charges

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Former E Street Band saxophone player Clarence Clemons bonded out of the Palm Beach County Jail on Sunday where he was being held on a charge of beating his live-in girlfriend.

Clemons, 54, was released after posting \$50,000 bond, jail authorities said. Palm Beach Sheriff's deputies had arrested Bruce Springsteen's former sideman at his Riviera Beach home Friday and he spent the night and Saturday in jail.

The saxophonist was scheduled to face the domestic battery charge in Monroe County Circuit Court on Jan. 29. He also was under a restraining order not to approach the alleged victim, Sharlene Smalley, 50.

The alleged attack took place Dec. 6 when Clemons and Smalley visited a friend in his

vacation house in Islamorada, in the Florida Keys' Monroe County, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office said.

Smalley told the sheriff's office that she and Clemons were arguing when Clemons became angry and pushed her to the ground. She said later that night, Clemons threw her into a wall, kicked her and punched her repeatedly.

The sheriff's deputy who took Smalley's statement said she sustained a cut below one eye which required stitches, bruises around both eyes, and bruises and scratches on various parts of her body. Other guests at the vacation house that weekend gave conflicting accounts of what happened, the Key West Citizen newspaper reported. They said that Smalley was the one who attacked Clemons, who was on crutches recovering from ankle surgery.



ART GALLERIES & EXHIBITS

DAVID NELSON, FOUNDED MEMBER OF THE LAST POETS, 11 a.m. Jan. 11, Afro-American Culture Center. 401 N. Myers St.

SPIRIT SQUARE CENTER FOR ARTS & EDUCATION, 345 North College St. "A Slave Ship Speaks: The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie," through Jan. 25, Knight Gallery.

"Crossing Cultural Boundaries: Ashanti Kente Cloth in American Popular Material Culture," through Jan. 25. Atrium cases.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

"The Real McCoy: Profiles in African-American Ingenuity, through Feb. 8.

CONCERTS

THE ARTIST, "LOVE 4 ONE ANOTHER CHARITIES TOUR '97, 8 p.m. Jan. 17, Charlotte Hornets Training Facility, Fort Mill, SC, \$35. All monies will go to charity. To order tickets by phone call TicketMaster at 522-6500.

If you have information about black entertainment events, meetings, lectures or any other events of interest, send it to What's Up! The Charlotte Post, 1531 Camden Road, Charlotte, N.C. 28203. Deadline is 5 p.m. Fridays.

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Little Richard gets an award

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Little Richard, the flamboyant piano-pounding entertainer who howled "Good Golly, Miss Molly," will receive the Award of Merit during the 24th annual American Music Awards later this month.

The rock 'n' roll original joins a long list of music luminaries given the award in the past for

"outstanding contributions to the musical entertainment of the American public."

Past Award of Merit winners include Bing Crosby, Irving Berlin, Ella Fitzgerald, Benny Goodman, Paul McCartney, Elvis Presley, Willie Nelson and the Beach Boys.

Little Richard, whose real name is Richard Penniman, is also known for such hits as "Tutti Frutti" and "Long Tall

Sally."

Little Richard's Award of Merit, presented during the American Music Awards presentations Jan. 27 on ABC-TV, will read: "He is a founding father who sent rock 'n' roll into orbit with his super-charged performances and spirit. By the late 1960s, he had sold over 32 million records."

'Michael' edges 'Maguire' at No. 1

By Lynn Elber
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Happy endings continued to dominate the post-holiday box office, with "Michael" and "Jerry Maguire" winning the top two positions at the weekend box office in the United States.

"Michael," the John Travolta film about an angel who helps mortals find happiness, earned \$ 12.1 million to edge "Jerry Maguire," the story of a sports agent who rethinks his life and ethics. "Jerry Maguire" earned \$ 12 million.

The horror film "Scream" was in third place with a \$ 10 million take. "Scream," with young stars Drew Barrymore and Neve Campbell among the imperiled, had been steadily building its audience based on word-of-mouth and good reviews. It had a fourth-place, \$ 6.4 million debut on Dec. 20.

Both "Michael" and "Jerry Maguire," meanwhile, demonstrated box office durability.

In its fourth week, "Jerry Maguire" saw just a 14 percent drop from last week. "Michael" dropped off 30 percent in its second week; film grosses typically can slip by half from the debut figure.

"There wouldn't be much excuse to open a film this week, with kids going back to school and vacations over," Krier said.

In limited release, Madonna's musical "Evita" grossed \$ 1.1 million on 22 screens. It played on just two screens last week.

The top 10 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by studio, gross, number of theater locations, receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations:

1. "Michael," New Line, \$ 12.1 million, 2,181 locations, \$ 5,569 average, \$ 52.7 million, two weeks.
2. "Jerry Maguire," Sony, \$ 12 million, 2,531 locations, \$ 4,753 average, \$ 83 million, four weeks.
3. "Scream," Miramax, \$ 10 million, 1,737 locations, \$

5,766 average, \$ 39.1 million, three weeks.

4. "101

Dalmatians, Disney, \$ 7.3 million, 2,702 locations, \$ 2,717 average, \$ 121.8 million, six weeks.

5. "One Fine Day," Fox, \$ 6.2 million, 1,968 locations, \$ 3,160 average, \$ 32.2 million, three weeks.

6. "Beavis and Butt-head Do America,"

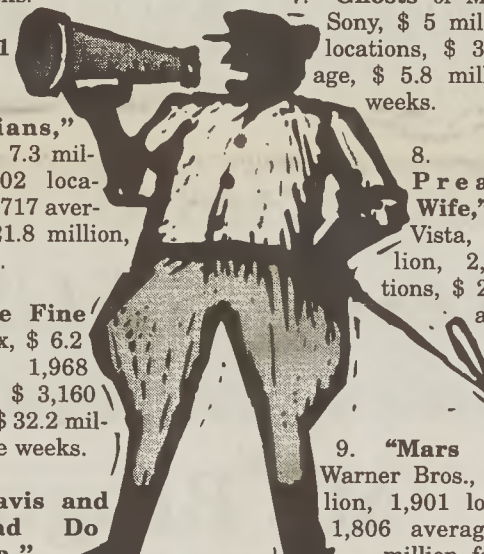
Paramount, \$ 5.8 million, 2,417 locations, \$ 2,381 average, \$ 54.1 million, three weeks.

7. "Ghosts of Mississippi," Sony, \$ 5 million, 1,268 locations, \$ 3,956 average, \$ 5.8 million, three weeks.

8. "The Preacher's Wife," Buena Vista, \$ 4.9 million, 2,001 locations, \$ 2,461 average, \$ 38.7 million, four weeks.

9. "Mars Attacks!" Warner Bros., \$ 3.4 million, 1,901 locations, \$ 1,806 average, \$ 33.8 million, four weeks.

10. "My Fellow Americans," Warner Bros., \$ 3.3 million, 1,865 locations, \$ 1,786 average, \$ 18 million, three weeks.



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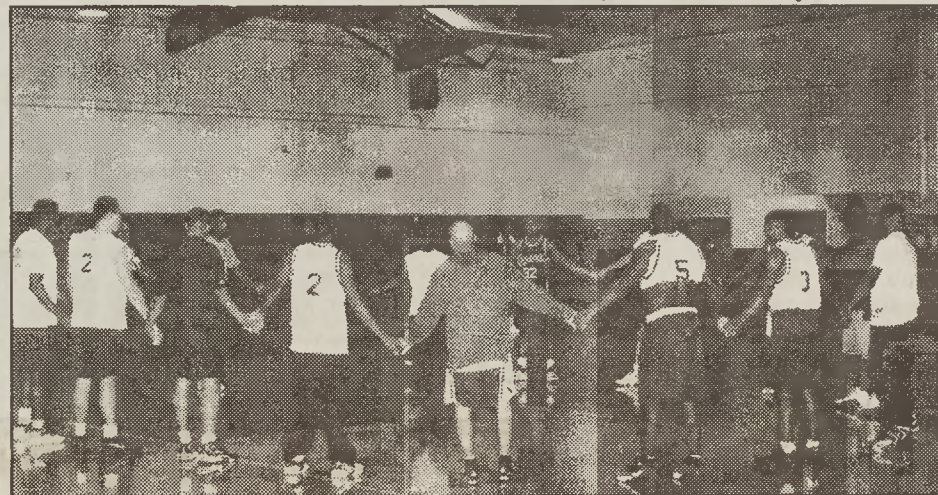
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Box Office

TICKETMASTER



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Highland Unity: The Upper Highland Foundation held its Annual Cornelius "Boogie" Crank Holiday Basketball Tournament at Highland Jr. High School. Pictured above, players took a moment to honor "Boogie" Crank, who lost his life in a 1994 house fire. Crank starred at Ashbrook High School before playing college and professional basketball and played a big role in the lives of Gastonia youth.

"WALT DISNEY'S WORLD ON ICE -- TOY STORY"

A battalion of Green Army men will step to the music when they and a host of other toys come to life... On ice... at Walt Disney's World on Ice -- Toy Story, Jan. 8-12 at The Charlotte Coliseum. The green men's attention-grabbing step routine is just one of the fantastic, on-ice dance numbers that highlight this \$8 million production. Fast paced and full of fun, the icy spectacular sizzles with colorful costumes, amazing sets and a cast of extraordinary toys who literally come to life before your eyes. Tickets are available at the Coliseum and Independence Arena box offices and Ticketmaster. Call 552-6500 to charge by phone.

"GOLDEN BULLS BASKETBALL"

The Johnson C. Smith University Golden Bulls invite you out to Brayboy Gymnasium for an exciting month of black college basketball. They host the Vikings of Elizabeth City on Jan. 6th, Fayetteville State University - Jan. 23rd, Shaw University - Jan. 25th, and The Eagles of North Carolina Central on Jan. 30th. For ticket information call 378-3505

"GOD'S TROMBONES"

C.N. Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church presents "God's Trombones" (A tribute to James Weldon Johnson Seven Sermons In Verse & Song). It will be happening Friday, January 31, • Saturday, February 1, at 7:45 p.m. and Sunday, February 2, at 4:00 p.m. Call 332-9137 for more information.

"BELMONT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION"

You are invited to attend a community safety forum for the Belmont, Optimist Park, Plaza Midwood and Villa Heights Communities. Featuring community police, business representatives and service providers. It will take place Tuesday, January 14th, at St. Paul Baptist Church from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. For more details call 335-0450.

"HERE'S HOW YOU CAN BE CONNECTED"

Submit, in writing, on your organizations letterhead, the title of your event, date, location, contact person and telephone number for your activity to:
COMMUNITY CONNECTION
5001 Chesapeake Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina 28216 Attn: Jeff Lowery • Phone: 393-4365 • Fax: 393-4265
If you are interested in the Coca-Cola Community Music Van appearing at your non-profit event call: 393-4365 • FAX 393-4265



Let The Games Begin'. Some of the top basketball players in the area turned out to play in the Annual Upper Highland Foundation Holiday "Boogie" Crank Basketball Tournament. Coca-Cola co-sponsored the event with proceeds going to three schools in the Highland Community