

ENTERTAINMENT



**MUSIC GOALS**—Singer Jazzie B of the London based R&B group Soul II Soul says the musicians were encouraged to pursue their goals in America. As lead singer for the group responsible for the hit album "Keep On Movin'" Jazzie B says that members were initially "9 to 5" employees before they realized it was time to take charge.

**Long Island Screenplay Writer Says Murphy Stole Movie Material**

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP)—An aspiring Long Island screenplay writer filed a \$35 million damage suit last Tuesday against comedian-actor Eddie Murphy, charging that Murphy stole his material for the movie "Harlem Nights."

Michael Greene, 35, of Hempstead, charged that "Harlem Nights" contains material lifted from an original screenplay he wrote for Murphy in 1988, known as "A Halloween to Remember."

A lawyer for Paramount Pictures denied the charges, saying the similarities were common motifs found in hundreds of movies.

Greene submitted his copyrighted script to Murphy in January 1989, and was soon advised that it was rejected "because he was not interested in it," Greene said at a news conference with his attorney, Steven Legum.

Greene said the script was never returned to him.

Greene filed suit in U.S. District Court in Uniondale seeking at least \$35 million in compensation for copyright infringement.

Named as defendants in the suit are Murphy, Paramount Pictures Corp., the William Morris Agency and Steven Weiss.

"This is a case of copyright infringement, not only of ideas but of the expression of those copyrighted ideas," said Legum.

He pointed out that there were some 100 similarities, both in story ideas and dialogue, between "Harlem Nights" and Greene's screenplay.

Both scripts were about eight-year-

old orphaned boys being raised by underworld characters, both were staged in the 1930s, both had a corrupt Italian plainclothes cop—called Sgt. Pallone in Greene's version and Sgt. Cantone in the movie, Greene noted.

He said both stories revolved around a duffle bag of money and both had Murphy fighting with one of the elderly characters.

"If Eddie Murphy came up independently with scores of similarities I would find it mind-boggling," Legum said.

"I'm not going to tell you that he took Michael's screenplay and put it up on the screen but he clearly edited it, cut it and pasted it," he said.

A lawyer for Paramount, Les Fagen, denied the allegations, saying, "We've reviewed Michael Greene's screenplay and the script for the motion picture "Harlem Nights." We find no similarity which could form the basis for a lawsuit... The similarities he relies upon are shared by hundreds of movies."

"I used to consider Murphy a hero," said Greene. "Now I think he's an egomaniac. He's out for himself."

Greene has been writing scripts for 16 years but has not yet had one published. He said that he had been asked by the William Morris Agency in 1988 to write the screenplay for Murphy. He said that although his passion is science fiction, he thought if the movie script was accepted by Murphy and was a hit it would help launch his career.

Greene said that when he went to the theater to see "Harlem Nights" in November he was astounded by the similarities.

But, he added, "My film was a lot better than what was made."

In January, a judge ruled that Paramount Pictures had to pay humorist Art Buchwald for a script idea he claimed had been taken from him and used as the basis for Eddie Murphy's hit 1988 movie "Coming to America." The amount of the payment was not immediately settled.

**Carowinds Theme Park Opening 18th Season**

CHARLOTTE—Carowinds theme park will open to the public for its 18th season on Saturday, March 17, at 10 a.m.

This season, Carowinds will debut \$2.1 million in improvements which include the park's newest family thrill ride, the Gauntlet, the new Casey's Grill restaurant, an all-new show lineup and more.

The \$1 million Gauntlet will provide riders with the thrill of 360° loops, a pause for a panoramic view from 70 feet above the park and controlled free-falls at 33 feet per second.

Construction on the Gauntlet is complete and the ride is ready to take on riders at the Old World Marketplace section of the park.

For 1990, Carowinds has completely renovated the Blue Ridge Dining Hall and transformed it into Casey's Grill, an expanded seating cafeteria-style restaurant located in Blue Ridge Junction. Old World Marketplace has a new, softer look for 1990. Seat walls have been constructed and planters have been added to the area.

In addition, Carowinds will introduce an all-new lineup of Broadway-style shows on stages and in theaters throughout the park.

Season pass holders will get a sneak peek at the park's new attractions on Friday, March 16, from 5-10 p.m. at a special Sneak Preview Night sponsored by Oldies 96 and WCNC-TV.

The Sneak Preview Night is open only to Season Pass holders. Season passes will be on sale in the park that evening.

Appearing at the Sneak Preview Night will be the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle, Michaelangelo, the Catalinas, and NBC star Benji Gregory who plays Brian Tanner on the hit program "All in the Family."

The Sneak Preview Night will conclude with a fireworks display.

The public opening day at Carowinds, March 17, will include the excitement of the 15th annual Carowinds Varsity Cheerleaders Championship that will bring more than 40 cheerleading squads and their fans to the park to compete for trophies and prizes.

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**COMPANIONSHIP**  
Stand with anybody that stands right and part with him when he goes wrong.  
Abraham Lincoln

**BOO-YAA T.R.I.B.E.**—This Los Angeles-based group consists of six brothers of Samoan heritage, the Devoux brothers, who survived economic adversity through a strong sense of unity. They came to music playing and

singing in their father's church band and learned to play by ear. Ranging in age from 20 to 27, the brothers incorporate their abilities as rappers, dancers and instrumentalists.



**Memorial Auditorium Hosts City Follies**

On March 24, in the newly renovated Memorial Auditorium, the curtain will open on a professionally staged show in the tradition of a Radio City Music Hall revue. The Junior League of Raleigh chose this venue to celebrate its 60 years of service to the community because the show will involve many league members, their families and friends, and because the Follies are an excellent way to raise funds to return to community projects the League sponsors. The Follies will also provide an evening of entertainment for those in the community who have generously supported the league over the years.

This diamond anniversary is especially important to the Raleigh Junior League because it marks the year that the group is returning more than \$1 million in funds for community service projects sponsored by the league, as well as the fulfillment of more than one million hours of volunteer service by league members.

Follies are not new to the Raleigh League; "Hooray for Raleighwood" will be their fifth such performance. Ten years ago, the league celebrated its 50th anniversary with a show called the "Gold Rush," which was a tremendous success. It raised more than \$66,000 in funds to be used for the betterment of the community. Since the 1979-80 year was designated "International Year of the Child," the monies were earmarked for projects relating to children's services. Project Enlightenment—an educational service for parents, teachers, and children—was a beneficiary, as were Wake Up for Children, and Wake County Child Abuse Prevention Services.

This year's performance, "Hooray for Raleighwood," will generate

funds for low-income services to be specified by the Raleigh Junior League. Corporate donations have been pouring in, signifying the business community's recognition of R.J.L. as a worthwhile volunteer organization.

The Raleigh Junior League reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins and seeks to train them as qualified volunteers for the services they choose to perform. This emphasis on training provides the community with a skilled volunteer force that works effectively within the community framework for the betterment of all residents.

The celebration of the Raleigh Junior League's 60th anniversary has been a year in the planning. Tickets are available through Junior League members, or call 787-7480 to order yours. Show time is 8 p.m. at Memorial Auditorium.

**N. C. Central Presents Play About School**

North Carolina Central University's Department of Dramatic Art will present "Paint a Pretty Picture," an original musical play for the whole family, written and directed by Denise Barnes, choreographed by Irving Truitt with musical direction by James Deberry, Jr., April 4-6 at 8:15 p.m. and April 7-8 at 3:15 p.m. in the University Theatre of the Farrison-Newton Communications Building on the corner of Fayetteville and Lawson streets. Tickets can be purchased in the ticket office of McDougal Gymnasium weekdays between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. For ticket information call 560-5170.

"Paint a Pretty Picture," directed by a senior dramatic arts major and choreographed by a graduate of the Department of Dramatic Art, continues the department's 40th anniversary season recognizing the talents and contributions of NCCU students and faculty, past and present, and celebrating the contributions of the department to the university and community.

**Black Woman Is Crowned Miss U.S.A. For '90**

Carol Gist, Miss Michigan 1990, was crowned Miss USA 1990 at the 1990 Miss USA Pageant broadcast Friday, March 2, from Wichita, Kan., on the CBS Television Network.

Ms. Gist, a 20-year-old marketing/management major at the Northwood Institute in Michigan, was crowned by Gretchen Polhemus, Miss USA 1989. She will represent the United States at the 1990 Miss Universe Pageant, to be broadcast live on the CBS Television Network later this season.

Dick Clark and Leeza Gibbons hosted the 1990 Miss USA Pageant.

**TOP POP ALBUMS**

1. Forever Your Girl, Paula Abdul, Virgin
2. Girl You Know It's True, Milli Vanilli, Arista
3. Janet Jackson's Rhythm Nation 1814, Janet Jackson, A&M
4. Cosmic Thing, The B-52's, Reprise
5. Dance!...Ya Know It!, Bobby Brown, MCA
6. Storm Front, Billy Joel, Columbia
7. ... But Seriously, Phil Collins, Atlantic
8. Full Moon Fever, Tom Petty, MCA
9. Pump, Acrosmith, Geffen
10. Alannah Myles, Alannah Myles, Atlantic



**ACTING PURSUITS**—Janet Jackson first gained attention as a singer in the hit group Tony Orlando and Dawn. Now she talks about her acting pursuits, which have included roles in the TV hits "Roots II," "Gimmie A Break" and "Family Matters." Recently she told Ebony Jet Showcase she devotes much of her time to various youth organizations for disadvantaged children.

**Janet Stops Audience With "Nation" Tour**

MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—Janet Jackson turned Miami Arena into a "Rhythm Nation" Thursday, kicking off her first tour with a 90-minute concert highlighted by choreography and costumes.

The show marked the start of a worldwide tour that will include more than 100 performances over the next nine months.

Jackson, 23, did not tour following the release of her 1986 album, "Control," which nonetheless sold more than five million copies. The followup, "Rhythm Nation 1814," has sold more than three million copies since its release last September.

The show featured a seven-piece band, six dancers, choreography on nine of the 16 songs and three costume changes. The production cost about \$2 million to mount, and the equipment will require eight trucks to transport, said Jackson's manager and tour producer, Roger Davies.

"Janet had never toured before, there were high expectations and she wanted to give people some value for their money," Davies said in a pre-concert interview.

The show emphasized Jackson's dancing even though she's never had a lesson.

"She's not a trained dancer," choreographer Anthony Thomas said. "It comes from her soul. She's a natural. She's unbelievable."

Jackson's mother attended the performance, as did hitmakers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, who produced "Control" and "Rhythm Nation 1814."

"I'm a fan," Jam said. "It's fun just to step back from it and watch the live thing."

The sellout crowd of 15,000 represented a cross-section of Miami, from teeny-boppers to fans old enough to be Jackson's parents. Fashions ranged from sequined jumpsuits and double-breasted sport coats to mini-skirts with stiletto-heeled boots and a leather motorcycle jacket with pinstripes.

Some of the fans came just to see Jackson dance.

"I love her moves!" said Teresa Perez, 14. "It's a great experience seeing a person like her, as talented as she is."

Others were attracted by the social messages of "Rhythm Nation 1814."

"It's not just another sex-and-love album," said Leah Patton, 35. "We're concert-goers, and we've never been to a concert that addressed so many social issues. A lot of them are important to us in Miami."

The show has been in the planning stages since November and was rehearsed for two weeks at the Pensacola Civic Center, where Jackson's brother Michael rehearsed prior to his "Bad" tour.

**Walt Disney Debates Michael Jackson Deal**

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (AP)—The Walt Disney Co. scoured Hollywood last Wednesday for the source of a bogus news release that claimed moonwalking megastar Michael Jackson had signed a five-year movie deal with Disney.

Disney said it began an investigation to find the author of the release, used as the basis for a story in a trade publication. Among other things, the story said Jackson was negotiating to leave CBS Records for Disney's new Hollywood Records and would design theme park rides for Disney.

"We fully intend to take action against the person or persons responsible," Walt Disney Studios Chairman Jeffrey Katzenberg said in a news release. "This company has a reputation for protecting its name and taking legal action when necessary."

The bogus information was included in a front-page article last Wednesday in the Hollywood Reporter which focused on a stock deal planned by Jackson's father. The paper ran a front-page article Wednesday saying it had been the victim of a hoax.

Editor Teri Ritzer said the writer who handled the story had been disciplined. She declined to say whether he had been fired.

Disney said the news release, typed on company stationery, was sent to several publications. Spokesman Ed Pine said it appeared to have been motivated by a personal vendetta against a Disney employee and that the hoaxer hadn't been found, but refused to discuss the matter further. Separately, Ed Shaw, a spokesman

for the newly formed Jackson Records set up by Joe Jackson, Michael Jackson's father, said the elder Jackson had held preliminary talks with several Wall Street brokerages about a possible stock offering for as much as \$100 million.

Joe Jackson, who steered his children to stardom as the Jackson 5 but no longer handles the affairs of Michael or Janet Jackson, wants to use the proceeds of the stock offering chiefly to fund movies starring Michael and Janet, Shaw said.

However, Michael Jackson's lawyer, John Branca, said neither he nor his client knew anything about the planned offering.

And Shaw acknowledged that neither Michael Jackson nor his sister had agreed to make records or movies for Joe Jackson's company.

"I don't think that any of the Wall Street firms would be interested without the participation of the two megastars," he said.

The initial Hollywood Reporter story included a description of a movie that Jackson supposedly would make with the troika of Steven Spielberg, George Lucas and Francis Ford Coppola. The outer-space musical, tentatively titled "Project M," was said to be budgeted between \$50 million and \$60 million.

Jackson stars in the 3-D movie "Captain EO" at Disneyland, which opened in 1986 and was produced by Lucas, Coppola and Jackson.

SHIP  
After the ship has been sunk everybody knows how it might have been saved.  
Wanda Ford