

entertainment

NAACP's ACT-SO Program Focuses On Minority Youth

The focus will be on the academic achievement of African-American young people when ABC-TV airs an hour-long program, Saturday, Feb. 29, at 12:30 p.m. on the NAACP's ACT-SO program.

The special, taped last July at the NAACP's annual convention in Houston, Texas., highlights scores of outstanding high-school students from all across the country who have set their sights on achieving academic excellence through the ACT-SO program.

Opening with the impressive march into the auditorium of some 1,000 students, representing some 600 cities and towns, the special features the awarding of prizes to the top students in 24 academic and performing arts categories.

"This is an exciting presentation that will gladden the hearts of all who see it. What it shows is our young people at their finest, sharing unforgettable moments of glory. It demonstrates the wealth of talent present in our communities, and gives assurance that the future is in good hands," said Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, the NAACP's executive director and chief executive officer.

Among the presenters of awards is Dr. Louis Sullivan, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, who told the young people and their more than 2,000 relatives and friends gathered for the ceremonies:

"My congratulations to today's award winners and the NAACP for this singular contribution to the black community, to the nation and indeed the world."

Begun in 1978 by Chicago Sun Times columnist Vernon Jarrett for students in grades 9-12 as a method of encouraging them to seek academic excellence, ACT-SO annually

enrolls more than 10,000 youth.

Through ACT-SO, and the help of adult volunteers, they are provided opportunities to develop their talents in 24 categories ranging from architecture, mathematics and physics—to dance, drama and contemporary or classical instrumental and vocal.

Through the year, youngsters enrolled in the ACT-SO program hone their skills and talents in their local, state and regional competition. Finalists attend the NAACP's annual convention where the winners of first, second and third place in each of the categories are awarded medals and share in more than \$300,000 in scholarships and prizes.

Dr. William F. Gibson, NAACP board chairman, who was instrumental in persuading the ABC-TV network to televise the ACT-SO program, said he and his national board of directors "were most pleased that more than 140,000 students have had an opportunity to develop their technical, artistic and academic skills in the program—and that more than 92 percent have gone on to complete college careers and become leaders in their endeavors."

Speaking at the 1991 ceremonies—the subject of the ABC-TV special, Vernon Jarrett went to the heart of what ACT-SO is all about when he said, "We are really here to celebrate academic excellence in the sciences, the performing arts, the humanities and the visual arts."

The awards ceremony was underwritten by six corporate ACT-SO sponsors. Major funding came from the Ronald McDonald Children's Charities and SOF-SHEEN Hair Care Products in Chicago.



TOP HONORS—Superstar Prince and Janet Jackson receive top honors at the sixth annual "Soul Train Music Awards," produced live on March 10. Multi-talented Prince is this year's recipient of the prestigious Heritage Award for



Career Achievement, Grammy Award winner Janet Jackson receives the Sammy Davis, Jr. Award for Entertainer of the Year.

Rapper Big Daddy Kane Doesn't 'Bare All' In 'Playgirl' Spread

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Attention female fans of reigning rap sex symbol Big Daddy Kane: There are some negatives you may be interested in.

They're nude outtakes of Kane's recent Playgirl magazine photo spread. Due to the reluctance of Kane's record company, the feature wasn't quite as revealing as it could have been.

"Some people say it was very tasteful; they enjoyed the way I did it and they were real happy that I didn't kill the suspense," Kane said. "Then some people were like, 'Oh,

man, why didn't you show it all?'"

Born Antonio Hardy 23 years ago in Brooklyn, Kane alternately revels in and tries to dispel his image as rap's leading love man—almost a quaint notion in the Magic Johnson era of heightened AIDS awareness.

Kane has recorded with '70s era love god Barry White, and the cover of his new album, *Prince of Darkness*, shows a white-suited Kane standing over a lingerie-clad woman lying on a bed.

Besides the Playgirl spread, which Kane initiated by contacting editors unfamiliar with him, he gave an interview to the sex-oriented magazine *Play*. That cover shows Kane in a hot tub between two chesty women.

But Kane insists he's not trying to become the Barry White of rap music. And the song, "Troubled Man," on his new album suggests that love machines have problems, too.

"Just because people say something about me being a ladies' man doesn't mean that I'm running around trying to have sex with every woman," Kane said. "That's like killing the suspense. If I run around trying to have sex with them all, they know what it's like then, they can't imagine anymore."

He said he tries to show men, through his actions and the song, "The Lover in You," how to appeal to women by treating them with respect.

"You cater to them, you try to make them happy," he said. "You can make them happy just by smiling at them, giving them a kiss on the cheek, or giving them a big hug."

Still, the image persists. Perhaps he's still trying to live down that hit single, "Pimpin' Ain't Easy," from his second album.

Kane said he doubts his posing for Playgirl sends an irresponsible message.

"All I did was get naked," Kane said. "I wasn't seen in the magazine having sex with a girl."

The rapper, who says his musical hero is Marvin Gaye, said he approached Playgirl because he

wanted to attract attention beyond rap fan magazines.

"There's no shame," he said. "First of all, I wasn't born with any clothing. Shame is something that's manmade. I just wanted to do something different, and I'm not scared to take off my clothes."

The song, "Troubled Man," suggests an underside to the image. Kane raps that he never wants to get married, not trusting the institution since he's had relations with so many women who are married to other men.

"Everything in that song is true," he said. "It was just to let people know what's on my mind. They say, 'Kane, you're livin' large.' But I've got problems, too. I don't want people to think that I'm bigger or better than anyone out there. Life ain't a piece of cake for me."

Among his troubles: ornery critics. In the here-today, forgotten-tomorrow world of rap music, Kane's moment may have passed—and the image has something to do with it.

Reginald Dennis, a senior writer for the rap magazine *the Source*, said people on the street don't take Kane seriously anymore.

"It would almost be funny if he didn't take himself so seriously," Dennis said. "He already had a reputation with the ladies as being a sex symbol, but he didn't have to cross the bridge into being a Luther Vandross where he's turning his back on the street."

Dennis said Kane's music is getting away from rap and more toward rhythm and blues—perhaps an effort to appeal to 35-year-old women.

Kane suggested the critics are overreacting, saying four out of 15 songs on his new album are rhythm and blues oriented.

"Everything else is street material," he said. "I don't really see much of a change. If you call experimenting with R&B music a change, then I guess it is a change. But that's for somebody else to explain."

The R&B influences are to be expected, he said. Kane grew up listening to the records his mother

Actor Ossie Davis Honored For Wk. On & Off Stage

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (AP)—West Virginia Wesleyan College honored actor and playwright Ossie Davis for his film and television work and his efforts for human rights recently.

Davis, 74, a cast member of the television series "Evening Shade," made his most recent film appearance in Spike Lee's *Jungle Fever*.

As a civil rights activist, the Cogdell, Ga., native helped the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. organize the 1963 March on Washington and delivered the eulogy at the 1965 funeral of Malcolm X.

The Methodist College presented Davis with its Wesleyan Peace Award for his contributions to the arts and his concern for human rights, said spokesman Jerry Wood.

Davis chastised U.S. industry for exploiting young people and Third World countries.

"Today people are so interested in commerce that they forget about how to help people," Davis said. "The impulse to exploit is much stronger than the instinct to develop."

Riot Erupts Near Jackson's Hotel

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—Violence between police and students spilled over into a gathering to greet singer Michael Jackson, when police attacked the crowd with truncheons and whips.

The Ministry of Communications said the police responded last Thursday night because student protesters had infiltrated the Jackson fans and the crowd was getting too close to the hotel where Jackson is staying, near the university.

The ministry said police were trying to contain the crowd. "Perhaps they were a bit brutal, but it was not with the intention of doing any harm," it said in a statement.

The violence occurred after a day of clashes between police and anti-government protesters in which 37 people were reported injured and 143 were arrested.

Thousands of his fans gathered outside his hotel Thursday night, following a government invitation broadcast on official radio to "the youth of Ivory Coast" urging them to give the singer a warm welcome.

Police attacked the teenagers, many of whom were chanting, "Michael, Michael," without warning. No arrests or injuries were immediately reported.

Jackson is in the Ivory Coast to film part of his latest video, "Return to Africa." No concerts were scheduled.

Earlier, police had battled students who tried to march from the suburbs to the capital. They were protesting the failure of the government to punish a military general who ordered a raid on a university campus last year that resulted in three rapes.

brought home, by artists like Evelyn "Champagne" King. He started rapping to impress an older cousin.

He may have more family competition on the way. Kane's album features a duet with Little Daddy Shane, his younger brother.



CREATIVE TEAM—The creative team on Marvel's new *Kid 'n Play* comic book includes writer Dwight Coyle (left) and penciler Chuck Frazier.

Actor Danny Glover Brings Life To Langston Hughes Poetry At FSU

BY JOHN HINTON
Special Correspondent

FAYETTEVILLE—Movie and television actor Danny Glover delivered a dramatic performance of reading several poems by Langston Hughes that portrayed the hopes, fears and anxieties of many black Americans in a presentation here recently.

"Langston made black people feel good about themselves," said Glover, who appeared at J.W. Seabrook Auditorium on Feb. 10 in "Art Connection: A Black History Month Celebration." "He made us laugh, cry, and dream," he said. "He made us move forward with a sense of purpose and love for ourselves."

Glover has appeared in films such as *The Color Purple*, *Lethal Weapon*, *Lethal Weapon 2*, and the current release, *Grand Canyon*. He played characters on television in shows such as "Hill Street Blues" and in the miniseries, "Lonesome Dove."

Glover was joined by Felix Justice, who portrayed the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert McDaniel, who sang Negro spirituals. FSU Chancellor Lloyd V. Hackley said the performance was a celebration of the "spirit and history of black art and the heritage of mankind."

Glover told the audience of about 600 people that Hughes began to write poetry as a 15-year-old in a predominantly white school class in Lawrence, Kan.

"In America, most white people

think all black people can sing and dance and have a sense of rhythm," Glover said, quoting a passage from Hughes' autobiography, *The Big Sea*. "So his classmates, knowing that a poem had to have rhythm, elected him unanimously to write the poem."

Hughes was raised by his grandmother in Lawrence, Glover said. "His grandmothers would tell him beautiful stories about people who wanted to make the Negro free, and how her father had apprenticed to him many slaves in Fayetteville before the Civil War," he said.

"They could work out their freedom under him as stone masons," Glover said. "Once they had worked out their purchase, he would see that they reached the North, where there was no slavery."

Glover read about 30 poems of Hughes, who lived in Harlem for most of his life. Most of Hughes' poems focused on life in Harlem.

The themes of the poems ranged from humorous to serious. Glover read poetry that told about racism and discrimination in America to the dangers of love.

"Langston used humor in his poetry, and he had the ability to allow us to laugh at ourselves," Glover said. He read the poem, "I, too," to an agent who was considering him for roles not cast for a black actor.

*I, too, have seen America
I am the darker brother.*

*They sent me to eat in the
Kitchen when company comes,
But I laugh, eat well and
Grow strong. Tomorrow, I will
Be at the table when company
comes.*

*Nobody will dare say to me
To eat in the kitchen then.
Besides they will see how
Beautiful I am and be ashamed.
I, too, am America.*

The audience laughed after Glover read a poem of a man waking up from a hangover called "The Morning After."

Glover has toured America for many years, speaking to young people about the value of education and the dangers of drugs. He has served as spokesman for the National Association for Sickle Cell Disease for the past two years.

After Glover's performance, Dr. Hackley gave him a key to the city of Fayetteville on behalf of Mayor J.L. Dawkins. Dr. Hackley also presented Glover, Justice and McDaniel with FSU caps and sweatshirts.

DISCOURAGEMENT

You do not need to be discouraged, no matter what today or tomorrow bring. There is difficulty in the world certainly. But do not allow yourself to become discouraged. Lift your thoughts. You will find that life has much to offer. You will have victory over your difficulties.

Dr. Norman V. Peale



ACADEMIC APPROACH—Saint Augustine's WAUG was selected as Radio and Records featured for Black History Month. Radio and Records is the radio industry's National leading publication. Assistant Vice-President/General Manager, Jay Holloway was saluted for contributing to the continuous development of Saint Augustine's Broadcasting Students, by academic instructions and first hand

opportunities through internships at WAUG. Seen here are Broadcast students sharing a moment in between classes: left to right Osborne Sawyer, Teena White, Aeesha Blow, Shauvaugh Gordon, Shanytel Lewis, Denita Adams, Cherry Bowens, Narcus Moss, Laron Vaughn and Anthony Brown.