

entertainment



GARY COLEMAN

Gary Coleman Serves As Special Games Marshal

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (AP)—Gary Coleman, star of the once-popular TV series "Diff'rent Strokes," served as grand marshal and honorary chairman of the Louisiana Special Olympics last week.

Nancy Marsiglia, chairperson of the games, said officials were delighted that Coleman agreed to preside over the event, which began Friday and ran through Sunday at Tulane University in New Orleans.

"Gary, who has overcome many barriers in his life through hard work, perseverance and courage, will prove a true inspiration for all those competing," Ms. Marsiglia said.

Coleman, 24, has suffered from kidney disease since infancy. The Special Olympics is a multi-event sporting competition for mentally disabled children and adults.

PlayMakers Repertory Sets Auditions

PlayMakers Repertory Company will audition professional actors for its 1992-93 season on Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12, at the Paul Green Theatre on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus.

Each actor must prepare two selections, one by Shakespeare and one modern, not to exceed a total of five minutes.

All actors who satisfy certain professional criteria, whether Actors' Equity Association members or not, will be treated in the same manner with respect to the scheduling of auditions.

A professional theater company in residence at UNC-CH, PlayMakers acknowledges the need for expanding the participation of women and all ethnic groups and minorities in the artistic process. The company is committed to non-discrimination and a flexible, imaginative, non-traditional casting policy. "Non-traditional casting" is defined as the casting of ethnic minorities or female actors in roles where race, ethnicity or sex is not germane.

To arrange an audition, call 962-1182 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays. The deadline for scheduling an audition is July 9 at 4 p.m.

Free Pops Concert Set For UNC-Ch Campus June 9th

CHAPEL HILL—A loaf of bread, a chunk of cheese and a soda... or maybe fried chicken, potato salad and iced tea—the possibilities are endless. Take whatever makes a picnic for you, along with a lawn chair or a blanket, to Polk Place on the UNC campus at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 9, and enjoy a free pops concert by the North Carolina Symphony.

The theme for this year's concert is "A Salute to America and Great Britain." Gerhard Zimmermann will conduct the orchestra and the program will include Custer's "The American Frontier," Handel's "Music for the Royal Fireworks," Leroy Anderson's "Home Stretch," plus selections from Broadway musicals and "English Folk Song Suite" by Ralph Vaughan-Williams.



THE NEVILLE BROTHERS—With the help of new co-producers Hawk Wolinski and Dave Leonard, the Neville Brothers have packed their latest album, "Family Groove" with some of the most propulsive music in their illustrious history.

Neville Brothers Pour Out Syncopating Funk

"Whether as solo artists or, since 1977, as bandmates," Newsweek has observed, they've "poured out a stream of syncopated, funky, riveting music that makes you dance and ache and cry inside." To say that the Neville Brothers' latest album, *Family Groove*, contains some of the most compelling music Art, Charles, Aaron, and Cyril Neville have made either collectively or individually in their combined century-plus of music-making is to say a great, great deal indeed.

"We were trying to do something different," confides keyboardist Art, the eldest of the brothers. "We're singing about what we've always sung about—love, justice, and waking up to the fact that we're all human beings on the same planet. But on this album

we've got a state-of-the-art sound."

With the help of new co-producers Hawk Wolinski (heretofore best known for his collaborations with Chaka Khan, the Commodores, and Jermaine Jackson) and Dave Leonard (who engineered for Prince, Indigo Girls, John Mellencamp, Sheena Easton and Oingo Boingo, among others), the Nevilles have packed their latest album with some of the most propulsive grooves in their illustrious history. Where their previous couple of albums often seemed aimed at the cerebrum or heart, *Family Groove* resonates primarily in the listener's solar plexus.

Hawk encouraged the brothers to record Steve Miller's remarkably prescient "Fly Like an Eagle," the first single from the LP, after hearing it on a live recording the

band made a decade earlier. Just as they convincingly Nevillized "With God On Their Side" that you'd have thought Bob Dylan had written it just for Aaron to sing, so do they make "Eagle" theirs, too. "It was a challenge for all of us to do that song," says Cyril, "since it had already been a hit. For a little something extra, what we call the 'lagniappe' down here, we got Steve Miller playing and singing on it. When he heard what we had done with it, he said he was changing his version" (laughs).

You probably haven't heard as funky a track in the '90s, but you'll hear an even funkier one on Side 2—the title track. In reference to which Cyril asserts, "The family is the basis of civilization, and our connection to God." *Family Groove* features the contributions of several Nevilles other than the four brothers.

"One More Day," a consideration of the tragedy of homelessness, showcases a rap written and performed by two of Aaron's sons and betrays the influence of such young black superstars as Bobby Brown as vividly as "Day To Day Thing" evokes the "Ball of Confusion"-era Temptations. And it was Cyril's wife Gaymielle who wrote the song's single most poignant line, that about children who live in the very streets in which they play. "She wonders," Cyril relates gravely, "if people realize how many of the homeless are children." In "Line of Fire," Art takes up the subject of another Neville concern, violence in our cities, admonishing the young inner-city resident whom the song addresses to "put down that gun, boy."

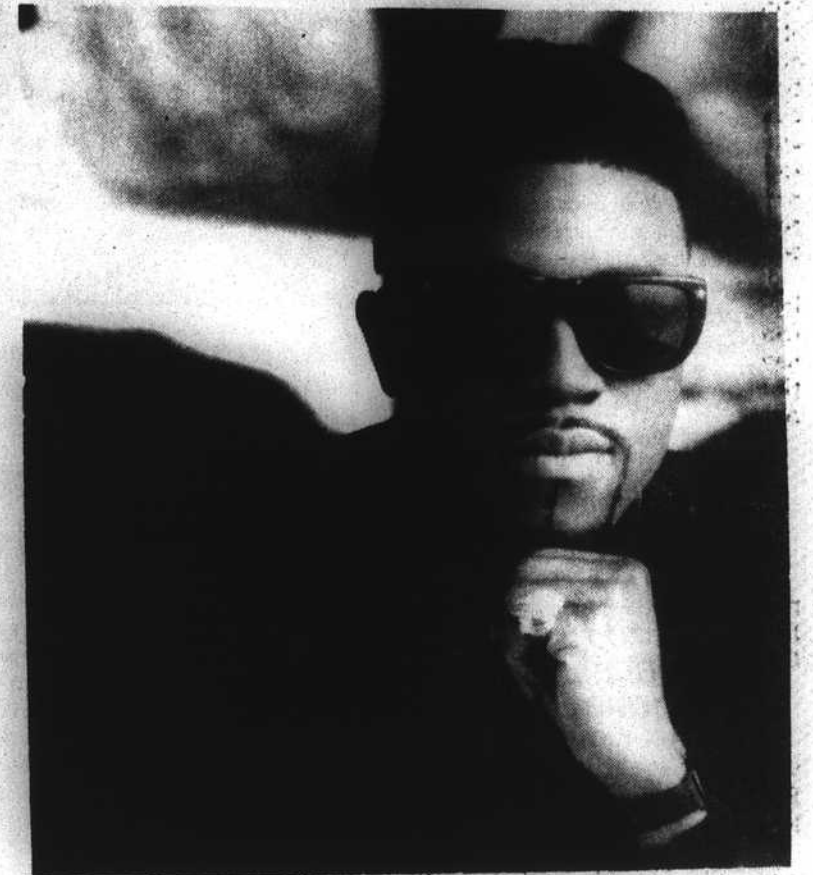
The Nevilles have occasionally been criticized for their preoccupation with injustice and racial intolerance. But any notion that they spend the whole of *Family Groove* atop a soapbox will be quickly dispelled by the exultant, calypso-flavored "On the Other Side of Paradise," which finds them crooning delightful choral "show-wadda-waddies" behind Art's joyous lead, while "True Love," the samba-inflected "Take Me To Heart," and "I Can See It In Your Eyes" feature Aaron singing about romantic love as only Aaron can. Thanks to its Hi Records-like rhythm track, incidentally, some are apt to hear the latter song as a tip of the Nevilles' caps to the Rev. Al Green.

Teddy Riley Plans "New Jack City" Production

PARAMUS, N.J.—Hailed worldwide as the creator and king of "new jack swing," producer/artist Teddy Riley said recently that he is putting his career as an entertainer on hold for a while. Rest assured, however, that the "future" of "new jack swing" is a bright one. Enthusiasts can expect to see a multitude of forthcoming projects, stamped with Teddy's unique musical style,

streetwise blend of R&B ballads and rap, smoothly brought together by Teddy's production work."

Other forthcoming Future projects include an album by the new five-member all-female group GirlsTown. Created by Riley, he describes the group as a cross between En Vogue and Wilson Phillips. Also in the works is an album by female vocalist Tammy



TEDDY RILEY

released on the young producer's Future Records label, distributed by MCA Records.

Future Records, which has offices and production facilities in Virginia Beach, Va., was established by Riley a little over a year ago through a deal struck with MCA Records. The first project slated for release on the label this June is *Hard or Smooth*, the new album by duo the WreckX, formerly Wreck-N-Effect, who scored a hit two years ago with their single "New Jack Swing." The group, which features Teddy's brother Markell Riley along with partner Aqil Davidson, describes their music as "a

Lucas, who can currently be heard as the featured vocalist on the Riley-produced single "Is It Good To You" from the gold certified *Juice* motion picture soundtrack.

In addition to developing projects under his Future Records label, Riley also has his hands full completing production on the much-anticipated follow-up album from Bobby Brown and is currently re-mixing several songs from Michael Jackson's 13 million-plus, platinum-certified *Dangerous* album. Teddy co-produced and wrote six songs on the *Dangerous* album, including the No. 1 Billboard Hot 100 single "Remember the Time."



FAM-LEE—A vibrant mix of beats and rapid-fire rap experimenting with hip-hop and a category in rhythm and result in a new sound for FAM-Lee, another group blues many loosely refer to as "rap music."

Fam-Lee Bringing Rapid-Fire Rap As Bold Leap Into R&B Industry

They have been described by fans and excited record industry execs as "the Jackson Five with a '90s spin." But to the brothers Prearyer, the four fresh-faced teens who make up the JMJ/RAL/Columbia label's slammin' new R&B group, the Fam-Lee, their sound can best be described in one word—funky.

The Fam-Lee's exquisite harmonizing is merged with hyperkinetic beats and rapid-fire raps, and the result is an incendiary new sound that takes a bold leap beyond the "overworked, smoothed-out hip hop on the R&B tip" brand of music, as characterized in Billboard.

At age 18, Berkley (Poppie) is the eldest of the quartet which also includes Anthony (Tony), Keef, and Coree. Berkley attributes the group's magic to its blood ties. "We are family and everything is tight," he reasons. "Our singing, our dancing, our musical skills, the bonds of blood and love. All of those things go into what the Fam-Lee is about." Jason Mizell (better known as Jam Master Jay

New R&B group, the Fam-Lee, sound best described in one word—funky!

of the supergroup Run-DMC) first got caught up in the Fam-Lee's magic when he heard them sing at the Apollo Theater. So moved was Jay by their version of Smokey Robinson's classic "Who's Loving You," that he went backstage to congratulate them on their wining performance—promptly offering them the chance to join his new label, JMJ Records.

Under Jay's guidance, the Fam-Lee turned out "Love Me," their irrepressibly hype debut single, which was featured in the movie *Live! Large*. Now, after climbing the charts with "Love Me," the Fam-Lee is poised to drop *Runs in the Fam-Lee*, their debut album, an aptly titled, funky family affair guaranteed to move the crowd.

Despite its hardcore beats—

courtesy of producers Mizell, Stanley Brown and Bobby Walker—the new album is really a street-style paean to young love and fine Nubian teen queens. It is a vibrant mix of soulful crooning, timeless R&B stylings, and hip-hop grooves that should prove irresistible to any listener.

The album kicks off with "Always On My Mind," the second single, a rollicking dance tune about a sweet young thing who the boys can't get out of their minds. The beats then slow to a hypnotic boom on "Precious Girl," in which our sweet young thing has been promoted to girlfriend. Coree soars with a plaintive falsetto reminiscent of a younger Michael Jackson, giving the tune a hauntingly innocent feel.

Billy Preston Pleads Innocent To charges

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Soul singer Billy Preston pleaded innocent to sex, drug and assault charges involving a 16-year-old boy recently.

Preston, 45, entered the pleas May 18 in Los Angeles County Superior Court and was ordered to return June 26 for a pretrial hearing. He remained free on \$25,000 bail, Deputy District Attorney Lori Petersen said last week.

He faces up to six years in prison if convicted.

The entertainer was arrested in August 1991 after a 16-year-old boy told sheriff's deputies Preston showed him sexually explicit photos and tried to assault him.

The youth said he accepted a ride from Preston at a spot where day laborers congregate. The boy said Preston smoked cocaine in the

car and also showed him sexually explicit pictures, detectives said.

He told police he escaped after Preston drove him to his Malibu home and tried to assault him.

Preston was charged with four felonies—possession of cocaine, sexual battery, assault with a deadly weapon and false imprisonment. He also was charged with the misdemeanors possession of drug paraphernalia, child molestation and exhibiting pornography to a minor.

Preston has performed as an instrumentalist, singer and songwriter, since the early 1960s, performing with the Beatles, Little Richard, Ray Charles and the Rolling Stones.

His solo hits include "Will It Go Round in Circles?" and "Nothing from Nothing."

Oprah To Pen Story Of Her Life

NEW YORK, N.Y. (AP)—As she closes in on the big 4-0, Oprah Winfrey has started looking back at her life—and writing it all down for an autobiography due next year.

"As I near my 40th birthday in January of 1994, I find that more and more I have been reflecting on the path my life has taken. This book will be my life as I see it, and I look forward to sharing it with readers," Winfrey said of her deal with publisher Alfred A. Knopf.

Winfrey, the host of the popular syndicated talk show, will turn in a manuscript of the untitled work in February 1993, the publisher said. The book is expected out in the fall of 1993, with a paperback edition out a year later.



CO-WRITER—BMI's song of the year, "Love Takes Time," was awarded to Ben Margulies and co-writer Mariah Carey, margulies is also producer-instrumentalist-arranger-businessman and wrote seven of the songs on the album.