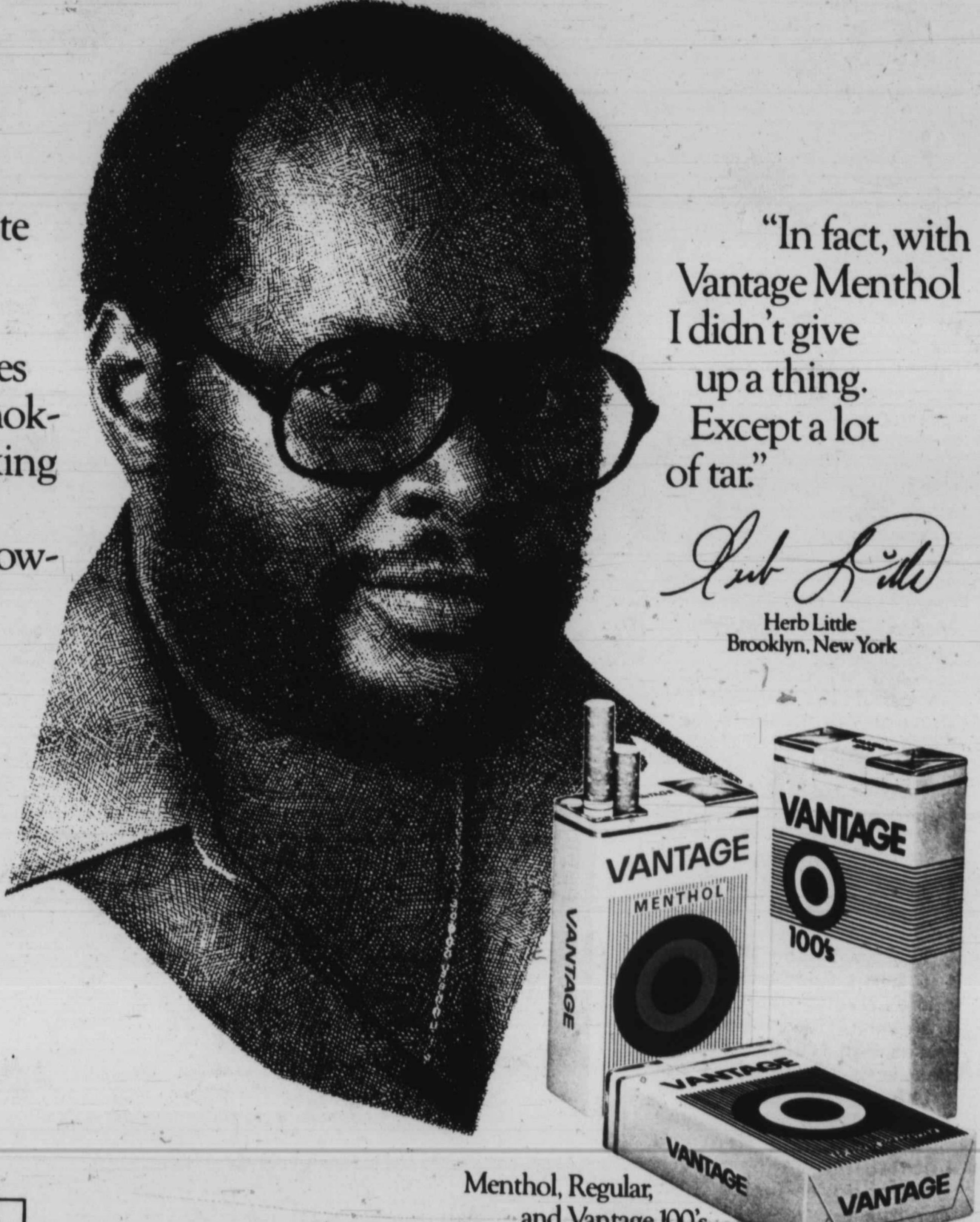
## "Vantage has what I've been looking for. Terrific menthol taste with low tar."

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"But when the stories started about high-tar smoking, I knew they were talking about menthols, too.

"So I tried the new lowtar menthols. They just didn't have it.

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FILTER: 11 mg. "tar", 0.7 mg. nicotine, MENTHOL: 11 mg. "tar", 0.8 mg. nicotine, av. per cigarette,

## Al Jarreau's Singing Thrills

## All Audiences

By Bob Matthews

When you listen to Al Jarreau sing, it is comparable to watching Olga Korbut, or Nadia Comanici perform gymnastics. The tricks he does with his voice are akin to an athletic endeavor.

The balance is always there as Jarreau recreates the sound of all the musical instruments in the orchestra - plus drum solos.

Probably the hottest musical property around today, Jarreau has appeared on most of the talk shows, including Johnny Carson, Mike Douglas and Merv Griffin.

His concerts are almost automatically sold out, and the rapport between Al and the audience is almost un precedented. Louis Armstrong had the facility, as did Duke Ellington — and now, Al Jarreau.

What he does defies description. Jazz purists insist he is not a pure jazz singer. Using a group relying mainly on electronic instruments, he has been called an exponent of the 'fusion'' or high energy movement currently in vogue.

He says he would like to see a cross-cultural flow in music, which is why there is such a mixture.

As you listen to his music, you detect overtones of gospel This is natural.

He was born in Milwaukee, Wis., his father, who died recently, was a minister, his mother played piano in church.

As a child, there was great exposure to music — and especially gospel. Al is reflected in both his writing and performing.

A graduate of Ripon College, with a BS in psychology, he acquired a master's degree in psychology from the University of lowa.

Thus armed, he wound up as a counselor in the California Division of Rehabilitation.

Based in San Francisco, one of his main tasks in the job was to help alcoholics and drug addicts on the road to recovery.

But, counselor Jarreau still had the inner longings for music. He began singing in area clubs with George Duke's piano trio.

By 1968, he had quit his job with the rehabilitation center and moved down the coast to Los Angeles.

Working with a support guitarist, he began to polish his act. A break came while appearing at the Troubadour Club in Hollywood.

He was the support act for the Les McCann appearance, and several Warner Bros. executives were in the audience. They liked what they heard, and the next day he was signed to a recording contract.

Al was beginning to get a little work during this period of his development. He did background vocals with Minnie Riperton on Quincy Jones' Body Heat.

In August, 1975 Jarreau's first album was released: "We Got By." It was composed of original songs and didn't make much of a splash on the music scene in this country, initially, that

He was sent on a promotion tour to Europe in 1976, scheduled to last four 'too, had the Hamburg Music



**ALJARREAU** 

weeks. It wound up being eight weeks including two sold-out weeks at Ronnie Scott's Club in London.

In addition, he was awarded a German-Grammy for "Best New International Pop Vocalist." He won at Eurovision, a TV network in Europe and did a 90-minute special on German TV.

It was time for another LP by Jarreau to be issued. It was called "Glow," and this time combined original material with songs by other

As Al put it: "For as long as I have been performing, I

Hall experienced such a commotion when 15 minutes after the encore, people were still frantically clapping, stomping and yelling. Critics and the public agree on one thing, this man has a whole orchestra in his throat."

Once again, an American artist had to go to Europe to gain the recognition he deserved.

The experience evokes memories of such stalwarts as Coleman Hawkins, Oscar Pettiford, Sidney Bechet and Eartha Kitt among others, who became big names

## Overtones of gospel in Al's music comes naturally as it's exposed to it . . .

have been re-interpreting other people's material.

"Writing is a relatively new venture for me, so in order to present a more complete picture of myself, I felt it important to include some of that material in my second record."

Response to the record was gratifying, and especially in Europe.

Al gambled on a quick trip to Germany while on tour with Melissa Manchester in November of 1976.

After his performances at the Berlin Jazz Festival, and in Hamburg, "Der Spiegel" magazine commented:

"Seldom in the 13 years of jazz had the Berlin Philharmonic experienced such a burst of applause. Seldom, because of the acceptance of European audiences.

It was decided to put Jarreau on a European tour early in 1977. Recognition that his special talents were best suited for live appearances, the decision was made to record the tour.

For five weeks, 16 sold-out concerts including London, Oslo, Berlin, Vienna and Paris were recorded.

The distillate from this is the exquisite double LP set called simply: 'Al' Jarreau."

This album firmly established Al as a superstar performer. His tour of the United States could be called a personal "tour de force."

As the title of his first album states: "We Got By."

PAGE 23