# Celebenit

## with Jeanne Parnell

ADDRESS ALL INQUIRIES TO " CELEBENIT " 295 MADISON AVENUE, SUITE 623, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

Vance Amaker

Ron O'Neal

Lawrence Hilton Jacobs

**Q. How can black artists and performers contribute to positive images for black youth today?**

B. G Matt
Balto., Md.

A. Vance Amaker recently seen in the Academy Award Nominated "Goodbye Girls" and "Eyes," is the top man for C.C.A.P., The Committee of Concerned Artists and Professionals. This group contributes by giving awards and special honors to black artists and their peers as an incentive. That's creating reality and images.

**Q. Whatever happen to "Super Fly"— Ron O'Neal?**

A. He did a show in Chicago, Ill., starring in "Othello" critics, complains he "plays almost without force while at the same time stating he plays Othello with a quiet grace and some wryness that was moving." He's making a super effort to change his image. Right!

entrance from a closed white coffin, from which he emerged slowly, shaking a shrunken head as he sings - in "American Hot Wax."

**Q. Who is that fine young thing on "WELCOME BACK KOTTER"?**

A. Thornton
Atlanta, Ga.

A. Our new teenage idol is Laurence - Hilton - Jacobs.

**Q. I bet you won't answer this question. Don't you think Muhammad Ali might have thrown the fight with Leon Spinks?**

George Gaines
Phoenix, Arizonia

A. I won't answer it because I can't!

**Q. Is it true that my He-Man O. J. Simpson acted as a "GAY" on television?**

V. Grey
Boston, Mass.

A. Yes, I thought he showed his comical talent as well as his versatility. He was quite the "MAN " on Saturday Nite Live as he hosted the show.

**Q. What will you see, hear and never forget?**

C. Jones
Shreveport, La.

A. Screamin Jay Hawkins singing "I Put A Spell On You." Making his

**Q. I'm sorry your research failed to disclose the true facts about black agents in Hollywood. Hope you will correct the statement that was made.**

L. C.
Houston, Texas

A. Currently celebrating her 20th year as the head of her talent agency, Ms. Lillian Cumber has been responsible for selling the first script written by a black to a network, getting the first black in a commercial on the west coast, and opening the doors for many of today's established black actors & actresses. I apologize!

Lillian Cumber

Leon Spinks

Screaming Jay Hawkins

**NEWS:**

**Harlem's famed Apollo Theatre has been sold and is scheduled to reopen under the new owners.**

**JEANNE PARNELL welcomes questions from her DAWN Readers. While she cannot provide individual answers, questions of general interest will be used in this column.**



# All Aboard The Mothership

**By Kip Branch**

From behind a gigantic pair of glasses, two eyeballing search lights looked for the funkless Sir Nose D'VoidofFunk, the man who claimed that he would not dance, the man whose long nose grows each time he spreads his un - funky, unhappy vibrations.

As the Mothership prepared to make its fiery descent on the Baltimore Civic Center, the Starchild, Doctor Funkenstein's personal representative sat at the helm. Dressed like Atilla the Hun about to cross the Alps, in a red leather half - tunic half - dress over top of a silver jump suit and with fur pieces dangling from the entire outfit, the Starchild was ready for battle!

The rest of Starchild's crew had on silver too, but no one could top the Starchild — he had silver wings on his back so that he could fly after Sir Nose if he had to.

Suddenly, the roar of the bass, the rhythm of the guitar and the beat of the drums let everyone know that the Parliaments, the crew of the Mothership, the group that has made famous the battle between Starchild, the good vibe man and Sir Nose D'VoidofFunk, the bad vibe man — the forces of good and evil — the classy, cosmic and very real black rock - opera had landed.

Who are these people and what's this all about?

It's very simple and at the same time it's very complex.

All of these characters are products of the master mind of George Clinton, the brilliant energy and idea source behind the Parliaments, the group that is taking the country by storm.

"It's all about programming," says Clinton. "Our music is about life, about how your environment programs you into the Plecebo Syndrome, into the pleasure principle, into taking those sugar coated pills that doctors prescribe to make you think you feel better — to fake you out. And as a result of being programmed, being dictated to, many people get held back from reaching their full potential — many people are unhappy with their lives."

According to Clinton, "Sir Nose D'VoidofFunk is the cat who goes around shooting people with his Snooze Gun and taking away all of their good positive funky vibrations, and Starchild, owner of the Bop Gun, the only weapon that can counter Sir Nose is the personal representative of Doctor Funkenstein, lover of the "good vibe" who sits high up in the heavens overseeing the earth — making sure that good vibrations are being spread."

"Funkentelechy, which is the name of one of the tunes on our latest album is the counter to the Plecebo or pleasure syndrome. Funkentelechy is the highest form of consciousness that you can attain — Funkentelechy is a consciousness that doesn't allow you to be faked out by life," Clinton continued.

In addition to being master showmen, the group is made up of some very talented musicians and singers. Clinton refers to two of the members, lead guitarist Ike Hampton and keyboard man Bernard Worrell, who has studied at the Boston Conservatory of Music as "key musicians."

At 36, George Clinton is no newcomer to the musical genre which he and his group not only belong to, but are at the top of.

"The Parliaments actually began while I was in junior high school. Groups were being signed up to record, and at the time the business was all about 45's. But our first hit was not until 1967 when we recorded 'I Wanna Testify.' It took ten years to tear the roof off," he continued.,

George Clinton

Today, wherever they appear, the Parliament - Funkadelic mob literally tears the roof off when they spread their musical message.

Clinton has had his share of ups and downs in the music business. "We are Parliament - Funkadelic because one time we got beat by a promoter and were unable to record. So, we changed our name. You know, in this business there are the artists and the managers and the agents and the lawyers, and all of these people are part of a system of turmoil — and you have to be careful.

"There's a three - year concept in this business, and every three years you have to come up with a new idea. If you don't, you won't last."

Clinton, the musical wizard and spiritual force, captain of the Mothership was one time making $2,000 a week as the owner of the first barber shop in his hometown, Newark, New Jersey that processed hair. Now he is the navigator - father and mother of his own spaceship.

When Clinton says that, "As people we've got to know everything that's happening, be aware of all that's going on," he means it. "I'm a science fiction freak and I spend a lot of time on airplanes reading. That's the key, reading — reading everything."

But when he is credited with being the braintrust of the group, the nerve center, Clinton cites his role with amazing modesty. "I guess I just have the ability to know when something sounds good. I mean, we try to do things differently every night — we try to stretch out differently, and really, I'm just the coordinator, the one who controls the energy flow. If you watch me on stage, I'm giving Qs, I am just controlling the energy.

When asked if the group's music is directed to any one particular audience, he replied,"Not really, I mean, our music and our message are not directed to any one people, but the way we play it, it comes out black."

Talking quietly, Clinton continued saying, "You know, the whole trip — the whole Starchild, protector of the pleasure principle vs Sir Nose D'VoidofFunk trip began as a joke, as a what if . . ."

Now, what was once a what if is for Clinton and his entourage a reality, a highly successful blend of musical talent and social message.