# -CASPER THE CHOST

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makers of funk things to play with." Like Collins, everyone in the audience starts calling themselves, "Bootzilla," the world's only rockstar doll.

When it was over, the crowd was chanting, "Hell, no we won't go," indicating they wanted an encore. But there was no encore.

They stayed in hopes of getting apeek at their heroes. Young girls lined the backstage exits hoping to get invited to the after-parties. But most of them soon resigned themselves to fighting the traffic back to their homes.

Special Effects

Collins, who records for Warner Brothers Records, said that he has pumped \$75,000 into his show which includes a 15-minute cartoon, flashing lights, a stararchway, long hanging white drapes and other special effects.

Before forming his Rubberband in 1975, Collins, a product of the Cincinnati ghettoes, was an automotive mechanics student at Croter Technical High School. His mother and sister will live in Cincinnati.

Like most black entertainers, he knocked around with high school bands, playing and harmonizing wherever he could. He was even a member of a church band. He fiddled around with the guitar before switching to bass and organizing his own group which included his brother Phelps.

Bootsy's career accelerated when the group landed a gig as the house band for King Records which led to an invitation from Soul Brother No. 1, James Brown to form the nucleus of his lab band, The JBs." "We were the original JBs, not many people know that," Collins said.

#### Hard Rock

When popular music entered the hard rock era of Sly and the Family Stones and Jimi Hendrix, Bootsy's style began changing from the traditional rhythm and blues of Brown's era. In 1971, he met George Clinton, "Dr. Funkenstein," who had organized the Parliaments, an upstart group, which was soon to score with the hit tune, "I Just Wanna Testify," on Casablanca Records.

In 1975, the group dropped the

"s" and became Parliament/-Funkadelics. Collins and Clinton put their heads together and came up with a huge hit record called: "Tear the Roof Off the Sucker," which came out on Casablanca Records, out of Los Angeles.

That tune furnished the basis for the present "Funk" movement, a combination of hard rock and traditional black rhythm and blues. Out of the Collins/ Clinton partnership, there was an outpouring of tunes that formed a platinum album "The Mothership Connection," which was also a Casablanca jewel.

It was then that Collins decided to strike out on his own. He devoted his energies to writing a hit of his own. He succeeded in 1975 in writing "Stretching Out," his first big tune for Warner

"George and I had talked about it for sometime," he recalled. Bootsy had been searching for a name for his new group, formed by drawing from the lab band and other James Brown musicians. His imagination produced Via "Stretching Out," the name "The Rubberband" which later became "Rubberband."

Two Vocalists

The present band includes two talented vocalists, Gary "Mudbone" Cooper and Robert "P-Nut" Johnson, Phelps Collins on guitar, the Horny Horns (a separate group), Fred Wesley, Maceo Parker, Rich Gardner and Richard Griffith, Joel "Razer Sharp" Johnson on keyboards, Frankie "Kash" Waddy on drums, and, of course, Bootsy

As "The Player of the Year" album continues to climb the charts, Bootsy plans to continue to "Give up the Funk!"

It is he and Clinton's great love of fishing that has given Bootsy the idea for a new album concert which he tentatively refers to as, "Music from the Deep." Clinton is also working on a similar album concert for his Funkadelics, splinter group of Parliament. It is reportedly based on doing a huge underwater type show with glass encasements and underwater

Bootsy gets philosophical at times about his success. "I think we give these kids the simple,

basic thing they can understand. I don't force it on them. They can dig it or not - to funk or not to

"I brought back the nursery rhyme because I have a cartoon mind. I am a kid at heart, myself. Everybody is a kid at heart. Some won't admit it, but I do. I had the nerve to bring it out. I refuse to

"I am having too much fun. I'll probably funk forever. I got into this because there was really no one relating to the kids. The music is simple, and very easy to understand," he added.

Warm Feeling

Bootsy has a very warm feeling. about his partnership with Collins. "We were introduced in Detroit in

1971 by Mallia Franklin, who is a member of Parlet (another Clinton Splinter group)."

Asked about their song-writing skills, Collins replied, "Man neither one of us would know a note if it hit us. We do it by ear. I started with the notes but I got out of that. We have written songs while talking to each other on the phone. I even wrote a song once on a paper bag. George is just one of the most creative cats, I know."

Collins' versatility lies in the fact he plays bass, guitar, and

He is amusing and seldom serious. His life is his music. There is very little time for anything else, he says. "I ain't had time to get into nothing. Once I am on the road doing the concerts, there is never time for anything else. All the other time is spent creating."

### -Play Guitar

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television and radio shows.

"I didn't like it then," he said. "I used to play for enjoyment but when it became worik, I didn't like it. Money didn't mean anything to me then.

"Then I found out that music makes people happy. When I go out to do a concert, I try to make it really different for them."

Benson spent the latter part of adolescence on the road.

"I was happy to be out there," he said, "I learned the guitar. No one knew I could sing, so I played and really got up on my in-

VOCALS EASIER In the music industry, noted Benson, it's a lot easier to get a record played on the radio if it has

vocals. In fact, it's been Benson's voice that's brought attention to his guitar excellence.

"In recent times the vocals have outweighed the instrumental," he said. You can't ignore it. We almost passed' up "The Masquerade." I just hope I'm able to find good songs, something people can relate to."

Benson's whole life is music. He feels that to make sure that life is worthwhile is to love what you

"Even if I never would have made it, I love to play," he said. "I did it for years. I gave up being a star a long time ago.

"But I never let it get me down, I was just glad to be doing it. Music itself, is beautiful." So is George Benson.

### -Isley Brothers

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complished. We're the only group who owns 100% of themselves. We're just trying to set an example for others to follow." Isley Brothers songs have been recorded by both popular and jazz musicians, and asked which of their many albums he liked the best, a truly difficult question since almost every one of them has achieved gold record status, Chris replied, "Well, I liked "3 +

3,' that was our first for CBS. 'The Heat Is On,' 'Go For Your Guns,' and 'Showdown,' are also special albums to me."

#### Happy Audience

At the Capital Centre an engagingly happy audience of blacks and whites watched in deep recognition as the Isley Brothers, who got top billing, performed a medley of songs that included 'Sohow-down,' 'Groove With You, 'That Lady,' and 'Ain't Givin' Up No Love This Morning.'

## NATIONAL ROUNDUP

By Larry A. Still and Art Carter\_

BELIEVE IT OR NOT — There is a 4,000 to 1 chance your name is on the "former" Federal Bureau of Investigation list of those to be placed in concentration - like detention camps in the event of a "national emergency" - such as war on maritial law . . . The American Friends Service Committee reports "that the FBI, from 1939 to 1976 and possibly continuing into the present, has maintained a list of people to be rounded up and placed in detention camps . . . with or without a congressional mandate . . . The list hit an all - time height of 26,174 persons in 1954 in the (Senator Joe) Mc-Carthy era and dropped to 1,294 by August, 1975, according to the AFSC report believed to be the first public history of this FBI program. "The purpose was to identify individuals considered most dangerous to the government so that in the event of 'national emergency,' they could be placed in designated camps which would be instantly readied to receive them," said Ken Lawrence, who is staff member of the AFSC Program on Government Surveillance and Citizens Rights. Lawrence heads the AFSC's Mississippi Project (remember that) which published the report, entitled, "J. Edgar Hoover's Detention Plan . . ." The "closed camps" are in Allenwood, Pa.; El Reno, Okla.; Florence, Ariz.; Tule Lake, Calif., and Avon Park, Fla.

There have been previous reports of government detention plans, but Lawrence adds "We have used files of a number of individuals who were targeted for emergency detention at various times from World War II to today, obtained from the FBI under the Freedom of Information Act. Only few of the names included have ever been made public. . . . " If you are



Benjamin Hooks





Luke C. Mooore

interested in a copy of the AFSC booklet, write Paul Brink, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, Pa., 19102 . . . Incidentally, according to the Center for National Security Studies, when the FBI responded to numerous Freedom of Information requests by placing over 50,000 pages of its internal Cointelpro (Dirty Tricks) files into its public reading room, the release provided a unique opportunity to look at the internal workings of this massive, secret program . . . If you think your name may be in the files for fighting for your civil rights you may inspect the records at the giant new FBI headquarters at Ninth and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., in Washington or contact the Center for National Security Studies, 122 Maryland Ave., N.B., Washington, D.C., 20002; (202) 544-5380 . . . .

Augustus Hawkins

1890 AND 1954 REVISITED - The Supreme Court Bakke "Reverse Discrimination" decision admitting a white medical school applicant to the University of California ahead of black applicants while still maintaining affirmative action preference programs for minority students is being hailed as the most significant high court decision since the Plessy Vs. Ferguson "separate but equal" case and the more recent school integration decision but there is evidence that the Bakke Case shook up the Court mer? than it did the nation . . . Look for a new series of bitter attacks on the SC's deliberation process in view of the four way split decision, including Justice Thurgood Marshall's hard hitting opinion that the 1954 decision still has not been implemented . . . But black educators were not too surprised at the Bakke results, according to the Institute for Services to Education officials who say the number one priority for blacks interested in higher education is the "enhancement and strengthening" of black colleges . . . Over 50 percent of all blacks with college degrees received their education at black colleges which are still needed to provide education for minorities who are "screened out" of predominantly white institutions says Dr. Leonard Haynes of ISES . . . When asked about pushing for affirmative action in

white institutions and trying to save black operated facilities, Haynes insists that "it is not a case of trying to have our cake and eat it too, it is a case of the government helping provide options for black people" just as the nation has provided options for Catholics and Jews and Indians and Spaniards in maintaining ethnic institutions for those groups wishing to maintain their own cultural heritage in a pluralistic, multi-racial, integrated society . . . If you are interested in more information beyond the Bakke case, contact Vickie Brown, ISES, 2001 S St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20010 . . . Most aware black educators believe the pending Adams Vs Califano (Health Education and Welfare Dept.) to be the most important Supreme Court case of the century because it will determine the final guidelines for desegregating white and black colleges . . . says Haynes . . . And a task force of key specialists such as Atty. Herbert O. Reid, Dr. Kenneth Tollet and Haynes, etc., are working on it . . .

AFRICAN - AMERICAN TRADE . . . The latest group to stimulate increased interest in Africa among Afro Americans, was the visiting, Nigerian - American Chamber of Commerce delegation which visited New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Houston, Los Angeles and Washington seeking black businessmen to invest in African export and import programs as well as development programs on the continent . . . During its tour, the 22 men and women delegation, headed by Chief Dotun Okubanyo, met with members of the Balck Manufacturers Association, headed by Don Lewis, and the D.C. Chamber of Commerce's James Denson . . . African -American businessmen have already agreed to work on establishing a



Jesse Jackson Abraham Venable Walter Fauntroy

communications system and a "Yellow Pages" business directory in Nigeria . . The Kenya government is also considering sending trade missions to several American cities following the historic Kenya Trade Fair at the New York Coliseum this year . . . And watch for the new, All Africa Trade Fair in . the USA in December as well as an AFRO - EXPO soon to solicit more American business interest in the vast continent . . . If you're interested, write Africa Trade Fair, P.O. Box 2245, Washington, D.C., 20001....

CAPITAL FUND LINE . . . Grants totaling \$32,290,000 to assist states, regional and community organizations to develop or improve emergency medical services systems have been announced by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare . . . The funds, available under the Emergency Medical Services Systems Act, went to recipients in 46 states

... The act provides for financial support and technical assistance to encourage the improvement of emergency medical aid based upon a regional health care delivery approach. More than \$110 million has been distributed since the program began four years ago . . . and money may initially be used by communities to plan and prepare for the development of an EMS system in their areas . . . Contact the HEW regional office or the local public health service . . . The National Medical Association affiliates should be monitoring this grant . . . They meet here this month with the National Dental Association . . . which should be looking to HEW proposed rules for awarding grants to residency programs in general dentistry to assist dentists being trained . . . Some \$4.5 million is available in fiscal 1978 for the grants which are authorized by the Health Professional Educational Assistance Acts. Grants may be awarded to schools of dentistry and accredited postgraduate dental training institutions . . . Residents who plan to

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