CELEBRITY

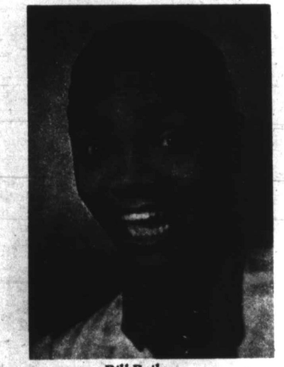
with JEANNE PARNELL

Q—Whatever happened to Rosalind Cash?

Rachel Wase
Richmond, Va.

A—Out L.A. way, actress Rosalind was featured performer in Jon Hendricks "Evolution of the Blues," that the critics praised. In a musical celebration of 200 years of American music; it had a cast of 17 singers, dancers and musicians who, reports say, explode jazz, boogie-woogie, gospel and blues.

Diahann Carroll



Bill Bailey

Blanche Calloway

Q—I had never heard of Bill Bailey, brother of singer Pearl Bailey, or Blanche Calloway Jones, sister of Cab Calloway until after they died. Were they famous?

Debbie Green
Fayetteville, N.C.

A—Bill Bailey, from Philadelphia, was a top tap dancer in his heyday. He had a 30-year career and was often compared to Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. Blanche Calloway Jones, was one of the first women to lead a major American dance band. She sang with Earl "Fatha" Hines, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and her brother Cab before she got the chance to lead her own band.

Q—Is it true that O. J. Simpson will no longer do the Hertz TV commercial?

Jerry Ashtee
Richmond, Va.

A—Things are jumping off for O. J. His six-figure contract runs thru 1980 and Hertz insists it has "no change" in the works for the Simpson campaign. He was honored as Ad Age's Star Presenter of 1977. But since then, he has had his share of problems. His 14-year marriage is reportedly in trouble, and his football career has been plagued by injuries. Still industry insiders say Hertz is not so much fed up with O. J. as it simply feels the 3-year-old campaign is in need of an overhaul. So Hertz is apparently seeking some big-shot types to add to a revised format which won't exclude the $300,000 a year talents of "The Juice" for now.

Q—Whatever happened to Pigmeat [Here Comes The Judge] Markham?

Sandra Bond
Weldon, N.C.

A—He was the guest performer at the "Twelfth Night" at Marcus Garvey, a nursing home in New York. There is also a jazz place called Pig Meat Pie, in the Jazz City of New York. He's still around.

Q—Is it true that Michael Jackson is no longer going to be a singer but rather an actor?

Shirley Jones
Jacksonville, Fla.

A—Michael has landed the lead role of Bill Robinson in "Bojangles" plus a part in the movie version of "A Chorus Line." All the extra curricular activity is not to be taken as a sign of desertion—family-man Michael will join the rest of the Jacksons on tour next month when they head cross country to promote their new LP. Steve Manning, former president of the Jackson Five fan club, has written "The Jacksons" which talks about the joys and pressures of success at a very young age in their career.

Q—Why was Alice Travis, host of ABC's "For You Black Woman" axed?

Regina Scott
Philadelphia, Pa.

A—A few shows she did had reportedly been technically lacking, but she'd refused to tape others without extra pay. "No way," said the producers. So much for Alice. The matter, as they say, is now in litigation.

Q—Stars never talk about other stars publicly. Do They?

Arthur Davis
Rome, N.Y.

A—Diahann Carroll gave a honest in-depth interview with Rex Reed. Says Diahann, "Can you name one black star performer who works steadily in night clubs and theater? Pearl Bailey is a college student who sells fried chicken on TV. Lena Horne has retired to a suburban home in Santa Barbara and only comes out of her cocoon occasionally to do cameos in movies like "The Wiz." Dorothy Dandridge and Ethel Waters are dead. Nancy Wilson, Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan have never overcome the "jazz singer" label to become major stars in the entertainment media. "Diana Ross?" says Rex Reed "Lets' face it," says Ms. Carroll, "her connection with Motown has made her case special. There are other factors involved in Diana Ross's case beside talent that have kept her employed."

Michael Jackson

O. J. Simpson

Pigmeat Markham

All letters should be addressed to Jeanne Parnell, Dawn Magazine, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201. All questions are welcomed, but while Jeanne cannot provide individual answers, questions of general interest will be used in this column.

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