

Oscar Brown Jr.

Oscar Brown Jr. is one of the most talented black men around. How come I never hear anything about him?

> Charles Linden Detroit, MI.

Oscar is a singer, songwriter, actor, playwright, producer, director, has recorded albums and has staged musicals in theatres, night clubs and concert halls throughout the United States and Europe. He is also a philosopher - asked if he is writing for Broadway, Oscar replies, "I'm writing for Oscar Brown! Broadway is a game and blacks are not included - that is unless you write what they want to know and hear about us."

What happened at the White House buffet dinner honoring the Black Music Association?

Carol Davison

Teenager star "Champagne" King enjoyed a youngster's dream performing for the President and Mrs. Carter. Ms. King said, "Thank God I



Paul Benjamin PAGE 4

signed the guest book, otherwise I'd probably be tempted to do graffiti — you know — "Champagne was here!"

Whatever happened to Olympic winner Bob Hayes of the Dallas Cowboys?

including coaches and trainees,

there are only 1,500 black people.

in the movie "Escape From

Alcatraz?"

Who played the part of English

Paul Benjamin played the role

of a black prisoner convicted in

Alabama for the death of two

white men - he's a veteran actor

Disco. Is it good or bad, has it

helped the black artist or hurt

The answer is yes and no. It has

hurt the ballad but opened up a lot

of room for new artists. Up until

ten years ago you didn't hear a

black song that didn't tell a story.

Logan Westbrook, who is

responsible for setting up the

black music marketing depart-

and a serious one.

Sarton Reynolds

Ramos Rodriquez

Baltimore, MD.

Pennsylvania

B. Morrison Phila., PA. Retired from football, Hayes

was unable to secure a permanent income. Unlike O. J. Simpson and others, Hayes was unable to promote products on television. Like many brothers in the streets unemployed and desperate, Hayes started selling drugs. He was busted and is now serving time in prison. According to sociologist . Harry Edwards, approximately 3 million black young people state that professional athletics is either their first or second career preference. The reality behind the myth is both frightening and devastating. Only Cicely Tyson. 900 blacks in the United States today earn a living as professional athletes. Out of a total number of 15,000 people who work within the

1950's. Why? field of professional athletics,

Antonio Anthony Toniz Stevenson

Petersburg, VA. biz is at best uncertain.

Who is calling himself "Bird?"

ment at CBS, states, "Black and white radio is coming together because of the disco format. Now what disturbs me is the racist nature of white promotion and marketing departments that are saying 'hold up, we have two categories - white disco and black disco.' " So we are back where we started.

Is it true that Carol Douglas [the disco lady] was a child star?

Damion Nero

Pittsburgh, VA. Carol has been in the public eye since the age of three when she began appearing as a photographic model. At ten she took the top prize after her first. amateur appearance at the famed Apollo Theatre. During her teens Carol played small roles in films, television and Off-Broadway shows. She still remembers her first Off-Broadway play - it starred James Earl Jones and

No major new bands have appeared on the scene since the

New music trends (rock and disco) and crippling economic realities have dealt the big bands a hard blow in their efforts to keep alive. It would take \$90,000 to start a band today, and not many investors are jumping at the chance. Count Basie is still around, but radio dee jays rarely play his music, and if they do, they usually don't mention his name. The future of the big band

> Carl Brown New York

To most people the name Edwin Birdsong may be new. He is a keyboardist and vocalist who has worked with other top notch musicians for years. His hit, "Phiss-Phizz" for example, starts out with a compulsive — but different - dance beat. (Bird

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.



Carol Douglas

explains the difference as the beat falling on the nine, instead of the four). "That's what music is coming to," says Bird. "It will be happening tomorrow."

Is Motown promoting any new

Howard Tolliver

Patrick Gammon who says "I knew I was different at the age of five. I used to play "Mary Had a Little Lamb" with a unique beat. I also knew I would support myself through music. I have learned to write, play, produce and arrange. I'm a dedicated artist, but at first no one thought so."

What do you think of the Village

Lindsay Karen Washington

I personally enjoy the group. They are family entertainment, which is hard to find. Their audiences are filled with mommas, poppas, teenagers and tots who scream at the very sight of



Edwin Birdsong

Which black concert pianist played with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the age of nine?

Andre Watts, born in Germany of a Hungarian mother and a black American G.I., performed as a soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra at age nine. He gained fame through his appearances in Leonard Bernstein's Young People's Concerts and is now regarded as one of the premier concert pianists in the world.

What special significance did the first Kentucky Derby hold for black Americans?

A black jockey, Oliver Lewis, rode the winning entry, Aristedes, in the first running of the Kentucky Derby in 1875 at Churchill Downs. Fourteen of the 15 entries in that race were ridden by black jockeys. The legendary Isaac Murphy won three Kentucky Derbys in the late 19th Century.

Who wrote Invisible Man? Invisible Man, which was voted the most distinguished novel of the previous 20 years in a 1965 poll conducted by the New York Herald Tribune's Book Week, was written by Ralph Ellison. It won the National Book Award in 1952, the year it was published.

Ellison's academic awards include a Rosenwald Fellowship of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He has held several academic posts. Presently, he holds the Albert Schweitzer Chair in the Humanities at New York University.

Which opera did Scott Joplin write?

Scott Joplin composed the innovative folk grand opera, "Treemonisha," in 1907. The opera was not well - received by those accustomed to his ragtime music, and he was forced to publish and produce it at his own expense.

Who were the first blacks to win Wimbledon tennis

Althea Gibson became the first and only black woman tennis champion with her victories at Wimbledon and Forest Hills in 1957. She is also an outstanding professional golfer.

Althea learned tennis on the streets of Harlem. In 1975, Arthur Ashe became the first black man to win at Wimbledon when he

defeated Jimmy Connors in a stunning upset.

\* \* \* Where in Africa were freed slaves from England and America

Descendants of African slaves in Britain liberated after the Somerset Case in 1772 and others were settled in Sierra Leone, West Africa, in 1787. This settlement pioneered the way for the founding of Liberia, to which ex-slaves of the United States were sent.

leave to assist the fund. And IBM

continued to pay him his full salary.

The National Fund for Minority

Engineering Students is a very worth-

while program. We think so. Lauchland

Henry thinks so. But most important

of all, lots of minority engineering

students enrolled at colleges and

universities all over ====

the country think so.



## LAUCH HENRY HELPED FIND THE MISSING INGREDIENT TO EDUCATE MINORITY ENGINEERS. MONEY.

Lauchland Henry is a teacher. And a scientist. And an engineer. He's genuinely concerned about other people. And he has expressed some of that concern in his participation with the National Fund for Minority Engineering Students.

The fund is a non-profit organization attempting to increase the number of Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Chicanos, Mexican-Americans and American Indians enrolled in engineering schools.

These under-represented minorities constitute a rich untapped resource for helping fill the growing need for engineers, a need that is expected to continue through the mid-1980's.

IBM's social leave program enabled Dr. Henry to take a year's



PAGE 5