

Sara Dash



Nichelle Nichols

Q - How did Millie Jackson and Isaac Hayes get together? Casie Thomas

Chicago A — The pairing of Millie Jackson and Isaac Hayes was not one that occurred by accident, nor the design of negotiating agents, but it is rather the result of two close friends who have always had the desire to record together

finally gesting that opportunity.



Hazel Scott

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CELEBENIT with JEANNE PARNELL

telling him of a great song the two could work together on - and the rest is history.

Q - Whatever happened to Hazel Scott?

Nicole Adams Greensboro, N.C.

A - She has just completed her first album in ten years, "Always Hazel Scott."

Q - What's with Gloria Vanderbilt and piano playing Bobby Short?

Zandra Kelly Texas

Ms. Vanderbilt loves Bobby's music so much that she keeps tape recordings of his songs with her at all times - even when she travels. Gossipers have implied there is more to the story, but Gloria and Bobby just ignore them and play on.

Q - How old is Larry Fishburne who played the role of "Clean" in "Apocalypse Now?"

Cassandra Bradley West Virginia

A - He had not turned fifteen when he was signed by Francis Coppola for the key role of "Clean." The film took three years to be finalized. Larry is about eighteen years old and still living at home with his mamma, Hattie James, in Los Angeles.

Q — It has always interested me how a member of a group can emerge as a solo performer.

> Wilhemia Black New Jersey

A - "It wasn't easy, but I believed it would happen, after 16 years as a member of Labelle, both Patti and Nona released solo albums before me. For two years I methodically worked in each element necessary to a successful solo career. I'm glad to be with Kirshner, Don and his wife are my dearest friends." Ms. Dash signed with Don Kirshner who has guided her to a gold mine of music publishing and producing.

Q - Is Jon-Maurice the lead singer for the group, "Moment of Truth," from Portsmouth, Virginia?

Paris Eley Portsmouth, Virginia

A- Yes, but Jon-Maurice is better known as Joe Hooks in that town. "My father, a former football player, slipped, broke his neck and died when I was two years old. My mother lived with a broken heart and drank herself to death. My grandmother, Mrs. Nannie Hooks who is now 80 years old, raised me and encouraged me to do well. Jon-Maurice is my real name, but if my people of my town care to call me Joe Hooks - they can," says Mr. Moment of Truth.

Q - Who is the First Lady of

Inacent Jones

A - Nichelle Nichols plays Uhura, the communications officer aboard the Enterprise, in Paramount's "Star Trek - The Motion Picture." Convinced of her sincere interest, scientists invited her to fly an eight-hour mission aboard the Kuiper C-141 Astronomy Observatory on an interferometric study of the atmospheres on Saturn and Mars. She was among the honored guests at JPL for the Viking soft landing on Mars. Currently Nichelle is co-writing a theatrical musical entitled "Ancestry," which tells the story of a female astronaut on a real space colony who just happened to be black and sings in Nichelle's key.

Q - What is the theme of the new off-Broadway show "One Mo

Claudes Hornthorn Seattle, Washington

A - It is in 1926 and the cast is standing on the stage of the Lyric Theatre in New Orleans. "The

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.



Larry Fishburne



Jon Maurice

audience is black and so are they," says Vernell Bagneris. "It is blackface for a black audience where everybody understands the jokes and the caricature of what he's doing. So when I do my blackface I'm constantly conscious that the audience I'm playing to is all black at the Lyric Theatre in 1926." This is truly theatre of the mind for a mixed audience at the Village Gate in New York in 1979.



Millie Jackson Isaac Hayes

GLORIA GAYNOR:

Her Head is Together!

The only thing that makes her nervous is a bunch of people standing around saying how nervous they are!

By Paula Brooks

Meeting Gloria Gaynor, even at 8:15 a.m., was exciting! It happened at ABC Studios in N.Y. where she was taping an appearance on A.M. New York.

Gloria looked smashing every hair in place and her makeup perfectly blended. We sat chatting in the dressing room as the make-up artist put finishing touches on the persons getting ready to face the TV cameras.

Looking at Gloria, he remarked, "You look beautiful, there's not a thing I can do for you. Who did your make-up?" Gloria smiles and tells him that she did her own cosmetology was her first profession.

Gloria is indeed a personality to be respected. Her story is a lesson in careful planning and perserverance. One of seven children growing up in Newark, N.J., she always loved singing with her family - although she was the only one to pursue it as a career.

When she told her mother she wanted to become a professional singer, her mother warned her that it was a very difficult career, and advised her to get some practical work experience so she would always have something to fall back on.

This calculating Virgo (Sept. 7) got her degree in cosmetology and went on to do hair, make-up, manicures, pedicures and massages:

She also worked as a sales auditor and sang on week-ends in local clubs. Five years later Gloria quit her varied jobs to go on the

.While playing the "Wagon Wheel," a club in New York, she was heard by a producer for a record company and offered a

This sounded to me like the classic case of "unknown girl gets discovered by big time producer," until Gloria informed me that she had planned to play at that par-



walks through the audience after finishing a concert.

ticular club because she had heard that people - the powers that be - in the record industry often stopped in.

She recorded Clifton Davis' "Never Can Say Goodbye." After a couple of other recordings on the Columbia label she found her career slowly going nowhere. Gloria switched to the Polydor label and the fireworks began!

Gloria feels that people finally began to take her to heart because she was always careful in her selection of material and convinced of her duty to her audience and good honest music.

As we sat backstage watching the TV monitors of the A.M. New York Show, the hostess commented that in a few minutes "the undisputed queen of disco -Gloria Gaynor," will appear.

Gloria laughs and says, "I don't know about undisputed, people are disputing all over the place." She is proud, however, to be billed

as a disco artist because she feels that disco is, quite simply, the music of the people.

I asked her how she feels about people who say that her music is commercial? Gloria l'ooks frustrated and says "Commercial music means that you are doing this music to make money.

"Are people buying this music because they're stupid, or because they like it? Do you know of anyone who's not in this business to make money? I love being able to give people what they want, if they are willing to pay me for it - all the better icing on the cake!"

Gloria was in the forefront of the disco movement — she is a pioneer in all phases of her life private and professional.

When asked what would be the one thing that she would like to tell the world, her answer was: "I want people to know that I think

music and is a world culture music that is good for people now.

"It has inspired people to start dancing together again - which means that we have become more physically aware. This music has become a common meeting ground for people of all nations and has become a basic inspirational agent to inspire people to try one another's cultures.

"It has given people an inexpensive means of releasing the tensions and frustrations involved in dealing with a world-wide economic struggle."

Gloria also remarks that she finds it sad that all these good aspects of the disco phenomena have been overshadowed by a couple of negative associations, such as the "vulgar" dancing and "wild disco clothing."

I can sense a real conviction to a cause - that of world harmony on the part of Ms. Gaynor. The lyrics to many of her songs, such as "I Will Survive" and "Let Me Know, I Have A Right," are her way of giving us a heart-felt message. Gloria is an individualist and a fighter who never throws in the towel.

She recorded "I Will Survive" after a traumatic spinal condition caused her to take a six-month break from her career and many activities.

Gloria truly believes in the song she sings, and says: "It doesn't feel good not to survive - not unless you're dead." She, like most of us, has gone through stages of depression, but comments, "I used to refuse to be depressed for any length of time, then I thought, why be depressed in the first place?"

This quiet, positive determination pervades Gloria's entire demeanor and I had to ask her is there anything that makes you nervous? She seems absolutely unshakable!

After thinking for a long moment, she replied, "The only thing that makes me nervous is a bunch of people standing around saying how nervous they are!"

She recalls being asked by Princess Grace to give a command performance for her in Monaco.