

Sugar Ray Leonard

Q - When is the film story of the life of Charlie Parker being produced?

Rosenda Feaster Los Angeles, Calif. A - Fans of the late Charlie (Yardbird) Parker will be disappointed to learn that Warner Bros. has changed its mind about basing a film on the story of the life of the creator of bebop. Charlie's widow didn't like the script and according to Bob Shapiro, a Warner Bros. executive, neither did his studio. "and we've decided to pass." What a shame not to commemorate the life of one who significantly changed black dassical music.

Q - I love to hear about those big "Star Parties!"

> Jamie Lake Metuchen, N.J.

A - All the VIP's jammed a benefit at Lincoln Center celebrating producer Allan Carr's flick entitled "Can't Stop The Music." The entrance stairs were lined with candle toting choral



OBBRIEN BRITA



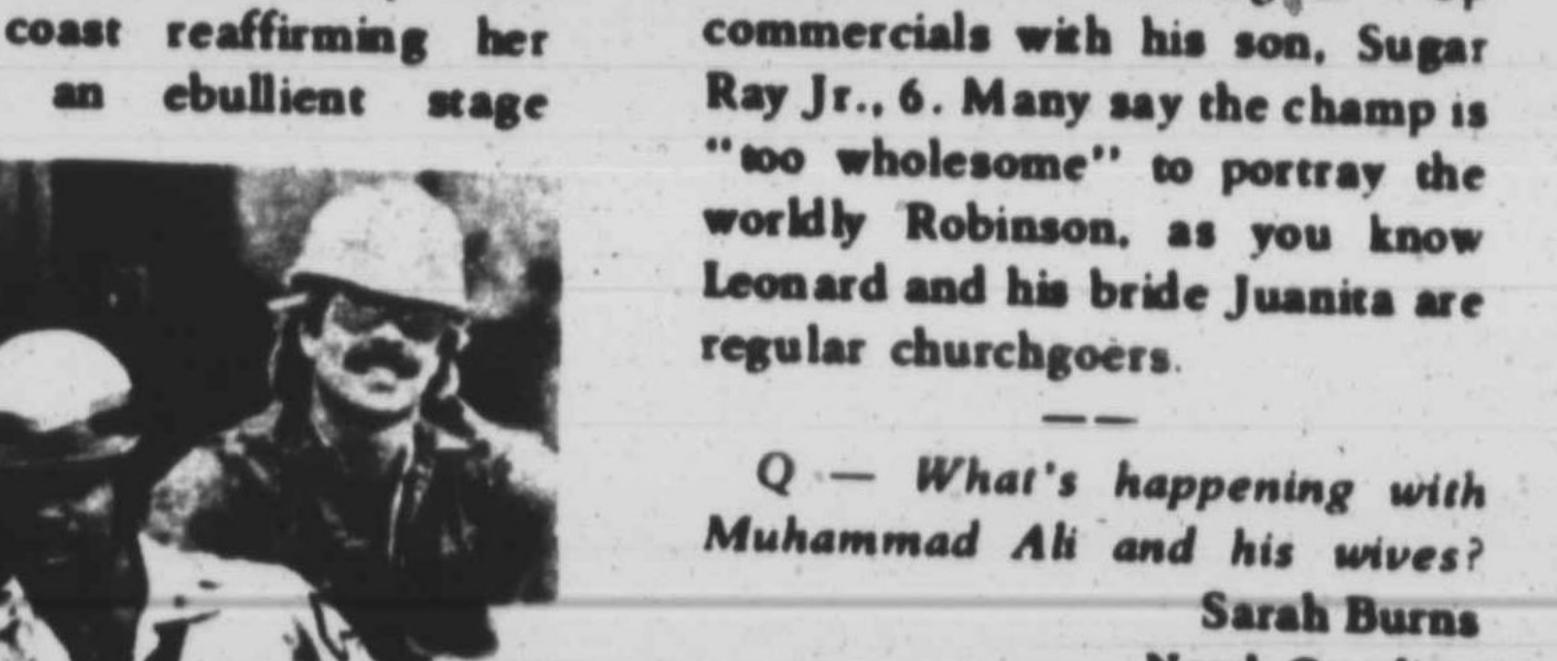
Belinda All, Wife No. 1

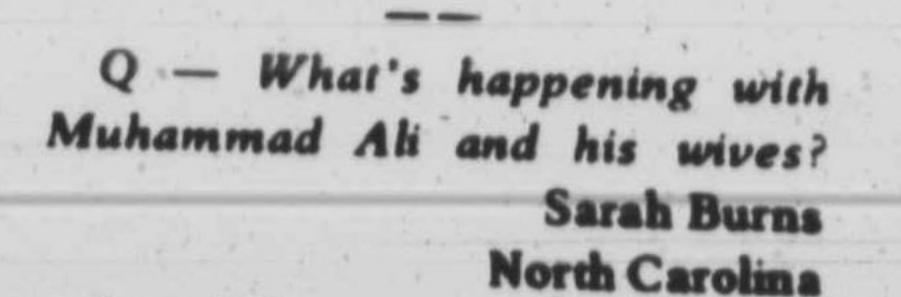
singers. Female acrobats in silver leotards hung from scaffolds and twirled like human batons. Then in came a marching band and jamming the party scene were the Village People, Bruce Jenner, Akovise Davis, June Hance. The songwriting-singing team of Nick Ashford and Valerie Simpson also put in an appearance because Valerie's brother is Ray Simpson, the cop in the Village People.

Q - Have you seen the Broadway his. "Your Arms Too Short To Box With God?"

> Dr. Tyrone Mallory North Casolina

A — This show has produced a new star, Jennifer Yvette Holiday. At mineteen, she has every critic coast to coast reaffirming her talent as an ebullient stage





Veronica All, Wife No. 3

personality with a four-octave

contralto voice. From Texas.

Jennifer was just a local girl with a

well-rounded image. She sang in

the church choir, worked long

hours after school and was oc-

casionally seen on TV. Now on

Q - What will happen to Sugar

Carmen Hodges

Albany, N.Y.

Ray Leonard now that he has lost

A - Hollywood will take him.

independent producer Lucien (The

Harder They Come) Chen has

offered Leonard the lead in the life

story of his namesake, mid-

dleweight champ Sugar Ray

Robinson. Now starring in 7-Up

Broadway, she's a star.

the big fight?

A — His current wife Veronica Ali made such an impression when she appeared on the TV

program "Good Morning, N.Y." recently, that she'll return to do a bi-weekly segment on the show called "Beauty and Fashions." Ali's former wife Khalilah Ali is reported negotiating with three publishers for her autobiography that she says will "burn the whiskers" off her ex-husband Both projects appear to be new financial opportunities to capitalize on their relationship with "you know who."

Q - Have you read "The Meetings" by Larry Melford? Shelia Gregory

Washington, D.C.

A - These collected stories take the reader through a wide range of geographic locations touching on the black experience in each setting. All the stories point to the importance of how "Meetings" change our lives. Surprisingly there are hardly any false notes to be heard in these collection of stories. Mr. Melford guides us along with the sure hand of a gifted, talented writer

Letters to the Editor

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write to get more information about the Philadelphia-based Opera Ebony Company?

TUSHA KIMBER Opera Bbony/Philadelphia (Affiliate National Opera/Ebony, Ind.) has a mailing address at 1663 Bristol Pike. Cornwells Heights, Pa. 19020.

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

The Great Health Food Myth

West Lafayette, Ind. - A rose by any other name might smell no sweeter, but call it a heakh food and chances are you'll sell a lot more roses. No matter how they

Heakh - food was a billion -States last year and, to the dismay of many in the health - care field, there are, in effect, no constraints on what is' sold as a health food.

The dean of pharmacy at Purdue University sees peril in the free - wheeling approach that some health - food promoters use in making their pitches.

Dean Varro E. Tyler is writing a new chapter on health foods and herbs for a revision of his textbook on pharmacognosy "because we feel there is so much misinformation and so little good information around on these products," he says. Pharmacognosy is the study of drugs derived from natural sources.

THE PROBLEM, the dean says. is that most of what are called health foods are no longer sold within the domain of the pharmacist but instead in specialized stores "where the people need have no professional training as does the professional pharmacist.

"They tend to take the available liter ature at face value . . . and much of this literature is probably promoting the products excessively to sell them when really many of them are not beneficial the way it's claimed."

Some are even downright dangerous, contends Tyler.

As examples he cites two "herbal teas" whose potentially lethal effects have been documented. One is sassafras, which has been removed from pharmacy shelves by the Food and Drug Administration because it's known to contain cancer - inducing

The other is comfrey, one of the most widely sold herbal teas. which has been shown to be toxic to the liver.

TYLER notes that while sassafras, which grows abundantly in many parts of the country, was taken off of the market by the FDA because of its demonstrated carcinogenic efSo -called health food is not regulated, and leaves the public at the mercy of promoters. As long as material is not labeled as a drug, or for drug use, FDA regulations do not apply.



This spare, lean food nock is ideal for the model - home kitchen. Health food and cheeses are the order of the brunch, but interior designer

fects, "you can go to a health food store and buy sassafras and the books there indicate it makes a refreshing beverage used as a tonic and blood purifier . . whatever that may be. . . .

"But drinking sassafras tea is like playing Russian roulette . . like smoking excessively . . . it may not get to you immediately but it's definitely carcinogenic

And no one, he adds, has ever proven that sassafras had any significant medicinal value.

On the other hand, he observes,

Debra Seaburg put together

this dramatic treatment of a

dining area. Armstrong Cork

Company provided the

materials.

comfrey probably has some medicinal qualities, chiefly because it contains a chemical that has been effective in curing ulcer ations.

"But comfrey also contains a number of alkaloids that are toxic to the liver and one has produced tumors in the liver and bladder in test animals."

Entire books, Tyler says, have been written extolling the merits of comfrey, "but the hazards far outweigh any benefits that could

HOW CAN such potentially dangerous substances be marketed without restraint from the government?

loophole in the laws that regulate drugs, says the dean. "If they aren't labeled for use as drugs on the package, or on an insert accompanying the package, then they're not governed by present FDA regulations. They get around the laws controlling drugs by simply not calling them drugs."

If a product is sold as a drug, points out Tyler, it must be certified as safe and effective by the FDA, "but if it's called a tea or herb or food or food supplement, it doesn't have to be proven safe and effective."

For instance, he says, if something is labeled a laxative. then it would have to be proven safe and effective, but if it's just sold without claims being made for it, then it doesn't come under any drug law.

But how is a prospective health - food customer informed about a product's supposed therapeutic or otherwise beneficial qualities if the producer can't make such daims on a label?

"The way they get around this," says Tyler, "is to refer you to a book on a convenient book rack or send you literature about

This literature can make all sorts of claims, but as long as it's not part of the particular health food package, there's no risk involved for the product's manufacturer."

"A drug used in legitimate medicine, such as the digitalis leaf used in heart remedies . . has to be properly identified and has to have a certain content of the active principles if it's sold as a

"But if it's sold in the health food stores, there's no check on its identity except by the person who produces it and he may or may not have the expertise required to say what the drug really is or what it

"You can see what risks this could present to people who buy such products with no real assurance as to what it can or cannot do, or what risks it might