Andrew Young

Q - Can entertainers deduct the cost of their on-camera wardrobes from their federal tax returns?

Pat Gibson Parksville, SC A - The IRS ruled recently that those beautiful people who anchor local TV news shows can't deduct their "duds" from their taxes. Most of them feel the ruling is unfair. "I end up spending lots of money on dothes I wouldn't wear for my private life. The rich find a way. It's the schnooks in the middle who always get stuck. You wouldn't see someone wear a confederate generals' uniform on TV and then wear it on the street, because I consider what I wear on TV to be a uniform," says a WABC-TV reporter.

Q - The Harlettes have always been a part of Bette Midler's act, but they looked different in the movie "Divine Madness."

> David Cherry Bridgeport, CT





Gordon Parks Sr.

nine and came to New York with her mother to be a studio singer in Manhattan's world of advertising jingles. Diva Gray explains best why Midler chose them to be the newest Harlettes. "Bette saw that each of us had her own personality, her own craziness."

Q - How would you define rapping and Kurtis Blow?

Shirley Gladden Rutland, OH.

A - Rapping has been called medium, an escape phenomenon, a life style, and a religion, especially in Harlem where its present popularity originated. From Harlem and the Bronx where kids stand on the



Kurtis Blow

other rappers. I want people to realize that rapping is not a novelty or 'one-time-record-andthen-bite-the-dust-type' thing. It's a method of communication as old as music itself, and I will be doing it for a long time."

Q - What does the survey show about the number of blacks in the book business?

Luther Ragin

Dennis Port, MA A - Young blacks working in the book biz insist "the publishers have set quotas on the number of minorities they take in." With a quote from an unnamed book exec, Thomas Weyr begins his look at "Minorities in Publishing" following it up with the claim by just such a young woman, s Wellesley graduate, that after a year of being rejected by the big publishing houses, she didn't get a job until she ran into some editor's son while she was toiling away as a bookstore clerk. Blacks may be more visible today than 10 years ago but 10 years ago they were all but invisible.

Q - What is the "Dear Pen Pal" program?

> Sara Howard New York, NY

A - A massive name-matching operation to provide children with pen-friends, "Dear Pen Pal" is a special feature of "Big Blue

international children's television series. The program was created to promote international understanding through friendships among children. Via an animated segment that appears in every weekly episode of "Big Blue Marble," as well as through articles in children's magazines. youngsters are told how and where to write, without any charge. The total number of children involved recently reached two million. "Big Blue Marble" has a computer in Santa Barbara, Calif., that some children have called the "friendship machine." Experts transfer information to the computer. In this way matches can be made on the basis of the child's age, interest and preferences.

Q - Is it true that President Carter wants to give Andy Young another terrific job?

> Anne Mallory Littleton, VA

A - Yes, it's a job in which Andy just might stir up an even bigger ruckus than he did when he was named ambassador. Carter wants Andy named president of the prestigious World Bank. The leading Europeans want no part of Young and are threatening a revolt. The top Europeans along with some of the Carter administration fear that Andy is a banking amateur much too cozy with the Third World and the PLO. The World, Bank exists to fund projects for which commercial credit is unavailable and now supervises some 1,600 projects in 100 countries worth a staggering \$100 billion.

Q - What is the Children's Art Carnival?

Joyce Toomus N. Philly, PA A — It is a non-profit

(Continued on Page 28)

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 PARTY OF THE P