

## -Comedy

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during the early 1970s involved managing a band known as Grand Jury which cut a few slickly-produced singles like "Free" and "Music Is Fun To Me." Like many of Rodney RaAkbar's ideas, the musical concept of Grand Jury was a few years ahead of trends in the industry.

"Grand Jury had a lot of talent, but eventually the group dissolved. But I'm very proud to say that four of the musicians who worked in Grand Jury over the years went on to become part of the Parliament-Funkadelic.

"Next I became involved with managing Josini. About the time things started going good for Josini, the disco craze struck hard and it became difficult to book musicians in clubs, let alone magicians.

"However, the one thing I liked about disco is that it started people to coming out of their houses again. But the music was often lousy and I knew that at some point in time people would want to be entertained by other people again instead of just listening to records.

"So I decided to open a different kind of club that would constantly change its format and appearance to provide people with endless variety."

The fruition of RaAkbar's dream club lead to his leasing an old warehouse which serves as a showcase for the Warehouse Comedy Squad, Josini and others who think they have talent.

"Open Mike Nights" feature members of the audience who seriously believe they are comedians or singers trying to prove their abilities to a jury of peers. The constantly changing menu of entertainment also features bands, poets and a special "Ladies only" night with male exotic dancers. Gospel singers are featured on Sunday afternoons.

RaAkbar also custom designs the interior of The Arena for clients who want to rent the club for parties and other special events.

Futuristic plans for the Arena involve transforming it into a wild west rodeo environment where more daring patrons can earn cash prizes by staying on a mechanical bucking bronco for more than ten seconds.

The Arena is a free-form nightclub and entertainment center that provides its patrons with most unique evenings on the town. The Warehouse Comedy

Squad is even more unique in the offbeat approach the ensemble takes to making people laugh at themselves and the world in which they live.

The word "unique" can also be used to describe the astounding talents of the Amazing Josini as a ventriloquist and magician. All of these ingredients have been stirred up in a cosmic mixing bowl by Rodney RaAkbar to create a recipe guaranteed to take your mind off the troubles of the world for a while.

RaAkbar remains modest about his creation of The Warehouse Comedy Squad and steadfastly maintains "everything done by The Warehouse Comedy Squad is molded by the entire ensemble. So if you want to pick a fight about anything we do, it will have to be with all of us."

## -Christmas

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of the father is shared with his grown children.

It is usually the oldest person who begins to eat first. In an extended family, the grandmother or grandfather sits at the head of the table — every other person around becomes a kid.

Children have a way of making joke of it when their parents' authority is reduced by the eminence of the aged patriach of the family.

When the elder opens the dinner with an incantation, each person in order of seniority begins to serve themselves from the large trays, one of rice, another of stew, a third of assorted items — 'Moi moi' roasted ground melon seeds and a pot of gravy made from any number of meat-seasoned items.

as they can in order to return to the community house to lead their masquerade to the village playground or marketplace.

When one group of youth sound their trumpets, it is usually a challenge to other groups who may be late in coming out. Men and wonen hurried finish their meals and dress up to go to the marketplace.

By midday the excitement builds up and by dinner time begins to wane as people file out of the marketplace towards their respective hamlets.

As darkness sets in, so does the nostalgic recollection of the pageantry that preceded this big event, the helplessness of the realization that relatives visiting from the cities would soon be leaving and the reluctant adjustment to farm life which must now resume.

## -Roundup

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who had completed one year of college or more; the percentage of those age 25 to 29 rose sharply from 17 percent in 1970 to 31 percent by 1979.

Still, college education continued to be more common for whites than blacks. As the 1970s drew to a close, 17 percent of whites 25 and over had completed 4 or more years of college compared with only 8 percent of black aduks.

The report has detailed tables showing educational attainment of the population by marital status, residence, and occupation as well as by age, sex and race.

ON THE HEALTH FRONT

Muhammad Ali, former World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, has been named a member of the Peace Corps Advisory Council. Other members of the council include:

Yolanda King, of Atlanta, Georgia, an actress and director, member of the board of directors of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Social Change and the Commission for the Advancement of Policy Affecting Youth, the Disadvantaged and the Poor.

Ruby B. Pernell, professor of social work at Case Western Reserve University and former social welfare attache at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India.

Faye Wattleton, of New Rochelle, New York, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, a former assistant director of Public Health Nursing Services for the City of Dayton, Ohio.

David Winfield, captain and outfielder with the San Diego Padres baseball team, founder of the David Winfield Foundation for Underprivileged Children.

Joan T. Winn, of Dallas, Texas, a judge of the 191st Judicial District Court of Texas and a former Peace Corps volunteer.

Andrew J. Young, president of Young Ideas, former U.S. ambass ador to the United Nations.

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The president also announced that Mrs. Lillian Carter will serve as honorary chair of this council.

Four persons associated with health planning agencies and a hospital corporation executive have been appointed to the National Council on Health Planning and Development, HHS Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris announced today.

Named to terms expiring July 31, 1986 were:

Sylvia A. Davidson, Portland, Ore., a member and past president of the Northwest Oregon Health Systems Agency Governing Board;

Dr. Delutha H. King Jr., Atlanta, Ga., a physician who is president of the North Central Georgia Health Systems Agency;

Dr. John L. McCain, Wilson, N.C., a physician who is a member of the North Carolina Statewide Health Coordinating Committee and the Eastern Carolina Health Systems Agency; and

Bonnie B. Sandahl, Seattle, Wash., a clinical nurse educator who is president of the Puget Sound Health Systems Agency and secretary of the Washington State Health Coordinating Council.

## -Letters

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Springfield, Mass., and a letter to the president, Henry M. Thomas, III, will get you the answers you seek.

The address: Urban League of Springfield, Inc.

756 State St.
Springfield, Mass. 01109

BLACK PILOTS

S. Ozone Park, N.Y. — With reference to Mrs. Blydina Gamble's letter about black pilots, did her husband take into consideration the possibility of contacting countries such as Africa and - or Caribbean?

Since there seems to be so many black pilots without jobs, this is a

possibility which might not have occurred to them.

Norris Malloy

WHERE IS SHE?

Milwaukee, Wis. Whatever happened to Jessica Cleaves, the female singer with Earth, Wind and Fire on the albums "Last Days and Time" and "Head to the Sky."

She is a superb songstress and I would love to hear more from her. Could you please tell me if she is still singing?

Renate F. Reynolds

After much difficulty we traced

Jessica to her residence in New

York City. She has gone through a
lot of changes with record companies, but we are told she is still
in the music business and is still
singing.