Bill Lane in Hollywood

Michael Jackson . . . new manager?

Sports promoter Don King, who had already reportedly tendered the Jacksons' two million upfront, disclosed in a NYC press meet that he would be in charge of the epoch and multi-monied tour, and that Pepsi-Cola was sponsoring the projected affair. Arrangements called for Michael and his brothers to do TV spots for Pepsi about the tour, starting with the Grammy show.

To be sure, the whole Jackson family was happy about the whole thing, and began to look forward to and prepare for the tour. But then things started happening.

Rumors started happening, too, that Michael had balked, and that Pepsico was about to sue, claiming breach. Michael, said to be the pivot of the porridge, was mum in his priavte suite, always provided for him at Disney World in Florida.

Somebody said non-black sources were the only ones that could now converse with Michael, and that they were telling him he's now too famous as a single to "carry" his brothers, and that a tour would garner him too much public exposure for his own golden image.

Nobody would be quoted to confirm or deny this, but news did come out the other day that a non-black man in NYC was "mulling" accepting "the offer" to become Michael's manager. That news, we confirmed, sent the singer's dad and brothers into a hasty stir.

Some say Michael really wants Berry Gordy to be his only manager; that he was hurt B.G. was not in the special seat Michael had for him at the American Music Awards.

But Michael's dad, Joe Jackson, and Joe's lawyer Curtis Shaw both told this writer later that the concert tour was still on go, with 40 cities set and starting May 8-9 in Oaklahoma City."

Meanwhile, a lot of scuttle butt about Brooke Shields as M.J.'s televised "date" at the awards show, with some recalling his pairings in the past with Tatum O'Neal and the daughter of Paul McCartney. "But", it was exclaimed, "didn't he have a black girl with him in this Thriller' video"?

RICHARD ROUNDTREE told us it's good to have pals in high places, especially when those pals are Burt Reynolds and Clint Eastwood, who signed Richard to star with them in their upcoming organized-crime film story, "Kansas City Blues".

DOROTHY DANDRIDGE is gone now, but the other day she finally got her star in Hollywood's Walk of Fame, and Harry Belafonta and Sidney Poitier offered their plaudits to the memory of the late lamented actress.

Dorothy Dandridge . . . Walk of Fame

Henry Kingi . . . lost love

Henry Kingi, the Hollywood stuminan, is been out at filmland affairs these evenings alone. Only a few of his pals seem to know that it's probably because Henry and his lady fair actress Lindsay Wagner are in a divorce settlement, legal matters now being ironed out about custody of their 16-month-old son Dorian.

They married in May of 1981. Henry's still living in Hollywood, while Lindsay's abiding in Oregon.

And Sammy Davis Jr., says he's going to try ultra hard this time to stay away from drinking strong stuff, after doctors told him his liver won't stand much more and after Davis bruised his ribs badly in a fall. He's back on the entertainment circuit and trying to gain weight.

LIONEL RICHIE is the new toast of the cross-over world but his former music buddies from Alabama, the famed Commodores, are badly making the grade today.

Same old song and dance for black musicians

By R.B. Jones

The crowd at the Bird Cage loves The Three of Us, Andy Ennis on tenor sax, "Sir" Thomas Hurley on organ, and Bobby Ward on drums. They love their featured vocalists, Nikki Cooper, madly.

Enthusiasm sprouted all over the club as fans yelled encouragement and exhibited familiarity with the group's repertoire. The group performed jazz standards pop tunes and showed versatility and tightness that comes from practice and a communal joy of performance.

"Sir" Thomas Hurley played tastefully, avoiding the terrible temptation that many organists succumb to of drowning out the rest of the group. He was supportive without being intrusive.

Andy Ennis blew hard, in the Gene Ammons style, and yet was able to support the vocalist with subtle shadings.

Bobby Ward was his usual hard driving self, a percussive dynamo.

Miss "Super Duper" Cooper stirred the crowd to a fever pitch mixing the emotionalism of a tent revivalist, the seductiveness of a femme fatale entertaining a handsome but gullible admirer and an enthusiasm of performance that could fill up a broadway stage. The petite song stylist managed to have the men eating out of her hand while maintaining the support of the women in the audience. Rosa Pryor, the group's manager watched proudly.

Despite the great talent in the group and the 20 years of managerial and promotional experience of the manager, many doors are still closed to them.

The old nemesis of black performers, racism is alive and well on the Baltimore entertainment scene. "Black groups go unrecognized and underpaid in this town. It's not acceptable at the big white clubs to bring in all black groups", said Hurley. "We can't play Ft. Meade on a regular basis because we have an all black group, even though we got standing ovations." He added, "The groups that get recognition around town are usually mixed." The frustration was evident in Hurley's voice. "Our music is accepted, but we as black musicians aren't."

Rosa Pryor feels that she has a group that is like an undiscoved jewel. "My group can play for any clientele. The man that heads the entertainment at Ft. Meade says that he can't book them regularly because an all black group would only draw black patrons. The group got standing ovations when they performed out there. I've brought white club owners to hear the group and they were impressed but they still wouldn't book them.

"At the Pimlico Hotel, Nikki won the talent contest twice. Usually they book a person who wins but they didn't book her because her group is all black and the patrons of the Pimlico Hotel are 90 white. All we are asking for is a fair chance to be heard. Once they hear the group they'll have good crowds. We've packed every club we've been in".

Nikki Cooper is a New Yorker who finds the music scene in Baltimore very segregated. "In New York the clubs are much more wide open.

You'll see black performers in clubs that cater to black patrons or white patrons. Here you're much more restricted. Some people just stay here and deal with it. Some people like being stars in the ghetto. They perform in the black clubs and they are well loved and that's enough for them. If you want to make the big money you have to branch out and that is very difficult here", said Ms. Cooper.

Bobby Ward, considered one of the premiere drummers in Baltimore hasperformed on the road and around town. He recently toured with Groove Holmes. "I have been told by booking agents that if I wanted to work circuits like the Ramada, Sheraton or Hilton Hotels, I would have to front a 90 percent white group. I've had to reform groups that were all black into groups where I was the only black to get work.

"The musicianship went down because of that. It's super tough to make a living. I just finished playing country and western to support myself. The big money around town is closed to all black groups. I've had booking agents tell me that unless I had a majority of whites in the band I couldn't get the gig. The only way this stuff is going to stop is if the black musicians in this town get together and put a stop to this discrimination."

"When you look at the music polls in the media you can see the discrimination in Baltimore. The AFRO covers the black clubs where most black musicians are forced to play, but the white media doesn't", said Rosa Pryor.

Thomas Hurley added, "If this were country and western music we wouldn't complain so much. But this is our music. Whites go to school by jammin[illegible] us. You can go [illegible] Sportsman Lounge [illegible] SSBBD Club [illegible] whites waiting to [illegible] and jam, but you [illegible] to some white cl[illegible] see us all over th[illegible] waiting to jam [illegible] them.

"This problem [illegible] been going on [illegible] here I was bo[illegible] Europe it's totally [illegible]ferent. Over there they accept black musicians. We don't mind competing with other bands, but we can't compete with racism".

The show began again and the patrons were again enthralled by the group. They were thoroughly professional and built a solid rapport with the patrons. The shadow of racism was erased momentarily by the spotlight and the appreciative glow from the audience.

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Music Director

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Religion In Modern Life

'Gospel' film might be best thing for gospel lovers this year

Evang. Karen Clark of the Clark Sisters

By Eddie King
AFRO Staff Writer

The film "Gospel" entering Baltimore today may very well be one of the finest things to happen this year for gospel lovers.

A look at the film brings about an overwhelming identification with the black church.

There isn't much acting. The singing is real, the emotion is real and the praising of a God is real in this delightful 90 - minute concert film.

The only thing probably unreal is the likelihood of getting Rev. James Cleveland, Evang. Shirley Caesar, Walter Hawkins and The Hawkins Family, The Clark Sisters and The Mighty Clouds of Joy all on the same program.

As each artist belts out three or more of his - her most popular hits, one can't help but get involved.

You have to clap and you have to say Amen; you have to stand and maybe on an occasion or two hold yourself down in your seat.

Most of all, this movie is a story, a historical piece. It demonstrates the seriousness of the black church's belief in God.

"Gospel" opens today, Fri., Jan. 27 at the Mayfair and Reisterstown Plaza Theatres.

No movie has ever come as close to an accurate portrayal of a realistic black episode than this.

This movie is frightening because it's so real, and yet it's so good because one can feel what the singer feels.

There is somehow that common knowledge about God that allows a viewer to know "it's real."

Joe Ligon of The Mighty Clouds of Joy

Syndicated gospel coming

WXYV (V103) radio station is the target of a newly developed syndicated gospel music program to be aired across the country.

That is, V103 is the only Baltimore station that has so far been contacted for possible programming, according to Anderson Media Services of Atlanta, Ga.

This two hour program is the first nationally syndicated program to feature black contemporary Gospel music, along with other features relating to the history of gospel music.

Burke Johnson, a 30-year veteran of radio has been tapped as the host of the program.

Johnson stated, "What we are doing here has never been done before in radio programming.

"Black syndicated radio has demonstrated its viability for both advertisers and radio stations in the last few years, but none of the current programming features the many outstanding contemporary gospel artist who are blazing new trails in inspirational music."

Al Anderson, president of Anderson Media Services stated, "We have had a very positive response from radio stations across the country as well as from the advertising community.

"Many of our affiliated stations have received requests for quality gospel programming, and we are happy to be able to fill that need for them, as well as providing a unique advertising vehicle for major companies to reach the black market in a positive way."

Burke Johnson

Anderson Media Services is offering the program to radio stations on a barter basis.

So far no settlement has been reached between V103 and Anderson Media, and other local stations are yet to be contacted, according to Anderson.

Metro Church Briefs

Simmons Memorial Baptist

The King Specials of Simmons Memorial Baptist Church, Pennsylvania Ave. and Cumberland St., will be celebrating their Fifth Anniversary on Fri., Jan. 27 at the church. at 730 p.m.

Bethel A.M.E.

The Museum Committee of Bethel A.M.E. Church, 1300 Druid Hill Ave. is sponsoring a special program called "A New Song in a Strange Land" on Fri., Jan. 27 at 7, p.m. It will feature an oral history of black music, a semi-concert by Linda Poulson Bethea of St. John A.M.E. and an unveiling ceremony of an 1847 Harmonium. Admission is free.

Central Baptist

It's Rev. C. Dexter Wise, III in his last night of revival tonight, Fri., Jan. 27 at Central Baptist Church, 2035 W. Baltimore St. at 7:30 p.m.

Ray of Hope Baptist

Mrs. Carrie L. Adams will be the guest speaker at Ray of Hope Baptist Church, 3000 Parkside Drive, at 4: p.m. on Sun., Jan. 29, sponsered by The Missionary Society of the church.

St. John Methodist

Singers are needed for choir in the Baltimore Gospel Music Association to back national gospel artists. Choir members and other interested parties will meet on Sat., Jan. 28 at St. John Methodist Church, St. Paul and 27th St. at 3 p.m.

The Christadelphians

The Christadelphians will sponsor a Bible study of the Prophet Hosea on Sat., Jan. 28 at 2: p.m. at 2606 Gwynndale Ave. For further info. call 747-2915.

Baha'i Center

A talk by Theodies Washington is scheduled for Sun., Jan. 29 for members of the Metropolitan Baha'i Communities at the center, 5301 Gwynn Oak Ave. at noon.

St. Paul's United

A gospel play in song, "I'll Rise Again," will be performed Sunday night, Jan. 29 at St. Paul's United Church, 100 W. Saratoga St.

Randallstown Library

A celebration of Black culture through a theatre-arts festival of gospel music, jazz dance and stories has been planned for Thu. Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Randallstown Area Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library, 8604 Liberty Road. For further info. call 655-5600.

Martins West

The Baptist Congress of Christian Education will hold its Annual Fellowship and Awards Banquet on Fri., Feb. 3 at Martins West. Subscriptions are $20. For further info. call 327-0337.

Shiloh Christian Community

It's the 21st Anniversary of The Octettes on Sun., Feb. 5, 3:30 p.m. at the Shiloh Christian Community Church, 2500 W. Lombard St. The speaker for the occassion will be Rev. Dr. Violet Fisher.

Baptists hold convention

BATON ROUGE, LA. — When Dr. T. J. Jemison made his acceptance speech in September 1982 as the new president of the 6.8-million member National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., his first comments were: "We are going to turn this convention back to the people where it belongs."

There was much rejoicing on Jan. 18 at the huge, new downtown Riverside Centroplex where 3,500 Baptists, even representatives from Baltimore, gathered for the mid-winter session of the Board of Directors meeting because the President had kept his word, and made relevant the theme selected in Miami Beach, "The Convention that Cares."

During the Baton Rouge session donations were made by the Convention of $365,000 to Black colleges throughout the country, leading of with $50,000 for Fisk University.

This total does not include an $80,000 loan that Dr. Jemison had previously arranged for the J. A. Caldwell Baptist World of Learning in Detroit, that the school could keep operating last fall.

The Board of Directors also voted to start immediate negotiations on the erection of a National Baptist World Conference Center in Nashville, Tenn. to be built on land already owned by the Convention.

The President then made announcement that the January 1985 Board of Directors meeting would convene in Nashville.

Another important issue was the amending of the constitution from annual elections to five year terms by instituting tenure. Dr. C. A. W. of Dallas was appointed to head the committee, which will bring its first report at the National Congress meeting in Gary, Ind. in June.

Arother issue to be included in the constitution is the proposal that no churches, individual, or group belonging to, or affiliated with the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. be allowed to take the Convention, or a member church into court on civil matters.

Dr. Jemison expressed his disapproval of officers and lay leaders in the churches trying to "take over" and ending up in court, which he called a shame "for the Black Church to go into court to try to settle matters which they could settle themselves."

He stopped short of appointing, or even saying than an ethics committee would be appointed to deal with such issues, but did approve a delegate's suggestion that a committee be formed to explore the grievances.

The Convention meetings were kicked off with a banquet on Monday evening at the Centroplex when Dr. J. C. Sams of Jacksonville, Fla., spoke. He is president of the 4-million member National Baptist of America. (The two conventions split over years ago).

During the board meeting Dr. Jemison also revealed plans for a Retirement Plan for Ministers, Laymen and their Families, which is dependent on getting one million members of the NBC, USA, Inc. and will have to reach the number of members for it to be active.

The Pastors or Laymen will be cared for in case of illness or strokes that will render them helpless or unable to perform their regular duties, as well as hospitalization for adults and for children of families whose father is a member of the program.

The $365,000 was distributed among Fisk University, Morris College (S.C.); Natchez College, (Mississippi); Bishop College, Virginia Union University; Morris Booker (Arkansas); Arkansas Baptist College; Morehouse College and Selma University.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson was a guest of the Convention. Although he is a member of the Convention and has been a delegate for several years, he came this time seeking votes and moral and financial support for his candidacy for President of the United States.

He left with a promise of all three.

After Dr. Jemison had introduced Rev. Jackson, the Rev. Jasper Williams of Atlanta came onto the stage, to lead in "Run Jesse Run", and the thousands of delegates joined with him.

"I'd be a fool or an ingrate not to endorse Jesse" Dr. Jemison said. So he endorsed him and gave a "1000 check for the campaign."

"As president and a Baptist preacher we can endorse anybody we want and I am with him all the way," while making it clear that the Convention cannot endorse him.

Dr. Jemison then asked all 59 state presidents to meet with Rev. Jackson after the benediction for that session.

While asking for votes of the Baptists the Rev. Jackson said: "I've paid my dues. I've worked in the heat of the day, when you couldn't use the white restrooms. I was working when you couldn't go to the downtown theater, or sit at the white counter to eat.

About Damascus, Rev. Jacksan said, "I didn't go there on facts, I went on faith."

Dr. E. V. Hill of Los Angeles was the first to speak following Rev. Jackson. He predicted the National Baptist Convention will have two presidents in two years, Jemison and Jackson. "Jesse is not white, but he is right, Hill screamed to an equally loud response."

After leaving the main auditorium in the Centroplex, the Rev. Jackson went to the Performing Arts Theatre where Dr. Mary O. Ross and the women were in session. After some hugs, warm greetings, Rev. Jackson told the women, "I need your

The Winans to perform at Howard Sat.

Four brothers are emerging as one of the most popular gospel singing groups in the country. The Winans, including twins Marvin, Carvin and brother Michael and Ronald have been singing as a gospel quartet almost from the time they could walk.

The Winans will be appearing at the Crampton Auditorium of Howard University, Saturday 28 at 8 p.m.

In the early years it was their mother who had the greatest influence on the young singers. As they matured and began singing in the church choir with an occasional concert, their father David began to guide their careers.

In the late 1970's bookings began to come in from Memphis, Boston, Tulsa and Toronto. They began sending cassette tapes to record labels without results. Their first real break came when they opened for the Hawkins Family in Detroit, but it was Andre Crouch who gets the credit for discovering the Winans.

In 1979 Crouch was in Detroit for a wedding and while staying at the home of Howard Smith, a former member of the Winans, Smith suggested they come for an audition. After the brief audition Crouch invited the brothers to appear with him in Lansing, Mich. and Detroit's Cobo Hall.

In 1981 Crouch signed the Winans to Crouch Music Productions and led them to light records. Crouch, who is known for his patience and perfection in the recording studio, spent three weeks with co-producer Bill Maxwell and the Winans recording their first major album "Introducing The Winans" from this album came the hit single "Question Is" which did what few gospel records have done; it made the top twenty in the pop charts and went on to become number one on the gospel

WINAN GOSPEL GROUP — Andre Crouch discovered the singing group consisting of four brothers. Shown (l to r) are Carvin, Marvin, [illegible] the 1983 New Contemporary Artist of the Year award from the Gospel Music Workshop of America's Gospel Music Excellence Awards