# CELEBRITY LOOKOUT

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

Q. Please settle an argument. A national magazine featured the Godfather of Soul, James Brown and listed his age as 41. We say he is older. How old is he?

AUSTIN BRITT
Baltimore, Md.

**A. James Brown, "Godfather of Soul" or "Soul Brother Number 1," was born in Augusta, Ga. on May 3, 1933. This makes him hitting on 53 this year.**

* * *

A. I am so depressed as I read the comments from men and women about Alice Walker's "The Color Purple." It seems to me that most men have not read the book and are using the movie to mouth off and they seem to be missing the point. It seems to me that the points that Alice Walker is making is more about blacks and white than about black men and white women.

I.M. JONES
Baltimore, Md.

**A. The fact that Celie and Nettie's father was lynched because his store was taking trade from the white cracker merchants was glossed over in the movie. It was never clear that the store in the movie was owned by their father and the mean stepfather, played by the late Adolph Caesar, kept the secret from the girls and hired white clerks. In the book, when the stepfather dies, the girls inherit the big house and the store. Then, Sophia goes to work there and treats black folks with dignity. This is glossed over in the movie as well as the Rubber Company ruining the African Village where Nettie and her husband have built their missionary school. You didn't expect to see a movie about white folks plundering African lands did you?**

* * *

Q. What happened to the Nat King Cole Trio? When did Dinah Washington die?

ROBERT STEWARD
Los Angeles, Calif.

**A. The Nat Cole Swingsters and The King Cole Trio were formed about 1937. The King Cole Trio was a radio hit from 1948-49 when Cole went single. He died February 15, 1965 in Santa Monica, Calif. Dinah Washington died December 14, 1963 in Detroit, Mich.**

* * *

Q. Can you tell me more about that stunning young girl Sharon Brown who took over Jennifer Holliday's role of Effie and belts out "And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going" in the road company of "Dreamgirls?"

M.E. BRASHEARS
Washington, D.C.

**A. Sharon Brown is 24 and started in show biz at age 5. Her father is popular stand-up comedian Johnny Brown and mother is business manager for Lola Falana. Sharon was in the national company of "The Wiz." She can currently be seen in the movie version of "The Chorus Line."**

* * *

A. We are trying to find more data on the composer of "Go Tell It on the Mountain" and "My Lord, What a Morning." We say he is a black man and had something to do with Fisk.

B.M. BROAD
Elkton, Md.

**A. John Wesley Work, composer, (born June 15, 1901 in Tullahoma, Tenn. died May 18, 1967 in Nashville, Tenn.) was director of Fisk Jubilee Singers from 1948-57 and composed "Go Tell It on the Mountain" and "My Lord, What a Morning." He graduated from Fisk University, B.A. 1923; Columbia University M.A. 1931; Yale University B. Mus. 1933; and Juilliard School of Music. He was a professor and head of the Music Department of Fisk from 1940-65.**

* * *

Q. Whatever happened to the great singer Lavern Baker? Does she still record and perform? Any information on her would be appreciated.

CHARLEY P. HENDERSON
Compton, Calif.

**A. Readers we need your help. Any info on Lavern Baker?**

* * *

Q. What's goin on with this man Hannibal who wrote "My Kinda Girl" and "I'm Alone?" Then he made "Hymn -5" and his name on that was "Mighty Hannibal." He was living in Atlanta, Ga. and all his songs were on 45s. I would like to know where I can write him. I think his family name was Shew and Shaw.

VICTORIA LEWIS

**A. We have no info on Hannibal but maybe our readers will help.**

* * *

Q. You recently wrote about Clarence Williams III, Dick Anthony Williams and Hal Williams. Why didn't you mention that Hal Williams is presently starring on the weekly NBC-TV show 227 with Marla Gibbs?

CLIFTON ANDERSON
Capitol Heights, Md.

**A. Sorry. We mentioned his other credits, Smitty on "Sanford and Sons" and Sgt Ross on "Private Benjamin."**

James Brown

Whoopi Goldberg

Nat King Cole

Hal Williams



*Just because it holds four doesn't mean you have to take them.*