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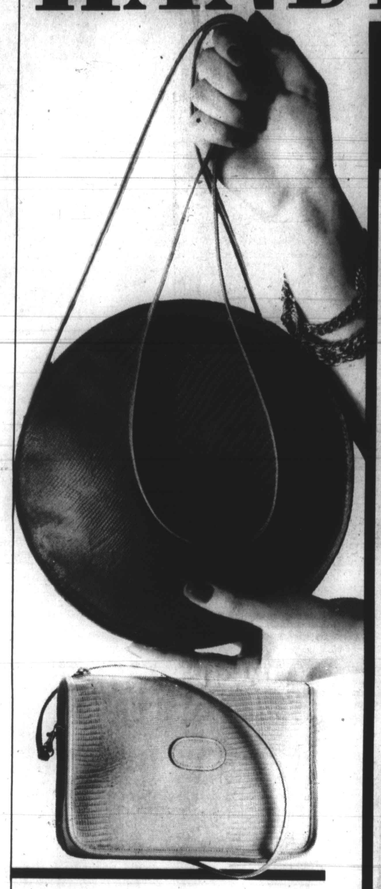

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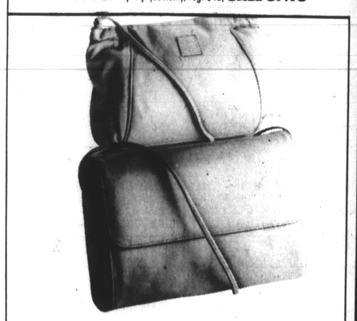

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Save 20%. Black, bone, navy, white, red. (D.616) Canteen (top), reg. $59, SALE 46.98. Top zip (bottom), reg. $48, SALE 37.98

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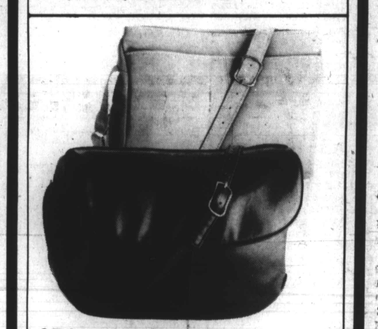
26.98 & 29.98

2 LEATHER SUITBAGS FROM COLLECTION.

Black, navy, taupe, white, bone, red, pink.* (D.616) Clutch (top), reg. $34, SALE 26.98. Barrel (bottom), reg. $40, SALE 29.98



STONE MOUNTAIN

72.98

NAKED LEATHER HANDBAGS.

Save 25%. In black, navy or neutrals. (D.307) Double entry hobo (top), reg. $97. Suitbag (bottom), reg. $99

GIANI BERNINI

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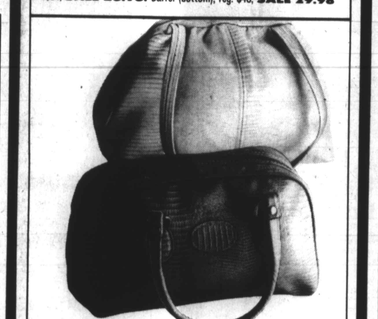
2 LEATHER SUITBAGS FROM COLLECTION.

Black, navy, taupe, white, bone, red, pink.* (D.616) Facile (top), reg. $40, SALE 31.98. Envelope (bottom), reg. $48, SALE 37.98



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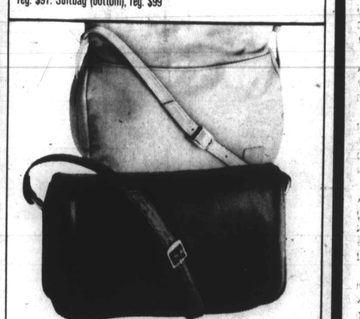
Save 25%. Lizard grained in black, white, taupe, bone. Facile satchel (top). Wide-mouth satchel (bottom). (D.327) Reg. $40 each



GIANI BERNINI

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PROFILE

Baltimore singer aiming for stardom

By Alicia Benjamin
AFRO Staff Writer

A dream came true for Baltimore singer Gabrielle Bunn-Goodman last October.

She recorded her favorite song on producer Norman Connors' new album.

The song is "Loving You," a tune made popular by the late Minnie Riperton, a songstress who was able to reach high bird-like notes during her career.

The album is entitled "Passions" and will be released at the end of this month. But radio listeners can enjoy Goodman on the radio since local stations are playing songs from the album now. Goodman is also featured on four other tunes on the album.

Goodman has sung background vocals for such artists as Roberta Flack, Quincy Jones and Melba Moore. Sometimes Flack plays piano accompaniment for Goodman during her vocal lessons.

"Roberta can play any piece of music you sit in front of her," Goodman said.

Last November Goodman performed with Flack and the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra and remembers it as one of her proudest moments.

When she was singing a song from "Porgy And Bess" backstage for the fun of it, members of the orchestra asked if she would like to return to perform as a soloist with the group. She was delighted and gladly accepted.

She performed music that was important to her as a black performer. Goodman chose to sing songs written by black composers.

"I was happy to play a part in something like that," she said.

She especially chose to sing works composed by black performers because she said they do not receive the recognition they deserve.

"I think our (black) singers, pianist and musicians should look into the black classical composers," Goodman remarked.

"We know about (Duke) Ellington but we don't know about our black classical composers."

"Our people have something to offer as well," she asserted.

During her solo performance at Syracuse, Goodman sang works by black composers such as Chevalier de Saint Georges, the earliest known black composer and Scott Joplin.

As a student at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Goodman said there were times when she had to inform a professor at the school that black musicians were educated.

She said the professor painted a grim picture of black blues singers when he told a class that blues performers would "jump off of soap box and slit your throat."

Goodman said pop music is her favorite because she does not have to worry about her technique as much as she does with classical music.

"With classical music I have to worry if I'm using my technique correctly and if my French, Italian and German are good, but when I'm singing popular music I can get all in your face and not worry about it."

Soon Goodman will venture into new areas. She is now rehearsing for a musical written by her brother, David Bunn.

The play will be produced in Baltimore soon and Goodman will be the star.

The production is entitled, "Video" and is about a young female singer who goes to New York seeking stardom.

Goodman's brother, who played the piano part in the theme music for the "Spencer For Hire" TV show, also wrote all the music for his play.

Young entrepreneur going for the gold

By Alicia Benjamin
AFRO Staff Writer

When Oliver Mason, III had a heart attack last year, at 19 years old, he knew it was time to slow down.

He was managing a store in Columbia Mall as well as running his own cleaning business, the Servpro Building Service Maintenance of Columbia, when it happened.

And now, 20-year-old Mason, is considered an exceptionally successful business man for his age.

The Ellicot City resident vowed to slow down after his stroke but has continued to work hard to achieve success.

"I found out how far I could go," he explained. "I was concentrating on money too much."

But it seems money and prosperity are the two forces which continue to drive Mason to work as hard as he does.

Last July he opened his second business, Oliver Sterling Gifts, in the Annapolis Holiday Inn. The shop is expected to gross close to $180,000, he said.

He sold his cleaning business because managing two stores became too much for him to handle. But he wants to open a second gift shop in the Columbia area.

Perhaps Mason was influenced early by his parents, who he said is very work oriented.

"I've been working 40 hours a week for as long as I can remember," he said. "I'm not afraid of work at all."

He started his first job when he was 14 and being self-sufficient is important to him.

Oliver Mason III

His parents believe in being financially secure, he said. His mother is a nurse and has two jobs.

He said his parents gave him anything he wanted but he was not a beggar.

When he opened his first business he asked his mother for very little money. He also used money from his savings and stock investments to purchase the cleaning business, he said.

Mason said his mother supports him in everything he does but his father does not understand business ventures.

"He thinks a man is someone who works for IBM for 40 years and receives a gold watch when he retires," Mason said.

"But 40 to 50 thousand dollars per year isn't enough for me."

"I'm the first one to own a business in my family and it's a little avant garde to them."

To help other young people find their niche in life, Mason developed a new project called the Sterling Role Model Business Program, which will take him into the classrooms at the Learning Center in Annapolis.

The Learning Center is a high school in Annapolis where troubled teenagers attend classes.

The program is designed to teach young people how to set up their own business. Mason will teach the students interviewing skills and also the necessary steps they must go through to open their own business.

He will be the fictitious banker that loans them money to open their pretend businesses.

"I'll run it exactly as a bank would," he said. "I'll also tell them the possible pitfalls so they won't make the mistakes I made."

"These kids will enjoy the project and have something to work towards when they get out of school," he stated.

The young entrepreneur said he thought of the idea when screening applicants at his gift shop. Many of the people who wanted to work in his store were teenagers who had dropped out of high school. He also said people with doctorate degrees were also applying for jobs at his shop.

"What does that give our youth to look forwad to?" he asked. He said students need to be taught more practical skills they can use when they finish school.

Mason tried college for a while but said he felt his time would be better spent doing something else like opening his own business.

He attended Howard Community College for two years where he took retail courses. He tranferred to Virginia State University, where he majored in hotel and restaurant management but he became impatient with the college life.

Business is not the only area that interests Mason. He has also made a number of television appearances.

He plans to host a cable TV show called Graffiti, which is directed and produced by Howard County students.

Mason appeared in CRAB Town USA, an Annapolis cable TV show. For one week representatives from the show came to his shop and asked him questions about how he got started.

Mason is looking forward with Graffiti because he was involved with the show as a student in 1981.

He enjoys television work so much he is considering a career in the field for himself.

He said he is also planning on doing a few commercials in the near future.

"I like being in front of the camera," he said and he is getting used to it, he continued.

How can he run a business and have a television career as well?

"I can do it," he said. "Life's too short to do just one thing."