# CELEBRITY ROUNDUP

By Ida M. Peters

In our March, 1988 Celebrity Roundup we were asked by Mary Listenbee of Milwaukee, Wisc. if Nancy Wilson had any boys.

Our answer was that Nancy Wilson's household has two daughters, Samantha, 12 and Sheryl, 11.

Claude E. Bowen, Los Angeles, Calif. writes:

Roundup and noticed that you answered (or did not answer) the question as to whether Nancy Wilson had any boys. Don't know where you got your information but Nancy Wilson has an adult son by her first husband, Kenny Dennis. Her son's name happens to be K. C. Dennis and he should be close to 25-years-old.

From 1972-1984 as entertainment editor of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, I was asked to write Celebrity Roundup under the pen name Jason by then editor Bob Matthews because of our extensive up-to-date files and because I had at one time or another interviewed the stars or knew their agents. The above letter is typical. If we don't know, our readers will tell us.

Of course it hasn't hurt to know great P.R. people like Motown's Bob Jones, now doing P.R. for Michael Jackson; or Vincent Tubbs former vice-president for Warner Brothers or the late James A. Johnson, senior publicist for Paramount Pictures who did Leadbelly with Roger Mosley and Ragtime with Howard Rollins. Rollins is starring in In the Heat of the Night on TV.

And it hasn't hurt that Baltimore is home for Cab Calloway, the late Avon Long, Howard Rollins, the late Bill Elliott, the late Eubie Blake, the late Clarence Muse to name a few.

### Sammy

I was once invited to do an interview with Sammy Davis, Jr. in Boston. While waiting for my flight I saw Sammy and

Altovise Davis arrive on a connecting flight. They were whisked right passed me to the V.I.P. lounge. Stupid me!

On the flight to Boston there were only about six or seven passengers on the plane and Altovise and Sammy were lovebirds all the way. When we got to Boston, Sammy had a limo waiting so I spoke right up, identified myself as a

up in all his chains and talked to the youngsters about being "born again." At the end, as we were saying goodbye, the kids yelled, "Mr. T., hug Mrs. Peters." All in all this has proved to be one of the most popular pictures ever put on our wall.

One of our most gracious interviews by telephone has been with Bob



Sidney Poitier

reporter and hopped in. Otherwise I would have been left out in the middle of nowhere.

You wouldn't believe that press conference. They had mixed TV, newspapers and magazines all into one giant mess of 100 or more people from all over the United States. Most of the interviewing was done in groups of 10 so you spent most of the day watching TV interviews.

Unlucky me! When we finally got out of Boston, we headlined our story "Don't call me Sammy . . . I'll call you."

The next year when Sammy Davis came to Baltimore, he called us backstage and we laughed about our Boston experience. He fended off the white press while our AFRO cameraperson, Vanessa Johnson got a clear shot of him kissing me on the cheek.

### Mr. T

Mr. T came to town to promote Rocky III in May 1983. I didn't have time for a one-on-one interview because I was hosting an AFRO Clean Block meeting of block leaders pledged to clean up their blocks. Mr. T showed

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Ida Peters and Mr. T

Hope . . . who told us what jokes he was going to tell when he got to Baltimore . . . and with Cicely Tyson. We asked Cicely about the half-eaten gold apple she was wearing and learned later it was a gift from her later-to-be husband, Miles Davis.

## Sidney Poitier

Sidney Poitier is a whole story by himself. We first talked to Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier when they made Buck and the Preacher. Vincent Tubbs made sure we were invited to New York for press interviews for Uptown Saturday Night and Let's Do It Again.

I had just finished talking with Bill Cosby as Sidney Potier was about to leave the table. Sidney had just told me he expected to be a father again by Joanna Shimkus. Out of the blue, I asked Sidney when he was going to marry Joanna. He looked deep in my eyes ... put his hands on my shoulder and said, "when she gives me a boy." He had another daughter and he finally married Joanna Jan. 23, 1976.

Those are just a few of the stories I've gathered from covering the stars for nearly twenty years.

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