SHOWTIME

DeBarge brothers indicted on drug counts

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. — Two members of the soul-singer DeBarge family have been indicted on charges they conspired with five people to bring more than two pounds of cocaine to Grand Rapids.

Jonathan "Chico" DeBarge, 22, of Grand Rapids, was being held in the Kent County jail, pending a hearing to determine whether he should remain in custody until trial.

An arrest warrant was issued for Robert "Bobby" DeBarge, 32, of Los Angeles, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael MacDonald.

Michael Jamison, 26, of Grand Rapids, was arrested last week, he said.

One of the four others named in the indictment issued Thursday is in custody in Los Angeles, MacDonald said. The others remain at large or have been ordered to appear in court.

Each faces a possible life prison term if convicted on the conspiracy charges. Each also is charged with two counts of using interstate travel to distribute cocaine and one count of distribution of cocaine.

The indictment alleges Jamison on June 24 gave $15,000 to a man working as an informant for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to buy a kilogram of cocaine.

The informer left with Chico DeBarge the following day for Los Angeles where Jamison wired another $2,000 to them, the indictment states.

The indictment alleges Chico DeBarge tested the drug for purity, then he and the informant repackaged it in smaller packets, concealing it in luggage they carried onto a commercial, airline flight.

CHICO DeBARGE

DEA officials said a harmless powder containing only 5 grams of cocaine was substituted for the pure cocaine before it was allegedly delivered to Jamison on June 28.

The four others are charged with helping facilitate the alleged drug deal.

Chico DeBarge last year released a solo album, "Chico Debarge," that reached no.33 on the billboard music charts for soul artists.

Robert was a member of the funk group switch until it left Motown Records in 1981.

He listed his occupation as writer, arranger and artist, when he was arrested in Chicago in April 1986 after standing up aboard an airliner and announcing he was a terrorist with a bomb in his suitcase.

DeBarge made the statement as American Airlines flight 558 was taxiing toward a runway at O'Hare International Airport. The charge was later dismissed.

Michael Jackson endows Motown Museum

DETROIT, MICHIGAN — The Motown Record Company may be sold, but its legacy and heritage, which are deeply rooted in Detroit, in America and in the hearts and souls of the peoples of the world are everlasting and cannot be sold.

To assist in keeping the legacy alive, it was announced that superstar Michael Jackson will donate the proceeds of his October 24th concert in Detroit to the Motown Museum Historical Foundation, the site of the company's original studios and offices, appropriately named "Hitsville USA," located at 2648 West Grand Boulevard in Detroit.

The museum, which stands as a symbol that anything is possible in America, is where Jackson got his start at 9 years old. He has said, "I would love to make the museum known all over the world."

In response to Jackson's generous gift, Esther G. Edwards, the museum's founder said, "Michael will always be remembered as the giant forerunner who returned to his muscial roots to help preserve and perpetuate the greatest American legacy in the history of the music business.

In 1969 the Jackson 5 were signed to the Motown label and hitmaker Berry Gordy personally took Jackson under his wing. Gordy co-wrote and produced all of the Jackson 5's first and biggest hits. Their very first single, "I Want You Back," quickly went to No. 1 on all charts, followed in 1970 by three consecutive No. 1 smash hits — "ABC," "The Love You Save" and "I'll Be There" — sky-rocketing them to stardom.

A SUPERSTAR HUG — Michael Jackson gives a hug to Joanne Jackson (left), director of the Motown Museum Historical Foundation and Esther G. Edwards (right), the museum's founder after their meeting to discuss his endowment to the museum with proceeds of his October 24th concert in Detroit.

More recently, Jackson returned to Motown for the 25th Anniversary TV special in 1983. Gordy and he decided that he should perform his new release, "Billie Jean," the only non-Motown song in the show. It was a rare moment in television when 50 million viewers watched his dazzling performance of the "moonwalk," generating a whole new legion of fans for him throughout the world.

Among other superstars sharing this great legacy are Smokey Robinson, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, Lionel Richie, Marvin Gaye, the Supremes, Gladys Knight and the Pips, the Temptations, the Four Tops and Martha and the Vandellas.

In 1987 Hitsville USA was proclaimed a historical site by Governor James Blanchard of Michigan with Detroit's Mayor Coleman Young and Secretary of State Richard Austin on hand at a ceremony hosted by Mrs. Edwards and the legendary Smokey Robinson, a Motown vice-president.

At the dedication Blanchard revealed, "I live Motown. When you're forty-five and grew up in Ferndale, went to Michigan State University, you know the Detroit sound. I know I'm in Hitsville. It is more than a magnificant company and great performers; it is a state of mind! It is a feeling! It's soul! It's rhythm! It's music! It's love! That wonderful feeling is the legacy of Motown and the people who made it great."

Although Berry Gordy and Motown Record Corporation have no official link to the 501(c) 3, tax-exempt, non-profit museum, he has appointed former Stax Records' chairman, Al Bell, as his executive emissary to liaison with the museum foundation.

Bell, whose own record company was the home of the Memphis sound and once rivaled Gordy's for No. 1 record chart positions, is widely known in the music community for vision and management of philantropic events.

In acknowledging Jackson's contribution, Bell stated, "Michael's loving and unselfish act of appreciation for the nurturer of his young talent, his very roots, is a blessing. It is heartening to see the institution that Michael Jackson has become, so honor Motown, the institution that gave him the foundation to be where he is today. Many other artists who have roots at Motown have expressed a desire to join in the preservation effort. The response has been truly wonderful."

Newport Jazz Festival returns to roots

NEWPORT, R.I. — The Newport Jazz Festival is going back to its roots.

The 1988 JVC Jazz Festival-Newport will include an evening concert series Aug. 12 at historic Newport Casino, the grass courts tennis emporium that was the site of the first jazz festival in 1954, officials said Thursday.

That Friday night program, with reserved seating limited to 2,500, will feature the Illinois Jacquet Big Band. The trio of hot Latin jazz pianist Michel Camilo, who hails from the Dominican Republic, will open.

"Combining the elegance of the Newport Casino with the excellence of the music that JVC is famous for can keep this going in a very serious way," Col. Fred Long, director of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, told a news conference.

The 1988 audience will not be seated on the carefully groomed center court, unlike 1954 when a total audience of 13,000 — from dowagers and debutantes to sailors and their girlfriends — was drawn by a lineup that included Dizzy Gillespie, Oscar Peterson, Ella Fitzgerald, George Shearing, Gene Krupa and Billie Holiday.

"We're not going to have center court used with people treading on it, because there could be great damage. It's one of the finest grass courts in the United States. In 1954, we didn't know what we were doing," said Hall of Famer founder James Van Alen.

The festival was moved across the street to Freebody Park, a ball field, in 1955, then moved to several other locations, including Festival Field — before 1969 and 1971 riots chased the event out of a town unable to cope with its huge crowd size and traffic headaches.

The Saturday and Sunday daytime portions of the festival will be held as usual at Picturesque Fort Adams State Park, a peninsula jutting out into Newport Harbor. It has been held there, with a daily attendance limit of about 7,500, since its return to Newport in 1981.

The Aug. 13 lineup will include Lionel Hampton; Grover Washington, Jr.; Church Mangione; Chick Corea and his Elektric Band; and the hot young vocal group Montgomery, Plant and Stritch.

The Aug. 14 finale will feature Carmen McRae's Quartet, featuring saxophonist Clifford Jordan; The Herbie Hancock Trio; blues guitarist B. B. King; the Count Basie Orchestra; and pop saxophonist Najee.

For the fifth straight year, portions of the seaside festival at Fort Adams State Park will be taped for a one-hour autumn program on PBS.

The Newport Casino program will begin at 7:30 p.m. The Fort Adams events will run from noon until 6:30 p.m.

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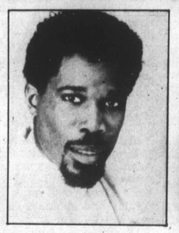

BILLY OCEAN

BRENDA RUSSELL

By Penny S. Demps

THAT Billy Ocean, the Grammy-award winning recording artist, will bring his soulful style of music to Kings Dominion's amphitheatre, "The Showplace," on July 17 at 7 p.m. Ocean has several hits including "Caribbean Queen" and "Gett Outta My Dreams," "Get Into My Car." His special guest will be Brenda Russell, whose recordings include "So Good, So Right" and "Piano In The Dark." For information, call the concert line at (804) 876-5152.

* * *

THAT Michael Jackson is getting his own 90-minute network special and will have the final say on what goes into the show. "Michael Jackson Around The World," which airs July 30 at 11:30 p.m. will include footage of the singer on his current world tour in Japan, Rome, Berlin, Paris, Munich and London as well as some backstage scenes. The "Michael-Mania" show will also include footage from the unprecedented sold-out seven-night stand Jackson has at Wembley Stadium in London.

* * *

THAT anti-apartheid rocker Steven Van Zandt is angry that many of the political statements were cut out of the U.S. broadcast of the recent FreedomFest Concert in London to celebrate Nelson Mandela's birthday. Van Zandt concluded that Fox TV Network and the Westwood One Radio Network apparently decided "that Americans were not interested in learning more about apartheid." He was surprised to learn that his call for sanctions and reference to South Africa as a terrorist state had been edited out. Van Zandt was incensed that the event had been purged of its politics, "especially when the man being honored is known for his political courage and principles."

* * *

THAT the Dance Theatre of Harlem, having just returned from a triumphant five-week tour of Russia, premiered a vigorous folk ballet celebrating the legendary railroad strongman John Henry during the recent New York International Festival of the Arts engagement at City Center. "John Henry" is the first ballet choreographed by Arthur Mitchell, founder and artistic director of the company and was commissioned for the festival. John Henry, a 10-pound hammer man who died in defiance of the new steam drill used to drive railroad spikes, in a folk song hero.

* * *

THAT a new radio advertising campaign for Miller Lite is using the soulful sounds of some top artists to heat up the summer airwaves. The Force M.D.'s and witty comedian Franklyn Ajaye are signed to do a series of 60-second radio commercials, which recently debuted. The promotional theme "The Feelings Right - Miller Lite."

* * *

THAT Martin Luther King, III says he is appalled that nearly 4 million blacks in California are not registered to vote. The eldest son of civil rights martyr Martin Luther King, Jr., made a recent swing through the West Coast to promote a statewide voter registration drive by The Center for Participation in Democracy. "Get on the freedom train. Look how far we've come from where we started," was the message from King, 30, who is a Fulton County Commissioner in Atlanta.

GOOD FRIENDS — Dawn Lewis, who plays Jolessa on NBC's hit comedy series "A Different World," attended BMI's Film/TV Awards on May 26 in Beverly Hills to present Stu Gardner his award for composing the music for both her show and the "Cosby Show." She would not leave, however, without getting the opportunity to meet Al Jarreau, who was on hand to receive an award for his "Moonlighting" theme.

METRO PROFILE

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Relief for new mothers...parttime babysitters

By Jeanette Gibson
AFRO Correspondent

New mothers can find relief from the stresses a newborn brings, with the help of babysitters that visit the home on a part-time basis.

The New Arrival Assistant Service sends out child care workers for as little as three hours per day for mothers with children aged from birth to 12 months.

The worker can give the mother time to run errands, attend to another child, or take care of personal matters.

"We're like a rent-a-mommy service," said Dorothea McGuire, President of New Arrival.

"For $5.50 an hour, new mothers can request a sitter that has child care experience and references they can examine," says McGuire. "All workers are over 30 and non-smokers, which add stability to the sitter, says McGuire.

Advantages to her service, says McGuire, is 24-hour availability. Replacement sitters can cover for a scheduled one in emergency, and sitters can stay overnight as part-time live-in help. A sitter can be hired who will also perform light housekeeping.

Scheduling is flexible and can be changed with 24-hours notice. Hours can include weekends and holidays. Certified Nursing Assistants are available at no extra cost and are on call in case of emergency, says McGuire.

NEW ARRIVALS — Handling details for new mothers is the business of these smiling entrepreneurs. From left, Diane L. Moore, Gloria L. Foster and Dorothea C. McGuire.

"I was at home and needed extra help," says Doretha Epps, who used the service twice a week for half a day. "It was good because she did little things for my seven year old and paid attention to him so I could spend time with the baby."

"It gave me a chance to do personal things and it was a big help. I'm glad someone thought of something like it. Plus, I really like the price. Usually sitters (want to work) the whole day," says Priscilla Campbell of Woodlawn.

In business since April 14, New Arrival is currently seeking new sitters to accommodate mothers on their waiting list. Clients live from Baltimore City to Owings Mills and Anne Arundel County areas.

"We're trying to reach out to new moms to nurture them and help them get back into normal lives. They need something organized . . . to get back into their professions," says McGuire.

The service is also working to coordinate existing organizations geared toward child care and parenting to provide additonal emotional or child care help.

"We're currently putting together an annual membership with post-partum seminars on breastfeeding, sibling rivalry, coping with change after having a baby and fitness," says McGuire.

"We look for problems people have. It's an adjustment because if you didn't have kids before, it's hard. You wonder 'Am I going to be a good mommy?' You never experienced it before. People go through a lot of mental changes," says McGuire.

"A lot of women don't know that it's out here and (sitters) can get you through a hard time," says McGuire.

Exhibit feature, black women of courage

MRS. ELEANOR FRANCIS BATTY JENKINS

A church and education pioneer, Mrs. Jenkins was sponsored by Just Us Plus. She was educated in Baltimore city schools and has received a number of awards for diligent community service and church work. She is referred to by those who know her as "MaMa."

By Jill P. Carter
AFRO Staff Writer

An exhibition of Baltimore's own black women is on display at the Park Heights Street Academy through July 18.

The twenty-six women featured are pioneers in business, politics, and social evolution.

Viewers can enjoy looking at photographs and portraits of the multi-talented women and reading biographies of the lives of these area women who influenced society and affected change.

The exhibition is located in the Humanities Building, at Reisterstown Road and Shirley Ave. Mall.

Supervised groups of youth are being taken to see the exhibition as well as friends of the honorees and other interested adults, except Sat. and Sun.

MRS. VASHTI TURLEY MURPHY

A co-founder of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in 1913 at Howard University, Mrs. Murphy is regarded as a "great fighter" and an organizer of women's rights. She was married to Dr. Carl Murphy, former publisher of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers. A lifelong member of the NAACP, she founded several other women's organizations.

MS. WYNNONA M. FOUNTAIN-MOORE

Salon owner, lecturer, and educator, Ms. Fountain-Moore developed a unique philosophy of hair maintenance. She has conducted numerous seminars on grooming and professionalism throughout the Baltimore area. Her hair maintenance philosophy was derived from years of study and practical application.

MRS. EDNA OVER CAMPBELL

Most popularly remembered as principal of Douglass Senior High School, Mrs. Campbell also received national recognition as the fifth national president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She served on several community boards and was always an advocate of human rights.