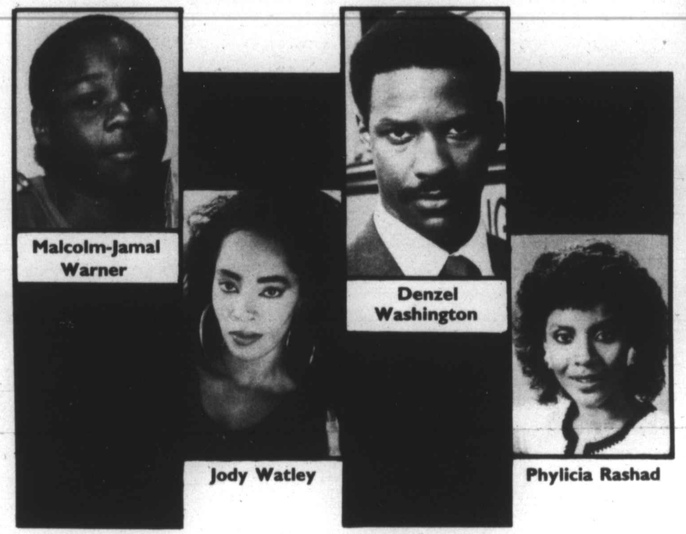
Happy Birthday Malcolm!

By Ida M. Peters



Q. I saw Phylicia Rashad on the Tony Awards TV Show. What play is she in and where? Is Billy Dee Williams still playing on Broadway?

A.B.M.
Baltimore, Md.

A. Phylicia Rashad is playing the witch in "Into the Woods," a musical based on fairy tales at The Martin Beck Theatre on 45th Street in NYC. Billy Dee is playing in August Wilson's "Fences" at the 46th Street Theatre in NYC.

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Q. We've just heard that Alfie Brown, the actress, now in a bit part in John Waters "Hairspray" and earlier in a role in "Car Wash," died in Baltimore. Please send some details?

T. L. Brown
San Diego, Calif.

A. Alfredine "Alfie" Parham Brown, died in April, 1988 at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore of heart disease. She was 57. She appears in John Waters "Hairspray" currently in release, her last film. She was the much honored hostess of the PBS talk show "The Critic's Place" from 1974-1985. The Chicgo native began her professional acting career in the 1953 play, "Mamba's Daughter," with Ethel Waters in New York. She married William T. Brown in 1955 in Cleveland and they moved to the Baltimore-Washington area when he became chairman of the Theatre Department of University of Maryland Baltimore County. She was active with the Children's Theatre of Washington and productions at Howard University. In 1963, when she went to Nigeria with her husband, she organized a theatre for children. From 1979-1982 she was Artistic Dean of the Baltimore School for the Arts and taught at UMBC.

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Q. Did Jody Watley get her start on "Soul Train?"

JESSIE WRIGHT
Detroit, Mich.

A. Jody Watley got her start as a dancer with partner, Jeffrey Daniels on "Soul Train" when barely out of her teens. Jody and Jeff teamed with Gary Mumford for the then new trio Shalamar which put out their first album "Uptown Festival" in 1972.

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Q. Are Lisa Bonet, star of "Different World" and her musician hubby, Lenny "Romeo Blue" Kravitz expecting their first child? Will she stay on the show playing a college girl?

MARILYN
Atlanta, Ga.

A. Yes, according to many sources, Lisa 20 and Romeo, 23 are expecting their first child. They were married Nov. 16, 1987 in Las Vegas. First news reports have it that Lisa will be returned to "The Cosby Show." It's all up to Bill Cosby who says he is looking forward to going all out in his fifth and final season. Could be, "A Different World" might . . .just might . . . tackle teen-age pregnancy and college pregnancy and Lisa just might do what thousands of other girls have done . . . move off campus and stay in college. That moving home to mama is not 80's anymore.

Q. We were talking about the Oscars and agreeing with Eddie Murphy about the hidden racism in the Academy Awards. My father remembers James Edwards from Knoxville College and says he was nominated for a movie back in the 1950's. What was the movie about? Who was James Edwards?

T. D. LEWIS
Cleveland, Ohio

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

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