

# Entertainment

## TONY ORLANDO AND DAWN: REUNION AT THE DESERT INN

The Rat Pack, the "Leave It To Beaver" show, the "Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour," the "Father Knows Best" cast . . . and now Tony Orlando and Dawn have joined the greats of the past who have come back to find success in the '80s.

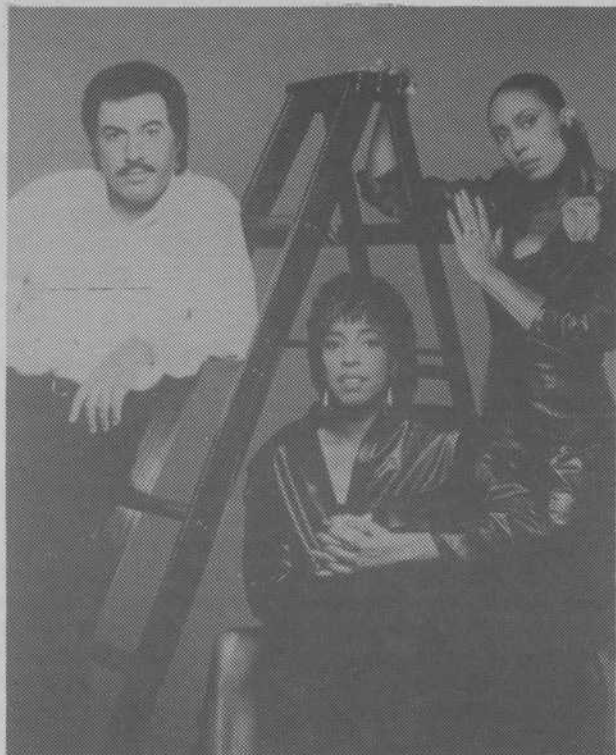
Tony Orlando and Dawn (Telma Hopkins and Joyce Vincent-Wilson), one of the most popular groups of the 1970s,

returned to the Desert Inn Hotel & Casino through Oct. 5.

After 10 years apart, the trio reunited this summer. They made the Desert Inn their first stop west of Atlantic City, and the response was tremendous. Hence their return to the Las Vegas hotel and casino.

"We flirted with the idea on several occasions in the past, but we all felt like now is time," says Orlando of their reunion.

Tony Orlando and Dawn created a lasting musical



Tony Orlando and Dawn

legacy in the 1970s. Aside from a hit CBS television series for four years, the unparalleled success of the

group includes the sale of nearly 30 million records, three gold albums, two platinum records, five number one singles, two Gram

## BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

### Motown Changes Hands But Melody Lingers On

LOS ANGELES: — The \$61,000 Music Corporation of America paid to acquire Motown Records is looked upon in world class financial circles as a coup. The deal is spiced with high valued properties, lasting talents and international acceptability. Foremost on the roster are signed and sealed Stevie Wonder-full, Smokey Robinson, Lionel Richie and Diamante-Ross who will be returning to the label from which she ankle a season or so ago to sign with MCA. In disposing of his Detroit founded corp., Barry Gordy termed the sale, "The beginning, not the end, of an era." Announcing the sell-off, the astute entertainment entrepreneur opened the door of thought when he said: "In today's economy, the big get bigger and the small become extinct. To prevent that from happening, and to insure the perpetuation of Motown and its heritage, I decided to clasp hands with one of the most formidable giants in our business, MCA." Unless that statement is improperly interpreted, it could raise the conjecture that the sale of Motown's most visible assets was just another smart move of its executives to ward off an eventual hostile takeover attempt.

While Motown's trademark, master recordings and all retained artists were a part of the MCA package, the company's lucrative publishing arm and its film and

nominations and two American Music Awards. Most recently, "Tie A Yellow Ribbon ('Round The Old Oak Tree)," their biggest hit, was recognized as the "most performed song of all time" by BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc.).

Starting with two number one singles in a row with "Candida" and "Knock Three Times," Tony Orlando and Dawn continued to turn out hit songs, including "Gypsy Rose" and "He Don't Love You."

For show reservations, call 702-733-4566 or 800-634-6909.

TeeVee ventures will henceforth continue under a new banner, "The Gordy Co." Gordy will also retain his Hitsville recording operation. However, the sale was consolidated without an original stipulation that Motown should remain 20% minority owned. The demand was rescinded when Gordy's personal search did not bear fruit. The announced intentions of Solar Records' head, Dick Griffey, "to better or match any offer up to \$100,000,000, also failed to materialize for lack of financial backing. However, it's reported that MCA had better luck in its search for cash. Allegedly 80% of the cash line needed to ice the Motown deal came from a Boston banking firm. "Those that has gets, God bless the child that got its own." From the song lyrics of a late Billy Holiday song.

"WRITE NEWS:" — Rev. Al Sharpton has delegated Charles Huggins to open his ears to anyone interested in the Tawana Brawley story for the big silver or cathode tube. Charles is the talented Melba Moore's spouse. His Hush productions also guide her, Freddie Jackson and Froce M.D.'s . . . Sally Nix's cadre of friends joined her in mourning the death of her sister, Margaret "Cookie" White . . . Donald and Libby Stanford have rounded out their twofold visit to the mainland from the Virgin Islands. Skipper Dismuke was the party giver hostess of an event to allow their close friends embracing privileges . . . The Clint Eastwood backed and directed flick, "Bird," has the sound of a winner. A biopic of jazz immortal Charlie Parker captured an award in Cannes for Forest Whitaker as best actor in the name role. In Paris it attracted some 100,000 fans on a short run . . . Tired of being isolated, Ray Lanier has formed a national organization to promote the interest of Black alumni who do not have a relationship with predominantly white colleges . . . It was not "Bad" in the least for Michael Jackson opening his world tour in Japan. So he's returning for an encore and will do six concerts at Tok-

yo's massive Egg Dome . . . The Ford Foundation has enriched UNCF by \$220,000 to expand projects that will encourage community college students to finish their baccalaureate at historically Black Colleges . . . Another largess, \$1.2 million, has been awarded to eleven historically Black colleges by the Lilly Foundation. Its target is to strengthen such institutions . . . Much of the credit for the success of the Lorenzo Tucker book bash at the Schomburg was due to the tireless efforts of theatre historical Delilah Jackson. The book, "The Black Valentino," is an on the record resuscitation of the stage and screen career of the late handsome actor with interesting paragraphs about the H'wood problems of yesteryear. Richard Grupenhoff is the author and Scarecrow Press, Inc. is the publisher.

THINKING "WRITE": — The 10th anniversary of "Allan Bakke V. the Regents of the University of California, June 28, 1988 slipped by the media, print and electronic, without one written paragraph or spoken opinion. The June 28, 1978 opinion of a divided Supreme Court, on the swing vote of Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., set the ground rules for most of the ongoing affirmative action programs now in place in institutions of higher education. The ruling doomed the then set-aside quota system, the demon of the quota demigods. Notwithstanding, it did allow race to be used as a factor of admission. Facing an estimated loss of \$45 million in students' loan defaults, the Higher Education Assistance Foundation, as of this month, plans to discontinue backing loans to students in 18 states . . . That mid-June concert celebrating the 70th birthday of Nelson Mandela, the "apartheid" resistance heroic symbol, worldwide audience has reached a count of 500,000,000. Most of the stars you know, admire and enjoy, participated . . . The eastern cadre of Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson bowed their hearts in reverence marking his passing.

Harry Belafonte is probably headed your way on another leg of his '88 60-cities tour that will wrap in London in November. STAY LOOSE . . . Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

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