

PRODUCER SPEAKS ABOUT RACIAL PROBLEMS CONCERNING EVERYBODY

# FELTON PILATE TURNS "GHOST BOY" INTO REAL LIFE SUCCESS STORY

By W.G. Ramirez

When Felton Pilate began his business relationship with the "Holy Ghost Boys," let alone when he began his own career, he had no idea that he would be in the position he is today.

Pilate, who was originally with the group Con Funk Shun, was hired by Fred Pittman at Fantasy/Volt Records to arrange and produce several artists, including the "Holy Ghost Boys."

One of the members of the group, along with Pilate, left the label, recorded a 12" single at a 24-track studio, then proceeded to record the rest of the album at his own 16-track studio.

Who was this "Holy Ghost Boy" that Pilate was about to bring to life and help launch an unending story of success? Real name: Stanley Burrell - Pay To The Order Of: Hammer.

Originally called "Feel My

Power," Hammer's first LP, "Let's Get It Started" was the beginning of an incredible business relationship.

Pilate admits that Hammer has always been the one with the business plan, knowing exactly what he wanted to do.

In July, 1989, Felton toured with the mega-star as the sound mixer. The following month, he became musical director, played keyboards on stage and assumed all responsibility for the band.

Converting a tour bus into "Bust It Mobile Recording Studio," Felton and Hammer recorded the subsequent project, "Please Hammer Don't Hurt 'Em." The pair spent every minute they could, while not on stage, in the studio which eventually led to record breaking sales and many awards that were received worldwide.

Pilate's credits can be found in many different capacities on each album, including the current LP "Too Legit To Quit."

Pilate realizes the success he is involved with and knows there is no stopping this rocket he has helped take off.

He also realizes the hardship that is taking place in the world and knows that no matter who you are, everyone is involved.

In a recent interview with Pilate, he touched on some serious issues while putting the "Success story" to the side.

A couple of weeks ago, while on tour, a few of the band members, including Pilate and Hammer, were playing basketball in a park when a drive-by shooting had taken place.

"Everyone was concerned," admits Pilate. "(Although) we're aware that it probably wasn't a



FELTON PILATE

chasing their dream and going after whatever it is they want.

"I'm in an excellent position to encourage my daughter to succeed in the entertainment field, if that is what she wants to do.

"If happiness is important to you then you need to just decide to make the time to be happy...it's really that simple."

Sending a message to all the Black youth of today, Pilate stresses the fact that to gain something they want, it must be worked hard for and earned, not acquired by blaming others for their alleged faults.

"There are some Blacks who go by 'the White man is holding me down so I'm forced to be this way' - I don't buy that!

"The finest way to get someone to give something to you is to show them that you're worthy of having it." Smart words from an intelligent man.

Many may disagree with Mr. Pilate, yet why would you ignore the words of someone that organizes, coordinates and practically runs the business of a multi-million dollar entertainer?

**THINK ABOUT IT!!!**

good judgment call to be out in a park at 10:30 at night; it's a little scary considering the fact that someone would take pride in attempting to shoot down a public figure." Pilate admits that it leaves such celebrities in a state of confusion whether or not to leave themselves accessible to the public.

He is not sure if the recent controversy concerning the Rodney King verdict had anything to do with such violent acts, but does believe that the situation, as a whole, "may be the final swing that there is definitely still a problem."

Knowing there is much racial tension remaining in the world, Pilate doesn't believe that there is one race to blame.

"I see in all races, that it becomes a very easy excuse, that if you're not good at something, it becomes the greatest excuse to say someone else is keeping me from doing it.

"I'm aware that to some degree there is a pressure from one race on to another, by saying 'hey your not as good.' But I'm also aware, it shouldn't make a difference, whoever you are."

Pilate can honestly see fear being a basic cause for some racial tension that arises, which comes from misunderstanding of fear of the unknown.

"How much time is a person willing to take to learn about the other side," added Pilate, stating that now-a-days, no one wants to learn about another before

## Kimberly's Entertainment News

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE, including my KIMBERLY'S ENTERTAINMENT NEWS COLUMN, but "THAT'S THE WAY OF THE WORLD!" Well, let's get down to the BIZ-WAKES. According to my NEW YORK CONNECTION, the movie BOOMERANG is THE JOINT! Yes, everyone must see THIS EDDIE MURPHY ONE. At the New York screening, THE CELEBRITIES WERE IN THE HOUSE. Mr. Murphy was on hand along with THOSE ALL ABOUT IT STAR LIGHTS such as ROBBIN GIVENS, FOREST WHITAKER, SPIKE LEE, AND THE BOOMERANG CAST. Oh, I guess I should give you the SCOOP on ROBBIN GIVENS.

It is WORD UP that ROBBIN and FOREST WHITAKER was ALL OVER EACH OTHER AT THE SCREENING. They met during the screening of A RAGE IN HARLEM, and ROBBIN apparently ROCKED FOREST'S WORLD. The BOOMERANG MOVIE is "ALL ABOUT SEX!"

Eddie Murphy plays a player about to be played. Eddie's character works for a successful marketing company and GET'S ALL THE GIRLIES! Oh, but NOT ROBBIN GIVENS CHARACTER who CLOCKS THE MURPHY MAN IN A BIG WAY. He, of course, like all men, loves the challenge and falls madly in love with ROBBIN'S CHARACTER. HALLE BARRY is said to take the movie over close to the end. GIRL FRIEND, "THE DIVA'S ARE IN CONTROL IN THIS MOVIE," and the motto for the movie seems to be, "IF YOU CARE ABOUT-

SOMEONE YOU MUST TREAT THEM RIGHT!" That's right BABY, "Do Me Right!"

ROBERT TOWNSEND'S new movie, METOR MAN, is said to be a STAR STUDDER MOVIE with celebrities such as BILL COSBY, LUTHER VANDROSS, ANOTHER BAD CREATION, BIG DADDY KANE, and many more. ROBERT was filming his movie during the out burst of the L.A. RIOTS, and had to shut down production. His METOR MAN movie is a fairy tail movie about a school by a meteor and given SUPER MAN CHARACTERISTICS. ROBERT reported that even though his movie is a comedy, our AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN NEED THEIR OWN SUPER HEROES.

ABC TELEVISION is filming a mini series about the JACKSON CLAN called, THE JACKSONS AN AMERICAN DREAM. Actress HOLLY ROBINSON is said to play DIANA ROSS, VENESSA WILLIAMS will play SUSAN DE PASSE, and Billy DEE WILLIAMS will play BERRY GORDY JR. Also, I have a little news for you, BUT DON'T TELL NO ONE YOU HEARD IT FROM ME. VANESSA WILLIAMS is reportedly moving back to NEW YORK without her husband RAMONE. I THINK THERE IS A LITTLE TROUBLE IN MRS. WILLIAM'S "CONFORT ZONE!" DON'T QUOTE ME ON THAT!

Well, until we get BACK IN THE BLACK remember, LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU IN 1992, AND THEN SOME!!!

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