

A Kid's Opinion

by Anika Jones



On the first day of school my 4th grade teacher showed the class a picture of "Tar Baby" with big white lips.

She was reading a classic book from the 1800's called "Brear Rabbit and Brear Fox".

I don't remember all of the story, but I do remember the Black "Tar Baby".

The story is offensive to some people, but maybe not to her because she is not Black. Usu-

ally teachers don't use books like that because they know it might hurt some of the Black kids in the class. She is a nice lady and I don't think she knew it hurt me.

There are some kids who might be mixed, but me and another kid are the only ones that look Black in my class. I go to a predominantly White school. The other kids just don't pay any attention to it. I say this because

sometimes, if I hear the word "nigger" said to them, they just don't say anything.

I used to go to a predominantly Black private school, and that was not allowed.

I think someone should sit teachers down and tell them its not a good move to read an old book that insults people of color, even if it is a classic.

I am not sure what I believe

about censorship, but I learned something today. I think I understand how policemen feel about Ice-T's song "Cop Killer".

I don't think the song meant for people to go kill all cops, and I don't think the book meant that Blacks look like "Tar Babies", but that's how they both make people feel.

That's not appropriate, and it hurts.

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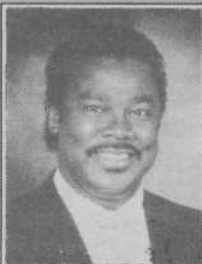
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AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY DAVID RUFFIN (SINGER)

By Gwen Walker

David Ruffin was born Davis Eli Ruffin on January 8, 1941 in Meridian, Mississippi. He was the son of a Baptist preacher who, of course, exposed him to gospel music. His mother died soon after his birth and he was raised by his father and step-



GWEN WALKER

mother. From the age of six he was encouraged to sing whenever gospel shows came to the city, and at age 14 he went to Memphis. There he spent two years with a gospel group called the Dixie Nightingales. From Memphis he traveled to Arkansas where he spent a brief time as a racehorse jockey. He soon set out for Detroit in search of work, as a drummer. Gwen Gordy introduced him to her brother Barry Gordy and so it all began.

The following year Ruffin gave the group The Temptations their first hit single, "The Way You Do The Things You Do." The hit single "My Girl" was recorded in 1965; David sang the lead vocals and "My Girl" was the Temptations first number one hit record.

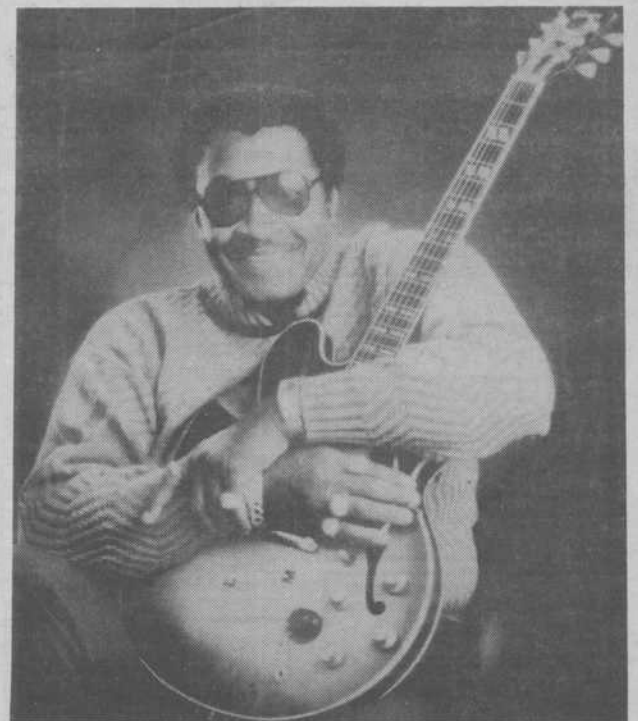
They were the first male Motown group to have a number one hit record. The next four years produced some of the most enduring hits for the group.

Following "My Girl" came the hits "Its Growing", "Since I Lost My Baby", "Get Ready", and "Ain't Too Proud to Beg".

"Ain't Too Proud to Beg," one of Ruffins best vocal tunes was featured in the 1983 hit movie *The Big Chill*.

To read more on David Ruffin, purchase the book "Temptations," by Otis Williams, 1988 or visit Native Son Bookstore & Research Center and the West Las Vegas Library.

THE "BLUES MASTER", LITTLE MILTON COMING TO NEW TOWN TAVERN



Malaco recording artist, Little Milton, will be appearing this Saturday at the New Town Tavern. A recipient of the W.C. Handy Blues Entertainer of the Year Award, Little Milton has several albums and hot singles to his credit. A recent inductee to the Blues Hall of Fame, this Delta native will deliver a polished blues show to the delight of all. Little Milton is scheduled to perform at 8:30 p.m. and 12 midnight. The New Town Tavern is located at 600 W. Jackson. For more information call 647-3995.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice