

# ENTERTAINMENT

## *Ebony Etchings, etc.*

### "TOP OF THE ETCHINGS..."



**BILLY ECKSTINE**

The passing of Billy Eckstine on Monday, March 8th, at Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from complications of a stroke that he suffered last year, certainly left a big void in show biz and the entertainment industry here on earth. However, Billy's passing could be viewed as a heavenly reunion with some of the key members of his legendary band of the 40's, among them, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Fats Navarro, Gene Ammons, Art

Blakey and the inimitable Sarah Vaughn.

His illustrious career was launched in Washington, D.C., in 1933 when he won first place prize in an amateur show at the famous Howard Theatre. This first place win gave him a weeks engagement singing with the theatre band for \$10.00 a show. Shortly thereafter he accepted a job singing and MC'ing at a Buffalo, New York Night Club. Five years later he became the principal vocalist for Earl "Fatha" Hines' big band. While singing with the band he wrote and recorded "Jelly Jelly," his first million selling hit.

In 1944 he formed his own band that incubated the bebop movement. This group featured jazz giants like Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Dex-

ter Gordon, Kenny Dorham, Art Blakey, Gene Ammons and others.

His hit records between 1945 and 1951 included "A Cottage For Sale," "I Surrender Dear," "Everything I Have Is Yours," "Blue Moon," "Caravan," "Body And Soul," "Skylark," "You Don't Know What Love Is," "My Foolish Heart," "I Apologize," "Wildest Gal In Town," and other hit records he wrote or recorded firmly established Mr. "B" as he became known as one of the world's leading vocalists. His popularity also brought about a cross over situation and Billy Eckstine became an early day pop artist whose recordings got played on radio stations everywhere.

He was also a great golfer and played a major role in Charlie Sifford's early career.

The talk of sisters all over the nation centers on "An Expo For Today's Black Women," taking place in Chicago April 16th and 17th, sponsored by WVAZ (V-103) Radio, Soft Sheen Products and WMAQ-TV Station.

This exciting 2-day confab for today's Black Woman is attracting a number of outstanding African American women to serve as panelists/speakers including Senator Carol Mosley Braun, law Professor Anita Hill, Representative Maxine Waters of California, Alderwomen Dorothy Tillman and Toni Predkinkle, authors Maya Angelou, Gloria Naylor, Terry McMillian, and Valerie B. Shaw introducing her talked about new book "Himpressions: A Black-womans Guide To Pampering A Blackman." There will also be a great line up of head line entertainers (both male and female), to provide entertainment over the two day event.

#### "MUSICALLY SPEAKING..."

The release date for Millie Jackson's cast album from her musical stage play "Young Man, Older Woman," has been set for March 22nd. Ichiban Records will also be releasing a single from the album. The single will be Millie's dynamic version of "I Wish It Would Rain Down," the same tune she brings the house down with, when she performs it 'live' on stage during the play!! The flip side of the single will really be a Millie Jackson musical surprise, so make sure you get yours at your favorite record store.

Meanwhile, Millie will be playing two concert dates in Texas in Houston and Fort Worth, March 26th and 27th, followed by a playdate at Smokey's in San Diego, before she joins B.B. King and Bobby Bland for a series of playdates as follows: April 3rd-Anaheim Celebrity Theatre, April 4th-Universal Amphitheatre, April 5th Circle Star Theatre, San Jose, California. Following the California playdates, Millie, B.B. and Bobby will play Merryville Circle Theatre in Indiana-April 9th and 10th and the Front Row Theatre in Cleveland on April 11th, before playing the Apollo in New York-April 16th, Vally Forge-April 17th, and Westbury Theatre April 18th. Come the month of June Millie and her crew will be heading for Europe.

Sidney Miller will be taking his Annual Black Radio Exclusive Radio and Record Industry Confab to the Nation's Capitol this May, which will be quite a change up from his usual Confab site in New Orleans.

This years SoulTrain Awards

## SENTINEL-VOICE TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1.) HIP HOP HOORAY - Naughty By Nature
- 2.) NUTHIN' BUT A G THANG - Dr. Dre
- 3.) REBIRTH OF SLICK - Dignable Planets
- 4.) MR. WENDAL - Arrested Development
- 5.) GET AWAY - Bobby Brown
- 6.) DON'T WALK AWAY - Jade
- 7.) IT WAS A GOOD DAY - Ice Cube
- 8.) FREAK ME - Silk
- 9.) I'M EVERY WOMAN - Whitney Houston
- 10.) "7" - Prince and the N.P.G.

**STILL #1:** Hip Hop Hooray

**PICK HIT OF THE WEEK**

- Freak Me

**FURTHERMORE:** Naughty By Nature holds on to the #1 position while Dr. Dre puts the pressure on, moving up to #2; Don't look for many changes in the T'10 in weeks to come, as many of the songs are moving up instead of down; The only song that seems to be on the way out is 7 by Prince and the N.P.G.

**TOP JAZZ CATS FROM THE CAT HIMSELF:** 1. Norman Brown - Just Between Us 2. Rastine - Afrodisiac 3. Larry Carlton - Kid Gloves 4. Everette Harp - Everette Harp 5. Brecker Bros. - Return Of... 6. Mr. Fingers - Introduction 7. Boney James - Trust 8. Walter Beasley - Intimacy 9. Ramsey Lewis - Ivory Pyramid 10. Yellowjackets - Live Wires.

P-2-THE:E-A-C-E

WW

Top 10 compiled by:  
DJ Willie-Will



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## ANHEUSER-BUSCH JOINS BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO ELLA FITZGERALD



Popular singing duo Nick Ashford and Valerie Simpson are shown with Victor M. Julien (right), director of corporate affairs at Anheuser-Busch Companies, at the 75th birthday tribute to famed jazz vocalist, Ella Fitzgerald. Anheuser-Busch was a benefactor at the tripartite celebration, which included a reception at the Schomburg Center, performances at Carnegie Hall, and dancing at Roseland. Ashford and Simpson were among a list of notables who performed at the gala, which honored Fitzgerald of her many contributions to jazz.