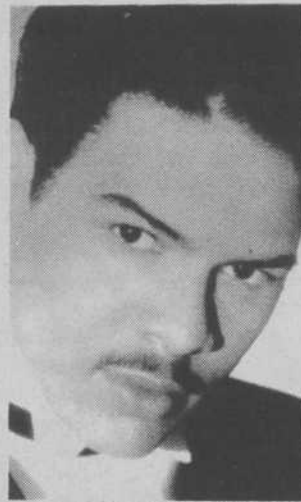


# CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS TO PERFORM SPECIAL MOTHERS' DAY PERFORMANCE AT BEST IN THE WEST TALENT CONTEST

Los Angeles—MCA/Uptown recording artist Christopher Williams will perform as a special guest at the Budweiser Best In The West Talent Contest, one of Hollywood's hottest talent show-



**CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS**

cases. Also performing will be East-West recording artist Yo Yo and former Motown singing sensation Syretta Wright.

Co-hosted by Dawn Lewis, from ABC television's "Hangin' With Mr. Cooper," and radio personality Greg Mack, the event is set to take place on Sunday, May 9, at the Variety Arts Center, located at 940 South Figueroa Street. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the show begins at 7:45 p.m. with a performance by the jazz band Zole Suede. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. For ticket information, call (213) 960-5572.

Presented by J.J. Howard Productions, the Budweiser Best In The West is in its second year and showcases a wide variety of

# POET'S CORNER

## How Long?

By Natalie D. Lambert, Sista' Girlfriend, Inc.

NOT LONG!! they screamed  
 HOW LONG!! they marched for peace  
 NOT LONG!! they sighed  
 The Civil Rights Laws were passed  
 to pacify them —  
 a few reaped some rewards.  
 The next generation  
 sat it out — happy with the progress —  
 Office job — suit and tie — out-of-town vacation  
 Success — BUPIES.....  
 Laid-off — tension — unemployment  
 frustration mounting  
 They tricked us, some frowned  
 drugs took over the neighborhood  
 mothers afraid to send children to school  
 Old men said the young ones  
 done gone crazy —forget they were  
 young once— dreams placed somewhere  
 up on a shelf — reaching for it still— some  
 beaten down by the struggle  
 some gave up — died wanting justice/equality  
 One stood and screamed —  
**WHEN!!!!?**  
 the crowd responded  
**NOW!!!**  
 If a journey of a thousand miles  
 starts with one step —  
 we protested and marched,  
 the soles of our shoes are worn out —  
 we should be there — **NOW!!!**

## Street People

By Natalie D. Lambert, Sista' Girlfriend, Inc.

Now  
 he's just a bum—  
 you know  
 it's kind of sad,  
 When you think  
 about the life  
 that he could have  
 Had.  
 He must have put  
 the good aside —  
 Burned  
 his brain  
 Swallowed  
 his Pride.  
 Now  
 he's left  
 to roam  
 the streets  
 Searching in the garbage  
 for food to eat.  
 Heaven  
 only knows  
 that he  
 wouldn't hurt a soul,  
 He scares you  
 'cause he's hungry  
 spent the night  
 out in the cold.  
 There was a time  
 he couldn't sit  
 for a minute  
 at a time,  
 Now we see only  
 opportunities  
 that flew  
 right on passed by him.  
 Young man, young woman,  
 be wary  
 Youth flees  
 with flashing speed  
 Opportunities  
 last not forever  
 Grab them now  
 while they are seeds  
 Street people  
 have no place — no one  
 hungry and cold  
 like a robber's gun.  
 Let's teach  
 our children  
 to have  
 some pride  
 fight the obstacles  
 of life,  
 So they will — have the  
**WILL to SURVIVE!!**

# AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY RAY CHARLES

By Gwen Walker

Ray Charles was born September 23, 1930 in Albany, Georgia.

When he was seven he became blind from glaucoma. He was sent to study piano and clarinet at the Deaf and Blind School in Florida. By the time he was sixteen he was earning his living playing in various bands in and around Florida.



**GWEN WALKER**

In 1948, he moved to Seattle, where his next door neighbor was Quincy Jones, and formed The Maxim Trio with guitarist G.D. McGhee and bassist, Milton Gerred. In 1949, they signed with Downbeat Records, who released his published composition, *Confession Blues*; the same year he changed his name from Raymond Charles Robinson to Ray Charles.

In 1952, Atlantic bought out his contract from Downbeat Records, later known as Swingtime Records, for \$2,500.

Overnight his repertoire changed from jazz to a harder R&B sound.

His first hit single was *It should have been me* and went to #7 in the R&B charts.

In 1957, his LP was *Ray Charles* and his first major hit was *Swanee River Rockin'*.

He has continued to bless us with beautiful music over the years.

Read more at the West Las Vegas Library, Native Son Book Store and Read the Book Book Store.



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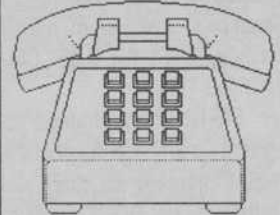
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