

POET'S CORNER

We Are Free

BY NATALIE D. LAMBERT, SISTA GIRLFRIEND, INC.

Brotha — what you doing drinking yourself silly everyday — not able to stand up on your own two feet— yet ready to fight anybody you meet — talking 'bout it's the white man's fault — Don't ya know — We's Free!!!

Sista — what you doing hanging out at the dope house — spending yo' foodstamps — selling yourself — leaving yo' babies on somebody else — Don't ya know — We's Free!!!

Neighbor — what you doing turning yo' head to crime — having more respect for the gangster and dope man than the preacher and the teacher — letting the children run wild — knowing babies with child — Don't ya know — We's Free!!!

No more shackles, no more chains why wear them on your brain? We are Free!!! We have to learn to THINK and ACT like free people.....

We's Free — We's free — FREE — EEEEE — EEEEE!!!! Let's get rid of the SLAVE mentality!!!!!!

KIMBERLY

(Continued from Page 13) KIMBERLY'S ENTERTAINMENT NEWS QUIZ WHIZ CELEBRITY BOX. MATCH THE CELEBRITY NAME WHERE YOU THINK THEY FIT. • DARRELL BELL (WHO PLAYS RON ON A DIFFERENT WORLD)

- FRIDAY NIGHT VIDEO
- A DIFFERENT WORLD
- NEW YORK SECURITY FIRM
- BUST IT RECORD COMPANY
- HAMMER
- A COURT
- EVANDER HOLYFIELD
- MARIAH CAREY
- TOMMY MOTTOLA

- SONY RECORDS
- CO-CO, LEAD WITH SISTER'S WITH VOICES
- SHAI RECORDING
- GARFIELD (MEMBER OF SHAI RECORDING GROUP)
- SET TO RUN PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM
- COLUMBIA RECORDS
- ESSENCE AWARDS
- LINDA HAYNES, MOTOWN EXECUTIVE
- MOTOWN RECORDS
- EAST WEST RECORDS
- JEANIE McADAMS, BILLBOARD MAGAZINE'S USE TO BE WRITER
- BILLBOARD MAGAZINE

Little Brothers Little Sisters

BY: JERRY M. NEAL

Daddy and Mama begot me first. I was here,...but you were near. Inside you grew month after month, I asked mama "can I touch'um when they kick hum mama hum?!" And NOW as I think.... The balls you kicked, my prayers for God to help when you got sick.

You made me mad even sad and sometimes when mama or papa whipped you... it made me glad. Do you remember when we both got whippings, and afterwards looked in each others eyes; tears falling.... laughing it away and would say

"Ahhh it didn't hurt, it wasn't nothing, then OFF TO PLAY yahhh!

Cops and robbers, cowboys and super stars, a doctor in the house. And when the fights got out of hand I was your right-arm-man.

Your pain I suffered sometimes your tears I shed Little Brothers... Little Sisters I'll Love you 'til I'm dead.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY FLORENCE PRICE (FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN COMPOSER)

By Gwen Walker

Florence Price was born Florence Beatrice Smith on April 9, 1888 in LittleRock Arkansas.

As a young girl, Florence dreamed of becoming a medical doctor, but she thought black girls didn't stand a chance. So she decided to become a composer. It didn't seem to bother her that women had even less opportunity in this profession. Florence became the first Black Woman and the second black person to compose a symphony that was performed by a major orchestra.

Her father was Dr. James H. Smith, the first black dentist to have an office on Main Street in LittleRock. He was also a painter, a politician, a novelist, and inventor, who drew royalties for his inventions.

Florence's mother, Florence Irene Gulliver Smith was of both black and white ancestry, and later after she and her husband divorced. She moved with her white relatives and passed for "white." She burned the picture of her and her husband after his death so the records of her life with him would be forgotten. Florence studied composition with American composers George Chadwick and Frederick Converse, well known composers of the time. Florence became a nationalistic composer applying elements of African-American music in almost all of her works.

At age fourteen Florence had graduated Valedictorian in 1903 and after 3 years of study at the New England Conservatory she graduated in 1906 at age eighteen with a diploma in organ performance and a teaching certificate in piano.

Florence married a young lawyer, Thomas J. Price. Price had been a lawyer at the Scipio Africanus Jones Law firm. In 1919 Jones and the other lawyers in his firm began a four-year court battle known as the Elaine Race Riot case. They defended



FLORENCE PRICE

some black men who had been involved in the riot and faced possible death sentences.

Florence continued to compose songs. Some of her most famous songs are "My Soul's Been Anchored In The Lord" and "Songs To A Dark Virgin," a musical setting of a poem with the same title written by Langston Hughes.

Read more at the West Las Vegas Library.

NOTE: Mrs. Louis Jordan, please contact me at the Sentinel Voice.

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