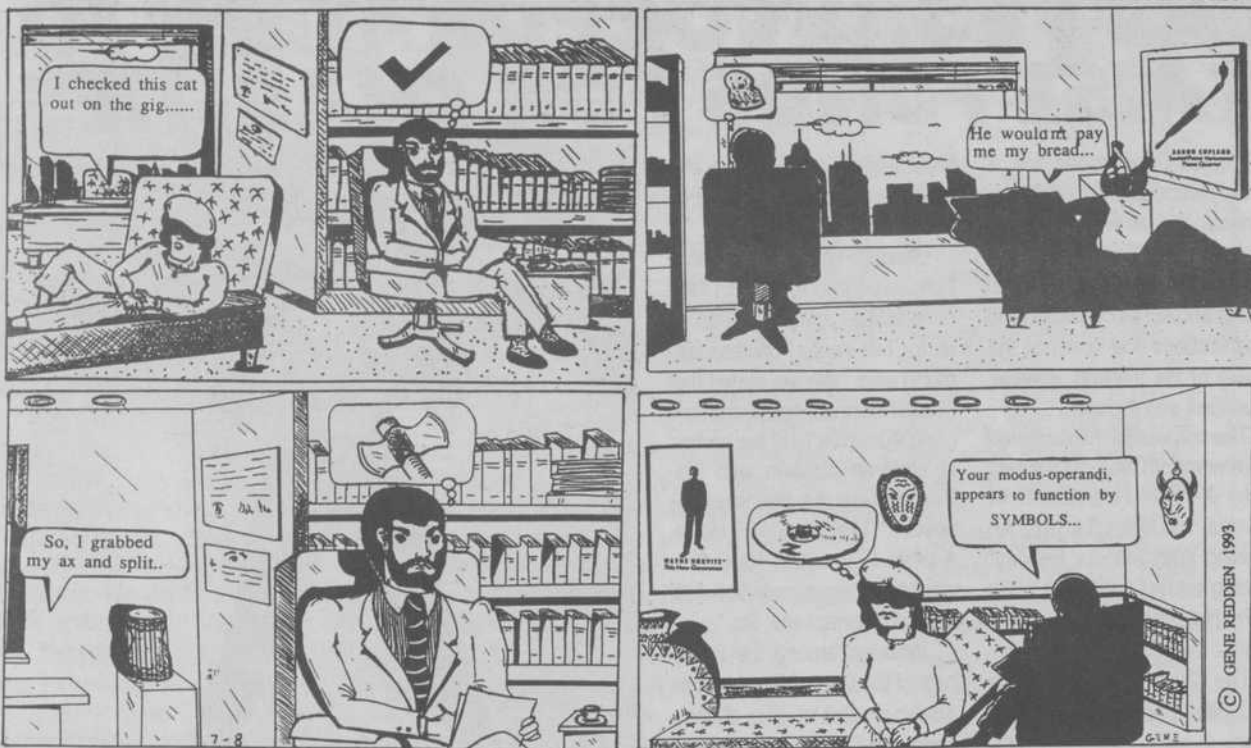


SIR MILES

BY GENE REDDEN



## PAGEANT

(Continued from Page 13)  
American girls. The pageant choreographer, (soap viewers may recognize her as Deena from "All My Children") instituted the competition as an educational vehicle for young African

parents. Ruffin is a pageant title holder, winning the Miss Black Teenage pageant. Ruffin believes the experience was instrumental toward leading her to the prestigious Julliard School

of Music where she completed her F.B.A.

"Our Black youth have so little today in the way of real life models and positive experiences. We have to teach our youth to dream, have hope and expectations. Confidence, Awareness and Pride, which is synonymous with the pageant CAP, is our goal for the young ladies. The little Miss African American Pageant is a very special project that will be a memorable experience for the participants for the rest of their lives," explains Ruffin. Next year Ruffin will extend the pageant to the city of New York, and has plans to take it nationwide within the next five years.

The pageant's Board of Directors includes USC professor, Dr. Todd Boyd; director, Kevin Hooks; Sr. V.P. Motown Records, Michael Mitchell; entertainer, Freddie Jackson and opera diva, Shirley Verrett, to name a few. The event is supported by A&M Records, Motown Records, Atlantic Records, Warner Bros. Records, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Stone Jones Productions and the Los Angeles Lakers.

For further information regarding the pageant and ticket purchase, call (213) 969-1728.

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# POET'S CORNER

## Back To My R & B Roots

(A TRIBUTE TO BLACK MUSIC MONTH)

By Derick Wickliffe, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Beneath the dust and cobwebs,  
Several boxes of history are buried in storage -  
On albums and 8-track tapes.  
As thousands listened to the Father of R&B ask Caldonia -  
"What makes her big head so hard",  
Millions more were on the good foot and left mesmerized,  
From the soul-burning sounds of the Famous Flames,  
And Soul Brother No. 1's trademark stage renditions  
with his golden cape.  
And as the sounds of my stereo,  
Took me back to my R&B roots,  
It wasn't a "miracle" for Smokey Robinson,  
When Hitsville, U.S.A. produced the the most successful  
girl group and developed the Motown Sound.  
And after Joe Turner has "shaked", "rattled", and "rolled",  
The "tenderness" of Otis Redding,  
Allowed Black Moses to "stand a Q..."  
While Nina Simone's "Mississippi Goddam" produced  
a shock wave of frowns -  
The call-and-response to the Isley Brothers "Shout",  
Gave Allen Freed more clout to Crossover this  
music in hot demand.  
And even though legends like Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup  
and Dinah Washington have come and gone,  
Lady Soul gained "respect" as a "natural woman",  
While the architect of Rock 'n' Roll and "Long  
Tall Sally" music still lives on.

## The House of Treachery

By Keith A. Brantley

Treachery is a house in flames  
and despite all the casting of blame,  
the fact is  
that my house is burning.  
Treachery goes around  
and the world keeps turning.  
Treachery comes around  
and perhaps you are learning  
that you should have helped  
when I was your neighbor  
for now that it's you  
in need of a favor;  
Taste the burn  
of smoked vengeance' flavor.  
Know thy neighbor  
with deaf ears.  
Can't hear your cries,  
Can't see your tears.  
Flames as a result of all the years  
of you ignorant treachery.



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