

ENTERTAINMENT

Ebony Etchings, etc.

"Top of the Etchings..."

It seems like an eternity since I wrote my last column. Reason being quite a few things that took place in my personal life since then put cranking out a weekly column on the back burner until now.

First and foremost, my oldest sister Ruth Hall lost her battle with cancer and departed this life in Philadelphia on Thursday, October 12, 1995 at 3:00 a.m. In spite of our love, our prayers, our concerns and hopes for a total recovery following her second cancer operation, God, in his infinite wisdom, decided she shouldn't suffer any more and called her home to be with him. We miss her greatly, but we take heart in the fact she was a Christian, loved her God, and knew without question that God also loved her.

In departing this life she leaves behind her daughter Toni Lanier, her son Barry Lanier, and three grandchildren, Toni's daughter Veronica and Barry's two offspring Barry, Jr., and Ashley; a younger sister Naomi Hough, and her baby brother yours truly, plus other family members and friends. In preceeding the immediate family members, our dear old sister Ruth has gone on to heaven to join our mother and father, her late husband and other family members and friends that preceeded her.

Following my week in Philadelphia burying Ruth and helping her family settle the family business, I returned to Los Angeles, and two days later I was admitted to Northridge

Hospital with my heart acting up.

After a week of tests it was decided that a pace maker was the answer to correcting some of the heart problems I've been having rather frequently over the past couple of years. So yours truly has joined the rank and file of the many who now function on a day-to-day basis with a pace maker.

"Kirk Franklin & Family starring in David E. Talbert's new play..."

The genius of youthful playwright and producer David E. Talbert never ceases to amaze me! And his consistency in coming up with winning back-to-back productions puts him in a class by himself.

His newest stage production that starts its national tour in Dallas, Texas, January 9, 1996 is titled "He Say...She Say...But What Did God say?"

Kirk Franklin and the Family will head up the all-star cast of this play that has all the ingredients necessary to make it the hottest gospel play hitting the road in '96. The principal cast members are also a combination of winners who have been excellently cast for the roles they'll be playing in the new David E. Talbert production.

BernNadette Stanis from "Good Times," Ernest Thomas from "What's Happening" and "What's Happening Now" plus his recent co-starring role in Spike Lee's "Malcolm X," internationally acclaimed hit recording artist, actress and entertainer Cheryl "Pepsi" Riley, suave, smooth and talented Cordell Moore who's currently

winding his two year starring role in David's current hit play "What Goes Around...Comes Around," and quite a few others.

In addition to a modern day inner-city setting pitting the forces of good (the minister and the congregation of True Vine Full Gospel Church) against the forces of evil (Mr. Satan and his cohorts from the Pink Cadillac Club located in the same block as the church), the play brings audiences face-to-face with mirrored images of this life that everyone from the inner-city communities of the world has experienced in some way.

Add to this the plots and plans both parties hatch up and attempt to exercise in trying to gain control of the block, their errors that backfire and provide hilarious moments in the plot, the conning and conniving amongst members of the congregation, plus loads of powerful singing from Kirk Franklin and the Family, Cheryl "Pepsi" Riley and other members of the cast and you've got a great idea why this new play is earmarked to be the hottest play on the road in the coming year.

The national tour of "He Say...She Say...But What Did God Say?" will be under the guidance and direction of Al Wash and ALW Entertainment Company & Associates, and will be coming your way soon.

"Tinseltown Topics..."

According to inside sources the Martin Lawrence produced and directed film "There's a Thin Line Between Love and Hate" should be hitting theatres around Christmas. Hopefully, the film will show Bobby Brown in a better light than the news has been picturing him here of late.

The word is that Reynaldo Rey's play "Hollywood Post

Office" is not doing the kind of business folks thought it would do, and quite a few of the playdates have already been

canceled.

Seems like Shelly Garrett's newest play "Laundromat" is gonna' be another success story

like "Beauty Shop" was, when it's all said and done...and that's Hollywood this time!

Until the next time, Lanier.

Entertainment Briefs

College Presents Holiday Festival of Music and Dance

A Holiday Festival of Music and Dance will be presented at the Community College of Southern Nevada's Cheyenne Campus in two performances December 8 at 7:30 p.m. and December 9 at 2:00 p.m.

Vocal music director Mark Wherry will conduct the Concert Choir and College Singers.

It will be staged in the Performing Art Center's Little Theatre, 3200 E. Cheyenne Avenue, one mile east of the I-15 freeway. General admission is \$5; students and seniors \$3.

★★★

UNLV Performing Arts Center Presents Free Christmas Concert

The Performing Arts Center of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas will present a free Christmas musical concert featuring the Las Vegas Marimba Quartet to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall. The holiday performance is being presented as the center's gift to the entire community.

The festive concert will be at 8:00 p.m. Friday, December 8, 1995, in Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall.

For further information, please call Barbara Hall, Manager of Public Relations, UNLV Performing Arts Center, at 702-895-4039.

★★★

The Santa Fe Hotel & Casino Celebrates the Holidays With Music

The sounds of holiday tradition will ring through the Santa Fe Hotel & Casino, 4949 N. Rancho, beginning December 6th and continuing through Christmas Eve. Carolers, choruses, bands and even Mr. and Mrs. Claus will bring the holidays to life for you and your family.

Sing along with featured performers including the

Lamplight Carolers, the Elites, Bobby Jean & Friends, Silvertones, Cimarron Memorial High School Concert Choir, Eldorado High School Madrigal Singers, Bridger Middle School Chorus & Jazz Band, Rancho High School Jazz Band, Meadows Middle School Concert Band, Valley High School Concert Choir, and Green Valley High School Madrigal Singers.

For more information call 702-658-4900.

★★★

UNLV Department of Music Presents a Winter Choral Celebration

Four choirs from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas will perform a variety of winter choral music at 8 p.m. on Dec. 2 in Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall on the University campus.

Sponsored by the UNLV Department of Music, the concert will feature selections from the University Singers, Chamber Chorale and Varsity Men's Glee Club, directed by David B. Weiller, and The Women's Chorus, directed by Jocelyn K. Jensen.

Tickets for the performance are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students, seniors and military, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Center Box Office Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please call the box office at 895-3801 (TDD) 895-4717.

★★★

UNLV Faculty Trio Presents Concert December 7

Three of the most outstanding music faculty members of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas will team up at 8 p.m. December 7, 1995, to present a concert called "America" at the Black Box Theatre on campus.

The trio includes Richard Soule, flute; Stephan Caplan,

Oboe; and Carol Stivers, piano.

General admission is only \$8 for the Chamber Music Southwest concert that will feature "Duo for flute and piano" by Aaron Copland and "Three Fantasies" by William Bergsma. The program will also include "Sonta Pastorale for piano and oboe" by David Stanley Smith and "Miniatures for Flute, oboe and piano" by William Grant Still.

For further information, please contact Barbara Hall at 702-895-4039.

★★★

Three Jazz Combos Perform at CCSN December 3

No less than three jazz combos will perform in a free concert at the Community College of Southern Nevada on Sunday, December 3, at 3 p.m. in the Little Theatre on the Cheyenne Campus.

Headlined by the renowned CCSN faculty jazz Combo led by pianist and Fine Arts Department chair Dr. Tom Ferguson, the trio of six-piece groups will play the music of Clifford Brown, Oscar Hammerstein, Jules Styne and others.

Two of the groups are composed of professional musicians, amateurs and students who rehearse the art of jazz improvisation in jazz combo classes at the college.

★★★

CCSN Holds Open Auditions For "No, No, Nanette"

Open auditions for the Broadway musical *No, No, Nanette* will be held Saturday, December 2, at 2 p.m. at the Community College of Southern Nevada's Cheyenne Campus Little Theatre, Room 1201.

Men and women actors 20 years and older are being sought. Those trying out for parts should bring current resumes, be prepared to sing a short musical selection of one or two minutes and be dressed for moving and dancing. Tap experience is a plus. A pianist will be provided.

The Cheyenne Campus is located at 3200 E. Cheyenne Avenue. For more information, call 651-4052.

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