

ENTERTAINMENT

*Ebony Etchings, etc.*

**"BLACK OWNED BUSINESS SCORE SIGNIFICANT GAINS....."**

In a recent Associated Press report from Washington, D.C., it was revealed that the number of African-American-owned businesses had increased sharply, topping 620,000 in 1992, though most are small service and retail firms with receipts under \$10,000 a year.

African-American-owned businesses increased 46 percent, from 424,165 in 1987 to 620,192 in 1992, according to figures from the Census Bureau. That was well ahead of the 26 percent increase in all businesses in the country.

At the same time, receipts by these companies jumped 63 percent, from \$19.8 billion to \$32.2 billion. These figures represent a 67 percent increase in receipts for all businesses in the nation.

According to Joan Parrott-Fonseca, Director of the Commerce Department's Minority Business Development Agency, "A strong minority business community benefits America as a whole. Simply put, our nation's diversity will prove to be our meal ticket in the 21st century.

Agency analysts suggested that the strong growth in the number of businesses was fueled by African-Americans who retired at relatively younger ages and launched their own businesses.

The results produced a large number of small companies. The report also noted that 94 percent of African-American-owned firms are individual proprietorships.

Some 56 percent of African-American-owned firms had receipts of under \$10,000 according to the report, while 3,000 had receipts of \$1-million or more. Overall, black-owned firms accounted for 3.6 percent of all business in the United States in 1992 but just one percent of sales and receipts.

California had the most African-American-owned businesses, 68,968 in 1992 making up 31 percent of business in the state.

**"GOSPEL SENSATION KIRK FRANKLIN DEBUTS"**

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**ACTING CAREER....."**

GospoCentric Records recording star Kirk Franklin who's gone where no other gospel recording act has ever gone, crossed over to America's music mainstream, and become the leading force in the new gospel music explosion will launch his acting career playing the starring role in David E. Talbert's newest theatre piece "He Says...She Says...But What Does God Say?"

He'll be joined by his renown group The Family and an all-star principal cast comprised of BernNadette Stanis from "Good Times," Ernest Thomas from "What's Happening" and hit recording artist Cheryl "Pepsi" Riley plus a supporting cast comprised of talented actors and actresses from previous 'hit' plays that toured the country. This new music laden, thought provoking and laugh producing play kicks off in Dallas, Texas, January 9th, before beginning its national tour under the guidance of ALW Entertainment Company.

**"TINSELTOWN TOPICS..."**

The hottest ticket selling in Tinseltown for entertainment is the ticket folks are buying up in a hurry for J. Anthony Brown's "New Years Eve Comedy Jam" at the Ivar Theatre on Sunday evening, December 31st. The show will certainly help you bring the 'new year' in with loads of laughter, so don't miss it!

Tinseltown's celebrity clan spearheaded by Greg Alan Williams from "Baywatch" and Larry Carrol, CBS Newsman, are all set to help Lou Rawls push the upcoming UNCF Telethon over the top with this year's fundraising efforts. Roger E. Mosley in particular is urging all his friends and followers to tune in to KCAL-TV during the local airing of the telethon on January 6th, and support his efforts to personally raise lotts'a' money for this cause.

Speaking of Roger, he just completed taping an episode of "In The House" with Debbie Allen and LL Cool J.

The news of actress Madge Sinclair passing last week from

Leukemia sure reflected a sad note throughout the television and film industry.

The recent appearance of Roger E. Mosley and Larry Manetti on the Conan O'Brian Show in Nu Yawk talking about the popular "Magnum P.I." series that's no longer in production, but still one of the more popular shows now in syndication, has folks wondering whether there's a renewed interest in putting the show back on the air. The other concern is if the appearance and conversations with the former co-stars of the show was a way to test the air with the public??

After two years of touring with her record breaking hilarious stage play "Young Man, Older Woman," Millie Jackson has finally put the 'hit' stage production to rest. By no means does not mean that Millie "J" won't be touring and performing anymore!! As a matter of fact, she's currently rehearsing for her one woman show "Taking Care of Bitchness" (TCB) that will be hitting the road January 12th of '96. The new show will be based on old and new songs recorded by the veteran performer/entertainer. It will also feature other popular recording artists, entertainers and comedians making special guest appearances, an enlarged orchestra and a fantastic stage set.

Then there's the Pan African Film Festival that will be coming up at Magic Johnson's Theatre complex early in the new year.



MELBA MOORE

Melba Moore is hot again. She's currently into rehearsals for her lead role in Les Miserable on Broadway beginning the 1st of the New Year. She's also being besieged with offers for special performances with symphony orchestras in various major

cities.

"Don't Be A Menace In South Central" is the title of Keenan Ivory Wayans new film currently in production. The finished production will feature gospel singing sensation Kirk Franklin and The Family on the soundtrack.

**"RADIO ACTIVE JAMZ SESSION COMING TO LOS ANGELES....."**

Jerry Boulding, a recognized radio veteran and the Vice President of the Urban Division of HITS Magazine, one of the music industry's leading trade publications, has announced the birth of the publications Radio Active JAMZ Session, a radio intensive Super-Conference, slated to take place in Los Angeles, California, January 24th - 28th, 1996. The conference, which will focus on the state of Urban Radio will be held at the Los Angeles International Airport Doubletree Hotel.

The Radio Active JAMZ Session will differ from most radio conferences in that it is planned by broadcasters for broadcasters. Critical issues effecting radio, such as programming and management will be focal issues during the four day conference.

"Our theme for the first annual

Radio Active JAMZ Session is "The Future Takes Flight", explains Boulding. "We believe that preparation and training are the keys to radio opportunities in the 90's. Our industries are changing rapidly and the world we face in the next few years will be vastly different. For that reason we have assembled the most focused training sessions ever offered for Urban Radio."

The various seminar series will include a look at the new "electronic arbitron," updating research methods, new technologies and a special "War College" seminar. Panels will explore issues of acquisitions, duopolies and mergers. Several industry heavyweights are expected to attend. ... and that's Hollywood this time!! Until the next time, Lanier.

**ANDT Spring Registration Starts**

Registration for the Academy of Nevada Dance Theatre will begin on January 2, 1996 with children and adult classes, including ballet, pas de deux, jazz and tap. The 1996 Spring Session runs from January 8th to May 25, 1996. Prices for the sessions depend on the number of classes taken per week, and a 5% discount is given for each 20-week tuition paid.

The academy is the official school of Nevada Dance Theatre, the non-profit, professional ballet company founded by Vassili Sulich (Artistic Director) that is going into its 24th season. The programs at NDT Academy are highly focused, in depth classes that will provide children and adults with training by experienced instructors in an atmosphere that will both encourage and structure their progress.

Beginning students can take a minimum of two classes per week, and more advanced dancers can take up to 8 per week. Placement auditioning is required for levels II and above, and fees for the classes vary depending on the number of classes taken.

Outstanding students will have performance opportunities with NDT Youth Company. For more information on the Spring Class Registration, call the Academy of Nevada Dance Theatre at 898-6306.



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