



Lil' Kim's popularity is opening a new genre for hard core female rappers but some critics say her music is too vulgar.

IN HER OWN WORDS

Tucker: "I want to meet with Lil' Kim"

By C. Delores Tucker
Special to Sentinel-Voice

I want to meet Lil' Kim. I want to sit and talk with her. I want to have a woman to girl, or woman to woman exchange with her. I want it to be down to earth, give and take, an exchange of heart felt views that only women can really affect.

I want to sit, unhurried, in a private place where the sounds of the outside world are muted, and the silences in a comfortable room will engulf us. I want to patiently listen and be listened to.

I want her to understand that I love her and want only the best for her. For if she doesn't really understand this, feel it in the very marrow of her bones, she will not hear me, or bear with me very long.



TUCKER

I want her to know that my long, protracted and uncompromising fight against Time-Warner and the giants of the entertainment industry for producing and distributing worldwide the filthy gangsta rap lyrics that demean black women — hold our entire race up to ridicule and shame — and pimp pornography to our children, has never been directed at the artists who are nothing but pawns in this scurrilous game.

My fight and that of my organization, the National Political Congress of Black Women, Inc. (NPCBW), which I founded and of which I am presently chair, has always been directed at the gangstas in the suites — (the entertainment moguls who refuse to accept the artistic offerings of our talented rap artists unless they agree to "get down and dirty,"

pornographic they are, the more demeaning the assaults on our mothers, and other black women, the more racially down putting, and self-inflicting the wounds in these creations, the more eagerly accepted, and readily marketable) they become.

I want Lil' Kim to understand that it is not the gangstas in the street, but the gangstas in the suites, I am after.

I can't emphasize this point enough — that she and other black artists are lucrative pawns in this horrible drug-driven, race-driven, violence-driven, greed-driven business that targets too many of our youthful artists for the prisons or early violent deaths, a.k.a. Tupac Shakur and Biggy Smalls!!

I want to meet Lil' Kim, not to lecture her, not to shame her, nor to demean her. Lord knows she probably gets too much of that already.

No. I want to meet her to hear her dreams, to share them, to help her, if she will permit me, if she can bring herself to trust me, expose the deepest places, the secret places where the festering wounds lay throbbing and untreated, and together maybe we can start a process of healing.

I listen to her songs, the terrible and shameful lyrics that tell me of a deep abiding hurt inside this sensitive young soul, this woman of 20 years. I don't need to be told that she came from an abused home from which she fled in desperate hate and panic at any early age, or that she is a protégé of the late Biggy Smalls, in whose tragically violent footsteps she

(See Lil' Kim, Page 16)

Jazz legend holds fund-raiser

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Jazz legend Joe Williams will perform at the 8th Annual Joe Williams Scholarship Fund-raiser Concert at Community College of Southern Nevada Thursday, June 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Nicholas Horn on CCSN's Cheyenne campus.

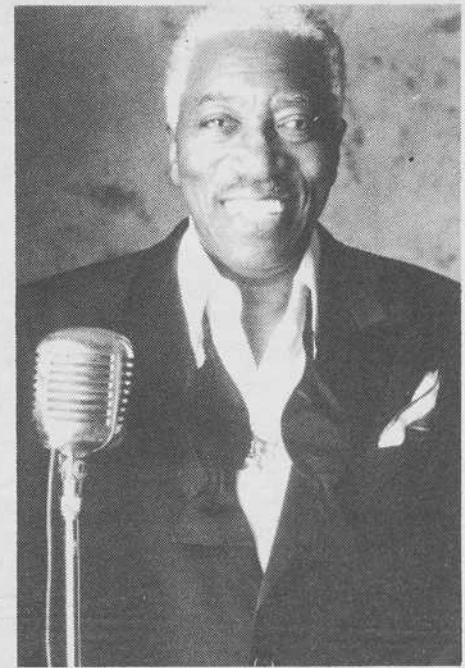
Williams will be accompanied by the 35-piece CCSN Studio Orchestra conducted by Johnny Pate. General admission is \$25.

Rising to prominence as a vocalist with the Count Basie Orchestra 46 years ago, Williams has become an internationally decorated star. Though better known as a blues singer — his song "Ev'ry Day" was placed in the Recording Industry Hall of Fame in 1993 — many know Williams as a balladeer — "A Man Ain't Suppose to Cry." A swinging style belies all of Williams' music.

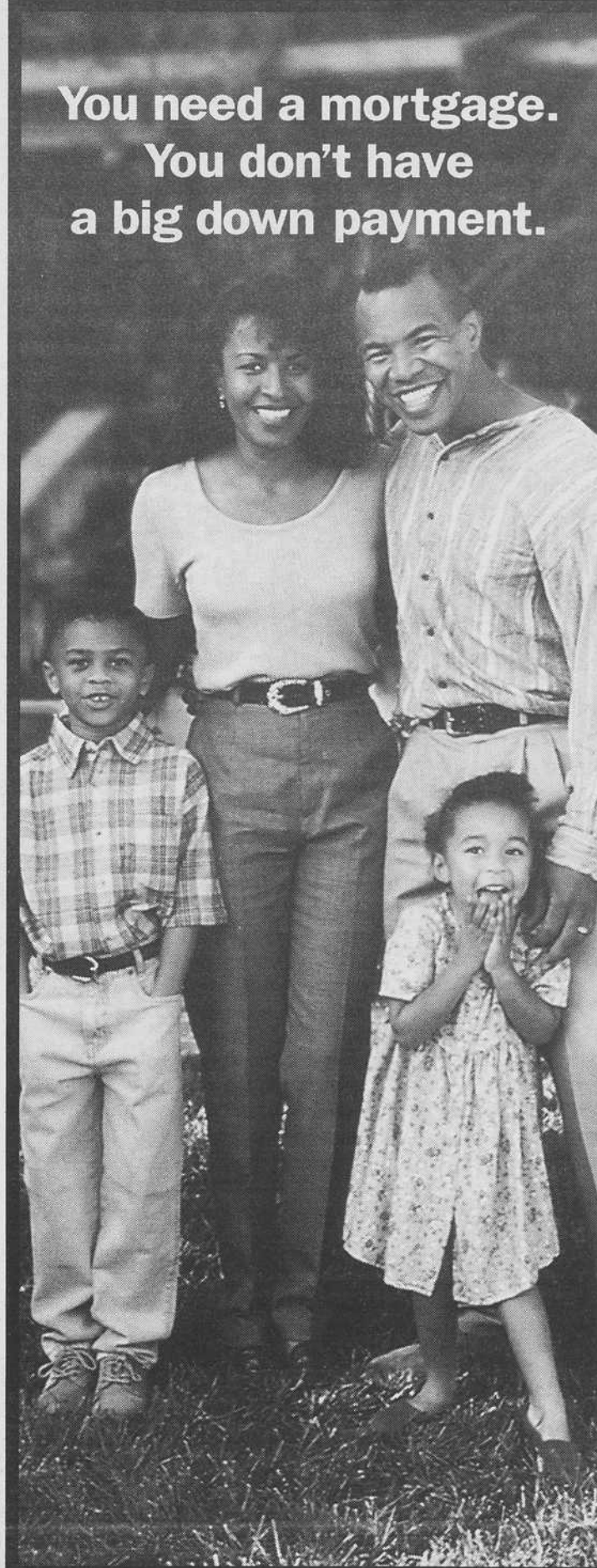
Williams is a veteran entertainer with vast talent. He has been on television and in commercials, has won countless awards, earned honorary doctoral degrees in music, received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and has appeared with symphony orchestras.

His current release, *Feel the Spirit*, fulfilled his dream of recording a spiritual album. "I wanted to give thanks for the privilege and ability to sing for a living," said Williams, who has recorded more than 30 albums.

In 1988, CCSN established the Joe Williams Music Scholarship Fund. Proceeds from the concert benefit student musicians at the college.



JOE WILLIAMS



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