

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS



Artist signing

California native Charles Bibbs, one of the nation's most prolific and popular artists, will sign some of his work 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday at the Trinity Black Art Gallery, 2657 Las Vegas Blvd. South.

MOTOWN BOOTS HARRELL, REPLACEMENT UNNAMED

Less than two years after Motown hired him to lead the Detroit-based music giant, the company fired Andre Harrell. Harrell, 37, raised the ire of his bosses at Polygram soon after his hiring in 1995.

Industry executives say Harrell - who was signed to a reported five-year \$30 million contract - lavished money unnecessarily, including 200,000 on full color ads touting his new position with the company. Motown was left out of the success earned by other record companies such as Bad Boy Entertainment and Death Row. During Harrell's tenure, Motown did not sign any new successful acts.

PARENTS OF SLAIN RAPPER FIGHT FOR SHARE OF ESTATE

The parents of slain rapper Tupac Shakur are fighting in a Los Angeles Superior Court over shares of the artist's estate. William Garland told Superior Court Judge Arnold Gold Monday that he played an active role in Tupac's life. Tupac's mother, Afeni Shakur, claimed Garland participation in Tupac's life was minimal, at best.

Tupac was shot several times in the chest last September in Las Vegas while riding in a black BMW driven by Suge Knight, the now-jailed head of Death Row Records. He died six days later.

VETERAN ACTRESS RECEIVES KUDOS FOR 'HOODLUM'

Actress Cicely Tyson, who gets her 'Hollywood Star' Aug. 17, is getting fantastic advance reviews for her role in "Hoodlum," the MGM/UA gangster film about Nu Yawk's legendary numbers king 'Bumpy Johnson.' The film opens Aug. 27 and stars Laurence Fishburne and Andy Garcia.



TYSON

GRAMMY AWARD WINNER HIGHLIGHTS GOSPELFEST

Andrae Crouch will head an all-star line-up Tuesday, Sept. 30, at the Hollywood Bowl. The event that's billed as a "Gospel Tribute at the Hollywood Bowl," will be a two-hour live program celebrating gospel music, while benefiting the Fred Jordan Missions and the Child Welfare League of America. Some of the most celebrated performers in contemporary and gospel music, along with nine-time Grammy Award winner, Crouch, will perform some of their biggest hits. Crouch, who is enjoying the success of his latest release, "Pray," on Qwest/Warner Bros. Records, will also provide musical direction to the all-star line-up.

Gay writer explores African-American love

Special to Sentinel-Voice

With the release of his fourth novel, "If This World Were Mine," author E. Lynn Harris has established himself as a regular fixture on bestseller lists across the nation.

Harris is a former computer sales representative with IBM and an honors graduate of the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. In 1991, the openly gay writer, who uses gay characters as part of his stories, made a career change that resulted in the best-selling novel, "Invisible Life."

This generated a sequel, "Just As I Am," that was awarded the 1996 Novel of the Year prize by the Blackboard African-American Bestsellers, Inc., was named one of 1996's best reads by the readers of Glamour magazine. His writing has appeared in Essence, American Visions, and the anthologies Brotherman and Go the Way Your Blood Beats. He currently lives in Chicago.

Harris has recently made several public appearances where he has talked about his work, his life and his beliefs. A recent Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice question and answer interview follows.

SV: Who is your audience? Who do you envision them to be?

E. Lynn Harris: This time my audience is anybody...anybody who reads. My audience is definitely African-American, both gay and straight, but this time I hope that anybody who likes a good story will read.

SV: What kind of stories do your books cover: romance novels? Or are they about coming out?

E. Lynn Harris: They are about all the above. If I had to describe it, my stories are about how important family is to us as black people. Our



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

Writer E. Lynn Harris, a former IBM executive has captured a huge following of loyal fans after publishing only four novels. His novels explore the uniqueness of black love.

grandmothers and grandfathers are so important. They really teach us how to love unconditionally. I hate it when I hear the words "family values," because I think that the people using those words use them as a euphemism [for the supposed moral bankruptcy of the black community]. Black people have always had family values.

SV: Your books often have a great deal of spiritual imagery. In "And This Too Shall Pass," Zurich, your main

character, can be analogized to Job, a long-suffering God-fearing man in biblical scriptures. All the characters

go through "testing" so to speak, and emerge from their experiences as different (See Harris, Page 9)

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