

## ENTERTAINMENT

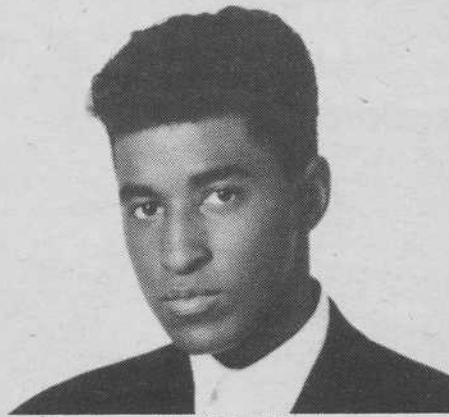
## 'Babyface' named entertainer of the year by NAACP

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

LOS ANGELES — Kweisi Mfume, President and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Charles Whitehead, chairman of the NAACP Image Awards Committee announced during a special press conference that Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds was selected the 29th NAACP Image Awards' Entertainer of the Year.

Hall of Fame Awards will be presented to sultry song stylist Nancy Wilson and the legendary R & B group The Isley Brothers. The President's Award will be presented to Labor Secretary Alexis Herman.

The awards are billed as a star-studded salute to the best in black entertainment. Honorees, presenters and performers have included almost every major African-American celebrity in America. There are 40 competitive categories



BABYFACE

in the fields of motion pictures, television, music and literature, and special awards including the Image Award Hall of Fame and Entertainer of the Year.



NANCY WILSON

The two-hour television special is edited to highlight the three-hour live event. Founded almost 30 years ago during a meeting in renowned entertainer Sammy Davis, Jr.'s home,



ISLEY BROTHERS

the awards honor projects and individuals portraying "positive images of African Americans." The awards will tape February 14, and air Thursday, March 5th.

## System remarks Angelou's novel, sparks protest

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Ninth-graders in the Anne Arundel County school system won't be reading Maya Angelou's autobiographical novel "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings."

Citing its explicit sexual content, school Superintendent Carol Parham zapped the book from the curriculum. Some say the removal has racial overtones.

The 1970 book, which won a National Book Award, is the story of Angelou's childhood in the rural South. It contains descriptions of rape, abuse and sexual anxiety about lesbianism. Angelou overcame those obstacles to become an internationally acclaimed writer, dancer, actress, civil rights activist and educator.

"I really feel it's racially motivated," Gerald Stansbury, president of the NAACP chapter, said Sunday. "I think they should put it back. We read about the white culture all the time and other cultures. But when someone writes about our culture, and that's what Maya has done, that's not OK."

Said teacher Sheila Finlayson, who has used the book in her ninth-grade English class for two years "It teaches a wonderful lesson about overcoming obstacles. The parts that are objectionable are so minor, compared to the whole book."

Some parents disagreed.

"I did not let my son read this book," Sue Crandall said. "I was blown away by really explicit sexual details in the book. All that is, is fodder for the lunchroom, they're not going to get the whole picture, they're not old enough."

"Caged Bird" will remain optional reading for ninth-graders and is included in the 11th-grade curriculum, said school spokeswoman Jane Doyle.

If a man  
can dream  
of peace,  
mankind  
can make it  
a reality.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

1929-1968

REMEMBERED

TOYOTA | everyday