

ENTERTAINMENT

Horne punching way into film industry

Special to Sentinel-Voice

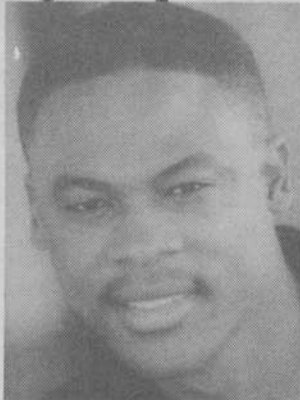
From the boxing ring to the Hollywood square?

Yup. John Horne has made that move.

Horne rose to notoriety as the eloquent mouthpiece and co-manager of former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson, but was axed earlier in the year when Tyson cleaned house, firing his old management and suing promoter Don King for \$100 million.

In March, Horne formed Horne Entertainment, Inc., a Beverly Hills-based production company which plans to produce feature-length films with urban appeal. Its first project is *Unconditional Love*.

The independent romantic



JOHN HORNE

thriller stars Horne in his first lead role in a feature length film. He plays opposite Sheryl Lee Ralph (*Moesha*), Antonio Fargas (*Starsky and Hutch*), Robert Culp (*I Spy*, *Greatest American Hero*) and Adrian Zmed (*Grease 2*).

The movie is about Joe

Kirkman, an investigative reporter who returns to Los Angeles to pursue a career at a local newspaper. Unexpectedly Joe (Horne) falls madly in love with Patrice Summers (Tracey Ross), a beautiful and intelligent woman he meets at a local bookstore. Their romance is interrupted when Joe learns his former colleague and mentor Linda Cray (Ralph) has been murdered.

The adventure leads to the discovery of another murder, that of Patrice's friend. The couple get tangled in a web of murder and Joe must eventually prove his unconditional love to Patrice. The film is set for limited release Oct. 16.

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NBA vets slip by rookies, free agents, 142-140

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INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Michael Finley of the Dallas Mavericks scored 26 points Sunday night to lead a team of NBA veterans to a 142-140 victory over a team of rookie draft picks and free agents in the 13th annual Midsummer Night's Magic game.

The charity basketball game before a crowd of about 14,000 at the Forum was staged by former Los Angeles Lakers star Magic Johnson, who said at

half-time that nearly \$1 million had been raised for the United Negro College Fund.

The 12 previous games raised over \$10 million in scholarship funds for deserving students throughout the country.

Chris Webber of the Sacramento Kings added 21 points and Antoine Walker of the Boston Celtics scored 18 for the winning team, which led 77-71 at half-time.

A dunk by Walker with 40

seconds left gave the veterans a 142-137 lead and, as it turned out, enough points for the win.

Nazr Mohammed, acquired on draft day by the Philadelphia 76ers, and Brian Skinner, drafted by the Los Angeles Clippers, led the rookie team with 18 points each. Felipe Lopez, drafted by San Antonio and traded to Vancouver, added 16, and Toby Bailey, drafted by the Los Angeles Lakers and traded to Phoenix on draft day, scored 14.

Ventriloquists

(Continued from Page 1)

Show with his sidekick "Velvet," ventriloquism was in its heyday.

Though we see less of it now, the art is far from dead. Last week hundreds of "vents" from a rainbow of ages and ethnicities, along with quite a few dummy makers and dealers, came together to celebrate their art.

Included on the roster of Vegas Ventriloquist Convention 98 were performances by vents from Germany, Austria, England, Japan and Mexico as well as the first Native American vent to achieve national stature, Buddy Big Mountain, a fourth-generation performer from a family of Mohawk, Commanche and Apache heritage.

Many vents use their talents to make a difference in society. Pastor Sheila Loosley and her dog puppet "Digger" deliver messages of faith and family values to church groups and hospital patients.

Tazuko Tanimoto began performing at hospitals and nursing homes after noticing how bored hospitalization left her daughter and other sick children.

In appreciation for Heinz Thiel's work with children, a Gambian school has been named after him. Using puppets created by Swedish native Verna Finly, Micheal Schürkamp has educated children about dinosaurs and "The Life of the Sioux."

For their contributions to civic awareness, Bob Geary and his puppet "Brendan O'Smarty" were elected police department partners by San Francisco voters in 1993. Nacho Estrada has received numerous awards for his work on the subject of "Teaching with Humor and Love."

Ventriloquist Duane Echols was in charge of coordinating activities in the dealers' room at

this year's convention. Some of the puppets and dummies for sale in the venue were made by Finly, considered the queen of puppet makers among vents, as Edgar Bergen is recognized as the king of ventriloquism.

Echols says Finly, Bergen, Paul Winchell, Shari Lewis and Jeff Dunham are industry greats.

Though he's been venting since age 7, he never tried to earn money from his performances. With daughters ages 12 and 19, he's considering going professional.

Echols used to practice by doing impersonations while driving. His older daughter would ask him to imitate her favorite Disney characters. He still entertains them when asked.

Chicago lawyer Raymond Myles discovered he needed to lighten up while in law school. First, he played the guitar to relieve the stress. When his father hired a ventriloquist to entertain at a family gathering, he says he found his calling.

Like Echols, Myles credits the great ventriloquists with inspiring him to join vents' associations, buy books from which to study his craft, practice, buy a good dummy and hit the performance circuit.

When his children were young, Myles entertained at their birthday parties. The children often believed the puppets were really talking. His 19-year-old son, now in the Marines, is learning the craft. His 12-year-old daughter handles props for his performances.

Myles developed material for senior citizens. His dummy "Grandpa" injects humor into their problems. One routine deals with incontinence: Grandpa asks for a glass of water, holds it up to the audience (both the hand and the glass are fitted with velcro), and declares, "See, I can

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