

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

BILL COSBY LAMBASTS OFFENSIVE SHOWS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Speaking at a children's television conference, Bill Cosby lashed out at shows that degrade minorities. "And I'm saying this is done on purpose," he said Tuesday. "This stereotyping, it hurts because someone sitting behind a desk said, 'This is what I want black people to look like.'" About 500 people attended "Through the Eyes of Children," which was sponsored by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. Federal Communications Commission Chairman William Kennard said he grew up watching a television world that failed to reflect successful black men, like his architect father, or working women, like his mother, a teacher. "I remember once the Bank of America had a black teller in one of its commercials. My mother was so excited that she ran out and changed the family's bank account," Kennard said.

R&B QUARTET DRU HILL BECOMES TRIO

NEW YORK (AP) — Dru Hill, the popular R&B quartet, is now a trio. James "Woody" Green has left the group to pursue a career in gospel music, the band's publicist, Susan Blond Inc., said this week Green leaves the group as they prepare for a nationwide tour to support their second album, "Enter the Dru," which has sold over 2 million copies. The Baltimore-based group's hits include the songs "Never Make a Promise," and "How Deep is Your Love." The tour begins next month.

ACTOR SMITH TEAMS ON MOVIE

LOS ANGELES — Universal Pictures and Will Smith's Overbrook Entertainment have teamed to produce an untitled teen thriller in the vein of "Fatal Attraction." Trey Callaway, who wrote "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer," is scripting. Overbrook's Smith and James Lassiter will produce the project. Callaway is expected to turn in a first draft in 12 weeks.

MAYA ANGELOU VISITS SESAME STREET

NEW YORK (AP) — Maya Angelou is getting around these days. Recently, she was "Down in the Delta" (the title of her feature-film directing debut). Next, she's visiting "Sesame Street." The 70-year-old poet and author played a hand game with Elmo to celebrate the letter M. The taped segment will air Tuesday. "Each time I have the delicious opportunity to visit the Sesame Street populace, I am reminded of the truth in the statement 'Only equals make friends.' My self-worth is affirmed when I am in the company of Elmo, Big Bird and the Cookie Monster," she said. "I am glad to be a citizen of their nation and a neighbor in their community."

Editor of hip-hop's Blaze is fired

NEW YORK (AP) — The editor of the hip-hop magazine Blaze says he was fired after he wrote an editorial defending the man who was acquitted in the slaying of the son of Time Warner chairman Gerald Levin.

Levin founded the music magazine Vibe, which in turn spawned Blaze.

Jesse Washington, who was fired last Tuesday, said he had a falling-out with his employers after writing an editorial about Montoun Hart, who was acquitted in the killing of Jonathan Levin.

Washington and Hart are friends, and about a week ago Washington hired him as a \$8-an-hour intern at Blaze.

Washington said his editorial — which never ran — asserted that police had forced Hart to sign a confession of their own invention.

Hart had been accused of

being an accomplice in torturing 31-year-old Jonathan Levin with a knife for his bank card number, looting his account of \$800, then killing him.

Washington said that after the editorial was spiked, he wrote a second editorial "lambasting the owners of the magazine for killing the first editorial." He said he knew the second editorial would not run.

Blaze's spokeswoman, Audrey Addison, had no comment other than to

confirm that Washington had been let go.

Last November, Washington was kicked in the face and head in his office in November by four men. Two men have been charged with the assault, including rap producer Deric "D-Dot" Angellettie.

Washington said he believes Angellettie was angry because the magazine had identified him as being the performer known as the Madd Rapper. Angellettie denied any part in the assault.

Dwana Broussard

Special to Sentinel-Voice

On Sunday and Monday evening, UNLV's Artemus Ham Hall was the sight of the third annual Vocal Extravaganza in Black, where four choirs from historically black colleges showcased their extraordinary talents.

"If tickets were on sale for next year, I'd buy them right now," said one spectator.

Another proclaimed, "It's the best, most uplifting show I've seen."

Standing ovations were plentiful and well deserved.

These two talent-packed nights were unbeatable for enlightenment and entertainment. Offering everything from Italian arias to contemporary gospel, each choir and every soloist performed to perfection.

Morgan State University, directed by Dr. Nathan Carter and accompanied by Dr. Eric Conway, displayed superb vocal dynamics.

Langston University's choral conductor, Dr. William Garcia, and accompanist Sarah Wesley Phillips sustained their reputation for excellence with the choir's trademark stellar performance.

Howard University's chorale, directed for the past 25 years by Dr. J. Weldon Norris, was accompanied on piano and vocals by Roberta Flack's musical director, Mr. Shelton Becton.

Oakwood College used

ENTERTAINMENT

Vocal Extravaganza in Black a success



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Morgan State University Choir performs during the 3rd annual Vocal Extravaganza in Black.

percussion and strings, along with the traditional grand piano, played beautifully by John Stoddart, to create exciting effects. Choral conductor, Lloyd Mallory

identified several of their numbers as composed by African-Americans. Before each performance, the choirs merged for a time (See VEIB, Page 9)

Performer debuts new song

Dwana Broussard
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Harmony Records recording artist Nancey Jackson recently performed her new single, "Secret Place", at the Vocal Extravaganza in Black.

With strong, energetic vocals against an urban musical backdrop, she plans to spread the message of spiritual salvation to the world.

The daughter of a minister, she has been singing for the past twenty years.

Her style, while unique, is reminiscent of Oleta Adams and Karen Clark. "Relationships," her latest CD, will be released this summer.

Loaded with talent and conviction, Ms. Jackson (See Artist, Page 9)

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