

# ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

## BRATT: HOLLYWOOD UNFAIR TO MINORITIES

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor Benjamin Bratt says Hollywood still has a long way to go to fairly represent minorities. "The idea of fair and equal representation for people of color in this business is a joke," says Bratt, who is of Peruvian and German descent. Bratt and his brother, Peter, have begun producing their own films to bring more minority viewpoints to the screen. One of them, "Follow Me Home," premiered in 1996 at the Sundance Film Festival. Still, Bratt feels pessimistic because "the personification of this industry is an overpampered, self-satisfied middle-aged white male whose only contact with people of color is the people who clean his house." Bratt, who plays a detective on the NBC series "Law & Order," has high praise for girlfriend Julia Roberts, but says dating her has created a paradox. "I'm a man who covets my privacy, and I'm going out with the most famous actress in the world," he says in US magazine's June issue.

## COSBY TELLS GRADUATES: MOVE OUT

ORANGEBURG, S.C. (AP) — Speaking to new graduates of Claflin College, Bill Cosby made a plea for beleaguered parents everywhere. "In the name of God move on," Cosby said Saturday. "Because a house can't take three grown people." The actor and comedian sported a Claflin T-shirt and cap, sweatpants and tennis shoes. His wry observations about parenthood drew raucous laughter and applause from both parents and students. "Some of you are going back home and people are not happy," he told graduates of the historically black college. Cosby recalled his college days at Temple University in Philadelphia, where his favorite subjects were political science and philosophy because professors asked questions that no one could answer. One professor wanted to know if a glass was half full or half empty. Cosby returned to class with the wisdom of his grandmother, who told him that "it depends on if you're drinking or pouring."

## WINFREY URGES MOREHOUSE GRADUATES TO PRAY

ATLANTA (AP) — Oprah Winfrey had some big advice for the dreamers among new Morehouse College grads. "God can dream a bigger dream for you than you can ever dream for yourself," the talk show host told the 470 graduates at the historically black college Sunday. "Real success comes when you learn to act as if everything depends on you, and pray as if everything depends on God." Winfrey established a \$1

million scholarship fund at Morehouse a decade ago and added \$1 million in 1997.

## JACKSON FINED IN PLAGIARISM LAWSUIT

ROME (AP) — Michael Jackson, in composing his song "Will You Be There," plagiarized an Italian songwriter, an Italian judge ruled Tuesday. Judge Mario Frigenti immediately suspended a \$2,200 fine but ordered the American pop star to pay court costs, which are likely to be considerable because the case has taken years to progress through the Italian court system, Italian state TV reported. The trial began in 1995, two years after Al Bano, a veteran songwriter and singer, claimed Jackson stole part of the musical motif of his song "I Cigni di Balaka," or "The swans of Balaka," produced in 1987. Jackson's "Dangerous" album, which includes "Will You Be There," dates to 1991. One of Jackson's lawyers, Alberto Seganti, said he will appeal. "There is no proof of plagiarism," the Italian news agency ANSA quoted Seganti as saying. After the verdict was announced, a beaming Al Bano, whose real name is Albano Carrisi, invited Jackson to perform a concert with him and donate the proceeds to children from Kosovo. In a hearing in Rome two years ago, Jackson told the court there was some similarity between the two songs "but it's completely coincidental." The court had heard an analysis done by an expert who found that 37 notes were the same in each song. In a separate, civil lawsuit, Jackson's lawyers last year announced that the Italian singer had lost a copyright infringement case against their client and was ordered to pay expenses. The trial that ended Tuesday was a criminal case. In the past, Jackson has been cleared of plagiarism allegations in the United States involving "Dangerous" and "Thriller" albums.

## NATALIE COLE TO MISS ST. LUCIA JAZZFEST

CASTRIES, St. Lucia (AP) — Natalie Cole will not appear at the St. Lucia Jazzfest because of damaged vocal cords. She'll be replaced by Erykah Badu, the St. Lucia Tourist Board said last week. Cole, the daughter of the late Nat King Cole, had been warned by doctors to rest her voice for seven to 10 days after a series of performances in Las Vegas. She was to have led the lineup Saturday at an open-air concert on Pigeon Island in the Caribbean. Kool and the Gang, David Sanborn and Nestor Torres are scheduled to perform. Ray Charles, Lionel Richie, Patti LaBelle and Deborah Cox have also canceled, some because of scheduling conflicts.

# Rap

(Continued from Page 9) written primers flow from the mouths of young brothers like rapper Jay-Z's lyrics from the hit rap single "Hard Knock Life."

The words of this song when chanted by young brothers across America are raising profound questions similar to those that the late Marvin Gaye raised in "What's Goin' On?" or like those questions asked by Stevie Wonder in the song

"Livin' Just Enough For The City."

Hopefully in the new millennium we will be in a better position to explore the feelings expressed by young rappers today without getting insulted by the explosiveness of their vocabulary.

It's hard for some "oldheads" to believe that many of these young rappers have their fingers on the pulse, beat and rhythm of American injustices. There

just might be a little "somethin' somethin'" to this scratching and "droppin' science" found in many hip-hop discourses. Personally, I am in favor of whatever it takes to significantly enhance the lives of Black people.

Richard M. Cooper is a lecturer on African American history and is on the faculty of Widener University, located in Chester, Pa. He can be reached via e-mail at richard.cooper@widener.edu

# BE A HERO

## Save Our Skies... and your wallet!



Join Blue Skyman and his Clean Air Force as they send out an S.O.S. to Save Our Skies. A few simple steps can help rid our valley of air pollution and traffic congestion—and Citizens Area Transit makes it easy!

**CAT** does more than save the air. It saves you money—lots of it at today's gas prices! You won't find a more economical way to travel than **CAT**. Fares are only \$1, one way on most routes, or you can buy a Rolling **CAT** Pass for only \$20 (\$10 if you are 6-17 years, 62+ years or disabled).

Listen to the S.O.S. and make a difference in the air quality of Southern Nevada while you ride in comfort on **CAT**. Save Our Skies...and your money... with Blue Skyman and the RTC.

Transit Reduced Fare ID mandatory for discounted price. Children 5 years or younger ride free when accompanied by a fare-paying, responsible person.

### NOW OVER 50 VENDOR LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE GREATER LAS VEGAS AREA

#### DOWNTOWN

Downtown Transportation Center  
300 North Casino Center Blvd.  
Nationwide Check Services  
515 Fremont Street (east of Las Vegas Blvd.)  
Gourmet Cafe  
Third St. & Lewis  
By Mail:  
**CAT PASSES**  
P.O. Box 1480  
Las Vegas, NV 89125

#### NORTHWEST

Cash to Go  
Rancho & Cheyenne  
Cash to Go  
Valley View & Sahara  
Mail Link +  
Rainbow & Washington  
Meadows Mall Information Desk  
Meadows Lane & Valley View  
Postal Junction  
Lake Mead & Rampart  
Postnet Express  
Jones & I-95 (in Smith's Food Ctr.)  
Rancho Check Cashing  
Rancho & Washington  
Supermercado  
Rancho & Washington  
Westside Federal Credit  
Union #1  
418 W. Madison (West of D Street)  
Westside Federal Credit  
Union #2  
1100 N. Martin Luther King & Monroe

#### SOUTHWEST

Community College of So. NV  
W. Charleston & Torrey Pines  
Postal Express Plus  
E. Decatur & Twain  
Postnet Express  
W. Tropicana & Jones (in Smith's)  
The Mail Stop  
S. Martin Luther King & Alta  
Senior Dimensions Service Center  
Rancho & West Charleston

Mail Center USA  
W. Desert Inn & Arville

Mailboxes Etc.  
Buffalo & Flamingo

#### NORTHEAST

Community College of So. NV  
Cheyenne & Van Der Meer  
Mario's Fine Foods  
Cheyenne & Marydee  
North Las Vegas Housing Authority  
1632 Yale Street  
Eastern Check Cashing  
N. Eastern  
My Office  
Lamb (Between Washington & Bonanza)  
Mario's Westside Market  
Cheyenne & Marydee  
Pack and Mail  
Eastern & Bonanza  
Continental Currency Check Cashing  
Eastern & Bonanza  
Mail & More  
Civic Center & Lake Mead  
Package Plus II of Las Vegas  
E. Bonanza & Nellis  
AOK Mail Center  
E. Charleston & Nellis

#### SOUTHEAST

Abell's Pack & Mail  
Nellis & Vegas Valley  
Abell's Pack & Mail  
E. Desert Inn & Mojave  
Advantage Check Cashing  
E. Sahara & Lynnwood  
Cash Plus  
Boulder Hwy. & Flamingo  
Copy & Mail Center  
E. Tropicana & Morris  
Continental Currency Check  
Cashing  
E. Tropicana & Mojave  
Foreign Money Exchange  
S. Las Vegas Blvd. & Convention  
Center Dr.  
Kwiky Mini Mart  
Tropicana & Spencer

J-Mar's Records  
Maryland Pkwy. & Sahara  
Mailboxes Etc.  
Charleston & Bruce

Mailboxes Plus  
Paradise & Flamingo  
Supermercado #2  
Maryland Pkwy. & Tropicana  
Twain Check Cashing  
Twain & Swenson (South side)  
UNLV (Mayer Student Union)  
Maryland & University Ave

#### BOULDER CITY

Nevada Drug  
1220 Arizona St.  
Expedition Depot  
1297 Nevada Highway, Boulder City

#### HENDERSON

Checks Plus  
1210 N. Boulder Hwy  
Community College of So.  
NV, HD  
700 College Dr.  
Desert Willow Community Center  
2020 W. Horizon Ridge & GV Pkwy  
Green Valley Drugs  
Sunset & Green Valley Pkwy.  
Postnet Express  
Boulder Hwy & Palo Verde (in Smith's)

#### LAUGHLIN

Palace Jewelry & Loan  
3030 S. Needles Hwy. #300  
Flamingo Hilton Gift Shop  
1900 S. Casino Dr.  
All Check Cashing  
2311 S. Casino (Tom's Plaza)

#### MESQUITE

City Hall  
10 E. Mesquite Blvd.



For information call  
**CAT-RIDE 228-7433**

Hablamos Español

**CAT... Let's Ride**

TDD 455-5997