

ENTERTAINMENT



BILL PINKNEY AND THE ORIGINAL DRIFTERS

## Drifters coming to Sun City

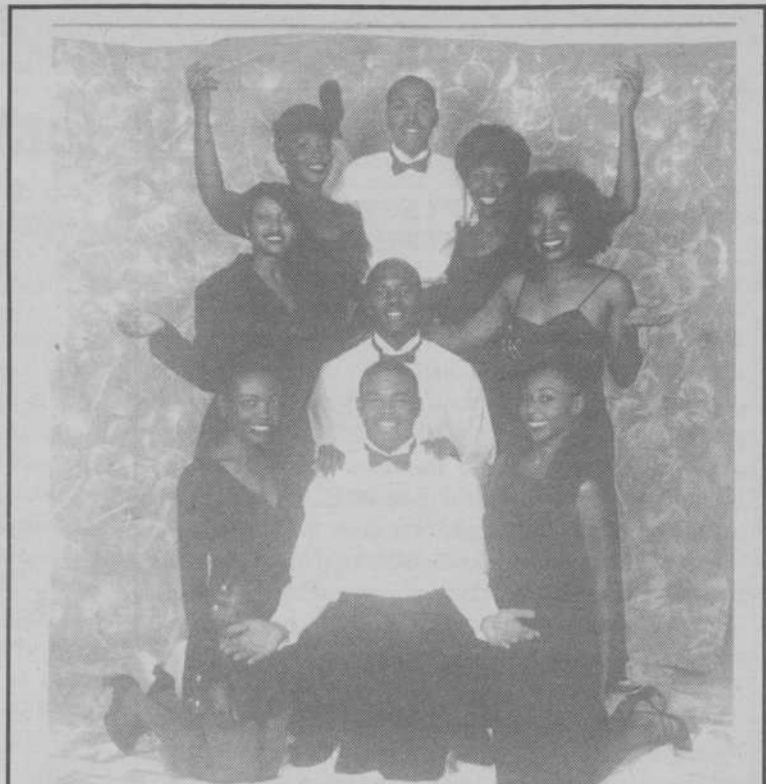
Bill Pinkney will bring his Original Drifters show to the Starbright Theater at Sun City Summerlin on Sunday, Aug. 15 at 7 p.m. The concert is in conjunction with a weekend of festivities to honor Pinkney on his 74 birthday.

Pinkney, now on his 46 anniversary tour is the only surviving member of the 1953 original group "The Drifters." A former Negro Baseball League pitcher and Presidential Citation recipient with four Bronze stars from

World War II, Pinkney has been honored by many.

In 1997, Las Vegas proclaimed December 29 "Bill Pinkney Day," commemorating his anniversary kick-off.

For tickets call 642-2300.



## Cabaret playing on Saturday

Las Vegas Entertainment Discoveries (L.V.E.D.) presents "The Cabaret Review," on Saturday, Aug. 7 in Whiskey Pete's showroom. The performance, which stars Oscar Robinson, is a "Cotton Club" type of show, and consists of singers, dancers and a full orchestra. The music performed will be from the hottest Broadway shows.

The first show lasts from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m., and the second show begins at 9:30 p.m. Admission is free for all shows. Buffalo Bill's, Primm Valley, and Whiskey Pete's Casinos will distribute tickets. For further information call L.V.E.D. at 257-4776.

# ABC adding minority characters to fall schedule

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — ABC, which has been criticized along with other major networks for planning nearly all-white fall series, is adding ethnic characters to at least five shows.

ABC executives said they began the effort to make their programs more inclusive in May, before the NAACP and other groups condemned TV's lack of racial diversity.

"Clearly, we have an

obligation to reflect society as it exists," Stu Bloomberg, ABC Entertainment Television Group co-chairman, told the Television Critics Association last week.

As presented in pilot form this spring, none of the 27 new comedies and dramas set to premiere on the top four networks had minorities in a leading role; few had them in supporting roles.

Minority characters are

being added to ABC's "Wasteland," a new drama about young New Yorkers, and to "Once and Again," from "thirtysomething" creators Edward Zwick and Marshall Herskovitz.

Upcoming ABC shows "Talk to Me" and "Bellevue" will gain ethnic characters, as will returning series "Sabrina." The sitcom's two new characters will include a Hispanic woman, the network

said. ABC Entertainment President Jamie Tarses said producers were asked to look for opportunities to diversify their casts but were not issued a directive to do so.

"We've been waiting a very long time for this and it's a step in the right direction," said Lisa Navarrete, spokeswoman for the National Council of La Raza. The council and other

Latino groups on Tuesday demanded more Hispanic representation on TV and called for a weeklong boycott of the four major networks.

The U.S. population is 11 percent Hispanic, but Hispanics make up less than 2 percent of the characters on primetime TV shows, Ms. Navarrete said.

Two weeks ago, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored

People announced a new initiative to monitor how well the entertainment industry reflects America's ethnic diversity.

NBC said in a statement that minority representation "continues to remain a top priority" and expressed pride in minority actors on shows including "ER" and "Law & Order." The statement added: "We realize there is still work to be done."

## CBS defends its record on programming

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — With minority characters featured in 12 of 19 programs in its fall lineup, CBS has worked harder than other networks to include non-whites, network executive Leslie Moonves said.

"We can, we will do more ... but CBS stands alone as the No. 1 network aware of its responsibility in this area," Moonves said Sunday during the summer meeting of the Television Critics Association.

The four major networks, including CBS, have come under fire from minority groups for fielding a nearly all-white lineup of new fall shows.

CBS executives will meet next month with the NAACP to discuss the issue, said Moonves, president and chief executive officer of CBS Television.

CBS already is the home of Bill Cosby, ("Cosby"), Cheech Marin ("Nash Bridges"), Della Reese ("Touched by an Angel") and others.

CBS boasted about two new shows: the fall series "Now and Again," featuring black actor Dennis Haysbert as a scientist, and "City of Angels," a midseason hospital drama starring Vivica A. Fox and Blair Underwood, both black.

"City of Angels" is from veteran producer Steven Bochco ("Hill Street Blues," "L.A. Law," "NYPD Blue") who said a major reason for doing it was to use the many black actors, writers and directors ignored by the industry.

"There's this extraordinary talent pool underutilized in our business, both in New York and Los

Angeles," he said.

Michael Warren, who played police Officer Bobby Hill in "Hill Street Blues" and will star in "City of Angels," lamented television's lack of progress since a two-decade-old study on the lack of racial inclusiveness.

"If you're asking the same question that was asked 22 years ago, something needs to be done," he said.

Paris Barclay, the black

co-creator and co-executive producer of "City of Angels," blamed the dearth of minorities on TV producers living in upscale white enclaves such as Malibu, Brentwood and Bel-Air.

They don't know blacks and feel uncomfortable working with them, he argued.

Bochco called the lack of minorities on TV a function of economics rather than racism.

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