CELEBENIT
with JEANNE PARNELL

Shirley Bassey

Q—Is it true that Roberta Flack lives in the famous New York Apartment building "The Dakota"?

Yvette Bowne
Richmond

A—Singer Roberta Flack, the building's only black tenant, refused to get an identification card that is required of every occupant, "I am Roberta Flack," said Miss Flack, "I don't need identification."

Q—What is dancing the African way?

Aaron Young
St. Louis

A—Charles Moore who has been involved in African dance for more than half of his life says, "In traditional African society, there is no one who does not dance. For Africans dance is much more than an art; dance is at the center of the rituals and relationships that define African society. There is a set way to do a pirouette in ballet but the African dancer is unconcerned with the exact position of his head or arms in a turn. He is more interested in how the movement feels than how it looks.

Q—Tell me something about Irving Allen Lee who appears on "The Edge of Night."

Roberta Long
San Francisco

A—In a relatively short period of time, Irving Allen Lee has enjoyed a successful and varied entertainment career. Currently appearing as detective Calvin Stoner on the popular ABC-TV series "The Edge of Night" Irving has been a star of four Broadway musicals, directed the cabaret tour of Bette Midler's back-up group; formerly The Harlettes, and has been the familiar face of many national product television commercials.

Q—Did Gloria Gaynor write the song, "I Will Survive"?

Yolander King
Dallas

A—The song was in fact, written for her by her record producers who double as songwriters - songwriters who as Gaynor says, "Really like to get into the lives of the artist they write for. Actually there are several stories in my life - or in anybody's life, for that matter that can be related to the idea of surviving." Gaynor started out singing pop and jazz before disco. "I'm aware that some rock fans are very opposed to disco," she acknowledged, "but I don't really understand why. I think that people who are so into one kind of music and find the time and need to be so verbally and physically adverse to another kind of music must feel threatened in some way."

Q—Did Reggie Jackson ever pay back the $250,000 loan he made from the Yankees?

Donzella Gray
Memphis

A—For those curious about Jackson's financial life, he has his Yankee contract, pieces of eight car dealerships, stock in IBM, Xerox and General Motors, a personal contract with Standard Brands—his candy bar deal, a contract with ABC, extensive real estate holdings in Arizona and California, lucrative endorsement deals with Rawlings and Spalding and contracts to promote products for Getty Oil and Accel, an auto parts company. I'd say he can afford to pay a whole lot of people back and forth.

Q—What happened to Shirley Bassey's ten-year marriage?

Maurice Grey
Philadelphia

A—Shirley has resumed a love affair that first blossomed three years ago when she met Ken Carter, a night club manager in Australia. "He followed me from Melbourne to London, and we lived together for three years, she said. Then we married others. I settled in Lugano and he in Perth. I ran into Ken in a restaurant. He too was separated. We were so happy to see each other, we decided to resume where we left off. No we will not marry. We'll live together forever." Shirley may star in Josephine Baker's bioflick.

Q—What happened to Alice Travis the former host of ABC's For You Black Women??

Houston Bradley
Charlotte, N.C.

A—What you don't know is that in the words of her press agent Alice herself coined the phrase. "There are no more colored girls . . . the lady is black," made it her personal signature, into a new merchandising venture about to take off in a big way. "The Lady Is Black Collection," is her own design, t-shirts, tote bags, scarves and handkerchiefs. "I've always had my own style," said Alice.

Q—Is it true that Ken Norton is very wealthy?

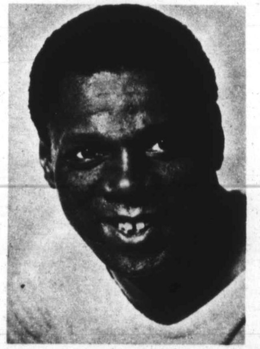
A—Ken's manager, Bob Biron died recently. Biron left the University of California at San Diego where he was vice chancellor for finance, and with four other men bought Nortons contract for $80,000 in 1971. Biron began to manage Norton, and consequently made him very wealthy by investing most of his earnings wisely.

Q—Do you like Reggae music?

Earl Tabor
Chicago

A—Reggae is emerging as an extremely important music form. And it may be the first real art to express the emotions and lifestyles of the West Indian people. Peter Toshian alumnus of Bob Marley and the Wailers explores and enjoys every facet of reggae. Rastafarians, who like Tosh, purportedly shun money, love my favorite song, "The Day the Dollar Died." Critics have stated that the music has direct roots to American black rhythm and blues of the 50's, where pain and suffering also were evident. However — the philosophical message of Haile Selassie can be heard in their refrains. Their politics date back to when Marcus Garvey visited Jamaica.

Gloria Gaynor



Charles Moore

Irving Allen Lee

All letters should be addressed to Jeanne Parnell, Dawn Magazine, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201. All questions are welcomed, but while Jeanne cannot provide individual answers, questions of general interest will be used in this column.