Jeanne Parnell's:

CELEBENIT

Sylvester

Cab and Chris Calloway

Bob Marley

Q — It's been stated that Bob Marley is our new leader.

Lucille Hollis
Charlotte, N.C.

A — Marley's attitude toward Africa goes Garvey one better at present; he often says that money made in Africa must stay there. The Wailers insisted on underwriting the entire cast of the Zimbabwe trip. In recent concerts, Marley took the opportunity to assess local needs and insure that whatever money he left there went into projects that served the needy and not the bureaucratic elite. In Jamaica he is known and respected as priest, prophet, shrewd entrepreneur and yes, something of a folk hero. Anyone will tell you that Marley is a leader of an ever increasing following. At a word or motion people tend to need him.

Q — Is Muhammad Ali broke?

Fred Azim
Atlanta, Ga.

A — Most of the estimated 50 million he earned in the ring went to taxes and expenses such as the cuts to his manager, Herbert Muhammad. He and Veronica have two children. He has two former wives and six other children to support. A lot of money is tied up in real estate. Millions of dollars invested in an oil deal. "I'm talking about feeding millions and you're asking me how I'm going to eat," he says. "Ain't that silly? Why don't people ask how much Frank Sinatra has? I never heard of John Travolta or Paul Newman being broke. Why are white people always getting on Joe Louis? Why don't they ask about all the smart white people with education, lawyer and such — how'd they go broke?" Is he talking to you?

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Q — What kind of scandal is tennis facing?

Dorothy Clark
Savannah, Ga.

A — A coke scandal — first there were the allegations that several American and foreign players on the female and male players circuit had a cocaine connection brought to them by "the candy man." The candy man is a young well-to-do New York lawyer who just loves to have around the touring tennis pros, and happy to supply the players as much powder as they want. Money is no problem. Many of the younger set have fallen and are suffering a generally disappointing season. A top writer for one of the tennis magazines has been digging into the festering scandal, and a major expose' could break anytime. The Association of Tennis Professionals is going to look into this matter. Arthur Ashe is a member of the board.

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A — What do you know about the East St. Louis Gospelettes?

Aaron Kelly
Mobile, Ala.

A — Henry Nash, their agent, had the guts and the foresight to answer a questionnaire and suggest that the group accompany the superstar act, The Commodores, on their 96-city tour. Madame Moore who sings lead has been on the road with the group for fifteen years. It's a great breakthrough for gospel to be included in the contemporary world of music.

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Q — Isn't Sylvester different?

Olga Carloss
Hot Springs, Ark.

A — In a business where clones abound Sylvester is the real thing. A genuine original, he's one of that special breed of performers who come fully to life on stage. Sylvester may indeed dish out fantasy and illusion from the stage with unparalleled imagination and flair. But the bottom line of his performance — on stage and on record — has always been the music. That's for real.

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Q — Whatever happened to "Hemings," the novel about Thomas Jefferson and the slave woman? I thought CBS had plans to produce a series based on the novel.

Pamela Jenkins
Lexington, Ky.

A — Mrs. Barbara Chase-Riboud the sculptor and author has retrieved the rights and is pursuing the project as a potential feature film. Along the way, she said, she discovered through a screenwriter on the abandoned series, that within weeks of the book's publication a staircase in Jefferson's bedroom at Monticello, which she had described as connecting with Sally Heming's quarters, had been removed. She approached the mansion's curator and architect, she said and was told "their rationale for doing it was that the staircase was not authentic. Just because the staircase disappears, she said, doesn't mean Sally Hemings is going to disappear."

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Q — What does Johnny Mathis mean to you?

Arvis Letang
St. Albans, N.Y.

A — The time we shall say is 1960 late summer when the nights begin to cool. The car perhaps a lovely '57 Chevy is parked on a dirt road off the highway, and the

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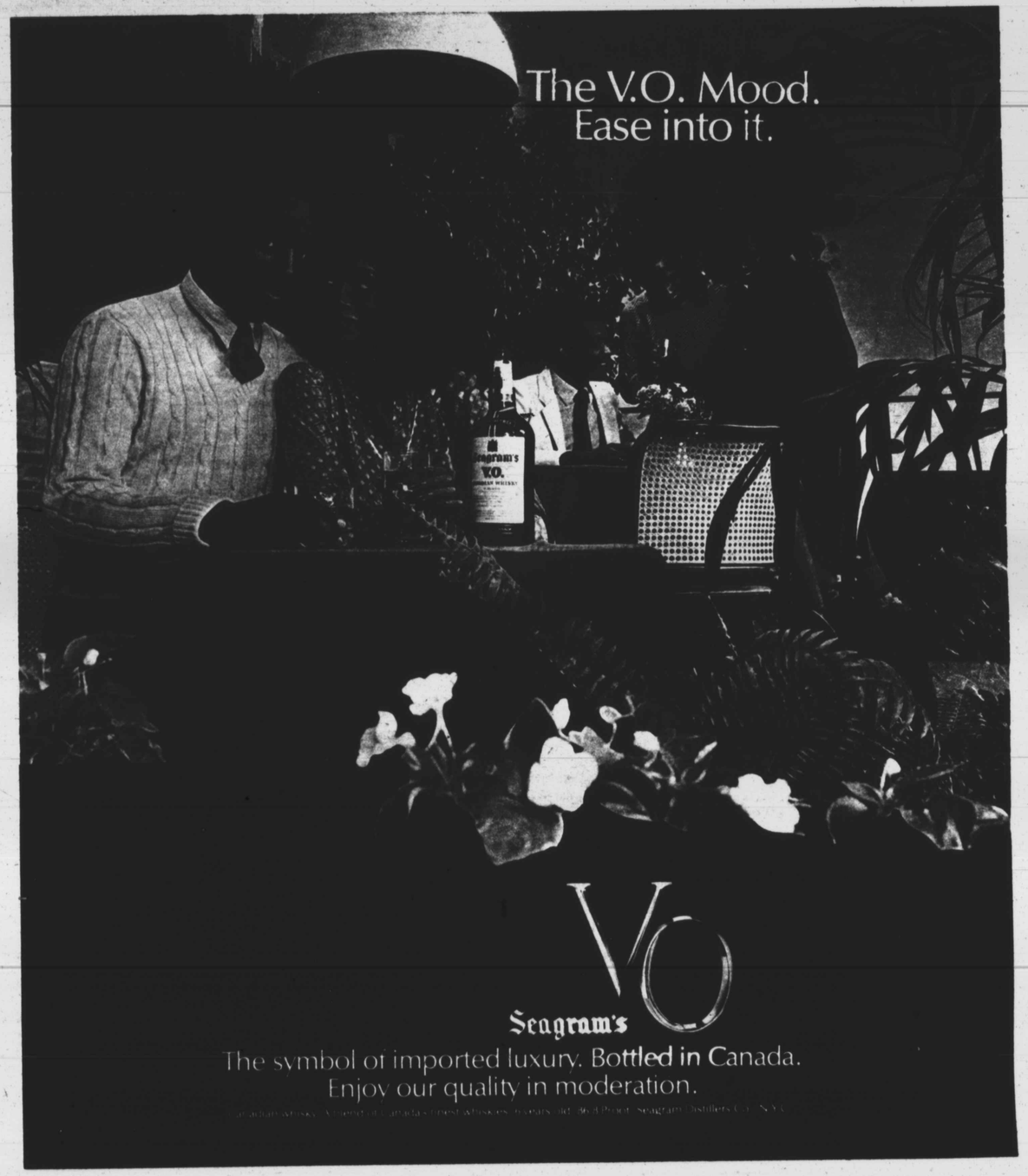
E. St. Louis Gospelettes

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