CELEBRITY LOOKOUT

By JASON:

Lynn Moody

Q: Whatever happened to comedian Jimmie "J. J." Walker of "Good Times" fame?
SHARON GORDON
New York, NY

A: Walker is now engaged as a spokesman for the California Milk Advisory Board, promoting the healthy beverage in advertisement.

Q: Went to see the play "Your Arms To Short To Box With God" featuring singer Patti Labelle. After hearing rave reviews from family, friends and the press, was really surprised to hear her sound terrible. Did she have an off night, or is she sick?
AMY McGUIRE
Washington, DC

A: Songbird, Patti Labelle, former lead of the group bearing her last name "Labelle," was suffering from severely swollen vocal cords which caused audiences to take a rain check on the celebrated musical "Your Arms Too Short To Box With God," which stars the singer. She received emergency treatment which enabled her to return to the production after a few days, but things didn't turn out that way. In fact the condition worsened and Patti is now off the road and under her doctors care until further notice.

Ashford and Simpson

Q: I run track field for my high school, and my coach told me that track star and my idol Reynaldo Nehemiah has turned into a football player. What would make him turn to such a grueling and cruel sport?
CHRISTINE MOORE
Baltimore, MD

A: The name of the game, any game is to win my friend, but most importantly if you're a pro athlete and if their salaries are any indication, MONEY, is the answer. Reynaldo Nehemiah, 23, the world class hurdler recently signed a $400,000 a year contract with world champions, the San Francisco 49ers. The 6 foot 1, 175 pound rookie has not played football since high school critics feel that his lack of experience is not worth what he's being paid. Let's hope he proves them wrong and will excell in football as he did with track. He certainly has the legs.

Q: Hill Street Blues is my favorite TV show and I just adore actor Taurean Blacque. Is that his real name or just for show business?
CAL LEE
Baltimore, MD

A: Feeling that his real name, Herbert Middleton, Jr. was just too long, the actor says he wanted a name that he could identify with and one that would stand out on a billboard. The results is a combination of astrology and race, with some fancy spelling, he's a Taurus (Taurean) and he's black (Blacque).

Q: Settle a little dispute between my girlfriend and me. Who played the part of Clifton Davis' sister on the ABC program, "That's My Mama"?
SHIRLEY RICH
Aberdeen, MD

A: That's a tricky question. For the first season the show was on 1974-75, Lynn Moody played the part of Tracey. For the final half-season, September to December, 1975, Joan Pringle took over the role. You may remember her as the stern guidance counselor in the "White Shadow."

Q: Recently NBC aired an episode of "The Richard Pryor Show." Does this mean that the show might return to television? It was really a very good and funny show. Why was it taken off the air ?
DWAYNE JACKSON
Houston, TX

A: It was a chance for a quick buck, nothing permanent. NBC dediced to drag out the old show to try and cash in on some of Pryor's popularity this year. Back in the fall of 1977, Pryor had a dêal with NBC to do ten (10) shows, but from the beginning it developed into a tug of wills between Richard and the network censors. He demonstrated his displeasure by appearing on night in flesh colored body stocking which made him appear naked. After five shows, both Pryor and NBC decided to call it quits.

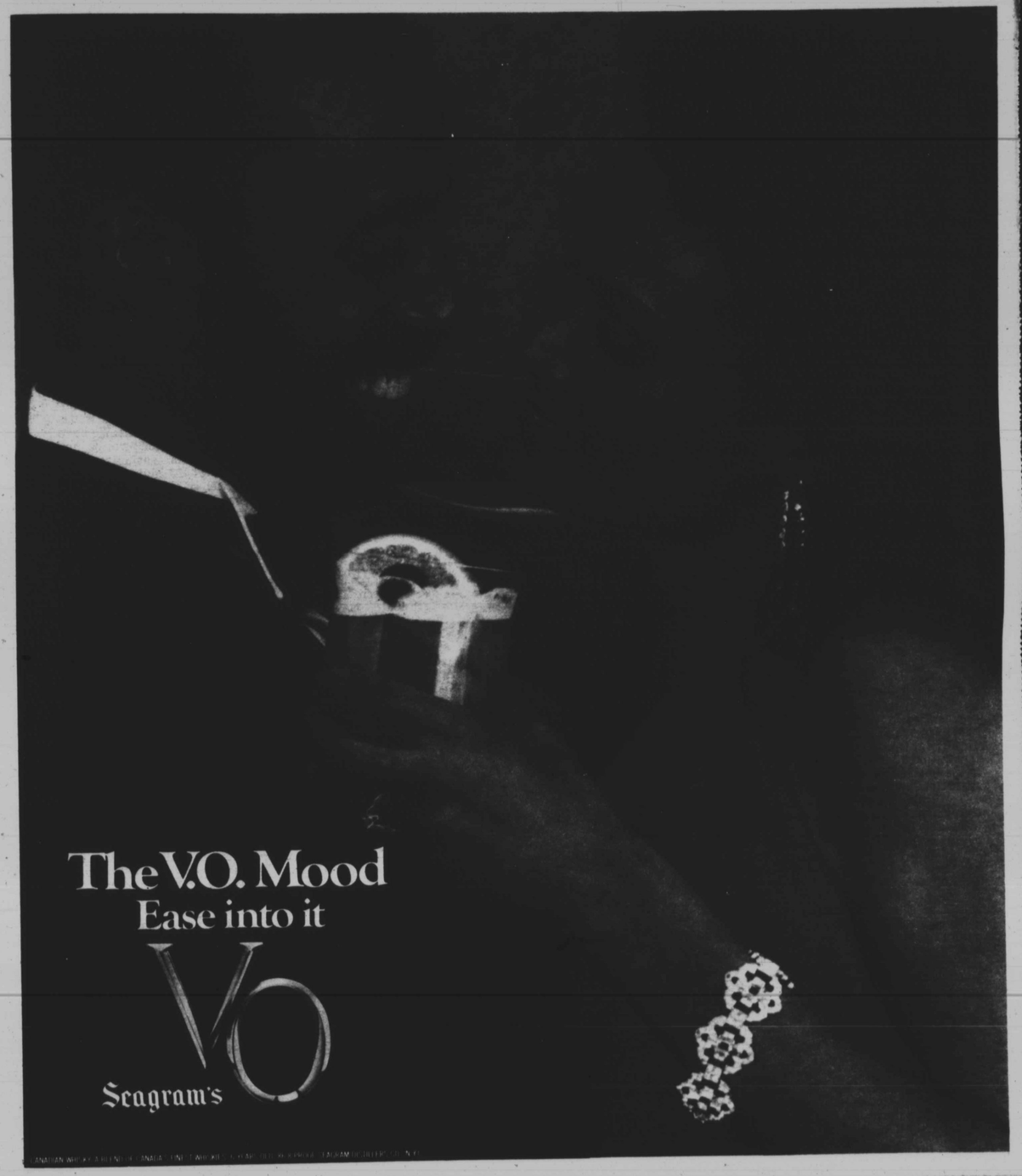
Q: Just want to know if Todd Bridges and Kim Fields go together? I read an article on her recently where she said that black boys her age are too immature for her and that Todd Bridges was just a friend, but they seem real close and just on the TV.
JACKIE ADAMS
Brooklyn, NY

A: Teen age actor Todd Bridges of the hit television show, "Diff'rent Strokes" says his heart belongs to Janet Jackson, sister of the dynamic singing group The Jacksons. At a luncheon in Chicago Todd denied reports that he was dating Kim Fields of "Facts of Life" fame. If he had to pay a toll on his telephone calls, Todd would nearly blow his salary rapping with Janet, says the actor's mother-actress Betty Bridges. They talk for hours, she said of Janet and her son, who just turned 17 and graduated from Hollywood Academy.

Todd Bridges

Q: How long have Ashford and Simpson been writing together? Do they have any children? I know that the team writes for other people and themselves and have their production company, do they have anything else going for them?
Hillside, NJ

A: After 20 years together as a songwriting team, Nick Ashford and Valerie Simpson are busy with a musical project that they hope to bring to Broadway to fulfill a show biz dream. Unless there is a public demand, they don't plan to appear in the musical. They have a 7-year-old daughter, Nicole, who seems to be a chip off the old block. She has been busy writing music that has won the critical acclaim of her parents.

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

Joan Pringle