# CELEBRITY LOOKOUT

By JASON:

Gen. Chappie James

**Q-Have been reading about Roscoe Robinson Jr. who they say is the 1st black to be decorated as a 4 star General. But I say that those articles are wrong and Chappie James was the first. Who is right?**

**NORMA LAYSON; Toledo, OH.**

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A-You're both correct. You see the Late Daniel "Chappie" James of the Air Force, was the first having received his fourth star in 1978. Lt. Gen. Roscoe Robinson Jr., a Korean and Vietnam vet has been nominated by Pres. Reagan for promotion to four-star general, a first for the U.S. Army. Robinson, 53, a native of St. Louis, is a West Point grad with a Master's Degree from the University of Pittsburg, also attended the prestigious National War College and the General Staff College. The former paratrooper, who is now commanding officer of U.S. Army troops in Japan, will also become the newest member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Military Committee.

Pentagon records show there are 40 black generals and admirals among the 1,076 officers with star rank in U.S. armed forces.

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**Q-What ever happened to William Warfield?**

**THOMAS GILES; Black Stone, VA.**

A-The celebrated baritone William Warfield, who achieved international fame as Porgy in "Porgy and Bess" musical, was named one of seven judges in the International Vocal Competitions at New York's Carnegie Hall sponsored by the Rockerfeller Foundation. Dr. Warfield, now a master teacher at the University of Illinois at Champaign, Ill, and still a concert artist, was cited for his musical contributions during the 63rd Annual Convention of the National Assoc. of Negro Musicians.

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**Q-Why is Motown suing Tenna Marie, who is supposedly one of their top money makers?**

**GLORIA ALLEN; Detroit, MICH.**

A-According to the complaint, Marie originally signed with both the label and publisher on April 9, 1976. Subsequently, Motown released three albums by her including the best-selling "Lady T" produced by Rick James. A million dollar lawsuit has been filed by Motown Records and its music publishing division, Jobete Music, against Teena Marie. The suit, filed in Los Angeles Superior Ct. charges the popular white singer breached an existing agreement and each division is asking $500,000 in damages for a failure by Marie to re-sign with the label. Before the release of the last album "This Must Be Magic," Motown alleges that Marie promised the label president Jay Lasker that she would re-sign if the album were promoted to gold status.

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**Q-Did Stevie Wonder resign a contract with Motown. I thought he had formed his own recording company?**

**L.P. THOMPSON; Houston, TX.**

A-The Multi-talented (Steveland Judkins Merrio 32) musical genius has extended his 21-year plus association with Motown, signing a new long-term contract. With Motown Board Chairman, Berry Gordy Jr. and Jay Lasker, president of Motown at his side, Wonder recently announced that his contract encompasses a world-wide distribution deal. The first album to be released under the new contract is "Stevie Wonder's Original Musiquarium I," with four powerful new songs including the current chart-topper "Do I Do" but also a 12 song retrospective of Wonder's music produced since 1971.

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**Q-I've been watching the television show "Private Benjamin" and I think the girl who plays Pvt. Simons used to be a regular on Soul Train when it first started?**

**HELEN JACKSON; Pittsburgh, PA.**

A-You're absolutely right. If you were an avid fan of "Soul Train" during the early years of the popular dance show, then you remember a teenager whose creative dance routines were often spotlighted on the show. For Damita Jo Freeman, "Soul Train," marked the beginning of her ride to a career in show business, for she soon found herself doing choregraphy for big name entertainers such as Diana Ross, the Spinners, Sister Sledge, Shalamar and the Bill Cosby Show just to name a few. While serving as a production assistant for different television shows, she would get bit parts as an actress. Hence she is now starring as Private Simons on the "Private Benjamin" series, based on the hit movie.

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**Q-Which member of the Fifth Dimension died recently?**

**CLAIRE MASON; Bronx, JASON.**

A-Danny Beard, 32, was found burned to death on the fourth floor of his New York apartment building. Beard joined the Fifth Dimension in 1976 as the initial replacement for Billy Davis Jr.,

Damita Joe Freeman

when he and his wife Marilyn McCoo left the group for solo careers. Beard toured with the group for three years. Then going back to his first love the theatre, where he had made a name for himself in shows such as "Bubbling Brown Sugar," "Pippin", "The Wiz," and "Eubie". Just before his death he had signed as the understudy for the character James "Thunder" Early in the Broadway smash hit "Dreamgirls". Services were held in Los Angeles.

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**Q-Please settle a bitter disagreement concerning Josephine Baker. You see I followed her career closely. I know how deeply hurt she was when her talents were ignored by her own, like so many of our exceptionally gifted people when they have to seek success and recognition in other countries**

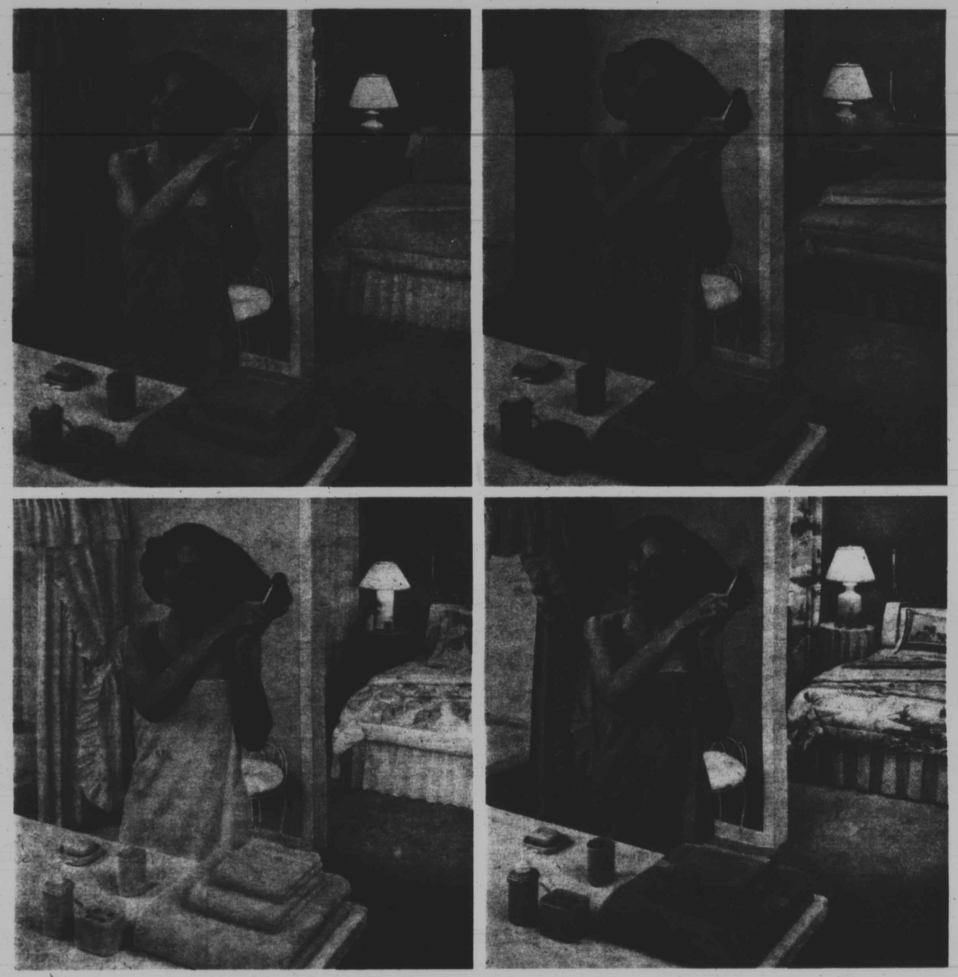
(Continued on page 7)

Stevie Wonder

*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.*

William Warfield



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