COLUMBIA CAPERS

By Pinnie L. Ross

LOS ANGELES, CA. TALENTED TEENS

Take a look around you. Look at what today's teenagers are trying to say . . . what they are trying to do. In Los Angeles, California a week ago, teenage girls from all over the country were in California's Ambassador Hotel for probably the most important event of their lives. All were competing for the title of Hal Jackson's Miss Talented Teen International. Most of the young ladies, many who had not been away from home alone before, arrived in that city a week before with their chaperones for nine days of rehearsing and fun - filled activities. During that time they got to know one another and made lifelong friendships.

Young, gifted and talented ladies, 32 of them, in the same place at the same time . . . competing for the same title. Thirty - two different personalities, talents, all working together helping each other . . . yet each one vying for the International Crown.

The contest was organized thirteen years ago when Hal Jackson, a popular Radio and TV personality and owner of seven Radio stations, responded to the plea of Black parents to use his expertise and contacts to give their daughters a teen - contest of the calibre of the established pageants.

The first contest was held under the title of Miss Black Teenage America, July, 1971 in Atlanta, Georgia and was taped for TV syndication by Mr. Jackson.

In 1976, the first International Contest took place in the U.S. Virgin Island in cooperation with the Virgin Island Department of Tourism and Sponsored by Mrs. Claire Roker prior to the changing of the name to Hal Jackson's Talented Teen International.

Since 1976 the pageant has been held in prestigious locations as The Famous Coconut Grove, Los Angeles, CA; The Waldorf Astoria, New York; and the Nation's Capital, Washington, D.C. at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The contest is designed to provide an outlet for young talent 13 through 16 years of age as well as an educational experience and cultural exchange through travel and meeting new friends.

The finals bring together from 30 to 35 young ladies from the U.S. Virgin Islands, Bahamas, Bermuda, Netherland Antilles and countries of the West Indies and the Carribbean.

All finals have been named regional winners and their week at the movie making capital of the world California was feted royally by Hal Jackson, Mrs. Wilda LaBres, Contestant Sponsor Relations Director and his staff.

This year the contestants and their chaperones were given a tour of Universal Studios, America's movie making capital, an evening at the Greek Theater with Ashford & Simpson and Angela Bofill, a visit to the luxurious Shubert Theater in Century City to see Broadway Hit, Dream Girls and a reception for 1983 Winner. These activities were sponsored by Mr. Jackson in addition to the welcoming dinner and special dinners for the chaperone meetings. Also included in the extraordinary week in the City of Angels Holiday California, a fabulous luncheon sponsored by A & M Records with pretty Janet Jackson as hostess. Another luncheon sponsored by Atlantic Records and the handsome young Johnny Gill was the host from Washington, D.C. It was a heavy itinerary that kept the young ladies very busy.

Now it wasn't all play for the young beauties during the week before the finals, there are endless rehearsals, costumes are checked, tapes are heard, individuals perform in private before members of the staff. They are Deborah Bolling and Janice Washington, coordinators, choreographed production numbers must be learned, they must learn a routine with the special guest artists. This year they were the popular DeBarge, Johnnie Gill, Janet Jackson and Jeffrey Osbourne.

Time is drawing near for the Saturday night finals when the judges get a good look at the nervous ladies and ask them questions. This year's judges included Peter Reckell, actor, "Days of Our Lives; Angela Pollock, Miss Talented Teen International 1979; Larry B. Scott, Actor, "The New Voice;" Miriam Rogers, Inner City Broadcasting Cooperation; Julia Wilson, Los Angeles Sentinel; Lydia Nicole, Music Director, KGFS Radio Actress; E. J. Jackson, President, E. J. Limousine Service; Heidi Bohag, Actress; Breanna Benjamin, President, FCD Management, Inc.

MISS TALENTED TEEN MARYLAND, Letricia Loften with Johnnie Gill, Atlantic recording star and pageant's special guest.

It was a beautiful sight to see all 32 girls dressed in some of the most gorgeous pastel shade gowns that has ever been worn on the Talented Teen stage. They were standing in front of a stage background of colorful balloons and live trees and pastel baskets of flowers.

All girls seemed to have had poise, charm and carried a radiant smile in each segment. They all held steady even when the five circle of winners' names were announced.

Miss Soath Carolina, the lovely 16 year old Miss Nicole Mazie, a singer was the judges' decision for the 4th runner up sponsored by Cultural Realism Charm, Inc. The very fine Wilhelmina F. Johnson, Director. In addition to placing No. 4 she was the winner of 2 awards. The Don Cornelious Talented Teen International Awards, host of the popular Teen Show "Soul Train." She received the Don Cornelious Miss Personality Award and Miss Congeniality Award. These awards were voted by all contestants.

Third runner up was charming Miss Lori Warren, a 14 year old dancer from New Jersey sponsored by Society Unlimited Modal Agency under the capable direction of Lillian Hammond Allen.

Pretty 16 year old Miss Tamiko Gibson from Miami, Florida was chosen for the 2nd runner up. She performed an original drama, her own creation. She was sponsored by lovely Beverley T. Rao.

Another beauty took 1st runner up, cute Miss Marguerite Wilson, 14 year old from Norfolk, Virginia, a dancer, she was sponsored by Virginia Finale Advisory Committee, one of Hal Jackson's oldest sponsors, the lovely Mrs. Anna Bell Scarbrough, a retired school teacher.

The winner of the 1983 Hal Jackson's Talented Teen International Contest was Delise Jones, 15 years of age from New York who sang her way to the title with ease after which tears of joy streamed down her face. She just couldn't hold them back. She was sponsored by the Committee for Positive Youth, Mrs. Flora A. Haynes was the lovely chaperone.

Among the prizes she will receive a cash scholarship, a diamond ring, guest appearance of national syndicated television program "Soul Train," a fur jacket, trip to Jamaica, West Indies, trip to Freeport, Grand Bahamas, a trip to London, England and Paris, France.

Parents are very proud of this contest and will make every effort to get to the National whether by air fare, train or what have you. One parent was so excited, she came from West Virginia by Bus to California. She was Mrs. Juanita Carver who accompanied her daughter, Mary Carver, winner of the West Virginia Pageant. It took her three days and nights to arrive in California. The hospitality extended by Mrs. Wilda LaBres and Mrs Jackson made her bus trip worth while and the experience her daughter received from the pageant.

God Bless Hal Jackson for this new experience for our girls. He is The Godfather to all youth in this country and that's a fact.

Amis Family Reunion

AMIS FAMILY held their first informal family reunion from left Maggie Leake, Hassie Dixon, Geraldine Wheeler, Rosetta Smith, Ann Dukes, Mary Pines, Ralph, Louis, Charles, Walter, Arthur Amis and not shown adopted brother Casper Chestnut.

A major decision for young couples today is whether to have one, two or three children. Cramped living quarters of concrete and brick, as well as the steadily mounting cost of living are environmental and economic conditions that discourage a large family.

However The AMIS FAMILY, raised in the rural town of Clarksville, Va. in the early 1900's enjoyed a life style that is rapidly vanishing, in the light our technological society. There were fifteen sons and daughters born to Lucy and William Henry Amis. Everyone had their chores to do and many were punctuated by dives into the haystack and other forms of frivolities.

The Amis family reunions started in 1960 at the family home while their mother was living. Recently the family consisting of the eleven remaining sisters and brothers, their spouses, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren held their first informal reunion at the beach home of Billy Amis and his mother Mary Amis in the Mill Point Shores Community in Maddox, Md.

The 15th biannual reunion was highlighted by Field Day on Friday, featuring all types of crasy relays and contests for which prizes were awarded. Saturday was the time for boating, whether on a motor-boat, sailboat or rowboat. After a sumptious dinner, it was time for the talent show.

There was an enlighting karate exhibition and demonstration of self defense techniques (yes there's a black belt in the family); a singing which did a beautiful rendition of "The Way We Were", and a three year old who did an "electric boogie" as well as any of the Soul Train gang! Next was the outdoor disco, where dancers from 80 to 3 partied hardy.

Sunday's Prayer Breakfast was the highlight of the weekend. Prayers were offered by several members. Brother Ralph Amis related the hardships and pleasures of growing up on a farm and stressed, "whatever your mind can conceive and believe, you can achieve." Each family member then stood and told the group of any recent outstanding accomplishments. The reunion was not only fun, but inspirational as well. Living brothers and sisters are Rosetta Smith, Maggie Leake, Hassie Dixon, Mary Pines, Geriadine Wheeler, Ann Dukes, Louis, Ralph, Charles, Arthur and Walter Amis, also one adopted brother Kasper Chestnut.

New Baby

Mr. and Mrs. Terry Van Diver Boston of Park Avenue, Baltimore, announce the birth of their first child, Christopher Eric. Master Christopher was born at 11:03 a.m. on June 20th at Sinai Hospital, weighing 6 lbs. 2 ¾ oz. and measuring 20¾ inches. Mr. Boston, a native of Philadelphia, is employed as a Sales Representative for Hynson, Westcott, and Dining. Mrs. Cheryl Banks-Boston, a native of Detroit, is a former Marketing Representative for I.B.M. Master Christopher will be baptised into the Catholic Church on Sunday, October 9th at St. Bernadine's Church.

Single PARENTING

By Kelly Hill

"BACK TO SCHOOL": The time has come again for back to school shopping. A grand tour of Baltimore City looking for places where you get the most for your money began with the following clothing and furniture second hand stores. The Council Thrift Shop on Charles Street. The Veterans Warehouse at Fulton and Pennsylvania Avenues. Purple Heart Store on West Belvedere Avenue. Second Time Around in Woodmoor Shopping Center on Liberty Heights Avenue and Essex Road. Clothes Closet at 3906 Roland Avenue. Encore at 1015 Taylor Avenue. Just a Second Boutique 5708 Newbury Street. Once Again Boutique at 511 Delaware Avenue (Towson). Something Old Something New at 5136 Harford Road. Thrift Mart at 4915 Park Heights Avenue.

If you are still looking for a school — the Roland Park Elementary School (public) is an excellent school. The Roland Park School has all day kindergarten, and offers languages and music classes from grades kindergarten, and offers languages and music classes from grades kindergarten through the 6th grade.

If you would like to send your child to a Catholic school and you are in need of financial assistance, you can start by asking for a scholarship. All Catholic schools won't accept scholarships, but if you should pick one that does, the only thing that's required is for you to go down to the IRS office and get a copy of your tax return statement and present it to the school. Based on your record, this will determine how much tuition you will pay. If all of the scholarships have been taken, apply for the following year.

Now is also the time for you to apply for scholarships for camp next Spring. The sooner you put in your applications the better chance you stand to be first.

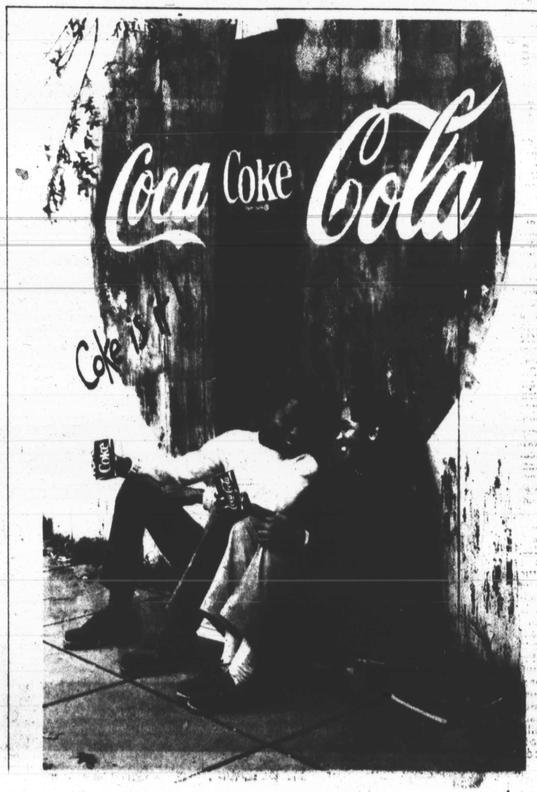
School supplies, such as pencils and notebooks are reasonably priced at Woolworth, Rite Aide, K-Mart, and Murphy Mart.

If you are in the market for school shoes, it is always wise to remember that the quality of the shoe does not depend on the amount of money you have to pay. Thom McAnn, Fayva, and Danny's shoe store on Fayette and Eden Streets are excellent shoe stores.

As a back to school treat, Black Single Parents will have a Skate Party on September 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Shake and Bake Family Fun Center. Come and meet the V-103 Mr. T Look-A-Like and have your back to school pictures taken.

On Friday, September 2, for adults only, BSP will be at City Lights Restaurant on the Terrace. Come and join us for an evening of social conversation among other single parents.

Black Single Parents will have a booth at the City Fair. We need volunteers. All proceeds from the City Fair will go towards setting up our tutorial program for the children of Black Single Parents and to prepare for scholarships for summer camps. For further information call 728-6051 evenings, or 367-



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AFRO SPORTS

NFL and the locals

Colts will improve, may win 4

Really, there's nothing prophetic in that headline. After last year, there's only one way the Baltimore Colts can go. That's up.

The winless Steeds, having their fetlocks after losing eight of nine outings, may be the only team in the National Football League grateful for the 1982 strike. They could have escaped an even more humiliating season.

This year will be different. That is an AFRO promise. Local fans may very well see four victories for Kush and Klan.

Basis for this surprising optimism is the new, positive attitude in the Colt camp — among both players and coaches.

Experience tells this writer that there is just one small step from positive to aggressive.

Aggressiveness and the more comfortable situation that stems from stability (the end of the swinging door policy) could produce:

(1) Winning one or both of the games with the New England Patriots;
(2) Taking one of two from the Buffalo Bills;
(3) Defeating the Chicago Bears in the game here Sept. 25;
(4) Beating the Houston Oilers in the season finale which also will be played in Baltimore . . . LACY.

Bison open '83 at Liberty Bapt.

GREENSBORO, NC — Two Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference teams will open the 1983 football season Saturday, with South Carolina State hosting Furman, and Howard playing at Liberty Baptist.

Other MEAC members Bethune - Cookman, Delaware State, Florida A&M, and North Carolina A&T begin play Sept. 10.

Howard and independent Liberty Baptist will play Sept. 10.

Howard and independent Liberty Baptist will play at 1:30 p.m. in the Flames' stadium in Lynchburg, Virginia. The schools will be meeting for the first time on the gridiron.

LBC head coach Tom Dowling is in his tenth season and his Flames went 7-4 a year ago. Howard University finished 6-5 overall and 2-3 in the MEAC last season.

Joe Taylor, who was the Bison's defensive coordinator in 1982, will make his collegiate head coaching debut.

Reese a Lion

The Detroit Lions picked up veteran tight end Reese McCall on waivers Wednesday. McCall, 27, was Baltimore's No. 1 draft choice out of Auburn in 1978 and played with the Colts for five seasons.

UNANIMOUS — With fellow-American gals' triumphant in relays at Caracas, and Diane Williams scoring in Zurich, Florence Griffith of UCLA made it unanimous over the weekend. The fleet Californian captured the women's 100 in Cologne, W. Germany on Sunday.

Morgan II embarks on test run

Perhaps more than any other in recent history, this year could become a most exacting test for the Morgan State football team.

And that test begins tomorrow (Saturday) night at Boston College.

The Bears will be taking the field against a formidable opponent in the Eagle eleven, one that has commanded respect in New England collegiate football for well over a decade. And they will be entering the game under brand new leadership.

James Phillips, a longtime assistant, is the new head coach. But, new head coaches are not strange to the Morgan scene. They've had three head coaches in the last six years, and last year had no head coach after the opening game.

Morsover, a new athletic director is to be counted. He's Tom Dean who, like Phillips, is a Morgan fixture.

What also is new, according to fullback Phoenix Dinkins, is a strongly positive attitude among coaches and players.

The "uncertainty in just about everything" affected the performance last year, one in which the Bears were impaled on a 4-7 record.

Dinkins and his co-captain, Todd Washington, will handle the running chores in '83, along with talented Alphonso Harris who averaged 5 yards a carry as a freshman last year.

It is felt that these are the keys to improvement of the team since a strong defense has long been a Morgan hallmark.

Skins, Colts underdogs

One is the defending Super Bowl champion, the other didn't win a single game last year. But they're equal as the NLC schedule begins this weekend.

Both the Washington Redskins and Baltimore Colts are underdogs for their openers: the Skins 1½ points to the Dallas Cowboys Monday night and the Colts 5½ to the New England Patriots Sunday afternoon.

DOING SOMETHING DIFFERENT — Dianne Durham and Nelson Valls are invaders, in a sense. Dianne shocked the international gymnastics world over the weekend at Los Angeles, when she won the U.S. all-around title. A continent away in Caracas, Venezuela, Valls captured the Pan Am Games' gold in cycling sprints. Durham is a nurse in LA. Valls learned cycling as a messenger in Harlem.

Division faceoff crucial

Orioles await 26-game stretch

It will be hard to do but the Orioles and their fans must put behind them the happy visions ensconced in their memory as result of the fantastic road trip which ends Sunday afternoon in Minnesota.

It is best that they live day-to-day under the reminder that it's what they have done lately — yesterday, for example.

For it is the Birds' tough lot to be moving (Monday) into a 26-game stretch that can — not can, will — make or break them.

All 26 contests will be played against teams that are bent on unseating them from their perch atop their division.

They get no home edge. The 26-game stretch is split down the middle: 13 at the stadium, 13 on the road.

Defending AL champion Milwaukee and Boston have 7 tries (games) each to do this. And 6 chances apiece will be given Detroit and New York . . . LACY.

Hearns cancels defense, manager adds Pryor

Emanuel Steward, already the major-domo of one of boxing's strongest stables — with Thomas Hearns, Milton McCrory, Hilmer Kenty, et al — added a new fistic star this week at about the same time he lost one temporarily.

World Boxing Association junior welterweight champion Aaron Pryor, predicting victory over Alexis Arguello and hinting retirement, Monday officially replaced trainer Panama Lewis with Steward.

Steward is the manager-trainer of Herns who postponed his Sept. 9 World Boxing council super welterweight title defense against James Green because of an injured hand. Pryor first met Steward in 1972 and recently they discussed strategy.

"God worked things out for the best and when we found out Tommy (Hearns) wasn't going to be able to fight, we settled it," said Pryor in announcing that Steward would be his trainer and advisor for the Sept. 9 fight. He said it was a one-fight arrangement for the time being.

Pryor will receive $1.5 million for the Sept. 9, 15-round rematch at Caesars Palace Hotel.

Steward said Pryor respected Arguello's ability and "he will fight the fight of his life. It will be one of the most vicious fights ever fought. I think he will knock Arguello out. Before I was afraid he was too cocky but not any more. I am not going to change him or take over the program. He has good people. I am going to help," said Steward.

Emanuel Steward gets new star

Roland Pryor joins powerful stable

Pryor said Monday his mother wanted him to retire after the Arguello fight and indicated he might follow her advice.

"There is no other fighter in my category," he said. "Mother knows best. I have been following her advice since I was one. I may retire and baby sit my two children. I've already proved myself."

Pryor said he had no intention of going up in weight divisions to seek out an opponent.

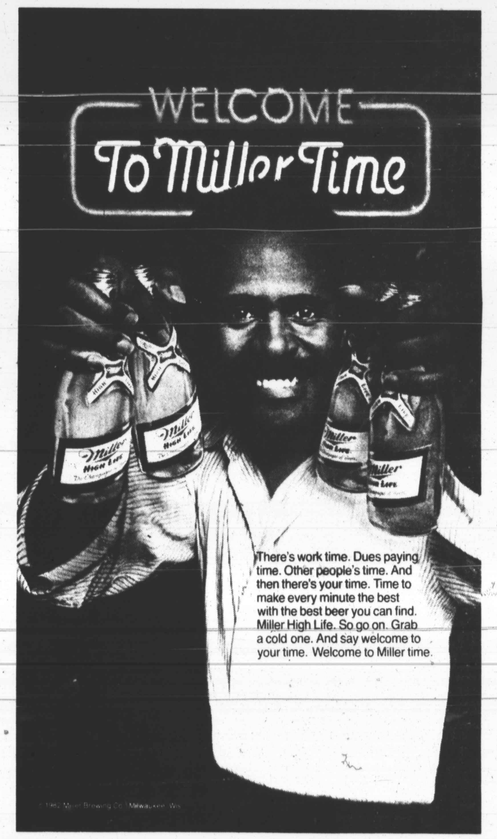
Ex-Yank's son faces car theft

NEW YORK — The son of the late Elston Howard, Yankee catcher and coach, has been arrested in Manhattan and charged with stealing a car.

Elston Howard Jr., 27, was driving a stolen 1982 Chevrolet Camaro with New Jersey license plates when police stopped him at 5:05 p.m. EDT., Monday near 155th Street and Broadway in upper Manhattan.

Howard, of Teaneck, N.J., was charged with grand larceny auto, police said.

Howard told police he borrowed the car from a friend and did not know it had been stolen, a spokesman said.



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