CELEBRITY LOOKOUT

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.

Q. — Gary Coleman has become a readily visible and identifiable young person to our youth. Many black youngsters and some white youth have Gary Coleman as their role model. It is bad enough that Gary Coleman's character of Arnold on "Different Strokes" is misleading to young folks. His recent portrayal of a juvenile arsonist, in my opinion, will very possibly encourage, rather than discourage young people from setting fires.

Much of people's behavior is imitation. Many of us want things after they see it advertised. Most of our youngsters didn't want a Cabbage patch doll until they saw it on TV. "Webster" is only popular with our young people because TV has made it so.

Let us demand that the TV networks and TV stations show our youngsters positive and uplifting programs, not evil, negativism and confusion. How can I make my voice heard today?

CHARLES DUGGER
Baltimore, MD

A. — The first thing to do is monitor everything your children watch. Turn the set off. Introduce your children to good books and spend time with them playing games. If you see a program you object to, write, *write*. On this "Playing With Fire" TV Special starring Cicely Tyson, Gary Coleman and Yaphet Kotto write and complain to NBC-TV — 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10020. Letters will change things. Our black stars do not produce, write or think up these damaging situations.

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Q. — I heard that DeBarge was making a new album and some people said that DeBarge was no longer in the singing business. I also heard that James DeBarge and Janet Jackson are having a baby. Is it true?

VICKI BEAL
Baltimore, MD

A. — I saw a rumour in a national magazine that Janet and James were expecting but only they know for sure although we've heard that Janet has left the cast of "Fame." If the rumour is true we'll all know for sure in a couple of months. And indeed the Debarges have a new album. Their new single and album "Rhythm of the Night" is climbing the charts. Their music is a hit in the new movie, Berry Gordy's "The Last Dragon." April 6, the tune was seven on Billboard's Hot Black Singles. The album was at 22 after only two weeks on the charts.

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Q. — How old and tall is Emmanuel Lewis of TV's "Webster" show? They say he is a midget. He doesn't look it.

ROBERT SIMON
Washington, D.C.

A. — Emmanuel Lewis is 14 years old and is 3 feet 5 inches small.

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Q. — We have a bet on that Melba Moore was a former school teacher and I bet I saw her on "Cotton Comes To Harlem"? Didn't Redd Foxx play the junkman?

EVA WILLIAMS
Washington, D.C.

A. Yes, that was Redd Foxx as the junkman. Melba appeared briefly in "Cotton Comes To Harlem" but her first real role was the film, "Lost In The Stars."

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Q. — We've been seeing a black actress doing a vry good job on TV in "Sara." Where did she come from?

VANESSA ALLEN
Portsmouth, VA

A. — You've seen Alfre Woodard on "Hill Street Blues." She won an Emmy for her performance as the mother of a slain child in "Hill Street Blues" and was nominated for an Oscar as best supporting actress in "Cross Creek." She is from Tulsa, Okla. and she earned a bachelor's degree in theatre arts from Boston University in 1974. Her television work has included episodes of "Palmerstown" and "White Shadow" and PBS's "Go Tell It On The Mountain."

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Q. — What nationality is Billy Ocean? He sounds English. What was his first hit?

INEZ WEBSTER
Durham, N.C.

A. — The Arista Records star was born in a family of six children in Trinidad and his parents took him to London, England when he was eight. He was a cutter in ladies' tailoring by day and played with bands, Shades of Midnight and Dry Ice at

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Cicely Tyson and Gary Coleman with Yaphet Kotto.

Melba Moore

DeBarge

NATIONAL ROUNDUP

WASHINGTON — Spring is finally here, alas; in the nation's capital, almost a month late. Mayor Marion Barry opened the season with the colorful National Cherry Blossom Festival and coronation presided over by his wife, Effi. District of Columbia Cherry Blossom Princess Rhonda Lynette Lynch, a Howard University graduate, was crowned during the festivities, highlighted by the Festival parade, grand ball and music from Japan.

The occasion reminded us that Mayor Barry still plans a report to the people on his African tour last winter where he participated in the World Conference of Mayors in Monrovia, Liberia. Tuskegee, Ala. Mayor Johnny Ford is the organizer of the world conference. Mayor Barry also succeeded Ford in presiding over the National Conference of Black Mayors in Hartford, Conn., last month (April).

There are indications the Capitol mayor plans to seek a historic third term just as popular Los Angeles chief executive Tom Bradley sought an unprecedented fourth term. Could it be that these obviously effective black mayors are preparing their platforms for a greater national roles in politics?

Meanwhile, New Orleans Mayor Ernest Morial assumed the presidency of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, after leading all of the heads of the nation's principal cities in a "mobilization for a fair budget" on the capitol building steps here. Mayors Barry and Harold Washington of Chicago, joined Morial, Edward Koch, New York City; Raymond Flynn, Boston; Richard Caliguiri, Pittsburgh and Federico Pena, Denver, in demonstrating for "fairer appropriations" in defense programs and domestic allocations . . .

The recent Summit Conference of representatives of some 300 organizations here was unique, but not unprecedented. Chicago Daily Defender publisher John Sengstacke, who attended reminded us the black operated National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) often held summit meetings of black leaders in the 1940s and 1950s to effectively push for government and private sector actions in eliminating discrimination and inequities which are still surfacing today. During the 1960s, the "Big Six" leaders of the NAACP, National Urban League, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Commitee and the Congress of Racial Equality and National Council Women, met often to discuss techniques and strategies, but this cohesiveness is apparently lost today with the shift from civil rights equality to political and economic interests.

Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.), who convened the successful "Black Family Plan" meeting emphasized that it was not designed to displace any other coalition of networking organizations who wish to follow their own agenda, as long as they cooperate with the BFP agreement for political and economic empowerment.

Meanwhile, Rev. Joseph Lowery, SCLC president, has called for strengthening of the

Mayor Marion Barry

Coalition of Conscience formed during the 20th anniversary of the March on Washington, Jesse Jackson is developing the Rainbow Coalition for political thrusts in 1988 and 1988 national elections and the traditional Leadership Conference on Civil Rights is seeking to maintain the liberal perspective developed in legislation to protect the civil rights gains of the 1960s and 1970.

Ralph Neas, LCCR executive director, emphasizes that the emerging new Black Agendas developed during the 1980s will eventually enhance the effectiveness of all the coalitions which are threatened by the rising tide of conservatism which supports President Ronald Reagan's policies. How to effectively combat this conservative tide while maintaining the liberal agenda of the past generation is the test of the new black leadership.

Thelma Duggan, special assistant to President Reagan, recently convened black leaders for an economic development meeting in the executive office building and arranged for Mrs. Coretta Scott King to establish the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Commission in honor of her martyred husband. . .

Veterans of the pre-Vietnam War Great Society programs of President Lyndon B. Johnson gathered at the LBJ Library and ranch in Austin, Texas, to review the impact of that historic period. The late Atty. Patricia Harris, who served as an Ambassador and cabinet officer in the LBJ administration was sorely missed, but another great society personality, former congressman Barbara Jordan reigned supreme.

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The Equal Employment Opportunity Tech Fair sponsored by Clark and Clark Association in Washington, was designed to test the government and Fortune 500's reported commitment to Small Minority Business, says EEO Tech Fair creator Don Clark, an executive search official seeking to place more blacks in the high technical industries.

"Although EEO quotas don't exist today, the government still expects companies who receive government contracts to have or to attempt to get a representative number of minority and women high tech-workers, Clark declared. Contrary to common belief, there are still pressures to enforce EEO and affirmative action plans, says Clark in urging more minorities to seek more jobs in the computer and electronic fields . . For information, contact Clark and Clark Associates at 7338 Baltimore, Blvd., Suite 110 College Park, Md., 20740, (301-864-1117)

Capital school board member, R. Calvin Lockridge, who complained of drug dealers in the District public schools, hosted the bon-voyage reception for the Ballou High School Humanities European Study Tour and classical and art centers in England, France, Germany, etc. this spring. And the city's Woodrow Wilson High School has been invited to compete in the 14th International Youth Music Festival in Vienna, Austria, this summer.

By Larry Still and Art Carter