T.V.'s Benson . . . new father

By Ida M. Peters

Q. Please clear up for me the facts on Sammy Davis, Jr.'s parents. I saw this pretty lady on TV and she was being interviewed as his mother.

JERRY HYMAN
Baltimore, Md.

A. Sammy Davis, Sr., a Wilmington, N.C. native, had a 40-year career in show business. When Sammy, Jr. was born, Dec. 8, 1925, his father was a dancer in Will Mastin's Holiday of Dixie-land Revue in New York. His mother, Elvira "Baby" Sanchez, was a chorus girl with the same traveling show.

Q. Please settle a bet. How old is Tony Brown on "Tony Brown's Journal" on TV? I say he is a West Virginia native and my friend says Detroit. What is his real name?

D.A.
St. Louis, Mo.

A. Tony Brown, the broadcaster, producer is 55. He was born April 11, 1933 in Charleston, W. Va. as William Anthony Brown. He graduated from Wayne State University with a B.A. in 1959; and a Master in Social Work, 1961.

Q. Is Benson on TV a new father? When did he get married again and how old is he? I can't spell his name. Is it his real name?

JMS
Washington, D.C.

A. You're writing about Robert Guillaume of TV's "Benson" fame. He was born Robert Williams, Nov. 30, 1927 in St. Louis. He and producer wife, Donna, recently became parents of a baby girl in Burbank, Calif. Daughter, Rachel Jeannette is the first child to couple wed in 1985. Daddy "Benson" is 61 and has adult children from a previous marriage.

Q. My mother used to watch "Guiding Light" on TV and even when she was deathly ill she insisted that the set be turned on. How long has this TV series been on and who are some of the black stars who have appeared?

ADDIE MURPHY
Baltimore, Md.

Police Chief, Willie Williams

Jasmine Guy

A. "Guiding Light" started on TV June 30, 1952, the first radio drama to appear on TV and the only former radio drama still on air today. Black "graduates" of the serial include Cicely Tyson, James Earl Jones, Billy Dee Williams and Ruby Dee.

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Q. Was that Jasmine Guy of "A Different World" on the recent PBS series "Wonderworks?"

H.W.D.
Washington, D.C.

A. Yes, that was Jasmine Guy who plays waitress in a coffee shop who befriends a boy hiding out in a New York City subway. The TV drama "Runaway" aired on the PBS series "Wonderworks," Feb. 4, 1989. It starred Charles Dutton of "Ma Rainey's Blackbottom" fame; Hattie Winston and newcomer Gavin Allen, as the boy.

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Q. Does Philadelphia have a black mayor and a black police chief? Who is he please?

JIMMIE BLACK
Chicago, Ill.

A. Philadelphia has a black mayor and a black police chief, Willie Williams. The one-time Fairmount Park guard rose through the ranks of the Philadelphia Police Department during a 24-year career. He took oath of office as the first black to hold the position in Philadelphia's history, June 10, 1988.

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

How the Lyons twins engineer their own reality.

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