

# Black Actors at the Oscars

## Part three in a series

by Daryl Davidson  
Collegian Staff Writer

Around this time of the year, much attention is given to famous blacks and to the Academy Awards, or Oscars.

To date, only 23 black actors have made the Oscar scene, although there have been hundreds and hundreds of nominations for acting roles. Of these blacks, only three received Oscars before the 1970s: Hattie McDaniel, for "Gone with the Wind"; James Baskette, for "Song of the South"; and Sidney Poitier, for "Lilies of the Field."

Although there were only five black actors nominated in the 70s, all the bids were for leading roles.

In 1971, James Earl Jones was up for Best Actor, thanks to "The Great White Hope."

In the film, Jones played Jack Jefferson, a boxing champion. He was no stranger to the role: he had already won a Tony Award and a Drama Desk Award for his Broadway performance in the Pulitzer Prize-winning play on which the film is based.

Jefferson was modeled on controversial Jack Johnson, the first black heavyweight champion of the world. (After Johnson knocked out his white opponent, films of live fights were banned.)

But the Academy named George C. Scott Best Actor, for "Patton." Scott refused the award, becoming the first to do so.

By the early 70s, the film industry discovered that there was a demand for black-oriented films. This period could be considered a landmark one, not only for black-oriented films (such as "Shaft," "Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song," "Watermelon Man" and "Superfly"), but for black actors as well.

In 1973, Paul Winfield and Cicely Tyson were in the respective leading Oscar races for "Sounder." In this Depression-era tale about a Louisiana sharecropping family, Winfield and Tyson portrayed Nathan and Rebecca Morgan.

In the film, Morgan is sent to prison after he steals some food for his family. Rebecca then carries on and holds the family together.

One of Tyson's competitors for

the Best Actress title was former Supremes lead-singer Diana Ross, who was recognized for her portrayal of tragic blues legend Billie Holiday in "Lady Sings the Blues."

Ross made her screen debut in this rags-to-riches story. Critics praised her, although some of them said she was playing herself instead of "Lady Day."

However, the top Oscar honors went to Liza Minnelli, for "Cabaret," and Marion Brando, for "The Godfather." Brando refused his award, too.

The other black actor nominated in the '70s was Diahann Carroll, who got a Best Actress bid in 1975 for her gritty portrayal of a Harlem welfare mother of six, in "Claudine." (Claudine's suitor, a garbage man, was played by James Earl Jones.)

No other black actor was nominated until 1982. And, although the releases of 1989 will not be nominated until next February, the '80s have already brought more Academy Award nominations to black actors than any other decade has.

# Movie's Success No Accident

by David Friend  
Collegian Staff Writer

Lawrence Kasden has directed many good films. Included in his impressive volume of works are such classics as "Silverado" and "The Big Chill." Now, add "The Accidental Tourist" to that list. Filmed on location in Baltimore, MD and Paris, France, "The Accidental Tourist" is a sheer delight to watch. The richest and most rewarding parts of the movie come from the characters and from the performances of those involved.

The central and pivotal character in the movie is Macon, portrayed by William Hurt. Macon is an introverted travel guide writer. His work always points to ways of traveling to distant points of the globe, yet to remain at home doing it. As the movie opens, Macon and his wife (played by Kathleen Turner) are still trying to cope with a loss. A year earlier, a man shot their son while holding up a fast food restaurant. As evidenced by flashbacks, Macon had never fully recovered, while all the while retaining an air of acceptance.

The major activity in the movie occurs when Macon's wife moves out of their house, and Macon becomes involved with a local dog trainer. Macon's dog, Edward, provides most of the comic elements to Macon's life. For instance, Edward, with the help of stairs and a skateboard, is the cause of Macon's broken leg. Geena Davis plays the dog trainer, who is immediately infatuated with Macon. Through various escapades, Macon has the most interesting time of his life with the trainer.

I, personally, especially enjoyed this movie. The cast was superb, perfectly playing their roles. The scenery was beautiful. Most of all, the movie was interesting. The characters were ones that I sympathized with. Now, not everyone will enjoy "The Accidental Tourist" as much as I did, but if your looking for a thoughtful, entertaining night at the movies, I strongly suggest this movie.

# New Order: Dance

by David Friend  
Collegian Staff Writer

Technopop that has a danceable beat has become a mainstay of today's pop chart. So why hasn't New Order become a very big band? I don't have a clue. This group practically invented the technopop genre. They started out as Joy Division in the late 70's. After the suicide of their lead singer, they changed their name to New Order in 1981. And after eight years, they still remain the best and most innovative with technopop.

The first single from the album, and the initial track, is a testament to that ability. "Fine time," with the use of synthesizers and a sequencer, binds a seductive web around the listener that is hard to escape. No other group can do what New Order does with its music.

Another impressive aspect of New Order is their sheer musicianship. On initial listening, this is difficult to really pick up on. But upon further reflection of a song, such small perfections are clearly evident. Just listen to "Run." The guitar's use is simply perfect to the direction of the song. The closest New Order has come to the quality they so richly present

in *Technique* was their 1985 release *Low-life*.

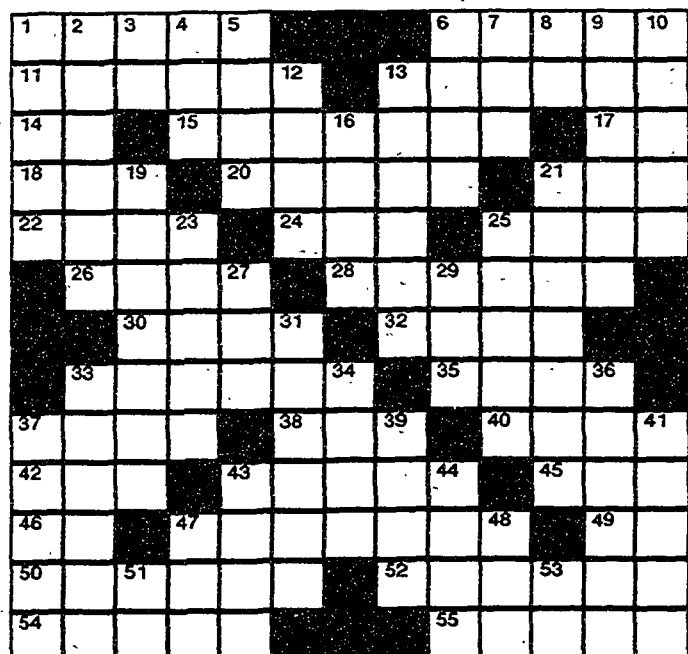
But what they have added over the years is a funky quality to their music. "Mr. disco" presents this exactly. The song is about what it seems, a disco dancer. However, the lyrics of New Order songs are almost nonsensical. So, what makes "Mr. disco" stand out is its pure danceability.

Every song on *Technique* is good. But, of course, some rise to the top. These are the ones you simply do not forget. "Mr. disco" is one such song. The best, though, is "Dream attack," which closes the tape. It not only has a catchy tune and connects all the aspects of the rest of the album together, but the lyrics are also the best. The most memorable line from the entire album is contained in this song. "Is it really such a sin? 'Cause if it is I give in," just has a certain ring to it.

Overall, I simply recommend this album to everyone. New Order is the originator of most of the technopop that one hears today, so go to the source. New Order is still the best example of the genre. So go out, buy *Technique*, and enjoy. If you can snatch it up on CD, do so. This is one you'll want to keep.

# The Weekly Crossword Puzzle

- |                     |                        |                         |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>       | 35 Disclosed           | 4 Mature                |
| 1 Deadly            | 37 Fat around kidneys  | 9 Waist                 |
| 6 Thick slices      | 38 Pedal digit         | 10 Kind of fabric       |
| 11 Coalition        | 40 Supercilious person | 12 Pitching stats.      |
| 13 Steadfast        | 42 Sin                 | 13 Soaks                |
| 14 Either           | 43 Falsifiers          | 16 Grows old            |
| 15 Eccentric        | 45 The sun             | 19 More showery         |
| 17 Either           | 46 Teutonic deity      | 21 Fingerless gloves    |
| 18 Ventilator       | 47 Colorful birds      | 23 Exhausted            |
| 20 Ardent           | 49 Behold!             | 25 Musical instruments  |
| 21 Drinking vessel  | 50 Rescind             | 27 Capuchin monkey      |
| 22 Light meals      | 52 Kind of poem        | 29 Take unlawfully      |
| 24 Diocese          | 54 Declare             | 31 Retreat              |
| 25 Workbench device | 55 Aches               | 33 Gunner's compartment |
| 26 Drinks slowly    | <b>DOWN</b>            | 34 Bellow               |
| 28 Fairy            | 1 Raft                 | 36 Made of wool         |
| 30 Approach         | 2 Eagles' nests        | 37 Prophets             |
| 32 Chimney carbon   | 3 Symbol for tantalum  | 39 God of love          |
| 33 Smaller          |                        | 41 Blemishes            |
|                     |                        | 43 Body of water        |
|                     |                        | 44 Halt                 |
|                     |                        | 47 Vessel               |
|                     |                        | 48 Nahoor sheep         |
|                     |                        | 51 A state: abbr.       |
|                     |                        | 53 Symbol for nickel    |



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★ Mar. 25	Bon Jovi	Cleveland Colosseum
★ Mar. 31 & Apr. 1	Gallagher	Front Row, Cleveland

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