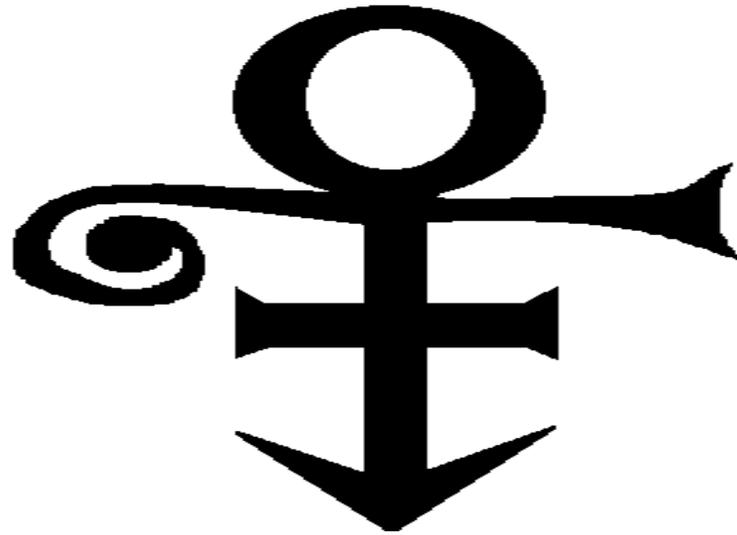


July 7th 1994



On the outside Looking in

Written by: Belinda S. Poree'

Warning!

This document may contain material unsuitable for minors, the seriously lethargic and those with absolutely no sense of humor. If you are any of the above, do not, I repeat, do not turn this page.

I hope you're not lying 2 yourself.

This is going to be very hard to write being that most of what I have to relay took place at a time when Prince was in command. I don't know if you feel Prince is still inside there somewhere, or if he's gone for good. I won't call you Prince because I respect your realm of change. So, I'll do my best to present Prince in his place and  in the present.

Have U ever wondered what the people out there cheering U on were thinking and what their lives were like when they weren't huddled in front of the stage cheering U on?

Well, I'm gonna tell U anyway.

Just kidding. It's up 2 U. Your choice. U can either put this document down or join us on our journey through the "**Beautiful Experience**".

Please.....

Welcome 2 The Dawn

Are we there? Are we really there? This blew me away. It was much more powerful than I expected. I always said what is this “May U live 2 see the Dawn” stuff after every movie and even on the albums? The press thought it was an upcoming movie or album. I didn’t know what it was, nor did I ever guess that it would symbolize such a change.

Now we feel special. We feel like we have access 2 a realm that no one else can enter without the adequate state of mind. The Dawn. The awakening..... aah bliss.

But on the serious tip. I feel it, but I can’t explain it. All I know, in sincerity, is that when the words “Welcome 2 the Dawn” were spoken, everything just fell into place.

No?

You’re not buying this are U? Scary isn’t it, having people who are this moved by your work. But what is it that makes us fans? Why are we so moved by your work? People are always asking us why we are such loyal fans. Most of these people aren’t worth the time it would take 2 answer that fully, due 2 the nature and lack of sincerity in their questioning, so we give them the easy answer and send them on their merry way. But recently I ran into a challenge.

Wanna here it? Wanna hear it?..... Here it goes.

WHAT IS A ♀ FAN

One evening I was working late hour overtime just 2 help pay the bills. I sat typing at my desk across from the teenage boy I work with. My boss had left 4 the evening. We were alone. Bear in mind, this boy tortures me daily, pelting me with small objects or threatening 2 burn my ♀ wall mural, changes the pages on my ♀ calendar and just blatantly pokes fun at my mentor if he's not directly throwing things at the ♀ postcards 2 knock them off my desk. This boy is a prime example of the type of person who makes life so difficult for a ♀ fan. He is virtually a nice boy if U dig really deep, but on the external, he finds punks with guns, drive-by shootings, slam dancing bald headed rappers and going 2 the Marines 2 *kill a few good men*, far more exhilarating than looking up 2 someone U can really respect. But on this night there was a change. I turned 2 see him holding a large ♀ cut out in one hand and scissors in the other. He put the "Vibe Magazine" he cut it out of on my desk and looked at it, then he looked at me and said.... "What is it about him that makes U like him so much? Why do U people become that kind of fan, the kind that will go crazy over a new album or a simple little picture in the paper?"

This was sincere, and coming from him it was a shock. I froze. I knew I couldn't give him the same answer I give everyone else who asks me why I am a fan. I usually say what most people say.....

"Because he's an inspiration, a great musician and he's just plain fierce (which means unstoppable)." I know Anthony would not accept this so I said "I never really thought this deeply on it before." He sat patiently holding the symbol and looking truly earnest. Then it just came out in an unyielding flow:

"It's like reading a good book. Every song a page, every album a chapter. This is where the loyalty comes from. It's as though he's sitting in the middle of the room telling us his story. We all feel like we're a part of his world. Therefore, we don't want the story 2 end, nor do we want any pages ripped out. That is why our ears are always wide open, waiting for the next chapter."
This is why we have 2 hear every detail. Who said what, when, where and how. If we miss one bit, it's like a sentence omitted from one of the paragraphs.

He said, "Wow! Well I guess that's cool." I could see that he had read the interview in "Vibe". Since then, he doesn't bother me about my desk top tribute 2 U or my trills when I hear your version of "Shhh" on WRKS FM (Kiss). As a matter of fact, he contributes occasionally by clipping articles and most recently he told me about the tickets 2 the Palladium. It was almost unfortunate that I didn't believe him until someone else told me the same thing. I rushed out and got tickets 4 both nights for myself and Enigma. First night VIP second night regular tickets.

Now that I have a better understanding of my own reasons for lending U my praise, I can better express it 2 U.

Brace yourself 4 the scenario.

What Type are U

What do we do when we hear about a song or concert we have never heard and are in fear that we'll never hear? How do we feel about this?

Well, it's like reading a book and getting 2 the paragraph where little Billy Joe Funk-n-stuff woke up one morning 2 find the cover of his favorite comic book torn. What is Billy 2 do? Then, just when the story is about 2 tell U what Billy did,

the bottom of the page has been torn off, and on the other side U find....

So that's what Billy did and it made him feel much better. What happens now? What did Billy do to rectify the situation? Well, U see, this is how it is in our situation. This is when the  fan lines light up.

Here we have a scenario featuring:
Mister (1), Miss (2) Mr. (3) Ms (4) and What the (5).

Ding Dong. "Come in girls, what's up."

"So did U hear?"

"Yeah sista. They say  went to the moon and was having a good old time, until this meteor came charging at him at lightning speed and all the papers could think to say was "Serves him right, he should have went to Mars."

"Yeah, they didn't even say what he was wearing."

"So did he get hit?"

"Don't know, they didn't say. What do U think?"

(1) "I think he blocked it with his guitar."

(3) "They didn't say he had one with him."

(1) "Oh."

(2) "Well I think he looked at the meteor head on and repelled it with his supersonic energy beam."

(5) "Stop buggin'."

(3) "I heard he sang "Purple Rain" and it stopped."

(5) "U know, one day you're gonna wake up out of that time warp and it's gonna scare the shit out of U."

(4) "I think he got hit, then said "I've fallen, and I can't get up." Now he's just laying there in space looking at the stars orbiting his head. That's why he hasn't been to New York in 5 years."

(1) "Please don't start that again."

(2) "Yeah, U stop that. He has good reasons for everything he does."

(5) "Hey, crank up the speakers. "Sacrifice of Victor" is on. Don't worry about , God's got his back, besides. he donates his clothes to Mars Aid. They're probably out there defending him now."

These are 5 different responses from 5 different types of  fans.

Type (1): Being the one who boards the norm on the realistic edge, but about to tip off at any given moment.

Type (2): This is the all hail the  type who thinks that God has met his heir apparent. The moon, stars, planets and the sun revolve around your existence and U can do no wrong.

Type (3): The wanna be in with the crowd, but doesn't have a clue, time trippin, I liked him better in the old days, he should go back to the "Purple Rain" days type.

Type (4): This is the sarcastic, but loyal and closer to being the realistic one. One who looks at  as being a real person with flaws, just one who deserves to be spoken highly of and praised more than the rest of the world. This type will equally praise , but on the down low. Usually saying "Yeah, I gotta give him his props on that one." Which coming from a type (4) is the equivalent of a type (2) saying "See, I told U he was a gift from God."

But they will equally seek and destroy anyone who utters a negative word about U. Then U have

Type (5): Who is a combination of types 1, 2 & 4. These are the scary types. Just imagine a 2/4 type. 2/4 may be a good form when it comes 2 keeping time on a music staff, but not in this situation. But who am I to talk, I am a type (5), a conglomerate of types (1), (2), and (4). So I guess Sibyl and I are related on the schitzo tip.

All and all, this is how we put the pieces together. We act upon what we hear in your lyrics. How U respond 2 things and your rare interviews. It's like a big puzzle. Every piece we get brings us closer 2 knowing what U are all about. We trip back on how U responded 2 a certain situation in the past and we add our studies on psychology, your present age and years of experience, some mental, social and personal growth and come up with how U might respond 2 this new situation.

You're probably saying "Get a life." There are those who don't seem 2 have one, but there are also others 2 whom this is the most natural not threatening vice. They say, "I don't smoke, don't drink and don't drug, but I get the crazy munchies when I see a . Those going through withdrawal will put out an old album, just 2 hold them until a new one comes out. So If **the powers that be** hold back your output, they're going 2 have 2 put up rehabs in every City, State and Country, because as long as U keep adding chapters 2 your book we'll keep listening.

Graffiti Bridge

If you're still vexed about this, move on 2 the next section, but if U want 2 see it the way we saw it, read on.

(1) Yes! Yes! "**Graffiti Bridge**". Can't wait. (2) It's spiritual. It's going 2 make us feel good like the "Lovesexy" tour. Can't wait. (4) I just wanna see him get the girl. (5) Yeah, me too. Can't wait. Wait a minute. Everyone and their mother has posters advertising their next move. Where are the posters? Look, there is a poster of LL Cool J, about his next album. Where is "Graffiti Bridge?" (4) What's up with his people? They aren't backing him. He's got a bunch of losers working 4 him. (3) Yeah! Ms. (4), let's split.

Hangin': (4) Hey! That store has a picture of  in the window. Gotta go in. Wow, lots of records and stuff. What's this? The second draft of "Graffiti Bridge?" How did they.... No. Never mind. Don't start none, won't be none. Just buy it, and run before they change their minds.

Ring, ring. (5) Hello. (4) Girlfriend, U are gonna die. Guess what I got. (5) No! Get outa here. U serious? (4) Serious as a heart attack. (5) I'm there.

Hangin' on 40 duce (42nd street): (5) Movie starts next week. Where are they showing it? (1) Look at that marquee 4 blocks away. That's him. It's a poster 4 the movie. I like that black one sleeved leather jacket. (5) I like his hair. Let's go over there and ask them if they are going 2 pre-screen it here. (1) The Roxy!?! This theater is close. (5) Closed? Honey it's been burned down. (1) Why is this ad on a theater that has been burned down? 4 the same reason **Sign o' the Times** was an MCA release. (5) Losers. No! I'm not having it. We read the draft, this movie is going 2 be phat. I made a t-shirt, maybe we can use it 2 help advertise the movie. (1) let's wear them 2 the movie, and everywhere we go. (5) Yeah! And we'll send him one 2 let him know what we're doing. (1) Oh stop! He won't even get it. (5) Pessimist. (1) Get real. (5) Being his fan has made me an optimist, besides, if he doesn't get it, he just doesn't. At least I tried. Are we gonna do this or what? I'll get (4) 2 crank out the shirts, and I'll handle the technical end.

"Paisley Park, may I help U?"

(5) "Jill Willis' office please."

"One moment, I'll transfer U."

(5) Oh I'm scared, I'm scared, I'm scared. Relax, release, relate. "Hi Ms. Willis. This is Belinda from "Wing Ding Music" in New York. We noticed a lack of publicity here 4 "Graffiti Bridge", so we designed some shirts 2 advertise the movie, and we wanted 2 send him one."

(1) "Oh that's nice. He would appreciate it. Send it my attention and I'll make sure he sees it, but if you're going 2 sell them, you'll have 2 contact Warner Bastards first."

(5) "No, just advertising. Thank U. Bye.":

Shipped next day air: Next day.

(C) "Jill Willis' office."

(5) "Hi Chuck, how's the weather?"

(C) "Don't ask. What can I do 4U?"

(5) "Is Ms. Willis in?"

(C) "Not yet."

(5) "Ok, I'll call back later."

Later:

"PRN."

(5) "Hi, is Ms. Willis in?"

"Sorry she's in a meeting, can I take a message?"

(5) "Yes, this is Belinda from "Wing Ding Music." I'm just calling 2 see if she got the package I sent."

"Package? U mean the T-Shirt?"

(5) (How dare she open it.) "Uh, Yes."

"Oh, it was beautiful, just wonderful. Oh he really appreciates when people do nice things like that 4 him. It's so great when fans take the time out to show their love and express their bla bla bla bla bla bla....."

(5) (Is she reading a script?) "Yes, well I just wanted him 2 get it."

"Oh don't worry, everyone loved it."

(5) (I didn't make it 4 everyone. This woman is trippin') "Well thanks anyway, gotta go." (Click)

First night: People wandering around looking 4 movies. Look! Get that couple over there. Hi! U don't want to see that movie. Come see "Graffiti Bridge". There is this scene when this happens, and you'll love the scene when that happens and this, and that and.....

The doors are open. Yeah, can't wait. Small theater, but not an empty seat. Mostly brothers and sisters.

(5) We got the ghetto crowd tonight Enigma. (4) Yeah, we in the hood. Why are they playing Lionel Richie's greatest hits? Naw man, I can't sit through this. Anyone want popcorn? People rush the door 2 the concession stand. When the previews start, everyone rushes back 2 the theater.

Movie begins: (2) "This is great, this is wonderful." (1) "Shut up, I can't here!" (A.B.C.D.E.F.G.) (3) "Who's that? He wasn't in 'Purple Rain'." (1) "The DJ." (2) "Who's side is he on?" (In the world of screaming trees....) Wild laughter breaks out in the theater. (4) "Screaming trees?" (1) "Quiet, I want 2 hear what she's saying." (Let's tell our boss about that stella. Is she fine? Pant pant, she's 2 fine? Pant pant, no she's 3 fine.) (5) "3 fine? (4) "Wack." (5) "Corny." (5) "See, that's that Jane Child shit." (1) "Look, Kid is sneaking into the house 2 get Aura." (Kid blows out the candle) Damn it's dark. (1) "What the hell kind of candle was that?" (5) "Yall don't understand. See, he blew so hard, the street lights went out. He's got 2 lay off the Doritos." (5) "Shut up fool." (4) "Awight." (Aura's on Kid's bed asleep. Kid looms over her. No, he won't take advantage.) Aw!!! Boooo! (1) "Oh, he's trying 2 be a gentleman now." (4) "Yeah. I see where his head is at. See womens be fallin' 4 dat respect shit, and I can get with dat." (5)

“Shut up fool.” (5) “Aaight.” (Kid picks Aura up and presses her against the wall, she slides down and he takes her place against the wall.) (3) “Now U pick me up.” (2) “Stop it Lawrence!” She’s up. Go 4 it Kid! Hang man? (A.... B.... C.... D...) Wrong! Damn she’s dumb. (M I N E) (4) “See how smooth that brother is. He’s pulling her in on the down low. (No, His!) (4) “What did she say. Aw come on. So get the fuck out his bed.” (3) “Yeah, get out.” Booo (4) “See, he shoulda took it.” (1) “Naw man, that’s wrong. She’s a spiritual chick. They make U wait.” (2) “Oh look at Tevin, he’s so cute.” (Tick, Tick, Bang.) (5) “Hey, my favorite song. Why is he dancing like that?” (4) “Blue balls.” (5) “Oh.” (Cricket, cricket.) Guess they didn’t like it. (5) “Fuck them, that song is **the bomb**.” See he’s mad now. “I get maaad, I get maaad.” (*Private joke between Wing, Enigma & Dogface.*) Look, he’s got a gun. (2/4) “Oh no. Don’t die like in “**Under the Cherry Moon**”, I can’t take that again.” Wait, is that a Glock. Buck, buck buck! (5) “Shut up dumb ass, this is a spiritual film.” (2) “No don’t shoot yourself kid!” (3) “Put the gun down man.” (Hi, wanna here some of my poetry?) Oh no. Shoot her, shoot her! Go Mavis! Go Mavis! Go! (Still.....would stand all time.) Wow what a finale. (2) See nothing can touch that.” Smooth like butta. (5) “Looks like he caught the holy ghost up there.” Wow. That was moving. (I won’t be #3 and I won’t be #2 and I won’t be #1, I won’t be nothing at all.) Oh well that’s it 4 her. (4) “Hey man, Kid didn’t get the girl at the end!” (3) “She got hit by a Jeep fool, I don’t think he want’s it now.” (1/4) “No, I don’t think he’s into all that.” (5) “I think U guys missed the whole point though. I missed the point.” (4) “U need 2 hear the dialogue 2 get the point.” (4/5) “No I get it, the spiritual thing. I was very moved. By the way, what happened 2 all the scenes U said we would see?” (5) “Forget it.” (4/5) “Yo man, we gotta take Cal 2 see this movie tomorrow.” Yeah I can’t wait. (5) “Roxx, Lets go. I have 2 see this again tomorrow. This time with a civilized crowd. Next time we’re going Mid-town.”

Mid-town *Ritzy* theater: (1/4) Nice theater. Clean. (5) Gee these people are quiet. I can’t tell if they like it or not. (1) “Groovy movie, great storyline.” Pass the Grey Poupon. (5) “Well, at least we’ll hear the dialogue.” (1/4) “They don’t laugh at the funny parts, they just giggle softly into their hands. When are they gonna let loose?” (1/4) “Again with the poetry. Maybe these people can get with this poetry.” Uh oh. (5) Hey Aura watch out 4 that Jeep! This woman will never learn.” Clap, clap, clap, applause! (1) “Good, no more poetry.” (5) “No they did not. Oh my goodness. These nice decent people are clapping. Now U know that’s wrong.” (1/4) “How could they be so cruel.” (5) “I take it they couldn’t get with the poetry.”

Outside : “Great film. The music was excellent.” (1) “Yes, I agree. I just paid \$7.50 2 see Prince have a good time, and it was worth it.” (3) “It was good, but it can’t top Purple Rain.” (1) “Look, if U want 2 see Purple Rain, go grab a bag of Bonton’s and rent the flick.”

When the film came out on tape, we each bought a copy. Recently I had 2 buy a second one. Because of the spiritual content, my daughter Nicole took over the first one. Occasionally when her friends come over, she puts it on 4 them. But believe me, even the hoods in the first theater understood the representation. This is just their way of enjoying your work. It’s all a part of their being a type (4).

The Ballet

Prince wrote 4 the Joffree? Wow, what an accomplishment. I'm proud. Can we see it? What, it's not playing in New York. Where? In DC oh well. Going 2 Tower 2 see what's new. There is a girl looming over the Prince section. She's a big girl, so I have 2 be careful how I approach her. Look at her, she's gonna take everything. No I must be nice. I can't get over there. What should I do? I see the one I want. Reach 4 it. Oh no, she got it. "You're not gonna take them all are U?" Oops! She turns around. Beautiful smile. "No, I'm sorry. I'm just trying 2 build upon my collection." How Intellectually well spoken she is.

Outside: "I'm Pat, I hear there's another store we can go 2."

"Sure, lets go together." Great, I made a friend.

Next Meeting: She wants me 2 come over and listen 2 some music with her. Why not? I'm there. Doris Day? Who's Patsy Cline? Uh, Yes Frank Sinatra's ok. (What is this?) Opera? How did she become a fan. Oh well you'd be surprised at the types of people U attract. (P) "So did U hear about the Joffree's **Billboards?**" (B) "Yeah, but it's in Washington DC (P) "U wanna go?" (B) "Yeah But..." (P) "Let's go then, I'll make the arrangements." Wow, another take charge person.

DC: Taxi! Kennedy Center please. Very nice. Uh Oh. Look at the crowd. Why are they so dressed up? (P) "Because this is a ballet." (B) "Oh, but it's Prince's music, they can chill on the furs and long gowns." As I look around, I see a few people hugging the walls. They are dressed in jeans just as we are. The rest of the fans were singled out when they said T-shirts will be sold at the middle booth. We all rushed the stand.

This girl with the mink stole, is she serious? Oh well, maybe she felt it was appropriate.

First choreographer: Ok but has no concept of the music's origin. **Thunder**, the highlight of the show (according 2 the media). Why are they rubbing on each other? This is a spiritual song. What's with the cat suits?

Second choreographer: Cool, but why is there a clown dancing 2 "Purple Rain?" What's with the metallic suit? Anyway, the people are quiet. They clap at the end of each song. They seem 2 like it, but what I noticed was that most of them don't seem 2 know the songs. Other than "Purple Rain" which they sang along with. (It felt good 2 hear them sing, especially the 50+ gray haired man with the pony tail and the earring.) I guess this was the perfect introduction 2 the last 2 choreographers, who seemed 2 know what this music was about.

After the third choreographer's set closed. The 40+ golden girls behind us got up and went 2 the lobby. When they came back, in their happy flowered dresses, they were waving 2 T-shirts at the people they came with. Then one said "See, this is what he looks like. I've only seen "Purple Rain" once, I never knew he wrote songs like this." As our heads got bigger, more people came back with shirts. (We gloat as if we were U.)

The final choreographer, who definitely had it going on, brought the crowd 2 it's feet. They came alive, but "Willin & Able" stole the show. When a little blue haired old lady stood up and began 2 soul clap, the whole audience stood and joined in. Pat and I were in heaven. When we got outside we stood waiting 4 a cab with a couple who said that they had no idea what they were about 2 see. They had season passes 2 the Joffree. The last show they had seen was "Swan Lake", they were shocked, but they enjoyed it. When we looked across the street from the entrance. There was a sculpture. It had *Walk, Don't Walk* carved all over it. Talk about a coincidence. I had 2 come back the next morning and take pictures in front of it. It was a wooden totem pole. What a beautiful and well placed piece of art.

The positive today is that I called 1-800-NEW FUNK and they said they had "Billboards" on video. I can re-live the experience as many times as I want. I can also share it with the people who couldn't go. Especially my daughter Nicole, who is always feeling slighted. She says that by the time she is old enough 2 go 2 concerts,  won't want 2 do anymore. We just hope she's wrong.

Bootleggers & Scalpers

Scalpers! Where? Kill the bastards. We wanted front row seats at the **Radio City** show on March 24th, 25th and/or 26th 1993. Tickets sold out in record time. No thanks 2 the scalpers buying up all the best seats, plus we heard the industry people had the rest. Being that the scalpers bought most of the tickets, they had the power.

“Hello Ticketron, Prince please.”

“Sorry, sold out.”

“Noooooo!”

What were we 2 do? 5 years we’ve waited. What if he doesn’t come back to New York. We gotta see this show. I hear it’s phat!

(5) “U know why they’re called scalpers don’t U?”

(4) “Yeah, but what other options do we have.”

(5) “Ok, let’s do this.”

“Hello, Sleazy Lowlife Mutha Fukka’z, Inc., how may I help U.”

(5) “We want 2 tickets 2 Radio City 2 see Prince.”

“No problem we still have a few front row seats left.”

(5) (Yes! Yes! Front row.) “How much?”

“\$400.00 each.”

(5) “What? 4 bills? Shit! 4 \$400.00 they’re gonna have 2 change the name of the show 2 “**Prince, center stage with 2 girls on his lap, Act I.**”

“Ok, we also have a few seats on the floor for \$135.00 each.”

(5) (I don’t believe we’re gonna do this. But we’ve been saving up 4 this. What if we have 2 wait another 5 years.) “What the hell, 2 4 the 25th and 2 for the 26th, and if we can’t see him from where we’re sitting, don’t think we won’t find U. (Click)

March 25, 1993: Outside Radio City, young girls cry, “Please, does anyone have tickets 2 sell?” It’s a shame. I wish I had extra tickets. I would just give it 2 them. Seeing that really messed my head up. It hurts me because I understand what it’s like 2 miss something U really want 2 see because some jerk is running a scam on it. The shows were great, as expected, except 4 the ushers who kept telling us 2 sit down as if it were a Barry Manilow concert. Even something as pure as the “Lovesexy” concert couldn’t escape the soiled hands of those fiends. Seeing all those empty seats up front was very discouraging 2 us. I can only imagine how U would have felt than if U saw the empty seats. At first we looked at the empty seats

and said "I don't see how it sold out and there are still empty seats." Then we looked up behind us into the balcony. We saw a sea of faces. Those scalping bastards bought the floor level seats and couldn't sell them. I suppose they sold some last minute to anyone who passed by on the street, because we were about 5 rows back, and the couple in front of us turned and asked if they could see the tour book. The woman said, "That doesn't look like the guy from 'Purple Rain'." (Where have these people been living.) I felt like slapping her in the back of the head. Then they left before the second half. I was vexed, but nothing could have dampened my spirits when U began singing "**Anna Stesia**". U rose high above the stage and caught the holyghost, while we held the hands of strangers below singing. None of today's artists could ever give us the feeling we floated out on that night. I turned to my best friend, (Solid as a rock, I'll show no affection unless I'm forced Ms. (4) with a hint of type (1).) and to my utter shock, tears were streaming down her face. (I'm dead, she's gonna kill me 4 telling.) We were not alone in our tears. When the music stopped a thunderous chorus of "Love is God, God is love. Girls & boys love God above" rang through **The Garden** and broke all barriers. The most memorable moments for her were of U spinning the basketball on your finger, and the battle between the left side of the crowd and the right side. Who was the weakest. We tried to be as loud as possible. But the thing that set her off the most was during the phrase "Rain is wet, sugar is sweet. Clap your hands," a large number of people clapped their hands. So by that time, the ones who missed out on the clap, knew what was next, and they didn't miss a beat. "Stomp your feet." U could have sworn there was an earthquake in New York. This is where she said the infamous type (4) line "See, I have to give him his props on that one. He gets the M.C. award. M.C., meaning "Move the Crowd". To bad we couldn't see the after show at **Roseland** on 10/2/88. I heard Patti Labelle was there and U guys turned it out. Oh well there goes another page.

No. This is not an attempt to escape the bootleg section. **Bootleggers are thieves.** They cheat lie and steal. Plus, they take away the artist's privacy which may be the only thing keeping that artist's feet on the ground. But what are die hard fans, and why do they exist? They are the ones who feed these bootlegging bastards, who in turn keep the pages from being torn from their books. They are also the same people who will buy to copies of the artist's latest release. But on the other hand, it's just like when an author is writing a Pulitzer Prize winning novel. There will always be pages he will ball up and toss in the trash. He wouldn't want anyone to go digging around in his trash basket taking out pieces of work he is not satisfied with, or parts he feels will go better with another story than with the present one. Back in the wings though, his fans will always be the curious ones who give a new meaning to the phrase "*Curiosity killed the cat,*" but they live for the "but satisfaction brought him back" part.

I'm sure this neither amuses or excuses. We should never know what it's like to watch U in rehearsal. That's private. And because we don't live in England or Japan, we should never know what your shows there are like unless we go there personally to see them.

Ok, I'm being a typical type (5). I know it's wrong. I know U can't possibly tape all your European & Transcontinental shows for us to purchase through 1-800-NEW-FUNK (hint hint), or the NPG store (hint hint). I hear your after shows are Hot. When U don't have to punch that time card, U push your way up to the front and really get "**Loose**". But not everyone can see your aftershows, and no one can see them all unless they work for U. (**Got any openings?**) But I digress, as U said before "Don't U like surprises?" We try to like surprises. Thanks to the record industry, people will continue to buy bootlegs. They can't handle your output, and they feel that everything needs **mega** advertising and an ample amount of time on the charts before they let U move on to your next project. U never needed a whole lot of advertising, but it would be nice to see them treat U with the respect they show others. They constantly make fun of U. I have seen articles and little ads that poke fun at U. If U sign your new label over to them, you'll be stretching that noose that they have around your neck and including all those signed to NPG records. They are not your friends. They will find a way of winning your trust. I just hope U don't fall for it. Your work sells regardless. It doesn't need to have a 14k gold overlay like others to make it more appealing.

(Notice how they haven't even tried.) We respect your thoughts enough 2 buy anything U sell. (Within reason 4 some).

U know, bootleggers can be almost completely eliminated if the artists were as astute as U are. See, U have your own store which sells your merchandise. If we want 2 buy something pertaining 2 U, it couldn't get any easier. We'll buy direct, which also takes the risk out of the purchase. See, those other artist could never even think of something so smart. Just the show at the Palladium will make people crazy. All I have 2 do is call the NPG store or 1-800-NEW-FUNK and order an audio cassette and "Voila" no pages missing. Was the Apollo show on the 27th or 28th of 1993 videotaped? Can I buy a copy?

No?.....

Please? Ok I'm fiending, but I live in Harlem, walking distance from the Apollo and I couldn't even see the show because it was a "Media thing". I was crushed. There goes another page. The way I see it, I'm missing a full chapter by now. No thanks 2 the fanzines, I'm fully aware of each one I'm missing. I'm surprised that I haven't died from grief. Ok I'm trying, it aren't I.

Oh by the way, speaking of fanzines.....

Fanzines

“**Controversy**” was no friend of ours. Europe kicked our asses yearly. Just like all the fanzines I’ve read, they start out being our best friends, then they turn into demon mags from hell. My first issue of “Controversy” contained art work, poems, letters, contest and news. I sent in a poem and saw it printed in the next issue. What a great feeling. Doing the crossword puzzles and answering the quiz questions was fun. Sending in artwork dedicated 2 Prince. Well it was fun while it lasted. I got a nice dove guitar rubber stamp, a membership card and a guitar lapel pen out of it. My favorite memory of this magazine was the beautiful self depiction with the fuzzy cave man eyebrows U sent in that went along with the lost lyrics 2 “**Scarlet Pussy**” (Green, virgin teenager, or filthy rich yuppie.) Don’t even ask what I thought U said. But they were fine until they got real photos. Then it became more news oriented. Don’t get me wrong. I love 2 hear news about U, but not if it’s about something I can’t possibly be a part of. News is fine when it isn’t tormenting. All of a sudden, every time I opened a “Controversy” magazine, it was the Ode 2 Europe tribute, and it always seemed 2 go like this.....

Wow this is the happiest year of our lives. He came 2 Europe, went on an Easter egg hunt, strolled around town in disguise, mingled, invited us on the bus, took us 2 Micky D’s (McDonald’s) danced with us at a club, did lots of aftershows, rode in my car, the one which has his face painted on it and all sorts of *nifty* things. We really enjoy being around “**his royal nibs**”.

What the hell is a “Nib” It sounds insulting 2 me. But worst of all, they spend 90% of the fanzine describing concerts and aftershows we’ll never see. How is this supposed 2 make the U.S. fans feel? We feel like outsiders, and you’re from our country. Anyway, out came “**Uptown, Inc.**” who suddenly became “Prince Thang”. They were good. They had the best crossword puzzles. I sent a letter and begged them not 2 end up like “Controversy”. Next thing I knew they were gone. Out came “**Uptown**”. Their articles were from the type (1) and type (4) point of view. This felt allot more realistic, but we couldn’t interact with them either. They were from someplace like Sweden, and they have no crossword puzzles. “**Crystal Ball**” started out great with the “Lovesexy” concert storyline. The first 2 issues I got were fabulous. Then they fell off when they had Bobby Brown and Alexander O’Neil on the covers. We didn’t buy them because, well, a type (4) would say “These people don’t concern us. Who cares what Bobby Brown is doing. He doesn’t write his own songs, therefore he must have nothing 2 say. He doesn’t play any instruments, so how does he express himself, if there’s anything 2 express at all. And he lip-synchs. Put that all together it spells ‘**loser**’.” I’m sorry, that was very wrong of me. I’m sure he must have something 2 express. He’s probably a victim of the record company power trip. Maybe they don’t let him write his own songs 4 fear that they won’t sell. Just another cash before creativity scenario.... but then again.

Now we have the **NPG Magazine**. (Or do we.) The premier issue, so far it’s great.

1-800-NEW-FUNK

Have U ever called this number  ?

“Welcome 2 the New Power Generation. 2 order from the NPG store Press 1

2 request a free catalog press 2

4 all U losers who still have rotary phones, press 3. Have your credit cards ready and prepare 2 get dissed.

Could U be, the most beautiful.....

What happened? There used 2 be six categories. There was a 900#, something about contests, and something about becoming a member of the fan club. Oh well, I'll press 3.

“New Power Generation how can I help U”. “I want 2 become a member of the fan club.”

“Sorry that's not ready yet. Try back later in the month.”

A few months later: Wow that **Photo Gallery** show was terrific. I got this great coffee table book of pictures called “**The Sacrifice of Victor**”, a hooded sweatshirt, “**The Beautiful Experience**” CD and the **NPG Magazine**. Wow, look at the pictures. Look it's Treach from “Naughty By Nature”. & Dres from “Black Sheep” one of my favorite rap groups. Was it Tony M who said that people who can really get into rap, can't get into  . Wrong? Anyway what's this 10,000.00 thing, and the Membership. Live video's? Yes!”

1-800-NEW-FUNK: Could U be.....

“Welcome 2 the New Power Generation. 2 order from the NPG store Press 1

2 request a free catalog press 2

4 all U losers who still have rotary phones, press 3. Have your credit cards ready and prepare 2 get dissed again.

"1-800-NEW-FUNK how can I help U."
 (5) "What happened 2 the 900#? Is there a new one?"
 "I don't know. Can I take your order?"
 (5) "I called about the membership 2 the fan club."
 "What is your zip code?"
 (5) "Huh, Oh 10035."
 "Hello Ms Poree"
 (5) "How do U know my name?"
 "It's in the computer from your last order."
 (5) "Yeah, Ok well I'm calling about the membership."
 And how did U hear about us?"
 (5) (Is she serious?) "I'm a fan, **hello!**"
 "Ok, can I take your order?"
 (5) (It's the plumber, I've come 2 fix the sink!) "I want - 2 become - a member - of the fan - club!"
 "Ok. One moment please..... I'm sorry Miss, that item is sold out."
 (5) "What item is sold out?"
 "The Membership."
 (5) "How can a membership 2 a fan club be sold out?"
 "I'm sorry, check back with us later." (Click)
 (5) "Hello?..... I don't get it. What was that about your peoples 40 million strong, but there is only room in the computer for 100. "Oh, I'm sorry Ms Poree', you're caller #101. There's no more room 4 U. But don't worry. I hear Michael Jackass is still taking callers."
 Ok, I have 2 get a grip. I'll get over it. So what, I have 2 wait in line 2 be an official fan. I can hang. But 4 now I'll be an undercover  fan. Sneaking around record bins, trying 2 get the latest works.
 Let me stop. I'm way into overkill now.

No. One more.....

1800-DUH!!!!

Ok, I'm sorry. Just kidding.

Cherry Moon

Great Interview on MTV. I had no one taped the whole thing. I guess we were so shocked and mesmerized that we froze and couldn't get close enough to the VCR to press the record button. So I'm presently fiending for a copy of the show at this very minute. What? Win a date with Prince contest? I'll never get through. The lines are busy. Who won? **Lisa Barber** from Sheridan Wyoming. Ok, well at least Martha Quinn finally got the chance to meet her Idol. Martha is the only VJ I can watch and be sure to see Prince no less than twice. Mark Goodman did a review of the movie. He said that it was mainly in black & white, but it turned to color when something would happen to the main character. I had to see it twice before I realized he must have been on a real serious dust trip when he saw it. But Martha was definitely the woman that night. Martha went over to Christen Scott-Thomas and said:

(M) "Kristen, I saw love scenes that made my knees weak. Tell me, is he a good kisser or what?"

(K) "Why? Would you like to know?"

(M) (Looking boldly into the camera.) Yes! I would."

Prince sneaks up behind her and catches her off guard. She's embarrassed, but she covers it up well.

(M) "So Prince, how do you feel?"

(P) "I feel with my hands Martha."

(M) (Not missing a beat) "Care to give a demonstration?"

Now see, this is the type of attitude the fan who won the date was supposed to have. Instead she shrunk away like you were going to bite her. And what was this thing about the pearls in "People Magazine" about? What was she trying to say. You just can't be nice to some people. See, I should have won. There would have been a big party at the "Glam Slam New York" (hint hint). Lots of dancing and just plain chillin' After that, we would have put on a show for you.

At the theater: (1) "This movie is funny. I never knew he had such a great sense of humor". (4) "Hey look, he's wearing gold eyeshadow." (5) "shut up fool, this is a black and white film." (The dance scene. Christopher steps out onto the deck behind Mary) **Whoa!!!** (4) "Did you see that. I told you it wasn't the money." (1/2) "Hurry Christopher, the guy with the pimple on his forehead is going to get you." (Mary come on, hurry!) (5) "Girl get in the boat." (No Christopher, run) (4) "On water?" (1) "Shut up fool, this is the serious part." Oh no! (4) Naw man Prince can't die.....

Would you believe a guy said this, he looked seriously shook up and he was the hard, gangsta, type (4) looking guy. You wouldn't believe how many girls sat there crying. Guys sat with blank looks on their faces. Even though Tricky wrecked the mood, people still walked out stone faced as though they had a lot to think about. Now that the tape is out and we understand the film for what it was, we can embrace and hold each concept in its proper perspective.

(4) "Hey, lets watch 'Under The Cherry Moon'."

(5) "Yeah, put the tape on."

(4) "Hold up, hold up. Here comes the part He's stepping onto the deck.....

Whoa!!!!!!!

(5) "Rewind that!"

Radio

Radio? My walkman didn't have a radio until 1992. The "**Diamonds & Pearls**" singles got mad air-play. Then we got 2 have a video. The "**Gett Off**" video. When we heard about it we freaked. Yes!

"**I am Violet, the organ grinder.....**" This was the song. We sang it all the time. But then again the dilemma. Where's the advertising. Ok, This current affair thing was advertising, but it wasn't enough. Besides, we didn't know when the video was coming out. Why are we always the last 2 know. I had 2 make that call again.

"Paisley Park, may I help U?"

(5) "Yes, PRN please."

"PRN."

(5) "Hi, when is the "Gett Off" video being released in New York."

"U have 2 ask "**Reach Media**".

(5) "Thanx."

"Reach Media, can I help U."

(5) "Who can tell me when the "Gett Off" video is being released?"

"Speak 2 Mr. **Garvy Rich**. I'll transfer you."

(G) "Hello?"

(5) "Hi, this is Belinda from 'Wing Ding Music', what is the release date 4 the 'Gett Off' video."

(G) "Tomorrow."

(5) "What? Are U serious? What happened 2 all the advertising?"

(G) "It was advertised on the **Arsenio Hall Show** last night. He held up the cover before the performance."

(5) "Was that the real cover? Your joking. There are no posters 4 this video!?! Everyone else has posters. What is your function?"

(G) "We are the New York based publicist 4 people like **George Michael**, who has a"

(5) "Did I ask U about George Michael, I don't care about George Michael. But since U are in charge of his press appearances. Why don't U tell him 2 watch what he says in his interviews. "**Black music is easy 2 do. All U need is a good beat and a base line.**" Who told him he was down with the crew? We just let him hang. Let's see who buys his records now." Anyway, I called U about Prince." I know Arsenio held up the tape. Do U know what time 'Arsenio Hall' usually comes on? 11:30. Do U know what time he came on last night? 12:30."

(G) "Yeah, but he still plugged it. And U saw it, that's the catch."

(5) "The whole point of advertising, is 2 reach the people who wouldn't normally buy. The people who usually watch the show, probably didn't think it was coming on, and they probably went 2 sleep. Hence no sale."

(G) "But U saw it."

(5) "Yes me and all the other die hard fans. The point is, we are going 2 buy it regardless. If he stepped out of his basement with a box of demo tapes, we would buy from him. This is ridiculous."

(G) "Um..... If U got anything that U want 2 submit, we'll take a look at it."

(5) "A tad late aren't U." (click)

We know it doesn't really matter about the publicity thing. But if every other artist is getting crazy publicity 4 their little one hit wonder projects. We think U should be given twice as much.

NOW

Hi ☸ . Now I'm almost certain that U know, that I know, that U know, that I may possibly be a few fries short of a Happy meal. But all that matters is that the love is genuine. I am who I am today because of your strength. Had I not looked back on all this craziness I went through as a fan, I would have never realized how much I've changed from the girl who spent all those years in Catholic school, only 2 look in my yearbook and find that I was voted "Most likely 2 believe all the things I was told." I was shy and people tended 2 walk all over me. In High School I lived 4 my creative side and was shocked when I won a Statewide poetry contest. At the time I was a Singer with the "All City High School Choir" An actress in the "Albert J Ackel Memorial theater and a dancer in the "Alpha Omega Dance Repetoir". All that was taken away from me when my mother passed away. I almost gave up. The More ☸ fans I met, the stronger I became. The more I studied your music and your career, the more educated in business and creative arts I became. After the whole Reach Media incident. I decide that I had the ability 2 affect people. So I took "**Wing Ding Music**" 2 a second level. This company at first was just a name I secured 4 the purpose of publishing my songs. Then when I tried 2 become a member of A.S.C.A.P., I was told that this name was being used by someone at B.M.I.(Go figure). So I requested permission 2 use it 4 something else. I started counseling artist on the business of music. It seems 2 be working so far. With no one else 2 turn 2, without U I don't think I could be half as strong.

Mushy Mushy Mushy..... Like U needed 2 hear all that.

WRKS FM (Kiss) : On my way home in a cab, the radio was on. I heard "Welcome 2 the Dawn, you have just accessed **the Beautiful Experience.**"

Yes, and nothing could be more beautiful.

P.S. Dear  it is 3:00 am July 12, 1994. I am sitting at my computer typing this document. As I type away, people are standing in front of **Tower Records**. I went over there at 12:00am. I told them I had 2 finish this document and would they hold a place 4 me in line. If they don't. U may never get this But of course if you're reading this now, Then I guess they didn't diss me.

The End