

Harlem Globetrotters aim to please their many fans

Harlem Globetrotters World Tour stops at the Palace of Auburn Hills, 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30. Call (248) 645-6666 to charge tickets, or (248) 377-0100 for information.
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Half showmanship, half good

Blues from page E1

"There's variety. I ain't got no straight blues all the way through. I throw in a bit of some of the other things — jazz, blues. I really like jazz, but I can't leave the blues. I'm the queen of the blues in Detroit, Michigan."

Adams was born Roberta Louise Osborne in the early 1920s in Indianapolis. Six months after Adams' birth, her alcoholic mother put her on a doorstep believing that someone else could provide a better life for her baby.

"I was an orphan. I never seen my father. He could be in here now and I wouldn't know. Somebody called my auntie in Boston and she picked me up and brought me to Detroit when I was 3 years old. I lived with her until I was 10 then I left her and I went to live with another auntie," Adams explained.

"She had nine children. I got nothin' but the crumbs from the bread, the juice from the greens, no dessert. I went to school with no stockings on. I had a hard life. I raised me myself. Sometimes I couldn't get a glass of water. Sometimes I had to lay in doorways. This is why I'm singing the blues. I'm nothing but the blues."

Adams first married when she was 17, but the relationship turned ugly after she gave birth to a child.

"I was 17 and he was 29 or 30,

basketball, Hubert "Geese" Ausbie knows all the Harlem Globetrotter moves. He spent 24 years playing on the team, coming to the Palace of Auburn Hills this Saturday, before becoming a coach. He was recently promoted to a new position — Vice President of Global Ambassadors.

"Most of our shows center around kids," he said. "Over half

of the kids come with their parents and grandparents. Our fans are 3 years old up to 90."

An outstanding athlete, Ausbie joined the team in 1963 after competing against more than 600 players from around the country. He even turned down a pro baseball contract with the Chicago Cubs to pursue a career with the Harlem Globetrotters.

Ausbie relishes the role he chose. "It's like home now," he said. "It's something I love. I want to make kids happy." Entertaining goes hand-in-hand with education. "We tell young kids to stay in school, stay away from drugs and alcohol. We go to schools when we're on tour, and tell kids they can survive and have fun without drugs. We

are role models and try to be the best we can. We're using the talent God has given us."

Paul "Showtime" Gaffney is the current reigning Clown Prince of Basketball. He and his team will face the New York Nationals when the 1999 "Memories. Always Different. Always Fun" World Tour visits the Palace.

"The Harlem Globetrotters have always been about million-dollar smiles," said Gaffney. "You know there is nothing quite as thrilling and rewarding as the smile of a child who's enjoying a Harlem Globetrotter game. We've been making memories for more than seven decades. That's what makes the Globetrotters experience so special."

Caveman from page E1

better peripheral vision; because they're gatherers they need to scan the landscape to see where the ripe fruit is."

Women who talk and drive at the same time scare men. "We want to watch the road when we drive. We don't understand how women can turn to say something to someone. It's because they have better periphery vision. Women get in far fewer accidents than men, yet we're the ones staring at the road."

Men and women often don't see eye to eye, and that's the reason Becker saw a need to start "Defending the Caveman."

He was motivated partly by his wife, Erin. As they were planning their wedding, Erin showed him envelopes in lots of different shades and asked which one he liked best. Becker gave the wrong answer — "You go and pick it."

Erin was offended and felt abandoned. Becker was confused. They still got married, and at home he began noticing that women's magazines had horrendous articles about men. Once he was even held captive at a party.

"I was with a group of women, and they were dissing men in a big way like I wasn't there," he said. "Then, someone said, 'He's a man, ask him.' I stood up for men, and they started laughing, and nodding."

It was the nodding part that got to him. He and Erin talked about it, and pretty soon Becker had a whole lot of material about the differences between men and women. "A lot of the anger start-

ed melting away, and she started liking me more and more," said Becker about his wife.

First he wanted to explain men to women. Then he started explaining women to men. "I show how those differences affect our relationships, and cause misunderstandings," he said.

People really started laughing when Becker put himself into the situation. "When I said, 'I'll be honest, I hate to ask for directions,' the audience started roaring."

Becker has been doing stand-up comedy since 1981. He makes frequent guest appearances on national radio and TV shows. He wrote "Defending the Caveman" over three years 1988-1991 as a one-man show to make people laugh.

"It's therapeutic in the sense that laughter is the best medicine," he said. The show, which originally opened in San Francisco, has been sold out in Dallas, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Chicago and on Broadway where it is the longest running solo show.

"My goal," he said "is for people to stop trying to change each other, and begin understanding each other. The more we explore our differences, the more we come together. If we would spend more time understanding each other and less time trying to change the other person, we would spend less time fighting, and more time laughing and enjoying each other's company."

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