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gosh. OK. I had to rethink everything like whether or not I was going to take time off from school."

To head out on tour, Ali took time off from studying Afro-American studies and government at Harvard. She is planning on roturning in the fall.

She also deferred a year of school to finish her well-received R&B CD "Kiss the Sky" (MJJ Music-Will Smith Enterprises). She tapped into several producer's talents for "Kiss the Sky" including Rodney Jenkins and Shawn Stockman of Boyz II Men.

"Working with Rodney, Rodney lives and breathes music. I worked with him in like three different studies and each one he had a bed so he could sleep there literally. That's his life. Ho's also really young so he likes to party, have fun, play and laugh, "Ali explained.

"Working with Shawn Stockman, he's really cool, laid back and relaxed, very peaceful and vdry patient."

Ali, who appears in the movie "Jawbreaker," hopes to continue

to balance school, music and acting.

"(Music and acting) they both kind of fulfill different things. Acting is totally different because it creates a person. You make stuff up. There's something that's really exciting about that, she said.

"With music, it's kind of being and a whole history for somebody, that, she said.

"With music, it's kind of being as true to yourself as you possibly can. Because it's scurler it does make it more exciting and it does make it more rewarding. This is the most exciting thing I've ever done – ever, ever, ever. The 'N Sync, Tatyana Ali and Divine show is one of two tear oriented conferts that, hits the Detroit area this weekend, Voices of Theory performs at the teen club La Boom in Walled Lake on Friday, March 26.

How Divine

How Divine

Nover mind the music, Kia Thornton, one third of the group Divine, has one thing to say. "I love Jay-Z," she said of the Grammy Award-winning rapartist. "Put that I love Jay-Z and.

we gonna get married."

Back to the music. Blending
R&B, soul and gespel, the mombers of Divine were put together
three years ago by managers
Nathan Garvin and Gillan
Manigat. Thornton, 17, along
with Nilki Bratcher, 17, and
Tonia Tash, 18, were pursuing
sole careers until Garvin and
Manigat came along.
None of them have regrets
about joining a group instead.
"We were really anxious to be
in the buniness. Now we can't see
it no other way. Before we came
out we get the name Divine to
hear people on the radie say one
mame, and to see our name in
magazines. It's all about Divine
now, "Tash explained.
"It was more like fate becaus
usually when girl groups come
together, there's attitudes and
people say they can't gut along
and all that stuff. As soon as we
got together, we just cifeck. Our
voices blended. It was just like
magic," Bratcher added.
The trio's debut 'Divino' (edulum/Red Ant Entertainment)
has alroady apawand the hit'

has already spawned the hit "Lately," brought to the girls by

executive producer Rubon
Rodriguez. The album also
includes a cover of George
Michael's One More Try." "I
Nover Thought, featuring Lady
Mecca, formerly of Digible Planets, and the funky "Fairy Thles."
The three began singing as
children at their respective
churches, places that proved to
be suitable training grounds.
"It's a really good training
ground. Everybody's willing to
help you. They don't discard you
because maybe you can't sing or
you can't sing as good as someone else. They always make you
feel good and they help you in
areas you need help in," Bratcher
said.
The last couple years, boy
bands like Backstreet Boys, Hansand 'N Sync have ruled the
charts. Now with Brituey Spears
recently topping the charts, girls
recently topping the charts, girls

charts. Now with Britary Spears recently toping the charts, girls are making ground in the market. Singers like All and Divine are paving the way.

"Time for girls to rule! Thornton said. There were girl bands like Xscape but they're older. It's time for young girls to come out and rule."

Concert



Jazz Master: Teddy Harris Jr. plays keyboards for a Count Basie tribute 3 p.m. Sunday, March 28, at Clarenceville High School Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt, (south of Eight Mile), Livonia. Concert features Johnny Trudell's Big Band and guest artists trombonist Al Grey, and vocalist Harvey Thompson. Tickets \$15 and available by calling (248) 474-2720 or (734) 459-2454.

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Oscar

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Readers favored Tum Hanks to win for Best Actor, Gwyneth Paltrow for Best Actross and Stoven Spielberg for Best Director.

In case you missed the Academy Awards on TV, here are the highlights:

Best Picture — "Shakespeare in Love"
Best Actross — Gwyneth Paltrow, "Shakespeare in Love"
Best Actross — Gwyneth Paltrow, "Shakespeare in Love"
Best Director — Steven Spielberg, "Saving Private Ryan"
Best Supporting Actor James Coburn, "Affliction"
Best Supporting Actross — Judi Dench, "Shakespeare in Love" Readers favored Tom Hanks to

Love"

Best Original Song —

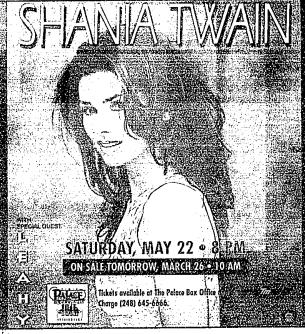
When You Believe," from "The

Prince of Egypt."

Best Pereign Film — "Life is

Beautiful"

For more Oscar highlights,
visit the Web site, Oscar.com







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