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National College of Art and Design

Faculty of Design, Department of Visual Communication

Michael Jackson: A Self-Creation

by Robert Bracken

Submitted to the Faculty of Art and Design and Complementary Studies

In Candidacy for the Degree of B.Design in Visual Communication for 1999

National College of Art and Design

Faculty of Design, Department of Visual Communication

Michael Jackson, A Self-Portrait

by Robert Swick

Submitted to the Faculty of Art and Design and College of Arts and Sciences

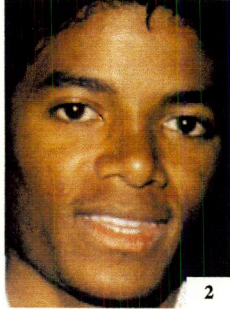
in Candidacy for the Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Communication



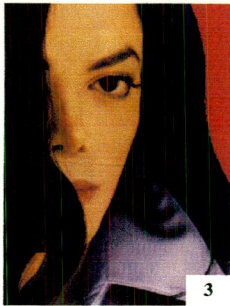


TABLE OF CONTENTS:

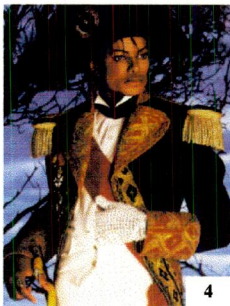
| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Title Page | page .1 |
| List Of Plates | page .4 |
| Introduction | page .7 |



| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| CHAPTER 1. Racial Identity | page .9 |
|----------------------------|---------|



| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| CHAPTER 2. Sexual Identity | page .27 |
|----------------------------|----------|



| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| CHAPTER 3. Image And Persona | page .41 |
|------------------------------|----------|

| | |
|------------|----------|
| Conclusion | page .55 |
|------------|----------|

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Bibliography | page .60 |
|--------------|----------|

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| Page 1 | Title Page |
| Page 4 | List Of Plates |
| Page 7 | Introduction |
| Page 8 | Chapter 1: Racial Identity |
| Page 17 | Chapter 2: Sexual Identity |
| Page 21 | Chapter 3: Image And Portrayal |
| Page 22 | Conclusion |
| Page 23 | Bibliography |



LIST OF PLATES:

1. Michael Jackson As He Is Today p2,26.
2. Michael Jackson aged 21, 1979 p.3,7,14,26.
3. Michael Jackson, Vibe Magazine 1995 p.3,7,36.
4. Michael Jackson as Napoleon, 1986 p.3,8,48.
5. Michael Jackson age 32, 1991 p9.
6. Michael Jackson aged 12, 1970 p.9.
7. Martin Luther King Jr p10.
8. Malcolm X p10.
9. Muhammad Ali p11.
10. The Jackson 5, 1969 p12,28.
11. James Brown p12.
12. Michael Jackson aged 12, 1970 p12.
13. Michael Jackson aged 13, 1972 p13,26.
14. NAACP Awards, 1972 p13.
15. Cover of Right ON!, 1972 p13.
16. Don King p14.
17. MTV Logo p14.
18. The Supremes p15.
19. Off The Wall album, 1979 p15.
20. Thriller album, 1982 p16.
21. Cover of Newsweek, 1984 p16.
22. Cover of Time, 1984 p17.
23. Thriller Video Transformations, 1984 p18.
24. Bad album, 1987 p19.
25. Cover of Ebony, 1989 p19.
26. 1987 Publicity Photo p20.
27. 1988 Award Ceremony p20,26.
28. 1988 Publicity Photo p20,26.
29. Cover of Right On!, 1987 p21.
30. 1989 Award Ceremony p21,26.
31. 1990 Un-styled Photograph p21,26.
32. Michael Jackson aged 32, 1991 p22,26,36.
33. Two Toned Image from Dangerous Cover, 1991 p22.
34. Ivory Coast Ceremony, 1992 p22.
35. Oprah Winfrey p23.
36. Sufferer of Vitaligo p23.
37. Black Michael Jackson Impersonator p24.
38. African Children, 1997 p24.
39. Michael Jackson aged 36, 1995 p24,26.
40. Nelson Mandela and Michael Jackson, 1994 p25.
41. Cover of Vibe, 1995 p25.
42. Black and White Minstrel Illustration, 1995 p25.

LIST OF PLATES

1. [Faint text]
2. [Faint text]
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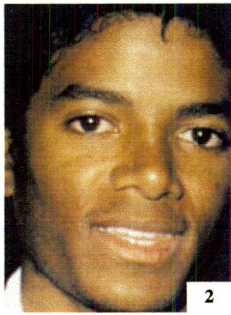
| | |
|--|---------|
| 43. Michael Jackson age 19, 1977 | p26. |
| 44. Michael Jackson age 24, 1982 | p26. |
| 45. Michael Jackson age 25, 1983 | p26. |
| 46. Michael Jackson on Stage, 1992 | p27. |
| 47. Got To Be There album, 1972 | p28. |
| 48. Shirley Temple | p28. |
| 49. Michael, Katherine and Jermaine Jackson, 1988 | p29. |
| 50. Jo Jackson | p29. |
| 51. Michael Jackson on Stage, 1973 | p29. |
| 52. Michael and Katherine Jackson, 1984 | p30. |
| 53. Joh' Vonnie Jackson | p30. |
| 54. Michael Jackson at Studio 54, 1978 | p31. |
| 55. Michael Jackson Backstage, 1980 | p32. |
| 56. Cover of Life, 1993 | p33. |
| 57. Michael Jackson aged 26, 1984 | p33. |
| 58. Michael and ET, 1982 | p33. |
| 59. Brooke Shields and Michael Jackson, 1984 | p34. |
| 60. Emmanuel Lewis and Michael Jackson, 1984 | p34. |
| 61. Jane Fonda and Michael Jackson, 1983 | p34. |
| 62. Liza Minnelli, Jimmy Safechuck and Michael Jackson, 1988 | p34. |
| 63. Michael Jackson on Stage, 1984 | p35. |
| 64. Michael Jackson on Stage, 1988 | p35. |
| 65. King Dog part of the Dangerous Cover, 1991 | p36. |
| 66. Queen Hen part of the Dangerous Cover, 1991 | p36. |
| 67. Scene from Blood On The Dance Floor, 1997 | p37. |
| 68. Disney Characters and Michael Jackson, 1996 | p37. |
| 69. John Landis, Macauly Culkin and Michael Jackson, 1991 | p38. |
| 70. Publicity Photo, 1995 | p38. |
| 71. Publicity Photo, 1995 | p38. |
| 72. Cover Of The National Enquirer | p38. |
| 73. Lisa Marie Presley and Michael Jackson, 1994 | p39. |
| 74. Debbie Rowe Jackson and Michael Jackson, 1997 | p39,56. |
| 75. Prince Michael Jackson Jr and Michael Jackson, 1997 | p40. |
| 76. Publicity Photo, 1986 | p40. |
| 77. Dangerous album, 1991 | p41,51. |
| 78. Michael Jackson age 14, 1973 | p42. |
| 79. Michael Jackson Cartoon Character, 1973 | p42. |
| 80. Island of St Vincent Stamps, 1984 | p43. |
| 81. Ronald Reagan and Michael Jackson, 1984 | p43. |
| 82. Michael Jackson Dolls, 1984 | p43. |
| 83. Michael Jackson on Stage, 1987 | p44. |
| 84. Oxygen Chamber Photo, 1986 | p45. |
| 85. National Enquirer, 1996 | p45. |
| 86. National Enquirer, 1995 | p45. |
| 87. Rolling Stone Cover, 1986 | p46. |

42. ...
43. ...
44. ...
45. ...
46. ...
47. ...
48. ...
49. ...
50. ...
51. ...
52. ...
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82. ...
83. ...
84. ...
85. ...
86. ...
87. ...
88. ...
89. ...
90. ...

| | | |
|------|---|------|
| 88. | Michael Jackson and Lama, 1984 | p46. |
| 89. | "Michael's Pet" Toys, 1987 | p46. |
| 90. | Cartoon of Melting Face, 1991 | p46. |
| 91. | Gone Too Soon, Single, 1993 | p47. |
| 92. | Scene from Leave Me Alone video, 1989 | p47. |
| 93. | Japan Tour, 1987 | p48. |
| 94. | Cover of King Fanzine, 1996 | p48. |
| 95. | E Casanova, 1995 | p49. |
| 96. | Christopher Rich, MJ Impersonator, 1991 | p49. |
| 97. | Painting of Michael Jackson | p49. |
| 98. | Michael Jackson dressed as a King, 1985 | p50. |
| 99. | HIStory album, 1995 | p50. |
| 100. | Michael Jackson as a Pharaoh, 1995 | p50. |
| 101. | Painting of Michael Jackson and Children, 1986 | p51. |
| 102. | Christ Like pose, 1992 | p52. |
| 103. | Daily Mirror, 1992 | p52. |
| 104. | Michael Jackson Wearing a Mask, 1996 | p52. |
| 105. | Fans, 1996 | p53. |
| 106. | Illustration depicting Michael Jackson and USA Flag, 1996 | p53. |
| 107. | Blood On The Dance Floor album, 1997 | p53. |
| 108. | Early Paper Article on Jackson 5, 1968 | p54. |
| 109. | Various Covers Featuring Michael Jackson | p55. |
| 110. | Feminine Jackson from Vibe Magazine, 1995 | p57. |
| 111. | Cartoon of Oxygen Chamber | p57. |
| 112. | Rhine Stone Glove | p58. |
| 113. | Bart Simpson, 1992 | p58. |
| 114. | Designed haircut of Michael Jackson, 1992 | p58. |
| 115. | Jam Cartoon, 1992 | p58. |
| 116. | US Presidents George Bush / Bill Clinton and Jackson | p59. |
| 117. | Silhouette of Michael Jackson | p59. |

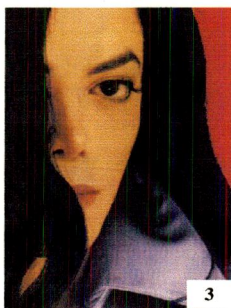
INTRODUCTION

I propose to discuss in the following chapters;



MICHAEL JACKSON'S RACIAL IDENTITY. With the Jackson 5, and later during his solo success in the early 1980's, Michael Jackson was seen as a positive black role model, who's success removed various racial barriers in popular culture. During the mid 1980's as his skin colour became paler, both media and public speculation suggested Jackson was bleaching his skin in order to become more caucasian looking. Jackson's silence only increased this speculation.

Finally in the 1990's to combat the negative publicity, Jackson eventually revealed he had a skin disease, despite the white appearance of his skin, and continuing questions about his colour, he has managed to maintain black support from various quarters .



MICHAEL JACKSON'S SEXUAL IDENTITY. As a child star Jackson embodied innocence in public, but privately he was exposed to the more lurid sides of sexuality. By the early 1980's with the success of his album Thriller, the public's interest in him increased, by keeping his sexuality and appearance as ambiguous as possible he would capitalise on this interest. On stage his performances were very sexually driven, but off stage he preferred the company of children and older women. He created his own world of innocence, and with plastic surgery maintained a look of perpetual adolescence and of increasing androgynous and asexuality. This perpetuated the myth of Jackson as vulnerable and childlike.

By the 1990's Jackson looked truly androgynous, despite two marriages and two children, speculation about his sexuality continues.

MICHAEL JACKSON'S IMAGE AND PERSONA. By age ten Michael Jackson was instructed to take two years off his age and that his image was something to cherish. The Jackson 5 were portrayed as the perfect family, despite their dysfunctional activities in private. With the success of the "Thriller" album, Jackson carefully manipulated his image into one of exclusivity, mysteriousness, the complete enigma. He planted press stories to increase public interest and speculation in him, stories

INTRODUCTION

I propose to discuss the following points:

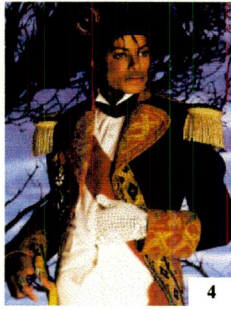
1. The importance of the role of the teacher in the classroom. 2. The importance of the role of the student in the classroom. 3. The importance of the role of the parent in the classroom. 4. The importance of the role of the community in the classroom. 5. The importance of the role of the government in the classroom. 6. The importance of the role of the media in the classroom. 7. The importance of the role of the technology in the classroom. 8. The importance of the role of the culture in the classroom. 9. The importance of the role of the language in the classroom. 10. The importance of the role of the art in the classroom. 11. The importance of the role of the music in the classroom. 12. The importance of the role of the physical education in the classroom. 13. The importance of the role of the social studies in the classroom. 14. The importance of the role of the science in the classroom. 15. The importance of the role of the mathematics in the classroom. 16. The importance of the role of the English in the classroom. 17. The importance of the role of the history in the classroom. 18. The importance of the role of the geography in the classroom. 19. The importance of the role of the civics in the classroom. 20. The importance of the role of the government in the classroom.



21. The importance of the role of the law in the classroom. 22. The importance of the role of the ethics in the classroom. 23. The importance of the role of the philosophy in the classroom. 24. The importance of the role of the psychology in the classroom. 25. The importance of the role of the sociology in the classroom. 26. The importance of the role of the anthropology in the classroom. 27. The importance of the role of the linguistics in the classroom. 28. The importance of the role of the literature in the classroom. 29. The importance of the role of the drama in the classroom. 30. The importance of the role of the theater in the classroom. 31. The importance of the role of the film in the classroom. 32. The importance of the role of the television in the classroom. 33. The importance of the role of the radio in the classroom. 34. The importance of the role of the newspaper in the classroom. 35. The importance of the role of the magazine in the classroom. 36. The importance of the role of the book in the classroom. 37. The importance of the role of the computer in the classroom. 38. The importance of the role of the internet in the classroom. 39. The importance of the role of the mobile phone in the classroom. 40. The importance of the role of the tablet in the classroom. 41. The importance of the role of the smartwatch in the classroom. 42. The importance of the role of the smart glasses in the classroom. 43. The importance of the role of the smart car in the classroom. 44. The importance of the role of the smart home in the classroom. 45. The importance of the role of the smart city in the classroom. 46. The importance of the role of the smart nation in the classroom. 47. The importance of the role of the smart world in the classroom. 48. The importance of the role of the smart universe in the classroom. 49. The importance of the role of the smart everything in the classroom. 50. The importance of the role of the smart nothing in the classroom.



51. The importance of the role of the smart future in the classroom. 52. The importance of the role of the smart past in the classroom. 53. The importance of the role of the smart present in the classroom. 54. The importance of the role of the smart space in the classroom. 55. The importance of the role of the smart time in the classroom. 56. The importance of the role of the smart matter in the classroom. 57. The importance of the role of the smart energy in the classroom. 58. The importance of the role of the smart information in the classroom. 59. The importance of the role of the smart knowledge in the classroom. 60. The importance of the role of the smart wisdom in the classroom. 61. The importance of the role of the smart love in the classroom. 62. The importance of the role of the smart hate in the classroom. 63. The importance of the role of the smart joy in the classroom. 64. The importance of the role of the smart sorrow in the classroom. 65. The importance of the role of the smart anger in the classroom. 66. The importance of the role of the smart fear in the classroom. 67. The importance of the role of the smart hope in the classroom. 68. The importance of the role of the smart despair in the classroom. 69. The importance of the role of the smart faith in the classroom. 70. The importance of the role of the smart doubt in the classroom.



claiming that he slept in an oxygen chamber in order to live for a 150 years. This tactic worked too well, by creating Jackson's "Wacko Jacko" image. By using his androgynous look and racial ambiguity, Jackson could appeal to all races and ages. His isolated lifestyle backed up with imagery, created his persona as a fantasy figure. To combat his "Wacko Jacko" image, Jackson created his own title as "The King Of Pop", in reference to his musical success.

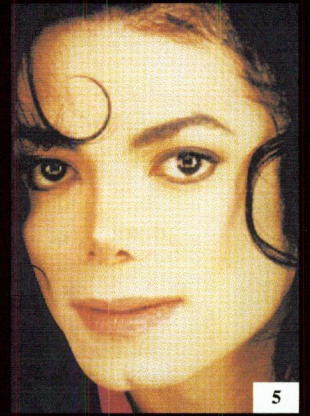
His most ardent fans see him as God like, and the more outlandish a story about Jackson is, the more likely the public are to believe it.



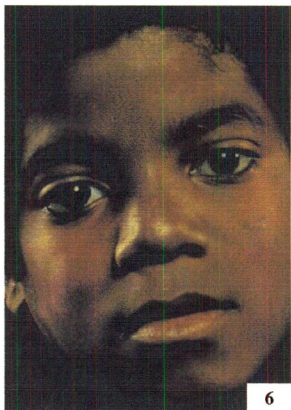
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—An elderly
Nambian
women, in
1998
referring to
Jackson's visit

“ I'm praying
that God will
spare his
famous son of
the world to
fulfil his job,
especially here
in Namibia ”

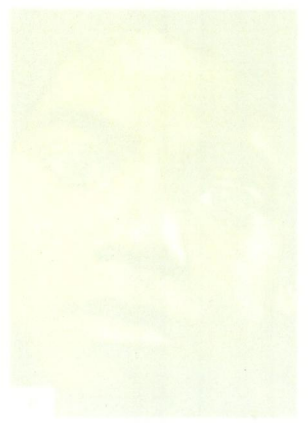
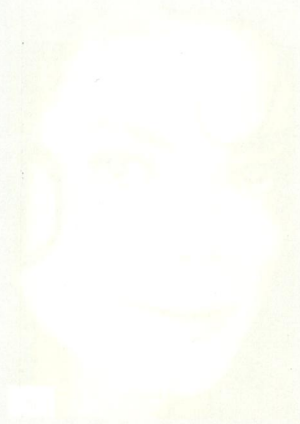


“ The only
thing Michael
Jackson ever
did for blacks,
was buy them
wigs ”

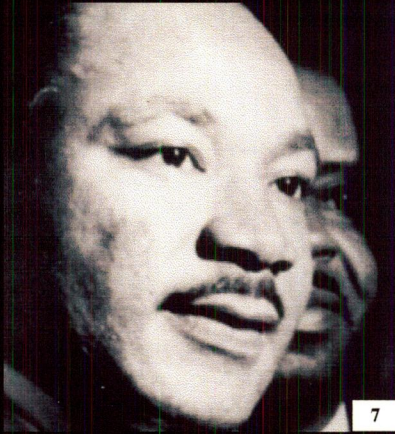


—Chuck D of
Public Enemy
in 1987, on
Jackson's
contribution
to Blacks

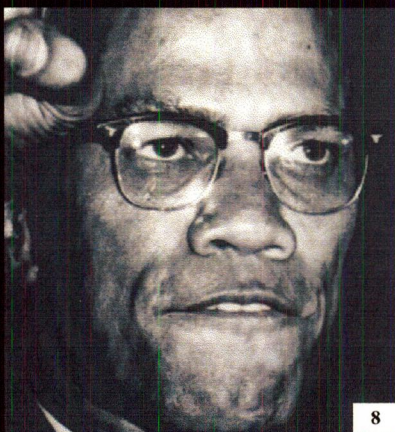
1987-1988
Volume 1
Number 1
Winter 1987
Page 1



Chapter 1. Racial Identity



Martin Luther King



Malcolm X

The rush to colonise Africa, “The Dark Continent” by the powerful Western countries in the last century, is still affecting the inhabitants of these countries, and the following generations who were taken back to the West as slaves. The United States of America has had a very disturbed history trying to recover from years of slavery and segregation.

Blacks have had to struggle to be accepted as equals by mainstream white America, this struggle still continues today. The mid 60’s civil rights movement forced political change in America towards the treatment of blacks, the main figures of these events were Martin Luther King Jr and Malcolm X. The great difficulty these men faced is unfortunately best demonstrated by the fact they were both assassinated, Malcolm X by the hands of black members of the Nation of Islam.

All races that are enslaved or colonised by other nations suffer from an inferiority complex, the feeling of being less than others continues even after the colonisation or enslavement has ended. This is one of the huge problems that runs like a cancer through black communities in the US, the ghettos that many blacks live in are breeding grounds for this sort of thinking. A problem which has lead to the gang mentality, that life is cheap (over 60% of crime in America is reported to be committed by blacks, who are only 16% of the population) unfortunately young black men are 4 times more likely to be shot than young white males.

Black on black shootings, are the leading causes of deaths for black males under the age of thirty. These depressing figures, and the lack of confidence in the black communities, have meant that blacks in sports and entertainment are idolised for their achievements by the black public of America, and other black nations. To see blacks in a white dominated society rise to the top of their field, is seen as something to aim for, by many black kids.

The humble beginnings that most great black sports or entertainment figures have come from, has influenced many black kids to think that if they can do it so can I. There is great joy

Chapter 1 Racial Identity



Martin Luther King



Malcolm X

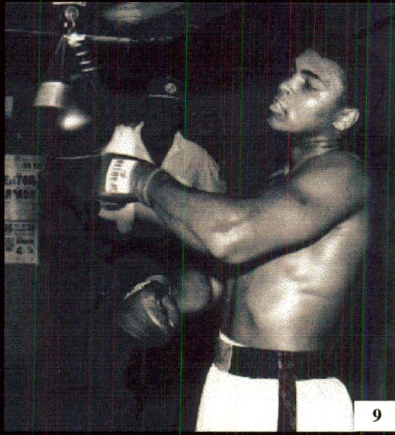
the 1960s, the civil rights movement was a struggle for equality and justice for African Americans. It was a time when the American dream was being fought for by those who were denied it.

Black Americans were the backbone of the American economy. They worked in the mines, the fields, and the factories. They were the ones who built the American dream.

An early goal of the civil rights movement was to end segregation. This was a goal that was shared by many Americans. It was a goal that was fought for by those who were denied it.

Black Americans were the backbone of the American economy. They worked in the mines, the fields, and the factories. They were the ones who built the American dream.

The civil rights movement was a struggle for equality and justice for African Americans. It was a time when the American dream was being fought for by those who were denied it.



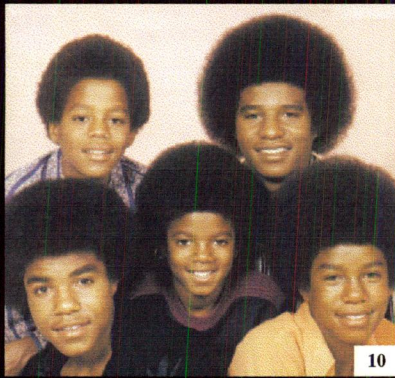
Muhammad ALi

and happiness in watching “one of your own” doing so well. They can forget for awhile their own problems, and revel in the success of another. Someone that they can relate to, figures like Mohammad ALI (3 times world boxing heavyweight champion), Jackie Robinson (the first black major league baseball player) and Michael Jordon (rated the best basketball player ever).

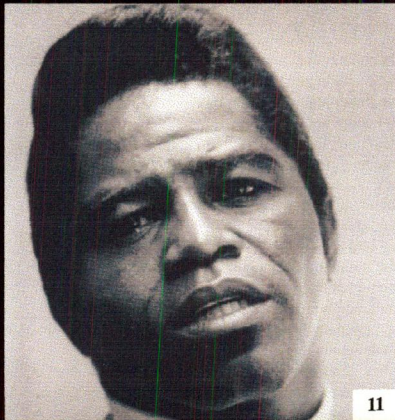
The down side to this adulation is that these people and others like them, always have to be seen to be giving something back to the black community. The risk that giving money to certain charities or communities has, means there will always be people claiming these charitable acts are only publicity stunts, aimed at selling more tickets or records. These cries come from both sides of the racial line, it is a clear case of “your damned if you do and your damned if you don’t”.

African Americans have always debated the deservedness of such adulation and respect in their “idols”, are these athletes or performers merely “uncle Tom’s”, or genuine pioneers of black civil rights, paving the way for others. It is this type of confusion that has, and does split the opinions of many blacks in America. When Jackie Robinson first entered the major leagues of baseball he was called “an uncle Tom”, by many blacks, for taking part in such a racist sport. Many blacks felt Robinson had sold out to the whites. The opinion was that the baseball owners had bought him only because most of the white players were fighting in WW2, and they needed to fill stadium seats anyway they could. Yes, there was a certain element of exploitation by the white owners, however soon more blacks joined baseball, to the extent that it became the norm to see black players on most teams. Today of course there are more blacks than whites playing baseball.

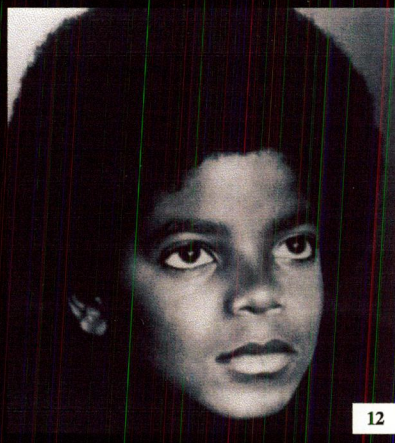
All this confusion as to who is, or is not, a good role model in the black community relates to all black figures of prominence in society, on one level or another. It is a shame that as well as overcoming the bigotry of other races, blacks as well as other minority figures of fame or stature, in a white dominated society, also have to deal with their own races insecurity and



The Jackson 5, 1969



James Brown



Michael Jackson aged 12, 1970

demands. Demands on their identity and actions, to not only to define their race, but to be seen to represent their race in a positive light. This is something white figures rarely if ever have to deal with. One then sees the problem for blacks to identify with the Michael Jackson of today, his skin tone is that of any caucasian, and therein lies the problem.

In 1970 when the Jackson 5 first came to the public's attention Michael Jackson and his brothers were seen as great young black role models for the black kids of America. The brothers had big afros and were signed to the only black run major record company, Motown Records. It was very simple and straight forward for blacks of all ages to identify with the Jackson 5, and to feel proud as the brothers succeed in the pop charts and black charts. The late 1960's had seen James Brown and other adult black groups singing lyrics like "I'm black and I'm proud" in order to inspire confidence in the black community, now black kids had their own idols of black identity in the Jacksons.

Michael Jackson was the main figure of attention for the public, both black and white, he was cute, talented, well mannered and polite, the perfect role model for societies young kids, of all races. The huge success that the Jacksons had in the white dominated pop charts, demonstrated how the brother's fresh innocent black image was accepted by white America. More so than that of James Brown, or Muhammad ALi, who were seen as too militant in their approach. The black community however saw both methods as equally credible, in the breaking down of ignorance.

It was because of their youth, that there wasn't a demand that Michael Jackson, and his brothers be more outspoken on black issues. The 1970's for Jackson's racial identity was all positive. The group had the respect of both whites and blacks artistically. This was because traditionally white kids who listened to black music in the 1950's and early 60's, were seen as rebellious and "cool", because of the racist beliefs of mainstream society.

"I'm not a person who's afraid of change," says Jackson. "I've always been a person who's been open to change. I've always been a person who's been open to change. I've always been a person who's been open to change."

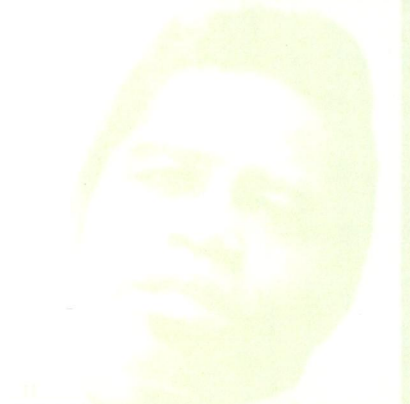
In 1970, Jackson was a member of the Jackson 5, a group of five brothers from Gary, Indiana. The group was signed to Motown Records and became one of the most successful soul acts of the 1970s. Jackson's solo career began in 1971 with the release of his first solo album, *Michael Jackson*. The album was a commercial success, and Jackson's popularity continued to grow.

Michael Jackson was a pioneer in the music industry. He was the first African American artist to have a solo album that reached number one on the *Billboard* 200 chart. He was also the first African American artist to have a solo album that reached number one on the *Billboard* 200 chart.

It was Jackson's unique style and sound that set him apart from other artists of his time. He was a pioneer in the music industry, and his influence is still felt today.



The Jackson 5, 1970



Michael Jackson, 1971



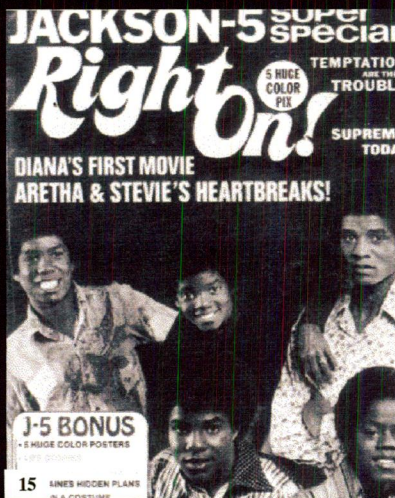
Michael Jackson, 1972



Michael Jackson aged 13



The Jackson 5 received many awards from organisation such as the NAACP a black rights organisation



Black magazines such as Right On! had many features on the brothers.

This passed on to black music a sense of street credibility and respect. The minority position blacks held in society, meant their music was also marginalised in mainstream culture.

The success of the Jackson 5 throughout mainstream America, with their easily accessible clean cut image, prompted white record companies to create a dozen different white versions of the Jackson 5. The Osmonds and The Partridge Family were the most successful of these copies. These copies of course enraged many blacks, who had so often seen their art forms copied and ripped off many times before. The Osmonds and co went on to generate huge amounts of money for their creators. Needless to say, the Jackson 5 lost millions of pounds as the market became flooded with cheap imitations, the upside for Michael Jackson was that this only reinforced the "us and them" attitude behind the Jackson 5. Geoff Brown describes the feelings the Black community had for the Jackson 5 as, "Pride in achievement, enjoyment of brotherhood, a feeling of common purpose and shared triumph". (Brown,p14.1984)

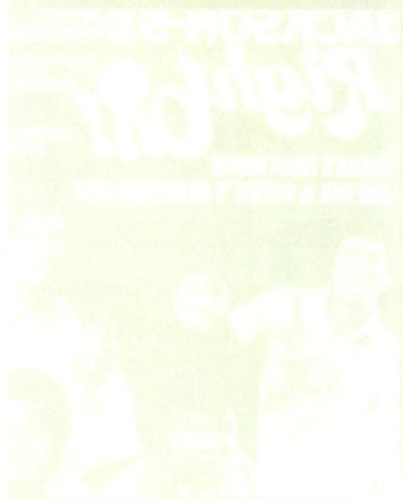
Ironically as the market for family acts disappeared, Michael Jackson and his family still maintained the respect of the public, while the "gimmicky" Osmonds and Partridge families disappeared. This respect would allow the brothers to re-invent themselves, as a genuine adult act, but they were still labelled by white mainstream as a soul act. As the 1970's ended the separation between black and white music was very prevalent, and it is the breaking down of these racial barriers, that would cement Michael Jackson's position as a pioneer of black rights, on the same level as his forefathers, and his eventual loss of colour, that would confuse everyone, especially blacks both in America and worldwide.



Michael Jackson for real



The Jacksons' private lives are made more interesting with the NAACP's Black Digital Revolution



Place magazine as it is right. (It had many readers on the streets)

The Jacksons' private lives are made more interesting with the NAACP's Black Digital Revolution

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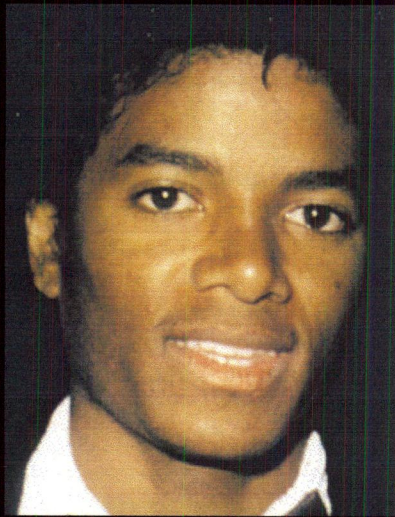
The Jacksons' private lives are made more interesting with the NAACP's Black Digital Revolution

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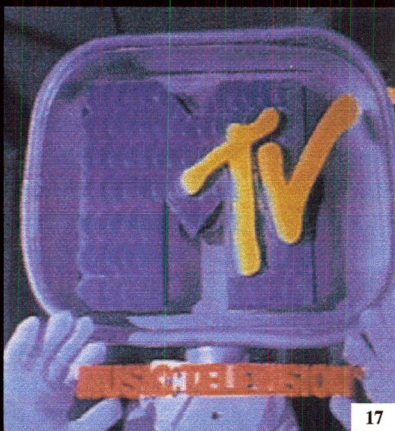
The Jacksons' private lives are made more interesting with the NAACP's Black Digital Revolution



Jackson aged 21 in 1979



Don King, the boxing promoter.



MTV music television

In order to remove from the public's mind, the segregation and baggage that has so dominated American history, and effected all forms of culture it was going to take massive changes in cultural thinking. Opinions that had boxed in every black act in entertainment, with the result that complete crossover into mainstream culture was unheard of.

The dawn of MTV would allow Michael Jackson through visual and audio means, to forever change the perceptions of black artists. Michael Jackson grew up surrounded by strong black figures, in both business and in his family. He was very much aware of the feelings of white America, and of even his own race, who at times having being poisoned by regurgitated racism, told Michael that blacks will never be on equal terms with white acts, as demonstrated by the Osmonds, and The Partridge Family. It was Don King, the boxing promoter, who in 1984 at the height of Jackson's fame, explained it bluntly to a Jackson insider, and thus demonstrates the poison of racism and of living in a racist society;

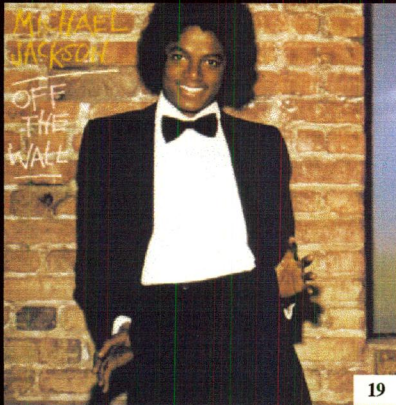
“What Michael's got to realise is that Michael's a nigger. It doesn't matter how great he can sing and dance. I don't care that he can prance. He is one of the megastars in the world, but he is still going to be a nigger megastar. He must accept that. Not only must he understand that, he's got to accept it and demonstrate that he wants to be a nigger. Why? To show that niggers can do it.”

In 1981 a cable channel named MTV started broadcasting music videos for the consumption of American youth. The impact this channel would have over the next two decades, would influence music, television, film and more importantly the minds of the youth of the world. (Today MTV broadcasts from over a dozen countries on every continent in the world.)

So while at first glance, the programmes seem brain dead, and the majority of videos, are a visual assault on the brain, the station has changed in a positive way how different races, and various issues such as safe sex are viewed by Generation X.



The Supremes



Off The Wall 1979

Released in 1979 this album would establish Jackson's adult career. The transition he made with this LP, was from child star to black adult performer. However he wouldn't be happy until he was recognised alongside mainstream white acts. Despite this LP selling more than any other black album ever. He demanded more, regardless of the price.

However back in 1981 the station was deeply racist and very conservative, only 3% of the 750 videos played were black, and none of these were played on heavy rotation. Any black videos that were played were soon dropped after only a few airings. The reason given by the station stated, "we took a poll of white kids in suburban areas, and found they were afraid of blacks and therefore less likely to watch the station".

This mostly insider statement was then publicly backed up by MTV bosses who said "The reason we don't play many black videos anyway is because we are a rock music station". So why then did they play, on very heavy rotation, Phil Collin's version of the Supremes hit "You Can't Hurry Love"?

It is essential to demonstrate the racial ignorance and segregation that still persisted in the early 1980's in America towards blacks, and it is the removal by Michael Jackson, of these barriers through his music and videos as audiences worldwide have been captivated by his music, that has made him the worlds most prominent figure, over the last twenty years. A position that has forced both civil rights activists and the ordinary black man on any street in any part of the world, to have to recognise and honour the achievements of Michael Jackson, despite the controversy that now surrounds his white skin. To shun him would be to belittle the inroads that blacks have made in popular culture over the last twenty years, thanks to Jackson's fame.

In order to understand the racial barriers that Jackson removed between 1982-84 one has to examine his career. As with all matters regarding Jackson's persona and image, it is his music that best demonstrates the confusion and the self creation that he has become, the pale skinned figure we see today.



The Supremes



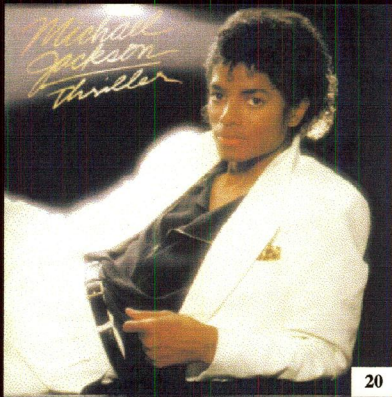
On The Wall 1979

Released in 1959 this album would establish Jackson's adult career. The transition he made with this LP was from child star to black adult performer. However he wouldn't be happy until he was recognized alongside mainstream white acts. Despite this I'd still love him more than any other black artist ever. He grounded more respect of the race.

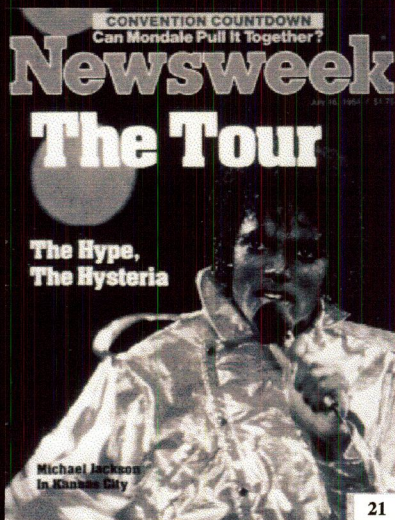
It is essential to understand that the Jackson 5 were not just a group of talented young boys; they were a family. Their father, Joseph Jackson, was a strict disciplinarian who believed in hard work and dedication. He pushed his sons to practice their music every day, and he was always looking for ways to improve their sound. This rigorous training helped the Jackson 5 develop a unique style that blended soul, R&B, and pop. Their early success was a result of their father's vision and their own talent.

The Jackson 5's success was a testament to their hard work and their father's guidance. They became one of the most successful black groups of the 1970s, paving the way for other young black artists. Their music was a blend of soul, R&B, and pop, and it resonated with a wide audience. The Jackson 5's success was a result of their father's vision and their own talent. They were a family that worked together to achieve greatness.

In order to understand the Jackson 5, it is essential to understand their father, Joseph Jackson. He was a strict disciplinarian who believed in hard work and dedication. He pushed his sons to practice their music every day, and he was always looking for ways to improve their sound. This rigorous training helped the Jackson 5 develop a unique style that blended soul, R&B, and pop.



Thriller album 1982



Newsweek 1984

Michael Jackson's "Thriller" album has sold over 50 million copies, making it the biggest selling record ever, by over 20 million. It is necessary to demonstrate the magnitude of Jackson's success over all other recording artists, especially as a black artist. The songs and videos released off the "Thriller" album, and the un-paralleled fame achieved by Jackson as "the most successful entertainer of all time", (Guinness Book Of Records), permanently changed the racist attitude towards black artist in music, film, television and print, in all forms of popular culture.

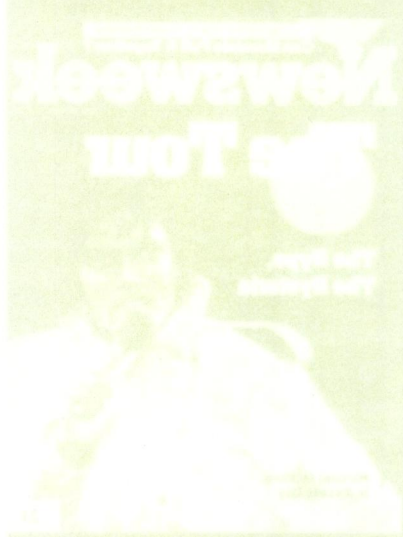
1983, the first breakthrough saw Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean" video become the first black video on continuous rotation on MTV, followed by the videos for "Beat It" and "Thriller". The public excitement both black and white generated by these three videos, completely proved how wrong the bosses at MTV were, as to the attitude of whites in suburbia towards black artists. The high ratings gained by the station after showing Jackson's videos forced them to increase the amount of black artists on MTV. Today over 50% of all videos on the station are black, compared to the 3% of 1981. An amazing achievement considering only 16% of America is black.

Between the years 1982-84 Michael Jackson was a strong credible black image portrayed in all forms of communication, he was the first black entertainer to completely cross over into mainstream culture "for the first time in history people all over the world have a black man as their idol." (Quincy Jones, record producer, 1984.) More importantly Jackson wasn't just as successful as white artists, he was ten times more successful.

Jackson had carefully progressed from child star, (where so many before him had failed), to become a credible black adult soul act in the late seventies, to then become the worlds premier recording artist. It was his ability to transform himself, as will be seen in the "Thriller" video, and the rewards in record sales and fame that he gained by these methods, that would see him arguably transform himself into a racial non entity over the late eighties and throughout the nineties.



Thriller album 1982



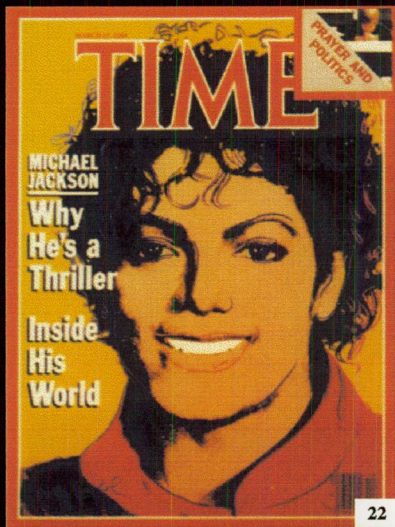
Newsweek 1984

Michael Jackson's "Thriller" album, which was released in 1982, was a massive success, becoming the best-selling album of all time. The album's success was due to its unique sound, which blended pop, funk, and horror themes. Jackson's performance of "Thriller" on MTV in 1983, where he dressed as a zombie, was a landmark moment in music history. The album's success led to Jackson's continued dominance in the music industry, with "Thriller" remaining on the charts for over 60 weeks.

In 1984, the music industry was dominated by Michael Jackson's "Thriller" album, which was the best-selling album of all time. Jackson's performance of "Thriller" on MTV in 1983, where he dressed as a zombie, was a landmark moment in music history. The album's success led to Jackson's continued dominance in the music industry, with "Thriller" remaining on the charts for over 60 weeks. Jackson's performance of "Thriller" on MTV in 1983, where he dressed as a zombie, was a landmark moment in music history. The album's success led to Jackson's continued dominance in the music industry, with "Thriller" remaining on the charts for over 60 weeks.

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Time 1984

The “Beat It”, “Billie Jean”, and “Thriller” videos revolutionised music video by incorporating for the first time a linear plot, natural background sounds, and highly skilled choreography, all condensed into a short film, which successfully communicated the story in very short time. All previous videos were simple recordings of artists playing against very dull backgrounds, with the odd exception of a fancy light or two.

Today every recording artist has to, not only make a music video, but they must include the methods used by Jackson, to an increasingly higher standards in order to grab the audience. This has bled over into T.V, film, adverts, etc, as the MTV generation demands a faster and more stylish paced entertainment business. “Michael Jackson’s videos forever changed popular culture.” (M.Goldberg Music News.1998.)

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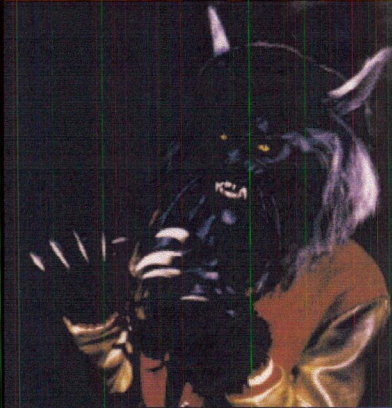
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Time 1984



23



His many transformations.

MICHAEL JACKSON'S THRILLER

The video for “Thriller” contains more than great special effects and intricate dance routines, it foretells of the lengths to which Jackson was willing and is willing to go to, in order to maintain the attention of “his public”. J Randy Taraborrelli in his book “The Magic and the Madness”, an unauthorised biography on Jackson, wrote that “Michael thought if he could sell 50 million records as a black man, image how many he could sell as a white man!” (Taraborrelli,p452.1991)

*****At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see the video for “Thriller”**

Having seen the video, one now understands that Michael Jackson is not only fascinated with transforming himself, but is willing to go to great extremes in order to do so. What he learned from this video, was that the public was willing to accept him no matter how un-Michael he looked. In fact the greater the transformation the more records he sold. Jackson success influenced change in favour of all black artists, did Michael Jackson then inflict on himself, and more importantly on his race, the most horrific act of disfigurement. By bleaching his skin, in order to amass as much attention from the public and sell more records.

“Thriller brought black music back to mainstream radio, from which it had been effectively banished after ‘special format programming’, was introduced in the late 70’s.”
(Dean.Rolling Stone,p63.1984.)

When the “Thriller” campaign ended in 1984 after Jackson had appeared on every major magazine cover and piece of merchandise, and all the cash accounted for. Jackson retired from public view to continue his transformation. Between 1984-87 the public digested various stories and comments about Jackson (which are explained more in the chapter 3 “Image And Persona”). But in the public’s eye he was still black, as

MICHAEL JACKSON
THRILLER

The album is "a brilliant and timely work" that Jackson sees as a "statement of his artistic freedom." The album was the "last" Jackson wrote for Motown, and he says he "took time" to write it. "I was very

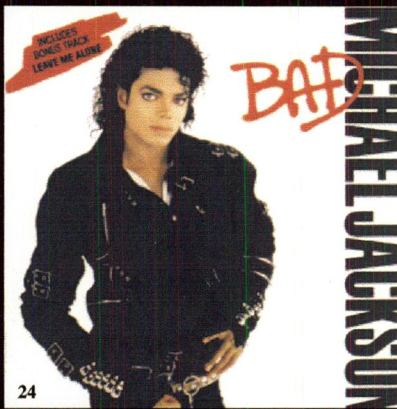
At the time, Jackson was in a "creative" state, and he says he "took time" to write it.

...and he says he "took time" to write it. "I was very creative" and he says he "took time" to write it. "I was very creative" and he says he "took time" to write it. "I was very creative" and he says he "took time" to write it.

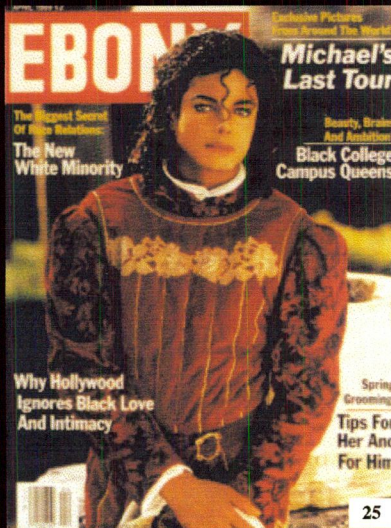
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His name is Michael Jackson



The BAD album 1987



Black Magazine
Ebony 1989

MTV replayed his past videos in the absents of new work.

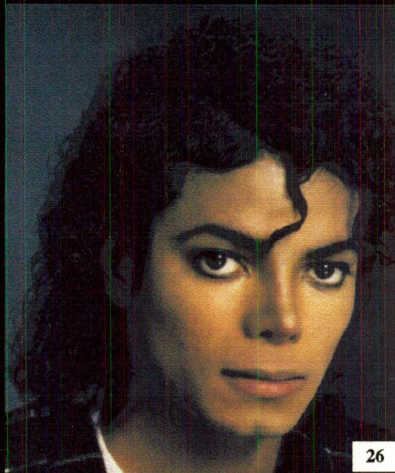
“Thriller is South Africa’s top seller, you might say, Jackson bridges the apartheid gap”. A record executive, not connected to Jackson. (Time,p50.1984)

When Michael Jackson’s new album “Bad”, and promotional campaign began in 1987 the public saw a much paler “Jacko”, it had been 3 years since his last major public appearance, and his new creation shocked many people. Around the early eighties he had thinned his nose through plastic surgery but still looked black. But by 1987 he had a much slender and more pointed nose, added to this was a cleft in his chin, all done by the surgeons knife. More upsetting to many blacks was his paler skin emphasised by heavy white make up.

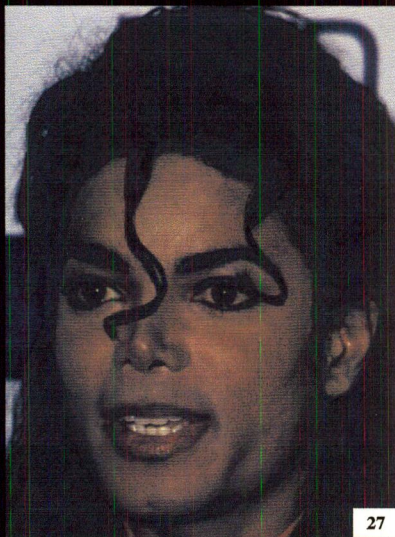
Rumours in papers alleged Jackson had bleached his skin as told by a friend;

“One employee of Michael’s recalled, ‘He would rub a cream on his face and neck in the morning and at night. He had all of these little tubes in his makeup kit. I asked him what it was, thinking it was some kind of skin nutrient. He told me it was ‘medicine.’ I left it at that. I then noticed that whenever Michael would go out in the sun, he would cover his face with his hand or wear a big hat. It was as if he didn’t want the sun to touch his face. He seem petrified of sunlight, as if he was afraid he would burn. I thought it was odd. I never asked him about it, though.” (Sun,Mirror,Various publications mid 1987-90)

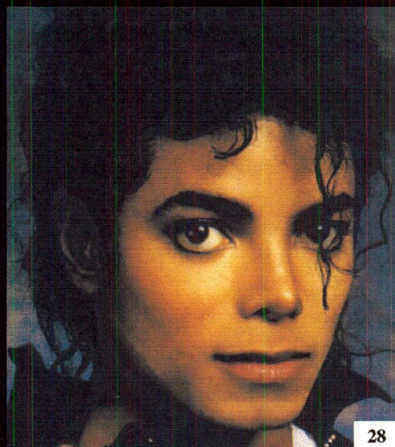
A Dr Kotler explained that “As the suns ability to darken skin is much greater than that of Hydroquinone (a medical skin bleach) to lighten it, strict avoidance of the sunlight is imperative.” The above comments seem to suggest Jackson bleached his skin, however these same statements will act as a defence, as explained latter in this chapter. By 1987 many people reading the above sorts of statements, believed Jackson wanted to be white.



1987, publicity shots, increased Jackson's pale appearance.



1988 in public. Jackson appeared darker than he did in publicity shots, but he still looked paler than he use to.



1988 a paler Jackson (Publicity shot)

“You’re the biggest star ever, but the white man will never let you be bigger than Elvis.” (Dineen,p28.1993)

Don King is alleged to have said this to Jackson in 1984. This statement was published to act as some reason as to why Jackson had changed his colour. Which suggests a very weak and naive man.

Jackson during all the debate never spoke, his last interview was in 1982. The only comment he made was in his 1988 book Moonwalk;

“They say I’ve had my eyes widened, that I want to look more white. More white? What kind of statement is that. I have to set the record straight now. I have never had my cheeks altered or my eyes widened. I have not had my lips thinned, nor have I had a skin peel. All of these charges are ridiculous.”

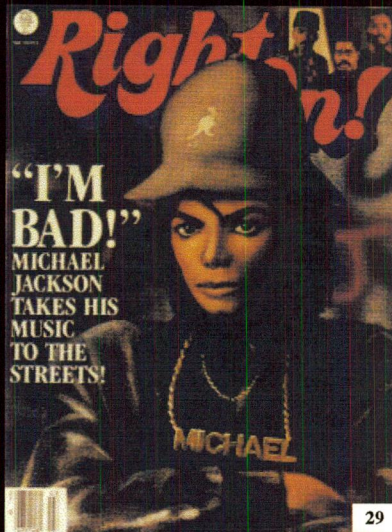
The debate continued. Jackson is a business man as well as a musician, and he knows the benefit of public intrigue and confusion, “All publicity is good publicity”, in part, is how Jackson felt about the debate. The proof of that was the 30 million sales of his album “Bad”, by 1989.

Between 1986 onwards, Rap music took off, the performers of this music had grown up on the streets, and presented white America with the reality of street life, through their music.

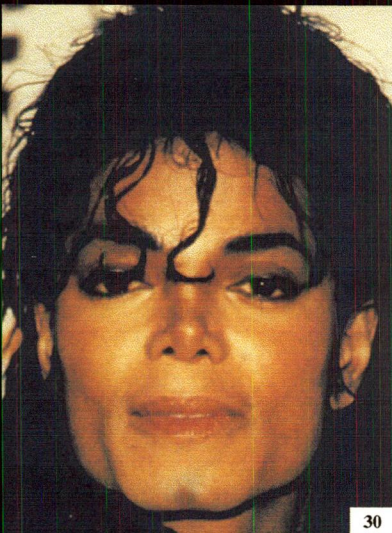
“The only thing Michael Jackson has ever done for blacks, is buy them wigs.”(Chuck D 1988)

This statement by Chuck D of Public Enemy is a demonstration of the distance that was beginning to grow between Jackson and his race. It is very ironic considering that if it wasn’t for Michael Jackson, Public Enemy would not have been played on MTV, and therefore unable to reach their mainstream audience. Flavour Flav, another member of Public Enemy however stated “What Michael has done, is got up there, and showed the world we can do it.” (1989). This demonstrates the confusion about what Jackson was, or wasn’t.

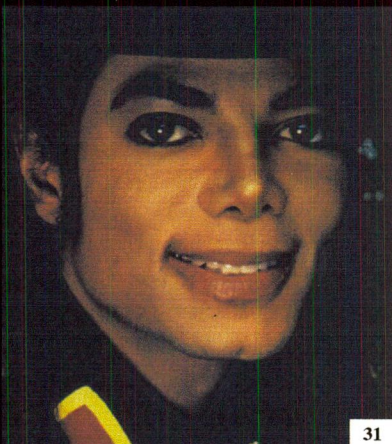
Lyrically Jackson had been, since the success of “Thriller”



Black Magazine
Right On! 1987



1989 at an award show, Jackson seemed to be changing shades from one event to the next



1990, without make-up Jackson appeared darker, than he did in public or in publicity shots.

aware that he had to maintain and defend himself from being accused of forgetting his race, the lyrics to the title track of “Bad”, and the accompanying video demonstrates him defending himself from such accusations. As with all things related to Jackson it was presented in his own fantasy filled Broadway inspired style.

The ultimate message that he is still credible, which is replaced with the word “Bad”, which is used by blacks on the streets of America to denote credibility, was misread when shown on T.V, people thought Jackson was proclaiming himself as a hard man, not so. The flash production and imagery surrounding Jackson causes many people to miss the obscured and intricate messages in his lyrics and videos, unless they are willing to examine further.

The other message to this video tells that securing a good education and turning away from the sheepish mentality of following the crowd is a credible way to live. The video was inspired by the true story of a black youth who returned to his old neighbourhood from a private school to which he had won a scholarship, only to be killed in a robbery when hanging out with his old friends. However, many blacks were angry at Jackson for portraying blacks in a negative light.

*****At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see the video for “Bad” 1987**

“I think his Bad video is offensive to all black people. It contained all the stereotypical negative images of blacks—the drug dealing, the graffiti. He’s too weird with those Elephant Man bones. Where are his values.”

Eleanor Williams. KJLH radio. Los Angeles. 1987.

“Sometimes when you’re treated unfairly it makes you stronger and more determined. Slavery was a terrible thing, but when black people in America finally got out from under that crushing system, they were stronger. They knew what it was to have your spirit crippled by people who are controlling your life.

They were never going to let it happen again. I admire that kind of strength. People who have it take a stand and put their blood and soul into what they believe.”

Jackson.Moonwalk.1988.p280.

...bawled that he had to be released from jail. He was accused of hitting a woman in the face with a brick. "Bad" and the woman who was hit by the brick were both from Jackson. Jackson was a young man who was inspired by the Chicago blues. The Chicago blues was the only music that he listened to with the word "bad" in it. He was a young man from America to dance to the music of the Chicago blues. People thought Jackson was a young man from the street. The last part of the story was that Jackson caused many people to be inspired by the Chicago blues. The Chicago blues was the only music that he listened to with the word "bad" in it. He was a young man from America to dance to the music of the Chicago blues. People thought Jackson was a young man from the street. The last part of the story was that Jackson caused many people to be inspired by the Chicago blues.

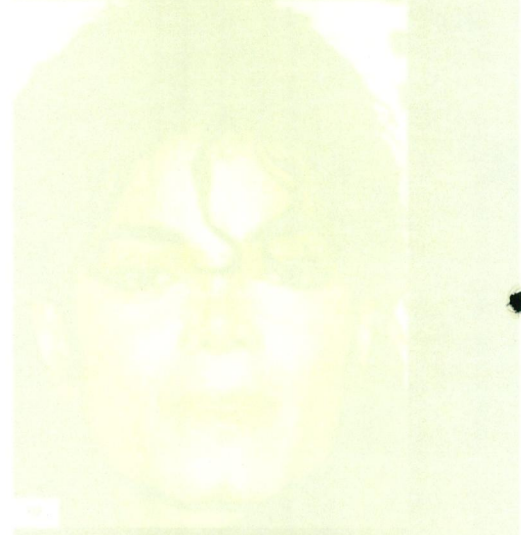
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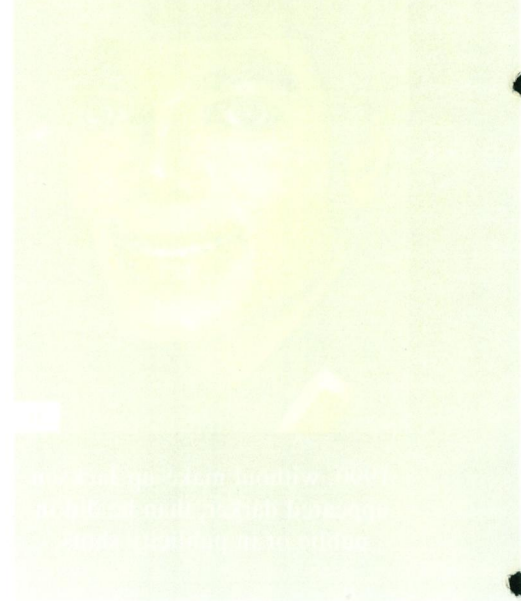
I have now read a lot of stories about Jackson. He was a young man who was inspired by the Chicago blues. The Chicago blues was the only music that he listened to with the word "bad" in it. He was a young man from America to dance to the music of the Chicago blues. People thought Jackson was a young man from the street. The last part of the story was that Jackson caused many people to be inspired by the Chicago blues.



Black Magazine
Right Oct 1983



1989 at an award show, Jackson
seemed to be changing habits
from one event to the next.



There's nothing more to be done
except to hope that he will
return to his original self.



By 1991 a very white Jackson.



A two toned face on the cover of Jackson's 1991 album, one of his only public references to his colour.



Honoured as a King of the Ivory Coast in 1992.

Between June 1989 to November 1991 Jackson disappeared from public life to work on his "Dangerous" album. When he re-emerged in Nov 1991 he was completely white in appearance, gone was the undecided colour of the Bad video. The first song released was "Black Or White". The lyrics preached that "It don't matter if your black or white" in a call for racial harmony, but also contained the lyrics "I'm not going to spend my life being a colour", and "I ain't scared of those sheets", as in the KKK.

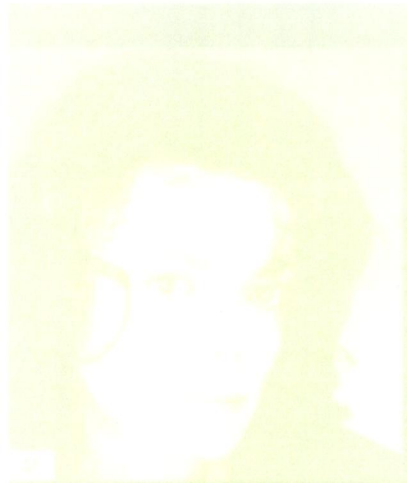
***** At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see the video for "Black or White" and media reaction**

It seemed however to viewers that Jackson was presenting himself as a self creation, that he could become, or do anything he wanted to, as the video demonstrates. One letter to the BBC's "Points Of View" read, "I was disgusted to see Jackson calling for racial harmony, ironic, when he has so obviously, through plastic surgery made himself look more European, in order to look less black." Even worse for Jackson was a report from Brazil claiming that "70% of males under the age of 30, thought Jackson was a white man". Despite what he had written in Moonwalk, the public was starting to believe Jackson had bleached his skin.

In February of 1992, Jackson visited the Ivory Coast to be honoured as an African King. A definite move to demonstrate his connection with Africa. Unfortunately the huge crowds were poorly secured by the Government and many public events by Jackson had to be cancelled for public safety. Also as described before Jackson was constantly seen protecting himself from the sun and holding his hands up to his face. Which angered the African press who wrote, "We know our country has bad sanitation, so why doesn't the American sacred beast return to his white America." (The Times.1992.)

***** At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see a portion of the video for "Remember The Time".**

This February 1992 video shows an all black Egyptian court, no white Liz Taylor as Cleopatra in this film. This video showed



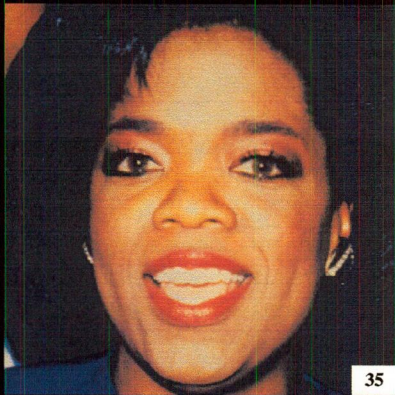
By 1991 very young Jackson



A two-faced face on the cover of Jackson's 1991 album, one of his only public references to his family



His smile is a sign of his love for his family



35

Oprah Winfrey



36

A sufferer of Vitaligo demonstrating how make-up hides the dis-colouring of her skin.

Jackson still felt connected to his race. But it was all too late as the previous comments demonstrate. Before, the public debate about Jackson's colour was priceless PR, and he knew it. But now the public and press had decided he had bleached his skin. The mystery was gone. Jackson had to start speaking up and so decided to give Oprah Winfrey his first Televised interview in 10 years.

*****At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see a portion of the Oprah Winfrey interview.**

The interview televised in February of 1993 was watched by over 90 million American's, one of the largest T.V audiences in American history. The un-paralleled audience figures showed the public obsession with Jackson and his colour. By explaining he had a disease he had re-invented himself, yet again. The outcome of this interview has established Jackson a racial misfit, neither black nor white, people on one side think he did eradicate his blackness and others believe he does suffer from Vitaligo.

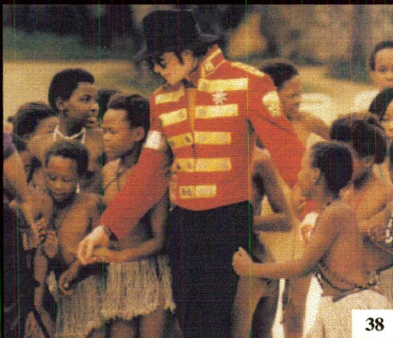
The proof that he does have Vitaligo, was used before in the press, as evidence to prove he had bleached his skin. Covering his face with his hands and wearing big hats, and using creams to rub on his skin, are all necessary for people with Vitaligo. As the skin cells are diseased, the risk of cancer and other skin diseases are greatly increased, to the point where many sufferers not only have Vitaligo, but other diseases and complications.

One Doctor in an article entitled "Jackson's Sun Nightmare" claimed "over time the bodies resistance to the sun decreases to the point that any direct sunlight can cause serious sun burn, requiring medical treatment." Evening Press.1994.

The last few years (1993 onwards) have seen Jackson become a figure for others to examine and in some cases to blame for the increase of blacks using highly toxic chemicals such as hydroquinone, an industrial bleach. It is used in photography, and products containing more than 2% are banned in Britain. To obtain this chemical many blacks in Britain import products from West Africa. The bleaching products are badly labelled promising "clear, eventoned skin". Norma Vidler a



A black Jackson impersonator using white make-up to better represent his idol.



Regardless of his appearance young blacks still idolise him worldwide.



Today's Jackson is totally white.

specialist in treating damaged skin described the results she has seen on people who have used these creams;

“Hydroquinone destroys the skin cells, it destroys the pigments. It makes the skin very rough and orange-peely, and cause huge bumps . The effects are devastating, but people still use it. Why? So many say they are Michael Jackson fans, and used the creams to look more like him. I have seen the results and I think he has done a great disservice to his race.” (Times.Beyond The Pale.1994.)

Others say Jackson is acting out what the Victorians gave a scientific name Anthropometry, the systematic measurement of human dimensions. It relates biological race with culture and intellectual development. Some Victorians were fascinated with the Indian cast system, which divides Hindu society into four different groups. The highest of these are pale-coloured and fine featured, the lowest dark. Sir Herbert Hope Risley, director of Ethnography in the Indian Civil Service spent most of his life measuring the noses of thousands of people in northern India. He produced the Orbital-Nasal Index that found, to his satisfaction that people from higher casts had narrowed and sharper noses than those from lower casts.

The Michael Jackson of today would fit into the higher cast system of Risley's Orbital-Nasal Index. In 1982 while being interviewed by some fans, it was mentioned that one of the fans was from India, at this Jackson shouted to one of his staff, “Who are my people?”, the staff member returned, “Indian's Mike!”. Jackson then proceeded to proclaim his love for Indian people saying “the darker the skin the better”, which means he either changed his mind after 1982 or has the disease Vitiligo. One Doctor in Cuba, in a reported entitled “We'll turn Jacko Blacko” (The Sun,1993) claimed he could treat Jackson's disease by turning him black again.

The public has been presented with a figure fascinated with transformations, and the attention this gets him from the public.

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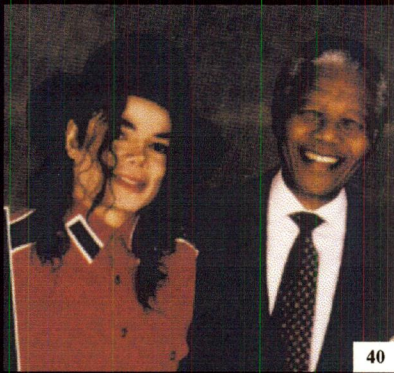
A black Jackson impersonator using white make-up to better represent his idol.



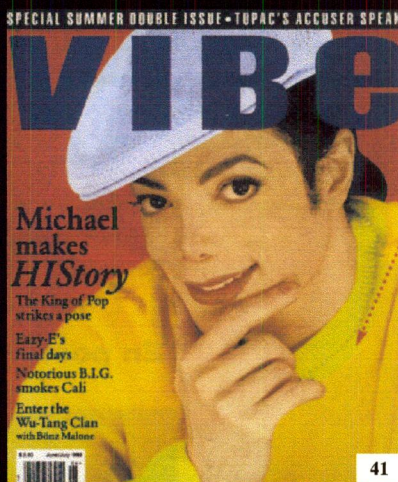
Regardless of his appearance, young blacks still idolize him worldwide.



Even a Jackson is tough with...



Nelson Mandela, a very strong, definite black icon.



Vibe magazine 1995, a very black publication with a very white Jacko. Despite his appearance blacks can't discard or ignore him.

Jackson now spends his time balancing the rewards he receives from blacks. Nelson Mandela who Jackson visited during his 79 birthday in South Africa remarked of Jackson "We now see who is the real world leader", referring to the huge press turn out.

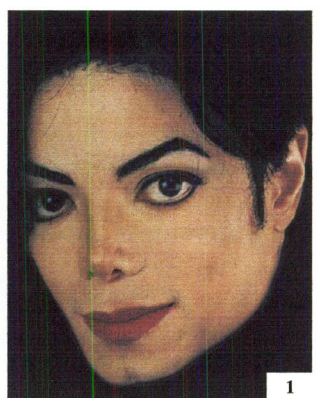
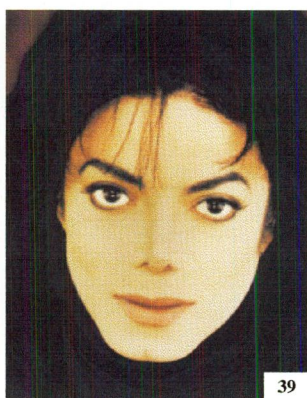
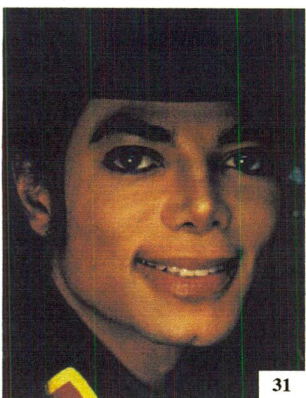
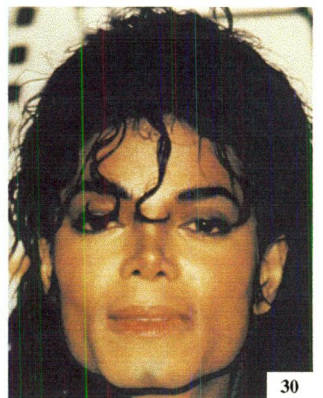
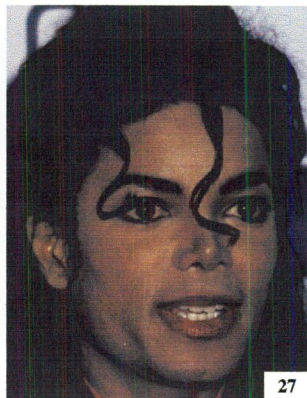
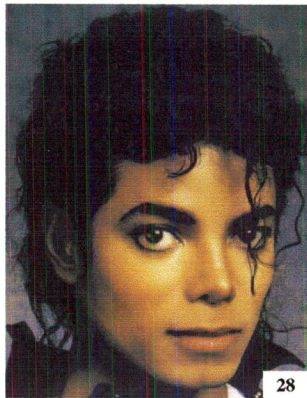
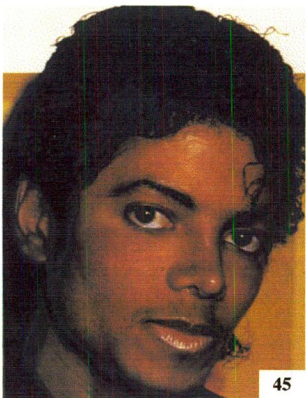
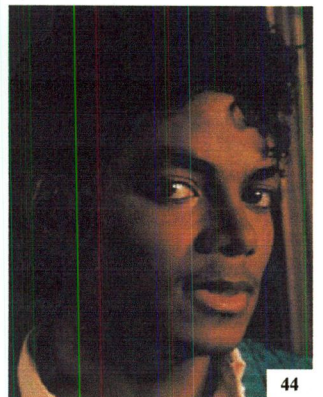
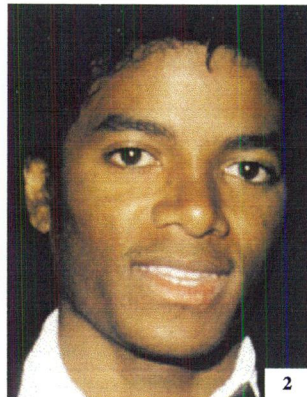
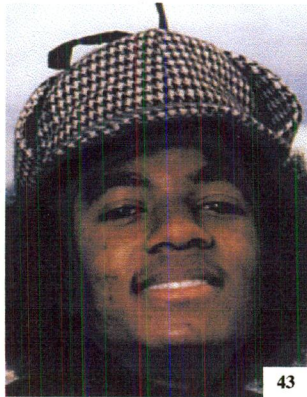
The other side of this is that blacks on the streets are unsure of Jackson's genuine agenda. This overshadows the remarkable achievements he has made during his career, the first black cartoon was an animated series based on the Jackson 5 in the early 1970's. The first black weekly televised programme in the mid 1970's was the Jacksons Variety show, long before The Cosbys in the 1980's. Now we have the black dominated MTV thanks to Jackson.

All of these achievements, in part down to one man's talent, have for his race and him been sadly clouded over by his hunger to grab the public's attention. Either by removing his race or by keeping his medical condition quite, whatever the reason only he really knows. What society is left with is an even more confused definition of racial identity.

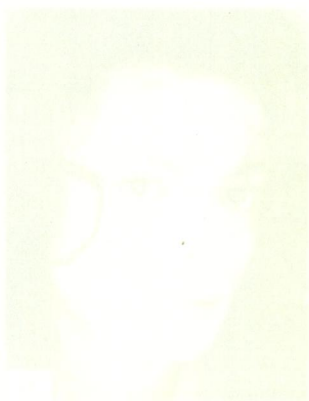
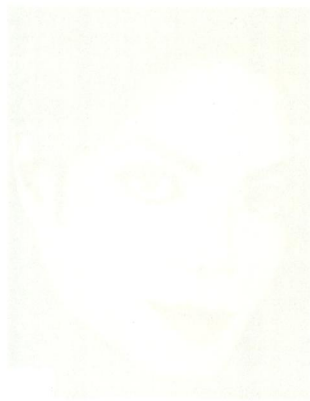
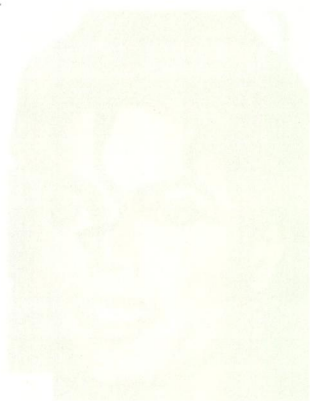
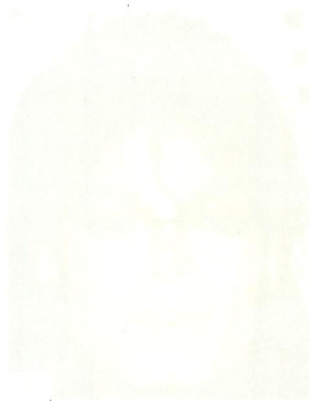
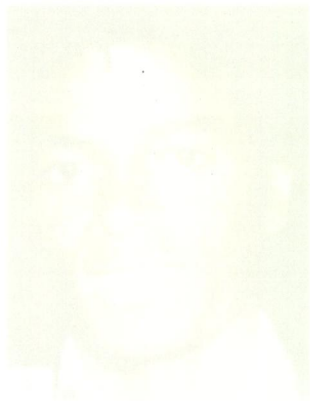
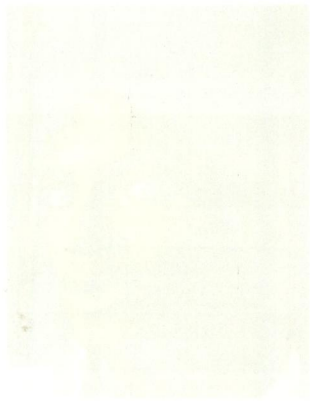


An illustration portraying Jackson as the first black man, doing an impression of a white man, doing an impression of a black man.

THE DIFFERENT COLOURS OF MICHAEL JACKSON'S FACE FROM AGES 13-40

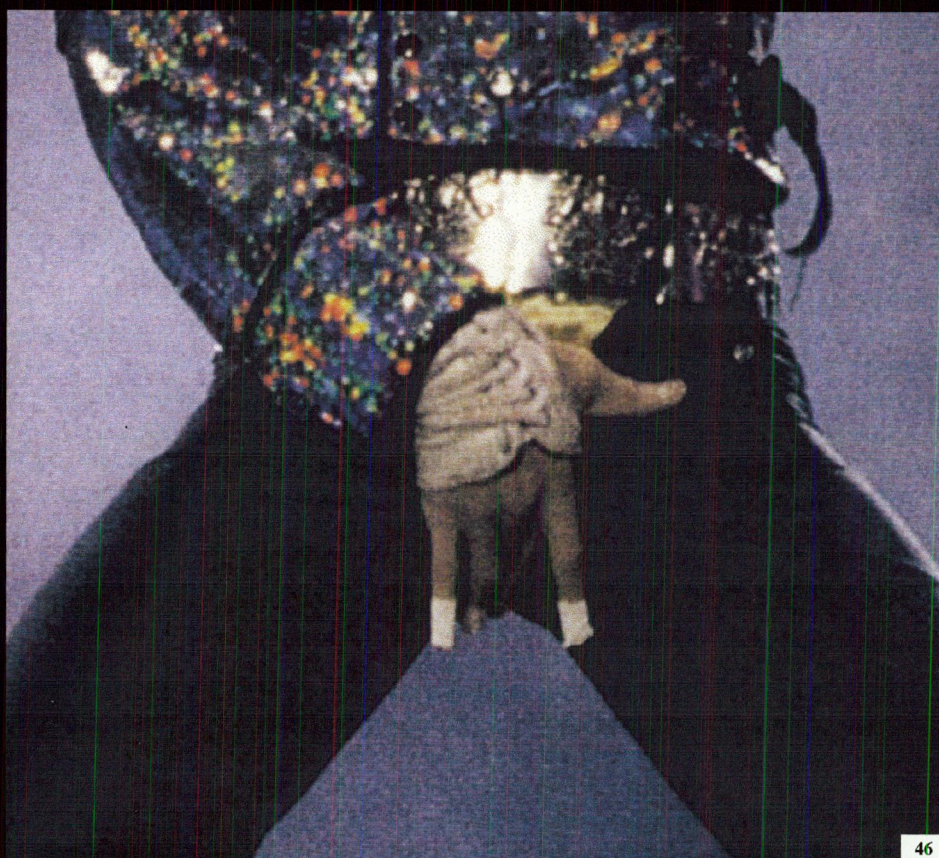


THE DIFFERENT COLORS
OF MICHAEL JACKSON'S FACE
FROM AGES 13-40



“ *Everybody* has deep,
dark secrets...”

—michael jackson 1978



“..the more people are going to
wonder what I really am...
...and the longer it takes them to
discover this, the more famous
I will be.”

—michael jackson 1984

1931

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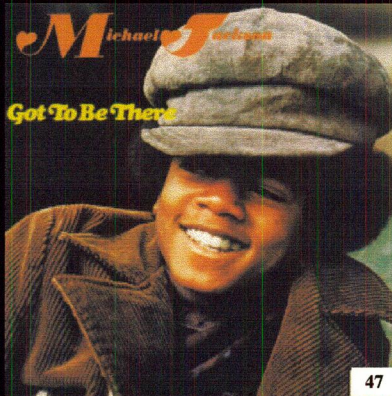
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Chapter 2. Sexual Identity



47

1972. Michael Jackson's first solo album is released. A child performing songs of maturity far beyond his years.



48

Shirley Temple



10

Michael and his brother's achieved huge success but lost their childhood innocence in the process.

The first impression on the world that Michael Jackson made was as a child star. The innate innocence of children is all part of the appeal that captivates the public when it comes to child performers. The juxtaposition of a child, on one hand able to perform on the same level as an adult, while still appearing to possess all the naivety of his or her peers, is what fascinates the public.

The best exponent of child stardom is Shirley Temple, born in 1928, in her first year of acting she received an academy award aged six years old, "in grateful recognition of her outstanding contribution to screen entertainment during the year 1934." (Academy Awards Committee.) By age 11 she was the number one box-office attraction.

The Macmillan International Film Encyclopedia described her as;

"A cute, doll-like, precocious child, complete with dimples and curls, she provided a bright little spot in the Depression years of the 30's. At the height of her success she was virtually a national institution, a model for the child every mother wanted and every little girl wanted to imitate. But by the 1940's she was quickly approaching the status of has-been... she simple did not hold the same appeal as an adolescent and an ingenue that she had held as a child."

(Katz,1994,p.1337)

Michael Jackson was born in Gary Indiana, Chicago on August 29 1958. By age nine he and his older brothers, brought by their father Joe Jackson, performed in strip clubs and night clubs such as Mr. Lucky's, all over Chicago and neighbouring states. As a devout Jehovah's Witness Jackson's mother was anxious, as described in Moonwalk, Michael Jackson's 1988 auto-biography.

"She worried about me because of my age.
'This is quite a life for a nine year old,'
she would say, staring intently at my father."

(Jackson,1988,p.36)

Chapter 2 Sexual Identity



1972 Michael Jackson's first solo album is released. A child performing songs of maturity for beyond his years.



Shirley Temple
A child actor who became a star.



Michael and Big Boy
A black and white photograph of two young boys, Michael and Big Boy, sitting together and smiling.

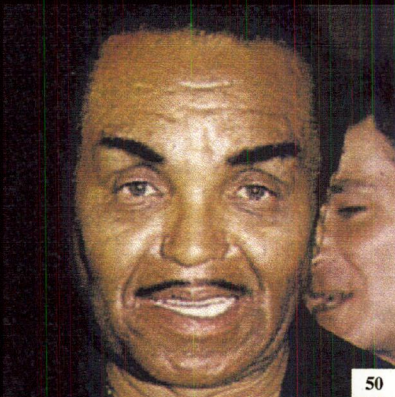
The first photograph of a child actor was a young Shirley Temple in 1935. She was the first child actor to become a star. Her parents, George and Catherine, were both actors. They started her in acting when she was only six years old. She became a major star in the 1930s and 1940s. Her most famous role was in 'The Kid' (1936) where she played a young girl who saves a boy from being hit by a car. She also starred in 'Heidi' (1938) and 'The Little Colonel' (1943). Her success led to her being named one of the most popular child stars of all time.

The second photograph is of Michael Jackson. He is a famous singer and dancer. He was born in 1958. He started performing at a young age. His first solo album was released in 1972. It was called 'Ben'. It was a big success. He became a major star. He is known for his unique style of music and dance. He has won many awards, including the Grammy Award for Best Male R&B Vocal Performance in 1979. He is also known for his philanthropy. He has donated millions of dollars to charity. He is one of the most successful and influential entertainers of all time.

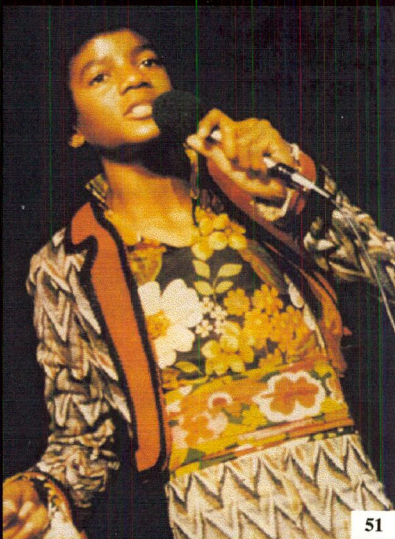
Michael and Big Boy are two young boys who are famous for their friendship. They were born in the same neighborhood in Los Angeles. They became friends when they were young. They are both actors. They have appeared in several movies together. They are also known for their friendship with other famous people. They are a great example of friendship and loyalty. They are also very talented. They have both acted in movies and on television. They are also very popular. They have millions of fans. They are a true friendship that has inspired many people.



Michael Jackson with his mother Katherine and in the centre one of his brothers Jermaine. 1988



Joe Jackson, Michael Jackson's father. In 1993 Jackson told of how he would "regurgitate" before his father would visit him, even as an adult. Joe responded later that "if he did regurgitate, he regurgitated all the way to the bank!"



On stage a young Jackson creates the fantasy of childish innocence for his audience, hiding the true facts of his life style. Exactly as he does today.

In Moonwalk Jackson recalls;

"We worked in more than one club that had strippers in those days. I used to stand in the wings of this one place in Chicago and watch a lady whose name was Mary Rose. I must have been nine or ten. This lady would take off her clothes and her panties and throw them to the audience. The men would pick them up and sniff them and yell. My brothers and I would watch all this, taking it in, and my father wouldn't mind. We were exposed to a lot doing that kind of circuit. In one place they had cut a little hole in the musicians' dressing room wall that also happened to act as a wall in the ladies' bathroom. You could peek through this hole, and I saw stuff I've never forgotten.

Guys on that circuit were so wild, they did stuff like drilling little holes in the ladies' loo all the time. Of course, I'm sure my brothers and I were fighting over who got to look through the hole. 'Get outta the way it's my turn!' Pushing each other away to make room for ourselves.

Later we did the Apollo Theatre in New York, I saw something that really blew me away because I didn't know things like that existed. I had seen quite a few strippers, but that night one girl with gorgeous eyelashes and long hair came out and did her routine. She put on a great performance. All of a sudden, at the end, she pulled off her wig, pulled a pair of big oranges out of her bra, and revealed that she was a hard-faced guy under all that makeup. That blew me away. I was only a child and couldn't even conceive of anything like that.

I received quite an education as a child. More than most. Perhaps this freed me to concentrate on other aspects of my life as an adult." (Jackson, 1988, p38-39)

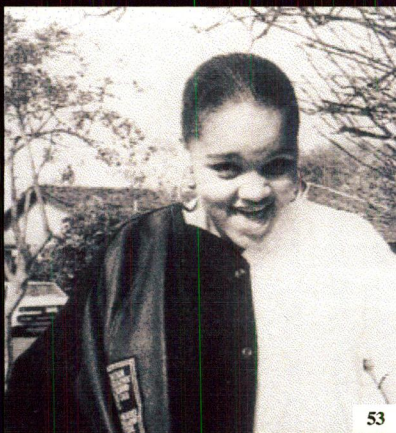
What Jackson didn't tell in his book was the darker side of his knowledge of sexual activities regarding his father and brothers. As the Jackson 5 became more successful Michael's older brothers began to take full advantage of the groupies on offer. The older brothers would take girls back to their rooms to have sex, despite the fact young Michael was across in the next bed, and regardless of whether he was asleep or not.



52

Jackson with his mother during the high of his fame in the mid 1980's. His love for his mother has seen him dedicate all his albums to her in one way or another. An extract from a recent poem entitled *Mother* by him demonstrates his devotion.

Every day without a hold
I will treasure what you've mold
I will remember every kiss
Your sweet words I'll never miss
No matter where I go from here
You're in my heart, my mother
dear



53

A rare photo of Joh' Vonnie born on August 30 1974. Joe Jackson's illegitimate child. Michael Jackson's half sister and one of the cause of Michael's hatred of his father.

Most damaging was the extra marital affairs Jackson's father had and continued to have while on the road with his son's. "Marlon (one of Michael's brothers) recalled his father coming into the boys' hotel rooms with a bevy of shapely beauties on both arms, all giggling. 'G'night, fellows,' Joe would say. The boys in bed in their pajamas, would watch as their father and his lady friends closed the door. They could here the laughter from Joe's room next door. It was as if he wanted to be certain that the boys knew what was going on."

(Taraborrelli, 1991, p188)

For Jackson sex as far as he was concerned wasn't about love, he had been exposed to strippers, groupies, transsexuals and most damaging the infidelity of his own father. All aspects of sex that he had witnessed were exploitive and damaging and extremely negative.

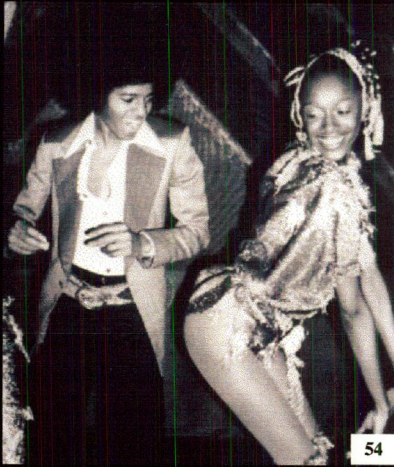
Most detrimental to Jackson as seen by Dr Carole Liberman was that "the father's infidelity would certainly have hit the youngest child exposed to it the hardest (in this case Michael) he would have thought that by not telling his mother he had betrayed her the most. Michael was nine, just at the end of his Oedipal stage, a time where it is important for boys to be getting love and attention from their mother... he would be wanting to be the favourite loved figure of his mother at all time. To now be put in a situation were his mother is being betrayed by her husband, the person who would be his rival for her love and attention would have made it seem all the more unfair."

Dr Liberman concluded that;

"In a normal, Oedipal case the youngest would never have the power to dethrone the other parent, Michael had the ammunition, his rival for his mother's attention actually was abusing his privileges, but he couldn't use it for fear of hurting her. This would have been a particularly difficult time for Michael".

(Lisa Shivers, 1988, p34)

For most people growing up their introduction to sexuality is gradual, usually shared information from friends in the school yard and occasional awkward encounters with the opposite sex, over their developing years as a teenager and so on.



For a brief time during the year 1977, a 19 year old Jackson attended night clubs before his solo career exploded. He frequented a celebrity club called Studio 54. A notoriously decadent place for sex and drugs, it was closed after 2 years for illegal sex and drugs activities. Despite this there are no reports of any sexual activity that included Jackson. In the kiss and tell all society that we live in today, if he had done anything it is doubtful if his actions would still be unknown today. Considering the money involved.

By age nine Michael Jackson had seen all sorts of sexual activities mostly negative, strippers, the countless groupies his brothers went through, culminating in his father's flaunting of his infidelity.

The actual effects that this had on him as he grew up only he really knows, but what knowledge can be gained for his audience from the above encounters, is that Jackson grew up in an extremely unhealthy and very conflicting environment, that no child is equipped to deal with regardless of his or her maturity as a performer.

The negative elements of sexuality dominated his developing adolescent years, and the confusion of sexuality we see today from Jackson is a result of those experiences.

So when he wrote in his book Moonwalk on his experiences;

"I received quite an education as a child. More than most.

Perhaps this freed me to concentrate on other aspects of my life as an adult." (Jackson, 1988, p 38)

This was regarding the strippers and not the damaging activities of his father and brothers. Perhaps he has chosen to concentrate on other aspects of life, but it is not by choice that he is the confused image of sexuality that we see today. However, as he has kept the public guessing about his racial identity he has done the same with his sexual identity.

*****At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see the maturity Jackson displayed as a 12 year old child performing "Who's loving You".**

By the late 1970's as Jackson entered his early twenties his high voice maintained and through becoming a vegetarian his features, helped by his first nose job had become more feminine in appearance. As his solo career began to take off with the album "Off The Wall", the public and press began to ask questions of his sexuality for the first time.

The first of two rumours surfaced around this time, printed in Jet magazine one stated that he was gay and the other that he was preparing to have a sex change in order to marry a T.V star called Clifton Davis. As the rumours spread, fans and reporters asked Jackson of it's authenticity.



By the late seventies questions about his sexuality first began to surface.

Having not seen the reports he was livid when he heard of them “It’s disgusting to me that people think I’m gay and having a sex change! How awful.”

When a reporter asked him if he was gay in 1979 Jackson snapped back;

“No I am not gay. I am not a homo. Not at all. People make up stories about me because they have nothing else to do. I’m not going to let it get to me. I’m not going to have a nervous breakdown because people think I like having sex with men. I don’t and that’s that. If I let this get to me it will only show how cheap I am. I’m sure I must have a lot fans who are gay, and I don’t mind that. That’s their life and this is mine. You can print that.”

He asked the reporter;

“What is it about me that makes people think I’m gay? Is it my voice? Is it because I have this soft voice? All of us in the family have soft voices. Or is it because I don’t have a lot of girlfriends? I just don’t understand it.” It wouldn’t be until he became a world obsession after “Thriller” that he would start to exploit the media’s curiosity to suit him.

The late 1970’s were difficult for Jackson, as he was breaking away from his family musically and emotionally, he had been the bread winner since age 7 and needed his space as adulthood approached, while he tried to establish his own career and identity.

By the early 1980’s Jackson had gradually emerged himself in his own world, filled with the animals that lived in his own private zoo. He didn’t socialise or date any women, instead he concentrated on his music and spent his free time playing with animals and young children.

“One of my favourite pastimes is being with children—talking to them, playing with them in the grass. They say somethings that just astound you. They go through a brilliant, genius stage. But then, when they become a certain age...” Michael paused. His face looked sad. “When they get to a certain age, they lose it.” (Steve Demorest, Melody Maker, 1979)



Jackson on the cover of Life magazine in 1993 with a small sample of his many animals.



The “Peter Pan” label has by many observers been attached to Jackson, help by his surgically altered features.



Jackson with E.T. another unworldly creature who embodied innocence and vulnerability.

Jackson was maintaining himself in a state of constant adolescence not only by the company he kept but by his appearance. He was distancing himself from any form of adult relationships, fearing the pain and hurt he had seen in his parents marriage and in the countless divorces his siblings had experienced in their short adult lives. Almost all of the relationships in his family, that he had witnessed were filled with complications and pain.

“I don’t trust anyone, except Katherine (his mother). And even then, I’m not so sure...” (Michael Jackson, Soul Magazine, 1979)

As the “Thriller” album increased Jackson’s fame to astronomical heights during 1983-84, his image as a “Peter Pan”, “a man child”, began to receive regular press coverage, alongside his music.

*****At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see a portion of “The Making Of Thriller” video 1982, showing something of Jackson’s “sissified acting”.**

He had no girlfriend, un-heard of for a performer in his position which yet again ignited rumours about his sexuality. Such as the following statement;

“This... female acting, sissified acting expression, it is not wholesome for our young boys nor our young girls. Certainly, the man is a great singer. Certainly, he’s a powerful entertainer. We cannot and we would not try to take anything away from our brother.” he continued “...actually ruins your young men and makes your young women have nothing to look up to as a real man for their own lives. This is a shame. But of course, men like this will live to die of old age, because they threaten nothing.” (Black Muslim Leader Luis Farrakhan, 1984)

Unlike in 1979, when he had protested his straightness Jackson now knew the benefit of mass media interest in his sexuality, at least privately. The more enigmatic that Jackson was, the more the public wanted to know.



Jackson on the cover of LIFE magazine in 1971 with a white sample of his many outfits.



The "Polo" suit, which has become a trademark of Jackson, is seen here in a black and white photograph.



Jackson with a friend in a black and white photograph. The image shows Jackson in a white shirt and dark tie, looking towards the camera.

At this point, the author has already stated the purpose of the research and the scope of the study. The author also mentions that the research is a qualitative study and that the data will be analyzed using content analysis.

The author then discusses the importance of the research and how it will contribute to the field of fashion design. The author states that the research will provide a better understanding of the fashion industry and how it has evolved over time.

The author also mentions that the research will be a valuable resource for fashion designers and students. The author states that the research will provide a comprehensive overview of the fashion industry and its history.

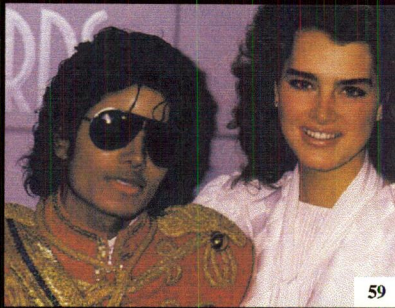
The author then discusses the methodology of the research and how the data will be collected. The author states that the data will be collected through interviews with fashion designers and through a review of fashion magazines and books.

The author also mentions that the research will be a longitudinal study and that the data will be collected over a period of several years. The author states that this will allow for a more in-depth analysis of the fashion industry and its changes over time.

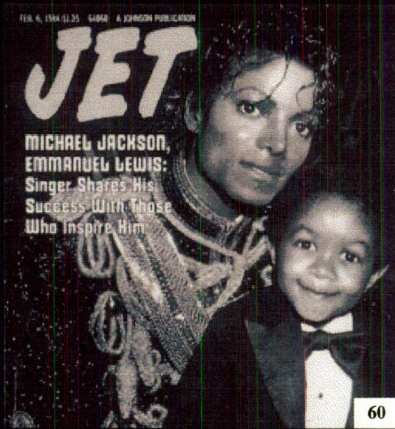
The author then discusses the limitations of the research and how they will be addressed. The author states that the research is limited to the fashion industry in the United States and that it does not cover other countries or regions.

The author also mentions that the research is limited to the fashion industry and does not cover other aspects of the fashion industry, such as retail and marketing. The author states that these limitations will be addressed in future research.

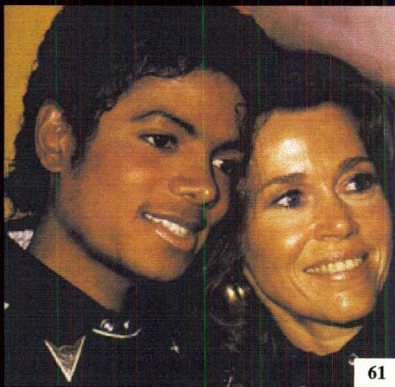
The author concludes the introduction by stating that the research is a comprehensive and thorough study of the fashion industry and its history. The author states that the research will provide a valuable resource for fashion designers and students and that it will contribute to the field of fashion design.



Jackson attending an award show with Brooke Shields as his date.



Jackson with child actor Emmanuel Lewis who he also took to award shows along with Brooke Shields. 1984.



Jackson made various appearances with Jane Fonda a woman much older than him, unlikely to be romantically involved with him. 1983.



With Liza Minnelli and Jimmy Safechuck 1988.

"In 1984 on Saturday Night Live an America comedy programme, Eddy Murphy played a very effeminate Jackson as a guest on a talk show called 'Guy Talk', hosted by an equally effeminate Liberace played by another actor. They both discussed their sexual conquests of women. 'Yes, that's the only way to go,' Eddie as Michael said, with a flick of his wrist. 'Slam, bam, thank you, ma'am. That's what I like.'" (Taraborrelli,1991.p396)

His former video cameraman Steve Howell recalls Jackson's reaction; "I don't mind it, I mean the more they make fun of me, the more people are going to wonder what I really am. I don't care when people call me a fag. No one knows the truth. No one knows who or what I am. They can say what the want to say, because the bottom line is they don't know and everyone is going to continue searching to find whether I'm gay, straight, or whatever. It doesn't bother me. And the longer it takes them to discover this, the more famous I will become." (Jackson,1984)

At public events such as award shows Jackson would bring Brooke Shields, and child actor Emmanuel Lewis, on other occasions he would be seen with Liz Taylor or Jane Fonda. Women old enough to be his mother. The media and public were extremely confused by seeing Jackson with such a glamorous woman as Brooke Shields and in their company a young child like Emmanuel. Adding Liz Taylor and Jane Fonda only increased media speculation.

He had now learned to manipulate the public and press not only by his appearance but by his associations. Many people seeing him with Emmanuel, saw him as a "Peter Pan" figure, others believed he was dating Brooke Shields. While some thought he was looking for a mother figure, by dating older woman such as Jane Fonda, and then there were those who thought he was asexual. A sexual non-entity, more like a ten year old boy, than the 26 years old man that he was.

Privately these people were his friends, not propaganda props, used to hide any secret sexual activity on his part. One of the



Jackson standing in award show with Brook Shields as his date



Jackson with child actor. I'm afraid I was who he had to stand show along with Brook Shields 1964



Jackson with young appearance with Jim Fonda a woman much older than his father to be romantically involved in the film '67



Jackson with young woman

In 1964, Jackson was in the movie 'The Sandlot' with Brook Shields. They were both in the movie 'The Sandlot' with Brook Shields. They were both in the movie 'The Sandlot' with Brook Shields.

He former video cover for the movie 'The Sandlot' with Brook Shields. They were both in the movie 'The Sandlot' with Brook Shields. They were both in the movie 'The Sandlot' with Brook Shields.

In 1964, Jackson was in the movie 'The Sandlot' with Brook Shields. They were both in the movie 'The Sandlot' with Brook Shields. They were both in the movie 'The Sandlot' with Brook Shields.

The film 'The Sandlot' with Brook Shields. They were both in the movie 'The Sandlot' with Brook Shields. They were both in the movie 'The Sandlot' with Brook Shields.

Jackson with young woman



63

On stage Jackson's performances are anything but asexual as far as his female fans are concerned.



64

This is the first kiss by Jackson the public ever saw. It was splashed across the world. Unfortunately it took place on stage where it is all part of his "Performance".

many characteristics that makes him stand out from other entertainers, is that he has always chosen to live his private life as he wants to, regardless of public opinion, however he is very careful in how it is presented.

"I think it's fun that girls think I'm sexy, But I don't think that about myself. It's just fantasy, really. I like to make my fans happy, so I might pose or dance in a way that makes them think I'm romantic, but really I guess I'm not that way."

(Jackson.1988.p154)

In his videos and on stage Jackson is the complete opposite to how he is off stage. His performances are very sexually driven, as one female fan described ;

"The way he can slink across a stage, the ease with which he does a spin, his dancing, bump-and-grind movements are so sexy." (Cushing.1995.p37)

That's the paradox with Jackson, on one hand he barely if ever says one word in public, yet on stage in front of 100,000 people he has no problems grabbing or rubbing his crotch. When asked by Oprah Winfrey in his 1993 interview why he grabs his crotch he claimed that;

*****At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see a portion of the Oprah Winfrey interview regarding Jackson's stage performances and his virginity.**

To be so sexually driven on stage and completely the opposite off stage is what confuses many people. Jackson did shed some light on the subject by saying;

"I feel most comfortable on stage, I hate to leave it. If I could I would sleep on stage, I feel nothing can hurt me when I'm on stage." (Jackson.1988.p210)

On stage he knows what is expected from the fans, and he is the master of all he surveys. But off stage a relationship is a different game, one which is not as clear cut as performing on



The stage Jackson's performance was anything but casual as he and his friends take the spotlight.



This is the first time Jackson has ever seen the public and he is excited about the whole experience. He is not alone, however, as all part of the performance.

At this point, the young boy is still in the middle of his performance. He is holding the guitar and looking towards the camera. The background is dark and out of focus.

To be an excellent performer, you need to be able to connect with your audience. This is a key skill that all performers should have.

It is important to remember that the audience is always watching. Even if you are not performing, you should always be aware of the people around you.

Being a performer is a great way to express yourself and to share your talent with others. It is a skill that can be learned and improved upon over time.

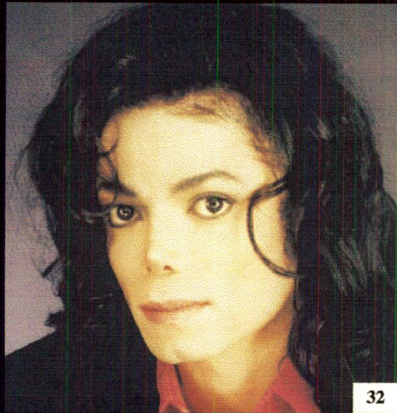


Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

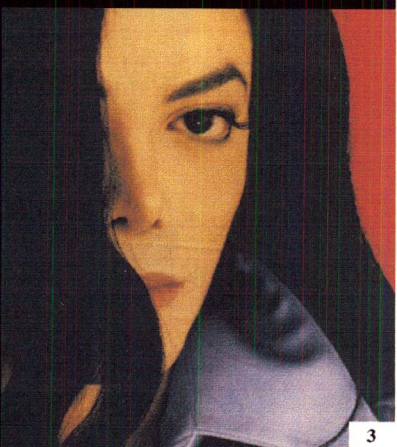


Fig. 4

stage, and it is the pain of being hurt that has him drifting from one extreme to the other. If he remains surrounded by animals, children and adolescents he can avoid the reality of life and his sexuality. As long as he is in control he is happy, confusing and twisting his sexuality to keep people guessing.

*****At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see the videos for "In the Closet" and "Blood On The Dance Floor"**

By the late 1980's and into the 1990's Jackson's appearance had become more and more androgynous. He still appeared "Peter Pan" like, but now he began to further blur the lines between his masculinity and femininity (Fig. 1 Publicity Photo 1991). In publicity photos it was hard to tell what he was, however in public with less styling he seemed more male than female.

He demonstrated his awareness of this by portraying himself as a King dog (Fig. 2) and a Queen hen (Fig. 3), as part of an illustration on the cover of his album "Dangerous" released in 1991.

The main objective of his androgynous, was and is to appear as sexually non threatening as possible. Dr Paul Gabreil, a psychiatrist at New York University gave an explanation for Jackson's appearance;

"Michael's behaviour seems to stem from either a wish to look less manlike, remaining a child, or a desire to look more neutral to avoid the issues and conflicts about sexuality. Maybe Michael Jackson has not developed sexually."

Despite his supposed asexuality Jackson still indulges in provoking peoples reactions to his looks as Fig. 4 demonstrates. Published in 1995 this image shows a very feminine looking Jackson. It is his wish to constantly confuse and add to the debate on his sexuality.

"No one knows who or what I am". (Jackson 1984)

Elizabeth Taylor. The
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By the late 1980s...
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Fig. 1



Fig. 2

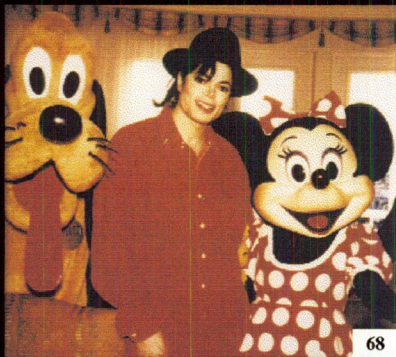


Fig. 3





Jackson has managed to marry images of the overtly sexual and the completely innocent together, to an amazing degree of success.



As demonstrated in the videos "In The Closet" and "Blood On The Dance Floor" he is always careful to demonstrate that he is heterosexual, despite how he has manipulated his appearance. A significant proportion of Jackson's fans are young children. While many performers avoid at all costs appealing to children for fear of what critics may think. Jackson has always demonstrated his ability to unite different generations behind his music. That is what makes him stand out above his contemporaries as his record sales prove.

Jackson once described Disneyland as his "favourite place".

One of the most bizarre accounts about his perceived innocence or lack of it, as told by Sheryl Crow, a former member of Jackson's band. Described that during Jackson's concerts, when she would sing a duet with him (where they would dance close together). How she and the other band members would bet on whether Jackson's was aroused! Even his touring band knew little of his true sexuality.

***** At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see a portion of the Diane Sawyer interview in June 1995, regarding Jackson's appearance.**

As the crowd roared, Jackson's face lit up with a smile. The crowd roared again, and Jackson's face lit up with a smile. The crowd roared again, and Jackson's face lit up with a smile. The crowd roared again, and Jackson's face lit up with a smile.

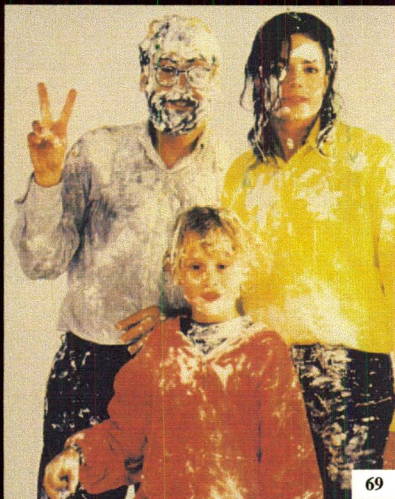
Jackson once again... One of the most... came on top of... Jackson's hand... when she would... close together... bed on winter... know little of the...

At the end of the night, Jackson's face lit up with a smile. The crowd roared again, and Jackson's face lit up with a smile. The crowd roared again, and Jackson's face lit up with a smile.



Jackson has managed to bring the image of the overly sexual and the completely innocent together to an amazing degree of success.





Jackson with child actor Macaulay Culkin and director John Landis in 1991. Messing around on the "Black Or White" video .



Images of him as a " Peter Pan " with the young kids he hangs around with. This photo from 1995 shows that even after the allegations he still lives his life as he wants to.



Where other performers would have distanced themselves from child, Jackson increased his association to further prove his innocence.



The only question about him that ever threatened to seriously damage his career happened in August of 1993, when the father of a 13 year old boy accused Jackson of sexually molesting his son. The investigation ran for 6 months until Jackson paid the boy an undisclosed fee. For 6 months the media bombarded the public with story after story on Jackson's activities, as "told by a friend". By the end of the 6 months the story had lost all seriousness as it became yet another "Wacko Jacko" story. The part that Jackson's asexuality and "Peter Pan" man child image played in saving his career was critical.

"The powerful ingredient in his survival is old fashioned vulnerability. Not just sadness but—in the tired coin of critics—ineffable sadness. Jackson's underlying vulnerability makes credible the idea that he was set up. It even makes credible the idea that there's nothing wrong with having slumber parties with 12 year olds—in fact we should feel sorry for Jackson, not the kids. Add to that what people know about his childhood, or lack of it, and the pity becomes almost a shield."

(Alter.Newsweek.1993)

*****At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see a portion of the making of the "Black or White" video, which demonstrates in parts Jackson's childishness .**

By having so ingrained in the public's mind, images of him with young children, the public believed Jackson was child-like, an innocent, a perpetual adolescent. It was their wish to disbelieve that he was capable of inflicting any harm, increased by his non-threatening asexuality that saved his career.



Jackson with child actor Mandy Calkin and director John Mackay in 1991. Mackay stands on the "Black Or White" video.



Image of him as a "Little Fan" with the young kids he hangs around with. This photo from 1997 shows that even after the allegations he still looks like the boy he wants to be.



When child performers' work lives are blurred, boundaries can be difficult to keep. Jackson has been accused of blurring the lines between his work and his personal life.

The only question is: Can the boys be brothers? The damage he caused happened in 1991, when Jackson, then 13, was accused of molesting his son. The incident was covered in detail by Jackson and the boy on national television. The incident was covered in detail by Jackson and the boy on national television. The incident was covered in detail by Jackson and the boy on national television.

The powerful argument is that Jackson was a child prodigy. Not just a prodigy, but a child prodigy. Jackson's early success was the result of his talent. The idea that he was a child prodigy is a myth. Jackson's early success was the result of his talent. The idea that he was a child prodigy is a myth.

At the point the video was released, Jackson was 13 years old. The video was released in 1991, when Jackson was 13 years old. The video was released in 1991, when Jackson was 13 years old.

By having a child actor in a role that is so prominent, Jackson's work was blurred. Jackson's work was blurred. Jackson's work was blurred. Jackson's work was blurred. Jackson's work was blurred.



Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley who he married in 1994.



His arranged marriage to Debbie Rowe has provided Jackson with two children. Perhaps the emotional stability of having children will suppress some of the pain of his past.

When interviewed in 1995 he was asked by Diane Sawyer why he had, if he was innocent paid the boy; "I asked my lawyers, can you guarantee me that justice will be done, they said no Michael, we can't. So it was a hands down decision to resolve the case. Get rid of it." Ever the realist when it comes to his career.

*****At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see a portion of the Diane Sawyer interview regarding the allegations, in June 1995.**

In 1994, Jackson having survived the allegations, took his first steps into actual heterosexuality by marrying Lisa Marie Presley. For years people had seen him as asexual and found it difficult to see this wedding as nothing more than a publicity stunt. Yet another twisting of his sexuality. An attempt to further distance himself from the allegations. As one paper wrote, "Is Anyone Fooled By This" (Daily Mirror.1994)

To many it seemed impossible for Jackson to be sexual active and for the length of the 18 month marriage few believed in it's authenticity. Marrying Elvis's only child was seen as yet another "Wacko Jacko" story. However considering their backgrounds and positions in American culture, it is very understandable. They certainly could relate to one another, as many believed, but love seemed absent. Most likely an explanation is that Jackson having just spend 6 months in "hell" and Presley having been recently divorced, found themselves in similar situation emotionally. Both still go on vacations together after having divorced in January 1996, but there is no romance.

If marrying Presley didn't convince people of his sexuality, the announcement in November 1996 of the imminent birth of his first child "Prince" (named after his grandfather) and his second marriage to Debbie Rowe in November 1996, nothing would. This was soon followed by the birth of his daughter "Paris" born in April of 1998.



Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley who he married in 1958.



The arranged marriage in Britain. Lowe has provided Jackson with two children. Perhaps the most heart-wrenching of hearing children will suppress some of the pain of his past.

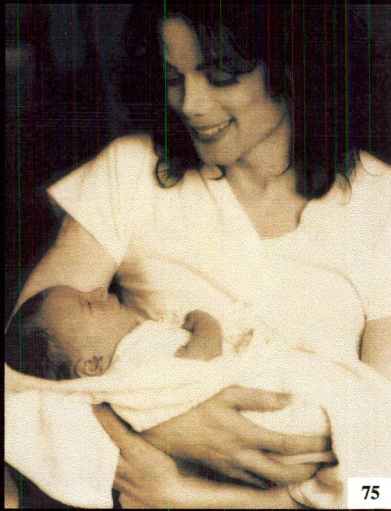
At this point the press will be looking for a picture of the couple. The suggestion is that they will be seen together in a public place.

It is believed that the couple will be seen together in a public place. The suggestion is that they will be seen together in a public place.

To find a way to deal with the situation and to find a way to deal with the situation and to find a way to deal with the situation.

Having seen the situation and having seen the situation and having seen the situation and having seen the situation.

If the press is to be believed, the couple will be seen together in a public place. The suggestion is that they will be seen together in a public place.

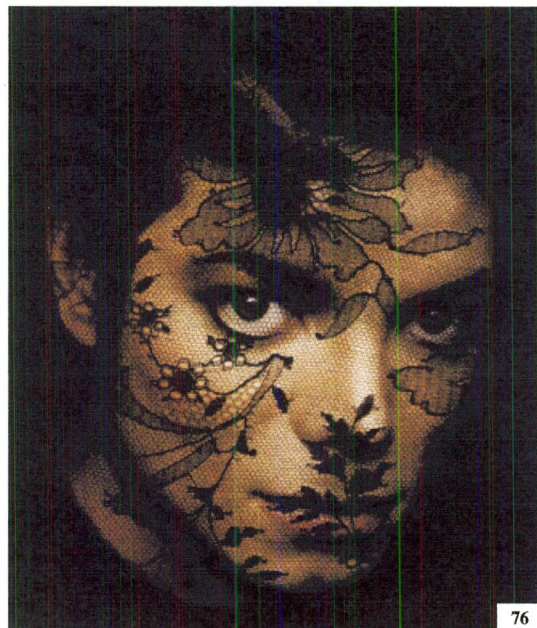


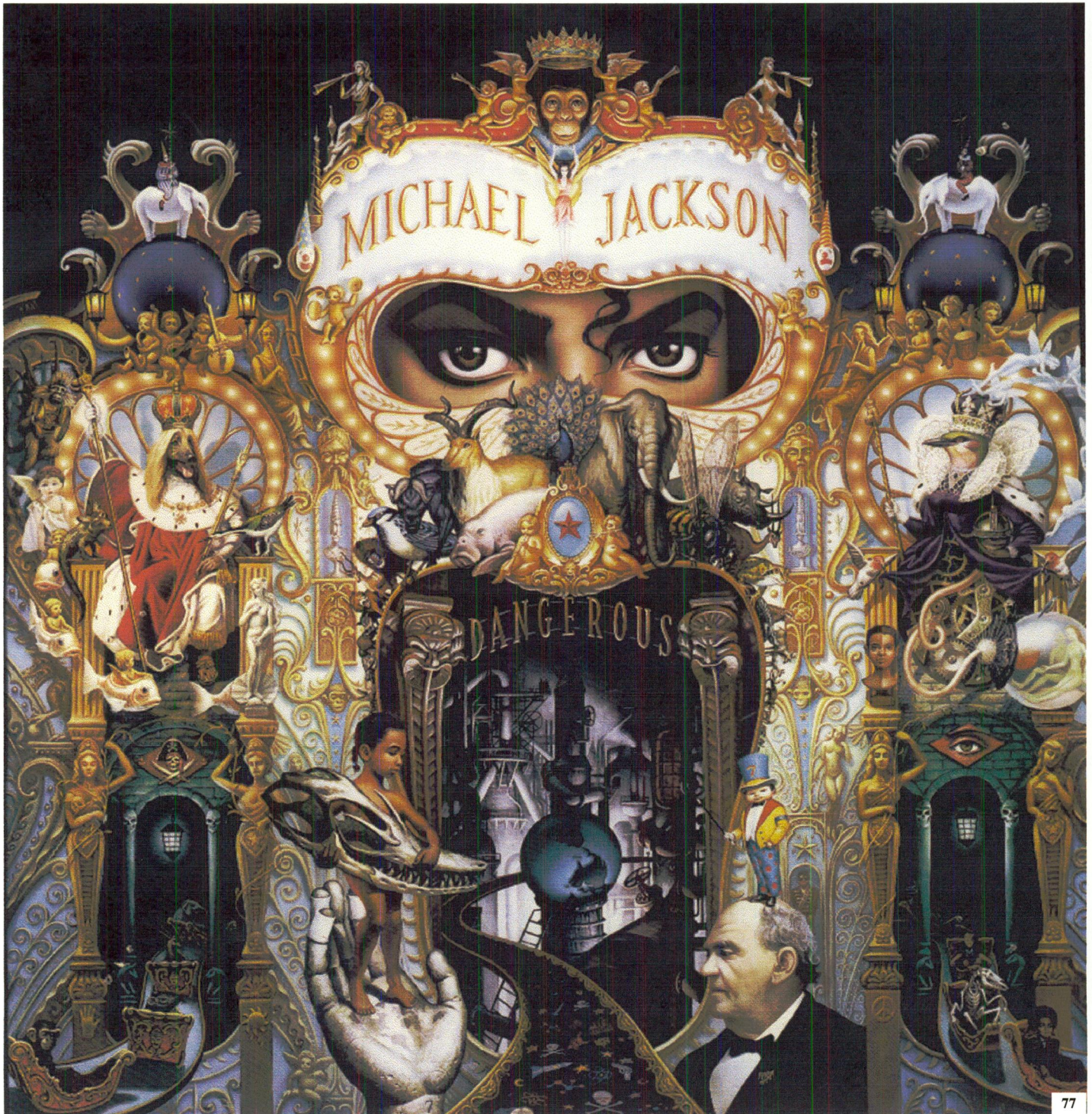
Father and son or is it mother and child, difficult to tell with Jackson's androgynous look.

For the past twenty years of his adult life Jackson has kept his public guessing about his true sexuality. By altering his appearance he has become truly androgynous. Despite his sexually driven performance on stage, off stage he is disinterested in sex. Perhaps in an attempt to remain as innocent and childlike as his young companions. A wish to further distance himself from the complications of his youth.

His current marriage is an arrangement, not one of companionship as described in Life magazine when they visited Jackson's home;

"Everywhere, throughout the 25 room home, Mom is eerily absent. The house, with games and knickknacks piled in stairwells and nooks, has an edgy abandon, as if a teenager and his friends have been left in charge and the real parents are about to burst in—back from vacation—and throw a fit. Even now after returning from an Africa tour, Michael is here in Neverland with his boy yet Debbie is in L.A 150 miles southeast." (David Friend. Life.1997.p100)





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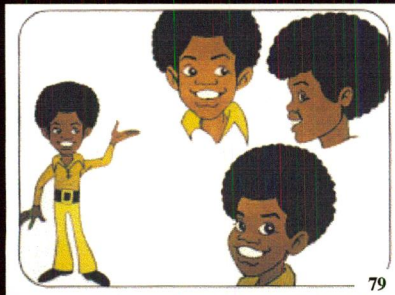
“All of the animals and angles, golden thrones and jewelled crowns, skeletons and fun-house rides that take up much of the cover of *Dangerous*, appears to be a gigantic mask behind which the real Michael Jackson hides, through which the real Michael Jackson looks at the world.”

—Rolling Stone 1991

Chapter 3. Image And Persona



Having become so famous at such a young age, there was no chance of Jackson, having any chance of a life, resembling normality.



The Jackson 5 cartoon series aired in 1971 and as Michael aged this programme helped perpetuate the image of him as a young child (The Jackson 5 didn't even do the voices for themselves) despite the onslaught of his teenage years and his acne filled face.

When the Jackson 5 were signed to Motown Records in 1969 Michael was instructed to tell reporters he was only eight years old, not 10 his real age. The brothers also rehearsed their answers to possible media questions. Perhaps the biggest fib arranged by Motown was that Diane Ross discovered the Jackson 5, which many people still believe today.

“From the time Michael Jackson was 10 he knew he had an ‘image’ to cherish and guard. Michael was taught to believe that the press was out to get him, and that in this media war it was every man—or—boy for himself.” (Taraborrelli.1991.p78)

The whole family was portrayed as a ‘wholesome’ unite for the public to aspire to, despite the dysfunctional on-goings behind the scenes. Motown also publicised the group as “the sound of young America”. In their first year the brothers sold over 10 million records and had 4 straight no.1’s in America. The more they sold the more abnormal Jackson’s life became.

“When you grow up, as I did, in front of 100 million people, your automatically different.” (Michael Jackson.1993)

By 1972, images of the Jackson 5 were everywhere, from cereal adverts to the covers of countless teen magazines. For the first time in popular music the idol of millions of teenagers was younger than his fans. As time progressed the public’s interest in Michael became disproportional to that of his brothers. Isolating them to being nothing more than a backing band. The result drove a wedge between all the brothers.

As the brothers aged the public began to lose interest. When the rigours of adolescence started this had drastic effects on Michael’s confidence. The public didn’t like to see little Michael grow up, as is the case with all child stars. Regardless that his talent remained, Jackson learned this lesson quickly and in a very face to face situation. Several fans who won a competition to meet him “looked at me with disappointment because I still wasn’t the ten year old boy they saw on the first album cover.” (Michael Jackson.1988)

Chapter 3 Image And Persona



Having become so famous at such a young age, there was no chance of Jackson having any sense of a life, or anything, normally.



The Jackson 5 cartoon series aired in 1971 and in 1972 used this programme to help to break the image of him as a young child (The Jackson 5 didn't even do the video for themselves) despite the fact that he had already sung and danced with the group.

When he was 11 years old, he was taken to a recording studio and recorded his first single, 'I Wanna Be Like You' from the musical 'The Sound of Music'. The song was a huge success and made him a star. He was then taken to a recording studio and recorded his first album, 'Ben'.

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The whole thing was a huge success and made him a star. He was then taken to a recording studio and recorded his first album, 'Ben'. The album was a huge success and made him a star. He was then taken to a recording studio and recorded his first album, 'Ben'.

When you are a child, you are not a person. You are just a child. You are not a person. You are just a child. You are not a person. You are just a child.

By 1972, Jackson had become a star. He was taken to a recording studio and recorded his first album, 'Ben'. The album was a huge success and made him a star. He was then taken to a recording studio and recorded his first album, 'Ben'.

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Stamps featuring Jackson released by the island of St Vincent appeared after the success of the “Thriller” album.



Jackson’s 1984 White House visit demonstrated how even the establishment had been gobbled up by the obsession. Where other pop singers repulse at recognition from the “establishment” Jackson worked the appearance for all it was worth.



Michael Jackson dolls were released in 1984 to feed the public appetite, further increasing the public perception of Jackson as a fantasy figure.

***At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see a portion of the Oprah Winfrey interview regarding Jackson’s opinion of the public.

In 1975 the Jackson 5 left Motown frustrated by bad record sales and no creative freedom, they moved to Epic records and changed their name to the Jacksons because of their contract, Motown legally owned the rights to the name Jackson 5 (regardless that the family had that name before they signed). By 1978 the brothers had re-established themselves as successful and by 1982 Jackson having both artistically and emotionally removed himself from the group (as described in the chapter on Sexual Identity) released the “Thriller” album. Which as described by Berry Gordy who established Motown “sent him into orbit, and he never came down!” (Gordy.ABC TV.1995)

Throughout 1983-85 Jackson reached unparalleled levels of success and fame on a global scale. His music videos and carefully managed public events, such as his huge police escort to the White House in 1984 to receive an award from President Ronald Reagan. Backed up with his many triumph at the Grammy awards and other awards ceremonies, helped create an image of him as God like and untouchable. He lived in his mansion behind huge gates, rarely spoke in public and if he did it wasn’t about his private life. So the only image of him and his persona came through Pepsi commercials, dolls, bubble cards, posters, stamps, you name, it his image adorned it.

“Jackson’s enforced isolation is part show-biz savvy and partly an attempt to preserve intact the fabric of his fantasy life.”
(an anonymous friend, Grant.p58.1984)

It was as if he only existed on T.V or in print and to prevent over exposure Jackson was careful to orchestrate his appearances to the minimum number of events, all the while obtaining the greatest coverage and rewards. Constantly creating his persona as untouchable and God like.

1972, the year of the "Black Panther Party" and the "Black Liberation Movement," Jackson was a member of the "Black Panther Party" and the "Black Liberation Movement."

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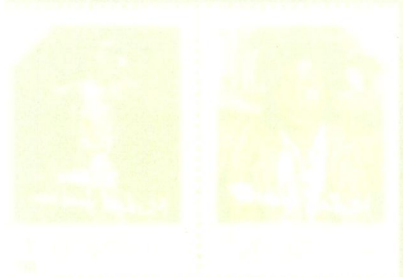
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Stamps featuring Jackson released by the island of Vincent appear after the success of the "Thriller" album.



Jackson's 1984 "White Trash" film demonstrated how even the establishment had been galvanized by the obsession. White trash pop singers spoke at meetings from the "establishment," Jackson worked the opposition for all it was worth.



Michael Jackson (left) was crowned in 1984 as the "King of Pop" after his "Thriller" was the public's obsession of the year. In a 1984 film, Jackson...



“Michael is very informed and aware of what is going on in his life, to an amazing degree, he’s his own Rasputin.”

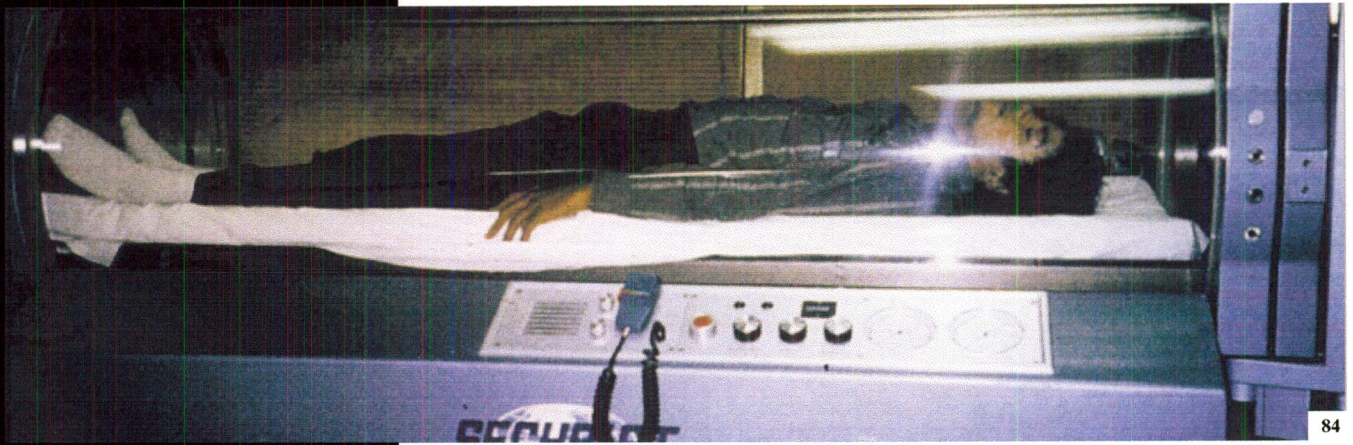
(John Branca 1984, Jackson’s lawyer since the late 1970’s.)

Time magazine the prestigious barometer of both cultural and social figures described Jackson, who adorned the cover of the magazine in 1984 (the third biggest selling copy ever, after the Princess Diane’s death and funeral issues);

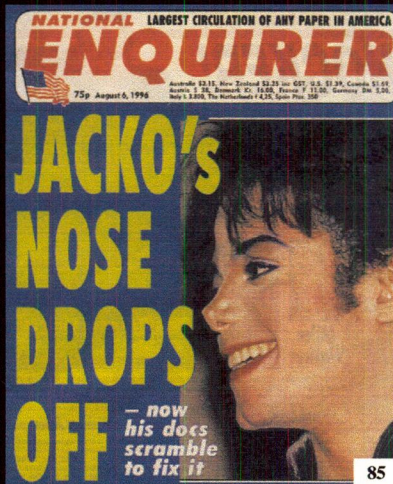
“Star of records, radio, rock video. A one-man rescue team for the music business. A song writer who sets the beat for a decade. A dancer with the fanciest feet on the street. A singer who cuts across all the boundaries of taste and style, and colour too.

Michael Jackson 25 years old.”

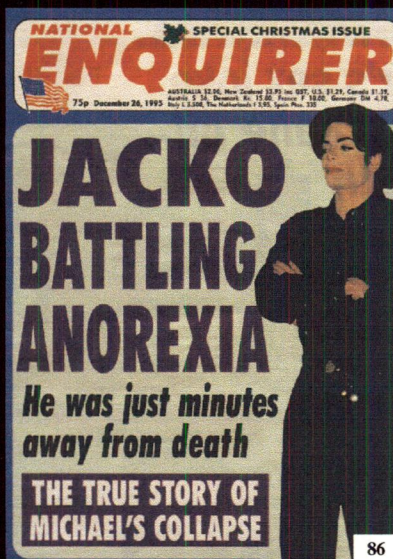




The arranged photo of Michael Jackson in the oxygen chamber.



The willingness of the public to believe outlandish stories about Jackson, the more outlandish the better, has seen him occupy the front pages of tabloids for over two decades. As the above headline demonstrates.

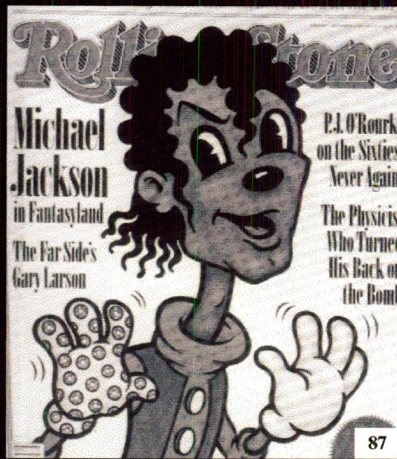


The constant press coverage can go from both wacky headlines to damaging and insulting headlines in the space of a week.

When the Thriller “campaign” ended towards the beginning of 1985 and while Jackson worked on his next album (Bad), which didn’t arrive for another two and a half years. His name and image needed to be kept in the public eye. Always aware of over exposure, Jackson needed to maintain his enigmatic fantasy figure persona by limiting his public appearances. Both he and his manager Frank Dileo arranged to have two stories planted in the National Enquirer. It was essential that nobody knew Jackson was actively seeking this attention. The first story told of “Jackson’s bizarre plan to live till 150, by sleeping in oxygen chamber” and the other that he “wanted to buy the skeleton of The Elephant Man”. These stories had the desired effect of keeping his profile high, and then some, in a short space of time almost everybody knew of them as nearly every paper worldwide, both gutter press and broad sheets reprinted the stories. With the result that most people actually believed them.

The myth of Jackson was increasing daily by the mid 1980’s, before the tabloids had print stories about “his secret love” or “What’s he really like”, as they do with all celebrities, but these stories were different. With the increased paper sales thanks to “Jacko” stories, the press began to make up their own stories about him, mostly innocent at first. Stories about the relationship between Jackson and Bubbles his chimp, or his devout vegetarian diet, or how he named his food after Disney characters.

Soon the title “Wacko Jacko” was dubbed upon Jackson at which point the vast press coverage aimed at keeping his



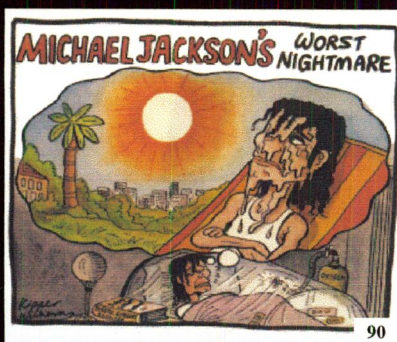
Jackson as Mickey Mouse on the cover of Rolling Stone 1986



Louis, the Lama along with Bubbles the chimp, featured in many stories about Jackson.



The range of toys based on his animals included a bear called Mr. Tibbs, based on Jackson. The officially licensed products were a huge financial success.



By the late 1980's all the "Wacko Jacko" stories became part of the Jackson myth.

image, and the persona of him and his music constantly in the fore of popular culture, began to back fire. "Wacko Jacko" by 1987 was as recognisable a name as Michael Jackson. Those in the public who didn't buy his records saw him as a total eccentric, they saw him as more of a fantasy figure like Mickey Mouse than a human being. This was both advantageous and disadvantageous for Jackson.

Jackson had since the early 1980's created around him a world of childlike innocence and perpetual adolescence (as explained in Sexual Identity);

"Jackson's world of fantasy is easier to dismiss with malicious gossip than understood with sympathy, on some levels, I don't even know whether it's conscious or not, Michael knows that he has to stand off the demands of reality and protect himself" (Jane Fonda, 1984)

As the press printed more outrageous stories after another, Jackson's fans became more and more devoted to him, having to constantly defend the so-called "Wacky" antics of their idol. As he gave no interviews to deny the stories, the fans saw, and even today, see themselves as being part of the front line in protecting him. As well as protecting his sanity the fans were constantly seeing reports that he bleached his skin, wanted to look like Diane Ross or that he was constantly rearranging his face with surgery. The more people questioned them, the more obsessive and loyal his fans became.

By the time Jackson released his long awaited follow up album in 1987 entitled "Bad", both the fan's and public's obsession in Jackson saw anything or anyone associated with him enveloped into the fantasy and myth. No longer was it enough to have his music or to read the stories, now you could even buy a range of toys based on Bubbles and the other animals he kept.

When Jackson started his first solo world tour, in Japan in 1987, stories about his fear of germs began to circulate, one told of how a huge glass shield would be placed in front of his stage, so as to protect him from the audience's germs*. This influenced a story claiming that Jackson had fired 5 members

* In his book on Jackson, The Magic And The Madness J.R Taraborrelli claims it was Jackson who first came up with this story during The Victory tour with his brothers in 1984, but it was quickly decided against, unfortunately it had already been planted by then.



Jackson as Mickey Mouse on the cover of Rolling Stone 1980



From the 1980s, many stories about Jackson



The range of mice based on the animals included a bear called Mickey Mouse based on Jackson. The Mickey Mouse products were a huge financial success



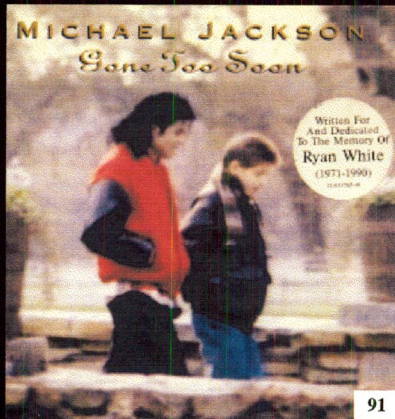
By the late 1980s, Mickey Mouse was a household name

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91

Jackson with Ryan White on the cover of Jackson's 1993 single "Gone Too Soon". This song was composed in memory of White after he died of A.I.D.S.



92

Jackson dancing with the Elephant Man in a scene from the Grammy winning video for the song "Leave Me Alone".

of his band, because they had failed a mandatory A.I.D.S test, which all his employees were submitted to because Jackson's biggest fear was catching A.I.D.S

This report really angered Jackson, as one of his closet adolescent friends Ryan White had A.I.D.S (White was fighting and eventually won a long court battle to attend public school, he died in 1990 aged 18). It was decided by Jackson to reduce the planting of stories, but it was definitely a case of closing the stable door after the event.

The only way Jackson was going to repudiate these stories was in his music, because giving a press conference or to do an interview would only remove his enigmatic and otherworldly aura, plus add to that the fact he hates interviews.

*****At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see the video for "Leave Me Alone"**

The 1989 video for "Leave Me Alone" portraying Jackson breaking away from the carnival ride he had become and the portrayal of him in an oxygen chamber as well as dancing beside The Elephant Man, demonstrates Jackson's acute awareness of how the public was seeing him. By not publicly denying the stories, so as to completely remove himself from them, is evidence of the value he saw in such propaganda.

By writing the song "Leave me Alone", and by creating a video based on the rumours, he was able to then have unparalleled publicity, and a million selling single, and an award winning video. This is the genius (presuming this over used word has maintained it's original prestige) of the man and the lengths to which he is willing to go.

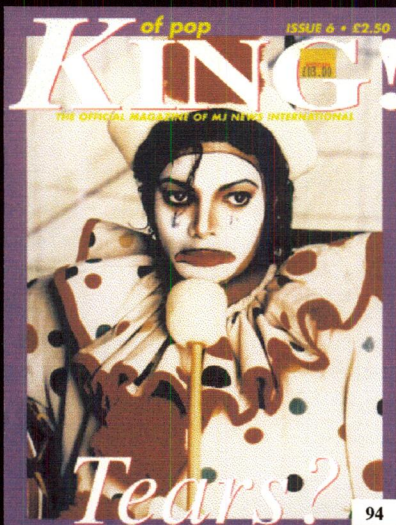
*****At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see a portion of the Oprah Winfrey interview regarding The Elephant Man story and the Oxygen Chamber story, in 1993**



His many incarnations further dissolved his persona into fantasy.



His blurred race and sex, allows Jackson to take on various appearances, which allow him to increase his appeal to all races.



One of the many fanzines filled with religious rhetoric supporting Jackson's unreal persona.

Away from the planted stories and there denial, Jackson having learned about the success of transformations from the “Thriller” video, was continuing to further dissolve his image and persona into as many recognisable forms as possible. This allowed him to increase his image as a fantasy figure. By donning various costumes and with make up he could become anything he wanted to be, and still maintain the ability to be recognisable, regardless of his transformations.

The photographs (on the left of this page) reinforced his unreal image to the public, especially his fans. By the 1980's he had bought his own estate called Neverland on 2700 acres, 150 miles outside of Los Angeles, filled with roller coasters and carousels, and a zoo, of course. The huge distance he now lived from civilisation confirmed his persona of exclusivity and mysteriousness.

Because he looked neither black or white, male or female, young or old, Jackson was able to appeal to all races and nationalities both young and old. Whatever he wanted to be, he could become for his audience.

“Michael’s appeal is universal less because of his music than because of who he is, he has been in show business for most of his life. There are those who argue persuasively that he has no adult life—and with a few tricks, he has mastered the technique of fussing his life with what is thought to be his image.” (Cocks.Time.1984)

A slightly dated and simplified account of Jackson before his racial and sexually confused images were born, yet still an apt description of how he has become “most successful entertainer of all time.” Guinness Book Of Records.

The obsession of Jackson’s fans runs considerable deeper and stronger towards him, than the fan worship of nearly all other performers. The treatment of him by the media has created, an us and them feeling in the minds of his fans. The passion they exhibit transcends the music he creates and is projected on to him as a person. The hundreds who sleep outside his hotels and those who sell their collections, to raise funds in order to enable them to follow him on his various world tours, is

and the other half of the egg. The egg is then placed in a container and covered with a lid. The egg is then placed in a container and covered with a lid. The egg is then placed in a container and covered with a lid.

The process of making a good quality product is a complex one. It involves many steps and a lot of attention to detail. The process of making a good quality product is a complex one. It involves many steps and a lot of attention to detail. The process of making a good quality product is a complex one. It involves many steps and a lot of attention to detail.

There are many factors that can affect the quality of a product. These factors include the quality of the raw materials, the skill of the workers, and the quality of the equipment used. There are many factors that can affect the quality of a product. These factors include the quality of the raw materials, the skill of the workers, and the quality of the equipment used.

A good quality product is one that is made with care and attention to detail. It is a product that is made with the best materials and the most skilled workers. A good quality product is one that is made with care and attention to detail. It is a product that is made with the best materials and the most skilled workers.



His many incarnations finally dissolved his persona into Lululemon.



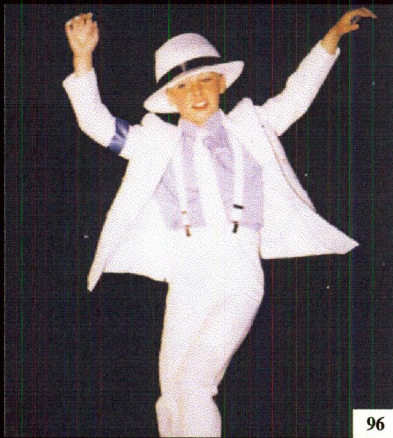
The brand's eco and sex allow women to take on various appearances, which allow them to increase his appeal to all eyes.



One of the most important things to remember is that the quality of a product is not just about the materials used, but also about the care and attention to detail that goes into making it.



E. Casanova, the worlds foremost Jackson impersonator, helped by plastic surgery has worked in Las Vegas and as a decoy for Jackson.



The magnitude of his fame has increased the accessibility for impersonating Jackson regardless of race or sex.



The sanctification of Jackson by his fans has increased as a defence against the media image of him as "Wacko".

proof of that.

Jackson lookalikes of all races and sexes exist because of their idol's indefinite appearance, as far as his sex or race is concerned. By simply donning a fedora hat and a white glove anyone can become a Michael Jackson. That is partly the power of his fame. Some however have gone one better, by having plastic surgery to better represent their obsession. This has made some of them very rich, as Jackson's hermit like appearances have increased the demand for anything resembling the elusive article.

"Always leave them wanting more," as Jackson has spoken about his performances.

The hunger of his fans has created a huge market for Jackson fanzines, monthly or so publications of various quality ranging from lavish collector pieces to badly photocopied pamphlets, all produced by Jackson fans. The purpose these magazines have is to counter balance the "Wacko Jacko" press image of him. Rather than portray, in an intelligent and constructive way, both the positive and negative elements, that are all part of Jackson's make up. They have gone in the opposite directions of the tabloids, in order to outweigh the lambasting of Jackson's personality.

The effect that this has had, is of creating a religious reverence towards Jackson from his fans. They have latched onto his "vulnerability", which is part of his "Peter Pan" aura. Fans send in letters telling of how listening to and watching Jackson has changed their lives for the better. As part of a letter shown below demonstrates;

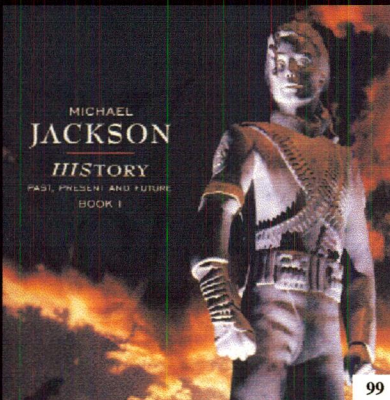
"I was ill last year, but drew strength from Michael, from his love and understanding, which I found in his books, music and videos. Why doesn't everybody understand what he does and is doing for us and our plant? Why do people try to look for faults in him that just aren't there? If they spent their wasted time, instead, trying to do an iota of what Michael is doing, the world would be a far better place."

Off The Wall, Magazine, 1994.



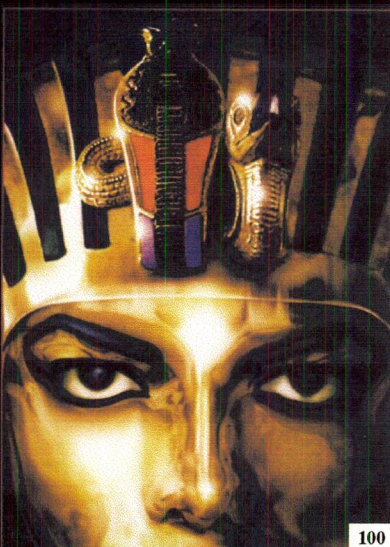
98

The King Of Pop. Jackson's creation has worked well in countering his "Wacko" persona.



99

HIStory, the album released in 1995 after the allegations. Featuring a statue of Jackson, used to reinforce his stature.



100

As the Egyptian Pharaohs used statues and wealth to insure an after life, so has Jackson. By doing so he insures his place in history. His fans unwavering support and acceptance of these images defends against any detractors.

***At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see the start of Jackson's concert in 1992, for the audiences reaction.

Jackson's own method of countering his "Wacko Jacko" title, was to create and promote his own title, as the "King Of Pop". The media had on a few occasions used this title in the past. In 1991 when the video for "Black Or White" premiered on T.V, each station was instructed, as part of the contract to show the video, to send out a station memo instructing the presenters to refer to Jackson as the "King Of Pop".

"The King Of Pop." That's the deal. You want to get the "Black Or White" video first, you dub Jackson the "King Of Pop". It makes some kind of sense. Bruce is the Boss, Elvis is the King, Prince is, well, Prince. And Michael Jackson? Somehow "Wacko Jacko", as the British tabloids have called him, doesn't cut it. So if the world won't crown him King, why, he'll do it himself". (Golding.Rolling Stone.1991)

Many music magazines and the media latched on to the method Jackson had used, and would refer to him in various articles, regarding his new album (Dangerous 1991), as the self proclaimed "King Of Pop". The teeny bopper magazines however used it instantly, without any sarcasm or malice. By 1994 the title was being used more and more, some put self proclaimed in front others stuck with "Wacko Jacko". For the media who disagreed with Jackson's new title, their case was lacking an alternative or deserved hold, other than Jackson. And they knew it.

By the end of the 1990's the title has been established as Jackson's official title, the media still continue to use "Wacko Jacko" but it's use has significantly been reduced because of the "King Of Pop" title. The idea has succeeded as much as could have been hoped, as each year it's prominence rises. The wacky fantasy image of Jackson's world will never be replaced by the success of his music and his musical talent, they are both to important in the over all persona and image of Jackson's legend. Which he knows, as will be explained further on in this thesis.

STYLING THE FASHION OF A CULTURAL REVOLUTION

Jackson's own wardrobe was a reflection of the era. He was in charge of his own style, and he was in charge of the style of the era. The media and the fashion industry in 1991 were in a state of flux. Each night was a new adventure, and each video release was a new challenge. He referred to Jackson as "the King of Pop."

The King of Pop was a man who was in charge of his own style. He was in charge of the style of the era. The King of Pop was a man who was in charge of his own style. He was in charge of the style of the era. The King of Pop was a man who was in charge of his own style. He was in charge of the style of the era.

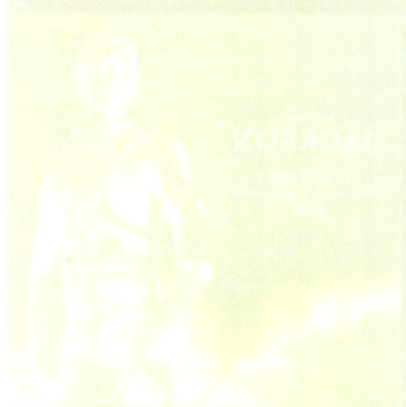
By the end of the 1980s, Jackson was the most popular artist in the world. He was in charge of his own style. He was in charge of the style of the era. He was in charge of his own style. He was in charge of the style of the era. He was in charge of his own style. He was in charge of the style of the era.

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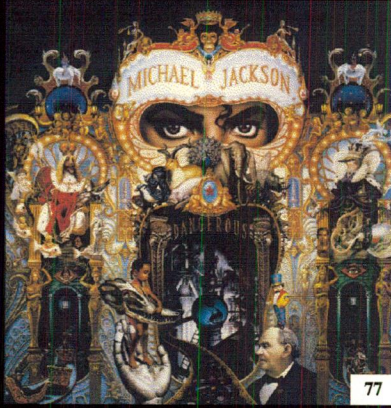
The King of Pop Jackson's creation has worked well in creating the 'Wade' system.



Hebrew, the album released in 1992 after the album. Learning a series of Jackson's own teaching materials.



At the beginning of the 1990s, he was in charge of his own style. He was in charge of the style of the era. He was in charge of his own style. He was in charge of the style of the era. He was in charge of his own style. He was in charge of the style of the era.



The Dangerous album released in 1991

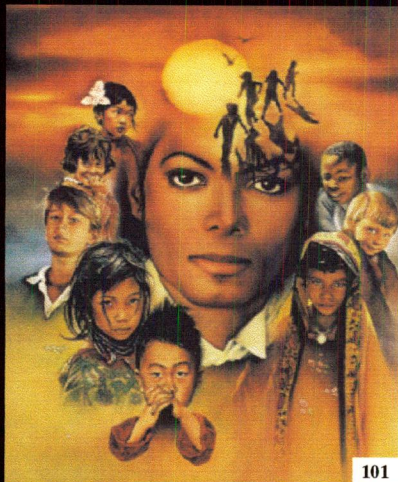
How history will portray Jackson, and how he can influence this, has been one of the most cultivated parts of the Jackson propaganda machine. He once said “the two most important days in my life, will be when I marry, and when I die.” The later of the two is most defiantly true.

Since the success of “Thriller”, preceding the releases of all his new albums, Jackson has released short video montages, backed with classical music, the purpose of these are to remind the public of his past work and achievements, and to create in their mind the image of him as great, and deserved of a prominent place in world history.

“I wanted to do an album (referring to Dangerous, released 1991) that was like Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Suite. So that in a thousand years from now, people would still be listening to it. Something that would live forever, I would like to see children and teenagers and parents and all races all over the world, hundreds of years from now, still pulling out songs from the album and dissecting it. I want it to live.”

(Jackson.Ebony.1992)

***At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see a portion of “Where It Began”, part of Jackson’s own publicity in 1991.



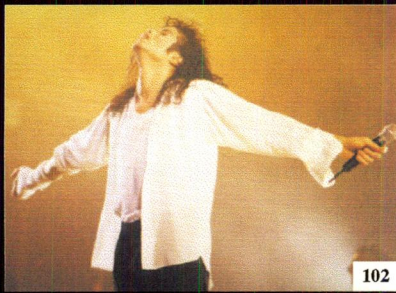
Jackson through his music, has always wrote of racial acceptance by all, and world peace. Along with his genuine love for children his imagery (the above was commissioned by him) while reinforcing his enigma, portrays how he feels he can help achieve this.

Along with insuring his legacy, Jackson since 1984, when he gave all his tour profits to children’s charities and wrote the song “We Are The World” as part of the U.S contribution to Band AID. Has been involved in raising money and the awareness of child and global poverty through his music and image.

“... I love children and learn so much from being around them. I realise that many of the worlds problems today, from inner city crime to large scale wars and terrorism, and our overcrowded prisons are as a result of the fact that children have had their childhoods stolen from them. The magic, wonder, the mystery and innocence of a child’s heart are the seeds of creativity that will heal the world.

I really believe that.”

(Jackson.Grammy.Awards.1993)



102

Striking Christ like poses, adds to the religious experience of his concerts, as seen by the fans.



103

Despite headlines like this, tabloids and broad sheets world wide, have only increased sympathy for Jackson, from his fans and total voyeurism from the public.



104

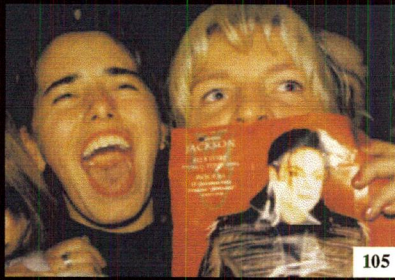
By concealing himself he has only added to the intrigue and obsession, that surrounds him. As he well knows.

His donations both public and private are one of the only areas that all media outlets agree on. However coupled with his authority figure imagery and K.O.P title many in the media think Jackson believes he is God like. The best example of this is his video for "Earth Song", in which various wrongs in the world are undone. The message for global realisation, of the harm that is being done, to both people and the environment is clear. But Jackson isolation and his presence in this immense video, gave many the impression that, he thought, he was God.

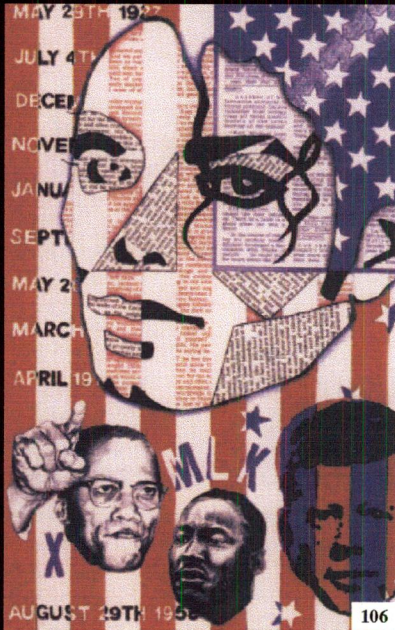
Regardless of what the media thought, this track became Jackson's biggest selling single in Europe and spent 6 weeks at number 1, selling over a million copies in Britain alone. The importance of this fact, is that 2 years earlier Jackson's career was thought to be over, when the sexual abuse allegation started. Yet, this proved that the public didn't believe them, and were buying into his unreal persona even more than before.

The media between the 1930's to early 1960's worked along side Hollywood studios in creating stars as idols for the public to aspire to. Rarely would a star's life be scrutinised unless they had committed a serious crime or their career was sagging. The best example of this sedate behaviour is actor Rock Hudson, with his good looks and stature, he played the strong leading man in many films, admired by women worldwide. Yet the press who knew he was gay never disclosed this. But when he was diagnosed as having A.I.D.S in 1985, the press tore his life to shreds, exposing his secret lifestyle.

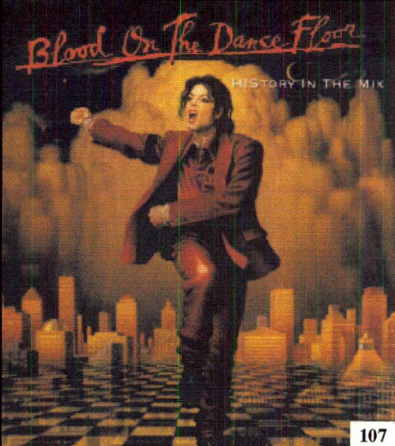
Many parts of today media are cynical and malicious towards any public figure, theirs is a constant wish to prove how normal and imperfect these people are, the complete opposite to how the media once was. The stories originally planted by Jackson to maintain the interest in his music, has created "Wacko Jacko". Many think his plan backfired, as the public is more obsessed with him as a person, instead of the music, which was the original plan.



Fans at a Jackson concert, 1997



Published in a fanzine, this is an example of what his most ardent fans think of him.



Michael Jackson has grossed over 3 billion pounds despite only releasing six solo albums since 1979. The above album Blood On The Dance Floor, his sixth, was release in 1997.

One concert reporter wrote, “Unless you’re a full blinkers-on, unabashed un-ironic fan of Michael Jackson, and almost miraculously there are many of them out there, you’ll need to deal with the man before you get to the music. The extent to which Jackson’s public ‘eccentricities’ lets call them have obscured his undeniable talent, and you’ll have company not least in MJ himself... and so it goes a brilliant artist and performer with an ego and image so big that even MJ can’t keep up with him..” (Music News 1997)

The public having read for years of his crazy antics, see him as a total fantasy figure. Unlike any other figure in the history of popular culture, the public, don’t want to believe Jackson is normal. They want to think that he, is this perpetual adolescent innocent, living in his own never neverland, sleeping in his oxygen chamber, having slumber parties with his friend’s John Merrick, the Elephant Man and Bubbles his chimp. A modern day fairy tale.

In the original story of Cinderella, not the Disney version, before the ugly sisters tried on the glass slipper, to insure their feet would fit, they hacked off the back of their heels, with a knife. The proof that nobody wants Jackson to be normal, was demonstrated when the press reported, that during his “18 month marriage to Lisa Marie, the marriage wasn’t consummated.” (Daily Mirror.1994) Final in 1997 when Jackson’s first child was born, which for anyone else would have ended any speculation about the continued existence of their virtue. But yet again, the media refused to believe he had taken steps toward adulthood, by reporting “the child was conceived through artificial insemination”. (The Sun.1996) The only difference in this modern fairy tale, as opposed to a Disney version, is, that this tale contains the parts about self mutilation, in the form of plastic surgery, for all to see.

*****At this point the video that accompanies this thesis should be viewed to see a portion of the Diane Sawyer interview with the “HIStory” trailer and Jackson’s comments on hype.**

One of the most interesting aspects of the Jacksons' relationship with the music industry is the fact that they were never really "discovered" by anyone. Instead, they were discovered by themselves. In 1968, the Jacksons were performing at a local talent show in Gary, Indiana, when they were spotted by a local talent scout. He was so impressed by their performance that he signed them to a record deal with Motown Records. This was a major breakthrough for the Jacksons, as it gave them the opportunity to perform on a national level. In the years that followed, the Jacksons' popularity grew rapidly, and they became one of the most successful acts in the history of Motown Records.

The Jacksons' success was not limited to their music. They were also known for their elaborate stage shows, which often featured elaborate costumes and choreography. This was a major factor in their success, as it set them apart from other acts of the time. In addition, the Jacksons were also known for their close-knit family. They often performed together, and their family life was a major part of their public persona. This was a major factor in their success, as it gave them a sense of authenticity and relatability that was rare in the music industry at the time.

In the early 1970s, the Jacksons' popularity continued to grow, and they became one of the most successful acts in the history of Motown Records. This was a major breakthrough for the Jacksons, as it gave them the opportunity to perform on a national level. In the years that followed, the Jacksons' popularity grew rapidly, and they became one of the most successful acts in the history of Motown Records. This was a major breakthrough for the Jacksons, as it gave them the opportunity to perform on a national level. In the years that followed, the Jacksons' popularity grew rapidly, and they became one of the most successful acts in the history of Motown Records.

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Part of a Jackson concert, 1970



Michael Jackson performing on stage, 1970



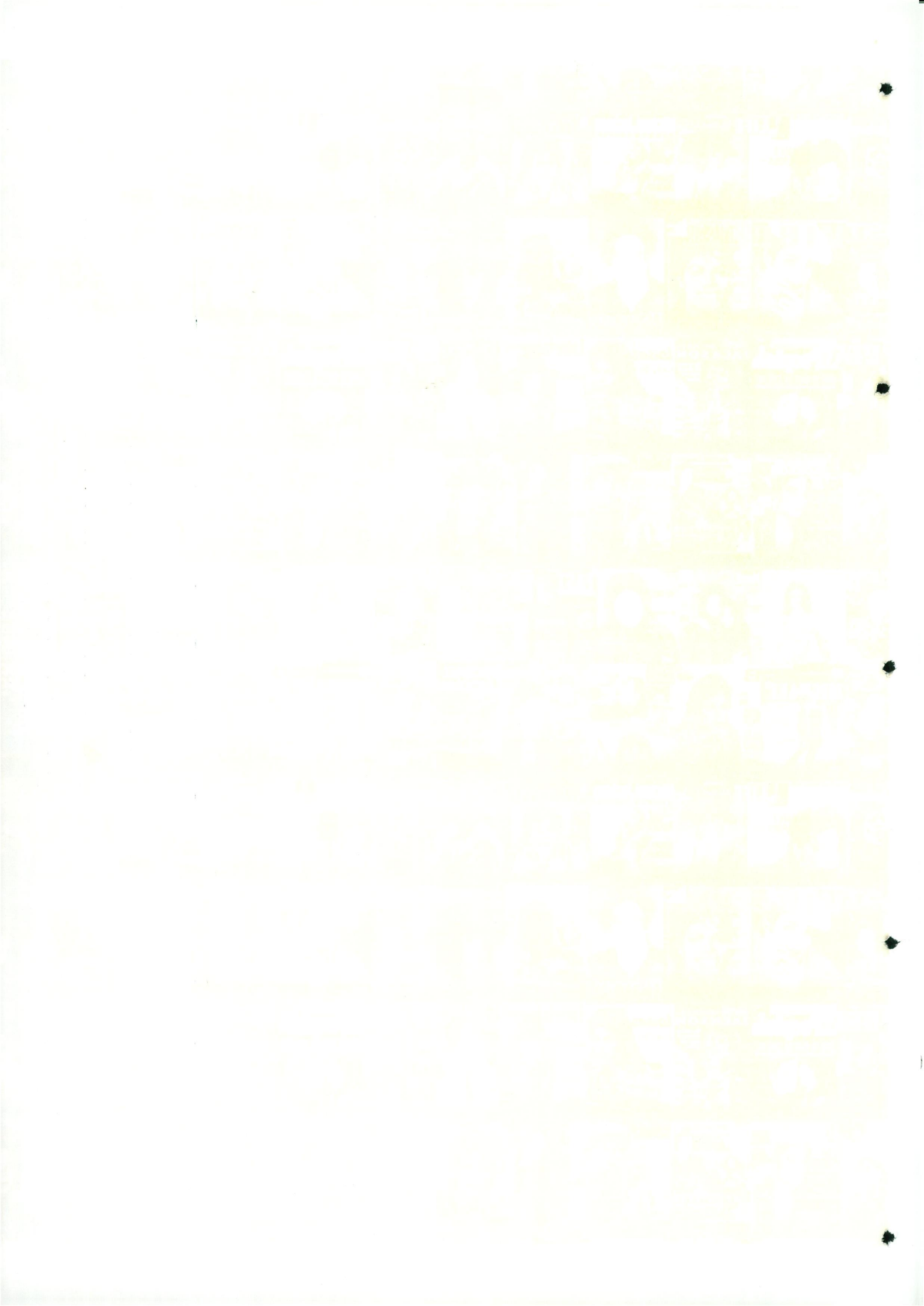
Michael Jackson performing on stage, 1970

The culmination of the media spotlight that Jackson and his "Wacko" persona has had, is more of a benefit to him than a hindrance. As Jackson said to Diane Sawyer "...you fell into my trap, ...I wanted everybody's attention". Yes, his music has taken a back seat in many ways to his persona. Instead of people judging his work solely, on it's merit, they can't disassociate between Jackson and his songs. The music business for the majority of acts, hasn't offered long careers, regardless of talent. Michael Jackson's career has lasted since 1969.

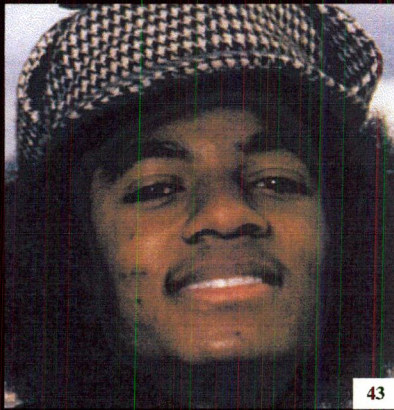
Without all his creations, it is doubtful if the public, would have still maintained the huge level of interest, for so long. Ultimately all the incarnations have succeeded in reaching their final destination. And if, in hundreds of years from now, if children, teenagers and their parents, of all races, all over the world, are not, still pulling out Michael Jackson's songs. It will not be from a lack of effort, on his part.



One of the earliest known media reports featuring Michael Jackson (circled above), and as a result of his many incarnation he has insured his image and name will continue to feature in countless forms of media, indefinitely.



CONCLUSION:

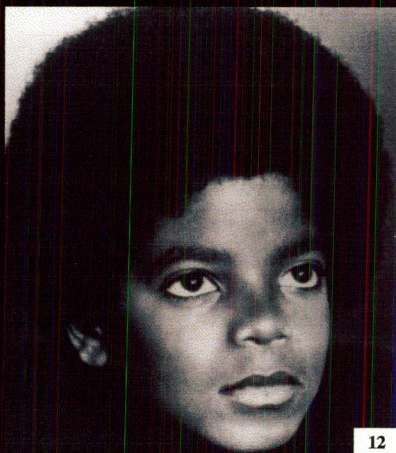
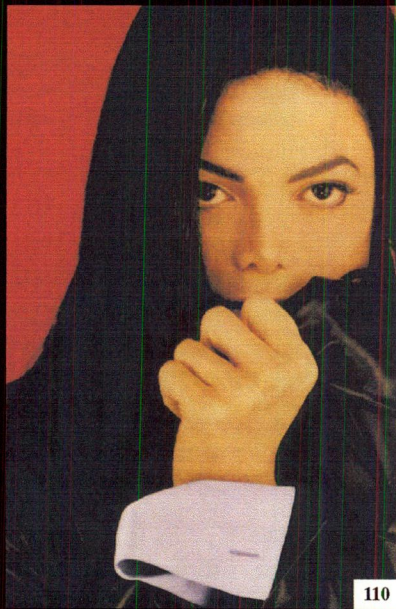


With their clean cut image the Jackson 5 were acceptable to all races, and were given dozen of awards from civil rights organisations such as the NAACP. Throughout the 1970's Michael Jackson and his family made other inroads as black artists, with the first black cartoon series and the first black T.V program. During the 1980's, Jackson became the first black artist on heavy rotation on MTV, with his revolutionary music videos for "Beat It", and "Thriller", this opened the flood gates forever in favour of black artists.

However as his skin colour changed from black to white the public began to question his true racial identity, and by not discussing his colour, Jackson only fuelled the debate. With his surgically altered slender features he seemed to be rejecting his race, in order to sell more records to "White America" By the early 1990's the majority of people had concluded that Jackson wished to be white, the debate was coming to a conclusion, until Jackson revealed he suffered from a skin condition.

On one hand Michael Jackson is still revered by millions of blacks worldwide, as he tours various black nations receiving honours from the likes of Nelson Mandela, a figures who's racial identity is absolute. Yet on the other hand, there is the confusing image of a man who no longer looks black, being honoured by those who are, that keeps the debate alive, and only Michael Jackson knows the truth.

As a child Jackson was exposed to the negative sexual antics of his family, with the result that when he grew up he surrounded himself with fantasy and children, in an effort to remove any chance of emotional pain. His friendships with children and older women only confused the public as to his sexuality, "The more people are going to wonder what I am, the more famous I will become". The perpetual adolescent look of his face, altered by plastic surgery gave him an androgynous appearance, and his lifestyle helped create his "Peter Pan, man child" persona. Yet on stage and in his videos he was very sexually driven.



The public perception of Jackson is of a man who is emotional immature, the perpetual adolescent, the fact that Jackson has so successful appealed to both children, teenagers and adults is evidence of that. His emotional immaturity acts as a “shield of vulnerability”. The continued survival of his career after allegations that he sexually molested a young boy, helped by his “Wacko Jacko” persona, is confirmation of that.

Even now, as he raises two children from his second marriage, questions about his sexuality continue. His “Peter Pan” persona doesn’t really allow for the public to think of Michael Jackson as someone who is sexual active, and even as he poses with his child it is difficult to tell if Jackson is the father or the mother.

As a child Jackson was being taught to manipulate the press, as he lied about his age, and to cherish his image, The cartoon series based on his family, showed him how his image could be altered successful into other forms. With the huge success of the “Thriller” album, Jackson carefully used public events such as his visit to the White house, and his television appearances at various award shows, to increase his stature. His isolated lifestyle was seen as both “business savvy”, and an effort to “stand off the demands of reality”.

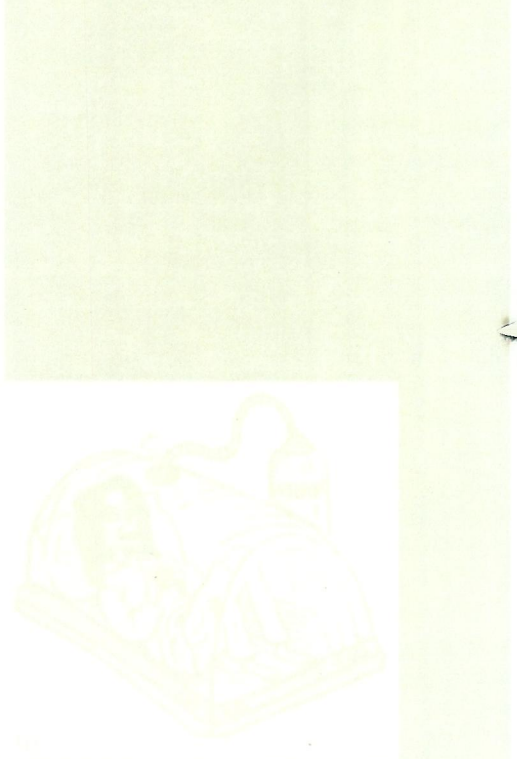
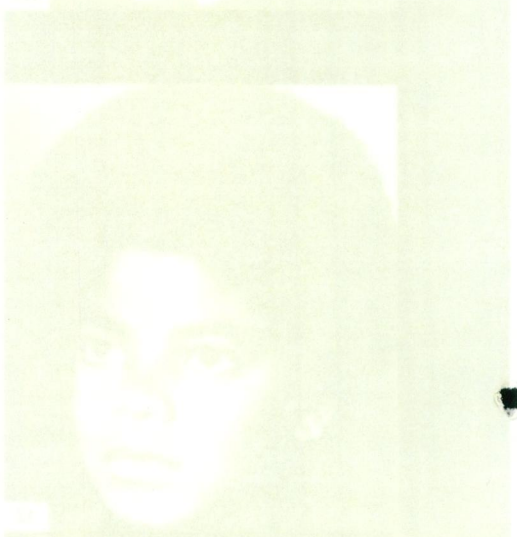
By planting the “Elephant Man” and “Oxygen Chamber” stories, Jackson at first maintained a high public profile while at the same time maintained his enigmatic persona. These stories worked too well, as soon another persona, that of “Wacko Jacko” was created, one that seemed to have a life of it’s own. Partly inspired by Jackson’s lifestyle of fantasy and odd behaviour, the “Wacko Jacko” title has only increase public interest in Jackson. His racial and sexual ambiguity are seen as part of his “Wacky” lifestyle, which removes any possible seriousness attached to them. The most recent benefit was demonstrated with the child abuse allegations becoming enveloped into yet another “Wacko Jacko” story, thus decreasing their seriousness too.

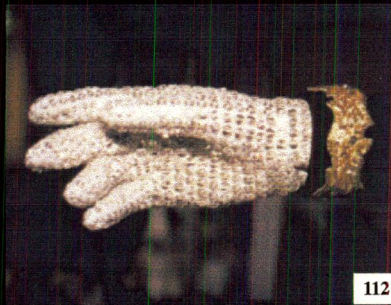
His fans, having to constantly defend stories in the press about his alleged antics, have become extremely defensive and sup-

The first thing I noticed when I stepped
 out of the plane was the humidity. It was
 so much different from the dry air of
 my home. I had heard that the humidity
 was unbearable, but I was in for a
 surprise. It was just what I needed.
 I had been thinking about it for so long,
 and now it was here. I was finally
 here. I was finally home.

As I walked through the airport, I
 saw people from all over the world.
 Some were smiling, some were frowning.
 I felt like I was in a new world.
 I had never been here before, and
 it was so exciting. I was finally
 here. I was finally home.

By the time I had reached my hotel,
 I was exhausted. I had been on the
 plane for so long, and I was so tired.
 I had never been here before, and
 it was so exciting. I was finally
 here. I was finally home.

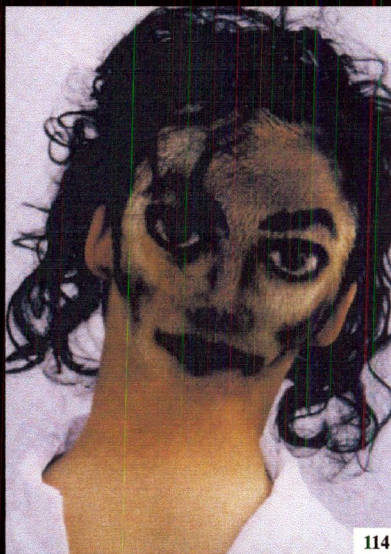




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portive of Jackson. To capitalise on this, Jackson uses his videos, concert performances, along with imagery and his self-proclaimed title as the "King Of Pop", to increase in the fans minds, his image as God like. Who else would get away with creating their own statue?

To the public Michael Jackson is a modern day fantasy figure of popular culture, the mundane acts of everyday life have no place in his world, that's what the public believe. Newspaper headlines claiming his children were born "through artificial insemination" and that he is "still a virgin", are proof of the public's wish to keep normality away from the Jackson myth.

The "Wacko Jacko" persona, the fairy tale figure, influenced by Jackson's preliminary work of story planting, has taken on a life of it's own. His asexuality and racial ambiguity has made him universally acceptable. While at the same time confusing and increasing the controversy that surrounds him. By presenting himself as an authority figure, with his own title as the "King Of Pop", backed up with Pharaoh like imagery to obtain an after life, he has insured his name and music will resinate, long after the creator of all this has, himself, disappeared.

The result of all this, is the recognition of Jackson from just a single garment Fig.112, which contains all the artistry and enigma of his stage presence, which his fans are in absolute reverence of.

Jackson's fame and success, has the ability to envelope anyone or anything he is associated with, into his world, or into him Fig.113.

The familiarity of his features, allows for extreme alterations in their presentation, both respectful and disrespectful Fig.114. And unreal image, as the "Peter Pan", the "Wacko Jacko", completes the fantasy fairy tale persona Fig.115.

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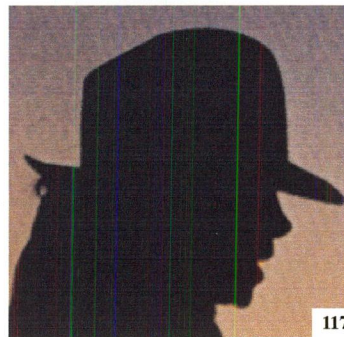




Jackson with two decades worth of US Presidents, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton.

Ultimately all his incarnations, either created by intent on Jackson's part with plastic surgery, or through nature, by press manipulation, public manipulation, by well crafted video imagery, performances, photography and illustrations, have succeeded in creating huge public interest and speculation. Which along with his talent has made Jackson the most prominent popular cultural figure of his time.

The confusion that is Michael Jackson's identity, insures continued public and media interest in him, this in turn only increase his prominence in popular culture, which will continue to increase even after he has stopped creating.



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