The Temptations are in town; here is how they 'happened'

Metropolitan Baltimore's newest and plushiest entertainment mecca — Club Venus — is showcasing this week one of the two premier acts, the Temptations.

The popular vocal-instrumentalist male quintet noted for their versatile and acrobatic stunts were aided and abetted Monday night by the nation's No. 1 girl trio, the Supremes.

Both groups are in the $20-000 a week plus class.

With the Temptations on stay and the Supremes in the audience, the 2,500 standing-room-only crowd went wild with applause.

* * *

THERE WERE shrieks of joy when the nation's most idolized singing group came on stage.

They wore burnished linen continental jackets, white linen pants, white silk shirts, ala Harry Belafonte style, and white boots.

On their fingers were flashy diamond rings. All wore clip-on watches, and had crew haircuts.

One coed cooed 'Oh, they're out of sight.'

Her equally young companion commented, 'out of sight is not the word. They just get through to me.'

* * *

MAURICE (Hot Rod) Hubert emceed the show which had backing of a terrific full orchestra.

The group's popular songs, 'Keep On Walking,' 'All I Need,' drew most applause. There was deathly silence as the singers performed...

'One day, you're gonna realize ... you're gonna lose your precious love,' they wailed in one song.

In another, 'I Love you, baby, I love you, you know I love you...' and the crowd listened in rapt attention.

* * *

THERE WAS equal adoration for their serious rendition of 'Old Man River', which they did with unique dance routine, and a change on the Mississippi ... here we all play while the rich boss plays...'

AL JONES, who made his promoting debut with the Venus came off a solid winner when he drew in a tremendous portion of the overflow crowd from Morgan State College's graduation.

Owner Mike Athas, who said 'Doubting Thomases' gave the Venus "three months" to fold after he initiated a policy of importing top-notch acts, said they are now "giving us a year." (Baltimore's Civic Center had barred popular singing groups.)

Stressing the point that he wants "all class entertainment lovers" from every point of the area to make the Venus their favorite entertainment site, Mike said he is "optimistic about the future."

WHO ARE the Temptations? To those adult readers who are not 'in,' the following is for you:—

Like so many highly successful enterprises, the Temptations "just happened."

As Paul Williams told the AFRO's Kathy Owens, the young entertainers "just happened" to be at a Detroit house party "fooling around" with the type of harmonizing that is popular at informal gatherings.

They "just happened" to hear that a local theatre "just happened" to be in need of a fill-in act for an amateur show it was putting on that evening, and friends "just happened" to talk the group into taking the job.

PAUL, ALONG with Otis Williams Miles, Elbridge Bryantn, Eddie Kendricks and Melvin Franklin, accepted the prodding more because of the adventure than because they

TEMPTATIONS —Left to right, Eddie Kendricks, Otis Williams Miles, David Ruffin, Paul Williams and Melvin Franklin. They are wowing them at Club Venus, the Baltimore County night spot, where they will be appearing through Sunday. See accompanying story.

entertainers.

Because everything "just happened" to tie in, they abandoned the separate connections they had with two other vocal groups — the Distances and the Primes — and organized their own quintet under the name Temptations, Miss Owens learned.

The act at the theatre earned each $15, and launched the professional career which today is one of the hottest in rock 'n roll circles.

* * *

WITHIN A short time after entering the fold of Berry Gordy's Motown organization, the group lost Bryant to armed forces induction.

He was replaced by David Ruffin who, aside from being an accomplished tenor lead, plays drums with a verve and dances with expert smoothness.

Largely because of the addition of Ruffin, the Temptations can keep an audience of young and old alike entranced as much with their dancing as with their singing. (They themselves are in their twenties.)

In fact, it is the versatility of the group that enables them to stand out in a field that is becoming more crowded by the week.

* * *

OTIS STUDIED music at Wayne University just outside of Detroit. He contributes the weird arrangements that single out the Temptations. Melvin plays piano and thus joins Otis in smoothing out the arrangements.

Additionally, the AFRO's Miss Owens was told, any one of the five can "take the lead and give the chosen tune a heartwarming and soul-stirring production."

As a group, Otis sings second tenor and bass; Paul, baritone and mostly lead; Eddie, lead and tenor; Melvin, bass, and David Ruffin, as previously stated, sings tenor.

PAUL IS the wit of the fivesome, and keeps the others loose and in a happy frame of mind. A former football player and high school swimming star, Paul also is an excellent dancer, the closest to Ruffin of any in the group.

Eddie is the quiet member, often referred to by his associates as "the thinker." He says he "just likes show business" and is intent on owning his own club some day.

Otis has a hobby of building model airplanes, and has a distinct flair for interior decorating. He is the businessman of the unit and guides the others in the handling of their money, arranging tax problems, etc.

Melvin still sings in his church choir between engagements, and says he once aspired to be a minister. Show business to him "just happened."

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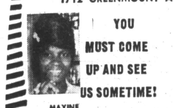

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White refuses backing from Pollack camp

At least one Constitutional Convention candidate in the 4th District has publicly refused the support of the James H. (Jack) Pollack political organization in the June 13 special election.

John W. White, a member of the 4th District Civic Ticket, said Monday he had turned down the offered support because he felt the Pollack faction exerted a "bad influence" on the members of his race.

Mr. White told the AFRO he was contacted Friday by Robert Marshall on behalf of Mr. Pollack and offered the faction's endorsement and support if he put up $200.

He said he was subsequently called by a Sidney [illegible]

EXPO'67 VACATION GUIDE

JOBS FOR COLLEGE GRADS

Dr. King cloaks Cleveland confab

CLEVELAND (UPI) — Dr. Martin Luther King and some 50 Cleveland leaders began a series of conferences here Tuesday but kept the talks and their location secret.

Spokesmen for the SCLC said the secrecy was for "security reasons."

King arrived Tuesday night and was taken to a location outside the city for the start of three days of talks.

Efforts of newsmen to track down the conferees were unsuccessful.

During the conferences, leaders are briefing King on problems in housing, employment and other areas.

Last month King announced he would conduct a summer-long drive here aimed at improving the lot of the colored community.

Sylvia Peppers Mundy, L.A. Class of '57, is an assistant staff development coordinator with the D.C. Board of Education. She holds a Master of Science degree from Columbia University.

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Council to vote on expressway bill

The highly controversial ordinance covering the leg of the East-West Expressway west from Pulaski St. through Leaking Park is scheduled to be placed before the City Council Monday evening for an initial vote.

Councilman William D. Schaefer (5th), chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said it will be brought to the Council floor with a favorable report from his committee.

The Judiciary Committee has held a number of day and evening open hearings on the measure, most of which drew large numbers of protesting residents in the expressway's proposed route.

* * *

MAJOR PROTESTS centered around fears of the home owners that they would not get fair prices for their properties.

They pointed out that many of the homes have been improved since their purchase that has raised their value far in excess of their last assessments.

This leg of the expressway extends west from Pulaski St. between Mulberry and Franklin Sts. under the Pennsylvania Railroad bridge, then turns northward to and westward in a corridor between Franklin St. and an alley north of Lauretta Ave.

It bears north across Edmondson Ave. and Franklintown Rd. up adjacent to Poplar Grove St. and westward again through the northern end of Leakin Park.

There it will connect with a county sector of the highway that has already been constructed.

* * *

APPROXIMATELY 890 properties, a vast majority residential, are in the path of this route. Many homes are owner-occupied.

Mr. Schaefer said after passage of the ordinance the acquisition of properties will start at Pulaski St. and continue westward, rather than follow a system of spot acquisition.

However, provisions will be made for those who may want to sell long before their properties are reached by city appraisers.

Passage of this ordinance will complete hast: groundwork for the East-West Expressway.

THERE REMAINS, however, the Southwest expressway between Monroe St. and the East-West Expressway interchange which is up for a compromise now being prepared for submission to the Federal Bureau of Public Roads

The leg of the expressway between Fremont Ave. and Pulaski St. was among the first to get Council clearance, but stood dormant for over three years before city acquisition of properties began.

This delay is expected to be avoided with the sector west of Pulaski.

EXPRESSWAY ROUTE — Here is the route of the west leg of the East-West Expressway as it will extend from Pulaski St. westward to and through Leakin Park. Approximately 890 properties, a vast majority residential, are in its path and will be taken by the city.

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The Butlers have four children graduating

Four children of the family of the Rev. and Mrs. Jake Butler, 2225 W. Saratoga St. are June graduates.

Samuel, 19 and Nathan 17, will be graduated Sunday, June 11 at the Forest Park High School commencement at the Civic Center.

Jacqueline, 14, will be graduated from Calverton Heights Junior High school at the June 15 exercises.

At 10 a.m. on the same day, Esther, 11, will finish Bentalou Elementary School.

ACCORDING to Mrs. Harriett Butler, 39, the mother, the family will have no trouble attending the Forest Park exercises since both Samuel and Nathan will receive their diplomas the same hour in the same place.

However, with Jacqueline and Esther graduating at the same hour at different schools it will be a problem.

When the AFRO talked with the excited mother Thursday she said, "I suppose I'll show my face for half an hour at each school."

THE FATHER, the Rev. Mr. Butler, 41, is a minister at the Church of God, 314 N. Gilmor St., a longtime employee and supervisor of production at the Kennecott Copper Refinery.

The family includes another son, Jacob, a 1966 Calverton Heights Junior High School graduate, now a Forest Park High sophomore.

Admitting pride in the children who do "very well" in school, Mrs. Butler credits the fact that the family is a God-fearing one.

She says they have all been reared according to strict religious teachings.

ACTIVISTS say housing bill 'no good' ask Agnew action

ACTIVISTS for Fair Housing told Gov. Agnew last week that the recently passed state Fair Housing law is near meaningless but it should not be petitioned into referendum.

According to Cleveland Chandler, ACTIVISTS chairman, the group will take attorneys to Annapolis soon to examine the validity of recently filed petitions.

In the letter dated June 2 the group asks that Gov. Agnew use executive powers to "create a state of true open occupancy."

Further, the chief executive is asked to issue a directive to the Real Estate Commission to interpret the Bad Faith clause as including discrimination in sale or rental of houses.

ACTIVISTS for Fair Housing picketed Memorial Day, May 30 in their continued war on discrimination in housing.

An integrated group of

Police raid 'hits jackpot'

Narcotics Squad detectives raided what they termed a "shooting gallery" — a house where addicts can use the paraphernalia to shoot heroin —in the 500 block of W. Lanvale St. Tuesday night and arrested nine persons.

Twenty-five charges were lodged against the five wo-

Smith is unique in 3rd Race

John T. Smith, 1701 Darley Ave., has the distinction of being the only member of his race among the Constitutional Convention candidates in the 3rd District.

There are 63 candidates in that district, all trying for the allotted eight seats.

Mr. Smith, 29, is a Municipal Court clerk and a former agent with the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co and an employee with the Department of Public Welfare.

He is a member of the 9th Ward Republican Organization, a Mason, a Methodist and is married and has two children.

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