Behind the curtains at Civic Center

ANGIE THRONTON

On Labor Day Monday at the Baltimore Civic Center, a Soul Show was held. The show was scheduled to have begun at 8 p.m. but was delayed until about 8:45.

The audience was patient at this point of the show. Little did they realize that the first act to go on refused to perform until he was paid the balance of his money. The performer had already been paid one half of the designated price. The contract for this performer called for only a third of the money, as did all the other performers on the show.

The show finally got underway and the first four acts went on stage. They were Eddie Kendrix, the first performer to raise the question of money; Spoonbread, Tracy Kerr and the 4 Tops who all went on stage with no discussion of salary.

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While the above acts were performing; backbled as the 5th act to go on, piled at the 5th act to go on, were in great discussion about their money. It seems that they too had a contract that only called for one-third down payment, but the promoters had given them one half of the money due them.

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This reporter heard them talk of "packing up" and [illegible] the discussion of whether the Chi-Lites would perform or not went on backstage the groups that had been performing were finished. With no one on stage performing, the audience of about 2,500 sat. Someone went on stage and made an announcement that the Chi-Lites would not be performing.

After the announcement there was still no action on stage until a young man by the name of Shelly "Slim" Brown came on stage to read a poem entitled "Susy Greensleeves." The poem talked about the hired police, their brutality and their general attitudes wherever they appear. After the poem, a movie came over the loud speakers, recorded music, which to the audience probably indicated a break for relaxation.

Everyone started to move from their seats. There was a sudden rush near the back of the auditorium that looked as if a fight had broken out. After the crowd had cleared people began moving again, when suddenly over the loud speaker was heard, "Attention, everyone will please remain in their seats." Policemen and women started to move towards the doors and to block the aisles.

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Everyone was in a great hassle about what had actually happened. Rumor had it that two young men had been fighting or had stayed a fight and had in the process of it being broken up, taken the policemen's gun. Of course backstage the rumor had traveled also and another rumor along with it. This was that if the Chi-Lites didn't come on, trouble was going to start.

At least a half-hour of negotiations had been going on backstage when the scene of feet appeared backstage. Men began preparing the stage for the next act. The Chi-Lites. Finally at about 11:55 p.m. the stage became filled with musicians again. Of course by this time the crowd had gotten restless and some had even left. The show, itself, was not over until 12:50 p.m.

PAULA CHESTER, Carol Merchant, Bill Myers and Tommy Ladd will be hosts of a new, weekly revue of Baltimore's cultural activities entitled "Rhythm of the City" on WBAL-TV, Tuesday, September 19 in color on TV 11.

This Week... "What's Happening"

By IDA MURPHY PETERS

In All Newspapers Published By

THE AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS

Mrs. Peters has been a member of the AFRO family for 33 years and is a member of the Board of Directors. She was recently appointed by Mrs. Frances Murphy, Chairman of the Board as Public Relations Director. She has been writing "What's Happening" since October, 1971 for the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN. Her new duties will include movie, radio, television, record and entertainment news.

Call or Write — 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Maryland, 301-728-8200

-Happening

Continued From Page D-35

tue of its regular Sunday concert series and its contribution to Baltimore's cultural life. It is a non-profit educational and charitable corporation with auxiliaries at the Maryland penitentiary (L.B.J.S. 534) Maryland House of Correction, Jessup, Maryland (L.B.J.S. 534) and the Left Bank Jazz Society of Washington, D.C.

SHRINE CIRCUS

The 29th annual Shrine Circus to be held at the 6th Regiment Armory in Baltimore, October 31, November

The Shrine Circus has been a popular event in Maryland since 1943. Each year thousands of underprivileged children and orphans throughout the state attend the shows as guests of the Boumi Temple and local business firms and individuals.

The Shrine Circus is open to the public with proceeds going to finance the Shrine's charitable activities.

• • •

WEBSTER

Jesse Webster's WBAL Radio program, "Report to the People," heard at 12:15 p.m. Sunday, will feature this week an interview with Dr. King Cheek, President of Morgan State College. Dr. Cheek will discuss plans for the future of Morgan State College.

On "Vantage Point," 6:15 p.m. Sunday on WBAL Radio, Mr. Webster will interview Walter Brooks, President of the Northeast Community Association (NECO). The topic of this interview is the housing problems in Northeast Baltimore and what NECO is doing about them.

THIS FALL, NBC HAS IT ALL:

7:30 PM/LET'S MAKE A DEAL To what lengths will people go to win fantastic prizes? Join host Monty Hall tonight and see (but you may not believe it).

THIS FALL, NBC HAS IT ALL:

7:30 PM/HOLLYWOOD SQUARES Match wits and witticisms with host Peter Marshall, regulars Wally Cox, Charley Weaver and Paul Lynde, plus top guest stars, on TV's light-and-liveliest game show.

8:00 PM/ROWAN & MARTIN'S LAUGH-IN Dan and Dick and Dyan (Miss Cannon, that is) get together for a wing-ding. Sebastian Cabot, Janet Leigh, Julie London are spotted in cameos.

8:00 PM/EMERGENCY Robert Fuller and Julie London star in an action series on the paramedical heroism of fire-rescue teams. Never a dull moment in these Los Angeles-based adventures!

9:00 PM/"WITH SIX YOU GET EGG ROLL" Widow Doris Day marries Brian Keith, and their respective broods cause complications. An "NBC Monday Night At The Movies" laugh hit.

MONDAY WBAL TV 11

9:00 PM/"IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT" won five Oscars, including "Best Picture." Sidney Poitier, Rod Steiger and Lee Grant star in this "NBC Saturday Night At The Movies" standout.

SATURDAY WBAL TV 11

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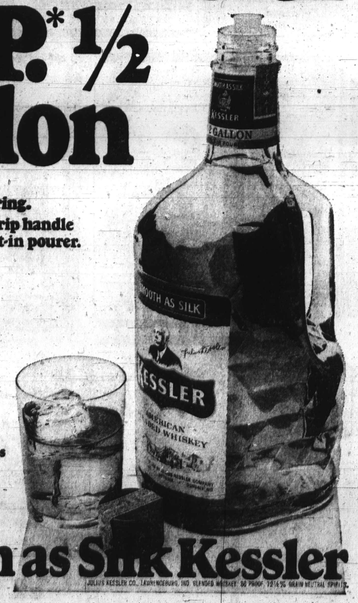

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JULIUS KESSLER CO., LAWRENCEBURG, IND. BLENDED WHISKEY 86 PROOF. 72½% GRAIN NEUTRAL SPIRITS.

MORGAN STATE COLLEGE officials and representatives from WBAL Radio met recently to sign the 1972 contract for the broadcasts of Morgan's 10 scheduled football games on WBAL. The broadcasts will be sponsored by Texaco. The opening game, against Grambling, was heard Sept. 9 at 1:30 p.m. Shown left to right are Tom Moore, sales manager at WBAL; Embra C. Bowie, athletic director at Morgan; Alfred E. Burk, WBAL general manager; Sidney Jordan, WBAL operations manager; Coach Earl C. Banks, Morgan, and Dr. J. Haywood Harrison, vice president, Institutional Planning and Development, Morgan.

A REVIEW

'Melinda'

A REVIEW

"Melinda" Calvin Lockhart as Frankie; Rosalin Cash as Terry; Vonetta McGee as Melinda. Screenplay by Lonnie Elder, III; story by Raymond Cistheri; produced by Pervis Atkins; directed Hugh A. Robertson. Rated R. 110 minutes. MGM.

"Melinda" is a Black suspense-thriller. Frankie (Calvin Lockhart) a Black deejay and man-on-the make, meets and flips his curly locks over Melinda (Vonetta McGee), a Black, beautiful, and brainy woman seeking revenge from a white Chicago mobster. Reluctant at first to get really involved ("I don't make it a practice of getting in too deep with women. I get burnt too quick), Frankie later ditches Terry (Roralind Cash, his faithful girl, and gets into a heavy thing with Melinda.

He returns to his lavish apartment one day to find Melinda brutally murdered. Acting on a tip, the police arrive and pin the murder on him. The body of the film shows Frankie's efforts not only to exonerate himself, but to find the murderers and their motives.

There is some might fine talent in this film. Lonne Elder III, author of "Ceremonies in Dark Old Men," displays his creative strength with a good screenplay. But in his attempt to capture street strength with a good screenplay. But in his attempt to capture street reality, he overworks the profanityn which at the outset adds the necessary shock but later distracts from what is being said.

Voneita McGee performs adequately. That she is undoubtedly one of the most stunningly beautiful women I have ever seen in any film helps her considerably. Rosalind Cash and Judyann Elder, both of whom appeared in the Negro Ensemble Company's production of "Ceremonies," were good. Miss Elder, who is seen in only two brief scenes as Frank's girl Friday, is an extraordinary actress. Her role should have been quadrupled.

But for all of Calvin Lockhart's experience (Halls of Anger," "Myra Breckinridge," and "Cotton Comes to Harlem"), he is too stilted and superficial. He relies too heavily on a few stock facial expressions which make him look as if someone is pinching him. When frustrated, he pounds the wall, again and again and once more. His performance, in other words, is gimicky and unconvincing.

The principal flaw in this film is editing. It is too long for its rather slim substance. it moves too slowly (20 minutes pass before the major complication). The juxtaposition of the sequences dissipates what little tension and supense is generated. The flashbacks, used for exposition, are ill-placed. Hence, too much happens before the motivation is revealed.

But for those who like beautiful black woman and a few fine performances, I suggest that you check out Melinda."

Dr. SAMUEL A. HAYS

'Super Fly' star denies movie promotes dope use

By GERARD BURKE

"Super Fly" star Ron O'Neal, responding to charges that the film legitimizes drugs and drug pushers and is unrealistic, told a gathering of Washington media people this week that the film "is not really about drugs" and that it is "the greatest anti-drug film."

The press conference was arranged on the heels of mounting objections to the film from the black community and political leaders. Some of the film's opponents have organized themselves under the name BANG — Blacks Against Narcotics and Genocide."

Last week that group, which includes D.C. School Board President Marion Barry, D.C. Delegate Walter E. Fauntroy, radio personality Petey Greene, poet Gaston Neal and RAP, Inc. codirector Ron Clerk among others, held a press conference in front of the Republic Theatre denouncing the movie.

"Super Fly says the way to make money is to be supercool, superhip and push dope," Barry contended at the time. He also said that black-oriented films like "Super Fly" amount to "mind genocide" because "they rob us economically and spiritually."

Prior to this week's press gathering a small group of anti "Super Fly" pickets marched in front of the Madison hotel, the site of the meeting. They carried placards which said "Super Fly is Super Genocide," "Cocaine is Mind Genocide," "Some Black Artists Are Hustlers Too" and "Don't Dignify the Hustler — Stop Him."

O'Neal showed up at the press conference wearing considerably less a stylish though quite contemporary outfit than those he wore in his movie.

The ensemble included a light tan sportcoat with brown striping, brown flared slacks and a brown tie.

From the moment he began speaking — in a hushed voice — it was apparent he was more than a little upset over the opposition "Super Fly" had run into in Washington.

"I am here today at my own request to at the very least give an alternative point of view, a side I have not seen in any of Washington's major newspapers. At the most, I find myself personally insulted, my integrity as an artist, as a man and as a black man, attacked."

Asked how he felt "Super Fly" contributes to the black community, O'Neal retorted, "I think it portrays black people in a more intelligent light than any film I've seen this year."

Another reporter asked whether the film negates the efforts of people who are fighting the drug problem.

O'Neal's response was that the movie "Draws more attention to the drug problem than any commercial. . It's not an obvious film; it's not for five year olds, it's for adults. If you are truly interested, you can see 'Super Fly' as a magnificent thing against drugs."

Local poet Gaston Neal, identifying himself as an ex-drug addict, angrily challenged the authenticity of the film's drug-related aspects.

"I look at it ("Super Fly") in a negative light" Neal said. "I know you can buy coke (cocaine) in bags as cheap as $5 and $20 . . . My experience is that coke goes to young boys, 16, 17 and 18 years old . . . And I know of at least 20 coke overdoses.

"How could a man with any dignity deal drugs to black people?"

After reemphasizing his contention that cocaine "is a predominantly white (used) drug, O'Neal then stated that "Super Fly" isn't really about drugs."

O'Neal said that the film "is about a hustler who's got it all — cars, clothes and women — and is trying to get out of the life."

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7:30 PM/THE COMPUTER WORE TENNIS SHOES, Part I "The Wonderful World of Disney" kicks off with the smash-hit movie comedy!

8:30 PM COLUMBO Peter Falk meets John Cassavetes. Detective Falk will rotate with Dennis Weaver, Rock Hudson and Richard Boone on "NBC Sunday Mystery Movie."

10:30 PM/PROFILE OF A WATERMAN Fascinating traditions and changing lifestyles of men who work the waters of the Chesapeake are revealed by Rock Hall's fifth-generation waterman S. Glyn Edwards. Paul Berman hosts.

SUNDAY WBAL TV 11

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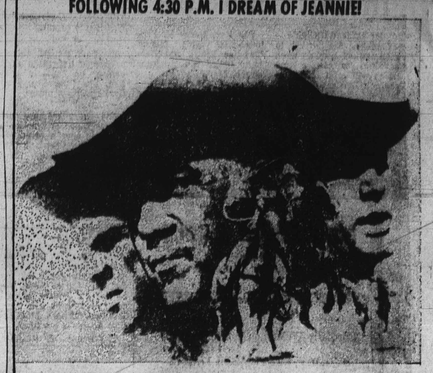

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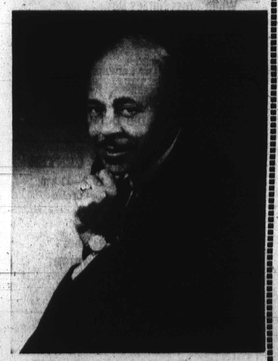

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