Earthquakes...fires...gold guns...satire for Xmas

A woman possessed is young, lovely Carol Speed in the new thriller "Abby". Also starred is William Marshall who plays a prominent churchman-archaeologist. She becomes possessed because of his excavations in Africa.

Mary Goodnight, Britt Ekland, strikes Kra, Sonny Caldinez, one of Scaramanga's henchmen, with a wrench at the solar plant complex in "The Man With The Golden Gun".

What's Happening

By Ida Peters

You may be knee deep in Christmas shopping or writing cards, but we here at AFRO Public Relations have been busy all week previewing the new holiday films.

We looked at "Earthquake," "Godfather II," "Freeble and Bean" and "Towering Inferno." Of all the films "The Towering Inferno" has the most gripping story. It will keep you on the edge of your seats and make you think twice about staying in a tall hotel above the 13th floor.

"Freeble and Bean" is a tasteless story about two cops ... they're not us for a change. The image of policemen is bad enough in the inner cities ... but this picture shows all the wrong things we suspect about all cops being crooked. How can The Man in Hollywood make such filth and go to sleep at night?

Greetings

Here's wishing you and you a Happy Holiday. Thanks to Paul Johnson, National Promotion director, Atlantic Records and Henry Allen, senior vice-president. Their unusual card read:

We at Atlantic Records cannot be too encomiastical of the sublimical relationship we've shared over the years and the magnanimility of support you've always given us. Our relationship has always been a family one and we love you.

This verismilitudinous feeling we've shared over the years is indubitably inveterated in our hearts as we wish for you and your family on this panegyricalistical occasion A Merry, Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Prosperous New Year. Right on Fat Daddy ... Paul Johnson! They are still playing your song ... "I'm Fat Daddy ... Santa Claus With Soul."

From Capitol

Greetings! The Clinically-trained and professionally-stuffed Publicity Department of Capitol Records wishes you Season's Joy ... from Michael, Kathy, Stacey and Patti.

From Warners

The card from Warner Publicity Bunnies says "Here's Looking At You Kid."

Honor Pam Fields

The Seventh Annual Award Dinner of the Baltimore Marketing Association honored Pamela Irvin Fields, assistant director for Community Affairs, WBAL-TV at Holiday Inn last Friday.

Pam was gorgeous in a turquoise backless leather sheath with an armload of silver bracelets. It was nice her father, the great N.Y., Giants Baseball Hall of Famer, Monte Irvin, came down as well as her mother and sister, Patty Irvin Gordon from East Orange, N.J.

Guest speaker was Benjamin L. Hooks, member of the Federal Communications Commission. He gave a speech that the entire black community should hear and if I could have gotten a copy, I would print it entirely.

He said blacks have got to get it together for themselves ... talking about supporting black businesses and he cited support of Pauline Brooks and Parks Sausage.

The Baltimore Marketing Association made three scholarship awards to Clarissa Edwards, Morgan; William Bell, Bowie and William Shipley, Coppin.

Special guests at the dinner were Morgan students interested in a career in business and industry, called Society for Advancement of Management. They included Charles Stanley, Vincent Kelly, Maggie Williams, Denise Green, John Sheppard, Pamela Frederick, Libby Dewitt and Sharon Flaggens.

Officers of BMA are James H. Waller, president, Conn. General Life Ins. Co.; Barbara Johnson, first vice-president, C. and P Telephone Co.; Toni Harker, Urban Services Agency, secretary; Barry Purnell, treasurer, Union Trust Co. and John S. Wood, general counsel, city solicitor's office.

Bill Elliott

Bill Elliott was in town this week to visit his mother, Ann Doty and tape a "North Star" segment. He will be in Newark and preparing to open his pix "Hang-Up" there, January 10.

In 1975, he hopes for more "togetherness" among black folks. After Christmas he will be playing at the Golden Peacock with Joe Thomas as a sickle cell benefit for the Bronze Shield Police Organization.

He and Dionne Warwicke will be off for Alcupulco, Mexico where Dionne will be singing for New Year's.

Center Stage

Jacques Cartier, Center Stage producing director, today announced that Center Stage's Whirligig Company will present Moliere's classic comedy-farce, "The Doctor In Spite of Himself," on Sunday, December 29, at 2:30 and 7:30; Monday, December 30 and Thursday, January 2 at 2:30 and 8:30. Performances will be given at the Peabody Institute's Leakin Hall.

Mrs. Ruby Reid, former Baltimore teacher, now retired in East Lake Wier, Fla. visited We Wives club members at the AFRO this week as guest of Mrs. Medford Reynolds. She also visited her daughter Mrs. Christine Young in D.C.

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ROGER MOORE as JAMES BOND 007
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TV Notes

By Vashti McKenzie

Leslie Nielsen and "Good Times'" co-star Ja'net DuBois portray a pair of illicit lovers who collaborate on a million-dollar-diamond heist which inadvertently gets her husband murdered, in "Loser Takes All" on "Kojak" Sunday, Dec. 22.

* * *

Charley Pride host "The Midnight Special" Friday, Dec. 27.

The show was taped at the Tulsa (Okla.) State Fair. Pride's guests are Doug Kershaw, Ronnie Milsap, the Four Guys and Gary Stewart. The show's announcer is Wolfman Jack.

* * *

When Ed Brown, Jack Albertson reads about a friend's death due to "natural causes," he suffers from the same symptoms, especially when he remembers the man owes him $500, in "Natural Causes," "Chico and the Man," Friday, Dec. 20.

* * *

Kidnappers knock out Jim Rockford, James Garner, while abducting a client from his trailer in "Profit and Loss," the first half of a two-part drama about stock market manipulations on "The Rockford Files," Friday, Dec. 20.

A pretty television newswoman's film story of Steve Austin leads to the Baja California Desert where Steve and the woman are tracked down by kidnappers plotting to send Steve to a foreign power on "The Six Million Dollar Man," Friday, Dec. 20.

Rory Calhoun portrays nightclub owner Lou Gerard whom the police know as a gangster but whose connections are preventing them from putting him behind bars, in "Shoefly," the "Police Woman" colorcast of Friday, Dec. 20.

* * *

Caine's search for his brother leads him to a dying photographer who may hold the key in the seemingly endless quest on "Kung Fu" episode, "The Vani hing Image," Friday, Dec. 20.

Kool and the Gang and Jim Stafford are the special guests on the ABC Television Network's popular "American Bandstand," Saturday, Dec. 21.

Dick Clark is host of "American Bandstand."

Chief Prentiss, Jessica Walter, is stymied by cases involving a series of high-rise burglaries, a clever check-passing ring and the puzzling homicide of a Jane Doe in "The Desperate World of Jane Doe," a two-hour Amy Prentiss drama on Dec. 22.

Enoch Pratt

Mon., Dec. 23

"The Ascent of Man: The Ladder of Creation" (Part 9), film at the Central Pratt Library, Wheeler Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 26

"Keep Cool," "Pop," "Fantasy of Feet," and "Lickety-split Licorice," films at the Pratt Library's Pennsylvania Avenue Branch, 12:30 p.m.

"The Ascent of Man: The Starry Messenger" (Part 6), film at the Pratt Library's Northwood Branch, 7:30 p.m.

"A Gallery of Christmas Greenery — and Books to Find under the Greens," illustrations of plants associated with Christmas together with books for holiday reading and giving. Central Pratt Library, Cathedral Street display windows, through January 3.

"Greetings," an exhibition of Christmas greeting cards from the library's collection of 19th- and 20th-century examples. Central Pratt Library, second-floor cases, through January 4.

"Runaway Railroad," a wild and woolly adventure film involving an old engine, a band of children, and an act of sabotage, will be shown at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 26, at the Pratt Library's Kirk Avenue Center, Kirk Avenue and 22nd Street. Admission to the movie is free.

A quartet of short, humorous films on topics ranging from licorice to literacy will be shown at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 26, at the Pratt Library's Pennsylvania Avenue branch, North and Pennsylvania Avenues.

Sharing the bill will be "Keep Cool," a fresh twist on the golden rule; "Pop," an animated film that offers an experience in visual literacy; "Fantasy of Feet," an amusing and creative study of the world of human feet — their shapes, coverings, and movements; and "Lickety-Split Licorice," a fantasy that distorts size, time and sound with lively results.

"A Gallery of Christmas Greenery — and Books to Find Under the Greens." Illustrations of plants associated with Christmas together with books for holiday reading and giving. Central Pratt Library, Cathedral Street display windows, through January 3.

"Greetings." An exhibition of Christmas greeting cards from the library's collection of 19th- and 20th-century examples. Central Pratt Library, second-floor cases, through January 4.

Western High Fashionette show raises $200. for AFRO's Mrs. Santa

Sheila Carr model outfits they made for Fashion- Shirley Hodnett, Elaine Colbert, Carolyn Sample, ette Show.

Vernell Brooks, Theresa Hicks and Sophia Anderson, Western High School students.

Evelyn Wing, Linda McDaniels, Patricia Jenifer and Linda Stewart helped raise $200 for AFRO's Mrs. Santa.

The Fashionette Club of Western High School presented a Benefit Christmas Fashion Show to help raise money to donate to AFRO's Mrs. Santa for toys for underprivileged children. The fashion show was a complete success. Over 300 persons attended the show and $200 was raised.

Mrs. Jacqueline Tyler, the club sponsor and a teacher at Western High School, directed the fashion show and also acted as commentator.

Travis Winkey appeared in the show wearing a very striking white Gatsby three-piece suit. Also appearing very stunning were David Young, Eric Von Adams, Gregory Tyler and Jerry Johnson. David Young is the 1974-1975 winner of the black male model contest. Many thanks is extended to him for the service he donated. Eric Von Adams is the 1973-1974 winner of the black male model contest.

Gregory Tyler looked very handsome in his three piece black velvet Gatsby suit and Jerry Johnson was very handsome in his brown and white outfit. Mrs. Gail Hinmon appeared modeling a very lovely three-in-one fox fur coat.

Children's fashions were also shown. Modeling children's fashions were Mimi and Dacus, Yolanda Williams, and Latia Jones. Acting as Santa Claus was Michel Williams who also modeled an outfit for the audience.

Members of the Fashionette Club who modeled women's fashions were Sophia Anderson, Vernell Brooks, Linda Cannon, Carr, Elaine Colbert, Judy Delaremore, Kantana Hall, Teresa Hicks, Shirley Hodnett, Donna Holman, Patricia Jenifer, Acril Lunn, Linda McDaniel, Darla Moss, Patricia Reid, Carolyn Sample Linda Stewart and Evelyn Wing. Also modeling woman's fashions was Mrs. Brenda Edwards who is also a teacher at Western High and who helps the Fashionette Club.

The McKenzie report

Walter the 'Leader' has a message

By Vashti McKenzie

Walter Heath, a new singer on the horizon is still idealistic at the tender age of 26.

But sings his beliefs in the hit single, "I Am Your Leader."

"It's a spoof on some of the leaders around here," he said smiling from behind his beard while visiting the AFRO last week.

"It's about leaders of all kinds, school teachers to politicians," he said.

Heath admitted that the song he wrote "Leader," is more like a gimmick. However, he said he had something better up his sleeve, a new solo album.

"You Know You're Wrong ... Don't You Brother" reflects his personal feelings. He addresses his message to all brothers and is quick to point out all the cuts are different.

Heath was in town last week appearing with The Ohio Players and New Birth at the Civic Center.

Born in Dayton, Ohio in 1948, Heath is the youngest of six children. His father was a Baptist Minister and he has fond memories of his family gathering around the piano, singing gospel music, of course, in five part harmony.

"I started working in clubs when I was twelve," he said trying to relax in the busiest of offices. He was wearing a T-shirt which said "I Love Jamie" ... that's his five year old son.

"It was my first taste of professionalism and we were not bad. The La Monterays were an accenella singing group," he said.

By the time Heath was 16, he was a well-known performer throughout Dayton. In 1966, he moved out to the golden west seeking fame, fortune and music.

The first year was rough. He lives with friends and worked as a department store clerk.

"Actually I was chasing after a girl," he said. "She went back to Dayton and I stayed in California."

Heath said he had a lot of time on his hands that first year and decided to learn to play the piano and the guitar.

WALTER HEATH

"In order to be important to a record company, you must be a writer or an instrumentalist," said Heath. "There are singers, great singers on every street corner, so I learned to play the guitar and the piano."

He taught himself.

It was during this time on the coast that Heath attended a Bahai meeting and became very involved with the teachings of this new world religion. Heath credits this part of his life as being the most important ... seeing that he had found answers to many of the social problems and answers solving his own inner conflicts ... a lot of doors started opening.

"It's relatively a new religion" said Heath. "It began in 1844 and is practiced mostly in other countries. It's an independent religion born out of Islam and is built around ... the oneness of mankind and the oneness of religion.

Heath explained the purpose of his religion to give additional insight into his idealism seen in his writings. His kind of idealism hasn't been seen in young singers and writers since the 60's. In this (Stokely, McGovern, Cleaver), Kennedy, and King day.)

Heath began touring with Seals and Crofts and other headlining acts such as Al Green, Gladys Knight and The Pips and Helen Reddy.

He was also busy in the studio. However, he was unsatisfied with all the material and felt he could do better.

He soon quit touring so he could devote more time to writing and getting inside himself and his music.

After several months, Heath finally felt he had found the musical expression for which he had been searching.

You can hear in on the single or the new album coming out.

"When I started out, the sound didn't come out gospel and R and B," he said. "It sounded like folk music.

"It took me a few years for me to get back to my roots."

Heath is not a foolish artist. He isn't going to let success and money slip through his fingers.

"I have my own publishing company," he said. "I think it adds to the performer's success.

"You hear about people who knock around the business for 20 — 25 years and after that its just all over.

The money is spent."

He said the recession is hurting new artists who haven't a chance to cut albums yet. The singles business too.

"The recession is causing a great hurt in the singles business," he said.

"Kids would go out at one time and buy 5 or 6 records at a time. Not now.

"They would not buy "Leader" let's say, when they can buy "Skin Tight."

"The product will determine what the public will buy. A meaningful song which touches the body and the soul will sell."

Christmas night watch

By Vashti McKenzie

The gifted and versatile Bill Cosby stars as the legendary Greek storyteller Aesop in a half-hour animated and live-action musical adaptation of **"Aesop's Fables,"** to be on Monday, Dec. 23.

Keith Hamilton and Jerelyn Fields appear as two playmates chasing an errant kite into the woods who stumble upon the ancient fabulist and his symbolic animal friends.

"L'Enfance du Christ," an abridged version of Hector Berlioz' full oratorio "A Sacred Trilogy," which received wide acclaim following its first television presentation by CBS News during the 1964 Christmas season, will be rebroadcast on Sunday, Dec. 22.

"The City That Forgot About Christmas"; Sunday, December 22, a holiday animated special featuring Benji and his friends. Benji is at the end of his rope with the frustrations of Pre-Christmas preparations. Grandpa changes his feelings when he relates the wonderful tale of "The City that Forgot About Christmas" for Benji and his friend, Martin. Stars Sebastian Cabot, British actor Tom Courtenay and Dean Jagger star as a dying young American priest and a wise bishop, respectively in "I Heard the Owl Call My Name," 90-minute drama special to be on "GE Theater" Monday, Dec. 23.

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