What's Happening

Ice Follies star... Atoy Wilson visits AFRO with new bride

By Ida Peters

Atoy Wilson, the sensational star of the Ice Follies, now playing at the Civic Center through Sunday, stopped by the home offices of the AFRO this week with his new bride.

This will be the third year that Atoy has visited us and he always comes on the coldest day in January in his fur coat and we have to throw him out with hot coffee.

This year, this January day was like Spring weather as in a glow of happiness he introduced his new bride, Edith Hilda Wu Wilson, 22, of Los Angeles.

Who is this lovely who has captured the heart of 23-year-old Atoy ... he of the lovely haze eyes?

She's the daughter of Mrs. Louise Huling and William Wu of Los Angeles. She attended Dorsey High School and Los Angeles Pierce and East Los Angeles Junior Colleges.

• • •

Met in High School

They met when Atoy was in his first year of college and she was a senior in high school. They both worked at the Los Angeles Music Center as ushers and ticket takers.Romance bloomed and last year, he hinted that his heart was taken.

They worked after school, afternoons and nights and even worked the Academy Awards. They don't remember how they met and became friends ... but they did.

They were on Friday, September 13, 1974 and were married in a non-sectarian church ... they're members of the Meditators of Transcendental Meditations.

The marriage ceremony ... they practice Yogi ... was performed by a Brother who lit insecense and sprinkled them with rose petals to signify the love from God.

In their vows ... they pledged to give themselves unconditionally to each other. She reports her mother cried at the wedding. (Mothers always cry). The reception was held at Yamashiro's Restaurant overlooking Hollywood and Los Angeles, three days later on September 16th.

In The Show

In the Ice Follies you'll catch Atoy dancing in the third number in a powder blue and brown dashiki with sequins. His music is by Chicago and the Spinners' "Going Home."

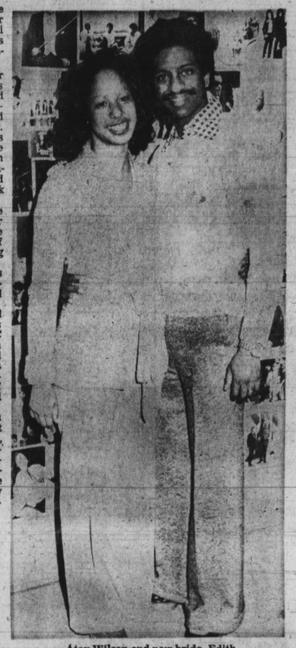
His second number closes the first half and is a production number called "Ragtime Follies." He interprets Bojangles and even plays on a fake piano. The background music is from Scott Joplin. He wears a deep green crushed velvet vest, a diamond studded bowtie and rose embroidered pink pants.

In the second half of the show, he's in the number "Symcopation" and skate dances to the music of Thom Bell, "Life Is A Song Without Singing.

In this number he wears a white tuxedo with rainbow colors of red, pink and green.

Last year when I talked with Atoy, he was on his way to Japan for the ABC Wide World of Sports with Janet Lynn, Richard Dwyer and Susan Barrens where he says he competed against a "heck of lot of great professional and Olympic skaters."

He finished 6th and was "happy in placing that high against former world, Olympic and U.S. Champion." He said the Japanese treated them like Hollywood stars and they were mobbed everywhere they went. We saw him last January 16th in TV.



Atoy Wilson and new bride, Edith.

Baltimore's Andre DeShields is a hit!

Honey Bruce (VALERIE PERRINE), accompanied by her husband Lenny (DUSTIN HOFFMAN), is escorted by a nurse's aid out of the hospital, in "Lenny."

'The Wiz' has audience dancing, screaming at Broadway opening

By Glenne Currie

NEW YORK (UPI) — "The Wiz," a driving soul musical version of "The Wizard of Oz," with inspired dancing, sets and costumes, had the first-night audience screaming for more at the Majestic Theatre Sunday night.

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As staged by dance-trained Geoffrey Holder and George Faison, "The Wiz" is a treat for the eyes. If you like the multi-decibel songs of Charlie Smalls — as sung by Tasha Thomas, little Stephanie Mills, Tiger Haynes, Andre De Shields, Mabel King and Dee Dee Bridgewater — it might also be a musical experience. (If you don't, try cotton-wool.)

"The Wiz" is one of those shows in which everyone sings and everyone dances, and the devil take the hindmost.

Everything is danced. The Tornado is danced, by Evelyn Thomas who could teach Lilith a few tricks of the trade. The Yellow Brick Road is danced by four yellow-wigged men. The Scarecrow, with excellent precedent, is danced — by an 18-year-old taken out of the chorus, Hinton Battle, who has a great future. The Poppies Dance. The Field Mice Dance, The Winged Monkeys Dance. The Citizens of the Emerald City dance. If there were room in the theatre, the audience probably would dance too.

Holder is a double-threat man, being also responsible for the most lavish costumes in a decade. The sets by Tom H. John and the lighting by Tharon Musser both add to the Fantasy of Oz.

The big cast could hardly be better. Miss Mills, only 15, is a chunky lass with a big voice; Tiger Haynes as the Tinman without a heart and Ted Ross as the chicken-hearted Lion are a lovable duo; Elton John-like wizard sheds by confidence-man exterior with his psychedelic costume; Clarice Taylor, Mabel King and Dee Dee Bridgewater as the witches are superb.

Sometimes overshadowed but not for long, is the witty book by William F. Brown, which holds the whole show together.

"The Wiz" is a show to see — if not to hear.

Music Notes

A free concert commemorating the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. will be given by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at Dunbar Community School on January 15 at 8 p.m. The concert will be conducted by BSO Assistant Conductor Darroid Hunt, who also planned the program.

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Featured will be the Baltimore Symphony Chorus, directed by Ellery B. Woodworth, which will perform Brahms' solemn elegy "Nanie" and Borodin's triumphant "Polovetzian Dances" from "Prince Igor." Also included in the program are Strauss's tone poem Don Juan, "Mendelssohn's "Symphony No. 5" ("The Reformation"), and Ulysses Kay's "Brief Elegy for Oboe and Strings," in which the soloist will be Joseph Turner.

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The concert is sponsored by the Urban Services Cultural Arts Project and the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions Office of Community Relations.

Junetta Jones

• • •

The following evening, January 16th, will feature a duo-recital by Junetta Jones, vocalist and Jamesetta Holliman, pianist. The recital will be given in the Johns Hopkins Hospital-Turner Auditorium. Miss Jones is a graduate of the Douglass High school and the Peabody Conservatory where she received a Masters Degree in Fine Arts. She has also appeared with the Metropolitan Opera Company as well as several opera companies in Europe.

• • •

Miss Holliman is a graduate of Dunbar High School and received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Juilliard School of Music and a Bachelor of Music Degree from Oberlin College. She is currently a candidate for the Doctoral Degree from New York University.

• • •

Morgan Choir

The final program in the series of concerts for Dr. King will be a performance by the Morgan State College Choir to be given in the Turner Auditorium. The concert will be given on January 20th at eight o'clock.

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Arrangements for the concert series were made by Mr. Harry Davis, Community Relations Director of the Johns Hopkins Hospital and Mr. Norman E. Ross, Director of the Urban Services Cultural Arts Project. The public is invited, admission is free-by ticket only. For ticket information, please call 276-4646 or 955-3194.

• • •

Phyllis Diller Plays Beethoven

Comedienne Phyllis Diller will soon appear in an unfamiliar role at the Lyric Theatre-as piano soloist with the Baltimore Symphony! On January 18 she will play works by Beethoven and Bach, as well as arrangements of Broadway show tunes, in a Pops concert conducted by Leon Fleisher. The first part of the program will include light classical works by Berlioz and Smetana and a song written by Miss Diller sung by Baltimore soprano Ruth Drucker. The concert begins at 8:15 p.m.

And now a word about

The Columbia Dance Theatre under the direction of Anne Waugh Allen and John L. Taylor will hold its premiere performance in Baltimore, at the Community College of Baltimore, on Sunday, January 19, at 3 p.m. A reception will follow the performance. The company will perform Charles Weidman's famous "Lynchtown" and two new works by Mr. Taylor and Caroline Purnage.

Trent Gray, who is currently dancing with the Ballet Repertory Company, will be the guest soloist.

Casting for NEC Drama

Preparations are currently under way for the casting of black actors for Richard Wesley's drama, "The Black Terror," which will open at Towson State College on Friday, February 14. The play will be directed by Allie Woods of the Negro Ensemble Company, who will be a guest artist-in-residence at Towson from January 13 through March 1.

Parts are available for black actors, particularly black males of all ages, and auditions will be held on Monday, January 13, at 7 p.m. in the Studio Theatre of the college's Fine Arts Building, located at the corner of Cross Campus and Osler Drives.

There will be eight performances of "The Black Terror," beginning February 14 through February 22. The theatre will be dark on Monday, February 17.

The set will be designed by Whitney LaBlanc, who designed the set for "Ceremonies in Dark Old Men" for the stage performance by the Negro Ensemble Company.

For further information, contact the theatre arts department chairperson, Mr. Paul Berman, at 823-7500, extension 286.

Susquehanna

January 15 through 26, at 8:00 p.m., the Susquehanna Festival Theater will present Harold Pinter's "The Dumb Waiter" and Edward Albee's "The American Dream." The theater is located on the campus of Harford Community College on Maryland Route 22 four miles east of Bel Air.

Black Touring Theatres

At a conference in New York headed by Woodie King Jr. producer/director of the New Federal Theatre, C. Bernard Jackson, Executive Director of Inner City Repertory of Los Angeles, and Joan Sandier, Executive Director of the Black Theater Alliance in New York, a proposal was agreed upon for twelve black theaters across the country seating capacities of three hundred or more to develop and organize a workable Black Theatre Touring Circuit. Each theater has agreed to four up to three productions. Miss Sandler will act as executive coordinator.

The participating theaters include: National Center for Afro American Artists of Boston, African Revolutionary Theater of Cleveland, Harlem Cultural Center of New York, Spellman College Drama Program of Atlanta, Concept East Theatre of Detroit, D.C. Black Repertory Company of Washington, Free Southern Theatre of New Orleans, Afro American Total Theatre of New York, Inner City Repertory of Los Angeles, New Federal Theatre of New York and the Billie Holiday Theatre of Brooklyn.

Arts Tower

To kick off the new year, the "Gallery Under the Clock" will celebrate the Arts Tower with a new show opening January 26th, 2-5 p.m. The show is entitled "Tower Clockwise" and will include works dealing with the theme of the clock tower. The Baltimore Arts Tower which closely resembles the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence, Italy houses one of the world's largest clocks which, incidentally, keeps accurate time. The committee for the gallery hopes that it will be a lively, unusual and perhaps even timely exhibition.

The Baltimore Arts Tower is located at 21 South Eutaw Street, the corner of Eutaw and Lombard, and is open weekdays from 10:30-4 p.m.

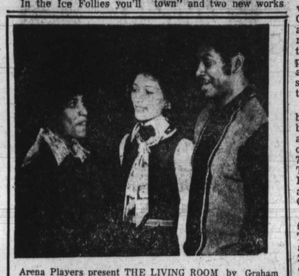
Maryland Institute

This month the Mount Royal Station Gallery of the Maryland Institute will host an exhibition of photographs, fiber works and sculpture. The exhibit opens Sunday January 12 with a public opening from 1 to 4 p.m. and will run through January 31.

The exhibition of photographs, entitled "Pictures", is a display of the works of George Zimmerman, senior photography major at the Maryland Institute.

Towson

Special sponsor grants are available to teachers accompanying four or more students to the second annual Eastern Trombone Workshop to be held at Towson State College January 17, 18 and 19 in the Fine Arts Building, located at Osler Drive and Cross Country Boulevard.



Arena Players present THE LIVING ROOM by Graham Green as their next production. Cast members shown (left to right) are Edith Hare, Vonnie Covington and Earl Burton. Other cast members not shown include Verna Day, Carroll Seward, Vacoustess Payne, Rai Nevins, Joan Coursey and Ben Prestbury. The premier sponsored by the First Saturday Niters is Thursday, January 9, 1975 and the play runs Friday, Saturday and Sunday night each week-end in January. This melodrama is directed by Ben Prestbury with the set by Jerry Wood and Brian Armstead. Tickets are available by phoning 728-1011 or 728-9303.

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The McKenzie report

Jackie Jackson got married in sneakers and gym suit

By Vashti McKenzie

Dear's Call

Dear Va

I Just found out that Jackie Jackson, (Jackson Five) secretly got married.

That's depressing. It seems that all the eligible bachelors are getting married. Jimmie Walker just got married to a beautiful black girl. Stevie Wonder is headed that way, and now Jackie.

I didn't get any details on Jackie's wedding or anything. Would you give me some information about it? Who did he marry? (I hope she is black) When did he get hitched?

The main reason his marriage was a shock to me was because attending Beverly Hills School just a few months ago I read where Jackie was content with being single. Maybe his girl had a surprise for him, you know what I mean.

Well, anyway I hope Al Green doesn't go next.

Debbie

Jackie Jackson married the former Enid Swann in a super-private wedding ceremony in the suite of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Phillips in the MGM Grand Hotel Los Vegas, Nevada, November 23.

Per a call to the Jackson 5 office in Hollywood and they report that the bride and groom are happy in their new penthouse apartment in Beverly Hills.

What did the bride and groom wear?

"He wore sneakers and his gym suite and she wore a tie-dyed slack and jacket," said the J5 representatives.

"Are you kidding me?" said I.

"No," came the reply. "Jackie said that since they were going to be comfortable in their marriage, they were going to be comfortable when they got married."

Only immediate family members were present for the ceremony along with the J5's 18 member entourage.

It was no sudden thing. Enid and Jackie had been dating on and off for the last four years. They met while attending Beverly Hills School and were introduced by Hazel Jackson wife of Jermaine, daughter of Barry Gordy Motown magnet.

According to the couple, the time was just right. A reception was given in Hollywood to honor of the couple for 250 friends and relatives by the brides aunt: Mrs. Julia Shultz and her parents.

Enid is black. Korean and black descent and is working in a L. A. boutique. Now that she is Mrs. Jackson, Jackie is thinking of boving her a boutique of her own.

• • •

Bits and Pieces

It's true that Stevie Wonder may be heading towards the altar for the second time with his new secretary who looks strangely like his first wife, Syre.

I wonder if she can sing just as well.

As for Jimmie Walker, who should get an Emmy award for portrayal of J. J. on "Good Times" (Both AFRO Soul Round-up winner), he's married to a beautiful AFRO-wearing lady by the name of Samantha Walker known as "Sam."

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Nancy Wilson and new hubby are expecting a new addition to their just-married bliss.

Ain't love wonderful?

• • •

The Pointer Sisters, Ruth Anita and Bonnie may have made California (Designer Earl Blackwell's "Worst Dressed List") but they've made the best dressed list as far as their fans are concerned.

• • •

They have brought back the 1940's clothing era and fans have been raiding hat thrift shops to pick everything from that decade.

Thrift shops and attic clothes have come in for a big revival in the past year or so and sometimes their costumes look like they have been salvaged. They have.

• • •

The Pointers call their thing "funky" and at one time it was believe that their thing was a big put-on.

Many of their fans attending their concerts dress in 40's ensembles — bankerchiefs, sweetheart necklines, bustle beads, rebuttons and rhine stones, designs — much as the closet queens come out for certain glamor and glitter rock shows. Sic them, Pette Midler and Jim Bowie.

Jackie

Fat Daddy goes to Motown

Baltimore's former radio jock "Fat Daddy" has left his post as a National Director of Promotion of R and B with Atlantic Records.

• • •

To become Vice-President of Promotion, Motown Records this week.

• • •

"They made an offer I couldn't refuse," said Paul Johnson from his new Hollywood office.

"It's a tremendous promotion. It's a honor to be here.

• • •

They've been trying to get me for about a year. Negotiations started seriously about six months ago."

Johnson, who was voted Promotion Man of the Year by the National Association of Television and Radio Artists at their annual convention in L. A. this summer, told the AFRO he was happy at Atlantic just after he received the award.

• • •

"I just made up my mind to change," he said. "It's a big upward move to vice president."

• • •

Johnson feels that Motown is a tremendously professional place and the first thing he'll get into will be "reorganizing the promotional staff and implementing all the things that have been my trade in business."

Which means he'll concmark "for all there years centrate on new artists.

Paul Johnson, center, with friends when he attended Douglass High School.

Crown Prince of terror meets James Bond

Over the past five years, Christopher Lee has experienced a major career change. Respected and feared as "The Crown Prince of Terror," he has become increasingly known as an actor able to play in a wide variety of roles and as a result is now recognized for his exceptional range and versatility.

He is currently playing the role of Scaramanga, the villain of the latest James Bond adventure, Ian Fleming's "The Man With The Golden Gun," with Roger Moore as Ian Fleming's indestructible British secret agent 007. Produced by Albert R. Broccoli and Harry Saltzman "The Man With The Golden Gun" was filmed on location in Thailand and Hong Kong and at Pinewood Studios, England. It was directed by Guy Hamilton from a screenplay by Richard Maibaum and Tom Mankiewicz. The picture is released by United Artists, an entertainment service of Transamerica Corporation.

Christopher Lee is not only the villein of the place, but is, in fact, the man with the golden gun, determined to kill Bond. Britt Ekland, Maud Adams an. Herve Villechaize also are prominentle cast.

Born in London on May 27, 1922, and educated at Wellington College, Lee worked in the City of London (financial section) for a short time until the outbreak of war when he joined the Royal Air Force as a pilot.

In 1947, he had his first film break as an actor. It came about when the Italian Ambassador to Great Britain introduced him to Filippo del Guidice of Two Cities Films. This led to his first part, "Corridor of Mirrors" with Eric Portman.

Many romantic roles followed. As an expert boxer, fencer and golfer and 6 feet 4 inches in height, he became a desirable casting choice. He has always done most of his own dangerous stunt work.

He was sought by Hammer Films and was cast with Peter Cushing in "The Curse of Frankenstein." It was that portrayal of a shambling, mindless, speechless creature that began his rise in some-chillers and made him one of the world's most popular and frightening actors.

Although he made several films for the Hammer company, it is not widely known that of his 127 screen credits only 25 are for "horror" roles. The rest were dramatic and romantic characterizations.

Scaramanga (CHRISTOPHER LEE) points his golden gun at the temple of his girlfriend Andrea (MAUD ADAMS), in "The Man With the Golden Gun"

TV Notes

By Vashti McKenzie

Dick Clark presents the B.T. Express with its first Gold Record on "American Bandstand," Saturday, Jan 11.

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The Gold Record symbolizes one million record sales of the B.T. Express' hit, "Do It (Till You're Satisfied)."

• • •

Caine tries to liberate a small Mexican village from the rule of a gang of bandits in "A Lamb To the Slaughter" on "Kung Fu," Saturday, Jan. 11.

• • •

"I promise you, Edmond Dantes — you shall have revenge!

• • •

The prophetic words are uttered to himself by Edmond Dantes after escaping from an unjust 14-year imprisonment at the Chateau d'If in the new, two hour production of "The Count of Monte Cristo, "the "Bell System Family Theatre" drama special Friday, Jan. 10.

• • •

The production is based on the centuries old classic novel written by black author, Alexander Dumas.

When something goes wrong with an automobile, what assurance does the consumer have that only necessary repairs have been made at the most reasonable cost? Produced locally at the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting, the first Consumer Survival Kit program premieres nationally over PBS, Friday, January 10 at 7:30 p.m. and answers many questions about auto repairs.

• • •

The "gold fever" hitting the country will be explored on Wall Street Week Friday, January 10 on stations of the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting.

• • •

"Marlo Thomas and Friends in Free To Be . . . You and Me," the award-winner and highly praised entertainment special based on Ms. Thomas' widely acclaimed record album, will receive an encore presentation on Sunday, Jan. 12.

• • •

The program features 17 of Marlo's most talented friends and blends song, dance, comedy, music, animation and puppetry in an effort to affirm that it's a joy to be free. Her friends in the program are Alan Alda, Harry Belafonte, Mel Brooks, Dick Cavett, Carol Channing, Billy DeWolfe, Roberta Flack, Rosey Grier, Dustin Hoffman, Michael Jackson, Kris Kristofferson, Bobby Morse, The New Seekers, Tom Smothers, Cicely Tyson, The Voices of East Harlem and Dionne Warwicke.

• • •

"Judgement: The Court-Martial of Lt. William Calley," an "ABC Theatre" presentation based on the longest and one of the most controversial court-martial trials in American military history, will be presented on Sunday, Jan. 12.

Liza Minnelli stars as the desperately loving Pookie Adams in the television premiere of "The Sterile Cuckoo," the film that brought her first Academy Award nomination on "The ABC Monday Night Movie," Jan. 13.

• • •

When two young boys retrieve a revolver dropped by a fleeing burglar a series of tragedies follows, each involving the use of the weapon, in "The Saturday Night Special" on "The Bootles." Monday, Jan. 13. George Stanford Brown stars as Terry Webster.

Julie Newmar is the special guest star in "The Black Box Murders" a story of the search for a correct politician's cache of illegal campaign contributions, all in cash. It will be seen as a "Wide World: Mystery" on Monday, Jan. 13.

• • •

Mike Douglas and co-host Robert Goulet wrap up the second or two weeks from Miami Beach on Friday, Nov. 17 with a bright sun in the sky; Mason Reese in the Goodyear Blimp; Comedian Charles Kaplan, the Spinners and Paul Williams on the beach.

Sherman Hemsley and Isabel Sanford are the parents with Mike Evans their son in the new comedy series, "The Jeffersons", Saturday, Jan. 18.

Al Freeman Jr. in new TV series "Hot L Baltimore."

Enoch Pratt

Mon., Jan. 13

"The Grand Chargers," film at the Pratt Library's Clifton Center, 4:00 p.m.

"Hello . . . I Love You," "Karate," and "Right on-Be Free," films at the Pratt Library's Keyworth Avenue Center, 6:30 p.m.

"The Ascent of Man: Generation upon Generation" (Part 12), film at the Central Pratt Library, Wheeler Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Tues., Jan. 14

"The Ascent of Man: Knowledge or Certainty" (Part 11), film at the Central Pratt Library, Wheeler Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 16

"When Comedy Was King," film at the Pratt Library's Cherry Hill Center, 12:30 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 18

Plant Clinic: A team of gardening experts will answer questions on house plants and diagnose their ailments, at the Pratt Library's Pennsylvania Avenue Branch, 1:30 p.m.

• • •

Goucher — Hopkins

The Goucher-Hopkins Community Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Daniel Abrams, will present a concert featuring Haydn's "Oboe Concerto in C Major" on Sunday, January 26 at 8 p.m. The soloist will be Ann Bilerkian, principal oboist with the orchestra. The program will include "Suite No. 3 in D Major" by Bach, Haydn's "Concerto in C Major for Oboe," Dvorak's "Serenade for Strings" and the "Jupiter" Symphony by Mozart.

Actors wanted

Preparations are currently underway for the casting of black actors for Richard Wesley's drama, "The Black Terror" which will open at Towson State College on Friday, Feb. 14.

• • •

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For further information persons may call the Theatre Arts Dept., chairperson, Charles Berman, 823-7500, ext. 286.

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