...meet Brenda!

Brenda Alford . . . classy singer!

Her full name is Brenda Irene Alford. She was born to sing and sing she does.

The AFRO first heard her on the second floor of Gatsby's new disco . . . the newly reopened disco with mirrored walls and deep thick carpets.

Brenda delivers popular music in a style that is classic. When Brenda sings, people listen and her sound is refreshing . . . a tribute to the old and an acknowledgement of the new. Some call it jazz. Some call it standard . . . I would have to call it classy.

Helping make her sound classy were Claude Hubbard on piano; Danny Brown, drums and Bill Morris, bass.

A very talented poetess and actress, Brenda is a teacher at Federal Hill Elementary School. A graduate of Eastern High School and Morgan State University she is presently working on her Masters in Administrative Science at Johns Hopkins.

She is currently in rehearsal to play Madame Dubonnet in "The Boy Friend" by the Arena Players, May 26-June 17.

Here's Brenda's story in her own words:

It was summertime and the breeze was blowing gently through my bedroom window. The street light glowed, but didn't outshine the red neon sign across the street at Club Sarah, then East Baltimore's hottest jazz spot. Strains of music drifted into my open window on the summer breeze, and I, a sleepless, restless little six-year old girl, shook my feet in time to the four - four thythm.

As it got louder, my small figure appeared at the window, ears straining to hear and imitate the rebop oozing from the bar door.

This recollection of my first contract with jazz is one of many that remind me of the natural love which has developed over the years.

I was born and reared in East Baltimore's oldest housing project, Douglass Homes, with my mother and five sisters. I have been singing in church and school for as long as I can remember. An interested fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Loretta Reed, gave me the basis of my musical knowledge. She taught me the musical scale and sponsored my first non-church related public performance at Coppin StatezTeachers' College in 1961. From that point on, I have appreared in various performances in and around the city of Baltimore with groups and alone. As time passed, I extended my realm of musical interests to include jazz vocalizations.

New movies

'F.I.S.T.'...a look at labor's underbelly

Sylvester Stallone, who endeared himself to millions of theatre goers as the great white hope in "Rocky," is a sensational dynamic actor playing a power-hungry labor leader who gets hooked into the mob, in "F.I.S.T."

A Gene Corman presentation for United Artists, "F.I.S.T." is the story of Johnny Kovak, a young laborer in the slums of Cleveland in the 1930's. He leads strikes that ignite bloody riots characterizing the era and becomes America's most powerful labor leader of the 1950's. He later defies even the U.S. Government when it launches an investigation of labor racketeering, during the Eisenhower days.

This superb production by producer - director Norman Jewison and you wonder how he found such true-to-life, ugly, work-worn characters to people his foreign-born slums.

According to the press release, the film was filmed mostly in Dubuque, Iowa and for the world premiere most of the governor of Iowa turned out to cheer themselves and see the film.

I wonder, after they saw the film if they had any second thoughts. This film does what Richard Pryor et al tried to do in "Blue Collar."

It certainly brings down front the alleged corruption within union circles and points up how labor may have become involved with the mob and other rackets.

Certainly "Wheels" now being serialized on TV hints at the same corruption.

A black laborer is introduced in the early part of the film. He is harassed by the boss but doesn't come off as real life. Black people were just excluded from the unions in certain crafts and in many cases still are today.

Weakest point of the film is the Washington senator played by Rd Steiger as a McCarthy like figure. After you've seen the real thing he is pale by comparison.

There are fine performances by David Huffman as Johnny's friend and conscience; Tony Bianco as a mob leader; Kevin Conway as Johnny's sidekick and Melinda Dillon as the girl friend wife.

Syvester Stallone proves he can act in this film. But will white audiences go for his portrayal of labor's underbelly? And do white people really want to see how ugly they are in their prejudices against one another? IMP

The Apollo Theatre reopened Friday, May 5, but it was a different Apollo. Time was when entertainers had to do as many as nine shows a day. Ralph MacDonald and Friends, who reopened the famed Harlem showplace, did five shows in three days. Former Westchester policeman E. T. Morris is the new owner with David McCarthy, former general manager returning in his same spot.

Theatre, arts, music, potpourri

WHAT'S HAPPENING

An old-fashioned chicken dinner will be held at Fairmount Hill Vocational High along with The Mod Players and the Neal Ensemble in "The Amen Corner," Sunday, May 14 at 3 p.m.

All profits will go to help buy school band uniforms.

Bob Russell is director. 396-9266.

Local gal making good: Little Angie Heard, graduate of Edmondson High School who has really matured into an excellent dancer leaves for a 12-country tour of Europe May 17.

She's the leading dancer with the Joe Tex Review. Later this summer she will appear in Atlantic City at the Club Harlem and in Canada.

Delores Watson Gregory is the travel specialist with her new business Asburton Travel Service. She is prepared to offer individualized service to clubs and organizations.

Cliff Murray is chairman and Mrs. Selma Gross is executive director of a "Salute to Seniors" and information festival for senior citizens, May 25 at War Memorial Plaza.

Sherron Ferguson as Sister Odessa and Mary Foreman as Sister Margaret Alexander in, Mother's Day, dinner and show "The Amen Corner" at Fairmount Hill Vocational High School, Sunday.

Preakness Week is also Morgan University's graduation weekend. Leonard T. Jackson, president of the Alumni Association and Lawrence K. Montgomery, director report that Alumni weekend will start on Friday, May 19 with President Andrew Billingsley's Wine and Cheese Party and ending with a post Alumni Weekend-Commencement Las Vegas Getaway, May 22-26.

Saturday, May 20 is the Honorary Awards Luncheon for Alumni and 25-year staff and faculty. The Alumni-Class Reunion Dinner Dance is Saturday night at Blue Crest North... Commencement is Sunday, May 21 at the Civic Center.

Moran's alumni chapters have been reactivated in NYC with an Morgan Alumni Eastern Seaboard Conference held last week at the 125th Street New York State Building.

Mrs. Naomi R. S. Peters heads up the Detroit chapter planning to sponsor the Morgan Choir; Dr. J. Edwin Fassett heads the Upper Shore Counties of Maryland (Talbot, Dorchester, Queen Anne and Caroline).

Olufunmilaye and Co., the African dance company at Theatre Project through May 14.

The Spinners with Millie Jackson on June 2 open the summer season at Merriweather Post Pavilion. Other attractions include The O'Jays, June 24; Donna Summer, July 19; George Benson, July 29-30; Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre, Sept. 1-2-3.

Artistic efforts by Baltimore's senior citizens received special recognition on today, May 12 when eleven of their number were honored by Mayor Schaefer for their creative work in the first "Baltimore is Best" Senior Citizen Slogan-Poster Contest.

Presentation of the awards during a special luncheon at the World Trade Center climaxed a three month competition with hundreds of entries using the theme "Baltimore is Best Because. . . ." The contest was sponsored by the "Baltimore is Best" program from the Mayor's Office.

The winners were Mae Brieker, John F. Columbano, Aileen Dannenberg, Doris Gallagher, Jack Glassman, Elizabeth Jackson, Noll Johnstone; Anna Kerber, Charles Roth, Charlotte F. Schloss, and Albert J. Stein.

Micki Grant, of "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope," and "Your Arms Too Short To Box With God" has written some of the original songs in "Working," a musical adaptation of Studs Terkel's Best Seller, opening at the 46th Street Theatre, May 14.

NOW IN BALTIMORE
Limited Engagement May 19 to June 10
Seats Now at Box Office!
RAUL JULIA
in
The EDWARD GOREY production of
DRACULA
Directed by DENNIS ROSA
"Dracula' is one of the biggest hits of the Broadway season!" —New York Times
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT MECHANIC BOX OFFICE OR CHARGE BY TELEPHONE 727-4102
Tickets available at all Ticketron outlets.

	Monday-Thurs. Eves.	Friday-Saturday Eves.	Wednesday-Saturday Mats.
Orch. & Mezz.	$13.50	$15.00	$11.50
Balcony I	11.50	12.00	9.00
Balcony II	10.00	10.00	8.00

Group Sales Information: Nan Rosenthal 301-752-1407
THE NEW MECHANIC THEATRE
Mons A. Mechanic Theatre Hopkins Plaza Baltimore, Maryland 21201

EVERLASTING TORMENT!
THE NEW HOUSE ON THE LEFT
R
She windows look out on hell...
plus
Don't look in the Basement
OR CAPACITY
$1.50 ONE 12:30 EXCEPT SUN
Hippodrome
539-4175

Metropolitan Baltimore Health Test
STRESS
Clip out this form and take the test with Stu Kerr and Joyce Jefferson tonight at 8 pm.

1. Stress is usually physically and mentally harmful.
   TRUE FALSE
2. The single most important factor in determining whether a situation is stressful is
   A. Age
   B. Attitude
   C. Nature of situation
   D. Fatigue
3. If you are experiencing tenseness, temporary sleeplessness, irritability or diarrhea as a result of stress, you should
   A. Take medication
   B. Try to forget situation
   C. Seek professional help
   D. Talk to friend
4. The loss of a spouse is apt to be more stressful for men than for women.
   TRUE FALSE
5. Depression is a stress response seen most frequently in:
   A. Children
   B. Teenagers
   C. Young adults
   D. Adults middle-aged and over
6. Experience makes elderly people better equipped to deal with normal stress than younger people.
   TRUE FALSE
7. Anticipating a stressful situation is a helpful way of coping with it.
   TRUE FALSE
8. Stress and its related disorders each year cost American industry:
   A. Between 5 and 10 million dollars
   B. Between 10 and 15 million dollars
   C. Between 20 and 50 million dollars
   D. Between 75 and 100 million dollars

Tonight 8PM
WMAR-TV 2 BALTIMORE

LAWRENCE-HILTON JACOBS
STAR OF "WELCOME BACK KOTTER" IN 2 SMASH HITS!
YOUNG BLOOD
WR
LAWRENCE-HILTON JACOBS "YOUNGBLOOD"
BRYAN O'DELL ... RON WOODS
plus
COOLEY HIGH
R
$1.50 Until 12:30 FOR CAPACITY EXCEPT SUN
Now Showing!
TOWN
315 W. FAYETTE 539-2294

LAST 3 PERFS.!
"I think you will like Pippin which has all the bounce and glitter of the typical Broadway fig." —GARDNER, SUN
Pippin
NOW THRU MAY 13
BOX OFFICE OPEN 10 A.M.-8:30 PM
Charge your ticket by phone: 301-727-4102
Tickets available at Ticketron
THE NEW MECHANIC THEATRE

PRYOR TIMES Two!
Richard Pryor
Silver Streak
Bustin' Loose
FOR $1.50
All Seats All Times
Mayfair Two

The Fever is Spreading
©1977 Paramount Pictures Corporation. All Rights Reserved.
SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER
R
...Catch it
PLUS
'HIT'
starring RICHARD PRYOR! BILLY DEE WILLIAMS!
$1.50 Until 6 P.M. Mon.-Fri., Sat. & Sun. Until 2:30 or Capacity
CHARLES
1711 N. Charles St. • MU. 5-7773

The most shocking double-date of your life!
JOHN TRAVOLTA
THE DEVIL'S RAIN
PG
Exclusive
She's the girl with the power of the devil in her veins!
She'll take you on and turn you on!
JOSEPH BREMER PRESENTS
VIRGIN WITCH
R
$1.50 Until 12:30 OR CAPACITY EXCEPT SUN
MAYFAIR
309 N. HOWARD 539-7128

Eubie put black music on Broadway

. . . feels good about his hometown

Eubie Blake at 95 came home to play a concert at Peabody Institute last week and announced to everyone "I'm so glad to be here, I feel good about my hometown.

The mayor acclaimed him a "permanent treasure" right along with The Preakness and the City Fair and told Eubie May was his month.

As he walked into the rehearsal hall, he didn't look 95 in a freshly tailored blue suit and grey sweater.

Throughout the concert, rehearsals and press conferences, Eubie kept up a steady line of chatter. For more on his life story see "Reminiscing with Sissle and Blake" by Kimball and Bolcom, Viking Press, 1972. This book details how Sissle and Blake mounted two full scale Broadway musicals, "Shuffle Along" and "The Chocolate Dandies" back in the 1920's and 1930's creating a formidable black presence on Broadway.

"People don't believe how old I am," Blake says; with a wink and sly smile. "They say I'm lying about my age. But I say I'm lucky to be alive."

Be that as it may Eubie is still composing.

Eubie Blake at 95. . .

He has also completed two new books: "Two Centuries With Eubie Blake" and "Eubie Blake - Original Classic Waltzes.

...and all that Jazz

By Bob Matthews

Still checking on the local jazz scene, dropped into The Closet, Henry Baker's new place on Franklin Street, on Wednesday night.

Discovered that Baker and his regular group take that night off, and are supplanted by a quintet called ABR Quintete.

One thing about The Closet, the room is so small, you never have trouble hearing every nuance put out by the musicians.

Had been hearing about the Wednesday sets at The Closet, how musicians show up just "sit in," and sure enough, this was the modus operandi.

Leader is Mack Ruck, who played Flugelhorn; Willie Barber, on drums, Harold Williams, keyboards; Marcellus Turner, bass guitar; and Harold Adams, sax.

Sitting in at the set we c[illegible] was Marian Kaul, w[illegible] plays alto sax. Chatted with Henry, who told me this was their regular lineup for Wednesdays . . . and asked me to check out the playing of tenor saxist Harold Adams.

We did, and can report, that his is one of the biggest tones around town. It can likened to the Stanley Turrentine sound, and Harold generates excitement in his playing.

Mack, on flugelhorn, doesn't quite make it. While his solos were adequate, it seemed as if he was forcing things. We suspect he would be much more fluid on a regular trumpet.

Willie Barber on drums, has fallen into the trap to which most modern drummers are subject . . . individual stardom. There is no doubt that he is a skilled technician, with a flair for putting accents in the right places.

But, as long-time drummer Panama Francis once said, "When a drummer does a solo while a horn player is soloing, then he's not doing his job." He's supposed to keep the beat and the rhythm going.

The over-all sound of the ABR Quintete is good. They run the gamut from pure bop to fusion-high energy. Harold Williams on keyboards, uses a Fender-Rhodes electric piano with Univox synthesizer.

On the high energy number he is superb. Especially liked the interplay with the sax" Freedom Jazz Dance."

Marian Kaul is strictly into the fusion-mold . . . she is too young to have much of a repertoire of the older bop tunes. The tone is a triple weak, but the embrochure will tighten and improve as she continues to play.

Walked up the street to The Place, where Bill Bush plays jazz recordings on Wednesday nights.

First tune we heard when we entered the place was the original "Bernie's Tune," with Chet Baker and Gerry Mulligan. Haven't heard that tune in 20 years.

Bush has a fantastic collection and just calmly sits there and plays them . . . practically anything you can name.

Bill is also a personal friend of Thad Jones and Mel Lewis whose big band will be on hand for the Left Bank Jazz Society bash on Sunday.

About Thad, Miles Davis was quoted as saying, "I'd rather hear Thad miss one note, than hear Freddie Hubbard make 12."

As for Mel Lewis . . . he is strictly a big band drummer and alumnus of the Stan Kenton Band, he is a workmanlike time keeper.

Rick James & Stove City Band

By Frederick I. Douglass

I predict that one of the hottest albums this summer will be the debut release by Rick James and the Stone City Band which is appropriately titled "Come Get It."

Motown is doing it to death on this album by Rick James, presenting an unique new sound that combines the best elements of Disco, Rock, Funk, and hard core jamming.

The initial single release from the album — probably will be the jam, "Be My Lady," an up tempo cooker that is ideal for dancing, but is not the best cut on the LP. James will probably score a hit and then people will by the album because of "Be My Lady" and will then discover what the man can do. The album contains a strong ballod "Mary Jane" which contains a coded message that will titillate the minds of a lot of people. "Mary Jane" is a definite hit with its double entendre lyrics and roots in the song styling of Bootsy Collins. Bootsy's influence can also be heard on the ballad "Hollywood," but this does not mean that Rick James is not an original thinker.

The real nitty gritty of the album can be heard on the "Stone City Band," "You and I," and "Sexy Lady," three tunes that follow one another on the album and that keep a continuous party vibration going. With these three tunes you have a party that won't quit. "Stone City Band" is an up tempo smoker with well orchestrated horns and a throbbing bass line backed up by driving drums. Its a smoker.

"You and I" has a rather cliched beginning, but after James starts rolling he will definitely take you with him. I defy you to sit down while this jam is playing. Even the saxophone player and guitarist get some during this jam, firing off wicked solos that make this the meanest cut on the album. This tune has the potential of being another "Got to Give It UP." Watch out for Rick James.

Enoch Pratt

(Week of May 14-20)
Films

"Our Town," Central Pratt Library, Sunday 2 p.m.

"Santa Fe Trail," Pratt's Kirk Avenue Center, Monday 6 p.m.

"Madrid" and "Wings to Spain," Central Pratt Library, Tuesday 2 p.m.

"Wind Over Body," Pratt's Patterson Park Branch, Tuesday 7 p.m.

"Reel, Petite, and Gone," Pratt's Walbrook Branch, Wednesday 10 a.m.

"Santa Fe Trail," Pratt's Highlandtown Center, Friday 3 p.m.

Other

"Ms. Branch 17 Contest" for girls between the ages of 13 and 17. Sponsored by the Pratt Library; deadline for registration is May 18. For more information, please call or see Mrs. McClellan or Ms. James, Pennsylvania Avenue Branch, 523-5757.

Exhibits

"This Gilded Age: Victorian bookbindings," a selection of colorful and decorative examples of nineteenth-century publishers' bindings from the Peabody collection. Pratt's George Peabody Department, 17 East Mount Vernon Place, through August 1.

Art created by intellectually handicapped Baltimore City students for the Baltimore City Special Olympics. Central Pratt Library, second-floor cases, and Pratt's Waverly Branch. Through May 21.

EVENTS FOR CHILDREN
(Week of May 14-20)

Mon. May 15
Merrell Park Center: Film — "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," 6 p.m.

Tues., May 16
Central Library, Children's Department: Story hour for ages 6 to 12, 4 p.m.

Wed., May 17
Brooklyn Branch: Preschool story hour, 1:30 p.m.

Kirk Avenue Center: Films — "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" and "The Dog and the Diamonds," 2 p.m.

Northwood Branch: Puppet show presented by children of the Northwest community under the direction of Mona Cosgrove, member of the Pratt Library's Travelling Troubadours, 3 p.m.

Walbrook Branch: Films — "People Soup" and "The Red Balloon," 3 p.m.

Canton Center: Story hour for ages 6 to 12, 4 p.m.

Fort Worthington Center: Film — "All This and Rabbit Stew," 4 p.m.

Thurs., May 18
Brooklyn Branch: Arts and crafts for ages 6 to 12, 3:30 p.m.

Sat., May 20
Pennsylvania Avenue Branch: Preschool story hour, 10 a.m.

Central Library, Children's Department: Preschool story hour, 11 a.m.

THE LEFT BANK JAZZ SOCIETY
PRESENTS
JAZZ CONCERT EVERY SUNDAY
5 to 9 P.M.
THE FAMOUS BALLROOM
1717 N. CHARLES ST.
SUNDAY, MAY 14, 1978
THAD JONES-MEL LEWIS BIG BAND

TV Watching

By Vanessa Johnson

Friday,

Dinah: From Las Vegas guests are Redd Foxx, Mel Torme, Foster Brooks, Tom Hallick and Conway Twitty. 4:00-5:30 p.m. - Channel 9.

Mike Douglas: Joining co - host Parker Stevenson are Katherine Helmond, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Marvin Mitchelson and Freddie Roman. 4:40-6:00 p.m. - Channel 13.

Baseball: The Orioles vs. the Rangers at Arlington, Texas Stadium. 8:30-11:00 p.m. - Channel 13.

Midnight Special: Guest host Dickie Betts is joined by Genesis, George Benson, Elvin Bishop, Mahogany Rush and many others. 1:00-2:30 a.m. - NBC.

Sunday

Earl "Th Pearl" Monroe will be teaming up with his old New York Knicks running mate Dave DeBusschere when CBS Sports presents "Three on Three," the old halfcourt schoolyard basketball game, Sunday, May 14, (1:00-1:30 P.M., ET) on the CBS Television Network.

The CBS Sports version of "Three on Three" has a twist which pits c current National Basketball Association star with a former NBA star, and a show business celebrity. The single - elimination tournament, featuring eight teams competing for a winner's share of $10,000 per man, was played in Las Vegas in September, just prior to the opening of the NBA season.

Monday

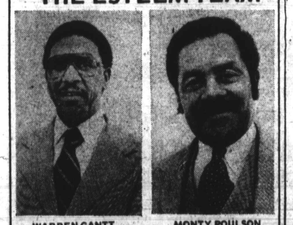
Five disabled youngsters play children's games and discuss their futures on the premiere of "Feeling Free," a six - part series beginning Monday, May 15 on stations of the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting — TV 22, 28, 31, and 67. From May 15 to May 22 the series airs weeknights at 5:30 p.m.

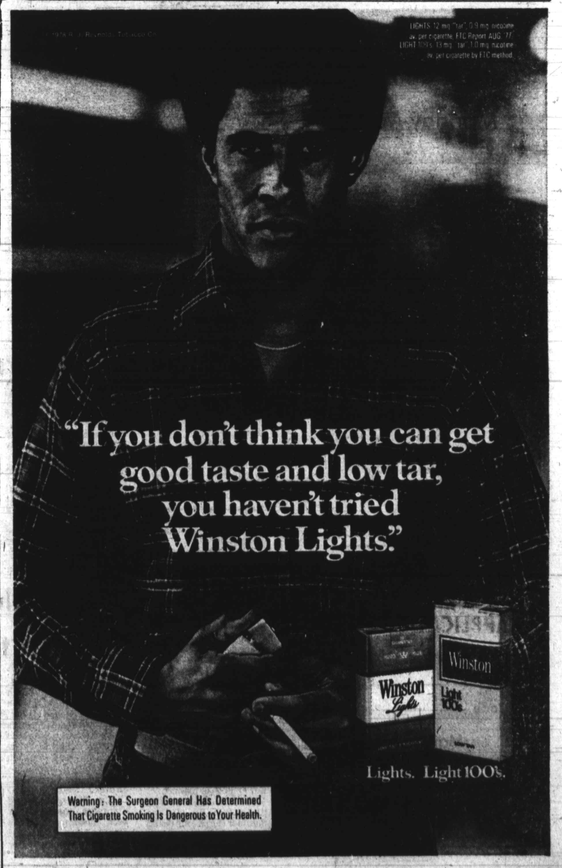
...and now a word

NEW YORK — Hank Thomas, the dynamic young businessman who heads Thomas Squared, Ltd., and, along with Melvin Van Peebles will produce "Blackjack," a new film, is at 34 a serious fellow who "plays the game flat out." His backers range from Florida to Boston and as far west as Dalls and Minnesota. He's had his 1977 Eldorado for seven months and it now has 70,000 miles on it. In addition, he's spent a small fortune on airline tickets as well.

With hubby Charles Hudgins out of town, Steve Schechter, Burson Marsteller's account exec for ITT's "Big Blue Marble," escorted Melba Moore to the birthday party for Studio 54 and the crush was so much outside and inside that Melba left early to conserve her strength for her Broadway hit, "Timbuktu." She had enough on Saturday, May 6, however, to co-host with "Kojak's" Kevin Dobson the fourth annual "Stop Arthritis Telethon" on WOR-TV, running through Sunday, May 7.

Duane L. Jones, executive director of the Black Theatre Alliance has been named Mayor Koch as a member of New York's Commission for Cultural Affairs.

THE ESTEEM TEAM

WARREN GANTT MONTY POULSON
AUTOMOTIVE CONSULTANTS
NEW CARS — USED CARS
TRUCKS — VANS
We Arrange Financing For Everyone.
Contact Us At!
AL PACKER
Lincoln-Mercury
5000 Belair Rd 488-6222

On Sunday 14th 3:30 P.M., WBAL
'Tony Brown's Journal.'
Black America in Sharper Focus.
You don't have to be black to appreciate it.
"Will Blacks Fit In?" A review of the twelve previous shows raises two disturbing questions: Can blacks ever truly be a part of the American mainstream? And if the black experience has been made illegitimate by the effects of slavery and racism, how is it legitimate? Tune in and find out.
Tony Brown's Journal.
Sponsored by Pepsi-Cola Company.
PEPSI
Bottled By Allegheny Under Appointment From Pepsico, Inc., Purchase, N.Y.

TV-RADIO TUBES
COMPLETE LINE OF PHONOGRAPH NEEDLES
$2.00 UP (TUBES CHECKED FREE)
WE REPAIR PORTABLE TV'S
RELAY ELECTRONICS
311 S. BROADWAY • PHONE 675-0580
Open Daily 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CLOSED THURSDAY