-INSTANT HITS

high.

FIRST SONG

"Darling Darling Baby" was
the first song that they sang as the
tension that had built up in the
crowd began to abate. The O'Jays
were on stage and singing. "Make
a Joyful Noise" was next, and
perhaps more than any other time
during the night, singer Williams
dug up some old dark gospel
feeling which the audience quickly
picked up on.

The flow of an O'Jay performance is so smooth that often times, and with the uncanny ability that only they have, the group segues into one tune after another while the audience hardly notices. Such was the case as they went into a new song, "Somebody Please" with Williams singing the lead.

And on "Somebody," the passion and feeling of each O'Jay crept off of the stage and into the audience; a young black woman in a wheelchair seemed to be able to do nothing more than rhythmically shake her head.

MANY PHASES

Williams, Levert, and Strain took turns being lead singers and, with a sense of drama, led the audience through the many phases of their music. Each of the three men took turns singing, pleading, and moaning in true virtuoso O'Jay style. "You've Got Your Hooks In Me," "Backstabbers," "She's A Lady," (which was dedicated to all of the ladies) and "Love Train," were included.

But, when "Let Me Make Love To You" began, with Levitt at the helm as lead singer, the pensive crowd went into a frenzy. All over the concert hall, lovers both old and young began to get closer; one lady fiercely embraced an infant child as tears streamed down her face.

The evening over, their message delivered, Sammy Strain, Eddie Levert, and Walter Williams gracefully said their goodbys to the many people who had come to see them.

In true O'Jay style, the smoothness and class that has characterized them for more years

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than many of those in the

audience were old, they bowed off

of the stage while the band

As they left the stage, I asked a group of young ladies what they thought of the O'Jays. The answer that one of them gave still resounds in my ears. "They getter better everytime...," she said.

And that is exactly the way it seems to be. with the O'Jays. Yesterday, and today, the group seems to just get better. Who knows what "better" will mean to tomorrow's O'Jays. There is no telling.



The O'Jays as they looked about 15 years ago. Note the difference in the hair style.



Andrew Young, the charismatic U.S. Ambassador To The U.N., was surrounded by talent after Aretha Franklin's recent performance at New York's Carnegie Hall. Whooping it up backstage with Mr.

Young were, (L to R), Epic recording star Patti Labelle, Stephanie Mills, Aretha and Dionne Warwick.

GOODFYEAR

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