What's Happening

'To make a poet black and make her sing'

Ida Peters

Oprah Winfrey, a talented artist as well as a Baltimore journalist, and the women of "Sweet Honey in the Rock" . . . Evelyn Harris, Yasmeen Williams, Patricia Johnson and Bernice Reagon, were guests Sundat at a press party given by the Mortgage Committee of Bethel A.M.E. Church.

The committee headed by Mrs. Mary E. Robinson, chairman; M's Janie McCullough, vice-chairman and Dorothy Parker, program chairman, held the affair at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Moss.

The committee is planning to combine the dramatic talents of Miss Winfrey and Sweet Honey's musical attributes in "An Evening of Drama and Song," Sunday, Oct. 15, 8 p.m. at Morgan State University. The theme of the evening is "To make a poet black and make her sing."

Miss Winfrey is a graduate of Tennessee State University where she received her Bachelor's degree in Speech and Drama. In 1971, she won the crown of Miss Black Tennessee and was a runner-up in the Miss Black America Pageant where she performed Langston Hughes' "Negro Mother." Prior to taking a positin with a Baltimore television station, she worked for a radio and television station in Nashville, Tenn.

Oprah Winfrey

"Sweet Honey in the Rock" is a group of black women who combine their talents as singers, songwriters and collectors to make a dynamic musical statement on the Black American experience. Recently, Redwood Records released the group's new album, "B'lieve I'll Run On . . . See What The End's Gonna Be,' which is a unique a cappella harmonies of these four women's music that explodes traditional black music into a new sound for today's world.

Guests attending the Sunday affair including retired A.M.E. Bishop and Mrs. Harrison J. Bryant and Bethel pastor, the Rev. and Mrs. John R. Bryant.

Also Phyllis Hathaway, Lorraine Hamilton, Donna Williams, Isobel Winkie Direlco, South Africa; Sieglinda M. Habersham, Jean M. Robbins, Oakland, Calif; E. Lee and Louise Lassiter, Richard and Jeanne Cummings, Gary Jenkins, Maurice Malone, Rachel Roberts, Martina Madden, Janis Madden, Doiguirl Sarator, Saundra E. Banks;

Also, Janie McCullough, Mary Moore Murray, Annie Belle Young, Clarice Scriber Phillips, Irving H. Phillips, Beverly Scriber Wright, Edgar H. Carter Sr., Veronica McNeill, Lyberian C. Massey, Louise Johnson, Paul Coates, Mr. and Mrs. Lamont Pittman, Dianna R. Johnson;

Syrelsa J. Jeffries, Marguerite Campbell, Rodney Lamont Carter, Dolores L. Winston, Margaret C. Wicks, Naomi H. Evans, Linda Hardy, Melodyne E. Hardy, Kewanee M. Smith, Carileen G. Plater, Shirley Potter;

And, Travis Winkey, Carmelita Cowles, Joseph Paul Johnson, Cynthia M. Hill, Ella G. White, Muriel E. Cousins, Julia Ball, Margaret Finch, James Whitehead, Victoria Edwards, Carolyn Holmes.

Oscar Brown Jr. and his daughter Iantha visited AFROlast week. He presented family show "Faces of Brown" at Gatsby's this past Tuesday.

Keene-Street Theatre opens second season

"Tambourines To Glory," a musical by Langston Hughes will open the second season of the Keene-Street Theatre.

Warren W. Street is the executive director who formed the group in May, 1977.

Eleanor Welch will play Essie Belle Johnson. She has worked with the Arena Players, The Vagabonds and The Theatre On The Hill.

Opening is set for Oct. 6 at Saint Ann Church, 2200 Greenmount Ave and then Oct. 13-29 at Walbrook Senior High School, 2000 Edgewood St.

Denise Weeks, new at Center Stage

The new Public Relations assistant at Center Stage is Denise Weeks, a graduate of Villa Julie College and Northern Arizona College in Flagstaff, Ariz.

The daughter of Willie and Wilhelmina Weeks of Penrose Avenue she is a graduate of Western High School. As a result of Delta Sigma Theta's Direct Search for Talent she attended the Arizona School, where she majored in Creative Theatre Arts Management.

She was a visitor to the AFRO to announce that the Young People's Theatre of Center Stage will have two new new professionals to perform in schools throughout Maryland.

Brenda Thomas comes to Center Stage from the Guthrie Theatre in the Minneapolis - St Paul area. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Grinnell College, Iowa. She has been a social worker, a journalist and has appeared in many film, video productions and commercials.

Kim Sullivan comes to Baltimore from Philly. She appeared at the Morris Mechanic in "The River Niger." Most recently she did a C & P Telephone commerical.

Sly Stone bodyguard booked in slaying

LOS ANGELES — A bodyguard for the leader of the rock group Sly and the Family Stone has been booked on suspicion of murder in connection with a shooting outside the singer's home.

Police said Joseph Taylor, 37, was arrested in connection with the death of Ricky Rhyme, 20, of Val Verde. Taylor lives at the Mandeville Canyon home of singer Sylvester "Sly" Stewart.

Authorities said Taylor brought Rhyme to the emergency ward at UCLA Medical Center Sunday for treatment of a gunshot wound. Rhyme died shortly after arrival.

Further details of the shooting were not immediately known.

'Wiz' star collapses

Stephanie Mills, star of the Broadway musical "The Wiz" was rushed to the hospital yesterday after she collapsed for the second time in a week.

Miss Mills collapsed yesterday morning while jogging near her home. She was taken to the Mount Vernon Hospital.

The 20-year-old actress said her condition was diagnosed as a disrupted metabolism caused by the lack of salt and she was discharged in the afternoon.

Stephanie Mills

Last Friday, Miss Mills started crying on stage during the second song of the show and then collapsed.

More

The recognized master of swing piano, Teddy Wilson, at the King of France Tavern in the Maryland Inn thru to Sept 3 Jazz Piano Festival.

Accompanied by Bassist Steve Novosel and Bill Reichenbach on drums, Teddy will make it look easy while it sounds facinating.

Alvin Alley's American Dance Theatre into Merriweather Post Pavilion, Dri and Sat., Sept., 2 - 3. You'll enjoy the a tistry of Judith Jamison in "Facets" to blues music and the ensemble in Ailey's "Streams."

Ora Reed of WJZ - 13, the Entertainment reporter, opened this week for five weeks at Caparelli's in Towson. She does a variety of songs . . . standards, some top 40s. She studied classical piano and has been singing professionally for three years.

Loren Lewis Jr. will direct Eugene Ionesco's "Exit The King" at the Lovegrove Alley Theatre, 1214 N. Lovegrove (Preston and Bibble) on Sept. 14 at 8:30 p.m.

The Arterials, a 10 - piece band singers who have been together for six years and were the first black group to play at the Mayor's Ball, will entertain this Sat., Sept. 2 at the Women's Detention Center on Eager St. On Sept. 19, they'll play for the men at the City Jail.

Sept. 4 the group will play for the George Washington University in Georgetown Homecoming. The group includes Harry Respass, manager - baritone; Harry Pope, singer baritone; Abraham Riley, tenor; Rodney Wilson, trumpet; Gregory Outlaw, electrician;

Also, Ronald Foy, bass guitar; Jackie Robinson, lead guitar; Andrew Spears, drums; Robert LeGrand, sax and Nathan Jackson, keyboards.

Dionne Warwick and The Stylistics into Painters Mill, Sept. 8 - 10. Ron Carter at Blues Alley in D.C. thru September 2.

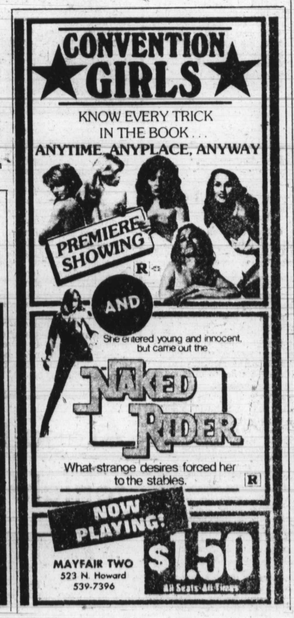
And now a word

NEW YORK — Tisha Campbell, the 9-year-old New Jersey singer, charmed reporters, attending a screening of the new fall series of "Bigh-Blue Marble" one on which she appears. The youngster has been appearing in Baltimore in "The Me Nobody Knows." Her upcoming appearance on "Big Blue Marble" will give her an international audience since the ITT-sponsored, award winning show goes all over the world.

Boxing returns tohHarlem on Friday, Sept. 8 when promoter Nancy Sciacca brings the first of many bouts to Vincent's Place, 55 West 125th Street, on the second floor of the CAV Building. Fights are also scheduled for Sept. 13 and 29.

Carol Banks O'Neal, wife of actor Ron O'Neal and herself an actress, has been on a cross country tour for TACimarkets 17 TV series for children, including "As We See It," "Vegetable Soup," "Watch Your Mouth" and "Bebop."

That loud noise you heard was the fall of the First Harlem Jazz Festival, the 15-day of jazz that only lasted four days. When the musicians didn't get paid, Local 802 of the musicians union, barred anysof its musicians from participating.



The Pips... calling on their own

In a field where stars often rise and all rapidly, the quarter century career of The Pips is the stuff of which legends are made. The second Casablanca LP, "Callin'," represents not only significant artistic growth, but also another chapter in The Pips' phenomenal success story.

"At Last . . . The Pips accomplished what we wanted — it made people sit up and take notice of us," Bubba added, 'Callin' is another step forward and closer to The Pips' real personality. It was also one of the most enjoyable albums we've ever made, because our relationship with (producer) Bunny Sigler is the closet rapport The Pips have had with a producer."

Bubba Knight, William Wright and Edward Patten have attained tremendous achievements with this album, but The Pips are stars in their own right as well as part of a professional entity. Their Casablanca solo album, "At Last . . . The Pips," gave the group such a chance to stand on its own, and the opportunity to sing songs from a male point of view, which was an interesting change for us," Bubba Knight noted.

This close-knit effort paid off on "Callin'." Sigler's beautiful, sophisticated production techniques are paired with The Pips' incredible vocals, a combination that takes each song to breath-taking heights. From the dynamic, opening bars of "Baby, I'm Your Fool" to the ethereal romaticism of "Love You Tonight," "Callin'" is a superb showcase of The Pips at their gight and confident best.

Confidence inspired by talent came early to The Pips, who began performing with Gladys Knight while they were teenagers in Atlanta, Ga.

"We think that developing an expanded identity for The Pips can only enhance what we've already accomplished with Gladys," said Bubba. 'Our dream is to become a Number One group. "Callin'" is another big step toward the realization of that dream."

Bill Lane in Hollywood

DELLA Reese proved to be just what the doctor ordered when she subbed for the ailing Peggy Lee at the opening of the new Hollywood club Scandals. Peggy had come down with a liver infection on the day of the opening, having held a grand party earlier at her Beverly Hills home to announce she was going to be the flagship singer for the new show spot which some say is the signal opener for efforts of many of late to try to bring back the so-called glory days of Hollywood.

Should be quite a job, as Hollywood is now one grand hellhole, rip-off heaven with "Up-Against-TheWall" tableau going on in full sight night and day, and the people up against the wall at the point of police guns usually black.

Anyway, Della Reese saved the day for Peggy and Scandals. The place was filled with opening-night patrons, most of the flamboyancy of yesteryear's Hollywood exhibited by some Hollywood media people who were in tribald, and mawkish, contrast to the film and recording stars present. The latter held low profiles, dressed, for the most part, in duds of the present day and applauding every note issued by the throaty Miss Reese.

Said singer Shirley Bassey: "This is the firt ume I can remember when I've had a chance to sit down and listen to and look at Della Reese and enjoy her the way I enjoy her on records and television. I love Peggy Lee, but I adore Della Reese. She has been my guiding star. I'm little in size compared to her, but I try to equal up to Della with a strong voice."

ALSO in the audience was new actress Gaye Thomas, a Vonetta McGee look-alike, on the arm of her press agent George Pryce. Actress Thomas just completed a television commercial for Ultra-Sheen and is doing a new "Star Trek-type" of television series now. The series will not be out until very late Fall, she says.

STARGAZING: "Kotter" and "Youngblood" star Lawrence-Hilton Jacobs says black actors can still become super-duper acting lights, proclaiming: "I'm confident it will happen to me, too. I know I'll be a superstar." Now that's what we'd call solid faith in the system.

DEBBIE ALLEN, who is choreographing and doing a cameo appearance in the upcoming film, "The Fish That Saved Pittsburgh," says she didn't know "how short I was" until she posed alongside basketball star "Dr. J," during the filming. Debbe and director Gilbert Moses' spouse singer Dee Dee Bridgewater also play cheerleaders in the unusual sports movie. They are called The Fish Sticks.

RANDY Jackson of The Jackson Family is clicking with his new recording, "How Can I Be Sure?" . . . Ne singers of Artista Records contracts are singer Bobby Womack and Dionne Warwick, the latter having left a pact with Warner Bros. Now Clive Davis of Arista is looking around for a producer who can relate to the Warwick kind of singing and come up with a winning album for her.

HARVEY Mason is primarily a drummer. But he is also a lot of other things. He is always busy doing them. He is the drummer on the new hit album on A&M by The Johnson whizzes, the Brothers Johnson. He wrote one of the songs on the album. Recently he completed an album with Syreeta Wright and also one with singer Minnie Ripperton which will be out soon. He's doing a TV theme with Bob James and spending his "spare" time working on his next solo album, as has been doing singer Phyllis Hyman.

THE SYLVERS again drawing sellout crowds, luring 30,000 into the concert hall recently in Chicago . . . . Arthur Prysock arrived back in town after a San Francisco gig to re-open at Ernie France's busy Parisian Room where not long ago he had the frowds standing all over the parking lot trying to get in like there was never any such thing as a money shortage . . . The Commodores also had'em flooding the streets getting to their two concerts with Ltd. at the Forum in Inglewood.

MARTHA Jean "The Queen" showed a lot of Detroiters what she could do with a gospel concert the other night in the Motor City when she staged hr Followers of Christ concert in that city's Masonic Temple. The performers were The Choralairs, The Rance Alen Group, The Mighty Clouds of Joy and gospel sensation Tessie Hill, among others. They had the staid Masonic sounding like a churchouse revival meeting. Sonny Carter of ABC Records' gospel department presented Tessie Hill the top female gospel singer award from Record World Magazine.

Top R & B Albums

1. Life is a Song Worth Singing — Teddy Pendergrass
2. Togetherness — LTD
3. Natural High — The Commodores
4. Blam! — The Brothers Johnson
5. Get Off — Foxy
6. Come Get It — Rick James
7. In The Night Times — Michael Henderson
8. A Taste of Honey
9. Sounds . . . And Stuff Like That — Quincy Jones
10. Natalie . . . Live — Natalie Cole

TV Watching

By Vanessa Johnson

Friday

Dinah: Dinah salutes the movie "Rabbit Test" with guests Joan Rivers, Billy Crystal, Jimmy Walker, George Gobel and many others. 4:00-5:30 p.m.-Channel 9.

ABC's All-Star Saturday: A preview of ABC's Saturday morning line-up which is scheduled to begin September 9. Starring Donny Osmond, Donny Most, Danielle Spencer "What's Happening" and many others. 8:00-9:00 p.m.-Channel 13.

Soundstage: Singer-composer Allen and soul vocalist Patti LaBelle share the stage. Patti sings Lady Marmalade." 9:00-10:00 p.m. Channels 22-47.

Midnight Special: A 1976 program that features Helen Reddy (hostess), The Eagles, Earth, Wind & Fire, the Electric Light Orchestra, Labelle, and many more. 1:00-2:30 a.m.-Channel 11.

Saturday

Fat Albert: Fat Albert and the gang learn it's not the occupation that matters but how well the work'd done. 12:00-12:30 p.m.-CBS.

Soul Train: Guests today are the Sylvers, and Kenny Brawner & Raw Sugar. 12:30-1:30 p.m.-Channel 11.

Hot City: Aretha Franklin sings "Almight Fire," and High Inergy perform "Thank God It's Friday." 4:00-5:00 p.m.-Channel 5.

Greatest Sports Legends: A tribute to Henry Aaron who hit more home runs (755) than any other player in major league history. 4:00-4:30 p.m.-Channel 7.

Love Boat: Doc has a new nurse, a former showgirl who turns out to be a medical whiz as well as an anatomical delight. 8:00-9:00 p.m.-Channel 7.

Saturday Night Live: Host Rob Reiner is joined by Penny Marshall, comedian Andy Kaufman, the Lockers dance group and comic duo the Nuns. 11:30-1:00 a.m.-NBC.

Sunday

NFL Today: O.J. Simpson comments on the trade that sent him from the Bills to the 49ers. Hosts are Brent Musburger, Irv Cross and Jayne Kennedy. 12:30-1:00 p.m. CBS.

Baseball: The Chicago White Sox vs the Orioles at Memorial Stadium. 2:00-4:30 p.m. Channel 13.

Top Jazz

1. Images — The Crusaders
2. Sounds . . . And Stuff Like That — Quincy Jones
3. Feels So Good — Chuck Mangione
4. Sunlight — Herbie Hancock
5. Tropico — Gato Barbieri
6. Freestyle — Bobbi Humphrey
7. Weekend in LA. — George Benson
8. You Send Me — Roy Ayers
9. Super Blue — Freddie Hubbard
10. Chick Corea

R & B Singles

1. Get Off — Foxy
2. Three Times A Lady — The Commodores
3. Holding On — LTD
4. Shake and Dance With Me — Con Funk Shun
5. You — The McCrarys
6. Got To Get You Into My Life — Earth, Wind & Fire
7. You and I — Rick James
8. Close the Door — Teddy Pendergrass
9. Take Me I'm Yours — Michael Henderson
10. I'm in Love — Rose Royce

Top Spiritual Albums

1. When Jesus Comes — Sara Jordon Powell
2. Live in London — Andrew Crouch & The Disciples
3. (Is There Hope for) Tomorrow — James Cleveland & the Charles Fold Singers
4. Tonight's The Night — Gospel Keynotes
5. Love Alive — Walter Hawkins & The Love Center Choir
6. Singing in the Streets — The Pilgrim Jubilee Singers
7. Live at Carnegie Hall — James Cleveland
8. Since I Layed My Burdens Down — The Swan Silver Tones
9. Mama Prayed For Me — Sensational Williams Bros.
10. Donald Vails Choraleers

Inspirational Top Albums

1. Mansion Builders — The 2nd Chapter of Acts
2. Mirror — Evie Tournquist
3. For Him Who Has Ears to Hear — Keith Green
4. Emerging — Phil Keaggy Band

Free at Enoch Pratt

"The Erie War" and "Metroliner." Central Pratt Library, Tuesday 2 p.m.

"The Age of Uncertainty: The Prophets and Promise of Classical Capitalism." Pratt's Patterson Park Branch, Tuesday 7 p.m.

"Roots: Freedom." Pratt's Clifton Center, Wednesday 4 p.m.

"The Six Wives of Henry VIII; Jane Seymour." Paratt's Waverly Branch, Thursday 2 p.m.

"My Favorite Brunette." Pratt's Gardenville Branch, Thursday 6:30 p.m.

"Mencken's America." Central Pratt Library, Saturday 11 a.m. Lectures.

Annual Mencken Day Lecture. "Mencken and Politics: Adventures of a Mencksniana Collector," by Joseph C. Goulden, newspaperman, Mencken buff, and author of "The Superlawyers," and "Truth is the First Casualty," and "Th Last Campaign: H.L. Mencken on the 1948 Election." Central Pratt Library, Wheeler Auditorium, Saturday 3 p.m.

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