WHAT'S HAPPENING

All Around Town

Ryales Photo

SOCIAL HOURS preceding the recent Educators' Awards Banquet found (L to R) Dr. Rafael Cortada, president of Community College of Baltimore; Congressman Parren J. Mitchell (D-7th), Dr. Andrew Billingsley, president, Morgan State University and Quentin R. Lawson, administrator, Mayor's Office, in cordial greeting.

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HONOREE AND GUESTS — Mrs. Dorothy F. Bennett, (seated) principal of Rosemont Elementary School and an honoree at the Central Summerfield United Methodist Church banquet recently, had scores of special guests including (L TO R) Kim Kidd, Margaret F. Johnson, Rudy M. Washington Jr., Gerald Johnson, Dora E. Foster, Carrie Staten, also an honoree; (SECOND ROW - L TO R) Dennis Foster, Florence Kidd, Mary Foster, Delores Parker, Maria Foster and (not shown) Robert Foster, Evelyn Lewis and Emma Edwards.

ROSEMONT AREA GUESTS — (L to R) Kim Kidd, Florence Kidd. Earla McKinnon, Virginia Lynch and Ella Strothers, all civic leaders and members of the Greater Rosemont Coalition.

Banquet Honorees and Guests

All photos by Ryales

Ryales Photo

MRS. THELMA COX, public school administrator, and husband Leonard Cox (Right) had as guests her parents, (Left) Mr. and Mrs. Charles (Thelma) Banks at the awards dinner when Mrs. Cox was presented an engraved plaque.

AWARD RECIPIENT Dr. Daniel L. Nicholas, (3rd right) associate professor, Community College of Baltimore, Harbor Campus, had as guests (L to R) his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Jacques (Luce) Lauture; his son and daughter, Richard and Betty Nicolas; Dr. Nicolas. City Editor Elizabeth M. Oliver and Rev. Sidney Sullivan gave the awards from the Summerfield Methodist Church and the AFRO. Mrs. Jeanette Shamwell (R) also received all three citations.

MORE GUESTS gathered at the Educators Awards Banquet hosted by the Central Summerfield Methodist Church included (L to R) Charles Evans, Rev. and Mrs. Reginald Daniels, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. Roland Williams, Mrs. Anetha Williams, his wife; Mrs. Ardell Vessells, assistant director, Lillie Carroll Jackson Museum and Delores Parker, retired Baer School teacher.

Proud Graduates

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CORRECTION OFFICIALS — Commissioner Edwin Goodlander, Warden Paul Davis, Maryland House of Correction; Graduate George Jones, Gordon Kamka, secretary of Safety and Corrections.

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COMPLETING a rigorous 2 - year program of college work leading to an Associate in Arts Degree in General Studies under Essex Community College at Jessups are Harvey Bell, Willie Corbett, Wendell Dixon, Willie Dockery, Michael Griffin, Edward Haynes, David Hudson, George Jones, Raymond Lee, Charles McKnight, Joseph Moore, James A. Petty, James Powell, Garland Spencer, Thomas Young, Ralph Watkins and Thomas Wilkins.

Special commencement ceremony

Special commencement ceremonies were held Aug. 28 in the Lecture Hall of Essex Community College in Baltimore County for 17 graduates of the Jessup two year program.

Dr. Vernon Wanty, college president, gave greetings. Gordon Kamka, secretary, Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, delivered the main address. Mrs. Marjean Irwin, of the board of trustees, conferred degrees.

Students from state penal institutions who completed academic requirements are Harvey Bell, Willie Corbett, Wendell Dixon, Willie Dockery, Michael Griffin, Edward Haynes, David Hudson, George Jones, Raymond Lee, Charles McKnight, Joseph Moore, James A. Petty, James Powell, Garland Spenee, Thomas Young, Ralph Watkins and Thomas Wilkins.

Full time faculty members who taught at Jessup included Robert Boileau, Dr. Michael Brand, Dr. Eugene Holmen, John Hutchins, Dr. Henry Knopf, Stan Markowitis, Dr. Padadantonakis, Ms. Eileen Silberman, Dr. Alvin Starr, William Steger, Dr. Rollin J. Watson and Ms. Linda Seidman.

The program was established in 1975 by the Office of Continuing Education and Community Services at ECC. George Jones, a 1980 graduate, explains, "We are incarcerated citizens who seek to become assets to society, not liabilities. Like any intelligent human beings, we seek to correct our wrongs. We seek transformation and change."

RYALES PHOTO

GRADUATE AND FAMILY — Harrison A. Yeomn, graduate (C) had as commencement guests (L TO R) Farrell Parker, Jacqueline Robinson El, Larry Parker, Rachel DeFord, Mr. Yeomn, Helen Jones, Leonard Washington, Cynthia Jones and O'Dell Robinson El.

SHOWTIME

★Theatre
★Music
★Art

Meet the Flamingos...

They sold AFRO's and lived on Whatcoat Street

By Ida Peters

They drove up to the AFRO Entertainment office in a Lincoln Continental with New York license plates. Their suits were conservative but reeked of exclusive tailors. Their fingers were decked with diamonds and silver with Lapis Lapadeli settings.

And that's how the AFRO met the Flamingos, the Original Flamingos now playing a command performance for two weeks at the Sheraton Inn in Frederick, Md. thru Sept. 14.

Before the interview was over we found they used to live in Baltimore in what was then a top AFRO Clean Block on Whatcoat Street in the Lafayette Square area of Northwest Baltimore; Sonny Til used to live on their block as did Chick Webb and they used to sell the AFRO as young boys.

The Original Flamingos were founded in Chicago 28 years ago by Jake and Zeke Carey (cousins) and since have recorded 100 tunes, their greatest hits being "I Only Have Eyes For You," "Lovers Never Say Goodbye," "Golden Teardrops," "I'll Be Home" and "Boogaloo Party."

Today the group is based in New York and they work 50 weeks out of the year in Vegas, Madison Square Garden, supper clubs and since the death of Joe Glaser, their long-time manager, have their own production firm.

They also have a new album now getting airplay on local radio stations which includes the tunes, "In Touch With You (Making Love Ain't Nothing Better)" and "Someone to Watch Over Me — There's Somebody, I Need Somebody."

Jake and Zeke Carey told the AFRO that they have had trouble with bogus groups in recent years and they won a case filed in Baltimore to stop these groups from using their name. They obtained a federal trademark for the "Flamingos" name.

On this page are pictures of the Flamingos in the 1950s and how they look today. Paul Wilson, retired; Johnny Carter is with the Dells; Nat is on his own and Tommy Hunt lives in England.

Jake and Zeke are the founders of the Flamingos and the cohesion that has kept the group together thru the years. Frank Ayers, another member who visited with them is out of Brooklyn, N.Y. and has been with the group for 12 years.

Jake was born in Pulaski, Va. At 2 his family moved to Bluefield, W. Va. Then Isaac and Elizabeth Carey moved to Baltimore. They lived at 1349 Whatcoat St. where Jake attended No. 107 on Gilmor Street; No. 109 and Douglass High School. He graduated from Douglass High School and has no memories of histeachers except for Llewelyn Wilson. Of Booker T. Washington Junior High, he has memories of one girl, Cleo Brown . . . which convulsed the whole group in laughter.

Jake's family started in Bluefield, W. Va. and followed Jake's to Baltimore where they moved into 1343 Whatcoat. He attended No. 107 and then moved to Portland, Va. where he attended Norfolk County High School.

As children, Zeke and Jake started singing in church which was then Temple Beth-el, a group of black Jews which is Ethiopian in origin. The temple was located at Lafayette and Gilmor, now the site of Gilmor Homes. The young people sang a Capello.

The young people moved to Chicago . . . Jake in hopes of a college education when they were "messing around with songs" at a picnic on Chicago's West Side and won a talent contest on July 4, 1952. "Nobody else showed up" joked Jake, "but a Mr. Witherspoon, a promoter, heard us and then Jimmy Thurman took us to his boss, Ralph Leon, a booking agent." They had been singing at house parties and rent parties but now they got their first contract at The Club DeLisa on the Southside.

The Careys say they have never visited the AFRO building in their long career but they do remember selling the AFRO. They used to get a lot of mileage out of one paper. While one would deliver at the front door, the other . . . "because money was so tight and they didn't have any" . . . the other would knock on the back door and the one at the front, having been paid would lift the paper and resell it at the next stop.

The Flamingos played the Frederick Sheraton Lounge in January, 1980 and were so successful, they were asked back by popular demand.

And, audiences still ask for their most popular hits, "I Only Have Eyes For You" and "Lovers Never Say Goodbye."

Flamingos today include Earl Nesmith, Frank Ayers, Jake Carey and Zeke Carey.

Flamingos in 1950 included Paul Wilson, Johnny Carter, Nat Nelson, Jake Carey and Zeke Carey.

Jake Carey, Zeke Carey and Frank Ayers, members of the popular singing group, "The Flamingos" on recent visit to AFRO.

Jean Carn

By Sue Williams

The electrifying voice of songstress Jean Carn was in Baltimore this week for four performances at the Gatsby.

Singing to capacity crowds, Ms. Carn offered some of the hits that put her on the charts, including, "My Love Don't Come Easy," "Don't Let It Go To Your Head," and "Let's Be Together."

Her delivery of Melba Moore's hit ballad, "Lean On Me," was surprisingly powerful and rich, and is due to be recorded by her in the near future.

Ms. Carn's voice has been described by some as laden with too heavy a vibrato, too raspy and too harsh, but her performances this week showed growth and development into a richer, darker tone. Her ability to play with her voice, pushing it up and down what seemed to be a very large range and making it spit out different emotions all within one song gave her performance a vitality and a presence of artistry that to this reviewer was quite new.

She has moments when she sacrifices musical tones for what sounds like mere screaming, but those moments are few and far in-between, and certainly much less than she has rendered in the past. And although she sings songs which belong to the pop-jazz motif, it was apparent from her depth of delivery that she could be a very powerful straight jazz musician if she so chose.

Speculation notwithstanding, Ms. Carn gave Baltimore a treat and an opportunity to see just how powerful musical growth can be.

Jean Carn

Calendar

Wilma Rudolph, the only American woman ever to win three Olympic gold medals, will be guest speaker at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland on Tuesday, September 23, beginning at 8:15p.m. Ms. Rudolph opens the college's season lecture series. For ticket information, call 435-0100...Saxophonist Gary Bartz, who was in Baltimore not long ago to give a concert at the Inner Harbor, will be back in the city tonight(Friday) at the Bandstand, 1616 Fleet Street... Poetess Nikki Giovanni will be guest speaker at Morgan State University on Wednesday, September 17, at 11:00a.m. Admission is free. For more information, call the student government office 444-3454...Blues singer Joe Williams brings his sound to Goucher College October 10...Langston Hughes' classic,"Tambourines to Glory," opens at the Arena Playhouse next Friday, September 19, at 8:30p.m. The gospel-musical is a long-standing favorite of director Sam Wilson...Theater buffs are also encouraged to check out free performances given by the Free Spirit Theater, every Wednesday evening at 9:00p.m. at The Closet, located at 224 W. Franklin Street.

Former Gold - medalist Wilma Rudolph.

Nikki Giovanni

Museums

Antique automobiles will be displayed at the Baltimore Streetcar Museum on Sunday, September 14, from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. through the courtesy of the Chesapeake Antique Auto Club of America.

Admission to the museum is free. Regular fares (adults, $1.00, children 50 cents) will be in effect for rides aboard the Museum's collection of antique streetcars.

The Baltimore Streetcar Museum is located at 1901 Falls Road. Visitors are reminded that Falls Road is closed at 28th Street, and approach to the Museum must be made from the south via Lafayette Ave.

Eurla Frederick will present her adaptation of "The Fox and the Crane" in the Wurtzburger Sculpture Garden of the Baltimore Museum of Art on Sunday, September, 21 at 2:00 p.m., using puppets and marionettes all handcrafted and costumed by her.

Ms. Frederick has held many puppet shows in the Baltimore area, and creates shows of educational and cultural value that appeal to all age groups.

In the event of rain, the show will be held in the Main Court of the Museum.

For more information, call 396-6310.

Art buffs should plan to frequent the Baltimore Museum of Art this season to take advantage of the many free and ongoing exhibits and activities.

The prints of Van Dyck will be on display through October 5, and some of the finest prints and drawings will be on display from October 28 through December 21, courtesy of the Print and Drawing Society.

Beginning September 30, selections from the collection of Chinese export porcelain formed by Elinor and Horace Gordon over the last 35 years will be on exhibit in the Woodward Wing.

Prints made for the Works Progress Administration project, depicting pre-World War II America will be on display in the "Museum in the Mall" in Columbia September 24.

Special events at the Museum include a Holiday Arcade of Shops on October 26, Teacher's Night, October 23 from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., a sculpture course (non-credit), to be held in six consecutive Wednesday afternoons beginning October 8, and a bus trip to the Brandywine River Museum in Chadds-Ford, Pennsylvania on September 30.

For more information on all the activities planned this year at the Museum, call 396-7101. —

Night Scene Seen

By Bob Matthews

By now you probably know that the Sphinx Club, which was ordered to close for three days beginning Sept. 5, did not, and remains open. So what happened?

The answer is really simplicity itself. The club did not close, for an appeal has been filed, and by board rules, they may remain open until the appeal question is settled.

According to our informants, business was way off over the last weekend, as many would-be patrons stayed away in anticipation of the closing. Actually, the word came down to the club management at the last minute that they had a reprieve.

However, another top spot in town has closed, although we have no idea for how long. Referring to Big Daddy's out on Reisterstown Rd., which shuttered this week, following a highly successful weekend.

Insiders tell the Scene that bankruptcy proceedings have or will be filed, so the fate of the establishment is unknown. Of course Night Scene will find out for you.

Our spies report that the club was picketed last weekend by musician Warren Garrison, who was under the impression that he had been hired for the weekend.

The John Lamkin quartet played, but it was a more or less makeup booking from a previous commitment. Should have been tipped then that something was brewing at the spot—whew!

Got a call from Dorothy Anderson of the Black Satin Lounge, out on Reisterstown Rd., who said that the club will hold an appreciation party next Thursday, Sept. 18.

Couldn't imagine what an appreciation party was, and it turns out to be the club's opportunity to thank patrons for patronizing the place. They intend to feed the assemblage, and even pass out little token gifts.

The Left Bank Jazz Society presents the Tim Eyerman East Coast Offering for the Sunday afternoon concert this week, a strictly modern, electronics oriented jazz-fusion group.

They do a lot of interesting things, with lots of original music and arrangements, with technically superior execution, although the gutsy swinging things don't quite measure up to some of the funk groups.

The Famous Ballroom will also be the site of a cabaret-concert given by the Big Seven, who are presenting the legendary "Big Nick" Nicholas quartet, Saturday night, Sept. 13.

Buddy Tate

It's a pity that Big Nick is not better known, for he's been gigging around for a long time, and is really a "cooker" on tenor sax. The way he holds his horn kinda reminds us of Lester (Pres) Young.

Another living legend is on tap this weekend at The Bandstand, where Buddy Tate will be in residence through Sunday night.

Backup group will consist of Steve Novosel, bass; Gus Simms, piano, and Dude Brown, drums. On Saturday night only, Donald Bailey will replace Novosel on bass.

Kept trying to figure out where we last heard Gus Simms play, and finally the light dawned, that he was here last as pianist with the Sonny Stitt group.

Another of the clubs trying to make it on the jazz scene is The Bucket of Blues on Charles and Mt. Royal, which is presenting the Jimmi Johnsun ensemble on Wednesdays.

According to the flyer for the club, they have guest groups on Fridays and Saturdays, but details have not been given.

You hear so much these days about people who watch crimes being committed without lifting a finger. They plead: "I don't want to get involved."

So, it is a pleasure to relate what happened in the 1800 block N. Gay St. when Leonard Byrd, proprietor of Byrd's Liquor Store, saw a bunch of young thugs forcing entrance to a waiting MTA bus.

While one forced a rear door, the others in his mob boarded the bus and was snatching pocketbooks from the bus riders.

Byrd didn't hesitate, he grabbed the young tough who was holding on to the rear door, and dragged him into his store where he was held for police.

When questioned about it, Byrd merely stated: "We can't have that sort of thing in front of my store—it gives the neighborhood a bad name."

A tip of the wine glass to Leonard from Night Scene.