Park Way Records gave a party for their customers and friends and raised $600 for AFRO's Santa last Sunday at The Ritz. Enjoying the fun are Dr. Wallace H. Sifford Jr., Mrs. Darlene Wade, Charles Owens and Mrs. Marsha Harper.

SHOWTIME

'Stir Crazy' drove me 'stir crazy'

Dear Boss:

Your assignment to visit the New Theatre downtown and check out Sidney Poitier's new movie "Stir Crazy" starring Gene Wilder and "That's Nigger's Crazy" Richard Pryor, in his first new flick since he tried to burn himself up ... was quite a far out trip.

"Stir Crazy," a movie about two men, a black actor played by Richard Pryor and a white playwright played by Gene Wilder. Both have recently lost their jobs and decided they should head out west. They get jobs at a local bank performing as woodpeckers. While at lunch, the bank is robbed — Of course, they are arrested and sentenced to 30 years in jail.

Here is where the fun begins. The warden wants Wilder to ride in the State Rodeo and he and Pryor decide to use this opportunity to escape. They do so successfully. That is the gist of the whole flick.

The movie is directed by Sidney Poitier and it has his signature on it. It resembles "Uptown Saturday Night" and "Let's Do It Again."

The major difference is those were family movies. "Stir Crazy" rated R. It did not have to be. The nudity and cursing could have been omitted. When you have 40 million dollars to spend - who thinks of the family?

Pryor puts on a good performance, as does George Stanford Brown who plays the part of a homo who spends his time hanging around Pryor in hopes of winning his favor. There is not much to say about the plot. The comedy is good. If you need a good laugh go to see it.

Might have enjoyed the movie more had not the audience driven me "Stir Crazy." We (African Americans) pay to enter the theatre and proceed to perform for free. This reporter really did not appreciate the drinking or the smoking of those funny little cigarettes and hearing your gutter vocabulary hurled across the room.

Seems these characters use the cloak of darkness to process those skills needed in the struggle.

These were adults and not children. And speaking of children — why were there so many at this local downtown theatre during school hours?

And why doesn't someone take a broom to the New Theatre's floor? This reporter saw the movie at 2 p.m. in the middle of the day and it was filthy!

Kirov Ballet dancer at School for Arts

Alexander Minz, former dancer with the Kirov Ballet in Russia and principal dancer with the American Ballet Theater will be in residence at the Baltimore School For The Arts Jan. 6-9, 1981.

Mrs. Minz will be teaching classes in ballet and character dance to students in the school's dance department.

In addition, the School For The Arts Foundation will sponsor a master class which will be open to advanced ballet dancers in the community.

According to Sylvester Campbell, Department Head of Dance at the School For The Arts, "Sasha Minz is a great artist and teacher. This opportunity certainly should not be missed. We are fortunate to be able to bring Mr. Minz to Baltimore and pleased to be able to invite the community to participate."

The class will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 7, from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. at the School For The Arts. There is no admission fee, however, space is limited and reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. A limited number of observers will also be admitted by reservation.

For more information, please contact Leslie Seyfert, Baltimore School For The Arts, 396-1135 or Grayce - 435-4220.

David Carroll and Mrs. Shirley Johnson enjoy party at The Ritz.

Jesse Walker's N.Y.

NEW YORK — Con Edison and the Black Theatre Alliance are sponsoring the first New York City Energy Conservation Conference for Non-Profit Theatres, to be held in early 1981. Participants will include companies from BTA's 68-member alliance, BTA neighbors on Theatre Row on 42nd Street, members from The Off-Off Broadway Theatre and the Association of Hispanic Artists.

Speaking at the recent Image Awards in Hollywood, Geraldine Green, president of the Beverly Hill-Hollywood Branch, NAACP gave good reason why the NBC-TV's airing of "Beulah Land" was so vigorously deplored by Blacks. Tallmerstown, USA, which captured an Image, was cancelled from the fall schedule, she pointed out, as was the CBS show, "Paris" which starred James Earl Jones as a detective and landed Jones an Image as best actor in a dramatic series. Irene Cara copped the best motion picture actress award for her work in MGM's "Fame," which also won the best picture Image.

France Joli, a 17-year-old Canadian pop singer who achieved international acclaim with her hit single "Come To Me," completes the final singing tracks for her second album on the next "Big Blue Marble" segment, the ITT award-winning TV show for youngsters who "Dear Pen Pal" animated segment has matched two million children worldwide.

"Sophisticated Ladies", the musical based on the life and times of Duke Ellington, received scathing reviews after opening Broad in Philly. One reviewer said "there are too many songs, often in indigestible bunches that sight classics. There are also too many too-similar dances, too many ensemble tableaux dissipating the effect of solid solo turns. And too much noise." Also: Dialog is non-existent. Hines Gregory, as host, utters occasional perplexing sentences attributed to Ellington. What's more, a legal notice appearing in trade publications gives notice the name "Sophisticated Ladies" is patented by Barrington Management Corporation of Barrington, IL, a show making personal appearance tours since 1979.

Who pays attention to the film critics? The Sidney Poitier-directed "Stir Crazy," with Richard Pryor & Gene Wilder, the film that opened to 5 unfavorable reviews in NYC brought in $8,731,197 its first three days in 813 theatres. And "Popeye" opened to seven unfavorable reviews, but brought in $6,810,520 its first three days in 109 locations.

Disc jockey Mary Thomas exited WBLS-FM for similar on air

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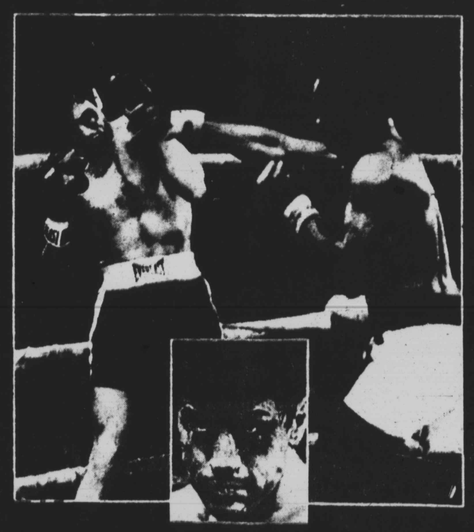

A ROBERT CHARTOFF-IRWIN WINKLER PRODUCTION

ROBERT DE NIRO

in A MARTIN SCORSESE PICTURE

"RAGING BULL"

Produced in association with PETER SAVAGE. Screenplay by PAUL SCHRADER and MARDIK MARTIN. Based on the book by JAKE LA MOTTA with JOSEPH CARTER and PETER SAVAGE. Director of photography MICHAEL CHAPMAN. Produced by IRWIN WINKLER and ROBERT CHARTOFF. Directed by MARTIN SCORSESE

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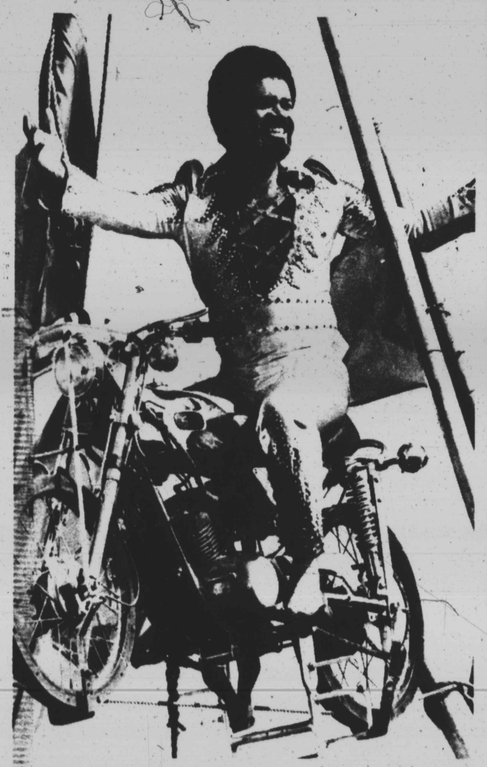
NOW SHOWING!

Mrs. Juanita Booker finally got a chance to meet President-elect Reagan for the first time after she sang "Battle Hymn of the Republic" at a Republican Fund Raiser. When they met, Mr. Reagan told her if he ever got to be president, he wanted her to sing the "Star Spangled Banner" at the White House. She'll sing it at the inauguration January 20. She is a hairdresser and mother of five.

One of the top compliments is to have a doll modeled after you, and one of the latest is "Florence, Upstairs Maid," which is modeled on the character Marla Gibbs plays in the television series "The Jeffersons." "Wind it up," said Marla, "and it does windows." Which is strictly a wisecrack, for Florence doesn't do windows — and the doll can't be wound up either. Spotlite just chuckles.

SPOTLITE



During the recent television special "Circus of the Stars," Ted Lange, who plays the bartender on the series "Loveboat" did some daredevil stunts on a motorcycle. What wasn't commonly known, however, is that Ted is afraid of heights and had never ridden a motorcycle before.

Spotlite felt this was a striking illustration of the old versus the new as helicopters from the 101st Airborne Battalion from Ft. Campbell, Ky. fly over the pyramids of Egypt on the outskirts of Cairo. It all happened during the military operation "Bright Star" conducted in the desert outside Cairo.

All college sports teams have a knickname, and so has Morgan State College in Baltimore. Its teams are called the Bears. Which led the way for Gino's Corp. to commission the wooden sculpture of a bear, present it to the college, and run a contest to name the mascot. Mitchell Thomas presents the bear to college president Andrew Billingsley as James Scammel looks on. Oh, the name? The winning name is "Chewemup."

In the spirit of the holiday season, Spotlite presents a scene that is familiar in most households who celebrate Christmas, the selection of the tree. All of which is a slightly obtuse way of wishing you and yours a happy holiday season from all of us, and especially Spotlite.