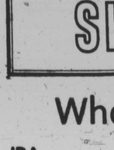
SHOWTIME

What's Happening

IDA PETERS



SOMETIME, SOMEWHERE. When you Least Expect It. Melody Thomas, who portrays Nikki Reed on "The Young and the Restless," the popular drama broadcast weekdays on the CBS Television Network, was on her way home from the studio, where she was called upon that day to do a lot of crying over the death of the character Cash (played by John Gobson). Totally drained, she stopped at a newsstand to look over her favorite daytime television magazines. Suddenly, she sensed someone looking at her intently from behind.

"You're Melody Thomas, who plays Nikki on 'The Young and the Restless,' aren't you?" a voice asked.

Mrs. Thomas, not really in the mood for attention at that moment, answered, "Yes," without looking.

At that point, the voice, offering a hand for shaking, said: "I'm pleased to meet you. I'm a big fan of yours. My name is Aretha Franklin."

"Oh," Miss Thomas said, turning around to face the queen of soul music. "I sure am pleased to meet you, and I'm a big fan of yours!"

One can't be sure what the future holds in terms of personal encounters, but Melody Thomas will certainly by looking around the next time she stops by that newstand.

Citizens salute J.C. - A letter to WJZ from Sue Kelly of Ellicott City, MD, cites "Evening's" "favorite cab driver," J.C. Green, for services above and beyond the call of duty.

It seems that when Ms. Kelly's 86-year-old father, from St. Mary's County, came in to Baltimore's V.A. Hospital he was supposed to meet his family there after his appointment. Somehow their paths never crossed and by 7:30 p.m., the frantic family members in Ellicott City received a phone call from J.C., who had their father in town. J.C. deposited his passenger safely with his grandchildren. It also seems that the gentleman was given a new pape courtesy of Greene's Taxi Service.

William Blayney, a clarinetist from New York City, will perform in recital on Friday, April 23 at 8 p.m. on the Baltimore School For The Arts faculty recital series. This will be the last recital in this year's series. Admission is free.

The program will include works by Cahuzae, MacDowell, Francaix, Reband and Brahms. "Night Hawk" a work for solo clarinet written for Mr. Blaypey by Ray Sprenkle, will receive its world premiere. Clinton Adams will assist on piano.

Mr. Blayney, who made his professional debut at the age of 12, studied with David Weber, solo clarinet of the New York City Ballet Orchestra. He later attended the Peabody Institute in Baltimore as a scholarship student of Ignatius Gennusa. He is currently on the faculties of the Peabody Preparatory Department and the Baltimore School For The Arts.

Free Corsages The first 200 secretaries who attend the City's 4th Annual Secretary's Day celebration will receive a free corsage courtesy of Clay Florist. The event is scheduled for April 22, 1982 at 12 noon in War Memorial Plaza.

Entertainment will include a fashion show presented by the Barbizon School of Modeling and music by Al "Madman" Baitch and Bank. In addition, door prizes donated by local businesses will be given away in free drawings throughout the program.

Girl Scout Cookies "A big thank you" to Girl Scout Volunteers, some 20,000 Central Maryland Girl Scouts, their parents, and the citizens of Central Maryland for making the 1982 Girl Scout Cookie Sale the most successful one in the Council's history.

Cookie sales during the 1982 fund raiser totalled 1,140,144 boxes sold according to reports in thus far. The annual sale, which was conducted during March ended last week with sales increasing by 13.2 over last year and surpassing the desired goal of 1,045,000 boxes.

Funds raised will be tagged for Girl Scout programs throughout the 1982 year and help fund Capital improvements to campsites, camperships, and grants to girls and adults who need financial assistance in order to participate in Girl Scout programs. Troop profits will help but materials for community service projects, camping supplies and fund various trips the troops may make.

On Lena the most astonishing event in recent theatrical history will come to an end on Wednesday, June 30 when "Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music" ends its triumphant, record-breaking, award-winning, unprecedented Broadway run at the Nederlander Theatre, 208 W. 41st Street.

Why June 30. It's Lena's 65th birthday, and plans are afoot for a gala final performance celebration worthy of this great, great legend.

Lena's words, at this time of triumph are directed to the audiences and critics who have loved her show, "You'll sure know how to make an old lady feel great!"

The Four Tops: (Levi Stubbs, Renaldo "Obie" Benson, Abdul "Duke" Fakir and Lawrence Payten).

Four Tops here Saturday Local actor on way to Broadway?

The Four Tops will be singing their chart hit, "I'm Going to Love You Forever" when they play at Painters Mill Star Theatre, Saturday, April 17.

The Four Tops' career broke wide open in 1964 when the group released "Baby, I Need Lovin'." It was the first song the Tops had recorded for Motown Records, and it became a million seller. Followed by such equally popular songs as "It's the Same Old Song," "I Can't Help Myself" (which Billboard Magazine designated the biggest selling record of 1965), "Reach Out, I'll Be There," "Standing in the Shadows of Love," and "Walk Away Renee," the Four Tops rode the crest of the Motown rags-to-riches story in the 1960s.

The Four Tops had come to Motown in 1963, following an earlier tenure with the R&B giant, Chess Records. The four—Levi Stubbs, Renaldo "Obie" Benson, Abdul "Duke" Fakir, and Lawrence Payten— first sang together during their high school days in Detroit, and eventually formed a professional group (originally called the Four Aims). The vocalists' string of hits for Motown continued with the onset of the '70s. They included "Still Water Runs Deep" and "It's All In The Game." The Four Tops also collaborated with the Supremes on three successful albums.

In 1973, the Four Tops decided to continue their

(Continued on Page 19)

'One Mo' Time', back at Mechanic revives days of 1920s vaudeville

By Ida Peters

From the time the New Orleans Blue Serenaders swing out with "Darktown Strutters Ball" until they wind up two hours later with a rousing "Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight", audiences will find out what vaudeville was like back in the 1920's in the New Orleans, Baltimore, Washington, Richmond on the old T.O.B.A. Circuit (Theatre Owners Booking Assoc.)

And this time around, unlik their grandmothers and grandparents of 56 years ago, the glories of a show at the old Lyric Theatre at the corner of Iberville and Burgundy in New Orleans will be viewed by inter-racial audiences seated together on the first floor.

To many young people this will be their first exposure to famous composers and lyricists such as Andy Razaf, Clarence Williams, Bessie Smith and Spencer Williams.

Andy Razaf (1895-1973) wrote "Kitchen Man" with Alex Bellenda for "One Mo' Time" as well as "Don't Turn Back On Me" with Clarence Williams.

Andy Razaf wrote over 1,000 songs collaborating with such famous composers as Eubie Blake, Fats Waller, Louis Armstrong and Clarence Williams. Many of his tunes were in "Eubie" and "Bubbling Brown Sugar".

Razaf most famous tunes are "Honeysuckle Rose", "Ain't Misbehavin'", "Stomping at the Savoy", "Prisoner of Love". His first big hit was "Supposin'" introduced by Rudy Valle.

Clarence Williams was a friend and promoter of Bessie Smith. He wrote songs for her and accompanied her on the piano. His songs in this show are "Papa Du Da", "Wait 'til You See My Baby Do the Charleston", "I've Got What It Takes" and "The Right Key But the Wrong Keyhole".

Clarence Williams found Bessie Smith when she was 17 singing in a bar in Selma, Ala. He introduced her to Frank Walker of Columbia Records who between February and June, 1923 made 16 sides of Bessie Smith. The first "Downhearted Blues Gulf Coast Blues" was such a fantastic success it sold three quarters of a million dollars. Records cost $1 in those days of the segregatedc South and saved the Columbia Records Company from bankruptcy.

Spencer Williams (1899-1965) is the jazz musician and composer who wrote "Papa De Da Da". His most famous songs were "I Ain't Got Nobody", 1915; "Basin Street Blues", "Squeeze Me" (with Fats Waller) 1918; "Careless Love", 1922.

Born in New Orleans, Spencer Williams wrote Josephine Baker's songs for the Folies Bergere and Casino de Paris in 1935. He was a partner in a vaudeville act with Fats Waller in London, 1932.

Ronald (Smokey) Stevens is (Papa Du), a takeoff of the great black dancers; seated right is Lynn Clifton Allen (Ma Reed), a takeoff of Ma Rainey. Standing, left, Adjora Faith McMillan (Thelma) and Yvonne Talton Kersey (Bertha).

Bessie Smith was "Empress of the Blues," and she wrote "My Man Blues" featured in "One Mo' Time."

Bill (Bojangles) Robinson was King of tap dancers in the 1920s when the Charleston was the craze.

Andy Razaf, lyricist and jazz composer, wrote words for music for Eubie Blake's "Memories of You" and other tunes in "Bubbling Brown Sugar." In "One Mo' Time" are "Kitchen Man" and "Don't Turn Your Back On Me," with Clarence Williams.

Ma Rainey was called the "Mother of the Blues" and used to winter in New Orleans. She was short, plump, dark and flashy and were real diamonds in her ears, around her neck, on her head and her fingers. She was the Fairy Godmother who dressed up the blues and took them to the ball.

Folks say they will never forget Bessie Smith singing...

Once I lived the life of a millionaire
Spending my money, I didn't care,
I carried my friends out for a good time,
Buying bootleg liquor, champagne and wine.
Then I began to fall so low
I didn't have a friend and no place to go
Then I began to fall so low
I didn't have a friend and no place to go
I'm gonna hold on to it till them eagles grin.

Coming next week: The AFRO has an exclusive interview with Ronald "Smokey" Stevens who plays (Papa Du) in "One Mo Time". He's a D.C. native and attended Bowie State College.

Also coming in Tuesday's AFRO an exclusive interview with Albert Bemiss the piano man and musical director who

Bob Matthews

This is one of those weekends wherein live music is plentiful all over the area.

Starting here at home, **The Closet** is presenting Carl Grubbs, alto saxophonist, along with Billy Murphy, drums; Tim Murphy, piano; and Larry Kingling, bass.

They will be on hand through Sunday night.

At **The Sportsmen's Lounge**, Michael Lee and Co. remain the weekend night attraction. Along with Michael's vocals, are Benny Russell, sax; Ronald "Smokey" Stevens who plays (Papa Du) in "One Mo Time". He's a D.C. native and attended Bowie State College.

Also coming in Tuesday's AFRO an exclusive interview with Albert Bemiss the piano man and musical director who

Night Scene Seen

Charles Arnette, keyboards; Reggie Wilson, bass, and Carlton Hendricks, drums.

The Saturday afternoon jazz jam presents a new-to-Baltimore group called Come Out Swinging. This consists of Dave Waldo, tenor sax; Alan Wonneberger, drums; John Previti, bass, and Bob Shimzu, guitar.

They've been getting rave reviews from appearances in the D.C. area, so we kinda look forward to checking them out.

O'Donel Levy and his group continue through Saturday night at Gatsby's, and The Mighty Invaders will be appearing at Oddfellows Hawn in Towson Saturday night.

The Soul Shack continues its live music policy which has really started to build. This weekend, Bill Harris and Earlene Reeo will be featured.

In Annapolis, it's Gap Mangione, brother of Chuch Mangione, on stage at the King of France Tavern of the Maryland Inn.

The Left Bank Jazz Society is presenting the Jack McDuff and his group at the Famous Ballroom this Sunday.

The LBJS concerts have really been generating a lot of interest thus far this season, and we fervently hope it continues.

McDuff, of course, is one of the swinging organ players who keeps things jumping at a fever pitch the entire evening.

Over in Washington it will be Les McCann front and center at Blues Alley through Sunday night.

Charlie's in Georgetown is presenting Freddie Hubbard, with the same group he brought into the LBJS session last weekend.

With Freddie will be Kenny Barron, piano; Clint Houston, bass; David Schnitter, tenor sax, and Louis Hayes, drums.

The Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz are presenting Charlie Rouse as the featured attraction at their regular monthly concert.

Charlie will have Hugh Lawson, piano; Walter Booker, bass, and Walter Bolden, drums. The festivities will take place in the Penn-Harris Convention Center in Camp Hill, Pa., just outside Harrisburg.

It too, is a 9-5p.m. session. This is the same group Rouse used in his gig with the Charlin Jazz Society over in D.C. last week.

Perhaps the biggest attraction this weekend is the Smithsonian's celebration of its 10th anniversary jazz program which will lead off with the legendary tenor saxman Sonny Rollins.

To our knowledge, this is the first appearance of Sonny in this area in a few years, and already the concert is sold out. All this happens tonight (Fri.)

Tomorrow night, the featured attraction is Illinois Jacquet and his group. There are still some seats available for this one.

While we did get a listing of the artists who would appear, we must apologize for not scribbling them all down, for a soon as we discovered that Slam Stewart would be playing bass, that was enough for us

Sunday afternoon, Carmen McRae and the Marshall Marshall Ottawa will take over proceedings at 3 p.m., and that night, it will be Lee Konitz with the nonet.

All of the sessions will be held in the Baird Auditorium of the Museum of National History 10th St. and Constitution Ave., NW in D.C.

O'Bryan...'The Gigolo'

O'Bryan

O'Bryan Burnette II was born December 5, 1961, just twelve days before the Marvelette's "Please Mr. Postman" hit the top of the charts and began the Motown dynasty.

O'Byran started to play the piano at age 6, during a time the Beatles were showing the world the instrumental possibilities of popular music. He started to sing a year later when groups such as the 5th Dimension and Jackson 5 revealed the beauty of vocal harmonizing.

And in 1979 O'Byran started to write his own songs just as Parliament - Funkadelic were setting the world aflame with funk. Now 21-year-old O'Bryan has synthesized all of those influences into a remarkable album of his own, "Doin' Alright" (March 1982).

Although O'Bryan's mother was an accomplished vocalist in the local church in the Burnette's hometown Sneads Ferry, N.C., she did not attempt to influence her son to sing. It just came naturally. "I just opened my mouth and started to sing everything on the radio," explains O'Bryan. "I sang Jackson 5 songs because my voice sounded like Michael Jackson's."

O'Bryan used this distinctive vocal quality to his advantage, entering local talent contest sponsored by his elementary school and winning first prize in consecutive years for his renditions of "Ben" and "With A Child's Heart."

In 1973, while R&B music made a return to Philadelphia on the East Coast, the Burnette family went west, relocating in Santa Ana, Calif. Although his voice had changed by this time so that he could no longer reach Michael Jackson's upper register tones, O'Bryan's love for music remained unchanged. He concentrated on developing his piano playing and though he stopped vocalizing in public, he was still a "singing bird, just hanging around the poles outside the school and airing it out."

Fortunately, his talents did not go unrecognized and the director of the Young Adult Choir of the Second Baptist Church encouraged O'Bryan to join as a featured vocalist. In the choir O'Bryan was given the opportunity to find a comfortable new vocal range and also practice his skills on the organ.

In 1978, just as Chic ignited the dance music craze with "Le Freak," O'Bryan made his debut in a Southern California club, singing the male lead in the duet "The Closer I Get To You." The response was overwhelmingly positive, inspiring O'Bryan to begin writing his own material to sing.

Last year O'Bryan was brought to the attention of Capitol Records by Don Cornelius, chief of the Soul Train television network. The go-ahead was immediately given for O'Bryan to record his debut album, "Doin' Alright," with Cornelius serving as executive producer on the project. The sessions were produced by a quartet of talented men: Ron Kersey, Melvin Davis, Cornelius and O'Bryan.

O'Bryan wrote most of the music on the album, sings all lead and background vocals, and plays keyboards. Guest appearances are turned in by Crusaders sax player Wilton Felder and vocal group Waters.

The first single from "Doin' Alright" is the runaway smash "The Gigolo." Though racy lyrics such as "He don't want nobody-He won't dance-He just wants you body-He's just a gigolo" will raise a few eyebrows, O'Bryan insists: 'It's just about guys in general. We are all guilty of that sometimes. I wrote the song right after I saw the film "American Gigolo.' I was playing this groove with a funky bass line and when it came time to write the change the only thing I could think of was the film."

The lyrics are indeed very interesting, but listeners will not be able to resist dancing to the in-the-pocket rhythms of "The Gigolo." O'Bryan cuts loose his finest falsetto to soar high above the solid foundation layed out by the funky horns, bass and synthesizer.

'Code Red's' fire safety tips

"Fire can be our best friend, and it can be our worst enemy. Under control, fire keeps us warm, cooks our food and supplies energy. Out of control, it can destroy our homes and kill our families. Here are some safety tips, many of which are featured at the end of "Code Red" episodes to prevent such calamities. They're worth reading and remembering. They may save your property and the life of loved ones."

1. As you enter a building for the evening or an overnight stay, take a moment to locate the closest emergency exit. It's a moment that could save your life.

2. Gasoline vapors are heavier than air and highly flammable never use gasoline for cleaning.

3. Careless smoking is the number-one cause of fires, and the number one killer. Before you go to bed, make sure cigarettes are out, and never smoke in bed.

4. If your clothes catch fire, don't panic. Stop, drop to the ground and roll to put out the flames.

5. Every year, 200,000 Americans are hospitalized with burns. 12,000 people die from them...treat a burn immediately with cold water — only cooling will stop the burning process.

6. Cooking oils and fats can catch fire. Extinguish these fires by: 1) covering the pan with a large lid; 2) sprinkling the pan with baking soda; or, 3) use a class "B" fire extinguisher — never use water.

7. The quickest way to get help in fire, police or medical emergencies is to call these agencies directly. Write down the telephone numbers of your local emergency services and keep them handy by your phone. Many fire departments will supply stickers with emergency numbers for your area.

8. E.D.I.T.H. — Exit Drills in the Home. You have them at school. Have them at home too. Plan now for a safe escape in case of fire and know where to meet your family outside. Ask about E.D.I.T.H. at your fire station.

9. People don't realize how fast fire can consume a home or how deadly smoke can be — install smoke detectors in your home and provide an early warning system.

10. If a radio or other electrical appliance falls into your bath tub or wash basin, you could be electrocuted — so use electrical appliances safely. And when you do, don't go near the water.

11. Children playing with matches is one of the leading causes of home fires. Fire is not something to play with — keep matches in a safe place.

Close encounters with Art at BMA

The Baltimore Museum of Art's Close Encounters with Art Program for neighborhood schools will be celebrated on Sunday, April 25, in a special Spring Family Day at the Museum.

From 2 to 4 p.m., students from the Baltimore High School for the Performing Arts will give perfc iance-demonstrations c lance, music and the visual arts in various locations throughout the Museum.

Close Encounters is a pilot project of the BMA Education Department and the Community Committee of the trustees designed to strengthen the Museum's presence in the community and the city schools.

Four schools within walking distance of Art Museum Drive are participating in the program by sending fourth grade classes to learn firsthand, and in depth, about the Museum's collections. Each class will have visted the Museum at least twice and will "adopt" a work of art on exhibit in the galleries. Later in the spring, a reproduction of the adopted work will be presented to the class.

Fourth grade classes from Barclay, Margaret Brent and Hampden Elementary Schools and St. Philip and St. James School are taking part in this project.

The general public as well as teachers and families of the fourth graders in the Close Encounters program are invited to attend the Sunday Spring Family Day at the Museum.

The day's activities, which are free and open to all, have been planned by Mrs. T. Albert Parmer with the cooperation of David Simon, principal of the High School for the Performing Arts, Susan Badder, Director of Education at the BMA, and Brenda Edelson, director of Programs.

Duke's Birthday

Duke Ellington's 83rd birthday is to be celebrated in Shubert Alley on Wednesday, April 28, Noon to 1 p.m., by his relatives, the cast and musicians of his Broadway hit "Sophisticated Ladies," stars of Broadway shows, jazz artists, celebrities, and the public at large. An enormous birthday cake and top entertainment will be highlights of the gala block party.

Special guests will be members of Duke Ellington's family. Ruth, his sister; Mercer, his son and musical director of "Sophisticated Ladies"; and Mercedes, his granddaughter, who appears in the musical.

Pratt closings

The following Pratt Library branches will be closed during the month of May and will reopen June 1:

Hamilton, 5910 Harford Road.
Morrell Park, 3446 Washington Boulevard, and Waverly, 400 E. 33d Street.

The temporary discontinuation of service is the result of a plan to close each branch one month during the year to try to keep with in the library's budget.

During May bookmobile service will be available at the site of the closed branches on the following schedule:

Hamilton: Monday, 1-7 p.m.; Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30 p.m.; Fridays, 1-4 p.m.
Morrell Park: Mondays, 12:30-3:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 1-7 p.m.
Waverly: Tuesdays, 4-7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 12 noon-3 p.m.

The Central Library remains open throughout the year on its regular schedule, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-9p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5p.m. Sundays, 1-5 p.m. through May 16.

Talks

Katherine Mainoli will talk on handwriting analysis at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, at the Pratt Library's Gardenville Branch, 5427 Belair Road. Open to the public free.

Dorothy Drug will give an illustrated talk on her recent trip to China at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, at the Govans Branch, 5714 Bellona Ave. Open to the public free.

—Four Tops

(Continued from Page 18)

musical evolution at ABC Records, and immediately struck gold with the album, "Keeper Of The Castle". The album contained the number one single, "Ain't No Woman Like The One I Got." The Tops' second ABC LP, "Main Street People," contained the song, "Are You Man Enough," from the motion picture soundtrack, "Shaft In Africa."

The Four Tops' main lead singer is Levi Stubbs, acknowledged as one of the strongest leads in popular music today. However, the group boasts a roster of equally talented individuals. The second lead and second tenor, as well as the current producer of the group, is Lawrence Payten. Payten is also a talented songwriter and engaging soloist, offering a mellow soul-jazz approach. The first tenor, Abdul "Duke" Fakir, is a natural singer with a pure sound that rings true. Fakir doubles as business manager, representing the group's thoughts and aspirations on a business level. Renaido Benson posesses a powerful bariton bass. He is a top-quality songwriter, having written hits for numerous other artists, including Marvin Gaye ("What's Goin' On") and Aretha Franklin in addition to his writing contribution to the Tops.

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NOTICE
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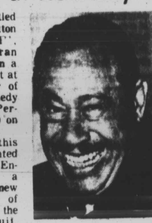
'Cab Calloway's Cotton Club Revisited' at Kennedy Center

A new revue entitled "Cab Calloway's Cotton Club Revisited" starring the veteran entertainer, will open a one-week engagement at the Terrace Theater of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 on Monday, May 3.

Featured in this musical revue, presented by Jerry Kraval Entertainment, are a number of old and new performers, some of whom had toured on the vaudeville circuit. Among them are the grand old tap master Bunny Briggs, and the Lindy Hoppers starring Al Minns and Sugar Sullivan, two extraordinary dancers who have been seen in "Hot Mikado" and "Blackbirds of 1938," at The Savoy Ballroom with Duke Ellington and Count Basie and at the Newport Jazz Festival.

Cynthia White, a young singer who appeared in the revival of "The Pajama Game" with Hal Linden and Cab Calloway, will also be featured.



Cab Calloway

Dennis Brown...'Love Has Found It's Way'

Even when he was a kid in Kingston, Dennis Brown's singing won him certain "advantages." In school, girls used to treat him to lunch if he'd agree to sing for them. Brown's statement, "I have always loved to sing," is no oversimplification. Moreover, it goes without saying that lots of other people love to hear Brown sing.

Getting to be reggae's acknowledged crown prince is not an easy business. Dennis' childhood included not just the lunchtime vocalizing, but serious professional work with Kingston's popular Byron Lee & the Dragonaires. By the time he was out of his teens, he'd performed extensively throughout the West Indies and developed one of the freshest, and most distinctive styles in reggae music.

By 1978, Dennis Brown was ready to take on the world. In that year, he starred at Montreux's prestigious Jazz Festival, and followed it up with his first English smash hit, "Money In My Pocket." Its success led to Brown's signing with A&M and the January 1981 release of his LP, "Foul Play."

"My first album brought me recognition in the States," says Brown. "I had the opportunity of doing a nationwide headline tour. Then we went on, and played in the Netherlands also. Last September, we got together with Joe Gibbs (legendary Jamaican producer) and started working on this new record."

Dennis Brown

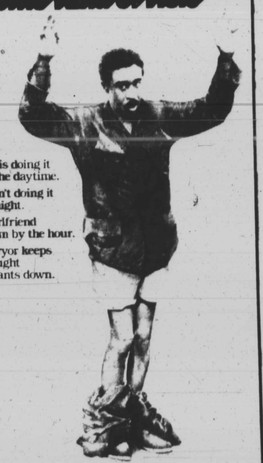
The new record, "Love Has Found Its Way," is a subject close to Brown's heart. "I think it's the greatest thing I've done," he claims. "Most other records, I've spent two or three weeks recording. This one took us eight weeks. We penetrated the songs' lyrics better, put much more into the production. It's different from "Foul Play," and better."

The extra effort shows. "Love Has Found Its Way" gives a much fuller demonstration of Brown's unique abilities, as both an expressive singer and a thoroughly modern pop composer. His writing range encompasses the smooth-grooved appeal of "Halfway Up, Halfway Down" and "Why Baby, Why," as well as the more hard-edged realities of "Blood, Sweat and Tears," and the political "Handwriting On The Wall."

Best of all, there's the title track, a musically stunning blend of reggae with pop-R&B. Sax, guitars, and Brown's compelling vocal draw the ears right to the heart, as he intones: "When the sun comes tomorrow and I'm blessed with another day, At least I have found life's middle ground-Halfway up, halfway down..."

Brown, himself, likes his singing on "Getting High" best, but allows: "There are different strokes for different folks on the album." If the strokes find the folks they're intended for, "Love Has Found Its Way" will bring Brown more recognition. Better yet, it'll put him where he's now eager to be: in front of audiences.

Richard Pryor
Some Kind of Hero



The Army is doing it to him in the daytime.
His wife isn't doing it to him at night.
And his girlfriend charges him by the hour.
Richard Pryor keeps getting caught with his pants down.
R
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