Friday Plus, January 13, 1984

rarity. He's a black independent

producer whose first feature

film is being distributed by one of the

The film "D.C. Cab," is a rollicking

largest motion picture studios in town

comedy which Carew produced along

with another black, co - producer

Cassius Vernon Weathersby. "D.C. Cab"

stars Mr. T, Max Gail, Gary Busey, Irene

Cara, Whitman Mayo and a host of

talented newcomers who comprise the

drivers for the rag-tag D.C. Cab

The original story idea for the film is

Carew's, derived from over 10 years of

experiences in and around the nation's

capital. He suggested the storyline to

Universal as a feature film, they liked

the concept and asked Joel Schumacher

of "Car Wash" and "Sparkle" fame to

explaining that "everyone needs as

many laughs as they can get in this day

If any filmmaker/entrepreneur is on

Works has produced a number o

weekly situation comedy in PBS history.

"Rainbow hires hundreds of people and

mix in everything we do," explains

Carew. In "D.C. Cab" the tradition re-

but behind the scenes as well. Forty-

Carew, who was nicknamed "Topper"

after the B-29 plane his father flew in

World War II, grew up in a South Side

Boston ghetto. After earning bachelors

and masters degrees in architecture at

'Yale, he did post - graduate work at the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

and received his Ph.D. in communica-

tions at Union Graduate School. He also

studied Advanced Broadcast Manage-

ment at the Harvard School of Business.

most of the hiring.

be "D.C. Cab."

and time." However, what makes "D.C.

It's a funny street film," says Carew,

write the screenplay and direct.

phrase).

DC Cab:

- Universal Pictures.

Topper Carew's Brainchild

500165

MAURICE STARR "Spacey Lady"

yourself. "Edwin Starr, I've heard of. and "Rockin' radio" by Tom Browne, just Ringo Starr, I've heard of. But who's Maurice Starr?" Well, I'll tell you.

Maurice Starr is a producer and writer who happens to be the brother of Michael Jonzun, one of the Jonzun

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"Who is Maurice Starr?" you say to Crew, "Candy Girl" by the New Edition,

Starr signed with RCA Records in 1979. He and his brother Michael wrote, arranged, and played all the instruments on the nine songs in the debut

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NIGHT

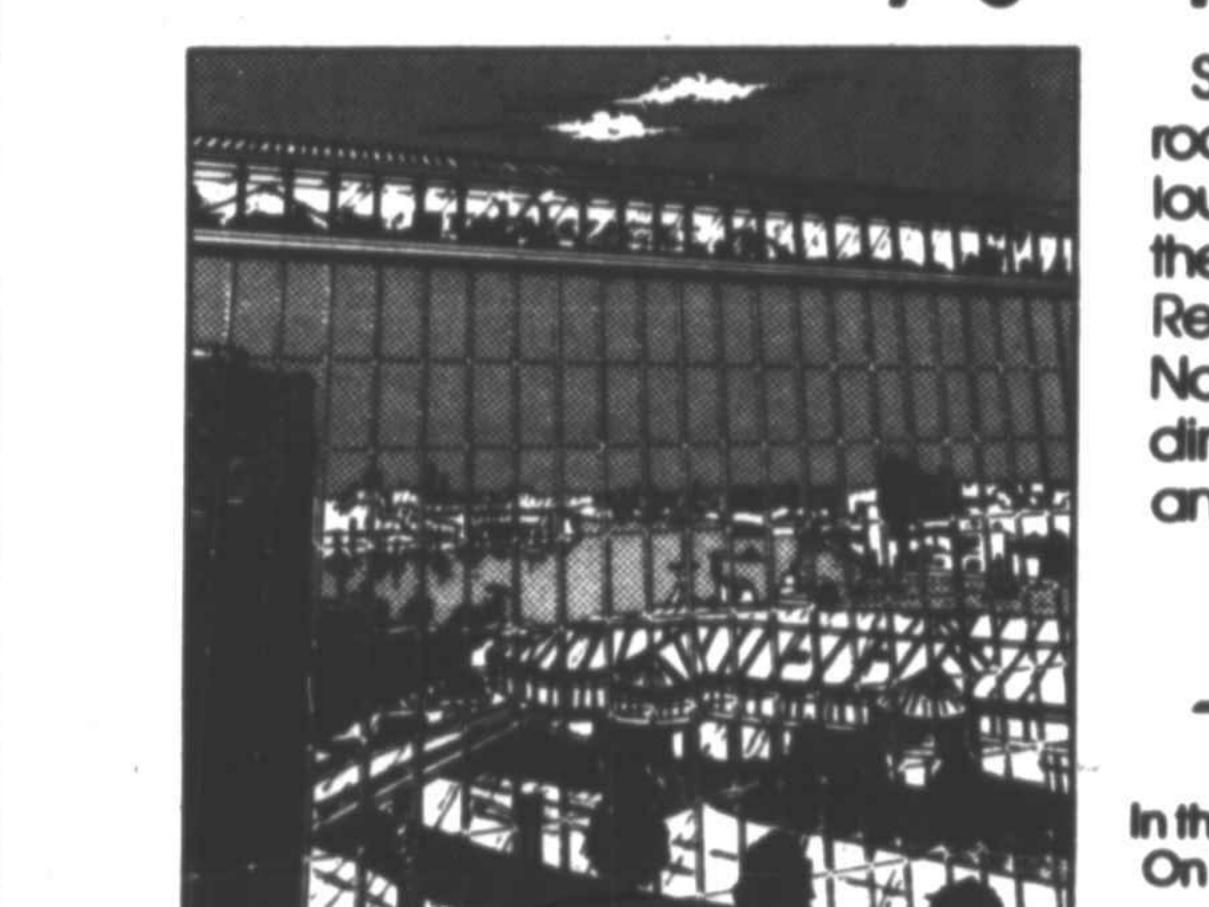
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MOTIVATION

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talents are evident on the following "About Time" didn't do too well. Later the Dramatics, and then used their talents to make "Showdown" by the Sugarhill Gang and Grandmaster Flash one heck of a record. This solo effort on Arista highlights his

funky side, as in "Spacey Lady" and "Super Rock," both with that Jonzun Crew flavor; his mellow side is heard in "My First TRue Love" and "Be My Lady." "Can it Be Love" sounds like a J. Geils Band record because it features the vocals of Peter Wolf, a member of the Geils Band.

The modern, '80s sound—this is the way Maurice Starr expresses himself on this new solo LP. If electro-boogie encounters are what you go for, this LP's

On his disk, Maurice plays guitar, vocoder, memory moog, french horn, bells, and a variety of percussion instruments. By the way, he also sings.

lection of pop R&B. The name of the will tell. group, the album, and the titles of the first and last cuts are all the same: Motivation.

Perhaps you've already heard their single, "Crazy Daze," included here. That cut and the cut that follows, "Please Don't Say No," sound like the kind of stuff DeBarge is currently hitting the charts with. And the cut "Stop!!"—that sounds like it came from a Mass Production album. I haven't heard a Mass Production album since....well, last year.

This album was produced by Earl Toon, Jr., along with Jim Bonnefond, who worked with Kool And The Gang on their "In The Heart" album. The "Motivation" album is on Kool And The Gang's label, De-Lite.

It looks like it'll take a lot of promotional effort to get this LP off the ground and selling. These fellows play well, but

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Maurice Starr

they play like a lot of other bands. With a little luck, Motivation might make it into the big time. Or, they may be What we have here is a pleasant col-forgotten completely by June. Only time

King Wax figure unveiled

The life-like wax figure of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was unveiled this week at Great Blacks in Wax, 207 W. Saratoga Street.

Preserving Black History is what Great Blacks in Wax, America's first black wax museum, is all about," said Liz Byrd in a telephone interview.

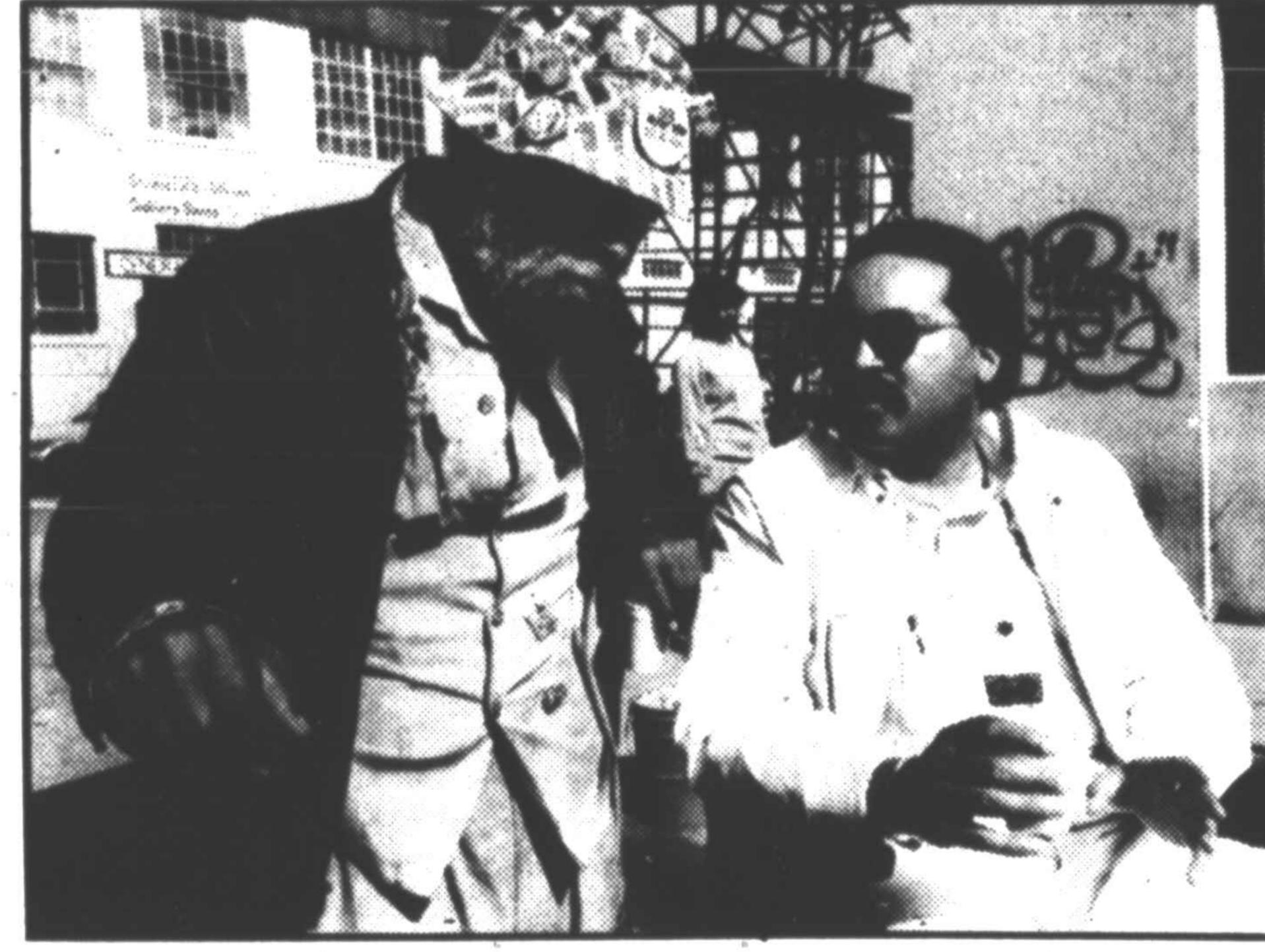
Come and join Great Blacks in Wax in its celebration of Dr. King's birthday and in celebration of Black History Month in February."

For more information about the downtown Baltimore Wax Museum call (301) 837-6562.

Arnold lights up

Arnold tries smoking in order to make friends with the guys at junior high school, in "Where There's Smoke," on NBC - TV's "Different Strokes" Saturday, Jan. 14 (8-8:30 p.m. NYT; closed captioned).

Drummond buys Arnold a new sweater with the school colors, but the youngster's friends are not impressed. So when they light up, Arnold thinks he must go along to be one of the boys.



Whitman Mayo and Topper Carew on set of DC Cab

Carew got his start in filmmaking by Cab" far more than just another crazy producing architectural films.

comedy is its sense of commitment to Since 1967 Carew has produced, writ-"multiracial cooperation" (a Carew catch ten and directed dozens of documentaries, independent features and specials for network TV, pay TV and the the way to creating a multiracially Public Broadcasting Service. He has cooperative institution in the movie garnered an impressive 70 industry business, it would come as no surprise awards and has received numerous acif it were Topper Carew, President and colades for his extensive community Executive Producer of Rainbow Televirelated contributions. sion Works. Carew's Rainbow Television

Carew is idealistic about life and pragmatic about business. "I try to show award-winning programs including "The the best side of human nature in my Righteous Apples," the first prime-time, work. I believe that people are fundamentally good." On the pragmatic side, Carew never forgets that film and we conscientiously look for an ethnic television production are businesses. "You have to bring projects in on budget and in on time. There is a certain mains unbroken, not only in the casting crassness and reality about all of that which has to balance your idealism."

three percent of the film crew was According to Carew, less than one minority and as producer, Carew did percent of network programming in the past 15 years has come from minority companies. Carew traces the problems Recently the Bevedrly Hills most black production companies en-Hollywood branch of the NAACP ancounter to their just not knowing enough nounced plans to urge members in some about the business. "I feel that it's im-1,800 NAACP branches nationwide to portant to recognize that it's not a quespatronize movies that project blacks in tion of employing people. It's also a significant and positive roles. The first question of entrepreneurship and movie to benefit from this campaign will creating institutions like Motown and

Carew commented on his criteria for success as both a producer and a person. "Professionally, success would come after I've done my 34th feature film that has achieved a certain level of public acceptance, made money and made positive portrayals and realistic representation of American society. Personally, I would like to get through life as an honest man who has gained a certain measure of wisdom that I can

impart to others. If I can do all these

things and leave something for my

children and grandchildren, I'll be

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