Sounds

THE FEARLESS FOUR

By Carl Matthews

"Problems Of The World"

"Problems Of The World" is the second EP for the Fearless Four, a New York-based rap quartet. Produced by Kurtis Blow, the album contains four cuts, with an average of 11 minutes of music per side. The EP is jam packed with rap, as you might well imagine.

For those who have heard hundreds of rap records and more names of rappin' MCs than they care to count, and yet have never heard of these guys, here's the lineup: Michael Kevin Clee, also known as Mighty Mike C. (Pisces); Mitchell (The Great Peso) Grant (Sagittarius); Tito (The Devastating Tito) Dones (Gemini); and DLB (The Microphone Wizard) (Taurus).

You must admit, these guys have certainly picked a current, relevant theme for their new EP. Over a drum-machine beat and a heavy bass line, these fellows on the title cut talk about such things as depression, computers, family disputes, child abuse, God, money, and other things that concern us all. They are moving into Grandmaster Flash territory with their relevant rhymes. But Flash has had more experience, more hits, and in my opinion, more interesting lyrics.

Judging from the success of such 12-inch disks as Run-D.M.C.'s "It's Like That/Sucker M.C.'s," rappers and the machine-made percussion tracks that accompany them are going to be around for a while. "Problems Of The World" may not sell a million copies, but these skiled rappers make their message very clear to those who listen.

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DAVE VALENTIN

"Flute Juice"

A juicy mixture of jazz, R&B, Brazilian and Cuban-Puerto Rican styles is what flutist Dave Valentin offers on his new GRP album, "Flute Juice." Born and raised in the South Bronx, Valentin uses all these distinctive New York flavors in this musical concoction on which he was a co-producer, arranger and composer.

On dance cuts like "Loquita (Crazy Lady)," Dave's group utilizes the Linn drum machine, a computerized device which allows a musician to create drum and percussion parts with ultra-precise timing.

Valentin first recorded as a member of Ricardo Marrero's group on their 1977 album, "Time." Among Valentin's albums on the GRP label are "Legends," "The Hawk," "Land Of The Third Eye," "Pied Piper," and "In Love's Time."

The outstanding cut on the LP is the Wayne Shorter composition "Footprints," a straight-ahead "live in the studio" performance in which Dave and his touring band (without the drum machine) get tough and really groove for about five minutes. Bill O'Connell on piano and Lincoln Goines on bass put in some competent solos on this track, which should have jazz fans tapping their feet.

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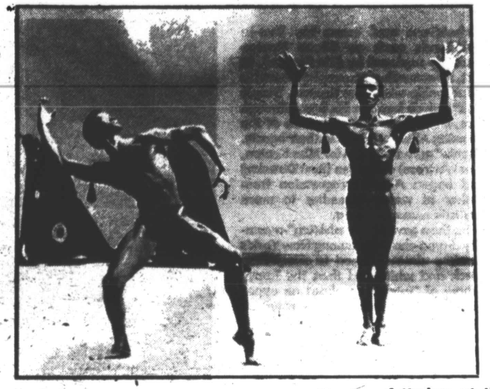
In Performance

Boston Symphony Orchestra's principal harpist **ANN HOBSON PILOT** will be heard in a Washington, D.C. premiere performance of William Grant Still's **ENNANGA** for harp, piano and strings on Sunday, Feb. 5.

The program will be presented as part of Howard University's Andrew W. Mellon Recital Series and will also feature performances by bassist **PRENTICE PILOT**, pianist **MAURICE MURPHY** and the members of the **BRIDGETOWER STRING QUARTET**. The event will begin at 3 p.m. in the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel on Howard University's main campus. Admission will be open and free to the public.

"Ennanga" is the suite for harp written by the man whom Leopold Stokowki called "one of our greatest American composers". It is one of over 200 works produced by the "Dean of Negro Composers and Conductors", William Grant Still.



Dance Theatre of Harlem at the Kennedy Center Opera House, February 14-19.

The recipient of many fellowships and awards, Still was the first of his race to conduct a major symphony orchestra in the United States, the first to conduct a major symphony in the Deep South, the first to direct a white radio orchestra in New York City, and the first to have an opera produced by a major company in the United States.

This suite in three movements was inspired by African music, though it does not draw literally on that music for thematic material. Its African origins are credited in the composer's title, "Ennanga", which is the name of an African harp. The piece was first performed by Lois Adele Craft, to whom it is dedicated, in Los Angeles on October. 12, 1958.

ANN HOBSON PILOT was named principal harpist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops in September 1980. She joined the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1969, having previously spent one season with the Pittsburgh Symphony as second harpist, and three years with the Washington National Symphony as principal harpist. Ms. Hobson Pilot began studying the piano at age six with her mother, a former concert pianist and teacher in the Philadelphia public schools, and switched to the harp in high school. She continued her training at the Philadelphia Musical Academy with Marilyn Costello, and the Cleveland Institute of Music with Alice Chalifoux. Ms. Hobson Pilot has participated at the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont. She has appeared as soloist with the Boston Symphony, Boston Pops, Washington National Symphony, Wichita Kansas Symphony, Richmond, Virginia Symphony and several other orchestras in this country.

She is currently on the faculty on the New England Conservatory and the Berkshire Music Center. She is the founder of the New England Harp Trio, and is a member of the contemporary music ensemble Collage.

The Kings Eight Troupe will tour the Pacific for the Department of Defense. Shown are: Letha Walker, Jennifer Barn, Sheila Stebbins, Heidi Siemers and Sharon Priley. In rear: William Giraux, Kenneth Taylor and Michael Padgett.

Baltimorean

Letha V. Walker, daughter of Mrs. Letha M. Walker, 5. Paca Street, Baltimore, is a member of Kings Eight, a troupe of live shows performers that will entertain at U.S. military bases in the Pacific.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense, the troupe will visit South Korea, Guam, Okinawa and the Phillipines. It will return to the U.S. on March 14.

This is the sixth year performers from midwestern theme parks have entertained U.S. troops in shows produced by Taft Attractions, the creative division of Taft Broadcasting Company, which owns four parks.

A graduate of Patterson High School, Walker was featured singer/dancer in the country show at Kings Dominion, Richmond, Va. last summer. She also attended Community College of Baltimore and Towson State University.

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