Showtime

IDA PETERS What's Happening

Al Green visits... ...on way to Grammy Awards

(Photo by Ida Peters)
Green wearing white mink and red velvet jacket was in town this week for a revival at Calvert Educational Center.

(Photo by Ida Peters)
Al Green displays 18-K gold hand and assorted gold chains worth a couple of thousand dollars.

Al Green, who had million selling records in the R&B field with such hits back in the 1970s as "Let's Stay Together", "I Can't Get Next To You" and "Call Me" was just as exciting to his new Gospel fans when he visited the AFRO this week.

Green who has racked up six gold albums before turning to a full-time gospel career as a singer and pastor was in Baltimore this week for a revival at Calvert Educational Center with the Rev. Jerome Scruggs of Christ Institute. The Rev. Scruggs is pastor of a church at 4606 Liberty Heights Ave....the old Ambassador Theatre.

Al Green, wearing a white sable (mink to you) coat for which he personally selected each skin...is on his way to the Grammy Awards February 28 where he has been nominated for his "I'll Rise Again" album and the single, "I Can't Make It By Myself".

Last Year he won two Grammy awards for "Higher Plaine" and "Precious Lord".

He told the AFRO he was almost ignored last year but this year he expects to win his fourth Grammy. He told us that two chairs have been reserved for him and a Philly designer is making him a white crushed leather tuxedo with white satin bands on the pants and lapels.

"It's insane" said Green who also offered that he has had a white satin bow tie made to match.

As to winning, Green says he has his "eyes, fingers, and legs crossed" for luck.

He also noted that for all his success in the 1970s with million-selling records "like Elvis...I never won a Grammy"

The last time the AFRO interviewed Al Green in 1980, he was wearing thousands of dollars worth of chains and diamonds.

Asked him where was all this jewelry, he showed us a solid gold $500 bracelet and assorted chains worth a couple of thousand...but he is forbidden by his insurance company to wear the other stuff because it is too dangerous.

Green says his love-life is settled now and he is married to a "wonderful, beautiful Island girl" (Jamaica) and he has a wonderful little boy, Adam, six months old.

When he leaves Baltimore, he will be spend-Saturday (Feb. 11) at Bolling Air Force Base where he will be entertaining at the NCO Club and making a Video with Mug Stop Productions.

Al Green was highly visible during late 1983 with the release of his new album "White Christmas"; appearances on TV and engagements at Westbury Music Fair, New York City and Valley Forge Music Fair.

Green hugs an unidentified fan who happened to be passing the AFRO building and followed him in with her camera. From (L) Green, the Rev. Jerome Scruggs, pastor of Christ Institute conducting the revival here. At right John Brown, Green's organist.

(Photo by Paul Greene)
Ronnie Ingram, AFRO secretary is bussed by Green on his excitement-stirring visit thru AFRO Home Office in Baltimore.

(Photo by Paul Green)
Carleen Morgan, AFRO employee gets a big hug from Al Green.

Top Hits

R&B Albums

1. Can't Slow Down
   Lionel Richie
2. No Parking On the Dance Floor
   Midnight Star
3. Thriller
   Michael Jackson
4. Busy Body
   Luther Vandross
5. In The Heart
   Kool & the Gang

Bob Matthews Night Scene Seen

Saw a little squib in one of the local publications, which heralded the fact that the Kasual Korner over in the 1500 block N. Gay St., is having live jazz on Saturday nights.

Musicians listed include Johnny Polite, Mickey Fields and others, but if you look closely, the name Miss Shirley Fields is on the bill.

A little thing, but to those in the know recognize that it is indeed a distinct pleasure to see Shirley Fields about and active in the music business once again.

She was laid up for a while, but has bounced back—and we really wish her well—she's one of our favorite people.

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Left Bank Jazz Society opened its season with a roaring success last Sunday as Herbie Mann, along with David Fathead Newman, O'Donel Levy, Frank Gravis and Scott Peaker did their thing at the Famous Ballroom.

Those who were looking for a straight neo-bop rendition were doomed to a bit of disappointment, for Herbie blended myriad styles in the afternoon's presentations.

He stuck to the flute—at least for the time we were there— which was close-miked to dispel any variations in sound. Must say that Herbie was really in fine fettle.

But, the star of the set, we felt, was the sterling work of local guitarist O'Donel Levy. He pulled out all the stops, but remained in the jazz idiom for the main.

In our book, Fathead Newman was a wee bit of a disappointment, for he never seemed to get untracked. Such understatement is not in the men we have become accustomed to hearing from Newman.

But this week, one of the local favorites (he hails from D. C.) Buck Hill will lead a quartet at the LBJS session.

With Buck will be Elsworth Gibson, piano; Tommy Cecil, bass, and George (Dude) Brown, drums.

There had been some efforts to have D.C. trumpeter Allen Hauser, play with Buck—but it all came to naught. Was told that Buck called in to request that O'Donel Levy be hired to play on the date.

LBJS had to turn it down, however. Seems they are a bit gunshy since the unpredictable crowds kinda makes the group a bit tighter with a buck.

At any rate—this will be one of those stomping, swinging great sets—and is truly one not to be missed.

Incidently, LBJS is not scheduled to have another radio show in the immediate future. There has been a dearth since the demise of the show on WBJC-FM, but we understand there has been some talk with the Morgan station WEAA. Hope it materializes.

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This is the week that guitar-music lovers can see three of the tops in the field at the King of France Tavern in Annapolis.

The great guitars, comprised of Charlie Byrd, Barney Kessell and Herb Ellis, will be in place at the Maryland Inn through Sunday night.

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Phyllis Hyman is scheduled to hold down the podium at Blues Alley over in D.C., where she will be through Feb. 12.

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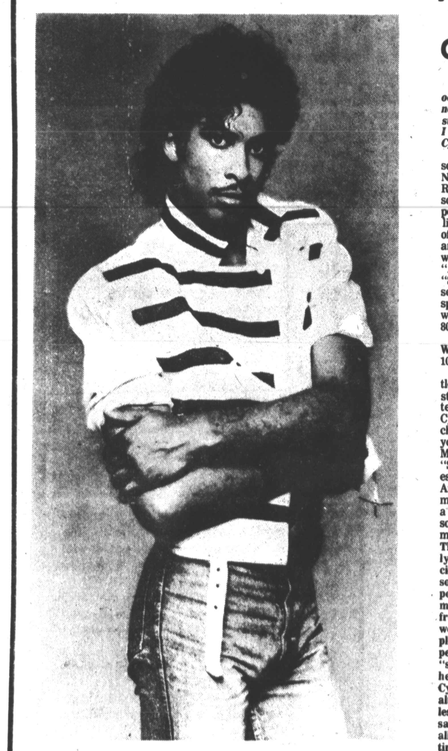
Was asked the other day where live jazz could be found on a daily basis in Baltimore. And it gave me a bit of a start.

Realized finally that the music is available, but you really have to search for it. But, bear in mind, the Classique ever on Greenmount Ave., which programs the music 7 nights a week.

Andre Cymone at Wax Museum



Andre Cymone

Just as each wave in the ocean brings something new to shore, that is what I strive to bring to each song I compose." Andre Cymone.

Beginning with his debut solo album Living In The New Wave, on Columbia Records, producer, songwriter, musician and performer Andre Cymone lives up to his artistic creed of bringing something new and provocative to shore with songs like "The Ritz", "All I Need Is You", and "So Fine". Andre Cymore's second musical wave has splashed upon the shores with "SURVIVIN' IN THE 80's.

Cymone will be at the Wax Museum in D.C., Feb. 10.

Like a message in a bottle, the eight survival instructions on vinyl, written and produced by Cymone, are a musical charge for a future-shock youth generation. "Make Me Wanna Dance", Q and "Survivin' In The 80's", establish once again that Andre Cymone's music is more than just the result of a philosophical winsomeness to be unique. The music on "SURVIVIN' IN THE 80's" will undoubtedly provide many afficionados of the Minneapolis sound with more hard and powerfully funky dance music. It will also ease the frustration of living in a world with "plastic cars, plastic bars, and plastic people". To achieve the "state of the waves" sound heard on the album, Cymone took a slightly altered approach. "I used less lead and bass guitars", says Andre "I didn't play all of the instruments this time out, letting my band members contribute". According to Cymone, "Not only am I obsessed with the future but I hope my music can change a lot of people's way of thinking and help to prepare them for surviving in the future."

Born and raised in Minneapolis (now dubbed Wavetown by Cymone) a frisky and exuberant 7 year old Andre Cymone began preparing for his future plucking his father's upright bass while listening to his favorite R&B records. Shortly after entering junior high school, Andre formed a band with fellow schoolmates and friends Prince and Morris Day (The Time). They performed at various school functions and at local clubs in the Minneapolis area. Despite their adolescent high-spiritedness, funky dance sound and flamboyant style (the guys sported huge afro hairdos) artistic differences forced them to disband the group. Later, when Prince captured a recording contract and needed to form his touring band, he asked Andre to join up as his bass player. Andre was reluctant at first, but accepted the offer with the understanding that he didn't want to be in the limelight. Touring with Prince would give him time to savor his own creative needs and direction.

The success of Prince and The Time signaled to the music industry that a music renaissance was occuring in Minneapolis. So, when Andre started pushing for a solo recording contract, he had no trouble opening the doors. However, to his dismay, many A&R executives were under the impression that Andre would be their Prince clone. Finally, he came to the attention of CBS Records' Larkin Arnold who signed Andre Cymone to his first solo recording deal. Since then, Andre has forged ahead with his innovative musical sound.

Holder at Smithsonian

Actor Geoffrey Holder, Tony Award - winning choreographer and designer of costumes and sets for "The Wiz" and "Timbuktu," will give a virtuoso solo performance involving dance, mime and character improvisation through interaction with the audience on Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. in the Baird Auditorium of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

The one-man show has won raves reviews around the country.

Holder, who once held a Guggenheim Fellowship as a painter, has charmed audiences as Punjab in the Broadway musical hit "Annie," as the "un-cola" man on commercial television and as the Cheshire Cat in a recent Public Broadcasting Service production of "Alice in Wonderland."

His performance at Baird Auditorium will interject his concern for professional theatrical opportunity for blacks, his profound involvement with the complex Caribbean heritage of his native Trinidad and reflections on his own remarkable career.

The program is sponsored by the Smithsonian Resident Associate Program. A limited number of tikets are available. For further information, call the Resident Associates at 357-3030.

The National Museum of Natural History is located on the National Mall at 10th St. and Constitution Ave., NW, and is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Admission is free.

Arena Players open 'Sojourner Truth'

The Frontier International, Inc. (Baltimore Chapter) is presenting an "Evening with the Arts" at the Arena Playhouse, 801 McCulloh St. on Saturday, Feb. 11, starting at 6 p.m. A reception will be held for an exhibition of paintings by Bill Hudson, Jr., and for Gordon Watkins, the award winning author and director of Sojourner Truth. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m.

Bill Hudson studied at Howard University (B.F.A.), Latcher Art Center, and the Modern Studio School, all of Washington, D.C.; The Newark Institute of Industrial Art, Newark, N.J.; Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N.Y. and The Workshop of Advertising Art, New York City.

For 10 Seasons, the Arena Players have relied on local talent from within their membership for the development of their programs. Plays have been selected, acted in and directed by a core of Baltimoreans from all walks of life who find a certain fascination about being in the theatre.

With the 51st Season for the Arena Players, there has been a silent change in the news. For the first time in its history, the players have gone outside their own little community of members to select someone to direct one of the scheduled plays. That person is Award Winning Director - Writer Gordon Watkins, a native Baltimorean who has relocated to New York. Watkins, who not only directs, acts and produces, is the founder of "The Toussaint Group, Incorporated." A black film, television, radio and theater production company. Producing for the entertainment, educational, and government markets. Watkins will direct one of his own plays "Sojourner Truth", as the Arena Players' Black History presentation.

The story of "Sojourner Truth" is the inspiring struggle of a common sense rebel who championed human dignity and universal brotherhood with stubborn, persistant courage and an unshakeable faith in God. Born a slave in Hurley, Ulster County, New York, Sojourner grew to detest the conditions that she and others of her brothers and sisters were experiencing at the hands of the slave masters. Through her many "conversations with God," Sojourner came to believe that she had a responsibility to herself, her people and to her God to do everything in her power, for as long as she lived to help her people to freedom.

"Sojourner Truth" opens Feb. 10 and will run weekends through March 4. For ticket information and or reservation call 728-8500 or 625-1177.

Alice McGill to star.

Gordon Watkins, Baltimore-born playwright and author.

Pre-Valentine Day Disco and Fashion Show is being presented by the Baltimore Eagles Basketball Team, Saturday, Feb. 11 at Lighthouse Inn Lounge. the Iron Gents and Hollyword and Co. will present these lovely young ladies including Susie Jackson, Brenda Thomas, Donna Anderson, Lawanda Brown, Lynnette DeVance, Lisa Hilliard, Belinda Mitchell, Lynda Beasford, Doreen harvey, Lisa Vaughn, Janice Johnson, Janice McLean and Jacqueline Johnson.

...More

INVITATIONS are in the mail for the Kick - Off Celebration of the Fund Committee of Coppin State College. "A Commitment to Excellence" affair will be held in the Tawes College Center, Thursday, Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. George L. Russell Jr. is chairman.

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THE MILES W. Connor Center of Virginia Union University Alumni Association honors Vernon Wehst this year on Sunday, March 25 at 5 p.m. at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall.

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As part of the Showcase Exhibition Series, Department of Art will host an exhibition entitled, "Recent Faculty Work, University of Maryland Eastern Shore" thru Monday, Feb. 27, in The Murphy Fine Arts Center, Room 142. For more information call Dr. Susanne G. Daniel at 444-3421.

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Innovative artist Paulette Morelli, who uses contemporary architecture as the basis for her geometric, multi-dimensional paintings, will be featured in "Reflections in Motion and Space" at the Albin O. Kuhn Library and Gallery on the UMBC (University of Maryland Baltimore County) campus in Catonsville now through Feb. 10.

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The fullness of life and man's ability to endure is portrayed with humor, compassion, sadness and joy in "The Three Sisters," now through Feb. 26 in the Arena in D.C. Anton Chekhov's classic Russian drama is directed by Arena Stage Producing Director Zelda Fichandler.

"The Three Sisters" is a sensitive portrayal of life in pre - revolutionary Russia. The three sisters of the title, daughters in a family that lives in a dull provincial town, long passionately for love and the bright lights of Moscow.

Dust Bowl

MAYA ANGELOU, writer and producer, will be featured at the Forum of the CCB Harbor Campus, Lombard St. at Market Place, Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Following her talk "Citizens Celebrating Baltimore," the 118-member singing group sponsored by CCB and Mayor William Donald Schaefer, will perform in concert.

The author of five best sellers, including I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings and And I Still Rise, Angelou has had articles published in a number of national publications, including "Cosmopolitan," "Redbook," and "The New York Times." In addition, she has written and produced several programs for television including a five-part mini - series for CBS, Three Way Choice, and the PBS documentary, Afro-American in the Arts. Due to limited seating tickets must be reserved in advance for this event.

Kiss me you fool!!

Just to prove that Baltimore has a heart, Lexington Market will co-sponsor the Great Baltimore Kiss - Off on Saturday, Feb. 18, at 1:03 p.m. For just a $2.00 per couple donation to the American Heart Association, you can get the chance to help Baltimore make the Guinness Book of Records.

The folks in merry old England (Mr. Guinness et al) are waiting to hear how many couples show up to hold a 2 minute kiss. The kiss is to begin on the Market's South Parking Lot at 1:03 p.m. and will officially end at 1:05 p.m. Registration will be held beginning Monday, Feb. 13 thru Friday, Feb. 17 at the Market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Kiss Day, registration will begin at 10 a.m.

If Baltimore is to surpass Philadelphia as the "City of Love," thousands will have to make their way to Lexington Market for a KISS.

Kiss - Off Sponsors will attempt to raise money for research into Heart Disease (as well as educational and community service programs).

For more information, contact David Imre at 685-6169 or Laura Crosby at the American Heart Association at 685-7074.

...More happening

Former heavyweight champ FLOYD PATTERSON has entered the bureaucratic ring. He was appointed director of New York's Off Track Betting Corp. by Mayor Edward Irving Koch. "I'm on the committee that helps make decisions", Patterson said. "Actually, I don't know much about how it works because I'm no gambler. Even in the old days I never bet on myself. But I'm reading up on this OTB thing and I learn fast". Patterson, who's accustomed to big purses, will be paid on a per diem basis.

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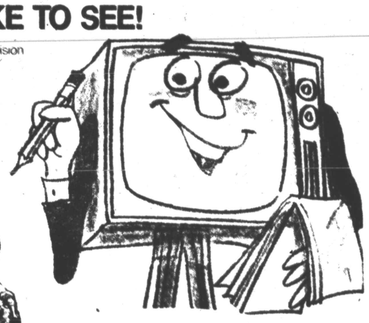
LE BARON TAYLOR, vice president, general manager, Divisional Affairs, CBS Records was honored (along with the Honorable Samuel Pierce, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) for distinguished service to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change. In presenting the award to Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Coretta Scott King said: "CBS Records, through LeBaron Taylor, has been a valued donor that has fostered and furthered the causes for justice, peace and freedom. For the numerous contributions made by CBS Records; for the splendid support of the M.L. King, Jr. Center by CBS Records; and, for the humanitarian work which this great company has done through LeBaron Taylor an inspired and illustrous leader, I am honored to present this Distinguished Service Award".

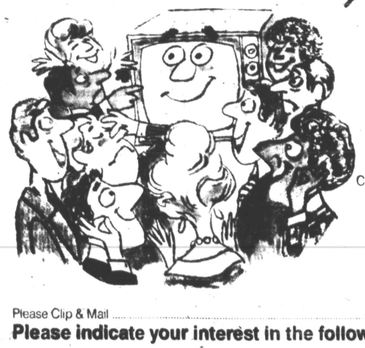
Floyd Patterson learns fast.

TELL IT TO THE TUBE!

LET UNITED CABLE TELEVISION OF BALTIMORE KNOW WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE!

United Cable Television of Baltimore is seeking the cable television franchise for Baltimore. We want to make it the best cable TV system possible. Our goal is to offer our subscribers a wide selection of quality entertainment, satellite communications, offering a variety of programming choices and viewing hours. Services like in-home fire, medical and security systems are available, in addition to programming from all over the country.





Commercial-free movies and special entertainment programming are also available on cable television. These services are completely without commercial interruption, and are offered for an additional monthly charge.

Because cable television has so many choices to offer its subscribers, we need your input to help us design the system best suited to you. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and mail it to the address at the bottom of the page. Thank you!

Please Clip & Mail .....

Please indicate your interest in the following cable television services:

SERVICES	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not Interested
Washington stations			
Special children's programs			
24-hour-a-day NCAA and international sports			
Sports events live from Madison Square Garden			
Religious programming			
24-hour-a-day national, international news			
Community service/educational programs			
Neighborhood programming			
Senior citizen's programs			
U.S. House of Representatives live, in session			
Community sports (High school and organized leagues)			
Health, lifestyle channel			
Local government channel			
Employment opportunity listings			
Distant independent stations (New York and Atlanta)			
FM radio stations			
Shopping comparison			
Continuing adult education			
Fire, medical and security alarm			
Regional pro sports			

ENTERTAINMENT PACKAGES	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not Interested
Complete home entertainment package: full-length G, PG and R-rated movies, specials, documentaries and sports — commercial-free			
Family oriented entertainment package: G and PG full length movies, documentaries and specials for the entire family			
Broadway Shows			
Local Theater			

TYPES OF MOVIES:

Family movies
Action movies
Film classics
Video music
Comedies
Mature movies

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Number of TV sets in your home				
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