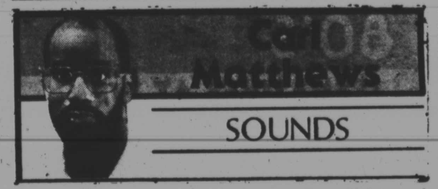

THE SPINNERS
"Lovin' Feelings" (Mirage)

Henry Fambrough, Billy Henderson, Pervis Jackson and Bobbie Smith have been with The Spinners since the quintet's beginnings back in the 50's. They haven't stopped the music yet — "Lovin' Feelings" is their new LP.

The group, which started in Detroit as The Domingos, was founded by Harvey Fuqua (former leader of Harvey And The Moonglows) in 1957. Their first hit single on the Tri-Phi label, "That's What Girls Are Made For," hit the top-40 in 1961.

Philippe Wynne was probably their most well-known member. From 1972-1976, his voice was easily recognizable on such hits as "Could It Be I'm Falling In Love," "Mighty Love," "The Rubberband Man" and many others. Sadly, he died in 1984 at age 43.

With John Edwards, the group hasn't had a big pop hit since "Cupid/I've Loved You For A Long Time." Their most recent single, "Put Us Together Again," alas, does not sound as if it will return The Spinners to the hot 100 singles charts.

The reason I mentioned Harvey Fuqua earlier is because a new version of Harvey's "That's What Girls Are Made For," which he produced himself, is the last track on side one of the new album. The Spinners are real smooth on this new arrangement, whereas they're merely adequate on most of the remainder of side one, which includes "Put Us Together Again," "I Found An Angel," and "You're Number One."

Of course, you would expect The Spinners to bring back a rock and roll oldie. On side two we find a new version of "More Today Than Yesterday," which was a hit for Spiral Starecase back in 1969. This particular recording is worth a listen but lacks the excitement of some of The Spinners' earlier cover versions like "Cupid." (Maybe they should try another medley).

For the most part, this is your average black contemporary/pop album.

Other cuts: "She Does," "The Witness," "Two Can Be One," "Show Me Your Magic."

BRENDA K. STARR
"I Want Your Love" (Mirage)

When Brenda K. Starr met Arthur Baker, co-executive producer of the film "Beat Street," Baker was so impressed with Brenda's voice that he gave her a part in the film.

Now... Guess what kind of music is on Brenda's first album. Did you say dance music? You're catching on. Now, guess what city Brenda is from. New York, did you say? My goodness, you're smart!

This is jumpin' music, for sure, but as a whole not likely to make us all forget Shannon or Lisa Lisa. The first single, "Pickin' Up Pieces" is fine breakdancing jam, typical of Baker's work (I realize what I just said is meaningless if you don't dig hip-hop). Unfortunately, Brenda's voice fails to bring out the best of a ballad such as "Look Who's Crying Now" without all the production gloss and bottom-heavy instrumentation.

The title track is an electrified version of the old Chic hit done in the same key as the original, and the first few notes of "Love Me Like The First Time," sound like Freddie Jackson's "Rock Me Tonight (For Old Time's Sake)."

The name "Brenda K. Starr" has a nice ring to it, I think.

Other cuts: "Suspicion," "Boys Like You," "I Can Love You Better," "You're The One For Me."

The Spinners

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(corner Lorman St.)
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CARRY-OUT OR EAT-IN
Thurs.-Fri. 12 noon 'til 12 mid.
Saturday 12 noon 'til 1:30 a.m.
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Lorman Burger • Fresh Lake Trout • Club Sandwich • Club Sandwich • Kosher Hot Dog • Polish Hot Dog • Chicken Wings • Steak Sandwich • French Fries • Potato Salad & Cole Slaw **(Homemade)**
Frankie's Sunday Breakfast 6 a.m. Til 12 noon
Serving You in the Kitchen: Frankie
In The Lounge:
Beta, Nellie, Terry, George
Music by: Vernon "Big Hat"
Proprietor: Dennis Hill

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NIKKI "Super Duper" COOPER
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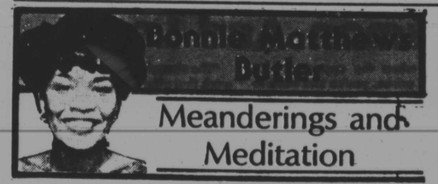


It's Friday. You've closed that big deal you had been working on all week. You have lunched with clients these last seven days, given your umpteenth presentation and finished all of your correspondence.

Now it's time to relax. You want to patronize a black establishment, hear some soothing yet pulsating music and chat with friends. But wait, you went through this very thing before last week. You started listing your options and drew a blank.

You could go to several of the new "in" spots but it's usually too crowded for what you have in mind besides that, you usually have to dress to the teeth to get in.

After a particularly grueling week, the first thing you want to do is take off that business suit and "cool out."

If the above scenario sounds familiar to you, look no further. THE LORMAN HOUSE, located in the 1800 block of Fulton Ave. is just the place. It's small intimate and full of friendly people.

Any evening of the week, you're likely to find all sorts of various and sundry folks casually dressed and eager to converse.

If the juke box isn't playing "You are My Lady" by Freddie Jackson or the latest Luther Vandross cut, then Vernon "Big Hat" (he refuses to give his last name) is spinning the latest and funkiest jams.

Bought in 1979 from Joe Rubin by Dennis Hill, THE LORMAN HOUSE continues to follow the same formula set down by Rubin that still works today.

"Joe Rubin was considered the godfather of the neighborhood bars" says Dennis. "I didn't change anything dealing with how to handle the business but I did do a lot of structural work." THE LORMAN HOUSE now occupies two buildings and might be expanding to another one in the future.

When asked what makes the LORMAN HOUSE work, Dennis is eager to let you know that the answer is hard work, "being there" and surrounding yourself with capable help.

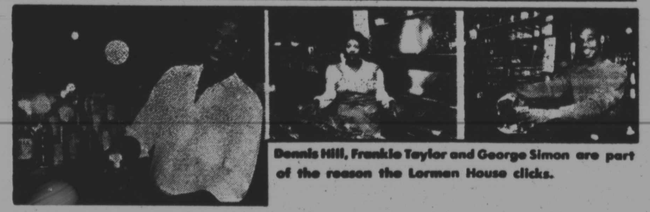
Ah, the helpers. They are the people who make your stay at the LORMAN HOUSE enjoyable. At the LORMAN HOUSE, George Simon, Nellie Anderson, Terry Phillips and Frankie Taylor make your visit there relaxing, soothing and yet pulsating.

If it's food you want, it's food you'll get at this watering hole. Frankie Taylor has one of the best kitchens around. The food isn't greasy and the menu is lavish. She's usually there after 5 p.m. everyday for she's also a dental assistant.

The food she prepares, such as the club sandwich or the crab cake, the gumbo or the chicken wings, are done with love and taste simply supreme.

So, at the end of an exhausting day at the office, take off those heels, unloosen that tie, slip into your jeans and go over and visit the LORMAN HOUSE. You won't regret it.

OTHER NIGHTTIME COMINGS AND GOINGS....Irving Charles and the Essential Scorpios are hosting a Scorpio Monday fest on Monday, November 4 at the 32nd STREET PLAZA. Scorpio Bill Harris will provide the live music with an adult disco (whatever that is) by Clayton. The action starts at 9 p.m....Norman Patterson, the businessman with the check cashing place on Bloom St. is now in the nightclub business. His new place is called UTOPIA and is located on Landover Rd. in Landover, Md. Norman invites all of you to attend the grand opening on Saturday, November 9 from 9 p.m. until 3 a.m. He does request, however, you must be 23 years or older and that you are properly attired....Project Survival has come up with another great idea. On Saturday, November 9, Budweiser is sponsiring the Charm City Classic basketball games and cabaret. For $14, you can watch the Urban Services Agency, The Baltimore Lightning, the Sportsmen's Lounge, WWIN Radio plus the Washington, D.C. Oldtimers, the Pittsburgh, Pa. Oldtimers, the Baltimore Oldtimers and the Cleveland Oldtimers play classic basketball at Douglass High School. After that exhilarating day, you can get into your fancy clothes and dance, listen to jazz or play in the game room. Vernon Wolst and the Big Blues Band will hold fort on one level, Sandy Crawford, pianist and vocalist, will do her thing on another level and pool tables, video games or ping pong can be played on still another level. If that's not enough activity for you, on Sunday, November 10 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., you can mosey on down to THE SPORTSMEN'S LOUNGE for a breakfast show featuring the Vernon Wolst Organ Trio and Reggie K, the d.j.....Oh, before I run out of space, I think it is significant to mention the final chapter in the neighborhood war on Hilton St. Seems that Rahsaan's or as it was known early in its history, FINK'S is being petitioned to become a barshop/beauty salon. Seems the neighbors no longer wanted this place to continue as a bar and lobbied for another type of establishment to be housed in the space. Therefore, on November 5 at 1 p.m., there will be a public hearing to turn the place into a barbershop/beauty salon. I am told that the Rev. Mrs. Tarpley of the barbershop aross the street wanit to move over there. Well, I'm out of space so I'll see you next week.


Dennis Hill, Frankie Taylor and George Simon are part of the reason the Lorman House clicks.

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Tickets $14
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Joshua Johnson Benefit Fund

The second annual Joshua Johnson Endowment Fund Gala Dance and Cocktail Buffet will be held Saturday, November 16 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at The Baltimore Museum of Art.

Ken Singleton will serve as Honorary Chairman of the benefit event which will feature music by Baltimore's top jazz band, Moon August, a light supper buffet, and cash bar. Leslie King Hammond is chairperson of the dance.

Tickets are $25 per person. To make reservations, send checks payable to The Baltimore Museum of Art, c/o The Joshua Johnson Endowment Fund, Art Museum Drive, Baltimore, Maryland 21218.

For more information about the Joshua Johnson Endowment Fund or Gala Dance, please call 396-6148.

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