THE POETRIE GALLERIE-

STORMY WEATHER

An overwhelming force there to keep you standing An overwhelming force that's too demanding A preventative method a neglecting song That overwhelming force An overwhelming wrong...

Wanting to touch but cannot feel Wanting to cry but too unreal Wanting to love but cannot connect Wanting to understand but must reject...

Speechless words sounding loud as a storm Explosion of anger lightning is born After all is silent what's left of the storm Rain drops, puddles, and hearts that are torn...

> ROCHELLE D. COX Columbus, OH

A Hopeless Man

A man without dreams and who is motivated by nothing, ends up with nothing.

A dreamless man is befuddled and astounded by other men's achievements, because he has

When man limits himself to one field of study, he limits his mind.

When man forbids himself to deal consistently with reality, he misjudges life and evolution.

A man who falsely judges people, credits himself with other people's accomplishments.

When man's bylaws forbids him to help mankind, he becomes selfish and illiterate.

A man who thirsts for love and foolishness, obtains foolishness and love only.

Until man learns to control his mind and eliminate unbeneficial elements, that compel him to illusions, his dreams will always be deferred and without no conclusions.

> PRESTON E. BAKER Oxon Hill, MD

"Ivory Etiquette"

It's not that I don't love being black, I just get tired of being black. I cannot and refuse to be the international spokesperson for the entire mass of the people of color.

For the race is too complex, too diverse for one individual to be your door to a world unbeknown to you whom have found shelter in you isolated communities. And your only real contact has been brought to you by icon tubes and metal presses.

If you just love those "Bo Derek braids" you probably scored well in American History. My hair may be rather thick You say kinky, I say nappy Thank you, I get along just fine with my soft bush that crowns my head. I do not wish to have blond hair and blue eyes. And I am very content with my round buttock and thunder thighs. I don't need to sun but I can get a tan. Please spare me the "What's happening" with the false J.J. accent from "Goodtimes" A simple "hello" will do.

I do have rhythm - but I don't sing and I don't play basketball. I do love collard greens, hot water cornbread, watermelon and black eye peas. I got educated and lost my appetite for chitlins and hog maws, pig ears and pig tails and neck-bones.

However that's neither here nor there 'cause I do remember seeing you shopping at the same grocery store partaking of these same delicacies. Shame, shame, shame. I promise not to tell any of your friends but I saw them there too.

My use of the English language is as broad as a spectrum If I feel like it I can produce impeccable enuciation of all words, whether one or six syllable, define those words, gather them in a sentence containing a noun and a predicate, without the misuse of the verb "be" And throw you for a devastating dive with my magic of the grammar.

I am versatile I will take your language which is derivative of the Old English, which you brought from England, and give it a whole 'nother ring. Talk to me, why don 'cha.

Come on relax yourself Free to be you and me And if you allow "nigger" or "jungle bunny" to flow from your mouth You must be planning to plead "temporary insanity" You are intelligent. You do fully comprehend.

It's not that and don't love being black, I just get tired of being black. I can not and refuse to be the international spokesperson for the entire mass of the people of color.

For the race is too complex, too diverse for one individual to be your door to a world unbeknown to you whom have found shelter in your isolated communities. And your only real contact has been brought to you by icon tubes and metal presses.

> DAPHNE FLUCKER Brooklyn, NY

All materials must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Address all correspondence to: The Editor, Dawn Magazine, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Record Review Ratings

By Carl Matthews

MORRIS DAY

Color Of Success Warner Brothers 25320-1 Color Of Success, The Character, The Oak Tree, Love Sign, Don't Wait For Me, Love/Addiction

Rating - * * * 1/2

Morris Day, formerly of the group The Time, has a new solo album which features the top 10 R&B hit, "The Oak Tree." That funky Timelike sound is all over Morris' solo album. The album starts off with the title track, an autobiographical piece which makes certain statements about what direction his life is taking. Morris talks about himself a lot here, a practice which smacks of conceitedness, it could be argued. By taking a more "serious" approach to his lyrics, we find that Morris is not content to stick with the purely fun and crazy expressions that characterized the Time albums. All that aside, this is a funky, upbeat album, and if you like the song "The Oak Tree" then by all means get the full-length version on this album. Remember, there's only one Morris Day.

JAZZY JEFF

On Fire

Jive JL6-8399

Mix So I Can Go Crazy, Rock It (Rock It), People On The Subway, My Mother (Yes I Love Her), King Heroin (Don't Mess With Heroin), Fire, Hear This (Yes I Quit), So This Is Funk

Rating - * *

Jazzy Jeff used to be in Funky Four Plus One, a group that had such singles on the Sugar Hill label as "That's The Joint." On this, Jazzy Jeff's first solo album, we find "King Heroin (Don't Mess With Heroin)," which was released on Jazzy Jeff's first 12" single. Like everything else on this album, it's fresh street hip-hop perfectly calculated to rock the house, in the tradition of other (more popular) acts such as Run-D.M.C. et al. This tune and "Hear This (Yes I Quit)" have an anti-drug message, a message that, although is very well worth repeating, is unfortunately destined to become part of the wasteland of longforgotten rap records; for although Jeff sounds hip and is a fine rapper, the music, composition and arrangement-wise, is just not likely to click outside of the rap world. This is a cliche-ridden, uneven sort of disc, and Jeff just

lacks the personality to make it special, the way I see it.

THE MIGHTY SUPREME VOICES

Live At The Second Gospelrama Expo Convention, Washington, D.C. GosPearl PL16027

It's An Uphill Journey, Try God, Sweet Hour Of Prayer, Since I've Been Born Again, No Friend Like God, Tell Him What You Want Part 1, Tell Him What You Want Part 2, Glad To Be In The Service

Rating - * * *

The Mighty Supreme Voices from Dallas, Texas are a talented group of men who have recorded this high-spirited album of contemporary gospel originals which sounds like a winner. From the well-written "It's An Uphill Journey," with lead vocals by Cecil Washington, to the relaxing, fine harmony vocals of "Tell Him What You Want," gospel fans should find this an enjoyable live album.

THE SPINNERS

Lovin' Feelings Mirage 90456-1

Put Us Together Again, I Found An Angel, You're Number One, She Does, That's What Girls Are Made For, More Today Than Yesterday, The Witness, Two Can Be One, Show Me Your Magic

Rating - * * 1/2

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. It includes a new version of "That's What Girls Are Made For," their first hit single on the Tri-Phi label which hit the top-40 in 1961. Harvey Fuqua, former leader of Harvey And The Moonglows, wrote and produced both the original and this remake. The Spinners are real smooth on this new arrangement, whereas they're merely adequate on most of the remainder of side one, which includes the album's first single, "Put Us Together Again." 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.

BRENDA K. STARR

I Want Your Love Mirage 90284-1

Suspicion, Pickin' Up Pieces, Look Who's Crying Now, I Want Your Love, Boys Like You, I Can Love You Better, Love Me Like The First Time, You're The One For Me

Rating - * * 1/2

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, a typical Arthur Baker production (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.

KURTIS BLOW

America

Mercury 422-826 141-1

America, America (Dub Mix), Super Sperm, A.J. Meets Davy DMX, Hello Baby, If I Ruled The World, Respect To The King, A.J. Is Cool, Summertime Groove, MC Lullaby, Don't Cha Feel Like Making Love

Rating - * * *

After six albums, this rap king is still "Blowin'." The album's opening cut, "America," is an interesting piece of state-ofthe art production work containing pieces of speeches by JFK, Nixon, Reagan, Martin Luther King, Jr. and others. This track reminds me a little of Paul Hardcastle's "19." As for the album's final track, "Don't Cha Feel Like Making Love," I can only say this: stick to rapping, Kurtis. On side 2 of the album is a 28-second track titled "MC Lullaby." You may find it difficult to enjoy this particular track, unless you feel like trying to play this cut backwards. That's right, the entire song runs backwards on the album. If you do decide to play it backwards, you might get a chuckle or two out