a decent performance.

Lafonde Holley gives a very

character of Jade and comes up

"Steal Away" the current production at the Arena Playhouse is like a bomb waiting to explode, showering the audience with laughter, but the fuse was not quite long enough.

The play is not badly done; it just does not fulfill its potential. As the play is written it is a showcase for ensemble acting. The women in "Steal Away" are supposed to bounce lines off each other crisply and exchange

speed. Yet the evening is not, she is very convincing. wasted. There were intermittent moments when the play was very enough in terms of being a vi-

with amusing situations. A group fearful, inexperienced, in terms bladder problems during the of black churchwomen in Chicago of criminality, extremely reluc- planning of the bank heist. She during the Depression raises tant church women to dare to rob reaches very deep into the funds each year to send a de- a bank. serving young woman from their Tracy must be a powerful with some fine comic moments.

hatched a plot to rob a bank to decent performance. raise more funds than the pie Verna Day as Stella Margaret. selling and dinner selling that Kyzer, founder of the society and women have been doing to the grandmother of Tracy gives finance the scholarships.

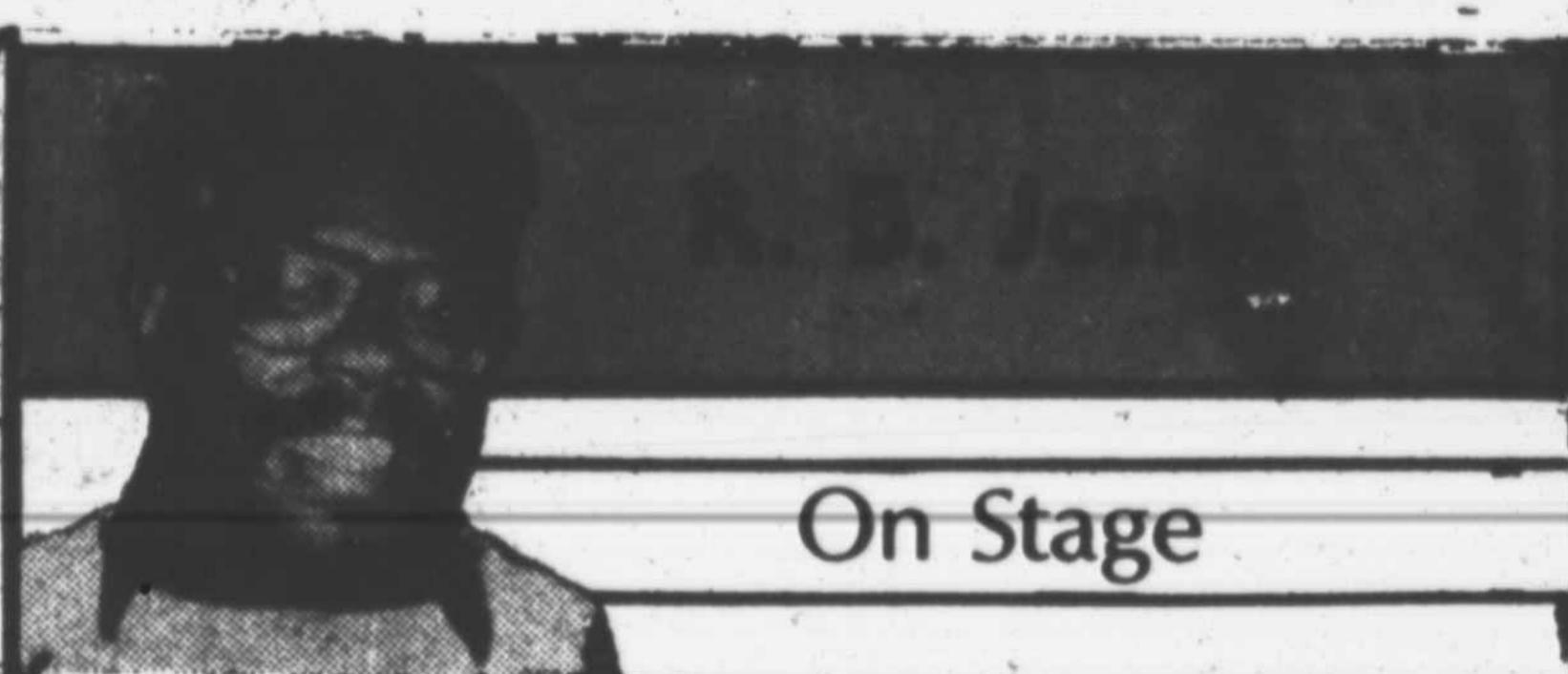
When Tracy broaches the sub- recent memory. Mrs. Day has ject with the women they are become such a fixture on horrified and reject the scheme. Baltimore stages that she has Later they reconsider when their often been more personality than request for a bank loan for their actress, but this time out she has scholarship effort is rejected with given a subtle, well defined per-

learn the robbery plan and then carry it out are very funny.

Michele Fantt played Tracy, the a fine performance.

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1225 Cathedral Street



energy from one or the other. proper amount of propriety for a Bessie McGowan does a There was an unevernness to young church woman who creditable job as Red although this production due to the fact graduates from college during she swallows some of the lines that some characters were going the Depression of the 1930s. In she delivers and she exhibits a full blast and some were at half, that aspect of her performance, little uncertainty about her characterization. Still, she gives

However, she is not forceful sionary with the courage and energetic performance as Jade The plot of the play is pregnant strength of will to persuade five Long, a woman who develops

church to college. As the play orator and determined almost to which are only marred by occabegins, the first one Tracy Ada, the point of fanaticism and Ms. sional moments where she has just graduated from college. Fantt does not reach that level of speaks too fast and her words While she was at school she characterization. Still she gives a get lost.

Blu Daniels is played by Peggy Jordan. Blu is an almost reformed barroom swinger who is now a solid churchmember. one of her best performances i Ms. Jordan's performance is high energy all the way although her Blu at times is a bit too raucaus. It is a strong performance, but one that needs fine tuning.

The director of the play Amini derision by the bank manager. formance. The audience gets to Johari - Courts deserves credit The efforts of the women to see her character change moods for meshing the diverse acting and make decisions through styles of the cast into a producdialogue and body language. It is tion which although not polished to a fine glimmer, is still good Sudy Atkins is played by Zerita enough for an enjoyable evening ! Skates. Ms. Skates conveys well of theater.

the kindliness of her character. Also the director and the set however she does chew up some designer deserve credit for a set of her lines and at high energy very authentic for the Depression moments during the play she . Era and for the clever way they sometimes does not maintain the staged the bank scene. "Steal energy level set by other players. Away is not the greatest production ever but it is worth a look.

## (Continued from page 2)

with the School No. 33 show an exhibition of 4 Baltimore area ar-, on Friday, February 7. All intists will be held at the Painted terested contestants should ar-Bride Art Center in March.

The exhibition will open with an artists reception February 8 pavilions and then face our mer- was a Detroit Lion, and I love ty, is not related to Hexum. You from 3-5 p.m. and will run through February 28.

School No. 33 Art Center is located at 1427 Light Street. Gallery hours are 11-4, Tuesays-Saturdays.

These volunteers are needed for, Airways (destination to be plays Brick Wallace on "Santa very special CONTESTS . . . con- announceed). tests with FREE ENTRY AND FABULOUS PRIZES!

The first is a Mardi Gras costume contest at 9 p.m. in the Light Street Pavilion Great Hall Harborplace Wis.

The second contest is called "Webster" co-star Susan Clark in the Unusual Talent Contest and it real life, will receive mail if it's takes place at 2 p.m., Sunday, addressed to him c/o Georgian Harborplace is preparing to go February 9, so all spoon-players, Bay Productions, Paramount Pictotally wild and crazy during the belly dancers and hog-callers tures, 5555 Melrose Ave., Los upcoming Mardi Gras Madness should be put on full alert to Angeles, CA. 90038. festival, and we're putting out a register now. The grand prize Q: I am a big fan of Richard will be a trip for two on World Eden, the hunky actor who.



Mitchell Ferguson (standing) and Greg McClure (kneeling) star in Athol Fuggard's "The Blood Knot" opening February 5 at St. John's Church. For Information call 728-3616.

## ASK ME ABOUT TY

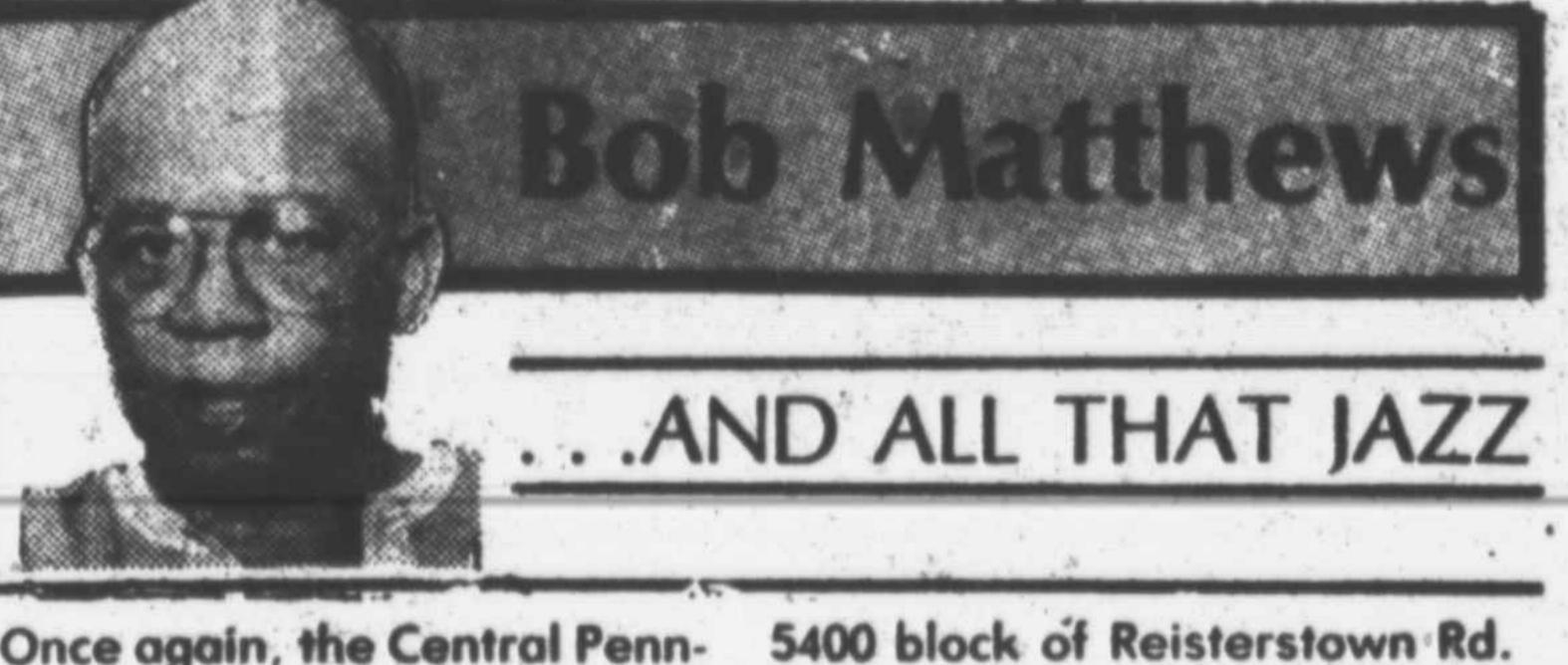
By Val Carew rive in full costume, ready to Q: I think Alex Kerres is parade through the Harborplace great! I laved him when he chant judges. The winner him now that he's starring on receives a free travelling ban- "Webster." Where can I write quet for themselves and 7 friends to him? - A.B., Waupaca,

A: Karras, who is married to

late Jon-Erik Hexum? They look a bit alike. — B.F.,

A: Eden, a Canadian actor attended Toronto's York Universican send fan mail to Eden c/o "Santa Barbara," NBC, Burbank, CA. 91505. By the way, Eden once appeared as Stanley Kowalski in a Canadian production of "A Streetcar Named Desire." If you ever have the chance, watch it. It's superb.

(Do you have a question about TV? Write Val Carew at 200 Park Ave., Room 602, New York, NY 10166. Quessonally, but those of general interest will be answered in future columns.)



Although the contracts are not

quartet will be the featured.

Best of all, it will revert to the

Was talking with Ruby Glaver,

who is just a wee bit excited over

tle Jimmie Scott as the featured

pletely set at this point either.

Know they are trying to ge

Phineas Newborn, but there may

So, the only certainty is that in

deed Little Jimmy Scott will be

... Aid" programs, beginning,

with the rock-musicians and their

to stage its "Jazz Aid ... From

gigantic "Live Aid."

Forum, Feb. 13.

appearing here in Baltimore

ings there.

Once again, the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz pointed the way, with a rousing first-of- yet signed, it is expected that the-year concert last Sunday in Jimmy McGriff and his group, Camp Hills, PA, just outside along with Lou Donaldson and his Harrisburg.

Friday Plus, January 24, 1986

There was a bus trip to the concert, complete with fried chicken by Chef Willis, and set-goers good ole BYOB policy that had were treated to a really first- really become a part of LBJS conclass outing.

On stage was a quintet con- policy at the new club, but we'll sisting of Paul Bley, piano; Bob be checking it out for you. Mover, alto sax; John Abercrombie, guitar; Ray Drummond, bass, and Billy Hart, drums.

Sufficeth it to say that it was a her upcoming appearance Godfrey's New Famous Ballroom, mance by real pros, who when Maxine Smith brings in Litart of jazz is all about -- and the audience loved it.

passing that the next concert by

This will happen on February 15, so you can list it on your calendar, and please note: the concert will be held — this is not concert will be held on a Satur- firm either. But, we are assured day night, from 8 p.m. 'til

be some sort of conflict in book-Rebecca, who will become Mrs. Gladstone Lily on Valentine's Day, February 14 at St. Matthews Pentecostal Church.

February, and Ruby Glover will Am really happy for Becky, of tragedy. If she seems to be smiling all the time - and she does - now you know why.

another of our city's musicians, will be tying the knot in all pros expected to happen at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in the Inner . Harbor. More about this later. and now, the jazz world is about \* \* \*

concert of the year on February

(Continued from page 5)

James Baldwin, jazz great Dizzy son, opera gives divas Leontyne dancer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, and statesmen Ralph Bunch and A full schedule of activities,

W.E.B. Dubois. the cultural and social life of the at the age of 52, he abandoned United States. On view are writer his career to become a portrait Gallery at 547-9000.

photographer. His goal was to Gillespie, singers Mahalia celebrate the achievements of O Jackson and the legendary prominent black Americans, O many of whom were his friends. The photographs on display

are a set of limited edition hand gravore prints.

tours, films and lectures have information, call The Walters Art



The National Dance Company of Senegal will perform at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall on Friday, February 28 at 8:30 p.m. Tickets

can be obtained by calling 202-432-0200 or 202-393-3600.

And, it's about time to check many people who have asked,

There are a lot of variables in tists as Dizzy Gillespie, Sarah this setto. Initially, it was going Vaughan, Stanley Clark and out where jozz can be heard on we'll devote a major part of our that day, but must mention in to happen on Feb. 23, but now freeflight. As has been the radio in this area. For the column on this next week. that date is not firm, and we are custom in the other."Aids," there the CPFOJ will be Sun Ra and his a bit glad since LBJS will be will be a live album of the conholding its concert on that day. cert, a television special as well. Then too, there is some discus- as a video sion about the place where the merchandise

The backup artists aren't com- just thought you'd like to have O

Alley in D.C. through Sunday night, and for those who queried us, the lineup is different than it O was when he played Baltimore O during the holidays.

This time, Reuben Brown is on piano; Marshall Wood, bass, and O be the opening act for the Mickey Roker, drums. We are told that they had never played together before, but it didn't mathas been caught up in those, the experts get together.

Finally, Ira Sullivan will be making an appearance in Country and Western stars did Baltimore at Ethel's Place for a their thing for the "Faim Aid," four-night engagement beinning Thursday, January 30.

the Heart 86," a mammoth con- bass; Reuben Brown, piano, and cert to be held at the Los Angeles Steve Bagby, drums. No more need be said. We'll have more on Already signed up are such ar- this next week.

With the spicy chicken that made us Famous With him, will be Rufus Reid, O and those delicious Buttermilk Biscuits. Popeyes has it together.

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Pam and Janet don't agree on everything

But when it comes to chicken and biscuits,

you'll find them at Popeyes.

Special includes 2 pieces of chicken, biscuit, choice of french fries or cajun rice, and small drink.

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