Happenings This Week

D.C. Events

Dance Theatre of Harlem

The world famous Dance Theatre of Harlem will perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Feb. 17-22. Performance times are Tues.-Fri. at 8 p.m., Sat. 2 & 8 p.m. and Sun. 1:30 & 7:30 p.m. For more details call: 202-254-3770.

Folktakes of Africa

"We Have Stories To Tell....Of Africa," a production using dialogue, pantomine and dance will play at the Kennedy Center Theatre Lab Friday, Feb. 13 thru Sunday, Feb. 22. Call 202-254-3600 for details.

Events for Children

Enoch Pratt Library

Saturday, February 14, Central Library: Preschool story hour. Children's Dept., 10 a.m.; Films - "Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree," "Junk Food," "The Wonderful Lollipop Rooster," "Delicious Inventions," and "Lickety-split Licorice." Wheeler Aud., 11 a.m.; and Valentine's Day celebration for ages six and older. Children's Dept., 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 18, Brooklyn Branch: Films - "Australia's Unusual Animals" and "How to be a Perfect Person in Just Three Days," 3 p.m. Central Library: Films - "The Hundred-Penny Box," "The Legend of John Henry," and "Just An Overnight Guest," 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 19, Edmondson Ave. Branch: Films - "Tap Dance Kid" and "Check It Out," 2 and 6 p.m.

John Taylor Workshops

Dancing, singing and creative movement are some of the activities that will happen at John Taylor's Workshops held every Saturday in February at 2 p.m. at the Cloisters Children's Museum. Admission is $2 for adults and children over 2; $1.50 for senior citizens and free for all members. For details call 823-2550.

Art Classes

Saturday art classes for children are held on Saturday at School –33 Art Center. Advance registration is required for children 6 to 10 for the Young Artist's Program and for the Young Master's program for children 11 to 15.

Tuition for the 10-week course is $50. For more info call 396-4641.

Special Events

Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity

The Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity is hosting a February Cocktail Sip on Sunday, Feb. 15 at the Pikesville Community Hall. Tickets are $16. For more details call Jim Johnson at 435-7934.

Baltimore's Best Awards

The Baltimore's Best 21st nomination awards celebration will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. Oriole players, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the Handel Choir of Baltimore will be featured. Admission is free but advance tickets are required. For more information call 396-5785.

Special Notices

Baltimore Playwrights Festival

Natives of Baltimore or residents are urged to send their original scripts, three if possible, to Baltimore Playwrights' Festival c/o The Vagabond Players, 806 S. Broadway, Baltimore 21231, or call 563-9135. Scripts will be considered for production in the 1987 Festival and the Readers' Theatre.

Film and Video Competition

The fourth annual Baltimore Womens Film and Video Competition is open to all women film and video artists. Entries can cover any topic. Only criteria is that films or videos must be produced, written and directed by and/or filmed by women. A $50 prize will be awarded in four categories. For more information call 685-5239.

THEATRE

'227'

The next production of the Arena Players will be "227" running through February 22. The production is by Christine Housten and was the original production for the current television sitcom which stars Marla Gibbs. For ticket information, and curtain times, call 728-6500.

'Wait Until Dark'

Harbour Theatre, Inc. will be presenting the mystery thriller "Wait Until Dark" on Friday and Saturday until February 14. All shows are at 8:15 p.m. at the Lutherville Community Center. For reservations, call 889-4779 before 5 p.m.

'Blithe Spirit'

The all-star Broadway production of Noel Coward's comedy, "Blithe Spirit" will play an exclusive four week pre-Broadway engagement at Baltimore's Morris A. Mechanic Theatre, February 10 through March 7. The production will star Richard Chamberlain, Blythe, Danner, Judith Ivey and Geraldine Page. For further information, call 625-1400.

'Uncle Vanya'

Anton Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya" is the next production of Center Stage's 1986-87 Season. The comedy will run through March 1. Performance times are Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Wednesday at 2 p.m. For ticket information, call 332-0033.

'Ubu Roi'

University Theatre of the University of Maryland College Park will present Alfred Jarry's political caricature, "Ubu Roi." Performances will be February 10-14 and 17-21 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 15 and 22 at 2 p.m. in the Rudolph E. Pugliese Theatre. For further information, call 454-2202.

Drama Classes

Creative Drama and Puppetry classes will be held through March 28 for boys and girls ages 5 through 15. Classes are sponsored by the Pumpkin Theatre and will be held on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings. For further information, call 467-6484.

Jazz Artist Exhibition

An exhibition with the University of Maryland, Baltimore County African American Studies Department, featuring 13 major jazz artists will be on display at the Albin O. Kuhn Library and Gallery of UMBC now through March 1. There will be a reception for the exhibit on February 8 at 3 p.m. until 5 p.m.

To have your event listed, send information at least 2 weeks in advance to:

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On The Cover. . . .

Freddie Jackson steps out on his own

By Bonnie Matthews Butler

When Freddie Jackson first burst on the scene as a background vocalist for Melba Moore, those in the know knew that he was destined for stardom.

And it has now come true, Freddie Jackson will be headlining the shows set for the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall this Sunday, February 15 at 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

For those of you who have been in a daze for the last year, Freddie Jackson is that smooth voiced, 26-year-old artist who recorded "Rock Me Tonight" and "You Are My Lady."

We first met Freddie when he emerged from the background of Melba Moore's show at the Carter Barron in Washington, D.C. and again when he appeared the first time in Baltimore at the Meyerhoff and at Pier 6.

Melba Moore found Freddie when he was working at a New York nightclub called Freddy's, and famed singer/songwriter/producer Paul Laurence, who had collaborated on songs with him, convinced Melba Moore to come down and hear his friend.

Melba was so taken by Freddie that she influenced her management firm, Hush Productions, to take him on immediately to help develop his career.

Freddie was hired to sing background for such notables as Harry Belafonte, Angela Bofill, Mtume and, of course, Melba. He also wrote Melba's hit single, "Keep My Lover Satisfied," as well as "Winners."

Finally, Hush Productions decided the time was right and they put Freddie in the studio, on his birthday, October 2, 1984 to begin recording his own album.

When we spoke with Freddie during these gigs, we were most impressed with his willingness to meet and greet his fans after his performances.

No matter how long it took, everyone who came backstage had the opportunity to get an autograph or a kind word from the man. We knew it was just a matter of time before the powers to be realized that this man could support a tour as a headline act.

During the first show this Sunday, Mayor Clarence "Du" Burns will present Freddie with a Proclamation welcoming him to Baltimore.

Freddie's current album, "Just Like The First Time" is now Number 1 on Billboard's top black albums chart (11 weeks at number one) and the single "Have You Ever Loved Someone" is charted at Number 2 on Billboard's hot black singles list under, ironically, Melba Moore's Number one hit "Falling."

Dennis Edwards: Will he or won't he

By Frederick I. Douglass

Dennis Edwards, the Temptations' alumnus who was recently asked to rejoin the famed male vocal group to replace Ollie Woodson, will be appearing at The Palladium on Valentine's Day (Saturday, February 14).

Edwards, who was the lead singer for the Temptations for more than a decade, released his first solo album "Don't Look Any Further" in 1984 and went on a nationwide tour to introduce the public to tunes like "Aphrodisiac" and "Let's Go Up."

Describing the record, Edwards asserted 'I'm proud of the album... Dennis Lambert, who produced the album, and I went into the studio with the hopes of coming out with something special. I think we accomplished that."

Beginning his musical career at the age of two, Dennis Edwards honed his vocal skills in a Birmingham, Alabama church. His journey to stardom led him to Detroit where he sang with the Crowns of Joy and other gospel groups. His first break in the music industry came when he joined the Contours of "Do You Love Me" fame and became associated with Motown.

The world of music burst wide open in 1968 for Dennis Edwards when he was given an opportunity to join the Temptations as a replacement for David Ruffin. During Ed-

(Continued on Page 4)

Bonnie Matthews Butler

Meanderings and Meditation

The votes are in for the '1986 Best and Worst in Entertainment' survey

The votes are in for the ***Friday Plus*** survey on 1986's Best and Worst in Entertainment! And the winners (losers) are - Hold it!

Before we do that, let me inform you that there really are some kind, considerate, caring ***Friday Plus*** readers in Maryland.

Didn't one reader mark a "worst" in six of nine categories with this in mind, ***Friday Plus*** might just have a "best" survey next year this time. Okay, here are the "best winners."

NIGHTCLUBS - Duke Martin's Continental Cuisine out on Reisterstown Rd., narrowly sqeaked by last year's winner, **The Utopia** in Landover, Md. Sorry Norman, but you almost had a repeat.

NEIGHBORHOOD BAR/TAVERN - Brice's Hilltop, The Five Mile House, both on Reisterstown Rd. and last year's winners, **The Garrison Lounge,** ran neck and neck with Brice's winning by a nose.

NIGHTCLUB OWNER - The Five Mile House's **Westley Johnson** took the honors.

NEIGHBORHOOD BAR/TAVERN OWNER - Rhonda Fraizer won the gold for the Brice Family.

BARTENDER - Charlie Blackwell, manager and backup drink dispenser, won in a walk for Maceo's, the popular spot on Monroe St. and Walbrook Ave. **Charles Tilghman,** last year's winner was right up there. Even though he just recently returned to the noted nightspot, his fans still voted him the second spot.

CONCERT - The Stevie Wonder (ful) concert at the Baltimore Arena took home top honors with **Luther Vandross'** date at the same venue coming in a close second.

RADIO STATION - Dorothy Brunson's **WEBB Radio** was top vote getter. **V-103** followed closely in the number two slot.

RADIO PERSONALITY - Randy Dennis of V-103 was the favorite of ***Friday Plus*** readers. (Sources told us that Randy has just signed a multi-year contract at the station making him the highest paid radio personality on a local station.)

Losers in that "other" category were:

NIGHTCLUB - Moreco's CONCERT OF 1986 - The marvelous **Temptations** at the Lyric Opera House, without their "no-show" co-stars - **The Four Tops.**

NEIGHBORHOOD BAR/TAVERN - The Paradise

Some readers inquired as to why catering halls were not included. Since Charm City has only two major black-owned facilities of note, The Forum and The Palladium, ***Friday Plus*** wishes to salute them both.

Friday Plus Awards Night will be announced in the near future for the winners.

The losers will have to be mindful of the time-worn Avis Car Rental slogan. Has something to do with trying harder.

Hey, if your favorite lost, could it be you were guilty like some folks on election day? Trust you'll take the time - next year!

Now on to other news of note.

The Coor's Miss Nite Life Ball held last Sunday at The Palladium was an outstanding success. Multiple winner, **Laverne Paige** of Dotson's Lounge in Glen Burnie, walked away with top honors for the third year in a row.

The Spider Web's **Lettie Benson** took the number two slot and **Thelma Watkins** of the Sportsmen's Lounge came in third.

The funds are raised each year to help the Project Survival Organization provide equipment, uniforms and teachers for the young adults who sign up for the program.

Vernon Wolst, the director and his staff should be commended for the hard and tireless work they do each year.

* * *

Send get well cards to **Gussie Stewart,** owner of the Garrison Lounge. Gussie is recuperating at St. Agnes Hospital, Room 235.

* * *

Sources tell me that popular barmaid and last year's entertainment survey winner, **Beta Dotson** is no longer pouring at The Paradise on Pennsylvania Ave. Interesting.

* * *

Jean Carne and **Ronnie Laws** are scheduled to play the Meyerhoff on March 5. A D.C. company, Grandell and Co. is putting on the show. More details as they become available.

It's Valentine's Day and here are some ideas to make it special!

Valentine's Day is Saturday and lovers throughout Maryland are seeking unique ways to rekindle their most prized relationships with loved ones. Following a time honored custom, valentine cards will be exchanged and there will be parties throughout the land. And while the event still represents the celebration of love and is an occasion for great merrymaking, Valentine's Day was taken much more serious by lovers on days gone by.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica "In olden time, the customs of the day were taken quite seriously by young men and women. It was an ancient saying that birds chose their mates on St. Valentine's Day. People believed that the first person of the opposite sex that one met on that day was to be one's "valentine" for the year, perhaps for life.

One young damsel wrote in 1754, "I lay abed and shut my eyes all the morning till he came to our house, for I would not have seen another man before him for all the world." Sometimes the young people held a lottery on St. Valentine's Eve. The names of the girls were put into a box and were drawn at random by the young men. Then each pair would exchange gifts and each would be the other's "valentine" for a year.

It is thought that the customs of the day are a continuation, in a modified form, of an ancient Roman festival called the Lupercalia. This was held on February 15 and was something like a carnival."

Celebrants of Valentine's Day during 1987 have diverse options for observing the day dedicated to lovers. These choices include a wide variety of concerts, dances, cabarets, and performances plus special package deals by restaurants and hotels.

THE CABARET SCENE

The Palladium, 2900 Liberty Heights Avenue, will feature Dennis Edwards, who just rejoined the Temptations, crooning "Aphrodisiac" and "Don't Look Any Further." The entertainment for the evening will also include two comedians (Vincent Cook and Sheila Gaskins) plus special surprise guests. Call 367-6862 for additional information.

* * *

The Baltimore Raiders Bowling Club will host a "Formal Evening of Dining and Dancing" at Martin's Eudowood for the for the organization's 3rd Annual Sweethearts Ball. The black tie event will be held at Martin's Eudowood, 1238 Putty Hill Road and will feature live entertainment as well as an open bar from 9:00 PM until 2:00 AM. Contact Florine Williams, 444-8702, for further information.

THE NIGHTCLUB SCENE

Valentine's Day happenings at the **32nd Street Plaha** will be accompanied by the pulsating sounds of the NIVEK Band: Kevin Muldrow, lead vocals; Angelette Mack, vocals; Gary Hudgins, keybaords, band director; William Harris, bass; Robert Wilson, lead guitar; and Michael Delvison, drums. There will be a $5.00 admission charge.

* * *

Duke Martin's Continental Cuisine on Reisterstown Road will be serving its usual fare from the kitchen on Valentine's Day and couples will be presented with a free bottle of wine. Dance music to the latest disco sounds will be available until closing time and the admission is gratis.

* * *

Tubbs Restaurant, at 201 N. Greene Street in the Lexington Market, will have live music with Diamond n' the Ruff, featuring the inimitable sounds of Sir Thomas Hurley on the organ. There will be a $3.00 admission charge and additional information can be obtained by calling 727-0945.

* * *

The Sportsman's Lounge, 4723 Gwynn Oak Avenue, will present the Dave Ross Trio featuring Marlena Ross, vocalist. Call 664-1041 for information.

* * *

Root's, 2148 Vine Street, will host a Valentine's Day Party and Raffle, with no cover charge. Call 945-7398 for additional information.

* * *

The Closet on Franklin Street will feature the music of Baltimore's favorite recording saxophonist, Gary Bartz all weekend with a $5.00 admission fee. Call 752-3897 for reservations.

* * *

The Five Mile House on Reisterstown Road will present a flower and a box of candy to the first 25 ladies to arrive for the disco in the upstairs room, $4.50 cover charge, call 542-4895 for more data.

* * *

The Place, 315 W. Franklin Street, will be the scene of a Valentine's Day Dinner which is being hosted by C.A. Wright. The $10.00 admission fee entitles attendees to a free drink and food during the hours of 8:00 PM until 1:00 AM.

CONCERT SCENE

Dimensions Unlimited, Inc., of Washington, D.C., is holding a special Valentine's Day Concert featuring the **Dells** and **Shirley Murdock** at the Warner Theatre, tickets $18.50, call telethon, 1-800-233-4050.

* * *

Freddie Jackson will be appearing at the Joseph meyerhoff Symphony Hall on Sunday to keep the Valentine's Day grrove going throughout the weekend.

HOTELS/RESTAURANTS

The Omni International Hotel, 101 W. Fayette Street, has a package deal called the French Connection. If you book one night at $89.00 for two, you will receive dinner for two, excluding beverage, a chilled bottle of sparking wine in your room, a discount on Sunday brunch in Jacqueline's, and your second night's stay for $39.00. Call 752-1100 for more information.

* * *

The Holiday Inn (various locations) is offering dinner for two for $29.95 including crab stuffed shrimp, sirloin steak, soup, salad bar, potatoes rissole, vegetables, complimentary glass of wine, Lover's Dessert and coffee. For information about special Valentine's Day rates, call the Holiday Inn nearest you.

* * *

Beefsteak Charlie's (various loctions) is offering a Champagne and Filet Mignon Dinner for Two which features a bottle of champagne, all you can eat shrimp and salad bar, baked potato or french fries, strawberry sundae, plus coffee or tea.

* * *

The Lord Baltimore Royale Hotel, 20-30 W. Baltimore Street is featuring a $99.00 special that includes dinner for two in the Royale Restaurant, a rose for the lady, plus a continental breakfast with champagne served in your king size bed. Call 539-8400 to reserve your room.