COMMUNITY LIVING

Jimmy Cliff speaks with AFRO

By Carrington Bonner
AFRO Correspondent

Reggae musician Jimmy Cliff performance at John's Hopkins' Shriver Hall last week showed a lot of command and showmanship, proving he is truly the leader of the Jamaican-rooted music.

His powerful show that had the audience participating from beginning to end was dominated with political overtones relating to South Africa and its vicious apartheid system. He performed songs from his current "Hanging Fire" album and old favorites.

Such songs as "Soar like an Eagle", "We are the World (the same people)", Reggae Down Babylon" "Reggae Down Apartheid," "Sitting in Limbo," and other sent sparks well past the Hopkins curfew.

Neither the security or the audience cared because the performance was breathtaking.

The star of the cult movie classic, "The Harder they Come" (he ended the concert with the title tune), still uses "Nabingee" percussion, an example he used in his opening song which has an African influence prayer tune reflecting spiritual values and thought.

The singer's dance steps were gritty without unneccessary flash. His seven piece band energized the concert that included a three song encore with a scintillating beat.

No doubt, the audience was convinced as it stood or danced throughout the show that Cliff continues to establish himself as a superstar of music.

Baltimore's own UPRISING opened the show with the mostly covers from popular tunes, in particular Bob Marley's songs. The top local reggae band were entertaining, despite a lack of original songs.

Cliff, who also performed in Washington, D.C. this past weekend, was gracious enough to grant a short interview behind stage and in his dressing room. Also present was his road manager Mr. Merritt.

Q. What do you think of your music?

A. "Culture covers politics and everything and that is what people need to know first. Our people don't know their culture. The lyrics keeps on repeating itself everyday, you know."

Q. Does that make it frustrating?

A. "No. We have to have faith. Good is over Evil. We can't give up. Evil is ruling now, eventually, Good must rule evil. If you think evil will rule then there's no chance but one by one, good must rule'

Q. What about the gang wars in Jamaica?

A. "Out of poverty crime comes. The politics in Jamaica keeps the poor poorer and the rich richer everyday, you know. It's not just Jamaica, its international."

Q. What if no music?

"If there was no music, man, people kill people more....when you down and out, sometimes its the good vibrations from the music that brings you back out." (It) "makes it feel that you have a companion. Like the music is life to you. It's energy to you. Motivation. A Stimulant."

Q. What's your favorite music after Reggae?

A. "After Reggae? Funk. Maybe, soul music, I like soul, man."

Q. What do you think of Rap music?

A. "It's coming from Jamaica. The first original rap music which is D.J. music...was done in Jamaica. They took it from us. And because its American, they commercialized it. They took it from us. Rap music started with people like U ROY and BIG YOUTH. Two of the biggest." (In Jamaica)

Q. Your current band lineup, who are they and how long have you been together?

A. "Almost 5 months. They are Radcliff Byran and Lloyd Willis on guitars, Billy Lawrence, percussion with Ansel Collins and Bowle McLaughlin on keyboards. Tony Williams plays drums. We're in the third week of a 14 week tour."

Q. What do you think of your personal Judgement day in view of Bob Marley and Peter Tosh circumstances?

A. "Well, you know I really don't have any fear, only of whoever is able to destroy my soul as well as my body. That's the only fear I have."

Q. The POSSE theory? The alleged Jamaican gangs dealing with weapons and drugs in America.

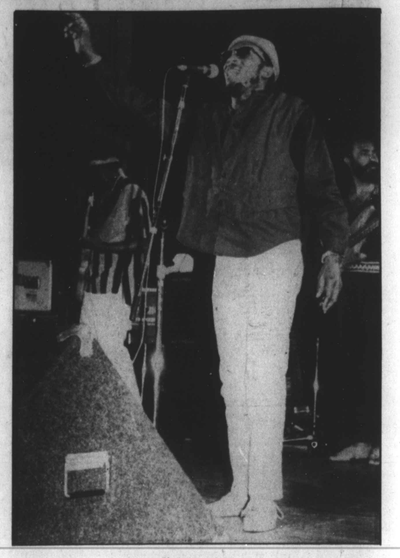
A. "It's a big Hype, whenever there's a rumor, there's always some truth to it. It's probably blown out of proportion for whatever reason."

Q. Describe yourself?

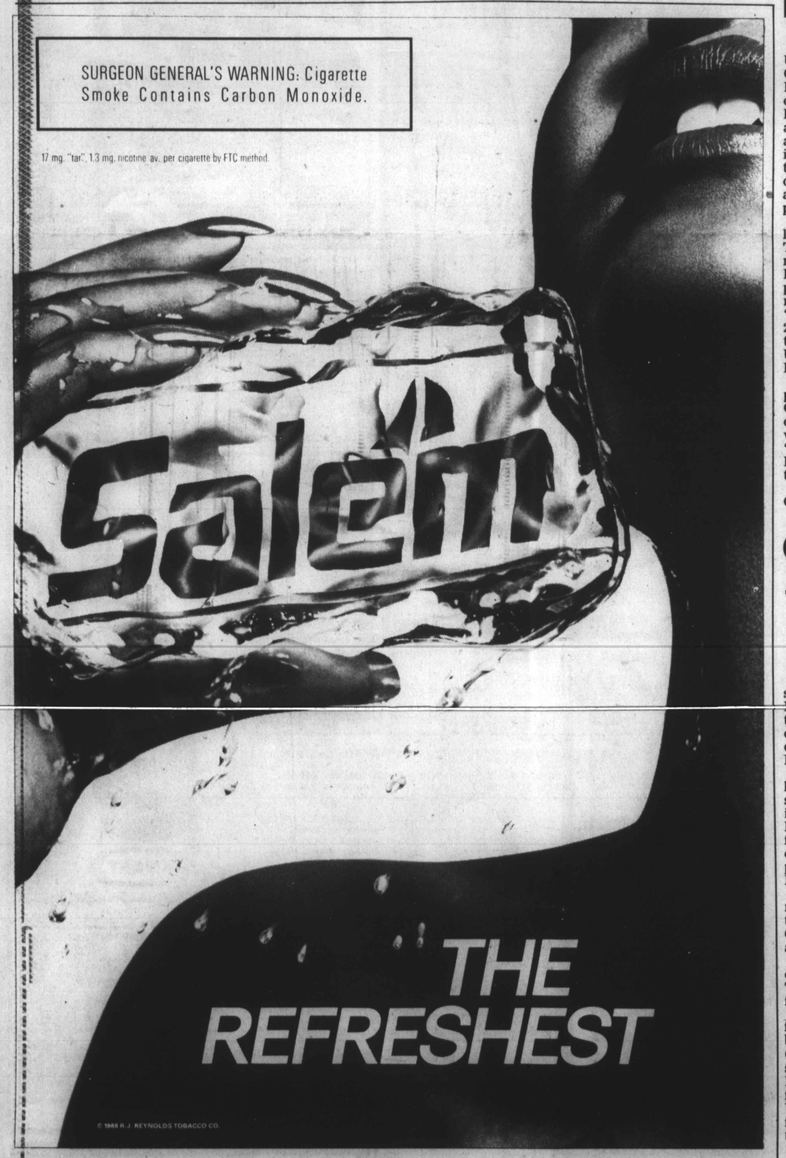
A. "I am not a politician but a musician with a mission. I'm not a comedian but I love to have fun."

Q. Our people?

A. "Great are we but don't know it."



Jimmy Cliff



Health plan backed by major city unions

The Baltimore Teachers Union has endorsed Chesapeake Health Plan, Inc., a health maintenance organization (HMO) serving Baltimore City and Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties, as the health plan of choice for its 10,000 members, according to Joseph LaAsmar, president of Chesapeake Health Plan, and BTU teacher chapter president Irene Dandridge.

"This means that the leadership of the Baltimore Teachers Union will now recommend Chesapeake Health Plan to provide comprehensive health care to its members," LaAsmar said. "Representing 10,000 of the 28,000 municipal employees, the Baltimore Teachers Union is the largest in Baltimore City."

Lonnie C. Spruill, Jr., vice president of development at Chesapeake Health Plan, cited CHP's "full range of services" and Chesapeake's "strong presence in Baltimore City" in winning the BTU endorsement.

According to Spruill, Chesapeake Health Plan won out over Maxicare/Health America of Maryland, The Johns Hopkins Health Plan, Blue Cross & Blue Shield's Columbia FreeState Health System, Kaiser Permanente and CareFirst in obtaining the BTU endorsement.

A "network model" HMO, Chesapeake offers clients a choice of visiting a CHP medical center or independent physicians offices for primary and routine care. Chesapeake currently has 43 locations in Baltimore City.

Benefits offered by Chesapeake Health Plan include routine office visits, immunizations, child health care, allergy shots, 24-hours-a-day emergency care, hospitalization, mental health services, nutritional counseling and dental services.

Founded in 1976, Chesapeake Health Plan is a state-licensed HMO operating throughout central Maryland. Eighteen hospitals and more than 600 physicians are currently part of Chesapeake Health's expanding network of medical services.

Orioles pitch in to help homeless

By Alicia Benjamin
AFRO Staff Writer

Over 4,000 people seek shelter on any given night in Maryland, according to Action for the Homeless, an organization dedicated to ending homelessness in Maryland.

To help alleviate the homelessness problem in the state, Action for the Homeless is teaming up with the Baltimore Orioles for a Hits for the Homeless phonathon on July 16 when the Orioles play the World Champions Minnesota Twins.

During the game, people may call in to pledge contributions for every hit the Orioles get during the game to aid the homeless.

Last year $30,000 was raised during the phon-a-thon. This is the second annual Hits for the Homeless fundraiser.

"I'm sure most of you come from a pretty normal upbringing," said Fred Lynn, Orioles outfielder and spokesman for Hits for the Homeless, during a press conference Wednesday at the YWCA. He said it was hard for him to imagine not having the luxury of a home.

"We take these things for granted," he said.

"We couldn't have had a better club (the Minnesota Twins) come to town because it's one of the few clubs we hit well against," Lynn said.

"Maybe we can do a lot of damage that night and help a lot of people," he said as the audience laughed.

"I think it's important to realize that the homeless are a part of our community," Norma Pinette, Executive Director of Action for the Homeless.

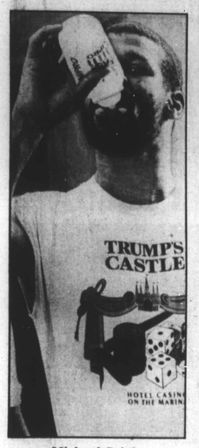
She said city agencies need to join together to solve the problems of the homeless in the state.

"This is good timing for this topic because homelessness is something people seem to think about in the winter," Pinette said.

"Whether it's hot or not, people still need a home," she stated.

Action for the Homeless was formed when the Greater Baltimore Shelter Network and Project Shelter combined their efforts to end homelessness in Maryland.

The organization provides advocacy, public education, fundraising and distribution to programs serving the homeless.



Michael Spinks
the 'cool' one cools off

Spinks or Tyson? Tyson or Spinks?

By Sam Lacy

The answer to the question comes Monday night.

That is when all the pre-fight hype, the tart exchanges and speculation over the effect a series of alleged domestic problems will have on one of the adversaries, turns into history.

That is when either Michael Spinks or Mike Tyson will emerge as undisputed heavyweight champion from an Atlantic City ring.

Spinks or Tyson?

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The AFRO readily admits it is unwilling to venture a prediction.

Why?

The reason is that this is a classic example of the perennial debate in boxing. Can a puncher defeat a boxer, or vice versa?

Tyson has the power to floor any opponent who stands up and tries to trade punches with him.

Spinks has the artists' conception of boxer, one who sidesteps, slips punches and peppers a foe to frustration.

Judging from reports emanating from his camp, Mike is beset with inner distractions. However, his open meanness suggests that his is razor sharp for a best effort.

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To his credit, though he is not one to make the assessment, Michael is a lot smarter than his older brother (by 3 years) Leon.

Despite his many years in the limelight after becoming one of the world's two top heavyweights, Michael has retained an inner calm that belies kinship to the carousing, care-free character of his older sibling. He has let his fists talk for him.

The best judgment at this desk is that the length of the fight will determine the outcome.

Inside six rounds, it will be Tyson. More than six rounds: Spinks.

Sports weekend

FINAL EMBRACE — Forward James Worthy and his coach Pat Riley share a happy embrace at the end of the gruelling 7-game NBA championship series. Worthy, who scored 37 points, and Riley, who must have collected as many ulcers, celebrated after their Los Angeles Lakers edged the Detroit Pistons, 108-105, in the final game Tuesday night.

Inner Harbor to host unique race Sunday

The field is full for the 4th annual Baltimore Bud Light USTS triathlon which takes place Sunday at the Inner Harbor.

Race Director Lyn Brooks closed entries in April when registration reached 1,848 individuals and 83 relay teams, the earliest sellout in the 72-race history of the Bud Light U.S. Triathlon Series.

This marks the 4th year the triathlon has been held in Baltimore, the third year the race has sold to capacity.

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Baltimore is the second largest triathlon on the 11-city Bud Light U.S. Triathlon Series national tour (the July 31 Chicago event will fill at 3,500 entries) and the largest triathlon held on the East Coast.

The triathlon format begins at 7:30 am with a 1.5-kilometer swim (.9 miles) at Gunpowder Falls State Park. The swim is followed immediately by a 40K bike ride (24.8 miles) to the Inner Harbor and then a 10K run (6.2 miles) through Fort McHenry, ending at Rash Field on Key Highway.

3 title matches scheduled for Arena mats Saturday

World Wrestling Federation action resumes at the Baltimore Arena on Saturday night with a trio of title matches headlining the eight-event program which gets underway at 7:30 o'clock.

In the featured match, Randy Savage, WWF's new world's heavyweight champion, and the man he defeated for the title in Wrestlemania IV, Ted DiBiase, continue their feud unchallenged by the former champ, Hulk Hogan.

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The Honkey Tonk Man, now holder of Savage's intercontinental championship, meets a persistent adversary in Brutus Beefcake in the co-featured attraction, while the third title on the line brings the Strike Force of Rick Martell and Tito Santana out to regain the tag team championship from the Demolition duo of Ax and Smash.

In a second tag team match, the British Bull Dogs are on the attack against the untamed Haku and Siva Afi.

A quartet of all-star supporting bouts pair off Jake "The Snake" Roberts v. Ravishing Rick Rude; the Junk Yard Dog v. Badman Ron Bass; Jerry Allen v. Barry Horowitz and Brady Boone v. Steve Lombardi.

NBA summary

JUNE 7 — Detroit 105, LA Lakers 93
JUNE 9 — LA Lakers 108, Detroit 96
JUNE 12 — LA Lakers 99, Detroit 86
JUNE 14 — Detroit 111, LA Lakers 86
JUNE 16 — Detroit 104, LA Lakers 94
JUNE 19 — LA Lakers 103, Detroit 102
JUNE 21 — LA Lakers 108, Detroit 105

A DERBY, ANYWAY — They failed to make it as the first black-owned entry in the Kentucky Derby in early May, but James Cottrell and his Jim's Orbit took the Ohio counterpart to the Churchill Downs race last weekend. Orbit won the Ohio Derby beating favored Tsarbaby, trained by feuding Woody Stephens and Wayne Lukas.

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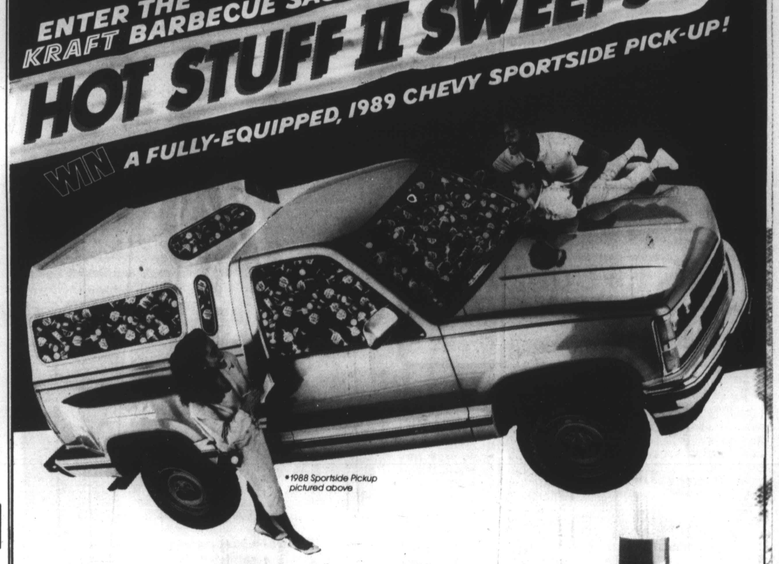

*1988 Sportside Pickup pictured above

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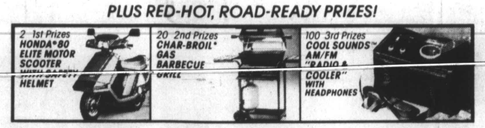

Spice up your life as well as your food with America's favorite barbecue sauce—KRAFT Barbecue Sauce!

You're on the road to being a BIG winner if you can guess how many 18-ounce bottles of KRAFT Barbecue Sauce we've stuffed in the roomy, fully-equipped, fun-to-drive 1988 Chevy Sportside Pickup! Because if the lucky guess is yours, you win the 1989 model!

Here's a game that's easy to enter and fun to play, and the prizes are fantastic! Besides the 1989 Chevy Sportside Pickup, you could win one of two Honda Motor Scooters with helmets, one of 20 good-cooking Char-Broil® Gas Barbecue Grills, or one of 100 handy Cool Sounds™ AM/FM "Radio Coolers"! So check the rules below or look for the "Hot Stuff II" display at participating retail stores where tangy KRAFT Barbecue Sauce is sold and enter today!

*1988 Sportside Pickup pictured above

*Cooler top may vary

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OFFICIAL RULES
1. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. 2. Guess how many 18 oz. bottles of KRAFT Barbecue Sauce we put in the 1988 Chevrolet Sportside Pickup. 3. To enter hand print your name, address (zip), telephone number and your guess on the official entry (blank or use a 3" x 5" sheet of paper as your entry form. Include 1 UPC code from any variety of 18 oz. KRAFT Barbecue Sauce or KRAFT Thick 'N Spicy Barbecue Sauce or 1 additional 3" x 5" piece of paper with the words KRAFT Barbecue Sauce, along with your guess. Also, on the left hand bottom corner of your entry, print your answer clearly. 4. Entries must be mailed to: KRAFT Barbecue Sweepstakes II, PO. Box 2241, Libertyville, IL 60048. Enter as often as you wish, but each entry must be mailed in a separate envelope. The game begins June 1, 1988. All entries must be received by July 31, 1988. Kraft, Inc. is not responsible for lost/late/misdirected or illegible entries. 5. Winning Entries. The entry which correctly identifies the number of bottles stuffed into the pickup wins. The odds of winning depend on the number of correct entries received. If multiple correct entries are received, winners will be selected in a random drawing from all correct entries received. The first correct entry drawn will be awarded the Grand Prize. The next two correct entries will win First Prizes with the drawing continuing until all prizes are awarded. All prizes will be awarded provided a sufficient number of entries is received. Limit one prize per household. In the event no entry identifies the exact number of bottles, or if an insufficient number of correct entries is received, prizes will be awarded on the basis of the closest guess without going over the actual number. In case of a tie, a random drawing will be held to determine the winner. All drawings will be conducted by H. Oden & Co., an independent judging firm, whose decisions are final on all matters relating to sweepstakes. 6. By entering, winners consent to use of their names, addresses, likenesses and prize information for promotion purposes without additional compensation. Winner will be notified by mail by September 16, 1988. Winners may be asked to sign and return an affidavit of eligibility and release within ten (10) days of notification. In the event the affidavit is not returned within ten days, an alternate winner will be selected. 7. Prizes—1 Grand Prize: A fully-equipped 1989 Chevrolet Sportside Pickup (Automatic transmission, power steering and brakes, air conditioning, AM/FM radio with cassette, included taxes, title & licensing. Manufacturer's Suggested retail price $16,500) 2 First Prizes: Honda® 80 Elite Scooter with safety helmet (includes taxes, title & licensing. Manufacturer's suggested retail price $1,000) 20 Second Prizes: Char-Broil® Gas Grills (With cover, thermometer, Grain-View™ window, dual burner ignition, shelf part and 20 lb. fuel tank. Manufacturer's suggested retail price $300) 100 Third Prizes: Cool Sounds™ AM/FM Radio & Cooler with headphones. (Insulated nylon, waterproof bandpouch special Large capacity cooler holds 2 six-packs plus lunch & snacks. Manufacturer's suggested retail price $39.95). (Retail value of all prizes $33,695) Entries become the property of KRAFT, Inc. None will be returned. No correspondence acknowledged or entered into. No transfer of prizes. No prize or cash substitutions except at Kraft's option. In the event a prize is not generally available of sweepstakes end, Kraft will substitute a prize of equal or greater value. 8. Sweepstakes is open to residents of legal age in the USA, Puerto Rico, and APO/FPO addresses. Employees of Kraft, Inc., its affiliates, advertising and promotion agencies, judges and immediate families living in the same household are not eligible. Sweepstakes void where prohibited or restricted by law. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. All income taxes are the sole responsibility of the winners. 9. For a list of major prize winners, send a #10 stamped, self-addressed envelope to "Kraft Barbecue Sweepstakes II," Box CC, Libertyville, IL 60048. List available after October 15, 1988. Note: Barbecue Sauce is not included in the Grand Prize.

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