—Citizens up in arms over auto rates

(Continued from Page A1)

Commission for immediate relief against the practice of redlining (classifying all city residents in one high-rate insurance category without consideration to underlying risk factors—individual driving record, years of driving experience and length of distance driven annually).

Testimony was given by Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke, State Insurance Commissioner John A.Donaho, City Council President, Mary Pat Clark, State Delegate Anthony DePietro, Jr.and Congressman Kweisi Mfume;

Also representatives from GEICO, State Farm, Allstate, Nationwide, Aetna and M.A.I.F., U.S.F.& G., A.I.A. and P.I.A. insurance companies.

Mayor Schmoke applauded the Commissioner for being the first to grant a hearing to resolve the insurance grievances of a grass roots organization.

Congressman Kweisi Mfume testified that he would seek the passage of legislation aimed at requiring insurance companies to consider individual driving records when assessing the price of insurance.

Supporting the industry's method of territorial rating, insurance company representatives argued that their rates are priced by the amount of accidents in a particular area. They concluded their argument by stating that those areas having the highest rates have repeatedly cost insurers the most in dollar amount of claims paid.

Industry representatives said that insurance rates could be reduced by encouraging legislators to assist in reducing what the insurance industry claims are the real culprits of high rates;car repair bills, medical bills and legal fees.

Statistics provided by F.A.I.R. state that Baltimore city has the lowest number of registered vehicles within the state (.37-about one for every three residents).

Those statistics also show that Baltimore drivers have a third of the number of accidents of their Baltimore County neighbors and the lowest fatality rate in the state.

At the close of the hearing Commissioner Donaho decided to wait until other meetings have been held across the state and the data collected from these meetings have been reviewed before any decisions are made.

Although no dates have been confirmed, the three meetings are tentatively scheduled to take place in Western Maryland, the Eastern Shore and Suburban Washington.

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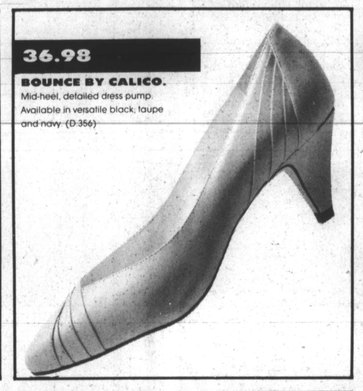

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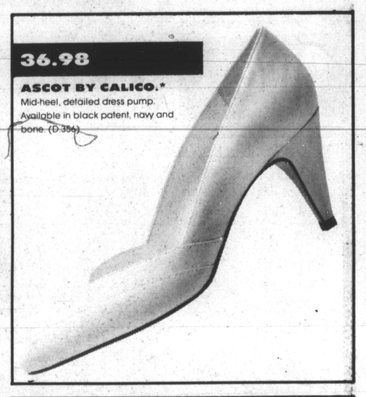

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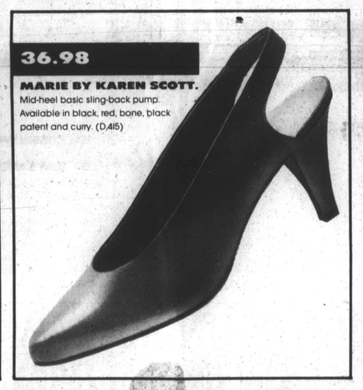

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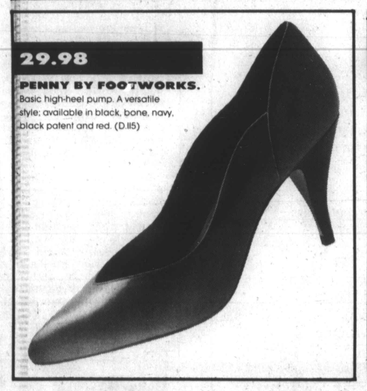

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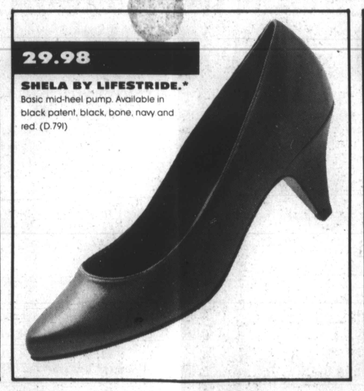

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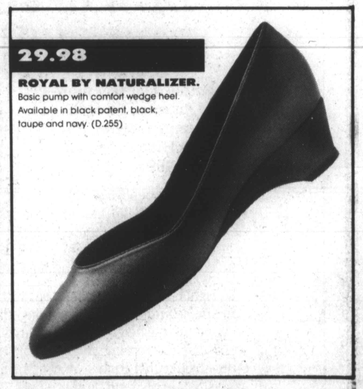
SHELA BY LIFESTRIDE.*
Basic mid-heel pump. Available in black patent, black, bone, navy and red. (D.791)



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METRO PROFILE

■ Lifestyle B2
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Saturday, February 3, 1990

Part one of two

Black Entertainment 1940's—1970's

By Delfield S. Yoes, III
AFRO Staff Writer

The 40's

From age 14, when she joined the chorus of a show playing at the world renowned Cotton Club in Harlem, to today, **Lena Horne** has captivated the world with her angelic voice and mythic beauty for nearly 60 years and counting. After the Cotton Club, a stint with Noble Sissle's band and being featured in "The Blackbirds" in 1939, Horne landed the lead with Bill "Bojangles" Robinson in the 1943 production of "Stormy Weather," which made major inroads for Blacks in the Movie industry.

The light of "Day," **Billie Holiday**, born Eleanora Fagan in Baltimore, in the opinion of many, is simply the greatest vocal stylist of all-time. There are dissenters to this claim of course. "The Divine One," Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald and Dinah Washington all get votes as the greatest ever, but Holiday's vocal nuances, her stirring beauty and the tragic quality of her life which lead her to claim the Blues as her very own, have placed the enigmatic "Lady Day" in a class all by herself.

The form of jazz music known as "Bebop" emerged in the 40's out of the need of some jazz musicians to break away from the confines of the big band era. Jazz giants like **Dizzy Gillespie** (pictured at left), Charlie Parker and Miles Davis created Bebop by using inversions of odd chord structure. They were met with objections by many to their bold and unheard moves, but eventually these innovators reshaped the sound of jazz music.

The 50'

A place in the sun. Diva **Dorothy Dandridge** was one of the sexiest and most talented actresses to ever grace Hollywood. In "Carmen Jones," in which Dandridge starred with Harry Belafonte, she brought a volatile passion to the screen that earned her a nomination for and Academy Award for Best Actress in 1955. It was the first time a Black woman was ever nominated for the Best Actress award. Dandridge starred in other movies, including another classic, "Island in the Sun," again sharing top billing with Harry Belafonte, but just 10 short years after her Oscar nomination, Dandridge died under very confusing circumstances. However, the sultry beauty, energy and brilliance of the iconic Dandridge still endures.

Good Golly! Rock and Roll was in full swing in the 50's and no one rocked harder than **Little Richard**. Richard's musical ability and outrageous behavior on and off stage, inspired dozens of modern day rockers including, Prince, Michael Jackson, the Rolling Stones and the Beatles. These days Little Richard is performing gospel tunes and he has appeared in several movies and television shows, but when given the chance, he never hesitates to remind us all that he is the "real" king of rock and roll.

The 70's

In the early 70's, **The Jackson Five** were red hot. The J-5 had several #1 hits, were frequently featured on T.V. specials and even had their own cartoon. Jermaine was the first to embark on a solo career and he has had tremendous success as a solo artist. And of course Janet Jackson, who was born the year her five brothers won a citywide talent contest in their hometown of Gary, IN., is rapidly rising to the top of the pop music world, but the little one in the middle, holding the mic in the photo above, would go on to redefine popular music.

The infinite talent of Steveland Morris, b.k.a., **Stevie Wonder**, can't really confined to one decade. From "Fingertips," to "Skeletons," the genius of his music continues to transcend decades and generations of admirers. But, in 1977, Wonder produced a two album set, "Songs In The Key Of Life," that has been touted by many in the music industry as one of the greatest R&B/Pop albums in music history.

In the late 60's and early 70's, movies known as "Blaxploitation films," capitalized on the rage African-Americans felt and the growing "Black Power" movement of the time. Films like "Three the Hard Way," (pictured here) starring **Fred Williamson, Jim Kelly** and **Jim Brown**, "Shaft," starring Richard Roundtree and "Superfly," starring Ron O'Neal, all three which were directed by Gordon Parks, Jr., epitomized this era in film making.

The 60's

The leading man. In 1964, **Sidney Poitier**, on of the finest actors of our time, became the first Black man to win an Oscar for Best Actor for his performance in "Lillies of the Fields." During the 60's Poitier also starred in classic films like, "A Raisin in the Sun," "Paris Blues," "In the Heat of the Night" and "The Defiant Ones," making him a giant in the film industry during the decade. Later, Poitier would direct films like, "Uptown Saturday Night," which co-starred Bill Cosby. After a lengthy hiatus from the screen, Poitier's dashing countenance graced the screen again during the 90's in the movies, "Little Nikita" and "Shoot to Kill."

And then there was **The Temptations**. Their huge following felt the "Tempting Temptations" were the tallest, smoothest, "dancinest," dressinest," super group of the 60's. Millions of sales later, the Temps are still making music today, although the face and sound of their has almost totally changed. But, their fans will never forget the hits like, "Ball of Confusion," "Just My Imagination," "Can't Get Next To You" and "Papa Was A Rolling Stone."

For those of you who are old enough, if you were asked to name two musical groups symbolic of the 60's, **The Supremes** would more than likely be one of them (you'll find the other most likely group on this page as well). The original Supremes, Mary Wilson, Florence Ballard and Diana Ross, were the essence of the "Motown Sound," which reached its peak in the 60's and changed the world of music forever. The trio did not always share a "love supreme." Constant reports of bickering and jealously and the rags to riches to rags life of Florence Ballard who died in 1976, made the Supremes one of the most controversial groups of the 60's, as well as one of the most talented and popular.