This Week

Baltimore

The women of **Kuumba** presenting a special adaptation of "Time Trek" at **Howard's Restaurant,** 1218 N. Charles St. every Friday beginning March 31 thru April 21. Showtime is 8 p.m. and tickets are $6 in advance and $7.50 at the door. Call 298-7970 for further information.

A week of African and African American art will be held at **Coppin State College** through April 2. **The Coppin Dancers** will offer a comprehensive repertoire of African and African American dances, the **Coppin Players** will present "Sizwe Bansi is Dead" and an art exhibit featuring photographs and other West African artifacts from the collection of **Cary Beth Cryor** will be on display. For further details call Arthur Bugg at 333-7247.

The **Baltimore Film Forum** is presenting a month of international films beginning Friday, March 31. The Soviet Union film, "Little Vera" will be shown and following, there will be a champagne and caviar reception in the Schaefer Court of the Baltimore Museum of Art (for opening night only). Call 889-1993 for a complete schedule of films.

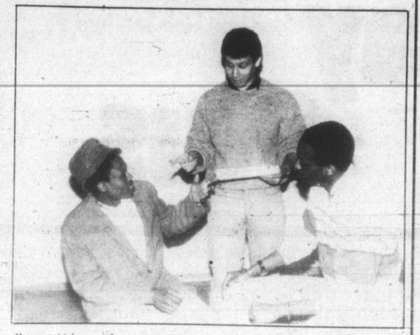
Internationally known storyteller, writer and performer **Mary Carter Smith**, will perform "Stories Past and Present" at the **Walters Art Gallery** on Sunday, April 2 at 2:30 p.m. This takes place in the Renaissance Sculpture Court and admission is free. Also at 2:30 p.m., the **KanKouran West African Dance Company** will perform. Admission to the performance is $8; $6 for members, students and senior citizens. For more information call 547-9000 ext. 236.

The award-winning musical **"Dreamgirls"** will be performed at the Harborlights Dinner Theatre thru June 4 on Thursdays and Sundays. Call 522-4126 for more information.

The **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra** will present their "Pops" series March 31-April 2 at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. Call 783-8100 for futher information.

On Saturday, April 1, the Central **Enoch Pratt Library** is presenting a Read-Aloud Stories for children six to twelve years old at 2 p.m. Registration is not required. Call 396-5494 for other activities at the library.

Autumn Productions' Encore Dinner Theatre is presenting "Wet Carpets" at the Forum on Wednesday, April 5. Reservations are required. Call 358-4655 for details.



Jimmy Ndungu from Kenya, Lawrence Stokes from Uganda and Macharia of Kenya are in the play "Sizwe Banzi is Dead" performed by the Coppin Players during Afrocentric.

Mary Carter Smith

The **Mount Lebanon Baptist Church** is presenting **The Chancel Choir** in concert on Sunday, April 2 at 5 p.m. Call 669-1800 for more information.

"Steel Magnolias" opens at the **Morris Mechanic** on Tuesday, April 4 and runs through April 30. Barbara Rush and June Lockhart star. Call 625-1400 for additional information.

The **Reisterstown Road Branch** of the **Enoch Pratt Library** is showing the films "Make Believe Marriage" and "Pssst! Hammerman's After You" on Wednesday, April 5 at 4 p.m. Call 396-5494 for more details.

Washington, D.C.

The Fourth Annual Music Business Forum will be held at the **Vista International Hotel** on Sunday, April 1. The convention will focus on local and national events of the music industry with the kick-off party at the Bayou on Friday, March 31 featuring the bands The **Almighty Senators, Johnny Bombay** and **The Reactions, Method Actor** and **Brian McCune.** On Saturday evening April 1, the bands **Frontier Theory, Deff Chronics, High Lomesome Sound** and **The Harmonizers** are scheduled to perform. Plus, there will be seminars and panel discussions. Call 301-937-6161 for more information.

David Copperfield will weave his special brand of magic at the Warner Theatre Friday, March 31 thru Sunday, April 2. Call 626-1050 for additional information.

Vocalist **Nancy Wilson** is scheduled to perform at Blues Alley through Sunday, April 2. Call 337-4141 for more information.

Nancy Wilson

Coming Soon

"Gold of Africa: Jewelry and Ornaments from Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal" will be on display at the Smithsonian's **National Museum of African Art** beginning April 5. Call 202-357-2700 for further details.

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Opening night for **"Paul Robeson"** at the Kennedy Center's **Eisenhower Theatre** will be on April 6 at 7:30 p.m. Call 202-254-3600 for more information.

* * *

The **National Museum of American History** will host an exhibit **"Duke Ellington, American Musician"** beginning April 4 and running indefinitely. Call 202-357-2700 for further information.

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The 1989 Campbell Soup **Tour of World Figure Skating Champions** will be held at the **Capitol Center** on Saturday, May 20 at 8 p.m. and the **Baltimore Arena** on Friday, May 19 at 8 p.m. Call 301-499-6300 for more information.

* * *

"Paul Robeson" will open at the **Kennedy Center** on April 6 at 7:30 p.m. Call 202-254-3600 for further information.

* * *

Folk music star **Odetta** will appear at The Barns of Wolf Trap on Thursday, April 6 at 8 p.m. Call 703-255-1916 for more details.

Baltimore

The **Carver High School Alumni** is hosting its annual dinner dance on Friday, April 7 beginning at 10 p.m. at Martin's West. Tickets are $30 per person. For more information call Ms. Pearl Brooks at 655-5031.

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Noted neurosurgeon **Dr. Benjamin Carson** will be the keynote speaker at Dundalk Community College's "Empowering Minorities" seminar on Wednesday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 285-9690 for more information.

* * *

The preview party for the **1989 Symphony Decorator Show House** will be held on Saturday, April 22 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Show House, Oak Hill in Ruxton, Maryland. Call 252-2434 for additional information.

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Diane and the Ravenetts is hosting a reunion featuring **Chuck Jackson** on Sunday, April 22 at the Pikesville Armory.

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The **Baltimore School for the Arts** is presenting an exhibit beginning Friday, April 7. Admission is free. Call 396-1185 for further information.

Jonathan Butler

RCA/Jive recording artist **Jonathan Butler** will perform at the **Meyerhoff Symphony Hall** April 7. Call the Meyerhoff for more information.

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The Baltimore Zoo is presenting their speaker series with **Dr. Jane Goodall,** world famous for her research of chimpanzee behavior on April 8 at 3 p.m. in the Johns Hopkins University Shriver Hall. For further information call 467-4387.

* * *

John Eaton will play **Fats Waller** favorites at the National Museum of Natural History's Baird Auditorium on April 16. Call 202-357-3030 for further information.

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The weekly entertainment guide for the Baltimore-Washington area. Published by the AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS group.

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Norman Connors performs at the Baltimore fishmarket

Passion is what Norman Connors and his music is all about. Passion for creating music that showcases the incredible voices he finds. Music that shows off a life-long Passion for playing great jazz, great R&B, great pop, and just great music. "Passion" is also the Capitol debut of Norman Connors.

Norman Connors will perform with the Starship Orchestra at Club Eubie in the Baltimore Fishmarket through Sunday, April 2.

One of the true pioneers of modern fusion. Norman is a talented musician, producer, composer, and musical catalyst. Connors can recognize and bring out the potential in instrumentalists, singers, and songs. He's discovered and brought to the musical forefront on his albums, Jean Carn, Phyllis Hyman, Michael Henderson and Glenn Jones, to name just a few.

From the opening notes of the single "I Am Your Melody," featuring the vocals of newcomer Spencer Harrison, and "You're My One And Only, Love," featuring another newcomer, Gabrielle Goodman, who was seen recently in the missions "Video" you know that "the Master of the Quiet Storm," has once again found new talent at the beginning of their long careers.

Norman Connors as he appeared in 1976 while recording for Buddah Records.

"Spencer is from Philadelphia and studied music at the University of Miami. I went to this place in my hometown of Philly called the Rib-Bits, a sports bar/restaurant, where they have a piano and people sing for fun. Spencer was great. I heard him and I said 'He's the missing link for Passion.' "

"Gabrielle studied voice and classical music at Peabody Conservatory in her hometown of Baltimore. Her manager played a tape of her. I thought her jazz and intensity at that age (18) was incredible, but it was a little too jazzy for the record company I was working with at the time. Four years later I was doing a concert. Gabrielle called me and asked if she could come down and sing. The growth had happened and I said that's it, 'this is the woman I want for 'Passion.' "

'Passion' also features Earth, Wind & Fire's "That's The Way Of The World." Once again Connors has taken a classic and revitalized it with the Norman Connors touch. Passion also features instrumentals like the beautiful "Passion" and "Samba For Maria" (featuring good friend Freddie Hubbard).

As with all his albums, "Passion," is self-produced. Norman worked with key members of his famed Starship Orchestra, musicians he's known for years: Jacques Burvick on keyboards; Marion Meadows, saxophone; and bass player John Hart. Connors wrote and co-wrote some of the tracks, with Burvick and Meadows co-writing others.

Norman Connors began playing music at the age of four. He studied privately, and by his teens was accomplished at drums, percussion, vibes, piano and composition. "By 11 I became a really serious jazz musician. I was meeting people like Miles Davis when I was 13 years old. It was a lonely life, no one my age was doing anything like that."

At 16 he was playing drums for singer Billy Paul. He went on to receive a prestigious music education, studying at Temple University and Juilliard School of Music.

Over the span of his career he has worked and recorded with such artists as Archie Shepp, The Marion Brown Quarter, Jack McDuff, Jackie McLean, Sam Rivers, and Charles Earland.

In July of 1971 he joined saxophonist Pharoah Sanders' group, starting a long professional association. In the late '70s Norman Connors produced and appeared on Pharoah's successful "Love Will Find A Way."

He then branched out as a

(Continued on Page 4)

THE NIGHT LIFE

By Bonnie Matthews Butler
Entertainment Editor

While visiting my brother **Rodger** and his family (Victoria, Rayna and "R-2") over the Christmas holidays in their fabulous new home in Colorado Springs, Colorado, I had a chance to check out Black Entertainment Television (BET) and MTV for an extended period of time.

Over and over, the lines, "I don't need permission, make my own decisions, it's my prerogative, tell me why" (You know how the song goes!) blasted from the television.

It's the "tell me why" part that my adorable niece **Rayna Yvonne** would loudly sing and dance to whenever **Bobby Brown's** video of the hit tune "My Prerogative" came over the airwaves.

Her fascination with the video and his performance led me to check out the **Bobby Brown** tour featuring **Levert** and **Karyn White** when they performed at the Baltimore Arena last week.

I must say that the entire show was enjoyable and the near capacity crowd of all ages (surprised?) yelled, danced and cheered right along with each artist.

My hat's off, to **Edgar Williams,** chief of security and his staff at the Baltimore Arena (and Center Management employees).

Because of the way they handled the security for the artists and the crowds, it was a pleasure attending this concert (with the majority of the audience teenagers) at the Arena.

Most of his staff were courteous, giving directions and information to the patrons whenever they asked. This had to be pointed out and praised because most security personnel at venues that host concerts for the younger set are huge, nasty and act like they should have stayed in bed that day.

But not this bunch! Even if you were standing or sitting where you didn't belong, most of the crew politely asked you to move. No shouting or pushing. (Take note other venues and promoters.)

While we weren't able to chat with **Bobby Brown** or **Karyn White, (everyone's a star!)** we did manage a few minutes with **Levert,** who even though two of the members were still feeling the effects of strep throat, after their performance that night, they still found time to talk with us. What troopers!

While enjoying the concert, I had the chance to talk with a very kind and fun person who happens to work with Uptown Management, the management team for **Al B. Sure!** and I was informed that the woman who had charged him with rape had recanted her story. At AFRO presstime, I was unable to confirm this but I'll fill you in as soon

(Continued on Page 5)

Levert (Photo by Ricardo Gray)

(Photo by Ricardo Gray)
Bobby Brown

(Photo by Ricardo Gray)
Karyn White and Band