This Week

BALTIMORE

The fantastic singer Al Jarreau and popular jazz/gospel group Take Six will perform at. the Merriweather Post Pavilion on Friday, July 21 at 7 p.m. Only lawn seats are available. For further information call 301-730-4020 in Baltimore and 301-982-1816 in Washington, D.C.

The Arena Players is presenting its final production of the summer entitled "See How They Run" opening this weekend (July 21 and 22) and running through July 28 and 29. Veteran Arena Players' member Robert Russell will direct and popular nightclub owner Randy Tilghman is in the cast. For more information call 301-728-6500.

The reggae band Uprising will close the 1989 season of "on Stage Downtown" on Thursday

Arthur Scales

Sunday, July 23

8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

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Page 2

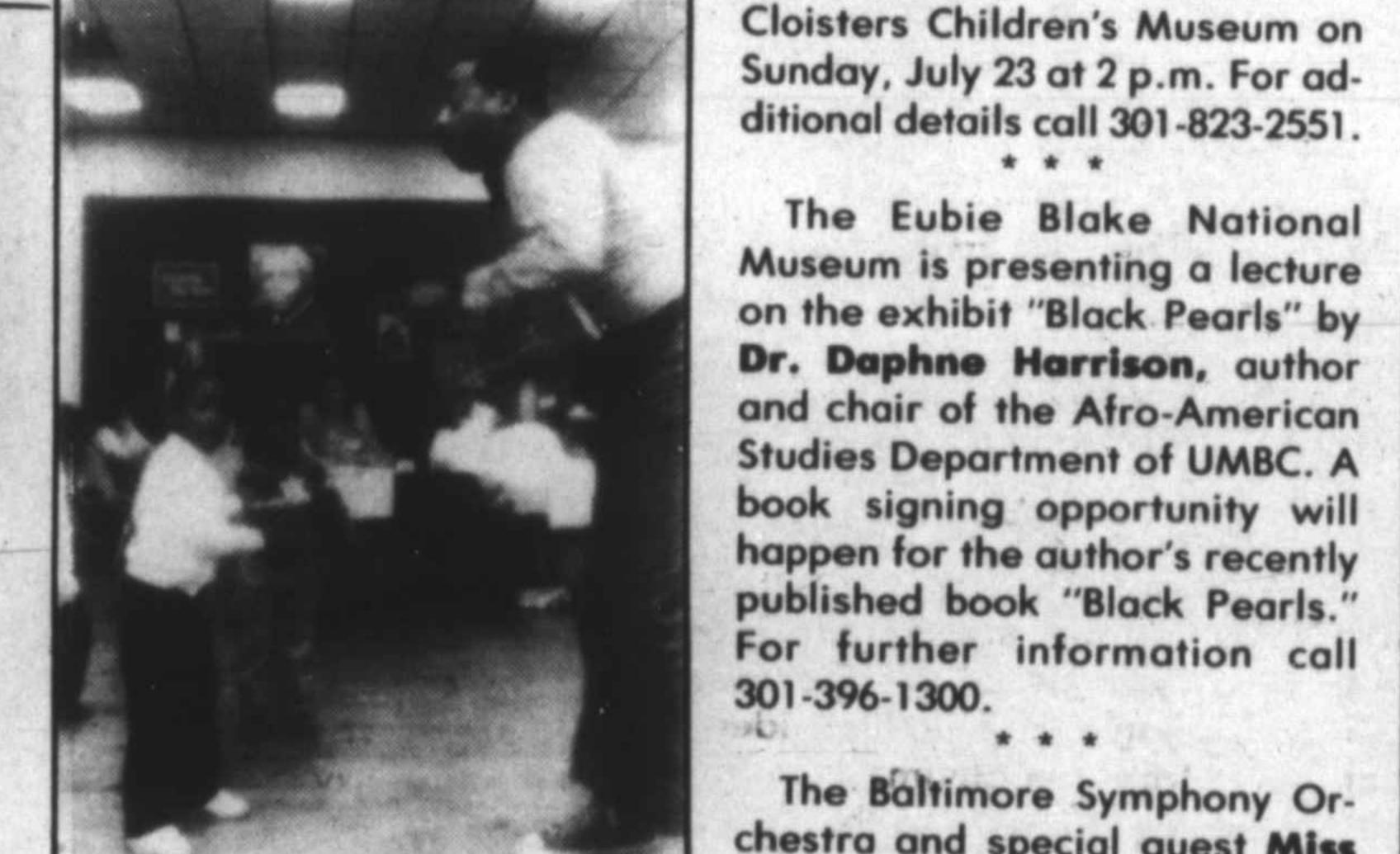


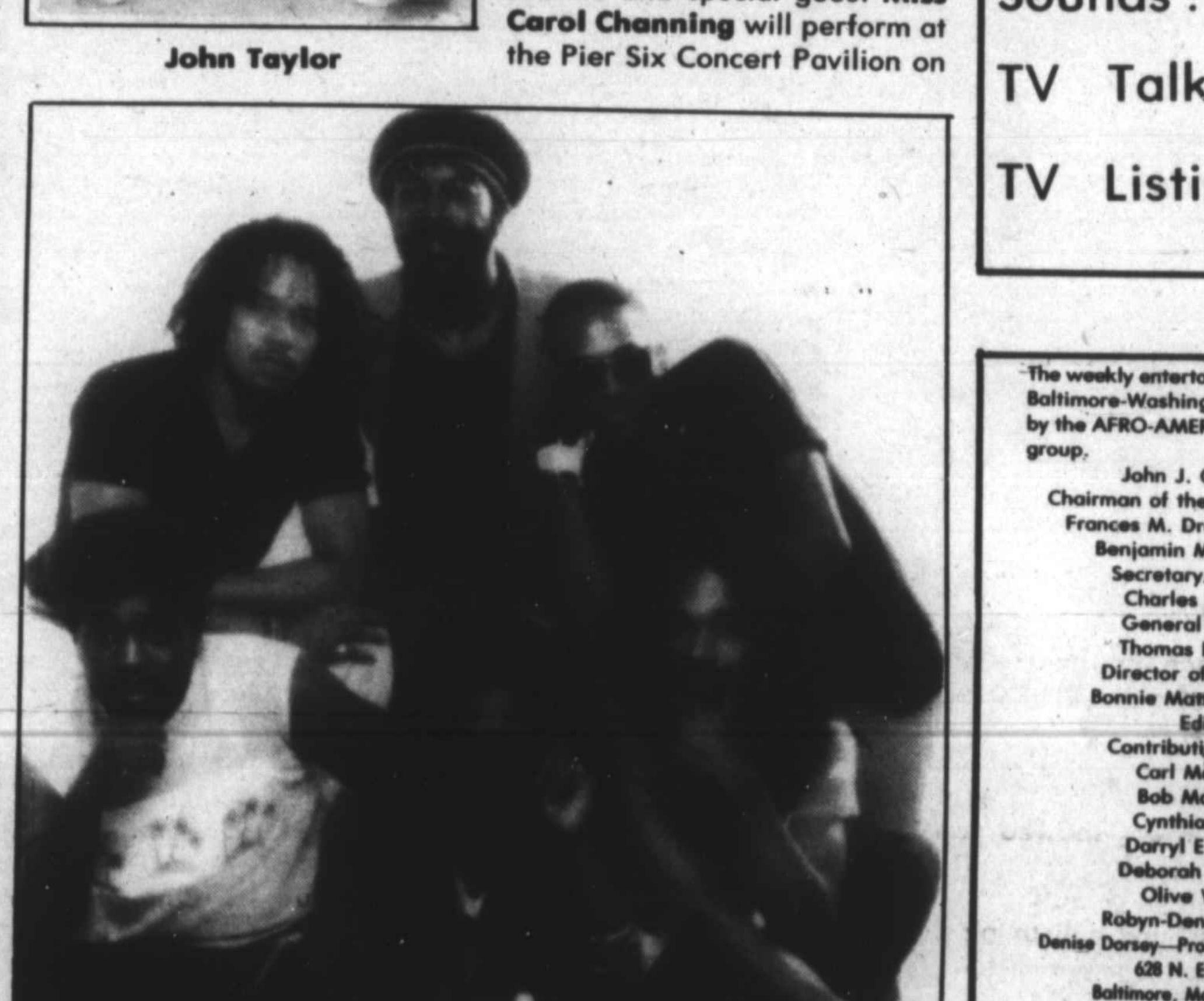
Al Jarreau

July 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Hopkins Taylor will involve the audience Pavilion in the Inner Harbor ad-Plaza. For additional information at "Kids' Stuff" on Tuesday, July call 301-837-4636 or 800-282-6632. 25 at noon at the Harry Kaufman

Popular children's star, John







Take 6

jacent to Rash Field.

Temujin the storyteller will

spin tales from the heart at the

The Eubie Blake National

Uprising

Tuesday, July 25 at 8 p.m. For 301-625-1400.

WASHINGTON, D.C. and surrounding area

A host of films for children willbe shown at the National Museum of African Art this weekend, on Saturday, July 21 at 1 p.m., "Slima the Dhowmaker," Mwe Bana Bandi," will be featured. For additional details call 202-357-2700.

The Kennedy Center concert hall summer pop series kicks-off with Fred Waring's U.S. Chorus on Tuesday, July 25 at 7:45 p.m. Other acts scheduled for later Klein, Dave Brubeck and George Shearing, Classic '60s

The sounds of Detroit, Gospel Caravan Reunion featuring Rev. James Cleveland and Albertina Walker and The African Music Festival. For further details call 202-254-3776

on the exhibit "Black Pearls" by Dr. Daphne Harrison, author and chair of the Afro-American Studies Department of UMBC. A All That Jazz . . 4 book signing opportunity will happen for the author's recently For further information call Personals...6 The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and special guest Miss Sounds. Listings. . 10

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

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run up on me talkin' that ice cream s---. Q. How'd you come up with

A. F .-- no!

the title for this new album?

LL Cool J tells all

album, "Bigger and Def-

tests have you faced in the

fer," in 1987. What kind o

past two years?

A. Every record has been a

Q. Why has it taken you two

A. Who says you have to

test, ever since "I Need o

years to make a new

make a new album every

year? The last one was hot

for a year and a half.

Besides, it takes me time

to make something that I

feel comfortable with. In

other words, if "Walking

tomorrow and don't sell

two copies, I won't be mad

'cause I feel comfortable

won't say, "Dam,

shoulda worked hard-

this . . . I coulda did that

. . ." I know what I did,

know how hard I worked

Now it's on the public. "

they don't like it, yo, I'm

retiring, because there's

no need for me working

this hard if I'm just wrong.

liked over the past two

naming no names. There's

a lot of new groups who's

cool, but that's not what

I'm concentrating on.

A. 'Cause I don't want to be

friends with other rappers.

respect them, and I like

their music, and I listen to

it, and I learn from it, but

I don't want to be their

friend. I don't have no

friends. None of them are

my friends. None of them!

God bless 'em and good

luck! You know, if they

they're under me, they're

under me. But they're not

gonna be me, and I'm not

from any of the West Coast

rappers, Tone Loc, Ice T...?

and Deffer" showed you

hitting a punching bag. Do

boxing. It's very important

I like to be in shape in case

some powder-puff try to

you still work out?

A. I do pushups, calisthenics,

worried about them.

Q. Do you feel any particula

pass me, they pass me. I

I'm cool with all of them.

Q. Why not name names?

Q. Whose records have you

knew

. . I coulda did

with a Panther" comes or

. I called it "Walking With A Panther" 'cause you gotta be bad to walk with a panther. Gun or no gun, you're gonna leave him alone. Aside from that, panther to me is like my soul. If I was an animal that's the one I would be. I feel like a panther in my

. You actually posed with a black panther and with some lovely ladies for the photo on the cover of the new album. What was that session like?

.. It was fun. It was freezing cold, raining. The girls were freezing. I was freezing, but we got it done.

Q. The LP version of the new album has 16 songs on it the cassette 20, the CD 18. Isn't that an awful lot c new material for your fans to digest?

.. It's been so long since I've been out that I feel that ten songs-if people like 'em-will get where I'm supposed to be. And then the other ten will pull me over. I want to give 'em more than they bargained

A. A lot of groups'. I'm not . Tell us about "I'm That Type of Guy," the first single (and the first video) from the album.

A. It's the real truth. That's how I am. This song is telling you: No matter how much you think your girl is loyal, and how much you try to lock her away, and how much you think she's God's gift to you and that no other man can touch her . . . she can always be got. It's unfortunate, but it's true. Everybody has a price, be it money, clothes looks, a body, face, hairy chest, eyes, eyelashes

it doesn't have to be money. I' her price comes walking along, she can be got. Q. So how do you safeguard

influence on your work A. I don't. I realize and accept that she might step out on me at any time, so I'm Q. The back cover of "Bigger

Q. What about "Two Differen" Worlds?"

A. It's a story about lovers from two different worlds Whether they're Puerto Rican, Chinese, rich, poor . whatever the excuse the woman is usin' for them not to be together. the guy's pleading with

her: "We're from two different worlds, but it don't matter. It just makes us stronger. There's more to talk about. We'll be together longer."

Q. "One Shot at Love?" A. You only got one shot at love. Straight up. And if you don't take advantage of it, you'll lose it. It'll slip out of your hands.

Q. Surely a star like you gets many shots at love?

. Not real love. That's why there's a line in the song "Physical and mento those are two different things/Physical's a moment, mental is forever.

Q. Several of the songs on the new album deal frankly with physical love. How much do you identify with the protagonist of "Big Ole

A. He's a little bit wilder than I am. He's a little blunter than I would be.

Q. What was the inspiration for "Jingling Baby?"

.. I made love to a girl who had earrings on, and as we made love her earring were jingling. So I asked her to say, "It's jingling baby," and I said, "go 'head, baby." And then ! decided to write a song

. You've written and performed sexy songs before but you always used to shy away from discussing them. Let's talk about sex. I love sex, I love girls. I'm

the Freak of the Year. (He laughs). I don't care who walks in the room. I'm

Q. You used to refrain from "preaching" in your music, yet this time you've written several "message songs." Was there anything in par ticular that touched of your concern?

. There's a lot of people knew who ruined their lives with crack and s--like that, and a lot of people who went to jail. wrote "Crime Story" say, "If you can't do the time, don't do the crime." Kids in the neighborhood idolize guys who go to jail Jail's interesting; that's why they make movies about it. But when a brother is talking to somebody younger, he shouldn't glorify it. I want to spell it out for kids:

(Continued on Page 9)

LL Cool J: A MAJOR VOICE OF THE 2ND GENERATION

Rapper/Songwritter LL Cool J has been called "the best rapper ever" by no less an authority than Run (Joseph Simmons) of Run DMC. Ditto his brother Russell Simmons, who manages 30 of today's hottest rap and R&B hitmakers as the head of Rush Management.

Such commendations emphasize LL's position as the first major voice of the second generation of rappers — that is, the generation that actually grew up listening to the acknowledged rap greats like Kurtis Blow, Grand Master Flash, Run- D.M.C. and the rest. LL did not invent rap; indeed, you won't find his performance peppered with selfserving claims that he is the "king." Instead, he is one of the true fans who's taking rap to the next level of popular expression LL is really one of the crowd making the kind of records he'd like to hear himself.

Born James Todd Smith, and reinvented as LL Cool J as a teenager in Hollis, Queens (NY), his first public display of rhythm and rhyme technique happened at age 9, when acts like Sugarhill Gang and Grand Master Flash were just beginning to scratch the surface.

"When I was nine," he says, 'my grandfather bought me all this di equipment just so l wouldn't insist on a motorcycle, a 50-city tour that headlined Runand I started making tapes even D.M.C., Whodini, the Fat Boys, then. I didn't know it would turn out to be my livelihood." Family and community support for his efforts played a major part of LL's rapid and sure climb.

"I started rappin' when I was nine and I was so strong with this Brothers motion picture "Krush rap stuff that I got whole crews Groove," the film account of Rick together, even some that weren't Rubin's wildcat record label. The from my neighborhood. I got with first hit single to emerge from the it right from the beginning." Per- movie soundtrack was LL's "I neighborhood rap crews like the Blockbuster Gang, Grand Wizard Freddy B, the Freeze MC's, the Extravagant 3, and the Super Rocking Brothers served as LL's

woodshed period. Relying on his own creativity and originality, together with the Live" but, more remarkably, he influences that had come before was tapped to act in the showhim, LL was gaining quite reputation from all the local contests and parties. "I was really dogging the spot - you know, really doin' good — without a

From that point, LL began making professional quality demo ready to quit, inspiration and en- Music Awards (winning as Top couragement again came from his own family. "My mom went out and bought me a \$300 Korg



IT COOF 1

beat-box rhythm machine," he says proudly, "and I used it to make a demo of 'I Need a Beat'."

LL sent the tape to Rick Rubin then a senior at NYU (New York University), who had started his own record label out of his Greenwich Village dorm room. At age 16, LL Cool J had the honor to inaugurate the new label with its premiere single, " Need a Beat," released in

Following his successful debut (which sold into the 6-figures), LL followed up six months later with his rap love song, "I Want You" b/w "Dangerous." As a result, the young upstart was included in the New York City Fresh Festival and Grand Master Flash and the Furious Five.

The successful association with Def Jam brought LL his widescreen debut in the Warner Can't Live Without My Radio," simultaneously his first Columbia/Def Jam 45 and 12-inch.

In the wake of these successes doors opened to LL through which few, if any, rappers had passed before. He performed "Go Cut Creator Go" on "Saturday Night was tapped to act in the showopening parody of "Fatal Attraction" opposite host Sean Penn. He was asked by Nancy Reagan's Just Say No Foundation to headline an anti-drug concert at Radio City Music Hall and he was named one of the Ten Sexiest Men in the world of rock 'n roll tapes on his grandfather's great by Playgirl magazine. He was gift, but the first response was nominated for two American disheartening. Although he was Music Awards and five New York

(Continued on Page 4)