IN BALTIMORE

The Maryland State Fair continues at Timonium Fairgrounds through Monday, September 4. The fair offers agricultural and livestock shows, rides and amusements, home arts and farm and garden demonstrations. For more information call 301-252-0200.

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"The King and I" starring Rudolf Nureyev comes to the Morris Mechanic Theatre on Wednesday, September 6 thru Sunday, September 10. Call 301-625-4200.

* * * * *

The exhibit "Cartier Masterworks from the George and Frayda Lindemann Collection" continues on display at the Walters Art Gallery. The exhibit features 69 pieces including jewelry, desk objects and boxes along with an illustrated catalog. For further information call 301-547-9000.

The temptin' Temptations are slated to perform at the 20th annual Baltimore City Fair on Friday, September 22 at 8 p.m. Other performers scheduled to appear are Mama Jama and Rick Bartlett. For information on the Fair call 547-0015.

* * * * *

Ziggy Marley and The Melody Makers will grace the stage at the Merriweather Post Pavilion on Friday, September 15. For more details call 301-730-2424.

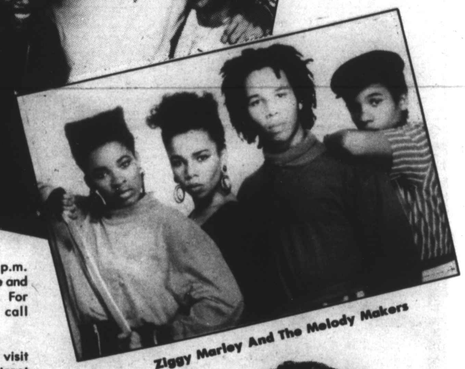
* * * * *

The National Aquarium in Baltimore is hosting a day of wreck diving off the coast of Ocean City, Md. on Saturday, September 9. The cost is $60 for members and $65 for non-members and includes boat rental for the day, snacks and drinks. For further information call 301-727-FISH.

* * * * *

The Stylistics, The Manhattans, Shirley Murdock, Ray, Goodman and Brown and the Panama Band will perform at the Fifth Regiment Armory on Saturday, September 23 beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are $18.50 in advance and $20 the day of the show. For more information call 301-481-6000.

The Temptations



Ziggy Marley And The Melody Makers

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Oscar the Grouch will visit friends as part of Sesame Street Live "Silly Dancing" at the Baltimore Arena September 20 thru 24. For more information call 347-2090.

* * * * *

Autumn Productions begins its fourth season with the comedy "Community Kitchen" by Alex Foster on Wednesday, October 4 and every Wednesday at the Forum, 4210 Primrose Ave. For more information call 301-358-4655.

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IN D.C.

Vocalist/pianist Mose Allison comes to Blues Alley, Georgetown on Friday, September 1 and runs through Sunday, September 3. Singing sensation Cherrelle will play the room September 5 thru 10. For further details call 202-337-4141.

* * * * *

LL Cool J and Slick Rick come to the Capitol Center on Saturday, September 2. For additional details call 202-347-2090.

* * * * *

"Gypsy" starring Tyne Daley of "Cagney and Lacey" fame continues at the Kennedy Center Opera House through September 16. For additional information call 202-254-3600.

* * * * *

Tuesday Mornings at the Smithsonian begins its fall session on September 12 starting at 10:40 a.m. First up will be "Towering Infernos: Inside Active Volcanoes" featuring Richard Fiske, geologist. For more information call 202-357-3030.

* * * * *

Actress Ruby Dee will headline an all-Black company of Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie" beginning October 6 thru November 26 at the Arena Stages' Kreeger Theatre. For more information call 202-554-9066.

Cherrelle

LL COOL J

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The Nightlife

By Bonnie Matthews Butler

There are back yards and there are back yards! It depends on who's yard you're talking about and what's in it.

Gertrude Stein had her opinion about a rose and this writer has one about back yards.

The one I have in mind is the spacious lawn behind the Benny Pope home out Liberty Heights way.

This past Sunday, it was the scene of the 10th annual Pope Family's cookout and jazzfest.

Honored this year was the memory of Benny's dear friend Ray Pino and keyboard giant, Freddy Thaxton, who earlier this month hit the road for the final, eternal concert.

True, this back yard has the usual things you dream of — beautiful flowers, manicured greens, year-round patio, the pit for bar-b-que; but, once a year, it is the scene of the finest jazz you could wish for!

It's like one big family reunion with greats, almost greats and the gonna or wanna be greats putting forth the sounds of music that warm the cockles of hearts, anxious to pulsate with infectious rhythms.

These talented men and women of varied ethnic origins and musical experiences freely shared their expressions under a warm August sun and a light breeze that gently carried the aroma of the delicacies.

There was gumbo, flown in from New Orleans, roasting ears floating in butter, chickens and ribs fallin' off the bone — Oh, I could go on and on!

But, back to the main event.

Ellis Larkins, the Baltimore child prodigy of the thirties and former accompanist for Ella Fitzgerald was as tasty as ever on the 'ole 88's. Among the other pianists also rising to the occasion were: Abdu-Rashid Yahya, Lafayette Gilchrist and Church Anderson.

Leading the aggregation of bass fiddlers were: Charlie Harris, 25 years with the late Nat "King" Cole, Monty Poulson, Andy Rock, Ernest Barnes, Jr. and Joe Turner.

The drummers included: Woody Woodley, Ronnie Dawson, Bunny Cox, Dean Dalfonzo and Danny Brown.

Horns were everywhere! The" daddy" Mickey Fields was outstanding as always as well as Wilbur Phillips, Stan Rouse, James Elliott, and Bill Stockdale.

Ruby Glover and Jimmy Clark set the vocalists in motion, joined by Cynthia Audrey and

(Continued on Page 7)

(Photo by Ricardo Grey)

In last week's edition, the "gremlins" left out the picture of Smokey Robinson admiring his cover story, so we're bringing it to you now. Next to Smokey is AFRO Entertainment Editor Bonnie Matthews Butler.

Kool Moe Dee wants to raise your consciousness

Kool Moe Dee, the quick-tongued guy with the mellow voice and crystal-clear enunciation, is on a mission to move more than just bodies. He says, "My lyrics are always gonna have some substance, so that after the dancing stops there'll be something to think about. I want to raise people's consciousness."

Rap artist Kool Moe Dee whose current album "Knowledge is King" will perform at the Baltimore Arena on Sunday, September 3.

As a result, when Moe Dee writes, he always starts with a concept. "I'd make up a rhyme, say it over and over, then I'd hear (a beat) in my head that fits.

"On 'The Avenue,' for example, I wanted to talk about being on the Avenue. I worked on some lyrics, then I remembered this old record, with a hip hop beat that went 'gotta check out the avenue.' I wanted to set a mood for listening, and it was something people could sing or just shake their heads to."

When it's time to record, Moe Dee turns things around. "I'd tell my co-producers, Teddy Riley, Lavaba and Pete Q. Harris, a beat. I'd tell them what riffs I'd want over it, but I wouldn't let them hear my lyrics. The reason I'd do that was that it's not what a rapper says, it's how he says it.

"The mood I set with my voice is what can take a song to another level. If my lyrics are

(Continued on Page 7)

Damien Hall, Teddy Riley and Aaron Hall, members of the group GUY, also perform at the Baltimore Arena on September 3.

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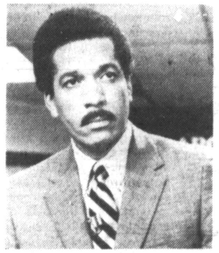

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