# SOUNDS

**GEORGE CLINTON**
**"The Cinderella Theory"**
**(Paisley Park)**

Wonder what the Atomic Dog man's been up to lately? The answer lies ahead in the next semi-exciting chapter of Dr. Funkenstein, whose latest LP is his first for Paisley Park.

The mastermind behind the great Parliament and Funkadelic masterpieces of the 70's, like "Mothership Connection" and "One Nation Under A Groove," has also done some fine solo work in the 80's. "Computer Games" (1982) was his first solo LP for Capitol. Later he brought us such wild albums as "You Shouldn't-Nuf Bit Fish" (1983) and "R&B Skeletons In The Closet" (1986).

Judging from his latest release, ol' George seems to have mellowed just a trifle. The first indication is the album cover. No cartoons this time?!? I am disappointed...

All of Clinton's previous albums have had one or two killer cuts, unforgettable slices of raw funk that really make you want to move. "R&B Skeletons In The Closet" had the rocking single "D~ Fries Go With That Shake." "Computer Games" gave us "Loopzilla" and "Atomic Dog."

But there's nothing on "The Cinderella Theory" that approaches the high energy level of Clinton's earlier work on Capitol. The two songs on his latest LP that come closest are "Serious Slammin'," a nifty blend of classic P-Funk and contemporary Prince-style grooves, and "Why Should I Dog U Out?" the album's first single.

With such notable folks as Bootsy Collins and Public Enemy helping him out, Clinton still makes some interesting music, with that well-known Clinton humor and wit. Clinton's funky fresh update of "The Banana Boat Song" is good for a chuckle or two.

Bring the cartoons back next time, okay, fella?

Other cuts: "Airbound," "Tweakin'," "There I Go Again," "(She Got It) Goin' On," "French Kiss."

George Clinton

**THE ROLLING STONES**
**"Steel Wheels" (Rolling Stones)**

I couldn't get no satisfaction from The Rolling Stones' last album, "Dirty Work" (1986). But now that Jagger and company have put aside their differences and decided to make a team effort to put out the kind of well-crafted rock and roll they've done in the past, I'm happy to say that "Steel Wheels" is their most satisfying LP in almost a decade.

The very first single from the new album is a clear indication that tensions within the group have eased. "Let's bury the hatchet/Wipe out the past/make love together/Stay on the path/You're not the only one/With mixed emotions," Mick Jagger sings on "Mixed Emotions," an instant Stones classic.

"Steel Wheels" was recorded at Air Studios, Montserrat. It's mostly a live-in-the-studio recording with few overdubs, and Wyman, Wood and Watts have never sounded better.

On uptempo rockers like "Sad Sad Sad" and "Rock And A Hard Place," the horn section (with Simon Clarke, Roddy Corimer, Tim Sanders and Paul Spong) is put to good use. Stones fans will also appreciate Richards' soulful guitar solo on "Hearts For Sale" and the fiddle and mandolin on the country-flavored "Blinded By Love."

And while millions of Stones fans spin the new "Steel Wheels" and check out the boys live on their latest tour, they'll also be able grab "The Rolling Stones Singles Collection — The London Years," a three-CD box set. The compilation includes every Rolling Stones song released as a single in America and Britain, from the early 60's to 1971.

The box set comes with a 72-page book. Although the collection includes rare tracks which are available for the first time on CD, you'll be mostly getting the same old dull mono mixes of the original singles, and much of the material in the box set is already available on other compilations such as "Hot Rocks" and "More Hot Rocks." For collectors, however, it's a worthwhile item.


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## —In Baltimore

**(Continued from Page 2)**

The 175th anniversary of Defender's Day, the Maryland holiday commemorating the Battle of North Point, will be celebrated at Fort Howard Park in Edgemere and will feature a re-enactment of the battle. For more information call 301-887-7174.

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Two short films about the French painter Henri Matisse will be shown at the Baltimore Museum of Art on Saturday, September 9 at 2 p.m. and on Sunday, September 10, The Downtown Dance Company will interpret sculptural forms in dance movements in the Museum's two sculpture gardens. For further details call 301-396-6320.



# The Nightlife

**By Bonnie Matthews Butler**
**Entertainment Editor**

In days of yore when folks were talking about jazz music, invariably one town cropped up — New Orleans.

If the conversation became bluesy, you can bet a fat man that Memphis and Kansas City topped the list.

The big time was "The Apple" or New York City and West Coast jazz has always been special.

Nowadays, if you believe — the only music of today emanates from the home of four-wheelers — Motown!

As a born and bred Baltimorean, this writer protests that right here in the Big B-More are some of the greatest musicians in the world.

And, one of them will be honored this Sunday afternoon at the 20 Grand on Bowley's Lane and rightfully so.

That's when from four to eight p.m., the "Godfather" of the saxophone, Mr. Mickey Fields, will be joined by his peers in a "Tribute to Mickey."

It's a seven dollar ticket and the proceeds will be a love offering where you will receive one complimentary drink plus munchies.

There will be live music, of course, with Judd Watkins as special guest and Hot Rod Hulbert and Curtis Anderson serving as the M.C.'s.

Mickey was born on September 7 to James Howard and Etta Fields. His father, who is no longer with us, provided the talent that all of the Fields children share. He played the organ in church and allowed his children (Shirley, Dennett, Alvin and Kenneth) to explore their natural abilities.

His mother, Etta who is 90 years young, kept the family together and to this day, still is involved with her children's lives.

Mickey began his road to musical stardom with Mickey Fields and the Tittlers. This band was where singer Ethel Ennis began.

In 1953, Mickey was drafted into the Army and when he came back, he rejoined the Tittlers and they embarked on the road for a year.

In 1956, Mickey took the plunge and married Connie Wodniak and from this union came two children, Michael and Jacqueline.

When he came back off of the road, Mickey formed Mickey Fields and the Field Mice with Calvin Vaughn on organ and Don Bowie on drums. With this group, he recorded "Little Green Apples" and "Crackerjack" on the Edmar Label.

Mickey, who is a self-taught musician, is known for his perfect pitch and says he has been inspired by Earl Bostic and Sonny Stitt.

In fact, it was Stitt who inspired him to switch from the alto saxophone to the tenor.

When asked who his favorites on the local scene where, the ever gracious Mickey didn't want to name names but he would allow that he enjoys Andy Ennis for "he reminds me of me. It's like hearing myself all over again."

So Happy Birthday Mickey and to all of you Mickey Fields fans, come out and pay tribute to "The Man" this Sunday.

See you there.

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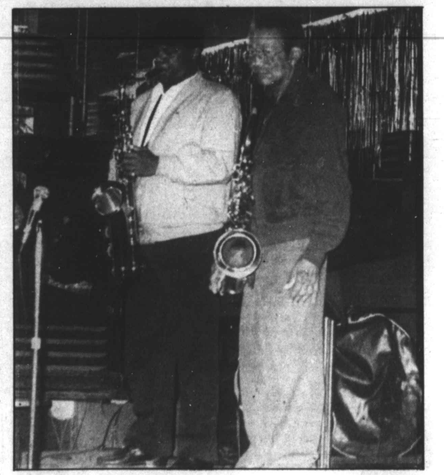
OTHER COMINGS AND GOINGS: We just can't get enough

**(Continued on Page 8)**



**Mickey Fields (right) performs with his buddy Andy Ennis.**

# ALL THAT JAZZ

**with Bob Matthews**

By now, you are aware that two regional jazz groups are kicking off the season this Sunday, September 10, but just in case:

The Left Bank Jazz Society hosts its annual moonlight jazz cruise aboard the M.V. Lady Baltimore, departing from Pier One, Pratt St., at 7 p.m., returning around 10 p.m.

Featured will be the **Groove Holmes Trio**, and as a reminder, no beverages of any sort are allowed to be brought aboard the vessel.

* * *

The Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz open their season with a triple-header concert September 10 at the Sheraton Harrisburg East, off Exit 29, I-83.

Headlining is the **John Blake Sextet** with Sid Simmons, Leon Jordan, Asumi Tanaka, Gerald Beasley and Doc Gibbs. Also, vocalist **Roberta Davis** backed up by the **Reuben Brown Trio**.

And finally, the **Modern String Quartet** which features violinist **Jorg Widnoser**. The concert begins at 4:30.

* * *

The King of France Tavern in the Maryland Inn in Annapolis continues its jazz policy, we are happy to note, where this week, one of the perennials will be playing the club.

**Charlie Byrd**, guitarist extraordinaire will be the featured artist through Sunday night. The Monday night jazz jams with pianist **Stef Scaggiari** and his trio are still swinging along every week.

The Wednesday night jazz sets begin this week at Buddie's over at 313 N. Charles St. in Baltimore. With the addition of Wednesday, the club is now featuring live jazz four nights a week, Wednesday through Saturday.

The new night will feature the **Stan Rouse Quartet**, which features Stan on reeds, **Robert Hill**, drums; **Elliot Levine**, piano, and **Gary Richardson**, bass.

Friday and Saturday, its the **Bing Miller Quartet**, with Bing on drums; **Andy Ennis**, tenor sax; **John Berry**, bass, and **Steve Yankee**, guitar.

Thursday nights, a different horn player will head up a group at the club.

* * *

Have been talking about it for a few weeks, but this week we present the first of a series of jazz quizzes. It is a chance for those jazz fans who have been involved in listening to the music for years, to show off their knowledge.

This is not a prize-winning promotion as such, although we will make available some jazz CDs for those who send in correct answers.

For the young jazz fans, we start off with a more vintage query, although the answers are readily available to those who take the trouble to do a bit of research.

We will carry the quiz for three outings. Send your answers to us here:

AFRO Jazz Quiz
628 N. Eutaw St.
Baltimore, MD 21201

1. What university did **Jimmy Lunceford** come from when he started his band?

2. **Duke Ellington** wrote and had produced a Broadway-style musical play, which never made it to Broadway. Name it:

3. Orchestras in the 1930s all had names. What was the name of the **Andy Kirk** band, and who was the featured pianist with it?

4. What year was the first Newport Jazz Festival held?

5. Where was **Clifford Brown** from—his hometown, that is?

6. Who was the original drummer with the **Modern Jazz Quartet?**

7. Name the 4-Brothers on the original version of the **Woody Herman** classic.

8. Name the pianist and tenor sax player in the group **Weather Report**.

9. Name two of the pianists on the **Miles Davis** album "Bitches Brew."

10. Who played lead trumpet in the **Art Ensemble of Chicago**?.