"NYAH-Rock"

Cymande

By I. M. PETERS

In our mail last week . . . a note from the P.R. people for Jamus Records How would you like to talk with Cymande in London this week?

You know me . . . I replied right away . . . but was too late. Who are they?

Cymande is composed of nine West Indian musician-singers who play what they call "NYAH-Rock." You might call it Afro-Rock, and you might be right. (At least you won't be entirely wrong.) Cymande write their own music. Let's just continue to call it Nyah-Rock, and forget about labels from now on.

Cymande is nine guys, with nine separate characters, nine removed backgrounds and means of expression. (Can you see me talking to them?)

Cymande is: Patrick Patterson, Capricorn—guitar; Steve Scipio Aquarius—bass; MIKE ROSE, Libra—alto and soprano; Sam Kelly, Sagittarius—drums; Pablo Gonsales, Cancer—congas; Ray King, Libra—vocals and percussion; and Joey Dee, Taurus—vocals and percussion.

Mike and Pablo are committed to the teachings of the Rastaman, and are self taught. They bring to the band the feeling of togetherness conveyed through the "Rasta" folk songs, and through Zion, the earth tunes. Nyah-Rock expresses Cymande's ideals in song, as well as their character and heritage.

Nyah-Rock is UP music. Cymande wants us to be happy. Their symbol—as seen on their album cover—is the Dove and the head of a Rastaman. ("Rastaman" is not listed in the Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary—which shows you where the so-called intellectuals are at these days.)

Cymande, however, says the Dove and the Rastaman symbolize peace and love.

The Dove is one of the main characters in a calypso from which the name was taken.

Steve, Mike, and Patrick have played together in bands before galling Cymande formed. The group has known each other for some time through their respective musics, but Cymande was organized in stages. (First five joined the team, then the rest came one by one.) "Now we are one," says Cymande.

Steve Scipio is the youngest; Ray King is the most chronologically mature. Four of the group come from Jamaica, four from Guyana, and Ray King has the distinction of being from St. Vincent.

Look for them in concerts in our areas soon.

'Cleopatra Jones' . . . Tamara Dobson

HOLLYWOOD — Tamara Dobson is no ordinary person. One glance at the beauty of her cover girl face and the regal bearing of her shapely 6'2" figure is enough to convince anyone of that fact.

As the star of "Cleopatra Jones" she plays a screen heroine of extraordinary attributes as movie fans will see when the Warner Bros. picture is released this summer.

However, there are other things about Tamara that prove how exceptional she is . . . things less obvious and more personal.

If she were merely an ordinary person she might well have settled for what life had to offer her in the Baltimore ghetto where she was born. After finishing public schools, Tamara received her degree in fashion illustration at the Maryland Institute of Art.

"I also have my license for beauty culture," Tamara explains, "I know the business quite well and know how to handle the books. I have my owner's license, too, and operate a shop with my mother.

"But I decided there was something else, something more that I wanted."

The determination to act on this decision is one of the many qualities that sets her apart from ordinary individuals.

Although she knew she could always go back to beauty culture or could use her education as a fashion illustrator, Tamara never once looked back after shaking the dust of Baltimore from her feet.

into new areas, met new

"But even as I moved people, learned new concepts of life, I found the story was always the same—'you're still Black, my dear'.

"But I held on to that and used it as my own tool. That's how I got this role. Because many Black girls who get to be models become very white in that they forget where they came from. I always remember where I came from, who I am, and why I'm here.

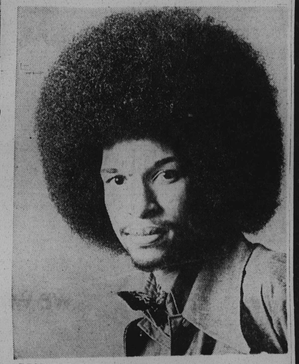
"So being a model helped me educate myself as far as acting is concerned. It helped me further my education as far as fencing, and my speech, all those things—the theatre, the ballet, music, concerts.

"These experiences helped me fulfill myself as a person"

And that person is certainly no humdrum, ordinary person. The excitement Tamara generates on the screen in the title role of "Cleopatra Jones" is what Hollywood once called "star quality."

Ordinary people don't have it.

"Cleopatra Jones" is being directed by Jack Starrett and produced by William Tennant for Warner Bros. from an original screenplay by Tennant, Max Julien and Sheldon Keller.



BRUCE HAWKINS is Lloyd at Center Stage production. He has been active with the Ira Aldridge Players and the Urban Musical Theatre at Morgan State College. He has appeared in more than 35 local theatrical programs.

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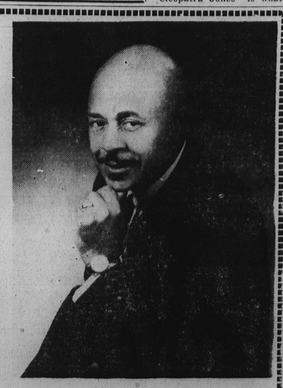

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DEACON'S WIDOW — Mrs. Edna M. W. Cornish, widow of Frederick A. Cornish, deacon of the Maryland Church of God In Christ, is assisted to car by Nutter Funeral Home attendants, Ernest Nutter and Keith Wharton, following Monday funeral at Denmore Ave. Church in Pimlico area.

Frederick A. Cornish, Church of God deacon

Frederick A. Cornish, 63, of the 2600 block Raynor Ave., died on April 12. He was the husband of Evangelist Edna Mae Whitlock Cornish, to whom he had been married for over forty years.

He had worked at the Schindler's Peanut Co., as a chauffeur for the past five years. He had previously been employed by the B. M. Smith Co. for 20 years.

He was a member of the Maryland Church of God In Christ in the 5100 block of Denmore Ave. Bishop T. R. Young is Pastor. He had served there as a deacon since 1949.

Survivors are his sons, Frederick C., Jr., Earl Clayton of Baltimore and Stanley of Brooklyn, New York.

Also, his daughter, Mrs. Lillian Bell of Baltimore, his sister, Mrs. Ada Boyear of Baltimore, his brother, Raymond Cornish of Baltimore, and 26 grandchildren.

The Nutter Funeral Home was in charge.

Miss Lazarus to be honored

The school of social work and community planning

The school of social work and community planning of the University of Maryland at Baltimore has set April 23 for the first in an annual series of lectures honoring the distinguished career of Esther Lazarus.

The lecture preceded at 12:30 p.m. by a luncheon, will be delivered at the Hilton Hotel by Dr. Charles Frankel Old Dominion professor of Philosophy and public affairs at Columbia University.

The lecture series was established at the school of social work and community planning by associates and friends of Esther Lazarus who wished to honor her

Miss Lazarus was director of the Baltimore Department of Social Services until 1969, and has been a member and officer of numerous commissions and boards of social service organizations in the city, state and nation.

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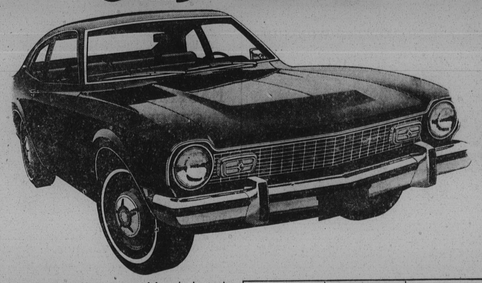

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