If you ask me

By Bettye Moss

Hats off!

Special salute of the week to 17-year-old Ruth Bernadette Fraling, an Edmondson High honor student.

She is class officer, student government aide, member of the drama club, the Redskin Choir.

In addition, she is blessed with a soprano voice which is most pleasing.

An appreciative audience heard her in concert a Sunday ago, (March 28), at St. Katherine Episcopal Church, Presstman and Division Sts. It was sponsored by the Church School.

There is more: Miss Fraling has appeared as the leading female performer in "Purlie," and is to sing the second female role in "Hello Dolly," when Edmondson High holds its spring concerts on May 14 and 15 (at 7:30 p.m.).

To college?

This young woman also finds time to be active in her church, Leadenhall Baptist, where she sings in the choir and is secretary of the Youth Choir.

She has been accepted at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. She hopes to enroll this fall, provided she gets the money.

Reason: Young Miss Fraling's parents died when she was young. She was reared by her grandmother, who died two years ago. She is now living with relatives.

Members of the Russell Siggers Scholarship Fund at St. Katherine Church, are accepting contributions in her name.

You can help encourage this outstanding young woman by supporting the concert and the scholarship fund. Father Peter Bramble is minister of the church.

Hats off to Ruth Bernadette Fraling, to the St. Katherine Church School and Edmondson High faculty for being supportive of her.

Please continue your nominations to this column's Hats Off section.

Let's take time to notice and applaud our young people who do well. Too many of us adults, you know, only notice our youngsters when they fall by the wayside. Hats Off!

Big wedding

Ames Methodist Church (Carey and Baker Sts.), was packed for the Sunday afternoon wedding of Myra Lorraine White and Odyssey E. Gray Jr.

Unique: The marriage ceremony, where the couple read their vows and the minister asked the congregation! "The marriage of two people unites two families and creates another, will you do everything in your power to keep them together," to which the congregation responded, "we will."

More: Liked the way the blessing of the rings ceremony went. After exchanging them with "I give you this ring as a sign of all I have to give you," they added, "I love you."

The couple took communion, and then stood at the altar holding hands and looking adoringly at each other as Margaret Lindsay sang, "O Perfect Love."

At 2:30 p.m., the minister announced, "It gives me great pleasure to pronounce you man and wife."

Then, the bridegroom embraced her and planted a very firm kiss. Of course, the audience loved it.

Pastor ill

Cuff notes: Ames pastor, the Rev. O. St. Clair Franklin, was hospitalized, so the officiating minister was Rev. Yusef Ahmed. (Rev. Franklin was released from the hospital on Tuesday.)

The bride is the daughter of the George Whites, (Bernice,), and he is the son of Mrs. Marie Gray and the late Odyssey Gray Sr.

Good news: Her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Georgia Smith, who has been ailing, was well enough to attend ceremony. Also there, her grandpop, Oscar Smith.

His grandparents, the senior Grays were ailing and unable to attend.

A reception followed at Blue Crest. The newlyweds opted to settle in their new home on Chatham Rd., will honeymoon later.

She's a supervisor with the Department of Social Service. He's manager for one of the large grocery store chains.

KLW benefit

Later on Sunday, we dropped in on the Kings' Landing Women's 18th annual fund raiser down Glen Burnie way.

Some 300 persons were there to help the group raise funds for its multiple charities, including the YMCA's annual Martin Luther King Memorial Breakfast.

There were door prizes galore, delicious food, and good music for dancing by the Bill Cummings combo.

Lucky guest was Ms. Jeane Weaver, the YWCA Day Care coordinator. She won the $150 half and half prize. (And, she did not purchase her ticket until an hour before the drawing.!).

She was guest of member Marjorie Green, who had two other door prize winners at her table. Helen York, the postal clerk, and Arline Fisher of the Sandtown-Winchester Neighborhood Association, (who by the way is running for House of Delegates from the 39th District.)

The very full basket of cheer prize was won by Johnny Salley, hubby of member, Rosie Salley.

Member Roberta Keets and hubby, Ike hosted a table, reminds me to mention that her sister, Dorothy Lymus, is confined to the Springfield Hospital Center's Medical - Surgical Center in Sykesville, MD. Please send her get - well cards.

Mil Nelson

Another member, Mildred Nelson, dropped in briefly too.

She had been at the wedding, and then at BWI Airport, where she had catered the Phi Beta Sigma reception for the president of the fraternity's Columbia Chapter, Robert Nelson.

Cuff note: On Wednesday, Mrs. Nelson was among honorees inducted into Morgan State University's Honor Society. On Saturday, she was among 96 women cited for distinguished service by the Philomathians. She owns catering firm and also works as an executive at Social Security.

Chairing the KLW fundraiser was Gwen Clark. Mary Smith was ticket chair. Betty Lindsay is president.

Our other members are Louise Braxton, Colles Corprew, Joyce Cotten, Estelle Foster, Myrtle Harrod, Mamie Jones Gertrude McKella, Adele Queen, Geneva Small, Doris Street, Helen Tucker, Mary Upsher.

Among KLW guests seen in the crowd, the following members of the Baltimore YMCA corporate staff: Fran Hennigan, personnel director; Jackie Lampell, public information; Marie Robinson, assistant to the YM president; and Richard Trail, financial aide.

Cuff note: Due to budgetary restrictions, Fran and Jackie will be terminated in June, but both have promised to work with the Martin Luther King Jr., break-

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SHOWTIME

'Sweeney Todd' opens

IDA PETERS

"Sweeney Todd" is a musical thriller about a homicidal barber, a tonsorial Jack the Ripper now at the Mechanic.

The musical is set in 19th century London on Fleet Street and tells the story of a barber who is unjustly convicted and transported to Australia by a wicked judge who has coveted his wife.

Upon his return to London, Sweeney Todd carries out his revenge not only on the judge but also on other tonsorial clientele while they are waiting in his shop for a close shave. The well-shorn customers are then introduced to Mrs. Lovett, Todd's illustrious associate whose business acumen is matched only by her eye for a Prime Cut bargain when she sees one.

June Havoc, who stars as meat-pie-maker Mrs. Lovett, is a stage, film and television star as well as an author, playwright and director.

Monday, the press was invited to meet the star in Michael Demaio's quaint old-fashioned barber shop, "Emporium", located on the mezzanine level of the Lord Baltimore Hotel.

The walls were decorated with old pictures, a 1901 newspaper "Sweeny Todd" posters and every old heirlooms of the barber trade. Reps of the press sat in barber chairs.

June Havoc, the star wore a blue pants suit and ankle length hose which she rolled and unrolled while she talked with the press.

She talked with her hands, eyes and hair fingering her chains of pearls while exclaiming

Ross Petty and June Havoc in the Tony Award winning musical "Sweeney Todd," at the Morris Mechanic Theatre now through May 22 for three weeks.

she almost went mad in rehearsals.

She predicted a new era in communications and theatre and the new thing would be "better than cable". "What the eye don't see, the heart won't long for and I'm glad I'll be gone".

June Havoc has been in show business almost all her life. Her mother was Rose immortalized in the Broadway musical "Gypsy". Her sister is Louise who went on to fame as the burlesque queen, Gypsey Rose Lee.

June Havoc has appeared in 42 major films including "Gentleman's Agreement", "The Iron Curtain", "A Lady Possessed". She toured 32 countries starring with Helen Hayes in "The Skin of Our Teeth".

"Sweeney Todd" was created by some of the most illustrious names in the modern musical theatre. Besides director Harold Prince ("Evita," "Company," "Fiddler on the Roof," "West Side Story") and Stephen Sondheim ("A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "Gypsy," "A Little Night Music," and "Company"), "Sweeney Todd" has dance and movement by Larry Fuller, sets by Eugene Lee, costumes by Franne Lee and lighting by Ken Billington. The hit musical has a book by Harold Wheeler, based on a version of "Sweeney Todd" by British playwright Christopher Bond. The national touring company of "Sweeney Todd" is produced by Tom Mallow in association with James Janek.

"Cab Calloway's Cotton Club Revisited" now playing thru May 8, in the Terrace Room of the Kennedy Center in D.C., may lack the soft lights and the bath tub gin of the old 1920s Cotton Club but it does have 75-year-old Cab singing "Minnie The Moocher".

Also in the cast Timmie Rogers, Cynthia White, Al Mims, Sugar Sullivan and Bunny Briggs and the Cotton Club Orchestra.

The Arena Players present the musical "Eubie" with music of famed ragtime, ballad, jazz and blues composer Eubie Blake and lyrics by Noble Sissle. The show will run weekends from May 21 - June 27 (except Friday, June 11).

Penny Demps
Co-director

Belva Scott
Playwright

Brenda Alford
. . . Sister Jean

Belva Scott's 'Double Handicap' opens at Morgan's Little Theatre

An original musical comedy, Belva Scott's "Double Handicap" directed by Penny Demps and Samm-Art Williams will run weekends May 7 thru June 6 at Morgan State's Little Theatre.

The gambler (Charlie Taylor) is in a jam with a loan shark (Marvin Sampson). The sisters have trouble with men and money... there are good guys and bad guys... winners and losers.

Rhoda Sapp is the trusting girlfriend; his buddy, Darrell Taylor; the hoods, Keith Snipes, Yusef Johnson, Tony Pinnick; protective sister, Brenda Alford.

Also in the cast are John Hargrove Jr. and Hugh Harrell.

The production staff is composed of Morgan State University Alumni including Samm-Art Williams who wrote the Broadway hit "Home".

Olufunmilayo Jomo attended Morgan '62-'65; She is choreographer and director of the Baltimore - based "Olufunmilayo and Co." dancers.

Melvin Miles is Class of '79, musical director, assistant director of Morgan State's "Magnificent Marching Machine", director of Morgan's Jazz Ensemble, co-producer of the Softones and First Class singing groups.

Oliver Patrick Scott is Class of '62, set designer and graphic artists; Chairman of Dept. of Art at M.S.U., presently completing a commission to do an exterior sculpture for Constant Care Community Health Center.

Jackie Lanier is Class of '76, technical director. She is a Baltimore historian with a collection of black artifacts that date back to early 1800's. Her works have been exhibited at Sojourner - Douglass, Morgan State Univer-

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'Conan' from 'Weird Tales' ...has James Earl Jones

Through the history of mankind, the times that are most recorded in tale and song are those of great deeds and adventure. They are eras when life is at its hardest, the threat of danger at its most imminent; because of this the possibility of achieving glory is at its greatest. Such a time was the Hyborean Age. Such a tale is the story of "Conan The Barbarian".

Arnold Schwarzenegger is Conan. Starring opposite him are two of the world's distinguished actors, James Earl Jones and Max Von Sydow. The cast also includes screen newcomers Sandahl Bergman and Gerry Lopez.

The film was directed by John Milius, who wrote and directed "The Wind And the Lion" and co-wrote "Apocalypse Now". The screenplay was by Milius and Oliver Stone, who was awarded an Academy Award for his screenplay of "Midnight Express" and wrote and directed "The Hand".

The action-filled adventure-fantasy is about the mythical comic strip hero Conan... his battles, his strength and indomitable spirit, his great love for Valeria, Queen of Thieves, and his fight to lead an ancient kingdom.

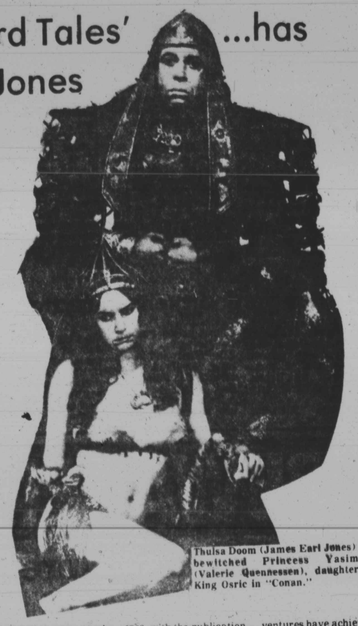
James Earl Jones plays Vanir chief Thulsa Doom head of the malignant snake-cult of Set. Thirty-five anacondas, pythons and boas appear in the film under reptile expert Dr. Yves Tiva.

Tiva says he had a minor problem with his snakes and James Earl Jones. Snakes respond chiefly to thermal changes and vibrations. "Well, when my snakes were placed around James Earl's neck, the quality of his being was so strong and relaxed ... and the vibrations of that voice of his so deep ... the snakes just settled right in didn't budge. They looked like phony snakes!" To solve this problem, Tiva lifted the reptiles heads and tails just before each take and shot as they moved to settle in again.

Six thousand persons were employed in the making of "Conan", including over 5,000 extras and stuntpersons. Filmed in Spain, over 57 interior and exterior sets were created for the movie by production designer Rob Cobb who also created designs for "Star Wars" and "Alien".

Nick Allder coordinated "Conan's" special effects including a mechanical 34-foot long snake, a rampant fire, and an especially active levitation scene. The film's stunts, coordinated by Terry Leonard, were for the most part actually performed by the principal actors, heightening "Conan's" sense of reality. The film's major stunts involved climbs, falls, swordplay, and many carefully choreographed battle sequences.

Conan was born initially in 1932, in the page of "Weird Tales" magazine, as a character in the first of 21 Robert E. Howard stories detailing three decades in the life of the fictional Conan the Barbarian. Though Conan's immediate impact was modest, a series of minor revival attempts through the years was succeeded by a major resurgence in 1966, with the publication of a small group of highly popular Conan paperbacks.



Thulsa Doom (James Earl Jones) has bewitched Princess Yasimina (Valerie Quennessen), daughter of King Osric in "Conan."

Shortly thereafter, in true "sword and sorcery" style, the character of Conan took on a kind of independent life, thanks to a dedicated and seemingly ever-growing fan whom Conan and his adventures have achieved a unique and separate reality. Today at least 65 Conan paperbacks are in print under the banners of three different soft-cover publishers, together with Marvel's series of Howard-related magazines and a comic strip, based on the character, that appears in close to 100 daily newspapers.

Meet Shari Belafonte Harper

The beauteous daughter of singer-actor Harry Belafonte... Shari Belafonte Harper, 27, is the newest face on the Hollywood acting scene debut in a featured role in "If You Could See What I Hear," the autobiographical account of singer Tom Sullivan. She plays the first love interest of Sullivan, who finds that she cannot cope with the problems that stem from the fact that he is blind.

There is a scene in the film when Sullivan discovers that Shari is black and assures her that he is colorblind as well.

"One of the reasons I was cast in the role was because I don't have any distinctive accent," Shari explains. "Otherwise the scene wouldn't have been believable."

Born in New York, Shari attended private school in Massachusetts and received a degree in drama from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. She later studied at the Hampshire Performing Arts Center in Amherst, N.H. and eventually ended up in Washington, D.C.

"I always knew that I would be involved in the entertainment industry, but my father taught me that I should first have a feeling for all aspects of the business. I learned lighting, decoration and technical work, and worked as a production director at the Public Television station in Washington," she says.

Her first breakthrough, however, came after she moved to Los Angeles and started working with the Hanna Barbera animated division as an assistant to the publicist. While on location one day, she met a hair stylist who suggested she try modeling.

Following up on the advice, she had photos taken, which she forwarded to the top ten agencies, getting favorable response from nine of them. She later joined the Nina Blanchard organization — a spring-board to the pages of Vogue and Glamour.

The desire to act, however, which stemmed from high school, still remained stronger than the urge to excel as a model. When "Charlie's Angels" was going into its final season, she was one of the replacement role, but it was an appearance on the Merv Griffin Show that triggered her film career.

When the producer of "If You Could See What I Hear" spotted Shari on the talk show, he lost no time in signing her to star with Marc Singer, who plays Sullivan, and Sarah Torgov, who plays Sullivan's future wife.

Shari has made television appearances on "Hart to Hart," "The F.B.I.," "Code Red" and "Lobo." Other films include "S.O.B." and "Pharoah," and "Night Stalkers".

In "Night Stalkers" Shari plays a student. She's a size three and 5' foot.

Shari tried to establish herself in show businesses using her married name, Shari Harper. Her husband, Robert Harper is a film advertising executive. Not long ago she added her middle name for obvious reasons.

"The Belafonte name hurts and helps" she says. "It helps me get in to see casting directors. Some of them see me out of curiosity. They scrutinize me a little more than they would someone else".

Atlantic Starr for Mother's Day

By now, any listener of black contemporary stations across the country is familiar with "Circles", the first single release from Atlantic Starr's "Brilliance" LP.

"Circles" has hit the Top Ten on all three R&B singles charts, and is starting to make a dent on the Pop charts. Even though Atlantic Starr might be new news to Pop listeners, the group has a long history of R&B chart and sales success.

"Our last album made people open their ears to Atlantic Starr", says vocalist Sharon Bryant. "Now that everyone's ears are open, this is the record they're waiting on. We hope we've got it".

"Brilliance" has surely got it, in abundance: strong dance and party tunes, expressive ballads, spirited singing from Bryant, Wayne and David Lewis, and Porter Carroll.

The LP seems to take up where its predecessor, 1980's "Radiant", left off. That album was the first to really break Atlantic Starr into the big time and contained their biggest hits to date, "When Love Calls" and "Send For Me".

Once again, the group is produced by James Carmichael, best known for his work with the Commodores. From the sound of this LP, Carmichael has drawn some exceptional performances from Atlantic Starr. Among the highlights: "Circles", the album's first hit single, one of three tunes featuring Sharon Bryant as lead vocalist, and "Let's Get Closer", David Lewis' tender ballad. Brother Wayne shines on "Your Love Finally Ran Out", a moving love song composed by Sam ("One In A Million") Dees.

"Brilliance" also shows off Atlantic Starr's 'up' side, with the dance-oriented "Sexy Dancer" and "Love Moves", the latter sung by Wayne Lewis with some strong falsetto. The song's narrator: a Romeo who vows "I'll romance you Till I run out of lines".

Dates to Remember

May 15. Let the spirit move at an experience in black worship for all Lutherans. Saturday, 9 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at the St. Paul Lutheran Church, 7902 Liberty Rd. (exit 18 west off Interstate 695) Keynote Speaker Dr. Albert P. Pero Jr. associate professor of Systematic Theology at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and Gospel music by the Calvin Statham Singers. For more information call 889-5866.

Waxter Center Events

Special Classes

Physical Fitness-Exercises and dancing Saturdays from 2:15 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Mason Lord Room. Call Michael Linardi at 396-1321 for more information.

Monday, May 3 through Friday, May 7. This entire week is dedicated to raising awareness for deaf seniors.

Saturday, May 8. The Fred Astaire Dance Studio of Woodlawn demonstrates the fine art of ballroom dancing. Lee and Peggy Sefrick, three time U.S. ballroom champions, will perform. Dwamal Jarvis, a member of the American Dancing Hall of Fame, will instruct. 1 p.m.

Sunday, May 9. Waxter Center celebrates its 5th anniversary and mother's day with a dance sponsored by the Musicians' Association of metropolitan 1 p.m.

Monday, May 10. Dance to the music of the Waxter Center Combo 12:45 p.m.