This Weekend

This Memorial Weekend, Chicago comes to Baltimore with **"House from the Beginning."**

The group's music is "smoked" by Chicago's own **Mickey "Mixin" Oliver.**

It all takes place at the Club Cignel, 10 E. Lafayette Ave. on May 29 from 11 p.m. - 4 a.m. For ticket info call (301) 727-1003.

* * *

Godfrey's Famous Ballroom is the place to be when United Greek Productions present Charm City's **"Memorial Day 1988 Greeksummerfest."**

The Greek male review, sexy legs contest, and "Kaos" step show takes place on Monday, May 30. Doors open at 8 p.m.

Godfrey's is located at 1717 North Charles St. For tickets call Stan (301) 685-2058, Darryl (301) 669-0645, or Bryant (301) 323-1976.

* * *

Mary Jefferson

Vocalist Mary Jefferson, performs June 1st at the Tropics restaurant and nightclub, located on 3610 Georgia Avenue in Washington, D.C. Call 202-726-6276 for more information.

"Rap For Registration" takes place May 28 at the **Palladium** on Liberty Heights Avenue immediately following the Run-DMC concert at the Baltimore Arena. Local celebs as well as some of the stars of the concert will be on hand for the after concert jam.

Any registered voter will be admitted for a discount price. Newly registered voters (signed up at the Arena or the Palladium) will be admitted with a pass received upon registration.

Previously-registered voters must show registration cards to receive the discount price.

For more information, contact David McDonald at (703) 247-4732.

* * *

Positive Productions and Mypheduh Films, Inc. present **"Burning an Illusion"** June 1-2 at the Biograph Theatre in DC.

A young British-born black woman comes of age and begins to question her attitude about life previously influenced by middle-class aspirations and security through marriage.

During the course of the film she gains a greater awareness of herself and her identity and position in contemporary British society.

Directed by Menelik Shabazz. (1981)

For more information, call (202) 333-2696.

Gladys Knight and the Pips perform at D.C.'s Constitution Hall Friday, May 27 and Sunday, May 29.

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Special Guest

Alexander O'Neal

Sunday, June 26, 6:30 p.m.

Meyerhoff Symphony Hall

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Coming Soon

The Maryland Center for Creative Music will present **Visiting Jazz Artist Ken McIntyre** in concert with the **Baltimore Jazz Workshop Big Band,** June 2, at the **Walters Art Gallery Graham Auditorium.**

This is the third concert of MCCM's "JOYSPRING!" jazz series at the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore.

Also featured on the First Thursday concert will be Washington, D.C.'s **Windmill Saxophone Quartet.** This program begins at 8:00 p.m.

For ticket information call (301) 467-4001.

* * *

Just returned from an extensive tour of Germany, the 1987 Tony Award winning **San Francisco Mime Troupe** is heading to Baltimore where it will present a brand new African Spy/Thriller with music - **THE MOZAMGOLA CAPER** - for **ONE SHOW ONLY** on **Sunday, June 5th at 7 P.M.** in **Shriver Hall** on the **John Hopkins University Campus (3400 North Charles St.)**

Tickets are on sale at the Office of the Chaplain (338-8188), Union Desk & A.F.S.C. Office (366-7200).

Sponsored by the American Friends Service/Mid Atlantic Region/Southern Africa Project with the help of the Baltimore Theatre Project. Don't miss this one-time-only chance to see the San Francisco Mime Troupe in Action - it's political theatre at its very best!

For additional information, please call 415/285-1717 or (301) 366-7200 DAKI NAPATA.

* * *

Enjoy **THE EVA ANDERSON DANCERS,** as **THE BALTIMORE DANCE THEATRE** performs in a world premier concert series on Saturday, June 4th and Sunday, June 5th at the **Baltimore Museum of Art,** 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Treat yourself to the latest creations of award winning choreographer Eva Anderson.

This is your only chance to see **THE BALTIMORE DANCE THEATRE** perform in Baltimore this year.

Tickets are available at the Museum of Art, or by calling 997-3899.

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In This Issue

Cover Story....3
All That Jazz..4
About TV.....6
Restaurants....7
Night Clubs....7
TV Listings.....9

Festivities over the Memorial Day Weekend

The men of steel are 'Tougher than Leather'

By Sheryl Michelle Jeffries

It's hard to believe that five years went by so quickly that an unknown group would be catapulted into stardom and be dubbed the "kings of rap" and the "Sgt. Peppers of rap."

It's also hard to believe that this group almost never was, due (almost) to the misjudgement of one man, Russell Simmons, who expressed extreme dislike of a young rapper's style of rap. This young man was Darryl McDaniels - better known to everyone as "DMC."

Simmons, who is now manager of Run-DMC, is the older brother of Joseph Simmons, the "Run" in Run-DMC. Russell Simmons felt McDaniels style of rap was hard and aggressive and not commercial like Kurtis Blow, an act he was experiencing much success with at that time.

It was Run's persistent proding and cajoling that changed his brother's mind and convinced him to back the group.

Run-DMC have been "raising hell" ever since and have embellished themselves in a niche of music history. They're one of the hottest musical acts in the eighties and they have achieved a number of firsts.

They were the first rap act to ever receive gold and platinum albums; they were pioneers of rap in having their videos appear on MTV, and they were the first to appear on "American Bandstand" and on the cover of **Rolling Stone** magazine.

The group has survived the school of hard knocks. They've been attacked by angry fans over a cancelled concert, survived car accidents and recently, been under fire and targets of complaints because of their music and lyrics.

But Run-DMC have maintained tough skins and look forward to the positive things they can do and say fo their audiences and fans alike.

They have been identified by **Los Angeles Times** writer, Robert Hilburn, as a group whose music maintains a "strong social conscience."

They have always built their most urgent concerns - anti-drugs, anti-gangs, pro-education into their music." Songs like "It's Like That" and "Proud to Be Black" are prime examples.

"We're all about trying to help the kids. We want to keep kids off drugs. We want them to say no instead of yes," said DMC.

They could be dubbed the ambassadors of good will and intent for the number of organizations and causes they have involved themselves with. They've performed at Live Aid, contributed a song "Christmas in Hollis" for the Special Olympics, "A Very Special Christmas".

They sang the songs and participated in the video for "Sun City" and "King Holiday". They headlined an anti-drug concert in Washington, D.C. at Constitution Hall by invitation of the Drug Enforcement Agency.

They're also involved in Reading is Fundamental and job training for kids in conjunction with the NBA - the National Business Association.

They have their own scholarship fund established which awards a $100 savings bond to a graduating senior in every high school in Queens who has the best school attendance record. The amount of monies in total given away this year for scholarships is $8400.

This summer, in conjunction with the local chapter of the NAACP, there will be voter registration booths at each of the concert sites of their tours. They'll be in Baltimore on May 28 at the Baltimore Arena.

Run-DMC is ready to embark on a tour this summer called "Run's House '88" starting in late May. Along with the entourage will be fresh new acts Public Enemy, Jazzy Jeff, Fresh Prince and EU.

Their fourth album, which contains the recently released single, "Run's House," is set for release in May. The lp is called "Tougher Than Leather" and is the same name of their biography released last year. It is also the title of their new movie slated for an August

(Continued on Page 5)

AFRO file photo

Left—Joseph "Run" Simmons; middle—Darryl "DMC" McDaniels; right — Jason "Jam Master Jay" Mizell.

'Putting Women in their Place'

By Julia Chance

Independent producer and humorist George Folkes believes African American men are faced with a dual agenda. "I think it's important that brothers begin to change their image nationally.

"We have to market ourselves not only to America, but to our women . . . to get rid of the notion that most of us aren't about nothin'." Folkes is fulfilling that agenda as the producer/performer in his one-man play "Putting Women in Their Place . . . Beside Their Men."

This play, billed as "the show that will make you laugh and think in the same breath," takes a humorous yet serious look at modern love.

It challenges men to think about the all-too-familiar macho ways in which they approach women and relationships, and suggests practicing greater sensitivity. While this notion certainly is not new, Folkes approaches the subject in a unique and innovative way.

You must come to this show prepared to testify. With his initial question "How many of you have been dogged?" Folkes establishes the exchange between himself and the audience that lasts throughout the program.

In a sequence of aptly titled dating scenarios — "Weak Rap," "Party/Notch 10," "Vanity/Money," to name a few — Folkes applies hip lingo, gestures, and commentary on the inconsiderate ways men approach women to female vanity and self concept.

(Continued on Page 6)

Evelyn King helps Randy Dennis celebrate anniversary

Randy Dennis celebrates his fourth anniversary with radio station V-103 in style. He is inviting his listeners to take a Memorial Day weekend cruise aboard the all new cruise ship, the Bay Lady.

His guests for the evening include "Best Fest" winners Final Chapter and ventriloquist Willie Brown & Woody. His special guest is Evelyn "Champagne" King with a new look and a new sound.

ABOUT EVELYN "CHAMPAIGN" KING

The "eighth wonder" for most world travellers is some sort of timeless monument to human creativity. For an international performer that special monument is something more personal . . . hopefully a lasting testament to their talent.

In many wasy **A LONG TIME COMING (A CHANGE IS GONNA COME)**, the eighth labor of love Evelyn "Champagne" King has delivered for RCA, is such a monument.

Evelyn "Champagne" King

SMOOTH TALK, King's debut LP is still regarded as a flawless classic by critics from Tokyo to Manhattan.

Every cut rang with girl group authenticity, yet sold itself with the disco era's cutting edge: cynical foresight.

Few artists of any genre can say they kicked off their careers with two gold LPs. But Evelyn, who on **SMOOTH TALK** (1977), and **MUSIC BOX** (1979) weds the strong tonal control of a Gloria Gaynor with offbeat dramatic phrasing, can.

Now with eight RCA records under her belt, all with distinct personalities and more than respectable sales figures, Evelyn has a right to consider herself something of a shaping force in the pop R&B environment.

All of this has hurtled our heroine toward the fearless eclecticism of **A LONG TIME COMING (A CHANGE IS GONNA COME).**

"A Change Is Gonna Come" evokes the blues rock of Tina Turner as it heralds the awaited return of the black protest lyric.

"Slow Down" is spunky funk with wonderfull resonant synthesized percussion.

"If I Let Myself Go" is a powerful ballad as thick in timbre as Gladys Knight's "Midnight Train to Georgia," while "High Horse" again flirts with rock elements by letting synthesizers and rhythm guitar take hip hop and technopop cliches toward a new synthesis.

As Evelyn "Champagne" King is still a young artist it is doubtful that her eighth album will be her best.

But as she continues to experiment and excel in her craft, **A LONG TIME COMING (A CHANGE IS GONNA COME)** is quite likely to stand out against the landscape of her career as an object of enviable style, sass and wonder.

Combine the talent of King and a boat ride on an all new cruise ship, and you have the promise of a great evening. The boat leaves at 11 p.m. sharp from the Inner Harbor.

For information on tickets, call GSG Productions at (301) 325-1978 or call (301) 792-8411.