This Weekend

Kay Lawal and Joyce Scott comprise the Thunder Thigh Revue appearing at the Arena Players Playhouse, July 15, 16, and 17. The Revue is a "warm, wacky, riotously funny show featuring the Statue of Liberty, an amorous refrigerator, and telephone sex. . . ." For ticket information call (301) 728-6500.

WASHINGTON

Fort Dupont Park at Minnesota Avenue and Randle Circle (Southeast) offers many free concerts this summer. The concerts are on Fridays and Saturdays, and begin at 8:30 p.m. Call (202) 426-7723.

• July 8th and 9th feature **Ray, Goodman & Brown.**

* * *

On July 10th, the **Budweiser Superfest** will feature some major talent. The lineup includes: **Stevie Wonder, Freddie Jackson, Earth, Wind and Fire,** the **Deele, Al B. Sure** and **Teena Marie.** It all takes place at the **RFK Stadium** beginning at 4 p.m.

For ticket information, call 1-800-233-4050 or (200) 547-9077.

The **Carter Barron Amphitheater** also boasts major performers throughout July. All shows begin at 8:30 p.m. and are held on Saturdays and Sundays.

• On July 9th, **Jean Carne** and **Ramsey Lewis** bring their jazz stylings.

• **Third World** ("Now That We've Found Love" and **"Try Jah Love") brings a taste of reggae on July 10th.**

The **Carter Barron Amphitheater** is located at 4520, Colorado Ave., N.W. For further information, call (202) 485-9666.

* * *

Blues Alley, located on Wisconsin Avenue below M Street, serves New Orleans Creole cuisine. It features jazz notables on a weekly basis.

• On Friday, July 8th, Freddie Hubbard plays trumpet for three shows.

• The **Sun Ra Arkestra** performs for three shows on Saturday, July 9th.

• Sunday, July 10th, the fusion group **Special EFX** performs.

Shows are at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. during the week, and 8 p.m., 10 p.m., and 12 midnight on the weekends. For reservations, call (202) 337-4141.

BALTIMORE

July 10th at the **Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall** is being billed as "A Sunday for Lovers Only!"

This B & P Productions, co-sponsored by WWIN Radio, boasts the mighty, mighty, **Dells,** the **Stylistics,** and **Ray, Goodman & Brown.**

Comedian **Greg Cooper** is featured, as well as Baltimore's own band, **Panama.**

It all starts at 7:00 p.m. For more information call (301) 783-8000.

Stevie Wonder

Coming Soon

WASHINGTON

Fort Dupont Park at Minnesota Avenue and Randle Circle (Southeast) offers many free concerts this summer. The concerts are on Fridays and Saturdays, and begin at 8:30 p.m. Call (202) 426-7723.

• On July 15th and 16th, **Archie Shepp, Terri Thornton,** and **Horace Parlan** appear.

• **Marlena Shaw,** famous for her renditions of "Go Away Little Boy," and "This Time I'll Be Sweeter," performs on July 23rd and 24th.

• Bluesman **Bobby "Blue" Bland** rounds out the month on the 29th and 30th.

* * *

The **Carter Barron Amphitheater** also boasts major performers throughout July. All shows begin at 8:30 p.m. and are held on Saturdays and Sundays.

• **Force MD's, Joyce Sims,** and local comedian **Chris Thomas** jam on July 16th.

• **Melis'a Morgan** ("If You Can Do It" and "Love Changes" fame) ad **Keith Sweat** ("I Want Her" and "Somethin' Just Ain't Right") perform on July 17th.

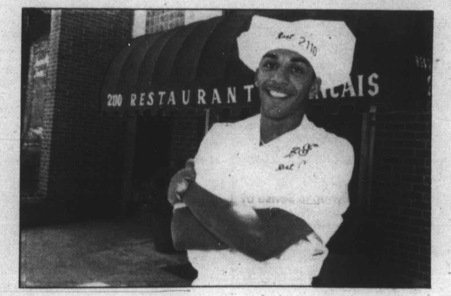
• On July 23rd, **Howard Hewitt, Shirley Murdock, Phase II,** and **Stone Pleasure** are scheduled.

• **Phoebe Snow,** who hasn't performed in years ("Love Makes A Woman" and "Poetry Man"), brings **Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson** and the **Uptown Rhythm Kings** with her on July 30th.

The **Carter Barron Amphitheater** is located at 4520 Colorado Ave., N.W. For further information, call (202) 485-9666.

* * *

Blues Alley, located on Wisconsin Avenue below M Street, serves New Orleans



AFRO-Photo by P. A. Greene

Restaurant 2110 and owner Benny Gordon (pictured above) are featured in this week's restaurant review on page 8.

Final auditions for Rapp to be held

Photo by Paris Gray
Ralph Nash of RAPP at a recent press conference at Loyola College.

Final auditions for the RAPP Theater Conservatory Training Program will be held on Saturday, July 9th, 2:00 p.m., at Loyola College's MacManus Theater.

The RAPP Theater is one of New York's most acclaimed Off Broadway Theaters. Founded and directed by Baltimore-native R. Jeffrey Cohen, RAPP's productions have been hailed in **The New York Times, The Village Voice, The Nation, TheaterWeek** and other prominent publications.

RAPP Theater, with the cooperation of Loyola College, will bring the highest quality professional and innovative classical productions and training to the Baltimore area.

The Conservatory Program is an intensive 4-week, 4-course program that will run Tuesdays through Fridays, July 18th through August 15th, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Classes will include Voice & Speech, Movement, Meisner Technique and RAPP Process Technique. Faculty will include Jeffrey Cohen and his RAPP Company actors.

Cohen is looking for individuals who are intellectually inquisitive, and have an appreciation for literature. Theatrical experience is not necessary; the desire to learn and grow is necessary.

All auditions require a text from Shakespeare of any length. A large part of the selection process is the interview and application for.

Those interested in auditioning **must** call Stanley Cohen at (301) 523-1573. (Individual arrangements can be made for those unable to schedule an appointment on July 9th.)

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RFK Stadium site for Budweiser Superfest

Cynthia Nevels

Doing exceptionally well on the music charts and receiving considerable airplay in D.C. with the singles "Two Occasions" and "Shoot'em Up Movies," The Deele will join a cast of entertainers such as Stevie Wonder, Tina Marie, Al B Sure and Earth, Wind and Fire at the RFK Stadium in Washington, July 10th.

The Deele, composed of members Antonio Reid, Babyface, Dee, Kayo, and Carlos, have come a long way within the music industry.

In an interview with the AFRO, Antonio Reid noted that he formed this group right out of high school.

Known As L.A., Antonio Reid grew up musically-oriented focusing on the violin and drums.

With this inclination, Reid joined fellow Ohioans: "Kayo", "Dee" and "Carlos" in making themselves known performing at numerous clubs, colleges and military bases.

At this period, Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds became the final addition in solidifying "The Deele Sound."

National exposure did not arrive until 1983 with the release of the LP "Street Beat" on the Solar Label.

The Deele consists of (from left to right) Babyface, L.A., Dee, Kayo, and Carlos.

That break-through led to numerous tours on the road with such artists as Luther Vandross, George Clinton, Kool and The Gang, and The Dazz Band.

In describing "The Deele", "we are a common everyday people with a goal and dream," said Reid. "We would like to be viewed as a group who have achieved that dream and ones who reflect a very positive image."

In explaining how the name came about, L.A. said, "The name arose out of the hard times we've been through and the fact that we had to deal with those trying times.

"Those times meant gigging in various clubs, joints, wherever, to get exposure. The second phase was getting the record industry's attention."

More importantly, The Deele signifies endurance. "We survived!"

The LP "Eyes Of A Stranger" reveals not only the performing of the songs, but the composing of the tunes of which all members were responsible.

Personally fond of the tune "Two Occasions," LA noted that not all creations arise from personal experiences. The members have a knack for making rhythm and rhyme and hooking up lyrics with melody.

How does L.A. describe himself? "I am contemplative and very serious about my work." Music is an art and a business.

"My greatest accomplishments come from working with other artists and making things happen for them as well."

L.A. as a songwriter has produced tunes for the Whispers, Klymaxx, Bobby Brown, Sheena Easton and Pebbles to name a few.

Never having considered doing anything else for a living, L.A. said, that music was his life's calling and was confident that he would persevere in that line of work.

What advice would he give to an aspiring artist hoping to make it in the business? He said, "This business is very tough, so get your business together first, that is, get a lawyer and a manager whom you can trust. Above all don't procrastinate. If music is truly your life's calling, go for it."

Gospel Music competition to be held at Kennedy Center

WASHINGTON — "Commissioned," the Detroit-based ensemble, emerging as one of the most popular gospel groups nationally, will perform as special guest artists during the final concert of the sixth Washington, D.C./Baltimore Kentucky Fried Chicken Gospel Music Competition on July 10 at the Kennedy Center.

The performance by "Commissioned" will cap the appearances of eight competition finalists who are vying for the titles of best choir, ensemble, male soloist and female soloist.

Kentucky Fried Chicken will donate a total of $12,000 to finalists' sponsoring churches.

This year, 98 church-sponsored singers and groups from metropolitan Washington and Baltimore entered the competition. After screening entrants' audiotapes, competition judges selected 60 entrants to perform at four free semifinal concerts held at area churches.

From that group, the judges selected the following eight finalists, two in each category, to perform at the July 10 grand-finale concert.

Choirs

Adlner Bagley Crawley Youth and Adult Choir — St. Paul Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md.

Word of God Youth Choir — Word of God Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

Ensembles

The Faithmen — Faith Bible Church, Sterling, Va.

Steve Lawrence and Friends — Refreshing Spring Church of God in Christ (C.O.G.I.C.), Riverdale, Md.

Male Soloists

Anthony L. Russell — First Philadelphia Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md.

Scot C. Moore — Kemper Road Church of God, Arlington, Va.

Female Soloists

Rhondalla Ellina Nicholson — Pentecostal Holiness Church, Baltimore, Md.

Deborah Waddell — New Southern Rock Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

"Commissioned" to Spread Gospel Message

The six-man group "Commissioned" have become top gospel artists in three years with the release of their third album, "On The Winning Side," and most recently their sold-out concert tour of the United States and Europe.

The ensemble was he 1987 Gospel

(Continued on Page 9)

Third World performs at the Carter Barron.

Third World performs at the Carter Barron Amphitheater

Third World performs at the Carter Barron Amphitheater this Sunday, July 10th at 8:30 p.m.

Band member Willie Stewart has defined Third World's mission as "quite straight forward," with the lyrics of their songs being "peace, unity, love for all so that humanity can change the problems of the world by love."

"This message is evident in **Hold On To Love,** Third World's new LP, as it was in their previous album, **Sense of Purpose** (released March, 1985).

Hold On To Love, the long awaited follow-up to **Sense of Purpose,** reunites Third World with master producer-writers Kenny Gamble & Leon Huff, the duo who produced "Now That We Found Love," (1979) the single that sold nearly half a million copies and went platinum in Japan.

For the new album, Gamble & Huff produced five songs:

(Continued on Page 5)

BALTIMORE

'Up From Slavery' to be performed

By H. Glover Cook

The Baltimore Musuem of Art's Joshua Johnson Council will present a performance of "Up from Slavery," the story of Booker T. Washington, on Thursday, July 7.

"Up from Slavery" is a one-man performance based on the biography of Booker T. Washington. It is performed by distinguished actor Charles dUMAS.

dUMAS researched the life and writings of the famous educator, orator, and diplomat which resulted in the actor's historically accurate stage presentation of Booker T. Washington.

"I wrote this play to present Booker T. Washington within the contest of 20th Century thinking. Washington gets a lot of bad press.

"He has been called an 'Uncle Tom' for being accommodating to the White society, but you have to look at the man and his time to see what he was up against."

dUMAS has many stage and screen credits, including performances on and off Broadway, television, and a role in Baltimore's Center Stage production of "Paradise Lost."

He has played on television's "As the World Turns" in the role of "Pete", as well as acting in the Whoopi Goldberg film "Jumpin' Jack Flash."

The non-conformist way of spelling his name is his way of complying with his union's regulation distinguished himself from another actor bearing the same name.

dUMAS is a Yale law graduate who, at one time, worked as an IBM attorney.

At the time America was becoming involved in the divestment-in-South Africa debate, dUMAS requested and received a leave of absence from IBM.

During his leave he spent a month traveling throughout South Africa, gaining a first hand look at conditions under

(Continued on Page 6)