ALL THAT JAZZ

By Bob Matthews

Egad! can it be that the summer season is practically over? After all, Labor Day is the signal that the time has come for fall activities to come to the fore.

But not completely, for it's still picnic time, and a picnic it will be at the Maryland Jazz Festival's makeup concert, which happens Labor Day, September 5, at 2 p.m.

Must sadly relate that cooking on grills is forbidden at the Oregon Ridge Park, site of the festival, but that does not preclude packing a picnic lunch. Might add that if you are a barbecue fan, there will be open pit beef cooked on the site.

Just trying to emphasize the fact that this Maryland Jazz Festival is more than just a musical event—it is a holiday enjoyment in the outdoors. Don't forget to bring along your beach or lawn chairs.

That's important, for if you realize that the concert will probably last about four hours, the ground can get mighty hard—if you know what I mean.

By now, you know the lineup, but in case you don't, let me tell you. First off, there was a change. Originally, the **Mel Lewis** big band was scheduled—but something happened.

So, in their place, **Dave Brubeck** was signed. Others on the bill include vocalist **Carmen McRae**, the **McCoy Tyner Trio** featuring **Freddie Hubbard and Benny Golson**, and **Herbie Mann** and his Latin-tinged group.

As we write this, the weather is absolutely gorgeous, and is expected to be so through the weekend. 'Nuff said,'cause we'll be there if the weather is lousy—the lineup merits it.

* * *

Friday, September 2 at 8 p. m., **the Dorothy Donegan Trio** will

Jimmy McGriff

be featured in concert at the 8th annual Music at Gretna Festival of Jazz.

With Dorothy will be **Arvell Shaw**, bass, and **Ray Mosca**, drums. And, if you're not familiar with the Donegan style, we're here to tell you that she is a houserocker.

Kinda hate to admit it, but we can remember hearing her back in the 1940s, and she was d sensational then, and has never let up—I mean, she really cooks.

Oops, forgot to let you know that Mt. Gretna, PA, where the concert is being held, is about two hours from Baltimore. It's off Exit 20 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike

The area is surrounded by a state park with hiking trails, swimming, boating and overnight accommodations nearby. For further information (717) 964-3601.

The Left Bank Jazz Society opens its fall season Sunday, September 11, with a moonlight jazz cruise around Baltimore's Inner Harbor

This will be the 25th season of LBJS in presenting jazz concerts and one of the favorites of the society, **Jimmy McGriff** will be

(Continued on page 8)

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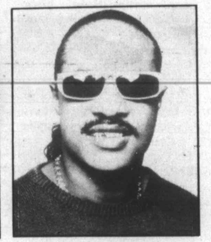

Stevie Wonder

THAT megastar **Stevie Wonder**, kicking off an eight-performance run at New York's Radio City Music Hall, reconfirmed rumors that he really does plan to run for mayor of Detroit in 1992. A lifelong Democrat, Wonder said he would not abandon his music for politics. "I was raised in Detroit, and I believe that I can make a contribution to the city that has given me so much. I will perform, but I would also deal with my responsibility as mayor." Wonder then proceeded to keep the sold-out crowd on its feet for more than two hours, blasting through selections that spanned his 25-year career.

* * * * *

THAT island balladeer **Jimmy Buffet** has scheduled himself in his Key West kitchen to cook up his own line of Caribbean sauces and savories. Profits from the food line will aid wildlife and environmental charities through the Jimmy Buffet Foundation. Assisted by a cook from the island of Guadalupe, Buffet is experimenting with recipes for a marinade, ketchup, a creole sauce, mustard and mayonnaise. The "Buffet" line will probably also include a margarita mix in honor of the tequila cocktail immortalized in his song, "Margaritaville."

* * * * *

THAT the Newport Folk Festival kicked off its 1988 run last week with an afternoon program celebrating the music's global ethnic roots. The music bubbled forth from Louisiana's Cajun country to Europe, and from tribal Africa to the Chicano rock of the headliners, Los Lobos. The festival was so laid-back in ambience that when leader Yacub Addy from the vocal-percussion-dance group **Odaddal** from Ghana told the 4,000-strong crowd to get up and dance, few did. Addy told the cooled-out throng, "We're changing your tastes today, don't just sit there, we want you to move!"

* * * * *

THAT entertainer **James Brown** has drawn a probated sentence on drug and weapons charges, but the judge — as part of the sentence — ordered the performer to hold a benefit concert for abused children and the police. Brown, 55, had pleaded guilty to resisting arrest and carrying a pistol. He entered a plea of no contest to a charge of possession of PCP. A charge of failure to stop for police was dropped. Brown received a suspended jail sentence of two-and-a-half-years with a fine of $1,200. The judge also placed Brown on probation until the singer holds the concert to benefit the Fraternal Order of Police and Helping Hands, a private, non-profit organization for abused children. At presstime, no date had been set for the benefit.

SOUNDS

By Carl Matthews

RICK JAMES
"Wonderful" (Reprise)

That "punk funk" master is back. Fresher than ever. His new album is "Wonderful," featuring the single "Loosey's Rap."

The singer, songwriter and producer from Buffalo, NY has been throwing down for more than a decade. With the Stone City Band, his debut album "Come Get It," released in April, 1978, went platinum. From this album came two of Rick's best-known classics, "You And I" and "Mary Jane."

Other albums Rick has recorded include "Bustin' Out Of L Seven," "Garden Of Love," "Street Songs," and "Cold Blooded." Rick has hit the charts with such singles as "Fool On The Street," "Give It To Me Baby," "Super Freak," "Hard To Get," and "Cold Blooded."

Rick has also produced albums for Teena Marie ("Wild And

Rick James

Peaceful") and the Stone City Band ("In 'N' Out").

Musically, Rick James remains his own original — you won't catch him trying to imitate Prince or throwing in special effects like sampling just for the fun of it. All right, so tunes like "Wonderful" and "Judy" have a little less meat and a little more cereal filler than his early efforts, but production and rhythm-wise, this is the best Rick James we've heard in a long time.

Rapper Roxanne Shante appears briefly on "Loosey's Rap." Harmony vocals are put to good use on one of the more catchier numbers here, "Sexual Luv Affair."

CHAPTER 8
"Forever" (Capitol)

Here's the first album on Capitol by a six-member group from Detroit who's currently in the top 40 with the single, "Give Me A Chance."

Chapter 8 is Michael J. Powell, guitar; Courtlen Hale, sax; Gerald Lyles, lead vocals; David Washington, bass; Valerie Pinkston, lead vocals; Vernon Fails, keyboards.

Chapter 8 was formed in 1973. They were originally an all-male group that was formed as a backup band for the Detroit Emeralds ("You Want It, You Got It"). The band's first album was released in 1980 and they hit the charts with the single "I Just Wanna Be Your Girl."

Five years later, the group scored a big hit with "How Can I Get Next To You" on Beverly Glen. In 1987, Powell worked as producer on Anita Baker's "Rapture" LP and Peabo Bryson's "Positive" LP.

"Stronger Love" gets into a nice mid-tempo groove that recalls the sweet commercial pop sound of LTD, Atlantic Starr, Starpoint, and others. Valerie's lead vocal on "Give Me A Chance" is right out of the Aretha Franklin school of classy ballad singing.

Other cuts: "So In Love," "Understanding," "I Can't Wait," "One And Only," "Real Love."

YOUNG M.C.
"I Let 'Em Know" (Delicious Vinyl)

I hear you rap music critics out there. I hear some of you folks out there who say, "The rap music world is full of thieves — they steal riffs, lines, parts of other people's records..." And to you folks who feel that way, I can honestly say that I know where you're coming from.

Now some rap artists, like Grandmaster Flash And The Furious Five, use parts of other artists' records, but with Flash, the end result is often a cleverly put-together slice of fun funk that is worth repeated listenings.

Can't honestly say the same about this 12-inch. On side one, Young M.C.'s got the bass line from the Ohio Players' "Skin Tight" and a guitar lick from "Play That Funky Music" in the background, but this is coupled with a far-from-exciting rap. Side two, which features "Know How," is the better side here. The beginning of Isaac Hayes' "Theme From Shaft" is the background on this cut, which is an ideal track on which novice "scratchers" can perfect their craft.

CHAPTER 8 — (L to R) Michael J. Powell, David B. Washington, Vernon D. Falls, Courtlen Hale, Gerald Lyles, Valerie Pinkston.

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