



Koko Taylor: When the queen sings, the bones and nerves ring. Taylor's years on the road may remind you of Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday, but her voice, as described by feature-writer Mardell Griffin, has more in common with a sledgehammer than it does with a velvet glove. Like so many great black vocalists, the queen hails from Memphis where her approach to music was forged by farm-work and the fierce legacy of such legends as Robert Johnson and Blind Lemon Jefferson. This Grammy-winner does it all: she even sells her own records on the Alligator label. (photo by Charles Cherney)

Blues queen dazzles crowd

by Mardell Griffin

She wore no crown, diamonds or ermine cape, and no red carpet unrolled at her feet.

But even without the usual trappings of royalty, everyone recognized Koko Taylor as Queen of the Blues when she held court Sept. 5 at Chaser's, 741 Kenilworth St.

The power of her voice put her in command. Her style is not the smooth, crooning type of other blues women. It is often compared to that of her rough-sounding male colleagues, especially the late Muddy Waters. Her raw songs roar from the stage and startle listeners. A five-time Grammy nominee, she won the 1984 Grammy for best blues record of the year with "Blues Explosion." Four times the International Blues Foundation named her "Best Female Blues Artist."

The crowd seemed stunned by her first few numbers. They stared. They paused after songs before breaking into wild applause and loud hollers. No one anticipated the size of her voice.

Soon, the crowd stomped, danced, hooted, swayed and romped to the rhythms of Taylor and her band. Some snapped pictures. One elderly man in Bermuda shorts stood at the edge of the stage, smil-

ing with head bobbing and feet tapping.

When the 50-year-old Taylor sang: "I'm a woman. I'm a ball of fire. I'm a woman. Make love to a crocodile. I'm a woman and I ain't ever had enough" from her cut "I'm a Woman," the audience knew she was telling the truth. The ache and longing were evident when she wailed, "I ain't had nobody since my baby was gone." The words may have originated in her heart, but they came from her guts.

During the set break, Taylor sat at the table with her husband Robert "Pops" Taylor. He sold albums, and she made change from an oversized silver pocketbook. Fans lined up for her autograph on the record covers. Others appeared with Koko Taylor teeshirts purchased at another table. Not all admirers were sober. But, even after driving all night from Chicago, she treated everyone with a warm, soft-spoken manner that belied her overwhelming stage presence.

"I love her," said John Warren, 35. "I'm serious; I really do," he added, waving an autographed teeshirt.

"Her performance made me decide I want to do a blues show," said Julie Crooke, 20. Crooke has a reggae show on WQFS Guilford College's

radio station. "Excellent, excellent, premium," she said.

"As far as what I've heard, she's the best around," said Bill Mitchell, 32, whose "Blues Hangover" show airs on A&T's radio station, WNAA.

Taylor lit up the show's second half, strutting and shimmying on stage in her shiny blue pants and silver sequin-trimmed flowing top. She sported a large turquoise watch and ring.

At the show's end, the audience wanted more. Taylor encored with a second performance of "Whang Dang Doodle," a million seller she recorded in 1965.

After the show, Taylor stepped outside into the warm night and sipped Classic Coke as she talked about her life, family and music. She was excited about a video recorded recently with Dan Ackroyd and her six-year-old grandson. "My grandson plays guitar," she said with obvious pride.

She started singing as a child where she grew up near Memphis, Tenn. "There was nothing else to do but work on the farm and sing the blues on the way to the fields with my brothers and sisters," she said. She moved to Chicago at 18 and sang with "whoever was playing

Check your talent

Contests beckon

Magazine Awards: Belles are invited to participate in Glamour Magazine's 1986 Top Ten College Women Competition.

Young women from colleges throughout the country will compete in Glamour's search for 10 outstanding students. A panel of Glamour editors will select the winners on the basis of their solid records of achievement in academic studies and in extracurricular activities on campus or in the community.

Five applications are available.

The winners will be featured in Glamour's August college issue. During May, June or July, the 10 winners will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to New York City and will participate in meetings with professionals in their area of interest.

Anyone who is interested in entering the search should contact Miss Myra Davis, BC public information director, for more details.

The deadline for submitting an application is Dec. 13.

Phillip Morris Contest: Entries for the 17th annual Marketing / Communications Competition are being solicited.

Winners receive financial awards for the most outstanding projects related to non-tobacco products.

Representatives of the winning teams join their faculty advisers in New York to present projects to judges and company executives. Guidelines for the competition and members of the judging panel are available from Miss Myra Davis, BC public information director.

Entries are due Jan. 10, 1986.

Two students from Rice University won last year's contest with their formula for an American version of a

traditional British drink, shandy, which is a mixture of lager and lemonade in the United Kingdom.

The winners concocted a shandy with Miller beer and 7-Up, two Phillip Morris products, and lime juice. The students hoped to win a place in the growing market for milder alcoholic beverages which are mingled with fruit juice.

Their plan for the drink and its promotion was explained in a 53-page report.

The New York Times indirectly quoted John A. Murphy, president of Phillip Morris, who said that the company might someday market shandy.

Newspaper Internships: Applications for the 1986 Dow Jones Newspaper Fund Editing Intern Program for College Juniors and the Minority Editing Intern Program for College Seniors are available through Oct. 31. Deadline for completed applications is Thanksgiving Day.

Each of the 60 students to be selected as Dow Jones Newspaper Fund interns will be offered a work/study/aid package totaling approximately \$6,000.

Both programs include guaranteed paid summer jobs on newspaper or news service copy desks throughout the nation and a two-week free editing training seminar at one of six selected university sites before students begin their jobs.

The salary the student will receive from her employers is expected to range between \$200 and \$350 a week, an average of \$250 a week for 10 weeks. The Newspaper Editing Intern Program for College Juniors includes a \$1,000 scholarship. The Minority Editing Intern Program for College Seniors includes a \$1,500 scholarship for students who will attend graduate school and a \$1,000 scholarship to pay for senior year expenses of students who do not attend graduate school.

Application forms now are available at college journalism departments and placement offices, as well as from college editing professors, college newspapers and campus chapters of Society of Professional Journalists, SDX.

Students may obtain an application directly from The Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, P.O. Box 300, Princeton, N.J. 08540.

A defense against cancer can be cooked up in your kitchen.

There is evidence that diet and cancer are related. Follow these modifications in your daily diet to reduce chances of getting cancer.

1. Eat more high-fiber foods such as fruits and vegetables and whole-grain cereals.
2. Include dark green and deep yellow fruits and vegetables rich in vitamins A and C.
3. Include cabbage, broccoli, brussels sprouts, kohlrabi and cauliflower.
4. Be moderate in consumption of salt-cured, smoked and nitrite-cured foods.
5. Cut down on total fat intake from animal sources and fats and oils.
6. Avoid obesity.
7. Be moderate in consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Enjoy Fall Break