

Movies

Theatres

Dining

# ENTERTAINMENT

## THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlotte's Fastest Growing Community Weekly

Dancing

Shows

Lounges

Thursday, Oct. 27, 1977-THE CHARLOTTE POST-Page B1

### "Thrust" Rock

### Ensemble To

### Perform Here

The "Thrust" Rock Ensemble of the United States Air Force's Tactical Air Command Band, will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 27, in Freedom Mall, 3205 Freedom Drive.

The band is stationed at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia and specialize in popular rock, soul and blues style music.

The concert, being sponsored by Sgt. Lamar Jackson and Sgt. Lee Vowell, local Air Force Recruiters, is free of charge and the public is cordially invited to attend.

### WSOC-TV Special

### To Feature

### Vic Damone

Barbara Eden and Vic Damone star in an hour WSOC-TV special, "Australia For the Fun Of It," featuring an array of Australian talents on Channel Nine Tuesday, November 1 at 8 p.m.

Filmed entirely on location in Australia, Barbara Eden and Vic Damone are the viewers' guides to such unique places as Sydney Harbour, the Australian game preserves, an Australian ghost town, a pub and the world famous Great Barrier Reef. Sharing the spotlight with Eden and Damone are "The Angels," popular Australian singing group, and folk singers Bill and Boyd. There's also a traditional tribal dance performed by David Gulpillil, an authentic Aborigine.

### Benson's

### "In Flight"

### Goes Platinum

George Benson's second Warner Bros. album, "In Flight" has been certified as a platinum album by the RIAA in recognition of sales in excess of one million units. The album follows the tradition set by Benson's history making Warner debut, "Breezin'" which is also a platinum record.

Both albums were produced by Warner Bros. A&R staff producer Tommy LiPuma. Benson and LiPuma have just completed a series of live recording dates at The Roxy in Los Angeles



BASS GUITARIST KENI BURKE

...Has own way of expressing himself

## Bassist Keni Burke Arrives

### With "Just Keni Burke"

By Jacquie Levister  
Post Staff Writer

Keni Burke was mastering the complexities of harmony when most kids his age were struggling the musical mysteries of "Row Your Boat" and "Three Blind Mice."

One of the siblings of the Stairsteps, Keni recalls when his older brother, Clarence, would get the kids together and give them the harmonies and the note and they'd sing on the couch, bumping their heads to the music. Living room harmonizing soon gave way to appearances at local benefits and talent shows in the groups hometown of Chicago, Illinois.

When Keni was 12 years old, the Five Stairsteps took to the road and eventually played every major city in the United States and then some. Along the way the group met another Chicago talent, Curtis Mayfield and signed to his Windy City Records label in 1965.

Keni began his love affair

with the bass guitar somewhere between the tours and the records. He developed a bass style which he says, has its roots in the "tumping and pooping technique" perfected by Larry Graham.

With a growing interest in bass, Keni began to chaff because of the limitations imposed by the primarily singing and dancing format of the Stairsteps. After "Oooh Child" earned the group a gold record in 1970 he decided it was time to leave. "After seven years in the business, if you're not doing what you want to do it's worse than any nine-to-five job. I had to find my own way of expressing myself, seek my own concept. The time had come to step out on my own." And step out he did.

Away from the pressures of performing, Keni worked on his playing and began to write his own material while at the same time keeping an eye and ear out for what was happening in music. He played in

sessions for such artists as Diana Ross, Gladys Knight & The Pips, Gregg Allman and Bill Withers (with whom he co-produced the soundtrack from the film "Goodbye to Mr. Goodbar").

George Harrison happened by in 1975 while Keni was working with Billy Preston at Preston's ranch in the Topanga Canyon. "George asked me if I had a tape-Billy probably said to George on the side, 'check this cat out' or whatever. Just by chance I had a tape." Backed by the Stairsteps, Keni made his first album for the Dark Horse label in 1976. SECOND RESURRECTION.

If SECOND RESURRECTION was a step in the right musical direction for Keni, JUST KENI BURKE (released in July, 1977) is a giant leap forward. This album is literally a showcase for the multi-talented baritone who, in addition to singing and playing, wrote or co-wrote all the material as well.

### Taylor, Jackson

### To Get Down

### On Soul Train

Johnnie Taylor and Millie Jackson, two earthy, "down home" singers, share the spotlight on Soul Train this weekend.

With such hits behind him as "Who's Making Love To Your Old Lady?" "I Ain't Particular," "Take Care of Your Homework" and "Disco Lady," Johnnie Taylor demonstrates on "Love Is Better In the A.M.," "Disco 9000" and "Rated X" that he has lost none of his earlier appeal.

A singer's singer who years ago replaced Sam Cooke as lead singer with the Soul Stirrers, a Chicago-based gospel group, Taylor is one of the most seasoned entertainers on the musical scene.

Millie Jackson belts out "If You're Not Back In Love By Monday" and "You've Created A Monster" in the award-winning style which won her The Most Promising Female Vocalist of 1972 Award from the National Association of Television and Radio Artists and Cashbox's "Best Female R&B Vocalist" title in 1973 shared with Aretha Franklin.

When not touring, Ms. Jackson operates her own music publishing Company, Double Ak-Shun Music, and manages and produces a four piece group, The Facts of Life.

Soul Train is produced and hosted by Don Cornelius.

### Milton Berle To

### Guest Star On

### Sha Na Na

The Sha Na Na musical variety show welcomes "Mr. Television," Milton Berle, as he joins them for a half-hour of the craziest antics Sha Na Na has yet unleashed on a sleeping nation, Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 8:30 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

Milton all but takes over the Sha Na Na show this week. Arriving on the scene dressed in jeans and leather jacket, Milton Berle proclaims himself the original greaser. Before he was "Uncle Milty," he claims to have been "Uncle Greasy." The group is flattered and awed that a man to whom they all look up to is into rock 'n' roll.

The musical highlights are equally impressive as Sha Na Na move kit and kaboodle to the seashore for an incredible 50's beach party.