

What's Happening!

ANNUAL CONCERT... We are always lookin to the future; the present doesn't satisfy us, our ideal, whatever it may be, lies further on. The ideal for a lot of people from this area will be a weekend spent in Hampton, Virginia, at the annual Hampton Kool Jazz Festival.

George Wein, producer and co-sponsor of the festival will be on hand to help kick off the longest annual concert event in the history of the Hampton Coliseum.

The 1981 festival, slated for June 26-28, will mark the 14th consecutive year for this musical attraction, which was first staged by Wein in 1968 as an outdoor centennial celebration at Hampton Institute. It was moved in 1970 to the Coliseum as a co-sponsorship between the city of Hampton, Hampton Institute and Festival Productions, Inc.

One of the performers for this year's festival will be Nancy Wilson. 1978 marked Nancy's silver anniversary in the music business and in those 25 years, no one has ever doubted that Nancy Wilson is one of the very best. Her litesome vocals encompass jazz, soul, pop and blues, cre-



BOB JOHNSON

ating a magical style that is always contemporary, always classic.

Born in Chillicothe, Ohio, and raised in Columbus, Nancy Wilson grew up surrounded by music. By the age of 4, she knew she wanted to be a singer and she cut her musical teeth on Billy Eckstine, Ella Fitzgerald, Carmen McRaie, Little Jimmy Scott and Nat "King" Cole.

As a teenager, she sang in church choirs, in quartets with friends and in talent contests. By the age of 15, she was a regular on a local television show, and, a few years later, began performing in small clubs in the Columbus area. After high school, still undecided about a musical career, she enrolled at Central State College with an eye on a teaching credential. One day, less than a year later, her college career ended abruptly when she decided that if she was going to be a singer, she'd better get out there and sing. Getting "out there" meant taking a job as a vocalist with the Rusty Bryant Band in 1956. That same year she met Julian "Cannonball" Adderly when she accompanied the band to New York City for a recording session. Impressed with her talent and determination, Adderly took an immediate interest in her career.

During that period, she gave serious thought to her professional and personal goals coming to the conclusion that if she got three things - John Levy as her manager, Capitol Records as her label and MCA as her agency - she would pursue her career on a national level. With her parent's blessing, she relocated to New York City, allotting herself six months to attain her goals. She worked days as a receptionist and spent her weekends with Nat and Cannonball Adderly. Within four weeks of arriving, Nancy Wilson got her first big break when Irene Reid cancelled an important club engagement and she was asked to fill in. She went over so well, the club booked her on a permanent basis and she found herself singing four nights a week and working at her receptionist job days. Before long, on a tip from Adderly, John Levy caught her act.

Nancy Wilson's debut single "Guess Who I Saw Today," was well-received. It was soon followed by "Tell Me The Truth," her first big hit, in 1963. After the success of "Tell Me The Truth," the prestigious "Downbeat" and "Playboy" polls named her one of the top singers in the country. Over the years her hits have included "(You Don't Know) How Good I am," "I Wanna Be With You," "Peace of Mind," and "Can't Take My Eyes Off You." Among her honors are the Jazz Heritage Society's "Ebony Mike" award (1976) and an Emmy for her own popular television show (1975).

Another superstar who will perform at this year's festival will be B. B. King. Riley B. King has come quite a ways from the cotton plantation near Indianola, Mississippi, - though in some ways he never really left it. Indianola is thousands of miles from the concert halls of Europe, from the rock palaces of San Francisco, from New York's Carnegie Hall, but it's smack in the middle of B.B.'s music.

A local 'santified' preacher taught Riley three chords, and with a borrowed \$8 the future blues great bought his first guitar. At twenty, he moved to Memphis and sang commercial for the Pepticon patent medicine company. From the "Pepticon Boy" to "Beale Street Blues Boy" was a short distance. The commercials were so popular that the young singer was given his own DJ show. Soon enough "Beale Street Blues Boy" was shortened to "B.B."



JOHNSON GRADUATION

Etta Johnson of 1211 Polk Street, Charlotte, congratulates her daughter, Shelita at East Mecklenburg's commencement exercises. Shelita was among 630 students to graduate in a ceremony held June 8 on the school's football field. East Mecklenburg had the city's largest individual graduating class. (Photo by Jim Black Photographers)

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Moreland Is Charlotte's First Black Veterinarian

Richard Earl Moreland has received the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree and B.S. in Animal and Poultry Sciences, from Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama, along with a B.S. in zoology from North Carolina State University in Raleigh. The Charlotte native graduated 10th in a class of 44 students studying veterinary medicine at Tuskegee.

Dr. Moreland was named to the Dean's List each semester he studied at N.C. State and Tuskegee from 1974-81. He attended Charlotte public schools, including West Mecklenburg High School.

He recently was appointed Pathology Internist for

the Veterinary School of Tuskegee Institute for one year. Describing himself as a "Quincy for animals," Moreland will run the pathology lab, lecture and teach freshman classes on how diseases affect animals, and work in the clinic.

His wife, Karen Jones Moreland of Washington, D.C., is in the Junior Class of the Tuskegee School of Veterinary Medicine. They have a daughter, Kristen.

As an ultimate goal, the couple want to open their own Veterinary Hospital or clinic.

Moreland is the son of Jean A. Moreland of 3021 Burbank Dr. in Charlotte and the late William H. Moreland Jr. (Jigger Red)

Attending Dr. Moreland's graduation at Tuskegee were the following guests: Jean Moreland, William, Burnadette and Tabatha Moreland, Gladys

Moreland, Mr. and Mrs. Rowe Motley, Mr. and Mrs. John Jones of Washington, D.C., Mr. and Mrs. Mannie Love Jr. and Dr. and Mrs. Donald Person.

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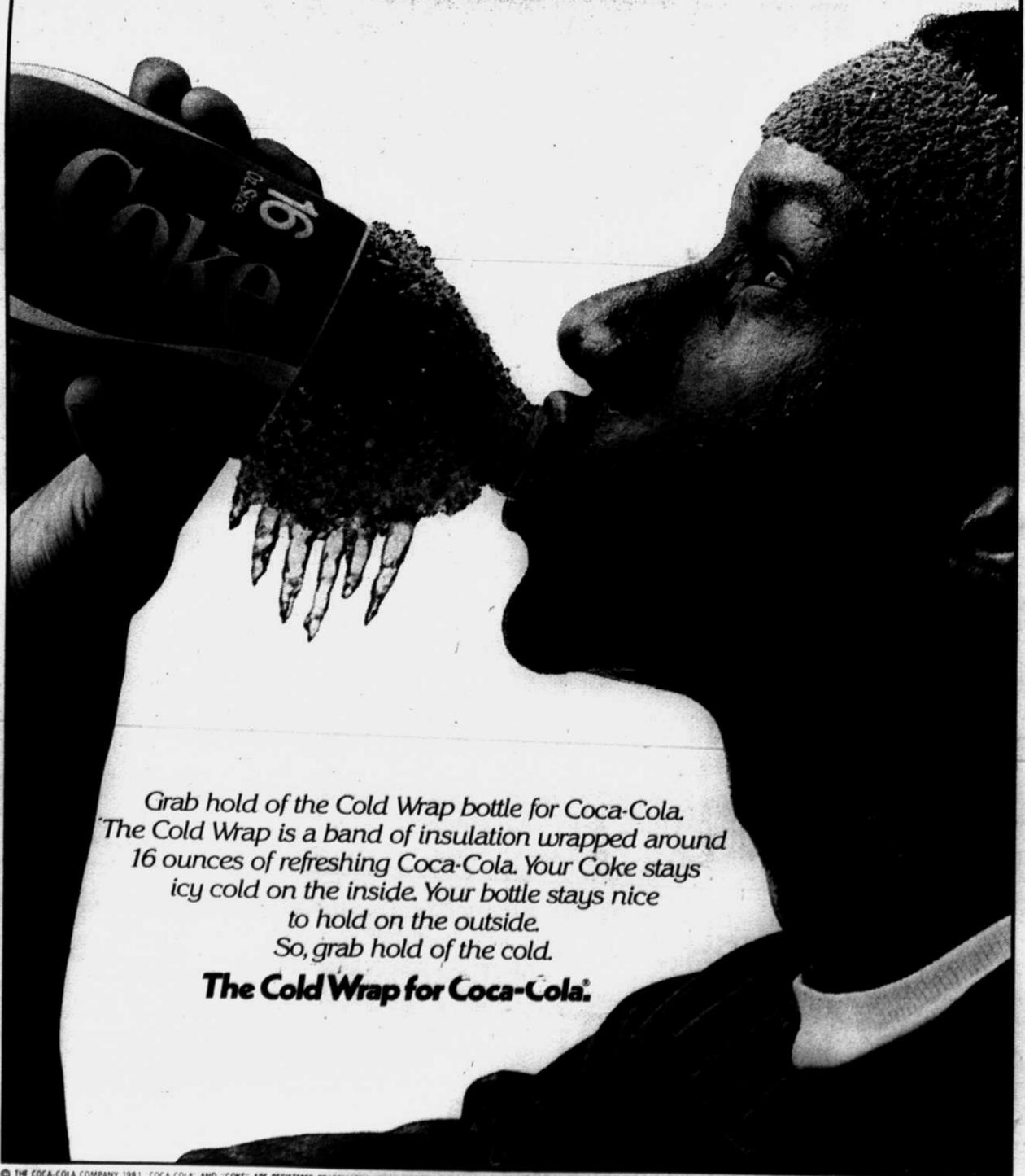
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