

Contents



Page 14



Page 29



Page 21



Page 18

FEATURES

Clover.....	11
Atlanta Rhythm Section.....	12
Fall City Ramblers.....	13
Witch Hazel.....	17
Artful Dodger.....	26
Dusty Rose.....	27
Media Views.....	30

COLUMNS

Catfish Hodge.....	14
Robert Gordon.....	18
Danny Gatton.....	21
A Newe Jewell.....	29

MATINEE MOVIE MONTHLY

The Return of 3-D.....	33
Potomac Tinseltown.....	33
Shorts.....	34
Flash Gordon.....	35
On Screen.....	36



CALENDAR

Curtains.....	44
Concerts.....	75
Clubs.....	76-78
Dance.....	75
Poetry.....	75
Classical.....	76

COLUMNS

The Front Lines.....	3
The Word.....	8

On Stage.....	45
On Display.....	49
On Record.....	53
Anglofile.....	55
Dr. Progresso.....	59
Import Bin.....	60
Comix.....	61
RFD #1.....	64
Folklore.....	65
On the Beat.....	71
Classics.....	72
Musician's Classifieds.....	75



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THE FRONT LINES

A SAMPLER OF LOCAL ATTRACTIONS AND EVENTS

Say a Word for the Starving Unicorn Writer: Who Benefits?

Why a benefit for the *Unicorn Times*? Well, we may be getting bigger and bigger, but we want to remain free . . . something about a good vibe. But all of our expenses have been mounting as we try to become the best possible paper. And, up until now, none of our writers—and there are a lot of them—have ever been paid for their contributions. *Unicorn* relies entirely on advertising for its income; there are no investors, no angels. We want to set up a somewhat stable fund for our writers, so that we can provide even better coverage of the creative scene in the metropolitan area and in general. *Unicorn* has been free for over three and a half years now. In the last year we've printed over 500 pages of newspaper . . . big pages, too. So we are now going to have occasional

fundraisers for the Writer's Fund: concerts, auctions, whatnot. We will always try to make them special occasions, not just for the sake of raising money, but . . . special, like the Second Annual Homegrown Festival, sponsored by WHFS and the Psyche Delly in Bethesda, and being held on Saturday, September 17th at Lisner Auditorium. We will be featuring five of this town's up bands: the Nighthawks, Powerhouse, Root Boot Slim and the Sex Change Band, the Catfish Hodge Band, and Bill Holland and Rent's Due. The concert starts at 8 p.m. sharp and with five bands and a possible super-jam at the end, that promises to be a whole lot of music for just \$6 (\$7 at the door). See our poster on Page 9 for ticket locations and we hope to see a full house on the 17th. ●

Queen Koko I Comes to D.C

KOKO TAYLOR, the uncrowned Queen of the Blues, will appear at the Psychedelly in Bethesda for three nights September 23 to 25.

Koko is not at all in the mold of the classic female blues artists like Bessie Smith or Billie Holiday. Rather, hers is the rough, gutbucket Chicago blues usually associated with male artists: Elmore James, Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters. With her deep-throated voice, Koko is equally adept at growling out good-timing R'n'B and moaning the low down blues.

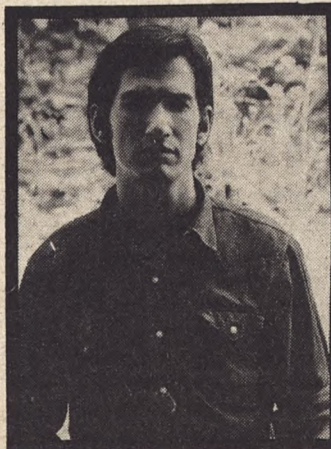
Born in Memphis, Koko moved to Chicago at the age of eighteen, and was soon in demand as a vocalist on the blues circuit. In 1965, she had a national R'n'B hit on Chess Records with the raucous "Wang Dang Doodle," penned and produced by Willie Dixon.

Koko, who now records for Alligator Records, will be accompanied at the Psychedelly by an all-Chicago band, including guitarist Johnny B. Moore, who is making a rare appearance outside the blues capital. ●

Tomato Offers Hope for Townes Van Zandt

TOWNES VAN ZANDT is a singer-songwriter. Already an image should be formed inside your head: little-known as a performer, better-known through the songs which he has provided others. Even that image is not entirely correct—for while Van Zandt is indeed a premier-caliber writer, his material hasn't made the commercial leap from "obscure" to "well-known" that it deserves. In fact, much of Van Zandt's modest reputation rests upon one song, "Pancho and Lefty." Collectors will be happy to find out that it's still available as a single (Poppy/United Artists), though all of TVZ's long-players have been deleted from catalogue.

But there's hope—namely, Tomato. Not the vegetable, the label. Van Zandt has a double album out on that very label (more on that very esoteric bunch of Tomato releases



Poppy Records

in an upcoming *Unicorn*), recorded at a concert in his home base of Texas a couple of years ago. Besides "Pancho," there are a lot more originals, some quality blues numbers, and even a few slightly off-color anecdotes to keep things rolling. All of which combines to prove Van Zandt's power over his audience (the album notes go to great pains to emphasize the oppressive conditions under which he performed), and, conversely, his power over his music. More ample proof of Van Zandt's talents will be available to the fans or just the casual listeners who care to check out his upcoming appearance at the Childe Harold, on September 22-24. ●