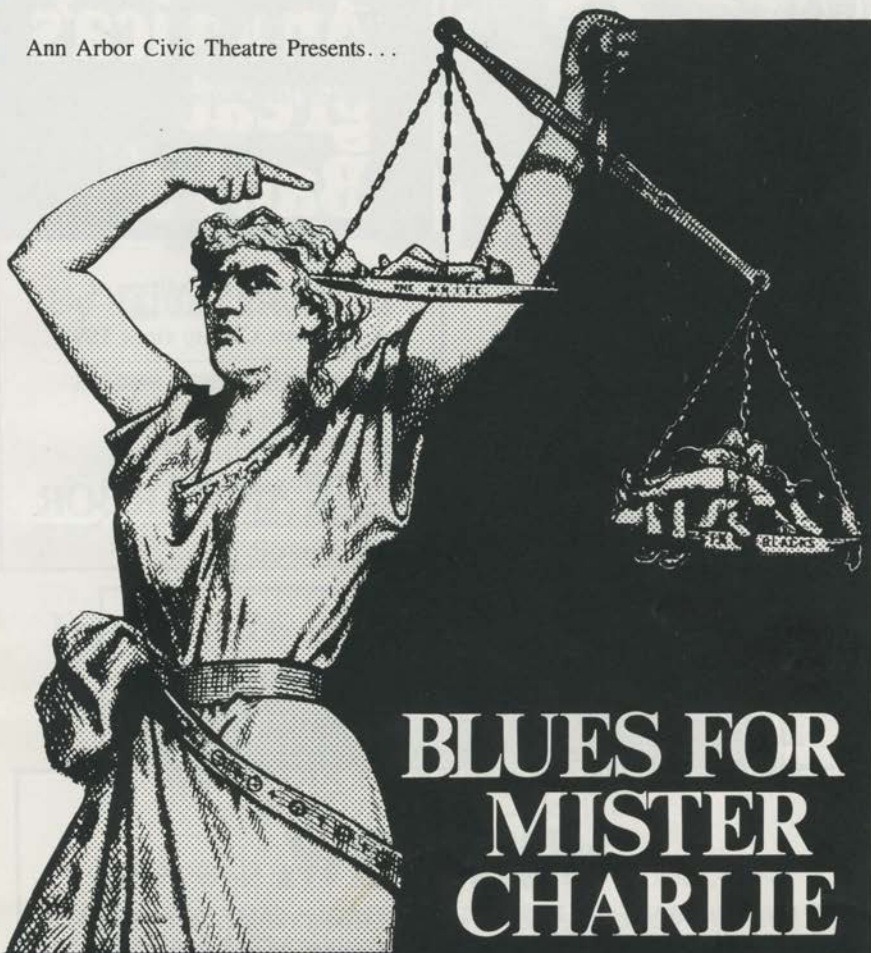


Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Presents...



BLUES FOR MISTER CHARLIE

by James Baldwin Directed by Lundeanna Thomas
Feb. 26-Mar. 1, 1986 8 P.M.-Sat. Matinee 2 P.M.
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre Ticket Info. 662-7282



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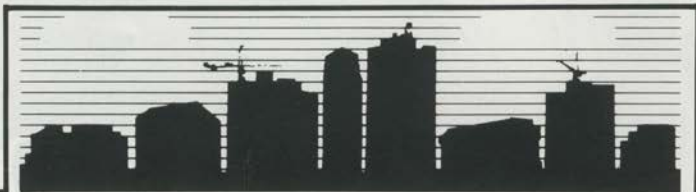
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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Presents

Blues for Mr. Charlie

By James Baldwin

Director: Lundeanna Thomas

Set Designer: Gene S. Macario

Lighting Designer: Michael Limmer

Producer: Michael Limmer

Costume Designer: Khairia Al-Attar

Sound Designer: Joseph Tarantowski

February 26 – March 1, 1986 8:00 pm
Saturday Matinee 2:00 pm

AT THE LYDIA MENDELSSOHN THEATRE

There will be two 10 minute intermissions.

PLEASE NOTE THAT A STROBE LIGHT WILL BE USED DURING THE PERFORMANCE. The taking of photographs or use of recording devices during a performance is strictly forbidden.

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

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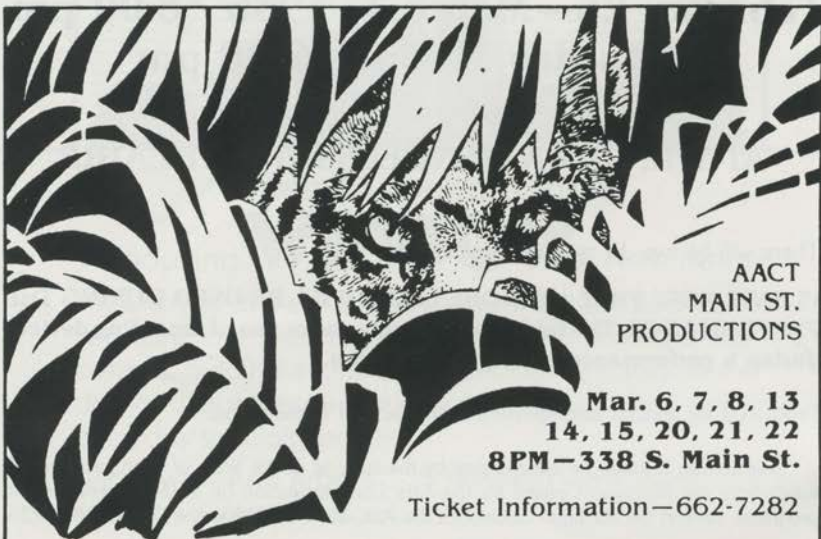


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Lyrics: Fred Ebb

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

BLUES FOR MR. CHARLIE forever rings clear the degrading effects of racism not only for its victims but for the entire human race. Baldwin creates a parallel between the white supremacist Lyle Britten born in bigotry and raised in social injustice, and the power-seeking Richard Henry, born into victimization and matured harboring bitterness and hatred. Lyle's mentality of racial bigotry was taught to him by his father and his community. Richard's feelings are a result of his father's humble acquiescence to the slurs and injustice of the white man's law after his mother is killed by whites.

We have come a long way from the mid-sixties and Blacks have won many battles. Yet one has to wonder, why does racial prejudice still exist in our neighborhoods? And are we ultimately responsible for the role prejudice plays in our society? We are. Why? Each of us must find within the play, and within ourselves "our message". We must then take that message and cultivate a society that believes with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that any law that uplifts human personality is just, and any law that degrades human personality is unjust.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The entire action of the play takes place in Plaguetown, U.S.A., a small Southern town, during the late summer and early fall, mid-sixties.

ACT I

The action fluctuates between past and present in the church and Papa D's juke joint in Blacktown, and Lyle Britten's home in Whitetown.

Intermission — 10 minutes

ACT II

The action fluctuates from Lyle's home and store in Whitetown, and the church in Blacktown.

Intermission — 10 minutes

ACT III

The action takes place mainly in the municipal courtroom; various locales and times occur during flashback sequences.

ABOUT THE CAST

SUSAN M. ANTHONY (Helen) is a member of the Ann Arbor Community. She is employed at the First of America Bank on South University. She was active in theatre at Community High School, and most recently she performed in *RAISIN IN THE SUN* in the role of Ruth. Her hobbies include photography, dance and traveling.

PATTI ATTAR (The State) has been involved in the theatre for the past nine (9) years. Her most recent role at the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre was "The Woman", also known as (the crazy, hysterical Southern woman on the phone) in *ORPHEUS DESCENDING*. Off Stage she can be found at the campus branch of Comerica Bank pretending to be a normal person. Her future goals are to be admired by all and to do a little situation comedy (for a change).

TERRANCE AUCH (Parnell James) last appeared in AACT's *ORPHEUS DESCENDING*. He has also appeared in *THE ELEPHANT MAN* at the Black Sheep Theatre, in *ONE FLEW OVER THE COCKOO'S NEST* at the Performance Network, and in *BABES IN TOYLAND* for the Comic Opera Guild. He composed and performed original music for *THE SHADOW BOX* and for *THE ROYAL FAMILY*. Terry has a principal role in the film, *THE CARRIER*, which was made right here in the Hollywood of the Midwest: Manchester, MI. When he has time to work for a living, he teaches at EMU.

MARIETTA BAYLIS (Mother Henry) Appeared with the Josephine Baker Show at the Fisher Theatre and in several plays with the UM Professional Theatre Program; for AACT, she was in *ORPHEUS DESCENDING*, *WORKING*, *HELLO DOLLY!*, *THE CRUCIBLE*, and *FINNIAN'S RAINBOW*. Marietta plays guitar and writes songs and commercials for radio and TV; if you are up late enough, you may still hear on TV a song she wrote in 1975 for a volunteer program.

ANN BECK (Jo Britten) is but 22 years old but boasts an extensive theatre experience at such diverse locations as the University of Michigan Playwriting Studio (*THREE FEET CLOSER TO HEAVEN* and *WHEN THE RAIN COMES*) Chautaugua Conservatory Theatre Company (*TEN BLOCKS ON THE CAMINO REAL*) and Grand Valley State College (*GODSPELL*), to name a few. She was a dancer in AACT's 1980 production of *GUYS AND DOLLS*. Ann is a senior at U of M majoring in theatre, and is interested in ballet and fashion design.

WALTER E. BURGE (Walter Bryant, Counsel for the Bereaved) is a student at Ann Arbor Huron High School, with acting experience in *STAGE DOOR*, *THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH*, and *THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 16th*. He is currently working in *SEEDS OF CONFLICT*. When not acting or studying his interests include Piano and other keyboard instruments.

ANN R. BURNS (Hazel) had her Ann Arbor Civic Theatre debut in *ORPHEUS DESCENDING* (as Sister Temple). Ann is a native of Tennessee who has been a resident of Ann Arbor since 1972, having also lived in Texas, Washington, D.C., Maryland, and California. It was in Texas that she became involved in theatre and had roles in two plays in the early 60s. Career and family responsibilities took precedence over acting for several years. Ann is a single parent, secretary to the Director of the Michigan Union, does fashion modeling, and is actively involved in several local service organizations. When she is "off-duty" from parenting, secretarying, modeling, and organizing, Ann loves to indulge in cooking, dancing, traveling, playing bridge, and more traveling!

ISSAC-JACOBIN CAMPBELL (Papa D) has been active with Ann Arbor Civic Theatre for the past three years, working on productions of *BELLS ARE RINGING* (assistant Director) and *THE SHADOW BOX* (Producer and Costume Designer) Last year he was a member of the Board and served as Treasurer. Issac and his family live in Ann Arbor where he works for a local bank.

STEVE DIXON (Reverend Meridian Henry) comes to AACT's present production with credits from EMU's 1971 production of *BLUES FOR MR. CHARLIE* and the 1972 production of *WEST SIDE STORY*. He has also worked in *THE LION AND THE JEWEL*, *COPE*, *MEMBER OF THE WEDDING*, *A RAISIN IN THE SUN*, and *AMEN CORNER*. He will appear in the movie *THE CORNER*, to be released later this year. Ann Arbor native and EMU graduate, Steve's leisure activities include acting, sports and singing.

CORNELIUS DELRO HARRIS (Pete) is presently a senior at Huron High School. This is his debut performance for AACT. He majors in Spanish and writes music. One ambition is to form his own band.

ANN KRAUSE (Court Clerk) has been acting for four years, with experience in *STAGE DOOR*, *SKIN OF OUR TEETH*, *NIGHT OF JANUARY 16TH* and, currently, *SEEDS OF CONFLICT*. Her hobbies, along with acting, include dancing. Ann hopes to go on to college as an acting major, and "after that—well, who knows?"

DEREK FLETCHER KUNZ (Ralph) has had acting experience in *THE MOUSE THAT ROARED* (Grosse Ile High) and The Henry Ford Community College production of *ENTER LAUGHING*. "BLUES" marks his first production with Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. In Derek's words, he "loves theatre as a tool of expression, and I will make it my Black and Decker to success."

GENE J. LAWSON (Richard Henry) is currently a junior at U of M with a Pre-Law and English major, and is a member of the U of M football team. His acting credits include *BLACK THEATRE ON PARADE*, a Black Theatre Workshop production. His hobbies include reading, writing, football and working for his fraternity. Gene, who makes his home in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, hopes to become a successful writer and an international lawyer.

GAIL E. MARTIN (Juanita Harmon) appears for the first time for Ann Arbor Civic Theatre in *BLUES FOR MR. CHARLIE*, although she has had previous experience in a production of *OUR TIME OF DAY*. Gail is a third year student at U of M. pursuing a major in Musical Theatre and Dance with a minor in voice. She is a native Ann Arborite who "wants to be the best I can be, and I love people."

ROSIA MITCHELL (Mary) has performed in the United States and Canada for over three years with "Klever Affair", a show band from Detroit, Michigan. Her interests are varied and include, beside acting, African dance, and playing percussion instruments. She is also a lover of Gospel and jazz music.

NELSON A. PICHARDO (George) is presently a graduate student in Sociology at the University of Michigan.

ELLYN JOYCE RABINOWITZ (Lillian) has appeared as Marie in an Ann Arbor TV Cable production of *TOTAL RECALL*, played goddesses and devils in *CHOICES* (Patchwork Theatre) at the Ann Arbor Medieval Festival, and played Lorraine in Common Ground Theatre's *JUNKIE*. She is presently engaged in productions with Performance Network, and has done work in New York City and Berkeley. She has worked at Ann Arbor Civic Theatre in the Main Street Production of *THE CLOUDS* (chorus), and is a "dedicated usher". Ellyn does education media development for Domino's Pizza, is a published poet, an aspiring director, a dedicated playgoer, a hiker and traveler, having lived "on both coasts, and ended up in the middle."

DON RICE (Reverend Phelps) comes to AACT's present production with a wealth of directing, staff, teaching, and acting credits behind him, just a few of which include work in *KISS ME KATE* (director), *CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF* and *BORN YESTERDAY* (Assistant Director) and performing roles in *THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE*, *THE CRUCIBLE*, *HAMLET*, *SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER*, and *DEATH OF A SALESMAN*. He has taught acting for Musical Theatre at U of M, as well as been involved in lighting design and production.

JUDITH RICHARDSON (Susan) is a new member of the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre group, having done her previous theatre work at the University of South Carolina (where she earned a B.A. degree) in *A DIFFERENT WAY TO LOVE* and *THE TROJAN WOMEN*. Judy enjoys athletic events, cooking and traveling.

BRAD ROBERTS (Ellis) includes among his extensive stage credits the roles of Dr. Frederick Treves in *THE ELEPHANT MAN*, General MacKenzie in *TEN LITTLE INDIANS*, and Thomas Percy in *HENRY IV, PART I*. After receiving a Bachelor's degree in theatre Arts and Communication from Eastern Michigan University, Mr. Roberts directed the critically-acclaimed Tennessee Williams drama *SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER* at the Manchester Playhouse (the former Black Sheep Theatre). Mr. Roberts, a dramatist by trade, studied Renaissance Art with the late Lord Kenneth Clark (author of the BBC television series, "Civilisation") while studying at Christ Church, Oxford, for the purpose of writing a trilogy bas-

ed upon the lives of Lionardo da Vinci, Michel Agniolo Buonarroti and Raffaello Sanzio. **BLUES FOR MR. CHARLIE** marks Mr. Roberts' acting debut at the Lydia Mendellsohn Theatre.

DWIGHT S. SMITH (Judge Rutherford Hopkins) has participated in all regular season shows, either on stage, back stage, or both since joining Ann Arbor Civic Theatre in 1976, the most recent production being **ORPHEUS DESCENDING**, in which he played Dog Hamma. His other Ann Arbor Civic Theatre credits include **THE SOUND OF MUSIC**, **CABARET**, and **THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLE**. He is an **AMISOL** dealer whose hobbies include philanthropy, his presidential campaign, barn building, and building, restoring and flying airplanes.

BILL TEPP (Sheriff) has been in a total of eight productions prior to appearing here. Four have been musicals at Slauson Jr. High and four have been non-musicals for Pioneer H.S. Jr. Theatre. Bill likes to play the piano and choreograph musicals in his own way.

KENNETH W. TOOLEY (Lorenzo). This is Mr. Tooley's first appearance with AACT. His hobbies include coaching (most recently with the Junior Wolverines softball team and dancing.

JIM TOLER (Lyle Britten) last appeared for Ann Arbor Civic Theatre as the interviewer in last year's production of **THE SHADOW BOX**. His other credits include **THE ELEPHANT MAN** (Farmington Players, 1985) **WAIT UNTIL DARK** and **SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER** (Black Sheep Theatre, 1984). Mr. Toller recently purchased the old Black Sheep Theatre in Manchester and is renovating the structure for a mid-1986 re-opening as The Manchester Playhouse. He is a novice actor "latently developing a ham complex. What else matters?"

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Anderson Paints, Peter Greenquist and **WUOM**, Michigan Media, Zelma Weisfeld, Deneise Harris, Steven Graham, Movies at Briarwood, Mr. Rhonnie Washington, University of Michigan Department of Theatre and Drama, Michael Ramsey, A Cut Above, Charisma, T.V. Silvia, Ruth Mendelssohn Bookholder.

Photography by Bob Moustakas

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Assistant Director	Robert Alexander
Stage Manager	Jeanne Knutsen
Set Designer	Gene S. Macario
Costume Designer	Khairia Al-Attar
Lighting Designer	Michael Limmer
Sound Designer	Joseph Tarantowski
Properties and Set Dressing	Barbara Daniel
Set Builder	Linn Matich
Makeup Designer	Roberta Rizzardi
Combat Director	Don Rice
Assistant Producer	Chris Korow
Assistant Lighting Designer	Joe Medrano

ABOUT THE STAFF

KHAIRIA AL-ATTAR (Costume Designer) designed costumes for *ORPHEUS DESCENDING* and *THE DIVINERS*, and upon the recent illness of the scheduled designer, agreed to design the costumes for the show. Khairia is an experienced designer with her degree in theatre design from the University of Michigan. She is busy planning the opening of her own fashion boutique in the near future.

ROBERT ALEXANDER (Assistant Director) originated in Austin, Texas. A resident of Ann Arbor for five years, going on six, he has finally taken the plunge into the theatrical ocean with this play as his virgin theatre experience. He is a poet and also is composing a soon-to-be successful screenplay.

BARBARA DANIEL (Props—Set Dressing) Barbara says she finds working behind the scenes much more satisfying than her brief foray on stage as Frau Schmidt in *SOUND OF MUSIC* when she discovered memorization was not her strong suit. She has dressed the sets of *EAST LYNNE*, *ON GOLDEN POND* and co-chaired *PHILADELPHIA STORY*. Barbara also recruits, trains and manages ushers and ticket takers for all AACT major productions. For a living, she is head graphic designer for the Ypsilanti Press.

JEANNE KNUTSEN (Stage Manager) has worked on practically every AACT show since she joined. She was stage manager for ORPHEUS DESCENDING, HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES, THE DIVINERS, and HELLO DOLLY! She is a Clinical Supervisor at the Oakland County Community Mental Health Clinic.

MICHAEL LIMMER (Lighting Designer/Producer). This is Mike's 26th show with Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. Since joining in 1980, he has changed light bulbs, swept floors, been a board member, vice-president (which he is at present) and a member of the finance committee. Mike does the above tasks so that he can do his first loves, theatre!

GENE S. MACARIO (Set Designer) last designed and built sets for TEN LITTLE INDIANS (Main Street Productions) and has been on set crews as carpenter and painter on many other Ann Arbor Civic Theatre productions over the last two years, plus being production assistant, light and set designer. Gene works as director for biomedical communication of U of M hospitals.

LINN MATICH (Builder/Reporter) assumes double duties for this production, working both on stage and behind stage. He has been active with Civic for the past seven years in several capacities, including actor, set-dresser, lights, stage management as well as set building and design. In "real" life he works at Washtenaw County Mental Health.

ROBERTA RIZZARDI (Make-up Design) has designed makeup for a number of plays for Ann Arbor Civic Theatre and has worked on more than forty, most recently ANYTHING GOES. She has designed makeup for the Dexter Players, several area schools and the U of M School of Music. Roberta has been an art teacher in the Dexter schools for many years, and has recently returned to the U of M to pursue her own art studies.

J. WALTER TARANTKOWSKI (Sound Designer) is the Master Electrician for the Quirk/Sponberg Theatres at Eastern Michigan University. He was also the Scene Designer for Bulmersche College, Reading, England and is doing his second production for AACT, his first being the recent production of ANYTHING GOES.

LUNDEANNA THOMAS (Director) is a Ph.D student at the University of Michigan, majoring in Directing and Theatre History. She is the Instructor for the Black Theatre Workshop and Communications 100 classes at the university. She has directed many productions here in Ann Arbor with the Black Theatre Workshop including productions of BIRDBATH, FRANKENSTEIN, A RAISIN IN THE SUN, UP THE DOWN STAIRCASE, and IN 25 WORDS OR DEATH. Deana (as she likes to be called) was last seen at Civic in WORKING and has performed in COMPANY, SPELL #7, AMEN CORNER, DON'T BOTHER ME, I CAN'T COPE and HAPPY ENDING with the University and with many other community theatres. After BLUES FOR MR. CHARLIE, Deana will appear in the University's ECT production of LYSISTRATA. She resides in Ann Arbor with her 16-year-old son, Mark and her father, LeeRoy.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE AACT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Exciting things are happening at AACT. The board recently gave its approval to a long range plan that calls for construction of a new 200 seat theatre on the first floor of our Main Street building, plus expansion of our scene shop and other renovations that will turn our building into a really first class facility for community theatre.

This presents real challenges for the Development Committee. Our regular annual giving programs must be strengthened and preparations made for launching a major capital campaign this Fall.

Our most sincere thanks to the hundreds of you who have responded to our recent letter and phone calls asking for donations. The program has been very successful and will provide a strong foundation for AACT activities.

Time did not allow a listing of all donors in this program but you can expect a complete listing and recognition in the program for "Chicago", our May Mainstage offering.

And please mark your calendar. Tuesday, May 6th will be the night for our *Third Annual AACT Benefit*, this year a special presentation of the popular musical "Chicago". As usual, benefit tickets will be \$50 each.

Lots more is happening. To strengthen our development effort and to prepare ourselves for the capital campaign, we've retained the services of a professional fund raising consultant, we've hired a full time Development Director to provide staff support, we've studied, interviewed and conducted feasibility studies, and we've taken steps to expand the Board and the Advisory Committee.

Big things are ahead for AACT. Live theater is *alive* and well in Ann Arbor.

We'll need your continued support and together we'll keep AACT an active, vibrant force in our community.

Many Thanks,

Eunice Burns
Development Co-Chair

Charles E. Tyson
Development Co-Chair

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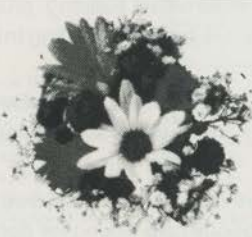
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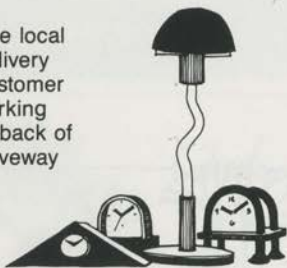
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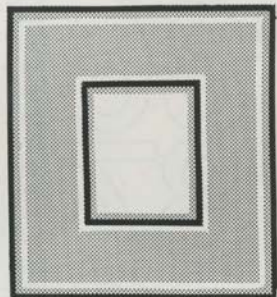
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