The Black United Students of Kent State University are proud to present as part of their Fourth Anniversary “The Queen of Soul” Miss Aretha Franklin. Miss Franklin will appear in Concert on May 21, 1972 at 6:00 p.m. in Kent State University Memorial Gymnasium. Aretha will be bringing her entire revue, featuring “The Sweethearts of Soul,” “The Kin-Pin Band” and “The Main Ingredient.” Also appearing on this show will be “The Cashmores,” “The Bags and Coats Conspiracy” and “The Thousand Pounds Band.”

Proceeds from this concert will go to the much needed Black United Students Emergency Grant and Aid Fund.

Miss Franklin talents are known by all. When Aretha Franklin made her first recording at the age of 16 she was hailed by critics as the most exciting new blues singer to arrive on the music scene since Dinah Washington. Her ability to project feeling and emotion, her purity of tone, her inspired variations and vocal gymnastics, and her unique phrasing marked her as a singer who would rise to the top of the entertainment world. In a few short years she reached a position of such eminence that she is now referred to simply as Lady Miss Soul.

Aretha Franklin comes by her musical talents naturally. She is one of five children of the Reverend C.L. Franklin of Detroit, himself a revered figure in the world of gospel music. At an early age Aretha began singing along with her brothers and sister in the choir of The New Bethel Baptist Church, her father’s pastorate in Detroit. The training she gained in the field of gospel music as a youngster had a tremendous influence on her musical style, and the roots of gospel are still present today in her singing.

At the age of 14, Aretha joined her father on his evangelistic tours. For four years she created such a sensation as soloist with her father’s choir in the nation’s churches that she was considered by many to be the new queen of gospel music.

When she turned 18 Aretha began to give serious thought to singing blues. It was a difficult step for her to take after her many years of gospel singing. She was encouraged to make the move by Major “Mule” Holly, Wilson. Holly convinced her to audition for John Hammond, Columbia Records A&R executive. Hammond was so impressed by her singing that he signed her immediately to a recording contract.

Her career as blues singer blossomed. She started to appear in one-night shows and in concerts, and built a large and enthusiastic following among blues and R&B fans. An exceptional an exciting night club act which included a segment where she accompanied herself on piano while singing her toe-tapping gospel-flavored songs. Soon she was in demand for night club appearances and for TV guest shots.

In the winter of 1966, Aretha Franklin joined Atlantic Records. Her first Atlantic single, “I Never Loved A Man (the way I love You)” was recorded in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, under the personal supervision of Atlantic Executive Vice President Jerry Wexler. The record, released in February of 1967, and became an immediate smash seller over 1,000,000 copies and turning into one of the biggest records of the year. She received a gold record and gain national and international prominence that had been long overdue.

In March 1967, Atlantic issued her first album on the label, called “I Never Loved A Man the way I Love You”. Within a few months it passed the $1,000,000 mark in sales and earned Miss Franklin another certified gold record.

By the summer of 1967 Aretha Franklin had become the biggest female star in the record world of pop and soul music. During the rest of the year she scored with three more million singles: “Respect”, “Baby I Love You”, and “Chain Of Fools”. She won the NATA (National Association Of Television & Radio Announcers) poll as “Singer of the Year”, and swept every trade paper poll (Billboard, Cash Box, and Record World) as the female singer of the year for both singles and albums. Her second Atlantic album “Aretha Arrives” also became a best-seller.

Miss Franklin started off 1969, with her fifth million seller, “Since You’ve Been Gone”, and her fifth certified gold record for single records from the RIAA. She became the first female singer to ever earn five certified gold records. Her third Atlantic album “Lady Soul” turned into a runaway best seller, and earned Miss Franklin still another gold record by August, 1968. She also won two Grammy Awards from NARAS (National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences) for the Best Rhythm and Blues Recording (“Respect”) and as Female R&B singer of the Year.

In the spring of 1968, Miss Franklin made her first tour of Europe, where she was greeted with the same critical acclaim and the same turnover crowds that flock to her concerts in this country. She played England, France, Germany, Holland, and Sweden and made many new fans plus a new album “Aretha In Paris”.

Aretha Franklin finished off 1968, with two more million selling singles, “Think” and “I Sat A Little Prayer”, and her third gold album, “Aretha Now”. Nineteen sixty nine saw Miss Franklin produce another million-seller, “See Saw”, bringing her fantastic total of eight gold singles and her third gold album. She also recorded the bestseller “Soul ‘69”.

Then, in 1970, Aretha treated her fans to two more albums: “This Girl In Love With You”, and “Spirit In The Dark”, which was released in August, 1970. Now its 1972, and she’s still stronger than ever before. She’s just finished recording two new albums: “Young Gifted & Black and soon to be released one with James Cleveland, which is show to be one of her greatest yet to come.

Tickets are $7 in advance and $8 at the door. Tickets will be on sale at Kent State University’s Ticket Office located in the Student Union. Tickets can also be purchased at the following locations: ACRON: Akron Mayflower Travel Bureau, WARREN: Vogue Records, 18 North Park, YOUNGSTOWN: Record Rendezvous, 107 West Federal, CLEVELAND: Deans House of Jazz, East 65th Superior and East 112th Superior. Burrows Book Stores, All locations. For more information call (216) 672-3081.
THE

"Queen of Soul"

Miss Aretha Franklin -
WAR IN CONCERT

Where:
University Auditorium

When:
Wednesday May 17

Concert Time:
8:00

Who is Welcome?
ALL!

-WAR-

The Heaviest Black Woman Poetess

On May 10, 1972 sister Sonia Sanchez will recite her poetry as part of the Black Women’s programming. As stated in the last issue of the Black Watch; every program this quarter is dedicated to Black Women and May 7 through 13 was slated as Black Women’s Week. Every event that week has been designed by and specifically for black women. Sister Sanchez’s will present her lecture in the Kent State University High School Auditorium at 7:30 P.M. There will be no admission charge.

Sister Sonia Sanchez is not only a poet, she is a playwright also. Her works include HOMECOMING; we a baddDD people; IT’S A NEW DAY (poems for Black Children); and the plays THE BRONX IS NEXT; SISTER SON/I; UH.UH. and BUT HOW DO IT FREE US. She has read throughout this country and taught at San Francisco State College, the University of Pittsburgh and Rutgers University.

So be sure to come out and dig on this program; Remember: University High School Auditorium located at Summit and Morris Road. LECTURE TIME: 7:30 P.M. see you there.

THE BLACK WATCH

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This May Special of the BLACK WATCH is dedicated to the Fourth Anniversary of the Black United Students Of Kent State University. We, the staff of the BLACK WATCH, sincerely hope that the activities planned for the month of May will be enjoyed by all.

Donald Morton
Editor, Black Watch
Rudolph Perry, Jr.
President, Black United Student's

Sister Sonia Sanchez