

## cash box/talent on stage

March 13-18 1973

### Mongo Santamaria Rorschach

**KENNY'S CASTAWAYS, NYC** — Now that the Latin element has been truly assimilated into rock (witness a group like Steely Dan without one Spanish-surnamed member getting it on like natives), it seems a very appropriate time to acknowledge the contributions of one Mongo Santamaria, congo player and total musician. He is more than his '63 hit of "Watermelon Man" or his version of "Cloud Nine," six years later. More than any other individual (with the possible exception of Tito Puente), Mongo's spirit has been the very staple of Latin rock.

Mongo is a purist in the sense that his new group has not added guitar for surface commerciality. The horns are tighter than other Latin bands, and he plays primarily instrumental sound that does not depend on improvisational shouting to carry it along. Although he has always fitted comfortably into the jazz category, his melodic sense is never sacrificed for an impressive solo riff. Most rock-oriented fans could easily get as excited over him as they have over Santana and Malo. His new band is

his most awesome ever—and we can only hope that the Fania-distributed Vaya Records for whom he now records will go after sales outside the Latin market. To our ears the potential is definitely there—especially if "Para Ti" were redone as a single to spark it.

A new trio from Seattle, now residing in the area, opened the show. Rorschach is Bob Cozetti on Fender rhodes and trumpet, Tim Gemmill on alto and tenor sax and Steve Schwartz on drums. Both Tim and Bob occasionally move over to maracas, but it's Steve's inventive work which truly keeps the beat interesting. Cozetti has penned the group's material—typically, a tune begins with a strong catch phrase and is developed by all in tight but expressive pursuit.

The group is still young and has something to learn about stage presentation—but basically they are a temptingly tangible extension of the new music. Though now unsigned, a future inking seems deserved for Rorschach.

R.A.

APPEARING NOW THRU SUNDAY MAR 18th

# MONGO SANTAMARIA

(hit - WATERMELON MAN)

plus RORSCHACH  
HOOTENANNY MONDAYS

## KENNY'S CASTAWAYS

ON 84 ST OFF 23rd AVE MAN

734-9892