MAINSTREAM

'Bird' Blues

By RALPH MATTHEWS JR.

The Baroness was and is rich, white and blessed with ears that heard Charlie Parker's music as well as they now hear Monk's.

It was in her elegant Manhattan apartment that Bird died 3,203 days ago. The legendary alto saxophone player left earth nine years ago last week but his ghost is still restless.

Young horn players left behind find it difficult to put his soul to rest. Even now jazzmen either try to sound as unlike Parker as possible, thus tying themselves in creative knots, or just give up the fight and echo the lost master's ideas.

What a powerful musical legacy he left. We hear so much of Bird we don't even know it is playing. His musical spirit, though watered down, forms the backdrop for cigarette commercials, it punctuates the gunshots of TV cops and sets the rhythm of movies about the city jungles.

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ON THE death of Bird, whoever was French ambassador to the U.S. at the time told a Jet magazine reporter: "I don't understand you Americans. You take men like Ellington and Parker for granted. In France we at least build monuments to their memory."

"Bird Lives" is something Manhattan beatniks still scribble on subway walls and in a way he is alive for many people who knew him. In the Jazz Gallery, a club that used to be on the lower East side, I have often watched the Baroness on a bar-stool listening to Theolonious play. Her face has a haunted quality. The temptation has been to go over and ask: "Is it true Parker died laughing?"

But what happens in the cribs of European ladies is after all their own affair.

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BIRD WAS one of the few folk heroes a colored kid of the ghetto could have in the Forties and Fifties. We had so few heroes to choose from then. If you dug violence, there was Sugar Ray. If you were a chick, Marian Anderson was the model, but how many chicks can stay cool

Bird's manager in his last days and knew where most of the Parker skeletons could be found.

After talking with the jazz people who knew him, with the poor Polish peasants of Manhattan's lower East side who recalled him as a drinking companion and a "good fighting man", after meeting sophisticated scholars who passed much time talking with him on art and philosophy, I came away with notes that indicated Parker had at least ten different personalities.

Musical genius, philosopher, art expert, junkie, thief, ex-con, proud father: you name it, Bird had been into more bags than the world is ever likely to know.

It has been said that to be a great artist everything of life, good and bad, must be experienced. Well Bird did not miss a trick.

In his last years as his torments were catching up with him, the things some people did to Parker cannot be published until his tormentors die. One highly regarded jazz businessman had squeezed Bird out of so much money he thought it best to move abroad to avoid court summonses and civil suits.

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THIS IS one example of what Charlie Parker went through to be a creative artist in a white world.

One day I sat in a Greenwich Village restaurant with a young chap who had been a sort of good shepherd to Parker as the older musician was hitting the skids. We were there to talk about Bird when a tall slim Italian guy walked in.

My friend said surprisedly: "Frank, what are you doing out?"

They left me for a long talk. When the man left, my friend returned and said: "Talk about a memory of Bird. That guy just got out of jail. A bad rap. In the old days he used to play some nice piano. He is the son of one of the Mafia leaders in the Village. He was a Bird worshipper. You knew that Bird lived on Barrow St. in the village for a time and was friendly with a lot of Mafia cats.

447 New Voters In 4 Hours

GOOD CITIZENS — Here is one portion of the more than 500 citizens who flocked to the Supervisors of Elections supplemental offices at the George Murphy Homes, 725 George St., in a four-hour period Wednesday evening to register as voters or change registration addresses. Supervising the activities at right is Lloyal Randolph, Elections Board's chief assistant.

Kites To Fill Sky

"This is the largest we have had so far. It shows what can happen when those conducting voter registration campaigns in an area really get out and work."

Lloyal Randolph, assistant chief clerk, Board of Supervisors of Elections, had these comments for the AFRO following a supplemental registration operation Wednesday evening at the George Murphy Homes, 725 George St.

Mr. Randolph revealed there were 447 persons registered and 99 change of address applicants handled there during the four-hour period.

Cooperating to bring the mammoth turnout were the Voter Registration Committee of the NAACP, Womanpower, the Fourth District Democratic Organization and the management of the Murphy Homes.

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DAVID FILKER, manager of the city's newest housing project, told the AFRO Wednesday evening:

"We have been holding meetings on this coming registration here for some time now.

"Those not registered have been encouraged to do so, and those who have neglected to change their registration address with the Supervi-

and Ellwood Ave., 1 - 7 p.m.

March 26, Hecht-May Co., downtown.

[illegible] Lawmin Mall, Mondawmin Shopping Center.

April 1, School No. 245, Sherwood Ave. and Leith Walk, 2 - 8 p.m.

April 4, Cherry Hill Recreation Center, 2700 Spellman Rd., 2 - 8 p.m.

April 4, School No. 120, Robert St. and Pennsylvania Ave., 2- 8 p.m.

April 9, Stewart's downtown, 5-8:30 p.m.

April 10, Municipal Stadium 3-8 p.m.

April 11, Radio station WEBB, 3113 W. North Ave., 2-8 p.m.

April 11, Fifth Regiment Armory, 2-8 p.m.

April 15, School No. 222 Park Heights Ave. and Ken Oak Rd., 2-8 p.m.

April 15, School No. 400, Edmondson Ave. and Athol Ave., 2-8 p.m.

April 16, Brager-Gutman, downtown 5 - 8:30 p.m.

April 17 - 18, War Memorial, Gay and Fayette Sts., 5 - 9 p.m. (Friday) 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. (Sat.)

BUT NOTHING ELSE:

S. Africa to mix her Olympic team

JOHANNESBURG, S. Africa — Smarting under a ban imposed by the International Olympic Committee the lilly-white South African Athletic Association last week decided to select a multi-racial team of 20 athletes for the Olympic Games in Tokyo in October.

However, the South African group, which was banned from the Olympic Games recently because of racial discrimination against colored athletes, said nothing of whether it would also discontinue the bias at home.

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IN THE PAST, the SAAA has banned black or colored athletes from its teams. But angry and determined protests from many African states competing in the Olympic program brought about suspension of South African Mare, chairman of the South African by the IOC.

Meanwhile although Matt Ware, chairman of the South African association, hailed the decision to form the mix team as "proof that South Africa does not discriminate against anybody in sport," observers pointed out that the group had made no commitment to end sports bias at home.

A BIG LIFT for the Easter Seal Drive comes from these Baltimore Colt greats, Art Donovan and Jim Parker. The football stars are honorary chairmen of the current Easter Seal Drive to aid the physically handicapped in the metropolitan area. Pamela Trent, a handicapped child, is being hoisted by the athletes.

Big-little gals' match features Civic wrassle

Civic Center mat matchmakers have something different on tap for March 25.

Lady champion Fabulous Moolah and Judy Grable are opposing each other in a tag-team event, two falls out of three, one hour time limit. Only this time, each will have a midget girl for a partner.

MOOLAH'S running mate will be Baby Cheryl, and Judy will team with Darling Dagmar, average weight of the partners 89 pounds.

Moolah, formerly the "Slave Girl" is a well known female Villain locally, but Judy Grable represents an opposing fan appeal.

"The Barefoot Contessa" as she is tagged, started out to be a circus acrobat.

She is a bouncy blonds with blue eyes, 137 pounds on a 5-foot, 6-inch frame.

Lafayette keglers in torrid games

John Johnson and Leland Etheridge produced a pair of strong games to highlight activity at the Lafayette Bowling Center the past week.

Johnson, a member of El Gents of the Saturday Men B League, turned in a sparkling 179, on Sunday. Johnson shows a 102 average.

Etheridge, a 106 bowler, rallied with four straight strikes to tally 177. He is a member of the No. 4 team in the Wednesday Mixed League at Lafayette.

TWO GREAT BOURBONS

Both

Open House set at Laurel Sun.

LAUREL, Md. — Laurel Race Course's spring meeting opens Monday with three-year-old fillies taking the spotlight as Laurel presents the inaugural of The First Lady Stakes.

Stakes winners Behaving Deby, Busy Jill, Miss Twist

Sports of the Week

Baseball

ON THE PRO FRONT

MAJOR LEAGUE EXHIBITIONS

Friday

Dodgers vs. Orioles at Miami (Nite)

White Sox vs. Pirates at Ft. Myers

Indians vs. Cubs at Nogales

Reds vs. Tigers at Lakeland

Senators vs. Athletics at Bradenton

Angels vs. Giants at Phoenix

Yankees vs. Braves at W. Palm Beach

Colts vs. Phillies at Clearwater

Mets vs. Cardinals at St. Petersburg

SATURDAY

*Cardinals vs. *Orioles at Homestead

Tigers vs. *Orioles at Miami (Nite)

Red Sox vs. Indians at Tucson

White Sox vs. Mets at St. Petersburg

*Cardinals vs. Athletics at Bradenton

*Giants vs. Angels at Palm Springs

Braves vs. *Twins at Orlando

*Twins vs. Colts at Cocoa

Dodgers vs. Yankees at Ft. Lauderdale

Senators vs. Phillies at Clearwater

*Giants vs. Cubs at Mesa

Reds vs. Pirates at Ft. Myers

Monday

Giants vs. Red Sox at Scottsdale

Phillies vs. White Sox at Sarasota

Indians vs. Cubs at Mesa

Tigers vs. Braves at W. Palm Beach (Nite)

Reds vs. Athletics at Bradenton

Mets vs. Twins at Orlando

Yankees vs. Pirates at Ft. Myers

Dodgers vs. Senators at Pompano Beach

Colts vs. Cardinals at St. Petersburg

(Divided squad)

ON COLLEGE FRONT

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Wednesday

Ft. Valley at Fla. A and M

Allen at S. C. Area Trade

Friday

Ala. State at Fla. A and M

Jackson at Southern

Texas Southern at Arkansas

Saturday

Ala. State at Fla. A and M

S. C. Area Trade at Allen

Jackson at Southern

Texas Southern at Arkansas

Basketball

AMONG THE PROS

NBA PERFORMANCE

INDIVIDUAL SCORING

Baseball Who's Who lists 526 players

NEW YORK — The 1964 edition of WHO'S WHO IN BASEBALL, the forty-ninth in the series and the 11th consecutive book edited by Allan Roth, statistician of the Los Angeles Dodgers, will be released in mid-March.

Bobo faces Soviet giant

Bobo Brazil, the huge holder of the U.S. title, faces Boris Malenko in a one-fall-to-a-finish event, the leading co-feature on the Sammartino-Kowalski wrestling card, next Wednesday night at Civic Center.

Bobo, whose heft and skill are exceeded only by his popularity with local mat fans, will have his title on the line.

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MALENKO offers this comment, "I will face all your champions, and defeat them one by one, and take the title back to Russia with me.

"Everybody says he's a champion but nobody tells me who he beat or how he got to be champion."

Maybe Brazil has the answer.

Birds enlarge schedule of kids' day baseball

Baseball has been described as a kid's game and the Orioles are inclined to agree.

To give the youngsters a chance to see more major league baseball as guests of the Orioles, the club announced today (Friday) that it has expanded its "Kids' Day" program for the 1964 season by setting aside three more special dates than last year and raising the maximum age limit from 13 to 16 years.

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SEVEN AFTERNOON home games, as opposed to four last year, have been designed "Kids' Days" when all youngsters 16 and under —and adequately supervised —will be admitted free of charge to the general admission sections of Memorial Stadium.

Adults accompanying the children, however, will be charged the normal $1.25 general admission price.

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THE YOUNGER set will be given an opportunity to see the Orioles play six different American League clubs — New York, Cleveland, Minnesota, Kansas City, Washington and Detroit. Only Minnesota appears twice on the "Kids' Day" schedule.

Following are the 1964 "Kids' Days"

Saturday, April 18 (New York); Saturday, May 2 (Cleveland); Saturday, May 23 (Minnesota);

Tuesday, June 30 Minnesota); Sunday, July 5 (Kansas City); Sunday, July 26 (Washington); and Saturday, October 3 (Detroit).

Syracuse U. urged to nix JC foes

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Syracuse University faculty representatives have called on the university to reverse its refusal to sever athletic ties with segregated schools.

The university senate, academic governing body, adopted a resolution urging the school to "assert its moral leadership by publicly declaring itself to oppose intercollegiate competition with those institutions practicing racial discrimination."

The athletic board said last month, "We have scheduled segregated teams in the past and may do so in the future, confident that fielding a team dedicated to the best ideals of sportsmanship is a good example for others to follow."