Night Scene Seen

By Bob Matthews

Hate to start off on a sad note, but when we got to our office yesterday, there was a little note which read: "A guy from the Orioles called, said Sonny died Wednesday the 9th 12:15 noon."

Took a minute to understand, then the realization dawned, this referred to Sonny Til, an old friend. Knew that he had been suffering with diabetes, but had no details or confirmation to go on.

Called Rosa Pryor, entrepeneur who is one of those responsible for Sonny playing Baltimore over the past couple of years. She, was of course, shocked—but did check it out, and confirmed the story.

Earlington Tilgman died Wednesday of a heart attack. He lived in Suitland, Md. Funeral arrangements were not completed at press time.

— —

Upcoming this week is the final concert for the Left Bank Jazz Society this year—and they are ending up in a blaze of glory, for scheduled is our very favorite tenor sax player, Dexter Gordon.

With him will be Dave Eubanks, bass, Eddie Gladden, drums, and Kirk Lightsey, piano. This is the group Dex has been travelling with for the past few months.

If you remember Kirk Lightsey on piano, he is the guy who really shook up the Famous on Dexter's last appearance, and found out that we are from the same hometown, Detroit.

In fact, while my sister was visiting here, she informed me that she gave Kirk his first piano lessons. Didn't ask her what year that was.

— —

Gatsby's is featuring Terry Hollinger this weekend, Fri. and Sat. nights. Am told that she was one of the original singers with the Softones, and left to have a baby.

Now, she has returned to the night scene as a single, and will be accompanied by her own group.

At the Ritz, First Class will occupy the Penthouse for the weekend, and we are glad to see some of the local groups getting this type of exposure.

— —

The Closet continues its live music policy, with Fuzzy Kane and his group performing Saturday and Sunday. Fuzzy, who is playing acoustic piano for this gig, has Monty Poulson on bass, and Warren Gantt, drums.

As an added feature, vocalist Ruby Glover is appearing with the group, and she usually has a few talented performers sitting in on occasion. Didn't make the birthday set last week, but am told that Lady Rebecca took the stand and really wailed.

— —

Sportsmen's Lounge is presenting recording star Bill Harris and his all-star live entertainment revue—which is the way the billing reads.

Bill has become one of the better known baritones around town, and has a slavishly devoted audience who really turn out to hear him.

With Bill is Miss Jennell Fisher, Libby Stevens, plus Willie Barber, drums; Mark Easley, bass, Tom McCormick, sax, and Charles Arnette, keyboards.

For the Saturday afternoon jazz sit-in, it will be the O'Donel Levy Ensemble, which means he will be doing double duty since he is scheduled to play in Annapolis that same night.

He will be on the bill with the Buddy Rich big band, at a new club called The Playhouse talk about coincidence, just as we were writing this, the phone rang, and it was Bob Haynes of the Sportsmen's Lounge.

He informed me that O'Donel would not appear, since he wants to be in Annapolis by 8 p.m. Instead, the jazz sit-in will feature Carlos Johnson, also sax; Thomas Hurley, organ; Marshall Booze, bass, and Rick Johnson, drums.

James Booker's N.Y.

New York- Finalists in the National Urban League's search to replace Vernon Jordan as its President on January 1 include his assistant, John Jacobs, former UN Ambassador and New York State Senator Rev. H. Carl McCall, Atlanta's outgoing Mayor Maynard Jackson, and Fisk President Walter Leonard. A decision by the search committee, headed by Lisle C. Carter, will be announced before December 31.

— —

The United Negro College Fund, Inc. is expected to net at least three million dollars in the sale and transfer of New York radio station WWRL to the National Black Network just two weeks after they received the station in a tax situation from the former owners, Viacom International.

— —

The NAACP's national board will meet in January to decide on whether to move the national headquarters out of New York City to either Washington, Richmond, or Chicago, because of the 400 per cent hike they will get when their lease expires next year. They, like many other black organizations, should consider moving back into the black communities, instead of staying "downtown".

— —

Show Business: That luscious Lena Horne receiving the Handel Medallion, New York City's highest award for music, in City Hall ceremonies... For the second year in a row nationally-famed Dr. William Foster, director of bands and chairman of the music department at Florida A&M University, will be directing the McDonald's All-American High School Band in the nationally-televised Rose Bowl Parade, marking his 36th network television appearance. He is also President of the College Band Directors Association ... "Little Lord Fauntleroy", the acclaimed classic, will be presented as an ITT special on CBS-TV on December 15... Congrats to New Jersey Nets basketball star Otis Birdsen in being the first NBA star to donate money to the new Basketball Hall of Fame being built in Springfield, Mass., with his $10,000 donation... "Sesame Street" celebrating its 13th year with a month-long exhibition at Rockerfeller Center... Harlem's popular Red Rooster collecting holiday gifts at a special party on Dec. 16 for the benefit of the children's ward at Harlem Hospital. Song stylist Eunice Newkirk is its December weekend attraction... Over at Joe Lyn's Lounge in Brooklyn, Sir Charles and his All Stars, are the weekend attraction through New Year's with Leslie Williams on drums and Bernie Thompson on the keyboard.

TV Watching

By Vanessa Johnson

Friday

A Step Too Slow: Shattered after being cut from the basketball team, a highschool athlete learns to put his problems into perspective and his feelings into song. Starring Paula Kelly. 8:00-8:30 p.m.-Ch. 5.

Benson: Budget director Benson has another figure in mind when he meets an attractive lobbyist. Starring Robert Guillaume. 8:00-8:30 p.m.-Ch. 13.

Seven Wishes of Joanna Peabody: A modern-day fairy godmother offers her services to a Harlem girl. Starring Butterfly McQueen and Ben Shemesh. 8:30-9:00 p.m.-Ch. 5.

Darkroom: A woman uses voodoo to avenge her granddaughter's death. Starring Bernie Hamilton, Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs. 9:00-10:00 p.m.-Ch. 7.

Saturday

NFL '81: O.J. Simpson interviews USC's record-breaking RB Marcus Allen. 12:05-12:30 p.m.-Ch. 4.

America's Top 10: A show highlighting the top 10 Christmas songs of all time features appearances by The Pointer Sisters, Lionel Ritchie and others. 12:30-1:30 p.m.-Ch. 13.

A Mind Is...: An examination of the life, current status and future of the black camera. 7:30-8:00 p.m.-Ch. 9.

Open All Night: The Pastery plan for a champagne anniversary celebration go fast when Gordon finds a photo of Gretchen in an old copy of a men's magazine. Starring Bubba Smith. 8:00-8:30 p.m.-Ch. 13.

CBS Reports: Thirteen years after serving as infantrymen in Vietnam, some 30 veterans recall their wartime experiences for correspondent Bill Moyers in "Bittersweet Memories: A Vietnam Reunion". 10:00-11:00 p.m.-Ch. 11.

Saturday Night Live: Host Bill Murray is joined by singing group The Spinners. 11:30-1:00 a.m.-Ch. 2.

Sunday

For Our Times: A program celebrating the 40th anniversary of Church Women United. 8:30-9:00 a.m.-Ch. 11.

NFL '81: An examination into the possibilities of a football strike next year. Hosted by Robert Guimbal. 12:30-1:00 p.m.-Ch. 2.

NFL Football: The Baltimore Colts vs the Washington Redskins, in Washington. 1:00-4:00 p.m.-Ch. 2.

Monday

Hour Magazine: An interview with Baltimore actor Nathan Rollins. 10:00-11:00 a.m.-Ch. 13.

Falcons battling Rams

Sports on TV

The Atlanta Falcons, fighting to stay alive in the battle for an NFC wild-card playoff berth, travel to the West Coast to meet the Los Angeles Rams in an NFC West matchup to be aired live on ABC's NFL "Monday Night Football," Dec. 14 (9 p.m., EST, to conclusion), on the ABC Television Network.

ABC Sportcasters Frank Gifford, Howard Cosell and Fran Tarkenton will report from Anaheim Stadium, the home of the Rams.

Both teams have struggled this season, after having been preseason picks to battle for the division crown - a title that Atlanta won last year and Los Angeles won the previous seven years.

This game will match strength against strength as Atlanta will send the NFC's second ranked passing offense against the No. 2 rated pass defense in the conference, and Los Angeles, the defending NFL team rushing leader, will face the league's No. 1 defense against the run.

Atlanta's passing offense is guided by Steve Bartkowski (10), who led the NFL in touchdown passes a year ago with 31 and is challenging for the crown this year with 29 in 13 games. His big play man is wide receiver Alfred Jenkins (84), who is the leading receiver in the league in yards per catch, touchdowns and total yards.

The Falcons' leading receiver in number of catches, however, is William Andrews (31), the versatile running back who has ranked in the top five in the conference in both rushing and receiving all year.

The Rams' pass defense will provide Bartkowski and the Falcons with a tough challenge. Los Angeles still uses a 4-3 alignment and gets a good pass rush from defensive ends Jack Youngblood (85) tackle Mike Fanning (79). The Rams also have an excellent secondary, headed by the 1980 NFC Defensive Player of the Year, free safety Nolan Cromwell (21). A surprise for the Rams has been cornerback LeRoy Irvin (47), the league's punt returner, who has filled in well for injured All-NFC cornerback Pat Thomas (37).

Offensively, the Rams have had problems, particularly at quarterback where Pat Haden (11) has shared the position recently with Dan Pastorini (10). In addition to the passing game being ranked near the bottom of the conference, the running game — ranked fifth in the NFC after leading the league last year — has also suffered due to numerous injuries on the offensive line.

Halfback Wendell Tyler (28) has been the leading ground grainer for Los Angeles and is also the leading scorer in the league among nonkickers. In recent weeks he has been joined by second-year full-back Mike Guman (44) as a replacement for veteran Cullen Bryant (32).

But the Rams will face the league's top defense against the run in Atlanta and Haden or Pastorini must be able to connect through the air for the Rams to stay with the Falcons.

The heart of Atlanta's defense is its linebackers — Al Richardson (56), Fulton Kuykendall (54), Buddy Curry (50) and Joel Williams (58). In addition to their superb defense against the run, they also have provided the Falcons' secondary with help, as evidenced by Curry's 35-year interception return for a touchdown in Atlanta's 31-30 win over Minnesota on "Monday Night Football," Nov. 23.

The secondary is improved over last year when the team finished 25th in the league in pass defense, but they still allow a nearly 60 percent completion rate. Free safety Tom Pridemore (27) is the leading interceptor and he picked off two in the recent Monday Night win over Minnesota.

'Messiah: Sing-In with CCC

The Christmas portion of Handel's "Messiah" ranks as one of the greatest musical expressions of Christ's birth. The fact that Handel wrote the work as an "entertainment" enhances its natural drama. The charisma of the "Messiah" has inspired Virginia Blair, of the music faculty of Catonsville Community College, to offer the community a sing-in several times in the last five years. Everyone is welcome to attend, either to sing or to listen. This season, St. John's United Church of Christ, S. Rolling Road and Wilkens Ave., Catonsville, has invited Opus X and the public to rehearse and perform the work on Sunday, Dec. 13, beginning at 4 p.m.

Music will be provided by Ms. Blair's group, although anyone who can bring their own copy is urged to do so. An hour's rehearsal will take place first. After a short break, the accompanist will move to the harpsichord and the organ, the rehearsed soloists will take their positions, and the entire audience will perform the Christmas portion.

Jazz Ensemble

The University of Maryland , Baltimore County Jazz Ensemble will perform in concert Monday, December 14, at 8 pm. The concert will take place in the Fine Arts Recital Hall.

UMBC is conveniently located only six miles from downtown Baltimore and ten miles north of Columbia. Take Beltway exit 12 West (Wilkens Avenue) or the Catonsville exit from I-95 and follow the signs to UMBC where there is plenty of parking.

The concert is free and the public is welcome. For more information about the program call 455-2942 or Ron Diehl at 647-3930.

Letters

Dear AFRO:

I would like to thank Mrs. Ida Peters for the fine article she wrote about me in the November 3, 1981 edition of the AFRO-AMERICAN .

It was an honor and an unforgettable experience being interviewed by the warm, sensitive lady that she is. I felt completely at ease and comfortable. She is indeed a credit to the AFRO-AMERICAN.

I would also like to public ly thank Mr. Herbert Morrick, director of the Waxter Musical Show Group and Miss Anne Marie Whalon, coordiantor of the Waxter Talent Show. They have played a very important role in my life.

Their patience and guidance helped me emerge from a humdrum post retirement existence.

I hope thex story will inspire and help prove to other senior citizens that living per se, is not over after retirement or loss of loved ones. It is a new and different life and can be beautiful. Thanks again. Mildred (Mimi) Bailey.

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SC State dominates All-MEAC

Champion South Carolina State placed 10 players on the 1981 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference all-star team announced this week by the office of commissioner Ken Free.

Bethune - Cookman College placed five among the 25-man selections, Florida A and M four, and Howard, Delaware State and A and T, two each.

— —

Elected to the offensive unit are: tight end Herb Wright, Bethune; wide receivers Tracy Singleton, Howard, and Ray Alexand, FAMU.

Interior linemen are Arthur Wellons, FAMU; John Bilberry, Howard; Jeff Colbert and Edward Samuels, SC State. Center is Larry Warren, SC.

Quarterback Desmond Gatson, SC; running backs Johnny Rowe, Delaware, and Anthony Reed, SC State, comprise the backfield. Named best returner is Barney Bussey, and place-kicker Alex Gardner, both of SC State.

— —

In addition to the seven named to the offensive unit, the Bulldogs provided three of the defensive topliners:

Linemen chosen are Booker Reese and Charles Riggins of Bethune, John Courtney, SC, and R. C. Eason, FAMU.

Linebackers are Sidney Fulton, SC, and Steve Hammond, Bethune.

Timothy King, Delaware; John Bostic, Bethune; Kevin Robinson, A and T, and Thomas Tutson, SC, are chosen for the defensive-back positions.

The punter is Vincent Coleman, FAMU.

Center Warren, a senior from Jacksonville, is a third-time honoree.

Tight end Wright of Ft. Lauderdale, wide receiver Singleton of Washington, DC, and guard Bilberry of Shreveport, LA, are offensive repeaters from last year.

Also named for the second time are defense standouts Reese and Tutson, and punter Coleman, all from Jacksonville, FL.

LEADS HAVERFORD — Joel Samll, a 5 - 10 guard and No. 2 scorer in 1980, is a tri - captain of the Haverford College basketball team. A senior who played at Forest Park High School, Small has been joined by another Baltimorean, 6 - 2 Ben McCoy, freshman from Gilman School.

GLOVEMAN — Mike Norris, ace of the Oakland A's, does more than pitch. The 26 - year - old righthander has been named Gold Glove Award winner by the Sporting News, declaring him the American League's best fielding pitcher.

Gino Classic at UMBC

The high school competition conducted Thursday, college quints swing into action today (Friday) in the Gino's Classic at UMBC.

At 3 p.m., Loyola and Notre Dame open the women's play, and at 5 o'clock, the UMBC women meet Western Maryland.

Men's basketers of Mt. St. Mary's and Randolph - Macon clash at 7 p.m., followed by Morgan State and UMBC at 9 o'clock.

Finals in both high school and collegiate play are set Saturday, beginning at 11 a.m., and Sunday at 1 o'clock.

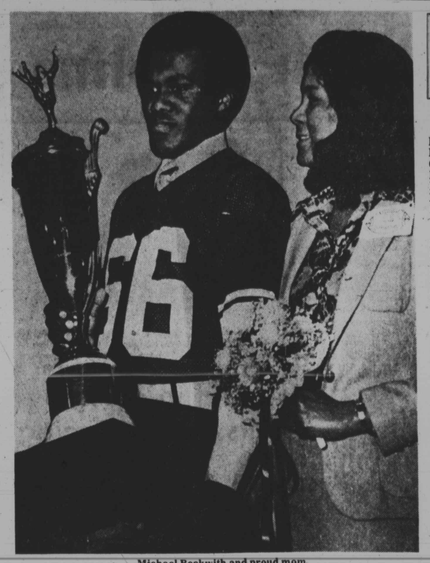
BASKETBALL

FRIDAY
MEN
UMES at Bowie St.
Gino's Classic, Catonsville, MD
W. Chester at DE State
Anne Arundel at Harford CC
FAMU tournament
A and T Aggie Classic
Shaw U. Classic
WOMEN
Morgan at Howard
SATURDAY
MEN
Howard at Fairleigh Dickinson
St. Paul's at VA State
Gino's Classic, Catonsville, MD
Jersey City at Lincoln
A and T tournament
Shaw tournament
W. Salem tournament
C. W. Post at UMES
FAMU tournament
SC State at Alcorn
Paul Quinn at Xavier
WOMEN
Lincoln at UDC

Midweek scores

BASKETBALL
VA Union 85, Morgan 66
Maryland 76, UMES 64
Bowie St. 68, St. Paul's 63
Morgan 86, UMES 56 (women)
VA State 81, Shaw 70
Bowie St. 82, Wash. Bible 61
Fayetteville 85, ATL. Christian 78
Lipingstone 77, St. Aug 76
Alcorn 86, A and T 78
Albany St. 90, Tuskegee 85
Austin Peay 70, TE State 57
Bowie St. at Eliz. City
Shaw at Hampton
A and T at J.C. Smith
VA State at St. Paul's
SUNDAY
Central St. at IN State
MONDAY
MEN
Fayetteville at Shaw
AL-Huntsville at Xavier
WOMEN
Fayetteville at Shaw

'Unsung Hero' Beckwith called real-life hero



Michael Beckwith and proud mom

HUNT VALLEY, MD — A student at Northern High School who successfully handled responsibilities to his team and to his family during an illness was presented the 42nd annual McCormick Unsung Hero Award, Friday night at Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn.

He is Michael Beckwith, 6-foot, 180-pound son of Rose Thornton of the 6800 block Sturbridge Dr. in Baltimore. He is a senior and the school's first recipient of the award.

As winner of the Unsung Hero Award, Beckwith also becomes the 13th winner of the Charles Perry McCormick Scholarship Award, established in 1969, with a four-year value of $6,000.

— —

Beckwith is described by his football coach, Joseph Voskuhl, as "the first player to congratulate a teammate who has done well and the first to offer encouragement to a player who has done poorly." He went on:

"Mike has always placed the welfare of the team above his own opportunity for personal glory. Mike could have been one of the outstanding linebackers in the conference. However, his coaches decided Mike could help the team more as an offensive guard and as a backup to any of the four linebackers.

"This meant that Mike would have to concentrate not only on his offensive guard position but would have to spend extra time learning all of the linebacker assignments. He accepted his role with the enthusiasm and unselfishness that have typified his three years varsity career."

— —

Twice during his varsity playing days, young Beckwith underwent considerable personal pressure. At one point, although he was weak, he practiced with his team after having given blood for his bother, who was injured in a fall.

During an illness of his widowed mother Beckwith would attend school and spend the evenings at a hospital with his mother. Although he would be close to exhaustion on the practice field, he persevered with his responsibilities to his team.

"Michael said at the time," said Coach Voskuhl, "that football had taught him the discipline and the necessity of sacrifice that was helping him and his family deal with his mother's illness."

Charles P. McCormick founded the Unsung Hero Award to reward athletes for unselfish team play and recognize those who contribute substantially to the success of their teams without receiving acclaim.

Football coaches at 26 public, parochial and private high schools of the Maryland Scholastic Assn. nominated the athletes honored tonight. The selection of the winner from among the 26 nominees was made by the Maryland Board of Football Officials.

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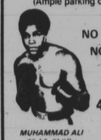

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FRIDAY
Varsity Basketball
Forest Pk at Walbrook
Dunbar (DC) at Lake Clifton
Northern at Lake Clifton
Northern at Gibbons
Poly at Overlea
Mervo at Pikesville

JV Basketball
Dunbar (DC) at Lake Clifton
Northern at Gibbons
Poly at Overlea
Forest Park at Walbrook
Mervo at Pikesville

Varsity Wrestling
Poly at Bel Air MD
Walbrook at Bel Air MD
Pikesville at South Western

Swimming
Edmondson at Gilman
Poly at Gilman
Poly JV at Gilman

Girls Basketball
Patterson at Eastern
Western at Mervo
Poly JV at Lake Clifton
Patterson at Eastern
Western JV at Mervo JV

SATURDAY
Basketball
Holiday tourney, UMBC
Wrestling
Bel Air tournament

SUNDAY
Basketball
Holiday tourney, UMBC

SHOWDOWN HERE — The first black-led U.S. tennis team is in Cincinnati trying to win the Davis Cup this weekend. Captain Arthur Ashe is pinning his and America's hopes on a unit John McEnroe, Roscoe Tanner, Peter Fleming and Eliot Tescher in the showdown with Argentina.

Skins picked over Colts

Renoe - Taboe oddsmakers hold Washington the 12 - point favorite to defeat Baltimore in Sunday's NFL game at Memorial Stadium.

Already established as the likely victors, the Redskins' stock rose markedly when Baltimore conceded the Colts have serious quarterback problems.

Washington is 6 - 8 in the season, Baltimore has won only once in 14 outings.

MOUNTIE CO-CAPTAINS — Crystal Woodard (L) and Becky Lovett are co-captains of the Mt. St. Mary's women's basketball team. Woodard, a junior, is from DC's St. Anthony's High School. Lovett is from Gettsburg, PA. The Mounties, 23-11 last year, finished third in the 1980 EAIAW tournament.

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Canadian Club

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