ENTERTAINMENT/ LIFESTYLE

GALA — Dionne Warwick (left) and Whitney Houston duet on "That's What Friends Are For," an all-star musical celebration of the 15th anniversary of Arista Records. It was taped at a benefit concert at Radio City Music Hall, and will be broadcast Tuesday, April 17, 9-11 p.m. on CBS-TV.

Black Greek-Letter groups agree to eliminate pledging

St. Louis — In a historical step, leaders of eight National Black Greek-Letter organizations meeting here at the Sheraton St. Louis have agreed to unify their membership intake process by eliminating pledging.

These organizations have been supportive of each other's programs and projects throughout their history. However, this is the first time they have convened at one - site with their executive boards to address the far-reaching implications of membership intake.

Nationwide, the groups have an aggregate of over 800,000 college-trained members. The groups operate many programs throughout the United States, West Germany, West Africa, Bahamas Islands and Korea promoting and enhancing scholarship, community service, business enterprises, youth achievement, drug abuse and prevention, illiteracy eradication, political awareness, and the African-American Family.

Dr. Moses Norman, National President of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. serves as chairman of the Council of Presidents. The Council was responsible for convening the executive board representatives from all organizations.

Dr. Norman and his national counterparts: Mrs. Janet Ballard, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Dr. Yvonne Kennedy, Delta sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Dr. Katie K. White, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.; Dr. Eunice Thomas Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.; Dr. Henry Ponder, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Dr. Ullysses McBride, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; and Mr. Carter D. Womack, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., agreed that the beginning of a new decade is an appropriate time to modernize membership intake practices.

According to Dr. Norman, "it is the consensus of the organizations as expressed through the national presidents and executive boards that there be some modifications in this process pending review and ratification by each of us. These modifications of the membership intake process include the elimination of pledging in any form."

Todd Bridges shows for court hearing

LOS ANGELES — An arrest warrant for actor Todd Bridges was quashed Monday after he appeared in court on a charge of shooting a man inside a cocaine rock house.

Superior Court Commissioner Florence Cooper issued the arrest warrant Friday after Bridges, who is free on $25,000 bail, failed to appear in court for a pre-trial hearing in his case. But the commissioner held the warrant until Monday to give the actor additional time to make it to court.

If Bridges, 24, a former child star of such television sitcoms as "Diff'rent Strokes" and "Fish," failed to appear in court Monday, the warrant would have become effective and he would have been subject to arrest.

It was not immediately clear why Bridges failed to appear in court Friday.

Bridges faces a pending retrial on a single count of assault with a firearm for allegedly shooting convicted drug dealer Kenneth "Tex" Clay eight times inside a Los Angeles rock house Feb. 2, 1989.

Sarah Vaughan laid to rest in Newark

NEWARK, N.J. — Jazz great Sarah Vaughan was carried to her grave in a horse-drawn hearse Monday as friends and neighbors remembered her as an unequaled talent who never forgot her roots.

Vaughan, who began singing as a young girl in the choir of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Newark, died last Tuesday of lung cancer at her home in Los Angeles. She was 66.

"She never forgot us, she never got that high," said Ruth Christmas, who grew up with Vaughan, destined to become known as the "Divine One."

A two-hour public viewing was held in a Newark funeral home where about 1,000 people paid their respects, followed by a 1 1/2-hour service at the 500-seat church.

"To hear Sarah, it was hearing the angels sing," said the Rev. Harry Jones, a gospel singer who called Vaughan his inspiration. "She was a grand lady."

Among the mourners at the service were Billy Eckstine, who first heard Vaughan sing at an amateur show at Harlem's Apollo Theater, and Ralph Cooper, then and now the emcee of the Apollo.

"Sarah Vaughan was the greatest singer that has ever been," Cooper said. "She was just fabulous and she will never be duplicated."

On a dare at age 18, she sang "Body and Soul" at an amateur night at the Apollo and caught the attention of Eckstine, then a jazz singer with pianist Earl Hines's band.

"She walked on the stage as a little girl and she just opened her mouth up and that was the end of it," Cooper said. "She took over completely."

That appearance led to an offer to join Hines's orchestra as a second pianist, with a vocal career quickly following. Her first hit record was "It's Magic" in 1947.

In his eulogy, the Rev. Granville Seward said Vaughan once told him her style developed as she tried to imitate the horn sections of the bands she appeared with.

"She tried to do what the horns did ... and that comes from the church, because when you can't say it with words you have to moan," she said. "She watched over her audience, almost wearing herself out, but as long as they kept applauding, she had something else to give.

"Last Tuesday God put the last piece in Sarah's puzzle and her voice is hushed now, (but) a voice born in heaven is singing again," he said to the filled church. At least 500 more people heard the service over loudspeakers in the streets outside.

Newark Mayor Sharpe James said Vaughan was a symbol of hope for all of those who followed her at Newark's Arts High School.

"For 50 years because of Sarah, every boy and girl who attended Arts High could dream great dreams, that they could be number one," he said.

Following the service, Vaughan's coffin was placed inside a glass-paneled, 105-year-old hearse drawn by two white horses for the 3.5-mile trip to the Glendale Cemetery in Bloomfield for burial.

Flags flew at half-staff throughout Newark during the week, with purple bunting draped on City Hall.

Vaughan was born in Newark on March 27, 1924. She began her music studies at 7 and was a church organist at 12. Her mother sang in the choir and her father played guitar.

"They say she was a legend of her time, but she was a legend for all time," said Schomamar Kelliehan, 16, of Newark, who cut school to stand outside the church during the service.

HONORS — Michael Jackson continues to collect them. Last week, he was at the White House where he was honored as "Entertainer of the Decade." Wearing his latest pseudo-military raiment, he was shown around by President Bush.

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AREA ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIES: 'Ninja Turtles' — mindless fun

By Frederick I. Douglass

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," the blockbuster movie which grossed more than $24 million during its first weekend in the nation's theatres, is hilarious, mindless entertainment like Shelley Garrett's side splitting play "Beauty Shop."

Both of these productions make no pretense at being high brow, so seek them out if you want sheer entertainment, but avoid them if you are seeking a lofty intellectual experience.

"Turtles" and "Beauty Shop" are both gems of the slapstick comedy genre played strictly for laughs.

Suffice to say, the plot is good versus evil and, if you have ever watched a karate flick, you automatically know the plot of this story and how the adventure will end after five minutes in the theater.

But you will find that getting there is fun because the movie has interesting special effects and numerous sight gags.

The good guys in this flick are the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" and they are out to rescue the Big Apple from a series of crimes in which the victims never see or hear the perpetrators.

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" is a fantastic fantasy adventure story that combines elements of the "Batman" movie and the television "Batman" series along with karate flick histrionics and an outrageous sense of humor.

It is a movie that you can go see with your children or with a date if you simply want to view a mindless movie that will take your brain off the troubles of the world.

It is a fairy tale and will keep you laughing from beginning to end the first time you see that movie, but it is not a flick that will have you craving to see it again.

Instead, you will probably opt to spend your money on pizza, the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle's" favorite treat.

Michaelangelo

Making The Rounds

with Bonnie Matthews Butler

Our paper, "The Voice of Black America since 1892," used to carry the slogan, "You Know Because You Read It In The AFRO."

Both of the slogans are excellent and true and the latter was never more evident than recently when the phones jumped off the hook over an item in this column.

The item read in part, "BB&Y and Associates and the Belvedere Hotel are presenting their first annual benefit for the homeless and Bea Gaddy's Soup Kitchen. The evening is organized, arranged and produced by **Bernard "Pete" Peters.**"

Seems BB&Y and Associates, an advertising and public relations firm that represents various civic and social organizations were not presenting this event.

According to **John Yuhanick** and **Kathy Boucher**, partners in BB&Y and Associates, "Mr. Peters called our company offering to help the homeless since we do some work for "Action for the Homeless," but we told him he should contact them directly to finalize any plans.

"We would be happy, however, to accept any donations from him, but we could not sanction his event due to our prior commitments."

Mr. Peters, who has indicated he would run for office in the 45th Legislative District in the coming election, maintains in a letter to this column that he had offered to "have a fundraiser for the purpose of buying them (Action for the Homeless) a truck."

Mr. Peters says he planned to assume full responsibility for the affair and was prepared to use his own funds, if necessary, to cover all costs.

As of this writing, the affair has been cancelled. Stay tuned.

Had a great time at **Liz Orsarl's** birthday party at Wall Street on Maryland Ave. D.J. **Don Foy** kept the music pumping as the over 100 people dined on a delicious buffet and sipped plenty of champagne.

Owner **Joanne Green** and staff sure know how to throw a party. This is a "Must-drop-by" spot.

Ditto for the cocktail sip the very popular **Boysie Ash** and **Herman Clayborne** threw at the Sphinx Club recently. The wall to wall people were in a festive mood, the music, provided by **Doug Carn** and **Dave Smith** and the rest of the group kicked and stomped the length of the party.

The food, provided by **Momma G.** was exquisite and the overflow crowd was so hungry it ran out. But the two hosts, being the party animals that they are, did not despair. More food was ordered and delivered and the party continued on. What a bash!

Word has reached this column that the Bird Cage on East North Ave. is up for sale. Word is that it would be nice if an African-American continued to own and manage the place. Any takers?

* * *

ON A PERSONAL NOTE: The ever dapper **Wes Hall** is confined to the Veteran's Hospital on Loch Raven Blvd. Wes, is known for his fine threads.

And another get well wish to my good friend and AFRO employee **Carolyn "Peay" Alston.** She's in Union Memorial Hospital.

Get well wishes to you both.

* * *

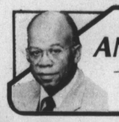
Be sure to check out the **Fuzzy Kane Quartet** featuring **Warren Gantt,** drums; **Blake Cramer,** vibes; **Monty Poulson,** bass, and, of course, **Fuzzy Kane** on keyboards at the Sportsmen's Lounge every Friday and Saturday.

* * *

There are changes for the Sphinx Club's "Wonderful Wednesday's." Keyboardist, Sir Thomas Hurley is no longer with Bobby Ward, Clayton McClendon and Shirley Witherspoon. The group has changed their name to "Just Us Three," featuring Miss Shirley Witherspoon and will have guest keyboard artists playing the gig.

Chico Johnson, who plays the regular weekend gig at the club, filled the bill last Wednesday and Stan Green, the week before.

From last week's response, this column is betting that Chico Johnson will be there for many Wednesdays.



AND ALL THAT JAZZ

With Bob Matthews

Area jazz fans are eagerly looking forward to the Easter Sunday Jazz Celebration scheduled for the Arena Playhouse in Baltimore April 15 for two shows.

It is more or less a return home for alto saxophonist **Gary Bartz** who has been doing a lot of traveling, as a part of the **Louis Hayes** group, and with his own group.

For this gig, Gary will have with him: **Bob Butta,** piano; **Geoff Harper,** bass; **Steve Williams,** drums, and **Jenelle Fisher,** vocals.

There will be special guest appearances by **Wallace Roney,** trumpet and **Miss Rosalind Cash.** There will be a matinee show, beginning at 5 p.m.

The evening performance is at 8 p.m. in the Arena Playhouse at 801 McCulloh St. in downtown Baltimore.

* * *

The Barns of Wolf Trap will present the **Sun Ra Arkestra** Saturday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. Sun Ra will front his big band, and we are told he has returned to the jazz standards and classics he started out with.

Sun Ra, whose name originally was Herman (Sonny) Blount, was the first jazz musician to perform on electronic keyboards (1956) and started the Solar Arkestra initially as a hard-bop big band.

* * *

There is a major conflict upcoming Sunday, April 22, when such a plethora of jazz events are scheduled that the devotees will be hard pressed to make a choice.

The Left Bank Jazz Society will present the **Frank Morgan** group from 5 - 9 p.m. at the Tawes Center of Coppin State College. Have no official word on who will be in his backup group, but when he appeared at Blues Alley earlier this was the lineup:

Tootie Heath was on drums, **Renee Rosnes,** piano, and **Marlene Rosenberg,** bass.

Might point out that Frank et al are scheduled to play One Step Down Friday and Saturday, April 20 ad 21.

And, the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz will present in concert **Joe Morello, Bob Mintzer and Harold Danko** backed up by the CPFJ All-star big band.

It is the regular monthly concert, and will be held in the Sheraton Harrisburg East, Exit 29 of I-83.

And, Baltimoreans at last will get a chance to see "Straight No Chaser" the documentary about Thelonious Monk. It takes place at 7 p.m. in the

(Continued on Page C8)

Gary Bartz

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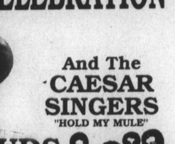

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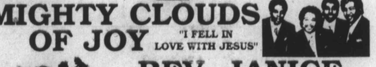

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