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BLACK GOLD

"BLACK GUNN" — (Left to right) Former football great Cookie Gilchrist observes while gridiron counterpart Jim Brown, Brenda Sykes, Vida Blue, and William Campbell map out a comedy sequence during the filming of BLACK GUNN, the much-awaited John Heyman Production for Columbia Pictures. The Robert Hartford-Davis film stars Brown, Martin Landau and Miss Sykes, guest stars Luciana Paluzzi and marks the film debut of Blue, the American Baseball League's 1971 Cy Young and Most Valuable Player Award winner. BLACK GUNN, which features a colorful cast of leading actors and athletic heroes, deals with a black night club owner's adventures in the Los Angeles underworld.

An Interview

Arthur Prysock

By FREDERICK I. DOUGLAS

"Love and let love — that's my philosophy," observed Arthur Prysock during an interview at the plush Elgin Lounge. 'I love everybody," he added.

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His appearance in Baltimore marked a major event for the Elgin Lounge, which is seeking to book "name" entertainers. If Saturray night was an indication, the future looks bright for the club's new policy. the club was jampacked with lovelies; the cuisine was soulful; the drinks were potent (even the normally sickly sweet Harvey Wallbangers).

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Born a Capricorn, Mr. Prysock was very much at home on stage and in front of a microphone. He demonstrated all of the showmanship and musical ability generally associated with the sign. When asked if he believed in astrology he replied, "No. I believe in God, myself and people. People that believe in astrology end up psyching themselves into believing in fairy tales. They look in an astrology book and say 'Yeah, that's me' and eventually they start acting like the book says they should act."

On stage, Arthur Prysock radiates warmth. He is very casual and down-to-earth. He treats his audience with respect and does not seem to have a star complex. Offstage he is the same, taking time to sign autographs, patiently answering questions and maintaining his cool; even when one of his over anxious female fans spilled a drink on him.

"My appeal," he said, "is to the thirty and above crowd. While some of the songs I sing are up-tempo, I haven't attempted to reach the younger market, the ones that like the Temptations and the Supremes."

When asked what he thought of "Lady Sings the Blues," he replied, "I refuse to even go see the movie. I knew Lady Day personally. I just cannot see someone like Diane Ross trying to fill her shoes. After working with Billie so many times it's just impossible for me to imagine anyone, let alone Diane Ross, doing her life story. She was one of a kind.

There's one message I'd like to give to all the young musicians and singers,' said Mr. Prysock: "Get an education. If you really want to make it in show business today, you need to know everything about music. I mean everything. The competition is roughmean really rough out here. It's not all glamour, fun and games."

Our conversation concluded. There was a rap at the door. It swung open: A sepia waitress stepped in the dressing room with a plate of steaming hot chitterlings. "Have some?" asked the singer. "No thanks," I replied. Then I split. As I was leaving I heard Prysock strolling in "Hey bro," he said. 'Give me some of those ruffles."

ARTHUR PRYSOCK

The show began again. Red laid down some lush riffs on the sax. The organ player got off. Then Art came on stage and began to croon things like "I want to make it With You," "Misty," By the Time I get to Phoenix," and "My Funny Valentine."

"This is My Beloved" is the only album by Arthur Prysock that I ever dug. He said that his next album will be similar to "Beloved." I hope so. I can appreciate him much more on that level.

'BLACK BART"

Cleavon Little has been signed to star in the title role of Warner Bros.' new comedy western, "Black Bart."

Little, a Tony Award winner for "Purlie," co-stars with James Whitmore in the TV series, "Temperatures Rising."

• • •

WBAL

Fred Waring's Christmas Around the World presentation will be broadcast on WBAL Radio at 8:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Christmas music programs will also be featured at 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

• • •

SIMONE

Andy Stroud has formed a new record company and announced that his first release on STROUD RECORDS is an album, Nina Simone Sings Billie Holiday."

The album which features Holiday classics from the Motown film "The Lady Sings The Blues," was released this week and is already receiving heavy national airplay.

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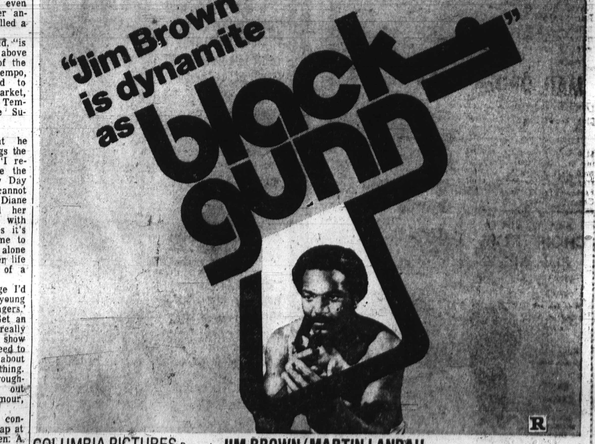

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SUNDAY 2-4-6-8-10 P.M.

GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS—At the recent Open House at the St. James Terrace Apartments, the senior citizens there displayed some of the fine handcrafts that will make much appreciated Christmas gifts. From left are Mrs. Pricilla Leathers, Everett D. Saunders, Charles Alston, Mrs. Marion Gillis, Miss Ida Price, Mrs. Isabell Willoughby and Mrs. Ruth Thompson.

Yule Confessions Of A Proud Father

Friends and associates of WBAL-TV anchorman Rolf Hertsgaard this week were recipients of one of the season's most unique Christmas greetings.

Inclosed in a card that is beautiful in its simplicity, was a heartwarming progress report on his wife and five children. Convinced that many will be touched by it as were we, the AFRO is sharing these "Yule confessions of a proud father" with its readers:

"MERRY CHRISTMAS!"

"Our holidays are especially happy this year because the Number one son and oldest brother is home for these holidays. In fact, this joyous season began with delicious anticipation by all at Thanksgiving when Barry got his first brief break from college studies and the rigid discipline and demands of The Citadel.

"Returning Thanksgiving eve (and turned out smartly in military garb of blue and white) he stopped at the station where I interviewed him on my 11 PM broadcast.

"It was fun. And there were some nice comments — although one person wrote that I had destroyed any liberal (?) image by sending my son to that military school — a hotbed of Southern conservatism!

"Barry is proudly wearing his varsity letter. He was the only freshman to earn a letter in soccer. Equally important, of course, is the fact that he is doing better academically than he did in high school.

"Meanwhile, the Hertsgaard family still has two of its members attending Lutheran High. Mark is a senior and serves as President of the Student Council. He captained the soccer team, although his game time was limited after suffering from knee ligaments and cartilage, necessitating a rest for six weeks.

"His grades are excellent and he is in the process now of selecting a college to attend next year. Mark has indicated interest in the Naval Academy but, like Barry, would have to meet more stringent physical requirements because of his eyes.

"At any rate, he would have to wait another full year because plebes must be at least 17 years old. (Mark will be 16 in a few days.) So, if he does, he will apply at the Johns Hopkins University and spend at least a year there.

"Number Three son, Peter, entered Lutheran as a freshman in September. He, too, is doing very well, continuing to earn high grades and following his brothers onto the soccer field where he made the Junior Varsity team and should be Varsity next year. The Charmer (as even a few of the senior girls refer to him) was within one-half of a percentage point of a straight A scholastic record.

"He also won District Championship in the 4-H poultry competition. Peter followed the summer workouts in the private swim and recreation club where Barry pioneered. Mark was head groundskeeper this year.

"Then we come to the girls, both of whom have been very good about writing regularly to their oldest brother, and baking and sending cookies, candies and other homemade (and dearly missed) goodies to him. Holly, grandville.

"Holly is in her first year at St. Paul's and is on the Distinguished Honor Roll with a straight A average. She entered all kinds of things in 4-H events at the State Fair. She also entered the poem competition against adults from all over the state and won three blue ribbons in baking!

"The best part about that was that she beat out her own mother, Lynn and I thought it very funny. But I also think Holly's achievements are quite a tribute to that mother who taught her all she knows.

"Peter and Heidi also won prizes at the fair, a second for Peter for his beautiful Heidi's white cake took second prize and she placed third in the white cupcake competition.

"I'm the only one who didn't win. In fact, I lost a fortune betting to see for what prize have been hundreds of pounds of flour, sugar, shortening, butter and assemblies plus one for oven and range, electricity — and water to wash all those mountains of dishes!

"Heidi, who's really not an little anymore. And Heidi Lynn is quite proud as we come full circle in our family. She, more than any of the five, reflects her mother's sweet, cheerful and optimistic nature.

"Heidi likes everybody, works hard and willingly around the house, loves to be helpful and even seems to love school (where she is president of the school's rules of their progeny don't give them much time alone together anymore — perhaps that's just as well.)

"Lynn's work program is legend, so let us concentrate on her myriad other activities this year. The Girls. My Dreams devoted ever more hours and days to the pursuit of her dream world: full knowledge of astrology and deeper exploration of the religious concepts espoused by Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship.

"Then comes art, with growing emphasis on tiffany style stained glass work. She has appeared in several shows this year, including a one month showing in the lobby at WBAL.

"She sold several pieces there, one a painting of a Troll, bought by a friend of mine in the News Department who felt a kindred spirit. Sales this year are the best ever. We haven't had to set up a corporation yet, but at least we rose above that top-of-nothing bracket for a time.

"One Sunday was quite interesting: simultaneous shows — at the station and at a very posh suburban country club and motel. (By this time I was convinced I was playing second-string again.)

"Anyway, Lynn, as the Guest Artist of the Month, had to be at the station from noon to 3 p.m. to meet what some (not I) would laughingly call her "public." None appeared. So the girls ran the store at the other show and, lo and behold, they sold several pieces — Holly said four or five. Gross sales: $19.00!

"This, of course, explains the top-of-nothing status. I keep telling Lynn, 'you gotta charge more. They're not gonna buy stuff that cheap. The suckers want to pay through the nose for good stuff.' (We're back in that top-of-nothing category.)

"Then, there is The Land. One seemingly infinitesimal plot on the west field produced tender, delectable leaf lettuce, succulent sweet corn, plump but firm and flavorful green beans, oceans of onions — and tomatoes, tons of tomatoes. For a month or more our kitchen looked, sounded and smelled like a canning factory.

"And Lynn has signed to do some TV commercials — as 'The Jolly Green Midget.' (By the way, this is her one endeavor that saves me money this year. That's what she tells me anyway.)

"I haven't talked about myself, have I? My greatest pleasure is in the realization that I have played a part, small but important, I think, in guiding and developing a productive, respected, contributing and happy family.

"I am looking forward to December 24th, when I will be in the pulpit at Havenwood Presbyterian Church in suburban Baltimore.

"It's been a long time since I've done any preaching — and I must confess I do miss it. My work doesn't change much. I did the usual narrations for industrial and Armed Forces films and a series of TV spots for the Social Security Administration which are carried on about 2 hundred stations.

"At the station I'm doing more and more commentaries on the 7 and 11 p.m. shows. I enjoy the challenge and the opportunity to express my thoughts at this very worrisome moment in time.

"But this, as always and forever, is God's time: isn't it? And for His children Christmas is a season of special happiness. The trees on the hillsides that surround our home stand in their winter uniforms of ashen gray against the tangerine background of setting sun.

"All this, then, is home. This is us. It is our prayer that Christmas in your house be as it is in ours — a season of Joy! Peace! And Love!

The Hertsgaards —
— Rolf and Lynn
— Barry, Mark and Peter

SLAIN NURSE'S KIN—Funeral services for Mrs. Virginia Elliott, 52, were held Wednesday at White Stone Baptist Church where she was a longtime member and sang on the choir. Mrs. Elliot was reported by police as being slain last Friday night by a roomer, William Teasley, 52, who also killed himself at her 2902 Allendale Rd. home where she lived for 16 yeras. Pictured in photo are relatives of Mrs. Elliott. (AFRO staff Photo by I. Henry Phillips Sr.)

Emergency services available for most Yule holiday crises

Emergencies happen — even on Christmas — and the Baltimore Department of Social Services reports it is ready to meet crisis situations that occur Christmas day.

The department's emergency services fall into three general areas: food and shelter, family crisis and abandoned children.

Allen Garske, public information officer of the Baltimore Department of Social Services stated earlier this week all three areas wil be on 24 hours call Christmas Eve and Christmas day.

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An answering service will be maned to help persons who need emergency food and shelter. The number is 234-2172. Despite the fact the emergency services center is closed Sundays and holidays, Garske said this answering service will be operating 24 hours a day.

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In the homemakers' services sector persons may call 752-8525 round the clock to receive help for family crisis. This service extends to the following situations: assisting the ill and disabled and prevention of premature placement of persons into foster homes, nursing homes or hospitals.

If the 752-8525 phone does not answer, persons are requested to call the following numbers: 367-1253, 367-8378, 367-7035, 866-3854 and 944-3178.

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The Department's Special Children's Services is responsible for abandoned, deserted or severely neglected children. When shelter care for children is needed on an emergency basis a TEMPORARY ORDER FOR CUSTODY of the child or children must be obtained from Juvenile Court.

A department worker stationed at the Youth Division of Northeastern police station can be reached at the following number — 396-2106. The worker will be at the station until 11 p.m. If service is needed after 11 p.m., persons should call an answering service, 752-8525, to find out what steps should be taken in their case.

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"A SERVICE WHICH INSPIRES CONFIDENCE"

Model Cities efforts make holidays better

The six Baltimore Model Cities Neighborhood Councils have joined together in spreading the Christmas spirit to make the holidays better for others.

The councils sponsored bake sales, social events where food articles were charged for admission and other affairs to raise funds to aid families in their communities.

Baskets of food, clothing and toys will be distributed to needy families during the holidays.

Each council has also promised neighborhood children that they will attend a Christmas party with other children of their age group.

A dinner for senior citizens was also held by one council.

More than 1,000 youngsters were honored at a teenage "Extravaganza" recently held by council chairmen and directors to thank the youngsters for their aid during the year in council projects.

Model neighborhood residents who wish to give or receive aid from the councils should contact the office nearest him. The council offices are located at 1045 Hilles St., 1728 Harford Ave., 1542 Clifton Ave., 1017 N. Carey St., 1515 Argyle Ave. and 1320 W. Lexington St.

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