Common Cause praises Hoyer

CHECK PRESENTATION — Ms. Alma Bethea, president of the Baltimore Alumni Chapter, Saint Augustine's College, Raleigh, N.C., presents a $500 check to Dr. Epps for the college. The occasion was the annual Alumni Luncheon prior to the 111th commencement exercises held recently.

Common Cause issued a statment May 29 praising Senate President Steny H. Hoyer for his efforts in winning enactment of the Sunset Bill.

The Maryland Conservation Council applauded Hoyer for his support of the Environmental Standing Act.

The two Hoyer bills were among more than 200 signed into law in bill signing ceremony in Annapolis.

The Sunset Bill requires that 62 state boards and commissions justify their existence every six years or go out of business.

Hoyer said it is "an important step in trying to curb government bureaucracy."

The Common Cause statement called the bill one of the finest of the 27 state Sunset laws, and said that Sen. Hoyer and Del. David Scull "deserve much credit for their leadership in fashioning a responsible and workable law. Senate Bill 405 will provide the General Assembly with the discipline and experience needed to become a leader in the national effort to improve government performance through increased legislative oversight and evaluation."

The Environmental Standing Act gives a private citizen the legal standing to go into court and sue to stop his environement from being damaged. Under the old law, a citizen often did not have that right.

The Maryland Conservation Council passed a resolution expressing "its appreciation and gratitude to Senator Hoyer for his efforts to protect the environment and in particular, for his efforts to pass legislation permitting citizens to obtain standing in court on environmental issues."

Hoyer cited an example of how this new law would work.

"If a factory near a residential neighborhood is polluting the air, and a government agency hasn't done anything to stop it, the citizen can now go to court himself and seek relief," he said.

Hoyer said there are safeguards in his bill to prevent nuisance suits.

Discussing the Sunset law, Hoyer questioned whether the state still needs a board to examine and license motion picture projectionists.

"Such a board was needed years ago when motion picture film was highly flammable. Now film is made differently and it is no longer a fire hazard," he said.

Under the Sunset law, the board that oversees motion picture projectionists will be eliminated in 1980, unless it can make a good case for its continued existence. Hoyer said this same approach will be used with the other boards and commissions.

800 CCB graduates to hear GU head

Dr. Timothy S. Healy, president of Georgetown University, will be the featured speaker at the commencement exercises of the Community College of Baltimore, Sunday, June 4 at 2 p.m.

Commencement exercises for approximately 800 graduating CCB students from both the Liberty and Harbor Campuses will be conducted on the lawn of the Liberty Campus, 2901 Liberty Heights Ave.

In case of rain, the commencement exercises will be held in the field house of CCB's Liberty Campus and admission will be by ticket only.

Pre-commencement activities will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the pinning ceremonies for the allied health students. A reception for those students will be held immediately following the pinnings in the student lounge of the nursing building.

Cultural activities, which include a choir group and a modeling show, will be held between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. leading up to the commencement procession.

The invocation and benediction will be delivered by Dr. Monroe Saunders Sr., pastor of the First United Church of Jesus Christ Apostle.

Dr. William J. Milner will direct the Community College of Baltimore's concert choir in their choral selections throughout the ceremony.

The presentation of the degrees and awards will be made by Dr. Rafael L. Cortada, college president. Awards in English citizenship, service, activities, athletics and physical therapy assisting will be presented, along with the Dr. Harry Bard memorial award, Bernard Glatt memorial award, University of Baltimore fellowship award, Angela Bambace memorial award, Wall Street Journal award and the General Electric minority engineering scholarships.

Recognition will also be given to those 55 CCB students who have been elected to "Who's Who Among Students In American Junior Colleges" and to those 53 CCB students who are members of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for junior and community colleges.

Charles G. Tildon Jr., chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Community College of Baltimore, will make the closing remarks.

Dr. Healy is the author of various scholarly as well as general publications and is a member of such organizations as the academic affairs committee of the American Council on Education, the Federal City Council and the New York State Legislative and Senate Committees on Higher Education.

He also serves on the board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and is listed in "Who's Who in the East," the "American Oxonians" and the "Directory of American Scholars."

School kids won't be going to King's Dominion

The bell rang for the usual weekly round between the Board of Estimates and the city agencies.

This time it was the Department of Education that caught the flak and the education department lost.

Education officials brought a proposal before the board to authorize spending $648.32 under a federal program to send 50 children of migrant families to King's Dominion in Doswell, Va.

"Due to the cultural uniqueness of migrant youth," school officials said, "it is imperative that every effort be made to enhance their personal growth through both cultural and recreational activities."

Immediately Hyman Pressman, city comptroller, pounced on the request.

"Why are these children going out of the state?" Pressman asked.

"They're migrants," Walter Orlinsky, city council president said jovially.

"Wouldn't they get more out of staying here and learning some reading and writing?" Pressman asked.

"Why don't they go to the Academy of Sciences?" Orlinsky muttered.

School officials said that if the money was not approved it would have to be sent back to the federal government.

"That would be better than wasting it," said Pressman.

"I thought I made it clear that I don't like sending kids out of the state when there are plenty of things to do in the city," said Mayor William Donald Schaefer.

Schaefer's words were still ringing in the school official's ears when the board came upon another request to send kids to King's Dominion as part of another program to keep them in school.

"You mean the kids won't go to school if we don't send them to King's Dominion?" Orlinsky asked. "Nobody ever did that for me."

"I guess that one is disapproved, too," he said.

Murphy for State's Attorney?

Arthur G. Murphy Sr. for State's Attorney for Baltimore City?

The possibility seems to exist as the delegate from the 40th District is considering throwing his hat in the ring against William Swisher.

"I've been asked," said Murphy. "I haven't said no."

Murphy, who is a former U.S.attorney and right now a candidate for re-election in the 40th District, sees a need for a black candidate against Swisher.

"Right now I'm pushing for a meeting between the State Black Caucus and the Monumental Bar Association of Baltimore City to see if we can come up with a black candidate that can win against Swisher."

"After the black caucus and Monumental meeting then we will be meeting with other community groups and leaders to discuss a candidate," he said.

Murphy would not say who asked him to consider running nor would he speculate on who would be a viable black candidate.

He admit that the name of David Mitchell was being tossed about as a possible candidate.

Mitchell, who is also a former U.S. attorney made a recent unsuccessful bid for a vacancy on the District Court.

A. Dwight Pettit, president of the Monumental Bar and who lost his bid for U.S. Attorney for Maryland, was also being considered as a candidate to run against Swisher.

Pettit, however, said this week he does not plan to run.

Students take TV test

Educators participating in a national drive to reduce violence on television say that tests in Baltimore County reveal students have difficulty telling real characters from fantasy.

Mary Ellen Saterlie, associate superintendent in charges of the division of instruction, also said that students who are given insight into television techniques do not necessarily become more selective about their programs.

"They couldn't always tell the difference between Grandma Walton and Wonder Woman," said Mrs. Saterlie. She also said the students have difficulty distinguishing between programs and advertisements on television.

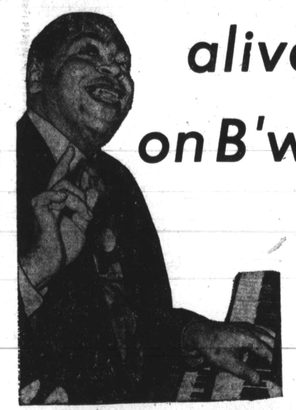
Project TV Awarenes began in Baltimore County as part of a national effort by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, which opposes violence on television.

The county committee, made up of workers from each of four pilot schools, stressed working with children to encourage critical television viewing during the school year, Saterlie said.

SHOWTIME

Theatre, the Arts, Movies, Music

'Fats' Waller alive on B'way



By Ida Peters

It's hard to believe that millions of people have never heard of Fats Waller, a composer, arranger, musician and bandleader.

Thomas (Fats) Waller died at the height of his career at the age of 39 in 1943, 35 years ago of influenza aboard the Sante Fe Special, Super-Chief as the train stood in the Kansas City, Mo., Union Station.

"Ain't Misbehavin'" a tribute to Fats Waller in song, dance and music, capturing the spirit and style of the great musician that must have Fats trucking and chuckling in his grave, opened off-Broadway, Feb. 19, 1978 in the tiny cabaret of the Manhattan Theatre Club.

It was supposed to close March 5 but New York critics acclaimed it one of the most "enjoyable evenings ever spent in the theatre."

The rest is history. "Ain't Misbehavin'" opened May 9 at the Longacre Theatre on Broadway and was promptly and enthusiastically nominated for four Tony Awards. The ceremonies will be broadcast Sunday, June 4, live from the Shubert Theatre at 9:30 p.m. on the CBS Television Network.

"Ain't Misbehavin'" was conceived and directed by Richard Maltby Jr. It is built around a fine veteran stride pianist, Luther Henderson, a good orchestra and five top notch performers, Ken Page, Baltimore's Andre DeShields, Armelia McQueen. Plus Nell Carter and Charlaine Woodard who have both been nominated for Tonys for Outstanding Performances by a Featured actress in a musical.

Richard Maltby Jr., has been nominated for Outstanding Direction of a Musical and Arthur Faria, Outstanding Choreography.

The play itself has been nominated as Best Musical Play (Producer) in competition with "Dancin'", "On The Twentieth Century" and "Runaways."

Fatts Waller who is finally getting world-wide recognition of his talent was born on May 21, 1904 in New York, the son of the Rev. Edward M. and Mrs. Adeline Waller.

His father was a Baptist minister while his mother played the piano, organ and sang soprano. Adolph Waller, his grandfather, was a noted violinist.

His parents encouraged him to be a musician but his father objected to jazz, claiming it was "music from the devil's workshop."

Waller, who in 1943 weighed in at 278 pounds, earned $72,000 in 1941 for his jazz music.

Waller's own attitude toward jazz was simple. "I am nobody to get mighty about swing," he said. "It's just a musical phase of our social life."

Later he defined swing as "two-thirds rhythm and one-third soul."

He studied under Carl Bohm and Leopold Godowski; attended Paderewski's concert at Carnegie Hall at the age of 10 and returned there in 1942 in a concert of his own, playing before 2,800 persons.

The Waller family attended Pentecostal Church on East 134th Street in Harlem, where between services Waller played the organ at the Lincoln Theatre on West 135th Street.

His early life was spent in church where he played violin, piano and organ. Contrary to rumors, he never played in a Harlem church except King's Chapel Assembly, a holy roller mission on 134th Street and Glad Tidings Tabernacle on West 42nd Street.

Waller has written scores of hymns. His first composition, "Squeeze Me" was originally known as "Boston Blues" he composed at 16.

His other hits among the 30 featured in "Ain't Misbehavin'" include "Keep Shufflin,'", "Honeysuckle Rose," "I've Got A Feeling I'm Failin'", "Keeping Out of Mischief Now" and many others including two musical reviews "Hot Chocolates" and "Keep Shufflin" and the 1942 Broadway hit, "Early To Bed."

On black classical music

Dominique de Lerma

Dr. deLerma is professor of music at Morgan State University. He also hosts a radio show, "Melodies, Notes and Lyrics," Sunday, 11 a.m., WEAA-FM.

When William Grant Still began the composition of Sahdji in 1930, he sought samples of African music which he could use in this choral ballet. Doesn't it seem beyond belief that he was unable to find anything at all on the subject?

Sahdji takes place in Africa, and the story is about the unfaithfull wife of a chieftan. It has been recorded, incidentally by the Morgan State University Chorus on Columbia M - 33433.

Certainly Still had good reason to approach African musical styles in his treatment and maybe it comes as a surprise that his search was in vain.

Actually, had he been trained in the skills of research, he could have found quite a bit of material, but most of this was in the library's anthropology sections, not in music, and much of it was in German.

The first major study soley on this topic is that of Arthur Morris Jones, Studies in African Music, issued in two volumes by Oxford University Press in 1959.

Less technical and more recent is J. H. Kwabena Nketia's The Music of Africa, nicely available in paperback from W.W. Norton (1974), and the work of another African scholar, Francis Bebey, translated into English (from French) as African Music; a people's art and also available in paperback (Lawrence Hill, 1975).

The first book to deal with Afro-American music was, interestingly enough, the first book to deal with any American music at all. This is James M. Trotter's excitingly informative Music and Some Highly Musical People, originally issued in 1880 and now reprinted both by the Afro - Am Press and Johnson Reprint Corporation.

More than a half century pass before the next monograph: Maud Cuney - Hare's Negro Musicians and Their Music (she could have said "our") which went out of print soon after it was issued in 1936. I am pleased that I was responsible for the reprinting of this volume in 1974 by Da Capo Press.

In 1971 we were blessed with Eileen Southern's startling Music of Black Americans, released by W.W. Norton, as well as the spin off Source Readings in Black American Music. Dr. Southern, who is now a Harvard professor, had already secured her credentials with a Ph.D. in European music, but she had never forgotten her own heritage and now, in these texts, it is revealed to us.

She deserves no less credit forhaving established The Black Perspective in Music, a serious and exceptionally valuable journal which appears twice yearly and, like these other books, should be in your neighborhood library (if all existing copies are not already checked out(...

In association with many friends, I was able to issue Black Music in Our Culture in 1970, and Reflections on Afro - American Music in 1973, both with Kent State University Press (the press of the university with which I was then affiliated could not understand why anyone would want to read a book about black music), and I gather this pair has been of some value.

Milestones in black music research

There yet remains a lot of research to be done, and we have a lot of questions unanswered. What most seriously is needed is a new generation of trained musicologists who, by heritage and study, will be resolved to treat Black music history in their teaching, research and performance.

To become a real musicologist, one starts with a Ph.D. That's very expensive and takes at least eight years of study past high school, but it is a seriously underpopulated area and funding should be available for those undergraduates who have demonstrated the skills and talents needed for research.

Dr. Still had to invent pseudo - African music because he knew nothing about that part of his background. We can't let a similar situation exist for the next generation.

DOROTHY DONEGAN, "Queen of Swing Pianists," is now playing at the Maryland Inn in Annapolis. The above photo was taken in 1947 when she was the darling of New York cafe society. Customers go for the way she can make the keys jump in a sitting or standing position. She starred in the movie "Sensations Of 1945" with Cab Calloway and Sophie Tucker and toured South America playing everything from Bach to Boogie Woogie.

New movies — 'Capricorn One'

O.J. the astronaut— he had to try harder

Analyzing his role as the first black astronaut, O.J. Simpson, the actor and football hero, said, "I figured that the first black in any field would have to be someone who plays it by the rules... and probably would have to work harder than the other guys."

In this case, the other guys are James Brolin and Sam Waterson, and the film is "Capricorn One," the action adventure film of suspense and deception being released by Warner Bros.

It is a drama of desperation in the U.S. space program, of man's first flight to Mars turning out to be a billion - dollar fraud.

Describing how he has carefully paced his acting career, while continuing to make football history, Simpson explains, "A lot of people offered me leads when I made up my mind three or so years ago to be an actor. But I would have been exploited in those parts. The only reasons I was offered them was because I played football."

So he has picked his parts carefully, trying to work in big films, films destined to make money, and with good principal stars and good directors so that he could learn and progress.

"Now," he says, "I think I'm ready to take a bigger share of the load."

"Capricorn One" marks his sixth film appearance. He made his big - screen debut in "The Klansman," which starred Lee Marvin and Richard Burton, and appeared in the star - studded cast of "The Towering Inferno," with Paul Newman and Steve McQueen.

Born Orenthal James Simpson in San Francisco, O.J. grew up in northern California, and even in junior high school he was an athlete to be reckoned with, being an all - city player in track and football, captain of the baseball team and a soccer player.

As a pro black Simpson became the 1972 NFL rushing champion with 1251 yards, breaking the record set by Jim Brown, then bettering his own record with 2003 years in 1973.

O.J. is married to his high school sweetheart Marguerite. They have a daughter Arnelle, born in 1968, and a son Jason, born in 1970,

"Capricorn One" also stars Denise Nicholas as O. J.'s wife, Elliott Gould, Brenda Vaccaro, Hal Holbrook, Telly Savalas and Karen Black.

O. J. Simpson
Out of uniform

Denise Nicholas
Astronaut's wife

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