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Vincent Canby, N.Y. Times

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What's Happening

Robeson denied Hollywood Star

By Ida Peters

Ho Hum - The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce has refused to place a star bearing the name ofmPaul Robeson in the "Hollywood Walk of Fame." Mayor Tom Bradley protested this week saying he was "disturbed and saddened" by the memory of the athlete, singer and actor who died two years ago at the age of 77.

Actor's Equity and the Screen Actors Guildl had submitted Robeson's name for the Walk of Fame. A Chamber of Commerce official denied that Mr. Robeson's letust activities had anything to do with his exclusion.

"How many motion pictures did he make?", the spokesman asked. "There are a lot of factors that had nothing to do with his political said.

The answer is that Paul Robeson made 11 movies including "Showboat". If it's any consolation to our readers, Charlie Chaplin was denied a star in the Walk of Fame for 16 years, until 1972.

This past Wednesday, a champagne autograph reception was held at the Book Center on Main Street in Annapolis in honor of Earl Fatha Hines.

Hines is appearing at the Maryland IIn through Sunday and the party was to autograph his book by Stanley Dance "The World of Earl Hines" (Charles Scriber and Sons.

Hines hhough 71, is still performing in clubs throughout the world. His book with generous photographs stir nostalgic rememberances of the big swing band days.

"Black Shadows on a Silver Screen", the award - winning one - hour velevision special which tells the story of the black film industry that paralleled the Hollywood moving picture industry from 1915 to 1950, will be shown on WMAR - TV Ch 2, Saturday night.

The script by Thomas Cripps of Morgan State University, tells how the motion picture became a vehicle to describe the new life in the city faced by blacks moving from rural areas.

The program has scenes from thirty different films made by blacks for black audiences in segregated theatres, including segements of rare films such as the Johnson Brothers "By Right of Birth" (1917; Oscar Michaeux's "Body and Soul" (1925) and Josephine Baker's "Siren of the Tropics" (1932).

The special features performances by Paul Robeson, Cab Calloway, Ethel Waters, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Henry Armstrong and many other great actors.

Actor Ossie Davis is narrator and some prominent performers contribute memories in their own voices including Lucia Lynn Moses who tells of making "Scar of Shame" and Freddie Washington, "Black and Tan".

Seems the National Bar Association is going to have to get their act together in a hurry. They're supposed to have their national convention August 13 - 19 at the Diplomat Hotel in Hollywood, Florida.

But, the national organization of black lawyers have filed a $2 million suit against the hotel because they have closed its reservation books to out - of - town attorneys.

The suit was filed by Henry Latimer, an attorney for the NBA, who said the Diplomat officials had promised to provide the organization with whatever space was required and they estimated a minimum of 600 rooms.

At this early date, complaints are being received by the national lawyer's group that reservations are not being accepted. It's too late for the lawyers to go anywhere else as an impressive list of speakers including Benjamin Hooks, Howard O. Reid, and Judge Constance Baker Motley have been sceduled.

Overbooking by the hotel is the qroblem. It's what we used to call a Baltimore. Some years back the Deltas scheduled a convention for Baltimore and the Shriners, the following week. The two groups advance people had a hell of a time after four years planning.

Judith Houchins, artistic director of Asolo Opera in Sarasota, Fla., will be musical director and pianist for the OPERA - SOUTH Mississippi Showboat, and Sonia Hill and Todd Jenkins will be solo dancers. The Showboat's production of Monteverdi's "The Combat of Tancred and Clorinda" and of Pergolesi's "The Perfect Wife" are designed to play in Jackson Miss. and to tour, with performances running from July 24th through August 19th.

ABC will issue four Gosepl albums in July. "Face it With a Smile," by Tessie Hill, was produced by Sylvia Moy, who has previously worked with Stevie Wonder. "Gospel Soul," by Gladys McFadden and the Loving Sisters, includes interpretaions of "Its First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" and "You Light Up My Life." "The Very Best of the Might Clouds of Joy" is a two - record set that documents the group's evolvement toward fusing pvp - rhythm and blues with contemporary gospel. "Perpetual Moments" features at best selling songs by several ABC Gospel acts.

Comedian Slappy White has returned to Harlem's Cotton Club (West 125th Street), through July 24.

The Staples have a new album release coming out in July that was produced by Jerry Wexler for Warner Bros. Records under the title, "Unlock Your Mind."

The Latin Casino in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, shuttered on June 28 and may re - open as a disco. One of the reasons for its closing was said to be dure to the 90 - day exclusive pact demanded by Atlantic City's Resorts International Super Star Theatre for the big draws by Atlantic City's Resorts International Super Star Theatre for the big draws who previously played the Latin Casino.

Butterfly McQueen returns to Reno Sweeney's for a full week on August 15 where she's singing, doing poetry and answering questions in what she calls her "Chatter program." The unforgettable Prissy of "Gone With The Wind" plans to take her new act on the road.

Charles (Chuck Richards) Richardson retired this week after 14 years as a staff announcer for WMAR-TV. Chuck who used to sing with Chick Webb and Fletcher Henderson will be highlighted in a feature story in Tuesday's AFRO.

John Travolta Olivia Newton-John

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4. (Is There Any Hope For)
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   James Cleveland & the
   Charles Fold Singers
5. Mama Prayed For Me
   Sensational Williams Bros.
6. Joy
   Rev. Brunson The Thompson Comm. Church
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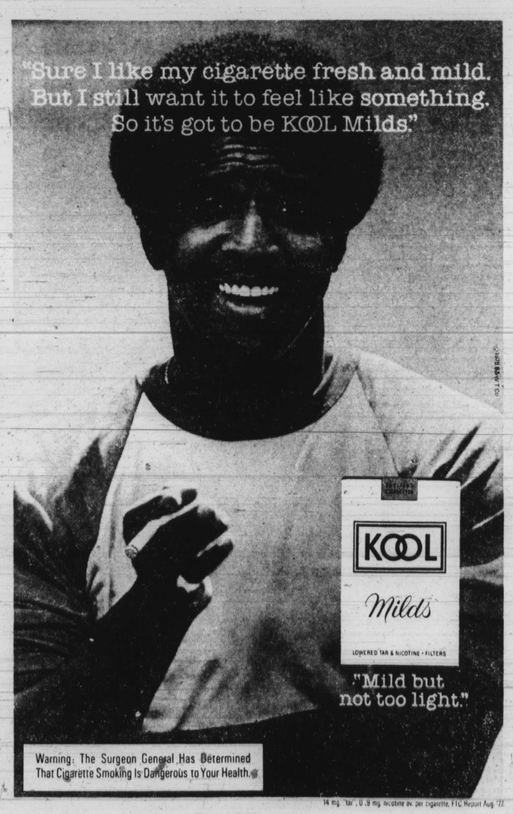

Richard Davis: 'Fancy Free'

By Frederick I. Douglass

Richard Davis, one of the heaviest and most widely recorded of all bass players, is doing it up in abig way on his latest album "Fancy Free" WHICH teams him up with Billy Cobham on drums; Stanley Cowell, keyboards; Eddie Henderson, trumpet; and Joe Henderson, tenor sax.

Davis is a master of every facet of the upright acoustic bass as well as the electrified bass guitar. He is also the master of every musical idiom and has performed in a classical format under the batons of Bernstein, Stravinsky, and Stokowski in addition to working with Jazz musicians such as Eric Dolphy, Andrew Hill, Ahmad Jamal and the Thad Jones - Mel Lewis Orchestra. Davis has also worked with vocalists ranging from Sarah Vaughn to Barbra Streisand.

Despite the fact that Davis has recorded hundreds of albums backing up other instrumentalists and vocalists, he has made very few recordings as a leader. Thus it is a great treat and big news to serious Jazz lovers to learn that the "Fancy Free" album is available and to know that the recording features Davis working with musicians of the highest calibre.

My favorite cut on the LP is Davis' rendition of Horace Silver's classic composition "Silver Strande." After briefly stating the tune's melody, Davis takes an all too short solo that leaves the listener begging for more. But Davis doesn't need an hour to make a meaningful musical statement. The man is all over his chosen axe and delivers to the max on his magnificently structured solo.

Next, Joe Henderson tears off some mean riffs on the sax while Davis eases into the background to lay down a throbbing, pulsating rhythmic foundation. Later on, Eddie Henderson moves out front with a memorable trumpet solo and Stanley Cowell gets to take a scorching piano solo. All the while Billy Cobham is melodically whipping the drums, driving everyone to perform to the best of their ability.

Another major smoker on the LP is Donald Byrd's compositon "Fancy Free," a musical experience that gives everybody a chance to get down to the nitty gritty of playing serious jazz.

While listening to this jam it becomes obvious immediately why Richard Davis is in such great demand for recordings. The man is an absolute genius at playing bass lines that complement the improvisational forays of other musicians, in addition to being a superb soloist.

You will also be delighted to hear what Richard does to Miles Davis' jam "Nardis", which will have you lifting the needle back to the beginning repeatedly.

And there's still penty more music on the album with Davis sampling "The Wine of May" and slowing down the pace a taste on "Emily."

On "I Still Love You Baby;" vocalist Dolly Hirota joins the group, adding yet another dimension to the rebounding sounds.

Top R&B Albums

1. Life Is A Song Worth Singing
   Teddy Pendergrass
2. Natural High
   The Commodores
3. Sounds...And Stuff Like That
   Quincy Jones
4. Come Get It
   Rick James
5. Togetherness
   L.T.D.
6. So Full of Love
   The O'Jays
7. A Taste of Honey
8. Smooth Talk
   Evelyn Champagne King
9. Love Shine
   Con Funk Shun
10. Thank God It's Friday
    Various Artists

Top R&B Singles

1. Close the Door
   Teddy Pendergrass
2. Stuff Like That
   Quincy Jones
3. You And I
   Rick James
4. Boogie Oogie Oogie
   A Taste of Honey
5. Last Dance
   Donna Summer
6. Three Times A Lady
   The Commodores
7. Shame
   Evelyn Champagne King
8. Shadow Dacing
   Andy Gibbs
9. Runaway Love
   Linda Clifford
10. If You're Ready (Here It Comes)
    Enchantment

Andrew Young, the charismatic U.S. Ambassador To The U.N. was surrounded by talent after Aretha Franklin's recent performance at New York's Carnegie Hall. Whooping it up backstage Mr. Young were, (l to r), Epic recording star Patti Labelle, Stephanie Mills, Aretha and Dionne Warwick.

Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr. on "Soul Train."

Bill Lane in Hollywood

Music is...snobs is!

SOME music critics have been lamenting the crossing over of some black jazz musicians from the esoteric and what some term "pure" jazz to the more richly rewarding commercial music.

Some of the cross-over musicians cited are Herbie Hancock, George Benson, Ramsey Lewis and even Quincy Jones. Actually, and peculiarly, Quincy Jones has been berated in public print for "succumbing" to the blandishments of big money by composing music for movies, and for recording albums of music that appeals moreso to the young and uniniated music faddists. The cross-over musicians have been accused of being money hungry to the point of losing creativity.

Probably they think John Handy's "Hard Work" just simply sprang full-grown from the head of Jove without a solitary human thought behind the tune. As if to say "Fugue in Funk" is creative but "Hard Work" is not. Frankly, I don't see how Dizzy Gillespie's "Salt Peanuts" was any more creative than "Hard Work."

But our longtime good girl Betty (Bebop) Carter probably clarifies the criticism to a point, saying "There's too much money for anything really creative to happen in jazz. The young musicians who are crossing over don't just want money now, they want it yesterday. When jazz becomes popular, it's like all other music today: produced, controlled, computerized. The only way to really dig something is to feel how honest it is."

Hurry, Kenny Burrell, and make the kind of money George Benson is making. You were on the scene before he was. Even before Wes Montgomery. Even before Eric Gayle and Earl Klugh.

Music is music is music. Snobs is snobs is snobs.

But getting back to **Leonard Feather**. As an aside, we recall that Leonard often wrote angrily that black writers never wrote about the music artistry of black musicians, and it was not until the white writers, the Barry Ulanovs, the Nat Hentoffs, the Ralph Gleasons, the David Ware, Sammy Davis' secretary, is special contributions coordinator.

Sallie Blair working again.

SALLY BLAIR now back into singing, this time out with Billy Cosby as her very special angel, it is reported.

BILLY DAVIS and Marilyn McCoo are adding finishing touches to their newest album, which will be released soon... Freda Payne has wound up a sprightly disco session at Capitol Records, meaning she's been recording her upcoming disco and hot album with producer Skip Scarborough and engineer David Cole doing the musical architecturing... Motown PR director Bob Jones was asked to lunch by his Motown pal Junius Griffin. The place was nifty Hollywood French cafe. Griffin suddenly got busy and said he'd meet Jones at the restaurant. Jones drove to the spot. There he found his mother and a host of friends waiting for him, all there to surprise him with a party for his July birthday. And the cousecouse and champagne flowed for awhile.

Evens and the Leonard Feathers came along did the black musicians get their literary due. Now Good Buddy Leonard is saying something sinister is probably afoot as so many black musicians are "deserting" jazz. Today, one DOES live by "bread" alone.

HERE in L.A. the big "Communicators with a Conscience Award" dinner is coming up, July 21, at the Century Plaza, hosted by Lou Rawls with star performers Paul William, Dee Dee Sharp Gamble, Pockets, the Love Unlimited orchestra and singer Teddy Pendergrass, with more talent still being added. The affair, sponsored by the Rod McGrew Scholarship Fund, Inc., honors persons in the music industry for their efforts to create Message Music — music that uplifts, motivates and moves the masses to creative thought. Bruce Lundvall, president of CBS Records, is the Awards Dinner Chairman, with Cecil Holmes of Casablanca Records as co-chairman. Jean Williams of Billboard heads up the publicity chores for the banquet program and Margaret

TV Watching

By Vanessa Johnson

FRIDAY

Mike Douglas: From Hollywood, co-host Gabriel Kaplan is joined by Barry Manilow, Billy Dee Williams, Jan Johnson and Susan Saint James. 4:30-6:00 p.m. - Channel 13.

CPO Sharkey: Sharkey and the men try to scourounge up a woman to represent their barracks in the Navy's Miss Topside beauty contest. 8:00-8:30 p.m. - NBC

Weekend of Foul Play: Guests in a program showcasing the movie "Foul Play" include Goldie Hawn, Chevy Chase, Henry Winkler, the Spinners, Ron Howard and many others. 8:00-9:00 p.m. - Channel 5.

Chico and the Man: To raise capital for a solar powered barbecue, Ed plans to undergo needless surgery at an exclusive hospital then collect on both of his medical insurance policies. 8:30-9:00 p.m. - NBC.

Baseball: The Orioles vs the Twins at Bloomington, Minn. 8:30-11:00 p.m. - Channel 13.

CBS Movie: Some things aren't funny at "The Comedy Company," a TV movie that takes a backstage look at the career struggles and personal dramas at a club for aspiring comics. Starring Larence - Hilton Jacobs. 9:00-11:00 p.m. - CBS.

Midnight Special: Eddie Money is guest host, is joined by ABBA, Gerry Rafferty, Stanley Clarke, Jay Ferguson. 1:00-2:30 a.m. - NBC.

SATURDAY

Fat Albert: Fat Albert and the gang befriend a handicapped boy. 12:00-12:30 p.m. - CBS

Soul Train: Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis Jr.; Stargard and the Soul Train Gang are the guests today. 12:30-1:30 p.m. - Channel 11.

Baseball: The Orioles vs the Twins at Bloomington, Minn. 2:15-4:30 p.m. - Channel 13.

Baby, I'm Back: Shades of the Odd Couple, Jordan moves in with Ray and is repulsed by his father's bachelor habits. 8:30-9:00 p.m. - Channel 9.

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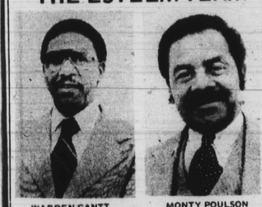

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