Auto parts dealer out of business after city tries to relocate junkyard

By James Abraham
AFRO staff writer

What happens when the wrecker's ball of urban renewal displaces and relocates businesses and homes? Do the occupants find another spot or take the money and run?

Randolph Corporal, 37, a former west Baltimore businessman, for seven years had a successful used auto parts outlet in the 2500 block Frederick Ave. He is now unemployed.

In the fall of 1977, the city notified him that his business was located on the site of a proposed extension to a local elementary school, no. 280. Since Corporal was reportedly grossing $100,000 per year, he was extremely upset when he received the news.

The city's Housing and Community Development's office of relocation told him that an attempt would be made to relocate his business and, after receiving $31,000 for his supplies and equipment from the Community Development office, he agreed to be relocated. But then, according to Corporal, his problems began.

"They said they would find me another place," said Corporal bitterly, "but they haven't done anything. They paid me for my supplies and my equipment, but that was the last they did for me."

According to Warren E. Weaver, Housing and Community Development's director of relocation, "When we last talked with him, we told him the problems we would have in relocating his business."

Weaver cited the objections prospective neighbors would raise to having a used auto parts lot near their homes as one of the major problems in relocating Corporal. He also pointed out that the problems involved in meeting zoning requirements for Corporal's business presented a formidable obstacle.

Paul Mintz, an assistant business relocation director and the caseworker who handled Corporal's situation, showed the AFRO a list of the procedures that Corporal had to go through in order to gain zoning clearance for prospective locations for his business.

Only a certain zoning area, designated as an M-3 zoning district, is allowed by law to accommodate automobile junkyards. This meant that Corporal was restricted to areas of the city which, according to Weaver, "had existing businesses which could accommodate such a business as Corporal's. Otherwise, he would just go out of business."

Mintz added that automobile junkyards rated with bars and churches as difficult establishments to relocate, due to existing zoning laws. Once such a business located a site, it must first be approved by the city zoning board. If approval is denied, the applicant has the option of appealing the decision through the Baltimore City Court System.


RANDOLPH CORPORAL


WARREN WEAVER

him, but it was impossible. The only person we could contact was his wife. The last contact we had with him was about a year ago, when we paid him the $31,000 for his supplies and property."

But, according to Weaver, "some people just want to discontinue their businesses. For example, when we were doing some work about the Lexington Market area, one guy was 76 years old and just wanted to quit."

However, the relocation office was able to find two prospective sites for the business, both new existing automotive businesses.

One location was at Parrish Street, about 10 blocks from Corporal's former business location, and the second was in the evolving industrial park of Park Circle. But, according to Mentz: "We tried to get in touch with Corporal, the city discriminated against him.

"I was the only black man in the city with a wrecker's license and a license to trade in used auto parts. My business was worth about $100,000. Why didn't they go after any of the white businessmen?"

But Weaver disagrees.

"We did point out properties to him, but he didn't follow through." He also added that Corporal was still entitled to counseling and advice in developing a new business.

Weaver, however, says that none of the places shown to him were adequate for his business.

"At my former place I had a place outside to take cars apart. At both of the places there were no facilities to do this. What was I supposed to do, take my cars apart in the street?"

But Mintz and Weaver claim that Corporal's failure to relocate was primarily due to his lack of follow through. They point to the 80 per cent success rate they have had in relocating area businesses as an indication that the process usually results in a positive resolution.

William Caffery, an assistant director of business relocation, added that, in most cases, the reason people fail to relocate is that

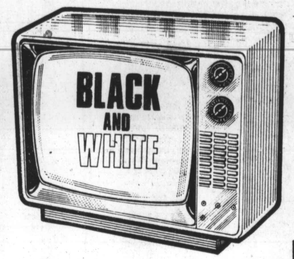
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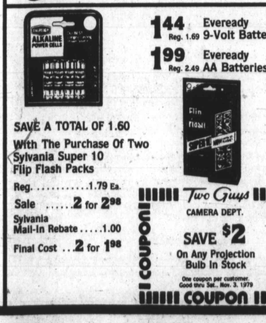
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Khalilah Ali, Gloria Lynne here


KHALILAH ALI will appear on the show with Gloria Lynn Saturday night at the Hilton Hotel in Baltimore.

Reknowned jazz artist, Ms. Gloria Lynne, will make a rare and long awaited concert appearance at the 4th Annual Moorish Costume Ball, Dinner and Show along with guest speaker, Mrs. Khalilah Ali.

Not since a 1977 engagement in Washington D.C. has this internationally famous song stylist performed in this area. Born in New York city, Ms. Lynne received 5 years of concert training before beginning a career in jazz and popular music. Her excellent control and soulful vocal coloring are noted in such hits as "Love, I Found You," "Impossible," and "I Wish You Love."

The Moorish Ball, a yearly tradition for many area Moorish Americans, will be held at the Baltimore Hilton Hotel on Nov. 3, from 8 to 2 a.m.

Also appearing as special guest speaker will be Ms. Khalilah Ali. Now pursuing a career in acting and producing, the former wife of heavy weight champion Muhammed Ali recently closed an 8 week performance in the play "Come Blow Your Horn" to rave reviews in Chicago. She and Ms. Lynne presently reside in California.

One of Ms. Ali's interests in Baltimore is a possible collaboration with the sponsors of the Ball (the Moorish School of Law and History, Inc. No. 13) on a feature film depicting ancient Asiatic and African Islamic history, east and west.

A highlight of the Ball is a historical costume pageant. Various personages in Asiatic and African history are depicted in veiled and turbaned finery, from Hannibal and Tarik bin Zaid (for whom is named the Rock of Gibraltar), to Cleopatra, and scriptural patriarchs Abraham, Noah, and Ruth the Moabitess.

The Duke Amir Jazz Ensemble of Washington D.C. will also perform, as well as the Moorish Dance Ensemble, with their original "Sword and Flag Dance."

The Costume Ball is a fund raiser for an Islamic educational system, designed and implemented (in the elementary school stage) in Baltimore. A private Islamic high school, open to all denominations, is slated for September 1980. The Moorish School is the educational branch of the United Moorish Moslems of America.

For ticket information to the Moorish Costume Ball, call 624-1870 or 523-8700.

Arena Players open 'Eden'

"Eden," a powerful drama by Steve Carter, is the Arena Players' second attraction of their twenty-seventh season opens tonight, (Friday).

Set in New York during the late 1920's this play poignantly addresses the problems of integration between West Indian and American Black.

A conscientious and versatile cast will perform "Eden." Cornell Jones and Joan Coursey will protray Joseph and Florie Barton, the parents of the West Indian family. Randal Edwards and Harold Cornish will share the role of Eustace Baylor, the American who infuriates the Bartons because he is interested in their daughter Annetta. Cheryl Pasteur and LaFonde Holly will alternate in portraying Lizzie Harris, the nosy next door neighbor. Andre Brown and Charlie Taylor will share the role of Nimrod Barton, the older son.

The younger son, Soldman Barton will be portrayed by Thomas Ledbetter and Michael Coleman. Adrienne Coursey and Sherrill Tate will play Annetta Barton, the object of Eustace Baylor's affection, and Ronnie Lankins will play Agnes Barton.

Walbrook High School is sponsoring opening night. Girl Scout Troop No. 1728 will hostess the Saturday night show.

"Eden" will run four consecutive weekends through Nov. 25.

Comedy/thriller at Mechanic

"Deathtrap," Broadway's funniest thriller in ages will begin a limited three week engagement at the Morris A. Mechanic Theatre, beginning Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Brian Bedford stars in Ira Levin's comedy thriller "Deathtrap," which is still one of New York's top hits and one of the top stage attractions in London. The National Company directed by Robert Moore features veteran of more than 150 films, Kathleen Freeman, Betty Miller, Kevin Conroy and George Ede. The show was produced by Roger L. Stevens and Alfred deLiagre, Jr.

Described as "murderously funny" and "suspensefully intriguing," "Deathtrap" is about a playwright who will stop at nothing, including murder to get his hands on a new play.

Author Ira Levin has to his credit such suspenseful novels as "Kiss Before Dying," "The Boys From Brazil," and "Rosemary's Baby."

'Man Who Came To Dinner' at UMBC


Gary Corbin plays Sheridan Whiteside

The University of Maryland Baltimore County Theater Workshop will present the Kaufman and Hart farce "The Man Who Came to Dinner," Wednesday, Nov. 7 through Saturday, Nov. 10. Performances will be held in the UMBC Theater, 5401 Wilkens Avenue, at 8 p.m.

The main character, Sheridan Whiteside, will be played by Gary Corbin of Randallstown. Corbin, a graduate of Forest Park High School has participated in theater since Junior High. As a Theater major he performed in the UMBC production "The Codntry Wife" and in Brecht's, "The Caucassion Chalk Circle." Gary Crobin is on the Dean's List several times.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Mullen, and will graudate from UMBC this fall. The Rev. Earl Juan Thompson of Baltimore, will play the comical part of Banjo. Rev. Thompson is a theater and biology major at UMBC, the Chaplain of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and a member of the Rose of Sharon Gospel Singers. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Thompson of Baltimore.

Lisa D. Hastye, a freshman theater major will play Sarah, the maid in the theater workshop production. Miss Hastye is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hastye of Landover, Md. and a graduate of DuVal Senior High.

The butler, John in "The Man Who Came to Dinner" will be portrayed by Perry Alexander, Jr. A junior film-video major, Alexander has studied in, acting, filmmaking, and music at UMBC. The president of Iota Phi Thea Fraternity, Inc., he is the son of Mrs. Audrey Alexander of Baltimore.

Michelle Hampton, an English major, is stage manager. Miss Hampton, a junior, graduated from Western Senior High School in 1977 and was active with the choir and theater. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Jackson of Baltimore.

Reservations for the performances may be made by calling the UMBC box office at 455-2476.

Night Scene

By Bob Matthews

Journeyed to Park Circle last weekend, to check out the newest disco scene in town, Pascal's, which is located on the site formerly occupied by an A&P supermarket.

'Twas nearly midnight when we arrived, and already the parking lot was full, and there was a line stretching about a city block of people waiting to get in.

When we finally gained entrance—the admission fee is $5.—we found a pulsing, jam-packed hall, replete with flashing lights and booming sound system.

The decor seemed to be crushed-velvet, burgundy colored, for this was the theme of the various lounges strategically placed adjacent to the dance floor.

There is an upstairs lounge which overlooks the dancefloor, but seating there is strictly limited. The overall scene is reminiscent of some of the larger discos in New York, although the ultra-fancy live shows are missing at this point.

Nevertheless, Pascal's has become the "in" place for the young, "place to meet people" circle, and Slim Meyers has provided plush surroundings for the weekend Baltimore night scene.

Slim, of course, also is proprietor of Giovanchy's, which is in the same complex at Park Circle, plus the more or less dormant Riviera Lounge over on Baker St. THE PLACE

Was absolutely intrigued by a flyer we acquired, which announced a music night for Senior Citizens at The Place over on Franklin St.

Dropped in on a Wednesday night to ask Regina Randall, who owns the place, about it, and was told that Monday nights indeed will be a jazz night for the older crowd.

As Regina put it; "I was told that calling it a Senior Citizens' night was a mistake and might keep others from show-up, but the flyers were already printed."

Well, Wednesdays is jazz records night at the club, when Bill Bush usually plays selections from his vast collection. And on this particular night, Bill was not there, but Jerry Crosby ably filled the niche.

In fact, we were treated to recordings of a live concert by Duke Ellington, which was not only rare, but sterlingly reproduced. Some of the older folk were in attendance, with a sprinkling of younger ones who were interested in learning their musical roots.

This is the kind of thing that the Monday nights will be presenting—and it all starts this coming Monday night, accord-ing to Regina, from 7 p.m. on. MOSTLY FOR MUSIC


Barbara Jones Roots Ltd.


Elvin Jones Left Bank Jazz Society
The Elvin Jones Quintet headlines the upcoming set at the Famous Ballroom this Sunday for the Left Bank Jazz Society and it promises to be a concert that will be packed.
Elvin, of course, is the younger brother of the "Jones Boys," Thad and Hank, and ranks alongside Max Roach, Art Blakey, and Philly Joe Jones as a pioneer in modern drumming technique.
He rose to perhaps his greatest prominence during the six years he played with John Coltrane. Actually, Elvin kinda dropped out of the mainstream for a few years, but surfaced on the bigtime circuits during the past five years or so.
At The Bandstand, Art Pepper will lead a group, bringing in his alto and tenor sax horns. Art played with the Stan Kenton band for about 1 years, before getting strung out and out of the scene for years.
The entire account of his misadventures and prison terms for drugs, is detailed in his brand new autobiography which recently hit the newsstands, "Straight Life."
Rounding out the lineup for the gig will be Reuben Brown, piano Steve Novosel, bass, and Hugh Walker, drums—and that in itself is enought to insure that ye olde rafters will ring as they are oft wont to do.
Briefly noted; Malcolm's continues to swing on weekends with Arnold Sterling and Andy Ennis...Carlos Johnson holds down the lower floor jazz offerings at The Ritz on Thursday nights... Bob Dockins at the S.S.B.B. Social Club is presenting Mickey Fields and Co. on Thursday nights. The Sportsmen's Lounge still presents the Eddie Gough Trio with Chico and Chico on Tuesday nights, with Earline Reed on vocals. Jimmi Johnson is fronting a group for the Saturday jazz jam, and Judd Watkins will be the Friday and Saturday night attraction this weekend.


Art Pepper The Bandstand

AFRO Contest

Have your pix made with one of the Jacksons



Rules

Here's all you do. Write the best letter telling why you want to see The Jacksons.

Write AFRO, The Jacksons' Contest, 628 N. Eutaw St., Balte., Md. 21201.

The best letters will be printed in the AFRO. Decision of the judges will be final. Be sure to give your telephone number with your letter.

One lucky person will win two free tickets to the Jacksons concert at the Civic Center Wed., Nov. 7 and have their picture made backstage withone...either Randy, Tito, Jackie, Michael or Marlon.

Bunny Jackson the PR firm in Atlanta handling publicity for the black promotion firm, Rowe Associates is also making arrangements to have the AFRO's Mrs. Santa, Ida Peters, receive an autographed item of clothing to be auctioned off to help needy families have a good Christmas dinner.

Announcement of TheJacksons contest Friday, Oct. 26 created so much interest that the AFRO Entertainment offices has been beseiged with letters from the first mail on Monday bringing more than 100 entries. At AFRO presstime, judges are frantically reading to seleetthe best letter.

Three young boys from Lexington Terrace bought their letters in person. One young lady who has her bedroom plastered with Jackson photos and a room-sized blowup of Michael on her ceiling, called to beg to be the winner.

The winning letter will be printed in the Tuesday Afro of Nov. 6. Ten lucky runners-up will win Jackson T-Shirts. Fifteen Lucky winners will win Jackson photos; four more will win LTD albums, and 8, "The Wiz" album.

Terri Hollinger, Edmondson grad, now touring with the disco group "Musique ("Push, Push, In The Bush") who recnetly opened for Noel Pointer in Philadelphia writes:

I am here on vacation and even though I am presently with an international recording act...it would mean a lot to me at this point in my career to have my photo taken with one of the Jacksons.

Donna Jones writes: Ever since I was about five, the Jacksons have been my favorite group. They are very talented and sexy and one day I hope I will get a chance to meet them.

Gail Barbour writes : The Jacksons have always been my favorite vocalists. Taking a picture with one is "like my dream come true."

Paulette Lucas, of WEBB radio, Baltimore's first female disc jockey writes: One of my hobbies is to collect photos of major recording stars with myself and it would make my collection complete with one with The Jacksons.

Adelle Bell writes that "The Jacksons are a together group. I've never seen them in person but they really seem to enjoy themselves on "Soul Train." They just fascinate me watching them. Aft I can really say is I love them."

Gloria Jones writes: "When Michael sings a song it sounds like he's singing to me. I really want to see The Jacksons because they look like five nice young men."

Willie Jones writes: "all the girls compliment me and say I look like Michael. I would like to see Michael to see if we do look alike. The group's record "Destiny" is one of my favorites."

Phyllis Scott, 13, writes "I thin you are the most intelligent young, popular group I ever heard." I like your music and expecially the words in your songs. Your group turns me on."

Shrine Circus

AFRO Clean Blockers, 4,5 strong have enjoyed the

4th Annual Boumi Temple Shrine Circus now at the Civic Center thru Sunday.

The Clean Blockers have to thank Bill Stair and all the

members of Boumi Temple who use the proceeds from the circus to finance their fraternal and charitable activities.

The show includes the traditional clowns and performing circus animals as well as costumed showgirls, and features

such acts as Princess Tajana and her Royal Bengal and

Siberian Tigers, Francisco's Teeterboard Exponents, LeAnthony'

Trampoline Champions, Miss Cinderella and Her Doves, Carmen del Molino on the Balancing

Trapeze and the high-wire artisty of the Los Castros.