Santa arrives downtown

Santa's coming to the Inner Harbor on Friday, Nov. 25 at 11 a.m. led by Disney parade marshalls Mickey & Minnie Mouse, featuring a traditional Mummers String Band, a parade around the Inner Harbor promenade from Rash Field to the National Aquarium will welcome Santa to downtown Baltimore.

Bagpipers, cheerleaders, floats, clowns, bands and mascots are part of the 42 units planned for Santa's welcoming procession. Sam the Eagle, the 1984 Olympic Mascot, will make his first Baltimore appearance in the parade.

Children of all ages will be able to visit Santa in his brand new Winter Palace at the Inner Harbor through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m. until Christmas Eve. Pictures with Santa will be available for all those who would like a memento of their visit with the Grand Elf.

Friday Plus

The weekly entertainment leisure guide for the greater Baltimore and Washington areas. Published by the AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS group.

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Best Bets

Jeffrey Osborne

There are sex symbols and there are sex symbols. There are sweaty one night stand animals and then there are sensual romanticists like Jeffrey Osborne. If Jeffrey is a sex symbol, he likes to think of himself as somewhat different from the other hunks out there. "I don't have problems with admitting that I want to be a sex symbol. Ever male vocalist on earth wants to be a sex symbol, whether they admit it or not. I want to attract women, but the common denominator is not to offend men, not to be threatening to them."

In other words, where some sex symbols might bring out the animal in their audience, Jeffrey brings out the romance. He's the sex-symbol who lasts beyond a one night stand, the kind of charming, considerate guy a lady might want to take home to meet the folks.

Jeffrey seems to be right at home in that position, too. In fact he is a married man; he and his wife Shari just had their first child — a little girl named Tiffany Nicole. Little Tiffany was a first for her dad in another way, too — his first experience with natural childbrith. Jeffrey says he was initially a little apprehensive about that idea, thinking he was going to have to watch something shocking.

"All I could see in my mind was that it would be something very hard to look at," he admits. Instead, "It was great. It was a very rewarding experience...gave me a whole new outlook on the process of birth. To be there and see it happen gave me a new respect for mother hood. I was very impressed."

Speaking of things impressive, since leaving the band LTD a few years ago, Jeffrey has been about the business of building a big following as a solo performer. With albums like his self-titled debut and the new LP, **Stay With Me Tonight** — not to mention hits like **On The Wings Of Love, Really Don't Need No Light, Don't You Get So Mad** and the latest single, **Stay With Me Tonight,** it's pretty safe to say that Jeffrey has made a name for himself.

Jeffrey will be at Painters Mill with Atlantic Starr, Saturday Nov. 26.

'The Chicago Jazz Festival' plus Nancy Wilson on WHMM—TV 32

THE CHICAGO JAZZ FESTIVAL: A SOUNDSTAGE SPECIAL featuring jazz guests Herbie Hancock, Sun Ra and his Arkestra and Carmen McRae will be airing on WHMM-TV 32 Sunday, Nov. 27, at 7 p.m.

NANCY WILSON AND CHICK COREA together in a unique once in a lifetime performance will be airing Sunday, Nov. 27, at 8:30 p.m. on WHMM-TV 32. Recorded in April of 1982, in Los Angeles, this very special concert features one hour of the band and one hour of Nancy Wilson performing with the band.

Herbie Hancock, one of the world's best known jazz pianists, returns to his hometown to perform before thousands of his loyal fans. Hancock left Chicago in 1960, worked with the Miles Davis Quintet and later went out on his own. A prodigy who at the age of 11 played Mozart with the Chicago Symphony, he emerged in the '70s as a major figure in pop music, as well as jazz, with his funk band, The Headhunters. In recent years he has alternated between pop music and straight-ahead acoustic jazz.

Featured with Hancock on his SOUNDSTAGE SPECIAL will be Ron Carter on bass, Tony Williams on drums (both formerly with Hancock as part of the Miles Davis Quintet) and new trumpet star Wynton Marsalis.

Sun Ra established himself in Chicago in the '50s with a band that has been

(Continued on page 14)

Nancy Wilson...on WHMM-TV 32

'Sounds of Africa' at Art Museum

TERRI NAAKOSHIE QUAYE, an internationally known percussionist and jazz singer, will present "The Sounds of Africa", a lecture demonstration of traditional African percussion instruments in the Meyerhoff Auditorium of The Baltimore Museum of Art, Sunday, Nov. 27, 3 p.m.

Born in Great Britain, NaaKoshie is of Ghanian descent and comes from a family for whom music has been the driving force for five generations. In drawing upon her African heritage she has produced music so fine that master drummers in Ghana honored her with an especially carved pair of Ashanti drums.

Her combination of traditional instruments and improvisation has given her concerts, held all over England and the continent, a unique appeal, and she has also appeared on television and in films.

About the nature of her communication, a recent "Time Out" review said: "NaaKóshie recaptures the sounds of water, air and rainforest through a magical communion with a group of African instruments . . . She puts no reliance on words, using the drums as her means of instant communication instead. Wood and skin build up their own relationship with the audience—the result is as natural as breathing".

It is not surprising to find that NaaKoshie's approach as a singer is consistent with her percussion. Her vocal interpretations of both original and jazz material are unique, personal and sensitive, delivered in a voice described as having both a mellow tenderness and a sharp, driving blues quality. An acute feel for timing and the freedom derived from complete control enable her voice to emerge as an instrument for spontaneous improvisation from an ever-present current of rhythm. Consistent with African and jazz traditions the rhythm never disappears completely and the voice which departs from it freely always returns, however briefly.

Terri NaaKoshie Quaye's performance will be free with admission to the Museum. Museum hours on Sunday are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission for members and everyone under 19 is free; for non-members, $2.

AFRO talks to...

....Sister Sledge

By Barbara Faggins
Special to the AFRO

"We Are Family," was more than just a gold record for the Sledge Sisters, it was an appropriate analogy of the closeness of their family, which has remained united despite individual desires for success and fame.

"We have pounded it in to so many people's head. We are very close and the fact that we are also individual is a great plus," said Joni Sledge, a member of the famed female vocal group, Sister Sledge.

"It's nice to have the ability to be yourself. Kathy has her family; Debbie's a housewife in Kentucky, and Kim is thinking about law school. We are separate in our personal lives, but there are no plans to split the group up.

"We encouraged each other," Joni explained, "to really develop our own personal goals. Kim has been accepted at three top law schools. Kathy is a songwriter and I am into movies. So we all are kind of different.

Although, Joni moved to California nearly two years ago to pursue her movie career, she points out that she makes frequent visits to Philadelphia to keep her family ties intact.

She also explained that having a good relationship with her mother, Flo and her sisters is the most important aspect in her life.

"I miss Philadelphia," she confesses, "but it's part of growing. I come home on the holidays to see my mother and family. The biggest change I found when I moved was not having anyone around me that I knew well. The biggest joy I found was that I was working at my craft."

Joni, a native of Philadelphia who attended Temple University along with sisters, Kim, Debbie, and Kathy, has met new friends since the move out West. She has also rekindled her association with former acquaintances. But the mere fact that she is a bachelorette has provided no easy task for a young lady who tries to keep her private life out of the public's eye.

"Maria Blakey, the choreographer, was very helpful to me," Joni said. "She told me where to go and to be careful. This town is so small. It's like a Peyton Place. When I first got out there, people were throwing parties for me. After a while, I realized you have to keep your privacy. You have to be kind of careful.

"There are certain places you go. I like hiking a lot and, believe me, you don't see many people out there hiking. When I moved out there, it was a whole new thing."

Joni is in her early 20s and has accepted a different lifestyle from her sisters. Debbie is the mother of five children and is married to a professor at the University of Kentucky. Debbie recently gave birth to her fifth child, Steffan Michael. Kathy lives in Montgomery County with her husband Philip and their two children. Kim is contemplating going to one of three law schools, including Georgetown.

"Acting is a close love of mine," Joni said. "We feel like we want to change the conscious level of the way people think, especially about black women and the way they are depicted in film. Film is one of the biggest influences.

"This is one of the reasons I moved out here. We are working on a script now. It has a lot to do with black entertainers. That is all I am at liberty to say about it."

Joni, who lives in Playa Del Ray in an apartment complex, has been engaged three times but has never taken the final step.

"Marriage is a serious thing," the soft spoken singer said. "You have to be sure about it. I have been engaged three times. It lasted one minute. It's a serious thing. I get real strong doubts about it. I am in no rush, but marriage is something that I want."

"In one of my relationships," she explained, "I met a real nice boy and I said to myself 'he's okay,' but later I learned he had problems with not being the person that he thought I wanted.

"Personally, I am attracted to men who are secure and with strong self-worth. I need someone I can look to for support. Someone I can lean on."

But most important, she said, "Carriage (conduct) is the first thing about a man that attracts me. There is so little else that is important to me. If a man is organized, he's going to be a well groomed person.

"We have a policy which governs the Sledge Sisters," she pointed out. "Our grandmother (Mrs. Williams) always taught us about caring for yourself, because it influences young sisters out there. Carriage is most important in our family."

When Joni is not hiking or on tour with her sisters, she travels around Los Angeles in her late model Mazda RX7, conducting business or shopping for items for her apartment.

Since their break into show busines, the Sledge Sisters have formed Sledge Inc., described by Joni as a fairly lucrative company that publishes music and invests in real estate among other things.

The group carved a niche in the entertainment world with the recording "We Are Family." The hit set off a series of events which made the Philadelphia group a household name. The Pittsburgh Pirates even adopted the tune as their official theme song. Since then, they have recorded such chart topping favorites as "Love Somebody Today," and "All American Girls." Their first produced album, "The Sisters," was released in 1982. Their current LP, "I Bet You Say That To All the Girls," has not been getting the kind of response they had hoped for.

Joni Kim Kathy Debbie

"The next album will have a lot more to say," the songstress explained. "We are really interested in making a statement as far as who we are as black women who have a lot of class. We have also changed our managing team. We felt that we needed some new energy and that called for a certain team of people who could help us to accomplish our goals."

The new managing team are Dan Cleary, former Metro Media president; Art Annecharico, Sherwin Bash and mother, Flo Sledge.

IN PERFORMANCE —Baltimore

MYRNA SUMMERS, the great gospel singer will be featured in concert by Jason Saunders' Phoenix, Inc. Dec. 9 at Bethel AME Church at 7:30 p.m. Also featured will be King Coral Ensemble, Fernando Allen Singers, Charles Watson and Company and the Metropolitan Gospel Quartet.

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MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY French Club to present two French comedies on Friday, Dec. 2, at 8 p.m. The plays part of the Cercle's annual Fete de Noel, will be staged in the Ballroom of the McKeldin University Center at Morgan State. The comedies — LES TROIS FEMMES DE MONSIEUR ADAM (Mr. Adam's Three Wives) and COMME DEUX TOURTEREAUX (Like Two Turtledoves) — were written by the adviser of the Cercle, Dr. Sandye Jean McIntyre, II, who is also Professor of Foreign Languages at Morgan and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Senegal. The Program will include the singing of French Christmas Carols and refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

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THE BREVARD Festival Trio, all members of the artist/faculty during the summer season at Brevard Music Center in North Carolina, will present a concert of music by Beethoven, Brahms, and Mendelssohn Sunday, Nov. 27, at 3 p.m. The performance will take place at the Chapel of Our Lady of the Angels at the Charlestown Retirement Community on Maiden Choice Lane in Catonsville.

Best Bets —Flicks—

HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY—French film festival, copresented by the Cercle Cine Francaise de Columbia. Third Sunday of each month through May, 4 p.m., in the central library meeting room. For details, call 1-997-8000, extension 336.

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JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY—Reel World series, sponsored by the office of the chaplain. Thursdays and Sundays through Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. on the Homewood campus. Admission $2.50 general, $1.50 for students and senior citizens. Call 338-8187 or 8188 for program changes.