Norm Patterson in a comatose state

One of the most promising young entrepreneurs on the East Coast, Norman Arthur Patterson Jr., remains in a coma in the shock trauma unit of the University of Maryland Hospital.

His 10-year-old son, Norman III, hasn't been told yet that the daddy he loves so much has not moved or talked since Saturday, January 21st.

The 31-year-old promoter and businessman has been taken off the critical list and his condition is now stable.

Norman is the promotions consultant for Blues Alley presentations owners of the nightspot once known as "Ethel's Place."

Active in the recording industry, Norman was on his way to hear some tapes by a new group, when the car in which he was riding that Saturday was involved in a collision with an ambulance at the intersection of Martin Luther King Blvd. and Mulberry St.

He was taken to University Hospital and according to family members, is still comatose.

At the time of the accident, Norman and his mother, Mrs. Shirley Gorham of Pikesville were planning a release of a spiritual record, "Jesus Kept His Promise" - that Mom had recorded in the sixties.

Norman is from a musical family. His mother sings - his father, Norman Sr. plays the drums; and his uncles, including the late Clyde and "Toots" Patterson are remembered by older niteclub goers. Norman plays the bass guitar.

As consultant, Norman has also worked for the popular Sphinx Club in Baltimore and the Club Utopia in Lanham, MD - the city where he attended school and was raised by his aunt, June Barner.

Towering over six feet and six inches, Norman as a high school basketball star was offered scholarships from numerous colleges. A knee injury ended this dream.

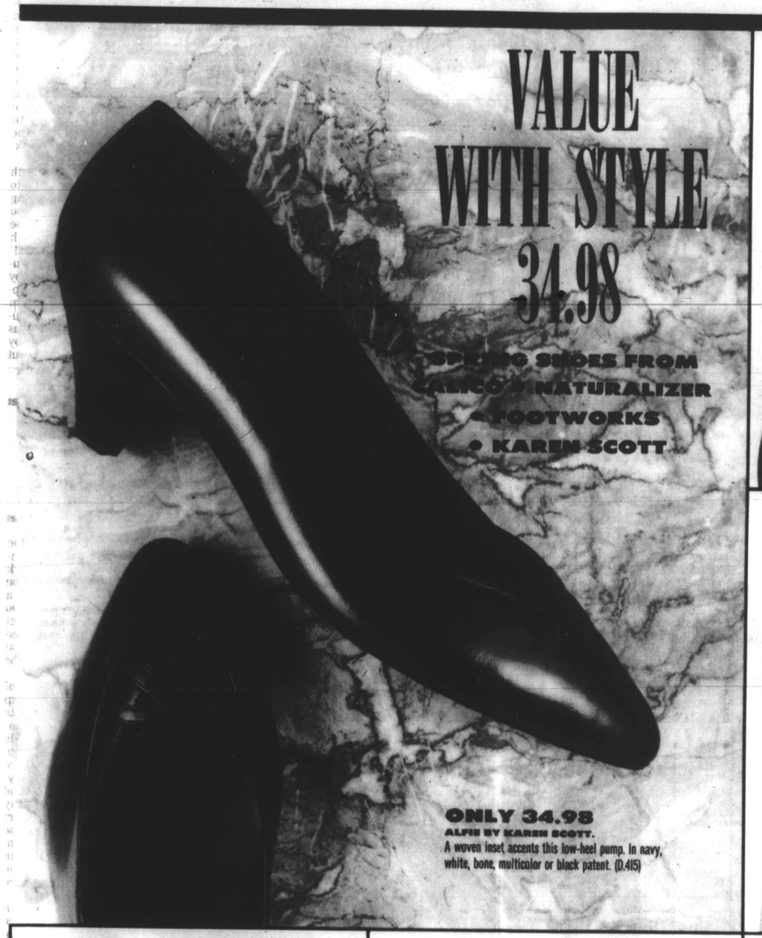
His mother, Mrs. Gorham, this week, in an interview with a freelance journalist and one of Norm's close friends, spoke of her religious convictions:

"I believe in God! He's going to pull him through. There is nothing we can do but pray."

Norman has a brother and two sisters. He is a member of the John Wesley Methodist.

Mother, Shirley, recalled that her son's favorite hymn is "Amazing Grace," a song he would always sing in church.

Now, daily, Mrs. Gorham sits by his beside at University Hospital and softly sings this song to him, praying for response!



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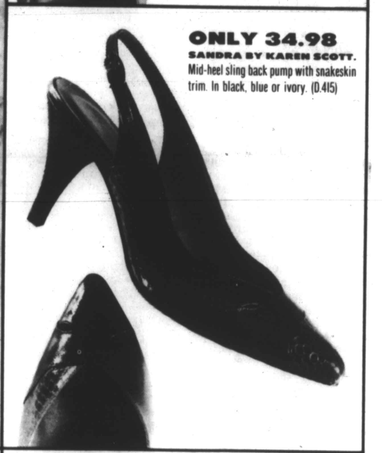

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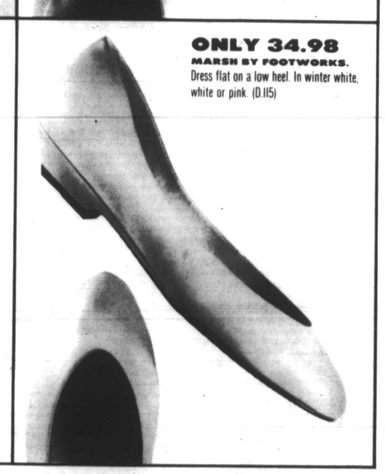

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Farrakhan speaks!

THE RAISED FIST of Minister Farrakhan acknowledges the crowd of supporters who came to hear him speak.

By Helen Glover Cook
AFRO Staff Reporter

Over four thousand supporters formed a line outside the Palladium Saturday night to hear the message delivered by Nation of Islam leader, Minister Louis Farrakhan.

Ticket holders formed orderly rows three abreast as they moved from Druid Park Drive and Community College of Baltimore's parking lots to converge at the Palladium's door.

Many stood in line waiting for hours, peacefully and without objection submitting themselves to body searches for the assurance of a violence free environment.

Inside the Palladium, the $7 ticket holders occupied every inch of the floor space. All of the available seats were filled while those not lucky enough to obtain seats lined the walls listening to the Minister's speech.

Fraternities, sororities, lodges, students, homemakers, educators and business people of all ages were in attendance. Religious leaders from the major Protestant sects as well as Jews, Hebrews, Israelites and Moslems all set aside their theological differences to offer expressions of solidarity for the cause of Black unity.

The stage from which the Minister gave his address was occupied by members of the Baltimore civic and business community who sat on the stage in public support of Minister Louis Farrakhan. Among those leaders were City Councilman, Carl Stokes, who was the only government representative in attendance. Stokes said, "I think the minister has a message that is timely and addressed to not only blacks but to all peoples."

The co-host of a Baltimore television magazine who for reasons that will become apparent wished to remain anonymous was also among the Minister's supporters who sat on the stage. He half-jokingly told the AFRO, "I might have jeopardized my job. When my Jewish station owners hear about my gracing the stage in support of Minister Farrakhan they will probably have a fit, next they might think of new and creative ways to fire me."

Denauvo Robinson, Headmaster of The Park Heights Street Academy, called Minister Farrakhan "one of our greatest leaders who I feel should be heard. We cannot allow others to select or appoint our leaders for us, when we do we risk loosing our autonomy."

Others who sat on stage and also placed advertisements in the Program included, Palladium host, "Slim" Butler, Earth-Tide's Tony Allen, Attorneys Michael and Norris Ramsey and Bud Schmidt Buick's Tom Harris.

Nation of Islam representative and Baltimore spokesman, Brother Jamil Muhammad extended an invitation to members of the audience to fill up the remaining V.I.P. stage seats with those who make $1,000 contributions to the National Center in Chicago. The center has been renovated and re-purchased by the Nation of Islam and will be dedicated in a week long ceremony, February 19-26.

AFRO Photos by Paris Gray

● "They wish to destory us by our own hand...feeding cocaine in pure form—crack!"

The first V.I.P. seat was filled by an attractive black business woman who did not want to be filmed by any of the three television Network affiliates which had camera crews in the audience. A young couple offered to make the next $1,000 donation and occupied the remaining seats.

At this point a low humming sound began to emanate from the rear of the room. This sound soon escalated into a higher decibel buzzing noise which quickly erupted into the full fledged cheers of an audience who realized that the moment they were all waiting for had arrived. They stood in unison clapping and showing their support of the Minister they had come to see.

Minister Farrakhan approached the stage flanked by 17 Fruit of Islam (FOI) soldiers who make up his personal bodyguard, they (FOI) then took seats on the floor surrounding the stage. He thanked the audience for their presence and Brother Jamil for his work in acquiring the large Baltimore turnout.

The Minister gave a "soup to nuts speech" including remarks about everything from historical anecdotes, biblical references and his opinion of white "devils".

Audience members broke out in laughter twisting and turning their necks in search of the few white audience members present in order to record their facial expressions after they were referred to as "devils" by the Minister.

Farrakhan quickly admonished them by reminding them that "devil" was an expression which described actions rather than racial types. He let the audience know that the immoral actions practiced by some of them include them as "devils" too.

Farrakhan lived through the times when Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and the Kennedy brothers lived. One of his anecdotes concerned Bobby Kennedy. Farrakhan let the audience know that Bobby was not the savior many blacks thought he was because of his acquiesce to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's wiretapping of Martin Luther King.

Many younger audience members took this knowledge as quite a shock, one of those youngsters, a 22-year-old student at Morgan, commented to the AFRO "I always thought that the Kennedy's were the most progressive of civil libertarians always promoting the best interests of blacks. Minister Farrakhan is giving us history that he not only has lived through but participated in, I think he should know what he is talking about."

"Farrakhan spoke at length on the 'plan' used by whites to destroy the blacks, saying 'You back those who sell you everything else, back those who want to establish something for self — you!' The minister told the audience how the plan to destroy blacks included always keeping dissent among them through fighting and confusion. They wish to destroy us by our own hand not just by feeding our youth cocaine, but cocaine in its purest form — crack."

"You have been designated as permanent underclass..."

The Minister continued the thought by stressing the importance of support for black institutions by saying, "You have been designated as a permanent underclass. Do you know what permanent means? Whites have assigned you to a position where you will remain, never rising for another 400 years."

"Who is it being deprived of attending school? Scholarship programs for black students are decreasing at an alarming rate. Many black students who do receive them go on to attend white colleges where they are given cars, money, and a white girlfriend who keeps them pacified and away from the struggle. In support of our institutions Rev. Jesse Jackson has called for a summit with black leaders in order to help our people who are not only in trouble here but all over the world."

As Minister Farrakhan closed his speech the audience tried in vain to make him continue. He thanked them for their support and quickly exited the stage surrounded by the security of the Fruit of Islam soldiers.

OVER 4,000 PEOPLE came to hear the Minister's message at the Baltimore Palladium.

Next week: an exclusive interview with Minister Farrakhan.