# ALL THAT JAZZ

**By Bob Matthews**

Well, there's some bad news and some good news this week.

First, the bad news. You may have seen some of the reports of the upcoming schedule of events which will happen at the Pier 6 amphitheatre, but you may not have noticed that one ingredient is missing.

The Eubie Blake Jazz Festival, a part of the Pier 6 Harborlights Festival for the past few years, has disappeared. That's right, there will not be a jazz festival this year.

Festival Productions, headed by the George Wein organization has not been engaged to produce a festival for this year, thus no fest, which means the end of the Jazz Quest competition, which showcased area jazz talent.

The reasons for the demise of the fest is simple — lack of support. The Eubie Blake Festival operated at a loss over the last couple of seasons. It's that simple.

Not that there won't be some jazz at this year's Harborlights sessions. There will be some, interspersed among the eclectic offerings of the season. We'll keep you informed.

* * *

Alley is returning to jazz. Well, not totally, but the main bookings will consist of jazz artists, and more mainstream than pop or fusion.

You can look for more artists to be booked for one or two-nighters, with a local rhythm section. In fact, that rhythm section will include **Bob Butta, Geoff Harper** with **Gary Bartz** scheduled to make several appearances.

The hierarchy at Blues Alley finally realized that Baltimore is a different sort of market, and the mix they had tried, simply didn't work. Also, Baltimore will not support a single artist for a full week's engagement.

Thus, you will see more one or two-night stands. While the prices will fluctuate, there will not be a big drop in price for such big-name acts as **Dizzy Gillespie** and others.

According to Tony Wheelock of Blues Alley, the artists themselves more or less set the price on some of the appearances.

And, incidently, the club has returned to the 8 and 10p.m. shows every night, with three shows on Saturdays. The 7 and 9p.m. experiment didn't work out.

More on this later, after we get a lineup of acts from the new manager of the club Bob Israel.

* * *

The Smithsonian Resident Associates scheduling of the jazz mini-series featuring **Jane Ira Bloom**, and **Harry Connick, Jr.** has been rescheduled.

Originally set to take place April 7 and 28, it will go on May 5, 7:30 p.m. in Baird Auditorium. Information: (202)357-4090.

* * *

**Duke Ellington** buffs should be getting ready for the month-long celebration entitled "Duke Ellington, American Musician," which opens April 4 at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

There will be about 50 artifacts from Duke's life, including hand-written music manuscripts, concert programs and posters from around the world, trophies, photographs and much more.

Also a video of classic Ellington performances, including "Symphony in Black," "Cotontail" and "Mood Indigo" will be shown as a part of this exhibit.

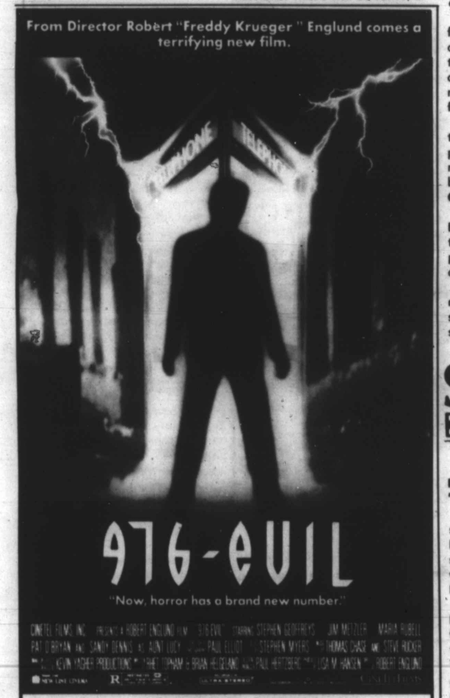
In addition, Beginning April 2, there will be an almost daily event in the Carmichael Auditorium in celebration of the Duke. It kicks off with the **Joe Kennedy** quartet playing the "Best of Duke" at noon and 2 p.m.

The lineup is impressive and includes such jazz groups and artists as "The Washingtonians," **Buck Hill Trio, Howard University Jazztet, Shirley Horn Trio, Keter Betts Trio** in a tribute to **Jimmy Blanton**, and others too numerous to mention.

We'll keep you up to date on the week-by-week activities, and best of all, all of this is free. For more information: (202)357-2700.

* * *

QUICKLY NOTED: **World Saxophone Quartet** performs for District Curators Friday, April 7, 8 p.m. at the Duke Ellington Theatre, 35th and R Sts., NW, DC...**Milt Jackson** at Blues Alley Washington through Sunday, Mar. 26...**Ronnie Wells** wih the **Ron Elliston Quartet** will perform two concerts closing out the Music and Gretna's series in York, and Lancaster, PA. Concerts will be March 31 at the Capitol Theatre in York, and Saturday, April 1 in the Brunswick Hotel, Lancaster. More information: (717) 964-3836. . . . Fish Market in Baltimore is presenting **Special EFX** in the Eubie Blake Room, through Sunday, March 26.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# SOUNDS

**By Carl Matthews**

**PAUL LAURENCE "Underexposed" (Capitol)**

It's been more than four years since producer and songwriter Paul Laurence released his debut solo LP, "Haven't You Heard," which included the single "She's Not A Sleaze."

But Paul has been quite busy. He's produced and written songs for such well known Capitol artists as Freddie Jackson, Lillo Thomas and Melba Moore. Among the hits he's written and produced: "Rock Me Tonight (For Old Time's Sake)," "I'm In Love," and "Love's Coming At You."

In a recent interview, Paul told one of his favorite stories, about a day in the studio with Lillo Thomas. "He was doing this vocal, and I wanted this certain sound. So I said, 'Lillo, put some tape over your mouth, let's try a muffled sound.' So he puts the tape over his mouth and he's singing the song, so we're in the control room laughing."

"So we said, 'No, take it off, it doesn't work.' So as he begins to take it off, you hear this 'Rrrripp!

Paul Laurence

Owww!' (It stuck to his mustache.) So by this time, we were on the floor. So, then we said, 'Let's see if we can get him to do it again.' And he actually tried it again. And then we said, 'Nah, it doesn't work.' And he pulls it off. 'Owww!' "

"So; the assistant comes up and says, 'What's going on?' We're on the floor laughing. So we said, 'Lillo, try it again.' So he puts it back on again. 'No Lillo, don't...' He was willing to do anything to get this record done, not knowing that that was, like, totally ludicrous."

Paul Laurence's latest album begins with the first single, "Make My Baby Happy," a synth-funk rocker with a melody and sentiment that's right out of 60's Motown.

Among the best ballads here is "Cut The Crap," which would have been an ideal Freddie Jackson single if Paul hadn't decided to record it himself.

On "I'm A Business Man (Kick It Too)," we hear what sounds like the tuning of a radio dial — and we hear tiny bits and pieces of Paul Laurence-produced hits like "Rock Me Tonight" for a few seconds. Then we're treated to Paul's funny little musical commentary on rap music, done in rap style. It probably won't outdo King Tee or Cash Money And Marvelous on the rap charts, but it is an honest expression from the heart of this Harlem-raised talent.



# THE NIGHT LIFE

**By Bonnie Matthews Butler**
**Entertainment Editor**

Always have thought that the car rental line, "We try harder because we're number two," was a gem that worked.

This brings me back to my prior night life peeve — service. Come on owners and try a little harder to get your employees to do the same in the service area and I'll stop harping on the subject. Like I said in the last couple of columns, there's plenty of room at the top.

Last Friday, photographer **Ricardo Gray** and I (along with my good friend Helen), made the "Happy Hour" trek. (And for our neighbors along I-95 South — The D.C. area, we're heading your way a few Fridays from now).

I'm happy to report that the service at the Palladium's "Happy Hour" is on the upswing. All the goodies were just as good as my last visit there and the customer response indicates that it pays to try a little harder.

Thanks to **Randy Dennis** of V-103 for that rousing birthday tribute he gave me. While spinning the latest records, Randy had the entire place (about 400 people) wish me a happy birthday in unison. Thanks, gang.

* * *

Up on Reisterstown Road, just a trifle south of Northern Parkway, the Regatta still caters to a select group of loyalists. Like the Palladium, the Regatta offers on-site parking and night life folks know that this is a definite plus.

Unfortunately that 'ole devil — service — provided a minus. Improvement in that area will make the Regatta, with its plush decor, another happy emporium.

A tad further down on Reisterstown Road is The Five Mile House. As usual, it was wall to wall folks and just to get served was a miracle.

Maybe additional staff could correct this on those extremely busy nights. Also, I must have missed the hors d'oeuvres that used to sit on the ledge a few years ago. Could they have been devoured prior to our arrival?

* * *

Winding our way home, we stopped at The Sphinx Club on Pennsylvania Ave. Needless to say, it was swinging. My hats off to the barmaid, **Orpha Lampkins.** Club owners should take lessons from this lady 'cause she sure knows how to give the kind of service that makes you feel like a queen.

* * *

OTHER HAPPENINGS: **Club**


(Continued on Page 8)

(Photo by Ricardo Gray)

**The Sphinx Club had a "big boss line" as patrons danced The Madison during the club's activities Friday night.**

(Photo by Ricardo Gray)

**Over 400 people danced the night away at The Palladium's "Happy Hour."**

(Photo by Ricardo Gray)

**Westley Johnson, owner of The Five Mile House, helped wait on the overflow crowd Friday night.**

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Photo: Hugues Magen in *Prince Igor*; photo by Martha Swope

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