

Entertainment

"MUSIC ON MY MIND" EXHIBIT AT WEST LAS VEGAS LIBRARY

"Music on My Mind," the mixed-media art works and selected writings of Beni Casselle, will be on exhibit at the West Las Vegas Library, 1402 "D" Street, thru June 1. Casselle presents his exhibit in tribute to Monk Montgomery, musician and past president of the Las Vegas Jazz Society.

Casselle, having gone through several stages in his life as soldier, businessman, cultural activist, husband and father, brings into his creative works the past and present attitudes of his life experiences. Educated at the Palmer Memorial Institute in Philadelphia, Penn., Casselle became aware of and influenced by the uniqueness and history of his roots because "we were made to look into a mirror at our true selves, to deal with the basics of our traditions and to recognize the beauty of the spiritual music and Afrikan utility arts."

After serving in the army and surviving the upheavals of war, he returned to civilian life and a successful marketing career in Chicago where he also became deeply involved in the emerg-



Beni Casselle

ing "Black Revolution." As a cultural activist, he sought to delve into his racial past and seek logical directions for the future of his race. He was instrumental in organizing Chicago's original Black cultural center, "The Afro-Arts Theater" (correct spelling) and was active in many Pan Afrikan cultural and ed-

ucational "happenings" throughout the midwest, organizing and leading writers' workshops and art exhibits.

Only after moving to Las Vegas has Casselle, for the first time in his adult life, "somehow found the environment necessary" for him "to be inspired to paint and write full time." Through his work, he sees himself as both a social educator and a global historian. "There is so much to be remembered, to be passed on to the young," he states. "So much music to be heard and so much beauty to behold. This is why I write and paint. This is my legacy."

Among the works to be exhibited is a tribute to Monk Montgomery en-

titled, "Monk Straight Ahead." Also included are works of such noted Jazz greats as "Bob Marley," "Billy Holiday" and "Charlie Parker." Other mixed-media pieces depict Casselle's impressions of Africa, as in "Liberian Landscape" and "Afrika Untitled, #9."

Featured with the exhibit will be a display of African instruments collected by Casselle during a tour of Africa. They include lower leg dance rattles from Mali, a country balaphone from Liberia, and a Mandingo ceremonial drum from Guinea.

The exhibit is free to the public and may be seen Tuesday thru Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Michael Jackson Sings "Beat It" To Teen Drunks

Michael Jackson, dressed in his famous Admiral attire and sequined glove, met President Reagan Monday at a White House ceremony honoring the pop superstar's new role in a campaign against teenage drunken driving.

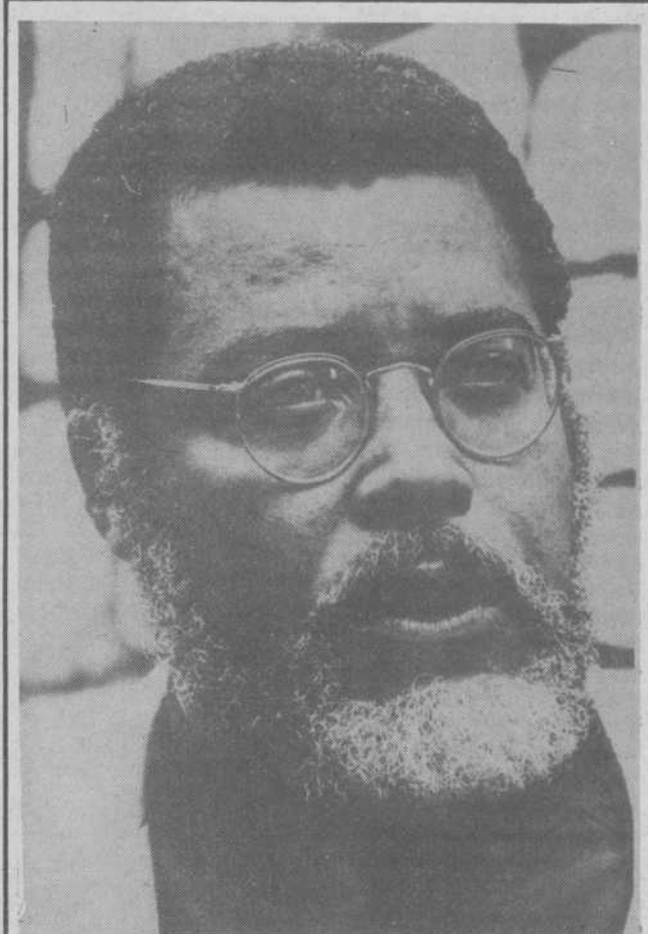
"Jackson-mania" may draw hundreds to the White House, but "we don't anticipate any-

thing we couldn't handle," a Secret Service spokesman said, prior to the event.

Reagan hosted Jackson, Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole and 100 invited guests, mostly people involved with the drunken driving program.

Jackson received the Presidential Safety Communication Award for lending his hit song "Beat It" to an MTV-style public service warning on drunken driving. Upon receiving the award from President Reagan, the taciturn Michael simply said, "I'm very, very honored; thank you, Mr. President and Mrs. Reagan," in his inimitable, shy fashion and turned away. Jackson does not appear in the commercial, but his singing voice is heard in the background.

The commercial, which will air soon on commercial TV, opens with a group of teenagers getting drunk and ends with a scene of skeletons rising from their car. The warning: "Drinking and driving can kill a friendship."



A royal voice for the King of the Beasts . . . James Earl Jones, the man behind the powerful voice of Star Wars' Darth Vader, will narrate the Kraft-sponsored wildlife television special, "The Lions of Etosha: King of the Beasts" on CBS-TV Wednesday, June 6 from 8-9 p.m. (ET). In this film for the whole family, Mr. Jones tells the story of nature's royal family through never-before-seen close-ups of wildlife behavior.

Basie Estate Left to Daughter

NEW YORK—Band-leader Count Basie left all of his \$1.5 million estate to his 40-year-old, mentally incompetent daughter, it was disclosed Monday. Basie's nine-page will, dated Feb. 13, 1984, was filed for probate in Surrogate's Court in Manhat-

tan. No details about what the estate consists of were released. The document indicated that Diane Basie, who lived with her father at his home in Freeport, the Bahamas, is mentally incompetent. It said the estate will be held in trust and administered for her

by her co-trustees Aaron Woodward of Long Island, N.Y., and Mona Hinton of Queens.



JAZZ—From left, Sherrie Lee, Jay Cameron and Doug MacDonald prepare for the Jazz Concert to be presented from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 19 at Lorenzi Park. Sponsored by the Las Vegas Recreation Department,

with funding provided by the Music Performance Trust Fund and a grant through the American Federation of Musicians Local 369. The event is open and free to the public.

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