



Carla Thomas, star of "WATTSTAX: The Living Word" visited Portland to promote the movie, playing at the Alameda and Broadway Theaters. Miss Thomas participated in an autograph playing at the Alameda and Broadway Theaters. Miss Thomas was the guest of honor at the Northwest Premier held at the Alameda on Wednesday evening.

Carla's visit promotes Wattstax

by Rosemary Allen

"I may not be all you want, but I'm all you got," is the name of Miss Carla Thomas' latest release on Stax Records; however in no way could that apply to the lady singing the song. In a recent interview with Miss Thomas, I found her to be a solid, together, right on, right on sister. Miss Thomas is currently unmarried, but when she does tie the knot, I can imagine that lucky brother changing the words of the song to, "You're all I got, and you're shuff all I need!"

You may get that old time religion feeling when you hear Carla Thomas sing some soulful notes of one of her tunes, like "I love for you to call me baby." But Carla's style did not originate from the church, like so many other Black recording stars did. Her style was influenced by her mother. Even now Miss Thomas finds a lot of comfort in her family. Her father is none other than Rufus Thomas, who made the Chicken (dance) Funky. She is now in the process of getting together a television pilot for a special with her father.

"We're going back to the roots," is Carla Thomas' opinion of where the Black community is headed musically. "Anything goes, African music, Big Bands." And "back to the roots," is also where Stax Recording Company headed last summer to show its appreciation for the millions of record sales it enjoyed throughout the years. The promotion of the critically acclaimed movie, WATTSTAX: THE LIVING WORD, is the reason for Miss Thomas' appearance in Portland this week. Parts of the movie were actually filmed in Los Angeles, where Stax Recording Company attracted 100,000 people from the Watts community and all over the United States. One dollar, reserved seats was the admission price and all proceeds went back to the community. There were 7 and 1/2 hours packed with all types of soulful sounds. The Staple Singers rocked awhile, The Bar-

Kays got down, Carla Thomas spread a feeling of romance, Rufus Thomas made them leap from their seats, and Isaac Hayes 'Stood Accused.'

I was there and I must agree with Carla. "A whole lot of spirit came out of that." Miss Thomas went on to say "It was my first time before a crowd of people that big. It's one of the best feelings I've ever had." As for the feeling of the people in the audience, Miss Thomas describes that well too, "an outbreak of happiness."

Rumor has it that the Wattstax concert might become annual. However with the impact that this concert has had, there are sure to be more similar events all over the country. And it seems also, that Carla Thomas, who has been making mellow sounds for quite awhile, has only just begun to utilize all her talents. Nevertheless, Wattstax is a winner, Carla Thomas is a winner, and if you take the time to check them out you'll have a winning experience.

Weekend classes begin at beach

Haystack Weekend College at Cannon Beach will provide Oregon residents with an opportunity to earn two to three credits by attending classes during weekends at the beach this spring. The program is sponsored by the Oregon Division of Continuing Education and Clatsop Community College.

This is a new and unique alternative to regular campus classes. The natural setting at Cannon Beach coastal village invites the learner to combine a weekend study with family fun at the beach.

Courses are designed to enable the student to complete a college credit class in two or three weekends. Classes begin March 31 at the M&M Building. Most of the classes are held on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Sundays 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

Oregon State system of Higher Education courses at Haystack Weekend College that may be taken for credit or audit spring term include: Silkscreen Printing which provides techniques for building frames, selecting pigments for paper and cloth, experimenting with inventive blocking materials for the screen; Art Activities in Elementary Education including practical, exciting experiences which can be used in the classrooms and integrating

art in other subject areas; Program Proposal Writing which helps participants conceptualize and prepare proposals, prepare applications for funding, learn about funding sources; Expressive Choral Conducting, held on Fridays 7:00-10:00 p.m. and Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. is designed for church and choir directors to make conducting more effective and plan rehearsals for sound, blend, balance; Latest Techniques in Elementary Music starting with children where they are, eliminating the abstract, making experiences meaningful; Athletic Injuries will aid the coach and physical educator in identification and evaluation of athletic injuries with emphasis on preventive measures; Drug Crisis - "Boot and Shoot" Junkies is intended to acquaint participants with the acute drug reaction and overdose

SA games boycott asked of athletes

The American Committee on Africa has appealed to five American athletes to reconsider their decision to participate in the South African Games, March 23-April 7 in Pretoria in view of the fact that the conditions of this event will comply with existing South African statutes which separate South African athletes according to race.

In a letter addressed to Steve Smith, champion pole vaulter, and four other American track and field stars the Committee states - "as pressures for an end to apartheid in sport mount in South Africa, American athletes can make an important positive contribution by disavowing any athletic competition not conducted according to the Olympic principle of non-discrimination."

Out of 16 American track and field athletes invited, only 5 have applied to the AAU for travel permits. Wrestlers, swimmers, gymnasts, and trampolinists have also been invited, but there is no indication whether any are going.

A further communication has been sent to Ollan Cassell and Stan Wright, key track and field officials, pointing out that the U.S. is one of 206 nations to vote

for U.N. Resolution 2775D, 29 Nov. 1971 which called upon... "and...calls upon individual sportsmen to refuse to participate where there is an official policy of racial discrimination..."

The ACOA statement asking for a boycott of the South African Games underscores that "participation would be a gross affront to the thousands of Black American athletes and millions of Black citizens who are denied entry to South Africa solely because of color."

The American Committee on Africa gives its full support to the Supreme Council for National Sport, ICARIS (International Campaign Against Racism in Sport), and SANROC (South African Non Racial Olympic Committee) which is working within South Africa to erase the color ban in sports.

George Houser, Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa, said, "I am greatly encouraged by reports over South African radio that overseas registration for the Games is down to 124 athletes. The South African government originally had planned to receive 500 athletes. The level of protest inside and outside of South Africa can play a significant role toward creating a climate for change. At this point, however, I do not see the South African government altering the basic structure of apartheid. And so we shall not rest until the artificial barriers which perpetuate injustice and inequality are completely obliterated."

The American Committee on Africa, now in its twentieth year, was organized to give support to Africa's struggle for freedom and independence. Its emphasis now is Southern Africa's struggle against white minority regimes.

The Honorable William Booth, Judge of Brooklyn Criminal Court and former Commissioner of the New York City Commission on Human Rights, is President of the ACOA.

Moore signs

Archie Moore, the former World Light-Heavyweight Champion, has been signed by producer Carter DeHaven for an important role in MGM's action drama "The Outfit," starring Robert Duval, Karen Black and Joe Don Baker. John Flynn is directing his own screenplay based on a novel by Richard Stark.

"The Outfit" is the story of a professional bank robber who declares war on the crime syndicate to avenge his brother's slaying.

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Soul Stuff

OBSERVATIONS IN COVING THE NIGHT-BEAT: The Spinners will be seen on syndicated coast-to-coast shows "Soul Train" and "Black Omibus" during March and April. The Spinners are now riding on the hottest record in the country, "Could It Be I'm Falling In Love With You?" on Atlantic Records...

Ronnie Dyson, whose new Columbia single, "One Man Band" is skyrocketing in the charts will also be seen on the "Merv Griffin Show" and "Soul Train" TV shows during March and April. Two great acts you just can't miss to watch...Melba Moore and Clifton Davis who have split for the umpteenth time are back together again as of this writing and toasted each other with Teacher's Scotch during dinner at Ronnie's Supper Club...

A brand new wine, dine and dance policy is now in effect at the Royal Box of the Americana Hotel. The festive early harbingers of Spring means a return to fine music and a broad American menu with some Continental cooking, creatively displayed in the nightly specialties. Diners will have a choice of a table d'hote dinner or a wide selection from the a la carte skid. To complement the exceptionally fine hotel cuisine, a revised and all inclusive wine list will be available. The accent on music will be a two pronged affair - easy listening via subdued jazz and/or a pronounced soul beat, signaling an invitation to dance. You take your choice. The first maestro to usher in the new policy is that past and present master of the horn, trumpet star JONAH JONES and his group. Music will be continuous, right on till 2:00 a.m.,

ditto, the service of victuals. The Jones Gig lasts for three weeks and three days...Song-streets Melba Moore, one of the nation's most exciting entertainers, just made her debut at Jules Podell's Copacabana. Melba has starred in the nation's top cafe's and has been on the leading TV variety shows. She achieved national acclaim by winning a Tony in the Broadway hit, "Purlie." Before that show, her only previous experience in the theatre was in the rock musical, "Hair," first as lead singer in the show-stopping parody of The Supremes. She was the first Black "Sheila" in any of the many "Hair" companies playing around the world. Melba is well-schooled for her trade, holding a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education from Montclair State Teacher's College (Montclair, N.J.). After a brief teaching career, she decided it wasn't for her. Show biz was for her. She worked as a background singer for records, put together an act and worked the Catskills as a stand-up pop singer. "I was singing nice safe songs, and things like "Summer-time" to show off my legit voice. It was a regular act-dull." Then she took additional voice and dance lessons to give her act a more exciting dimension...Joe Frazier congratulated Vinnette Carroll, director of B'way musical, "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope," for being nominated for an award by the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle as the show is playing in Los Angeles, too. "Why weren't you directing me in the George Foreman fight?" Joe quipped....