



Trail Blazer Wrapup

by Charles Ford

The rumors are flying pretty high through-out the city that a deal is in the making to trade Sidney Wicks; the idea alone is very hard to digest, Sid has been and is still one of the top forwards in the N.B.A., plus an all around player, switching from time to time depending on the opposition.

I recognize there are problems within the organization. We could quote you statistics after statistics on Super Sid during the four years he has been playing for Portland and I am sure we would all be surprised. He has earned the title, super, because he is truly a super star in any league and on any progressive club.

It must be extremely frustrating to a player like Wicks who has to continue to produce far beyond the expectation of anyone else on the club. Quote from the coach, Lenny Wilkens, about Wicks' play this year, "He is playing an all around game, check the assists, rebounds, scoring and you will find him right up front." The New Orleans Jazz came to town loaded with talent, even without Pistol Pete Maravich, they are a well balanced ball club, defeating the Blazers in the final quarter 105 to 97. We were in the game until Coach Lenny Wilkens decided to bring in Steve Hawes for LaRue Martin, who had played a bang up game. Last night was the first loss to New Orleans in the Coliseum, we won the contest here 106 to 104 and lost 90 to 99 at New Orleans earlier this season.

We have now lost eight of the last ten games; the road record stands at three and twelve for the season. Despite a 10-18 record, the Blazers have been out scored by a total of only three field goals this season; out rebounded opponents 1368 to 1335; lead in assists 719 to 668. The team has been in most of the games played this season. We are hurting because no one has been established as the center, because of Walton's physical (we hope) problems.

Sid is not the real problem with this club. His contributions will live long after he has gone. If Sidney is traded, we hope you will take a look at Geoff Petrie the same as you have Wicks.

Entertainment Guide

by Allen Jones



SPECTRUM IN BLUE

Columbia recording artist Ramsey Lewis has been named Top Jazz Pianist in the coveted Ebony Magazine 1975 Black Music Poll. Lewis is currently enjoying tremendous resurgence in the pop and rhythm & blues record charts with his LP "Sun Goddess".

For many years Ramsey has been a top jazz and pop artist with such releases as "The In Crowd", "Hang On Sloop", and "Slipping Into Darkness". Now, he and his trio comprised of Cleveland Eaton, bass and Maurice Jennings, drums, are monopolizing progressive audiences across the country as did Herbie Hancock earlier last year.

Our Ms. Brooks, who made her solo debut on A&M with an album titled "Rich Man's Woman", is hardly a newcomer. This Lancashire lass, who discovered her full-bodied voice while singing along with Frankie Laine records as a tot, traveled down to London at fifteen to become the vocalist for a "pally" (dance) band. While fronting that band, Elkie learned how to read music and how to use a stage - and she also learned a valuable lesson in survival on the road in the company of male musicians. Before long, Elkie knew she was sufficiently tough, self-contained, and ambitious to make it as a singer; she also knew it wouldn't be any picnic.

"Rich Man's Woman" reveals a forceful and original singing and songwriting talent. The struggle was worth it - this is the pay-off, for all of us.

When several members of Sam & Dave's band got the urge for independence they worked all the way from their Miami home base to Los Angeles, picking up a few volunteers along the way. When they all began to play together, the artistic frustration they'd been feeling separately melted away, and what was left grew into mutual feelings of love, togetherness and devotion. It was only natural that Love, Togetherness and Devotion should be the name of this newly formed group, and that the initials L.T.D. be used for short. (NOTE: Carl Vickers, nephew of Portland's Tom Vickers, plays trumpet, flute, piccolo, soprano sax and does backing vocals. Carl was formerly with Sam & Dave.)

Community Calendar

The Salvation Army will be serving its **Annual Christmas Dinner**, Christmas Day 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., for the homeless in our city at the Harbor Light Center located at the corner of S.W. Second and Burnside. Over 125 volunteers will be involved in preparing and serving this year's dinner. It is expected that upwards of 1,000 will be served. All persons not having a place to go for Christmas dinner are invited.

Portland Civic Theatre celebrates the New Year with a gala champagne performance of **YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU**, on the Mainstage, December 31st at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for students and senior citizens. Kaufman & Hart's delightful comedy about the eccentric and lovable Sycamore family.

In the Blue Room, P.C.T. is offering its annual winter mystery, **CATCH ME IF YOU CAN**. It contains both murder and comedy, with an ending that will surprise the most ardent mystery buffs. **CATCH ME IF YOU CAN** plays through February 7th.

Electricity and Plumbing, a four lesson workshop, is scheduled on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., beginning January 6th at the Downtown YWCA, 1111 S.W. 10th. Instruction will be given on how to do simple electricity and plumbing repairs. The workshop is open to women and men. The workshop is \$8 for YWCA members and \$9.50 for non-members.

The **North Portland Citizen's Committee** will have its General Membership Meeting on January 6th at the St. Johns Community Center, 8427 N. Central, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The agenda includes: election of executive board members, community development funds, nominations for Planning Commission sub-committee.

Film Center features on January 1st at 9:00 p.m. - **Swastiki** (1954) documentary on Nazi Germany comprised of Nazi-shot footage.



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BJC seeks members

The BJC has been incorporated with the Oregon State Department of Commerce and a constitution and by-laws have been drafted, which will be presented for the approval of the membership. Annual membership dues are \$5.00 and will be valid until December 31st, 1976. Senior citizens over age sixty are exempt from dues and are eligible for membership upon written request.

Applications for membership may be mailed to: The Black Justice Committee, Box 8562, Portland, Oregon 97207 (Checks and money orders should be made payable to Black Justice Committee Incorporated.)

The Black Justice Committee (BJC)

was organized in March, 1975, in response to the killing of four young Black men by the Portland Police Department within a period of six months. Since its inception the BJC has been involved in a range of issues affecting Black citizens of Portland on both an individual and a collective basis. Many requests have been made for assistance in such areas as education, police brutality, employment, health, etc. Do to limited funds, the organization has been able to respond to a fraction of the problems presented. The BJC is inviting all Black residents of the greater Portland area to join, so that service to the community can be expanded. Monthly meetings will be held, and a monthly newsletter published.

CR Bureau opens Salem office

Labor Commissioner Bill Stevenson announced the recent appointment of Juan Ruiz, civil rights investigator for the Salem area.

The commissioner said it was the first time a civil rights investigator had been permanently assigned to the Bureau of Labor's office in Salem. This is part of the commissioner's action program to increase services to all Oregon residents.

The Bureau of Labor enforces civil rights law prohibiting discrimination because of mental or physical handicap, workman's injury, race, religion, national origin, sex, age or marital status in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodation and schooling.

During his first two weeks in Salem,

Ruiz received numerous inquiries from employers. He said he prefers to work with them to avoid discriminatory practices than to receive complaints against them. He can be reached at 378-3296 in the Labor and Industries Building.

Ruiz has three years experience with the Bureau in wage and hour and civil rights enforcement. He is fluent in both English and Spanish. He believes that Spanish-speaking people have been more at ease discussing their problems with him in their own language.

Ruiz resides in Woodburn with his wife, Aurora, and children, Debbie, Juan Floyd and Juan, Jr..

Jordan visits Portland

Vernon Jordan, Jr. will be the guest speaker at the Urban League of Portland's Annual Dinner Meeting. Jordan has been the Executive Director of the National Urban League since January, 1972. He directs an organization whose 103 affiliates, four Regional Offices,

Washington Bureau and New York headquarters work tirelessly to bring solid advances to the minority community. His weekly newspaper column,

"To Be Equal" appears in 120 newspapers.

The meeting place will be the Sheraton Motor Inn - Lloyd Center. Dinner will be served at 8:00 p.m., contribution, \$10. Date, January 29th, 1976.

Tickets and reservations may be arranged at the Urban League Downtown Office, 718 West Burnside, room #404 - 224-0151 or the Urban League Field Office, 5329 N.E. Union, room #202 - 288-6517.

Straub seeks youth members

Governor Robert W. Straub is actively seeking names of youth to serve on the some 200 boards and commissions in state government.

"Some boards and commissions seem to be natural for young people," Straub said. "The Arts Commission, the Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Scholarship Commission - all directly affect young people."

Straub pointed out, however, that other boards and commissions such as the Committee on Field Burning, the Government Ethics Commission, or the Energy Conservation Task Force also affect the lives of young people and could profit from the involvement of interested and knowledgeable youth.

"Young people can be interested in processed prunes, creeping red fescue and filberts," Straub added. "The point is that young people have a vast range of interests and abilities. I want those young people to be involved in our state government. I want them to know that Oregon's government will remain open, honest and straightforward as long as the citizens are willing to be a part of it."

Young people under age 25 may obtain a complete listing of the state boards and commissions by writing the Governor's Commission on Youth, 555 13th Street N.E., Salem, Oregon 97310.

Application and personal information forms may be obtained from the same office.

Life with Plants

QUESTION: Is the poinsettia poisonous?
ANSWER: Botanists and florists still debate the question and some highly dramatic but non-conclusive national telecasts have demonstrated someone supposedly eating a leaf with no ill effects. It must be remembered that the plant is a **Euphorbia**, a long noted group of plants credited with properties toxic to man. It is suggested that all persons, particularly children, learn to respect all plants used as decorations. Many have the potential for inducing digestive and skin disturbance if eaten.

By the time you finish reading this item, you will know how to grow a beautiful house plant. This doesn't mean that all of your indoor gardening sins now in progress will be forgiven to the point where the dozen or so sickly examples of a garden on the way to total blight will suddenly become a picture of health but your least return will be that of knowing why and how they got that way. First, understand that no plant ever chose a house as a place to live. It was most happy when it was outdoors at the habitat where nature put it. This location may have been in small bits of rock at the edge of the arctic snow line or at any of the intermediate points to and including the hot, dry and nearly barren desert. First, what is the natural spread of its root system compared to the present, dinky pot where you have crammed it. No amount of color harmony of the container with the room furnishings will offset the root space requirement of the plant. Follow your inquiry with a question as to what temperature is most favorable and then put a thermometer at the point where the plant is to hang or stand and see what proposed location has to offer. This may require several trials in order to satisfy both heat and light requirements of the plant you are about to acquire. The greatest item for generating disputes about having everything just exactly right is the growing media we have so often referred to as soil even

though it may be pure sand, all sawdust or the new light weight miracle bark. A plant can tolerate a lot of less than perfect stuff around its roots but it must get the required amount of air, water and dissolved nutrients from the media or a special feeding solution. This doesn't mean that a plant needs the same quantity at the same interval every day or week of the year. Read the need by observing the growth rate, overall size and leaf condition. Since most of the feeding is done by use of liquid solutions, remember the food must be dissolved for a plant to get it. At the same time, remember that a plant noted for use of little water will not need as much food. Better keep them on the hungry side than kill them by daily banquets. Best yet, is to supply the native growing media and leave all the bark and "miracle stuff" to the experts who have time for making the necessary adjustment and observation in order to learn how to properly handle the substitute growing medias. When insects or disease strike, first identify the problem before grabbing a dust or spray. Indiscriminate applications can do more harm than good. Apply the proper material and watch it closely until recovery is complete. To make a hasty checklist of don'ts, remember the most common causes of plant failures are few and simple and include:

1. Overwatering.
2. Too much heat.
3. Overfeeding.
4. Insects and diseases.

As you look around the shopping center, notice the amount of space being given to plants. Since plant stores remain in business, they are selling thousands of plants and most of them survive. You can join the ever growing list of proud owners of these botanical wonders by remembering that the daily care is just as important as for the dog even if the plant doesn't bark for attention.



Citizen of the Week



Ms. Rita K. Clinton is director of the YWCA Women's Prison Project. As the new director, she is in the midst of a drive to raise \$90,000 to continue the program, the only one of its kind in this area. The YWCA provides counselling, housing, job placement and training for women coming out of penal institutions as well as services for those still incarcerated.

Ms. Clinton has long been interested in corrections. For the past five years she has been a volunteer teacher of Black Studies at the Oregon State Penitentiary and has helped establish programs for Black inmates. She was one of the first to see the value of and to be willing to assist the Black prisoners' club "UHURU". In 1971, she became volunteer coordinator of Minority Programs at OSP and since then has been working with the administration to help inmates adjust back into the community through the utilization of community resources.

Ms. Clinton wrote and implemented a training program for all Department of Corrections personnel.

She worked for some time as a Human Resource Representative for the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission.

Ms. Clinton was born and raised in Portland. She is well respected for her many services to the community.

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but save all you can . . .*

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