

Entertainment Guide



by Allen Jones

Tri-Essence Socio-Cultural Society ***

The Tri-Essence Socio-Cultural Society is a newly formed society, composed of mostly Tri-Met employees. Among their objectives are; to increase social and cultural awareness of people in and around the Albina community. They gave their first annual dinner dance Saturday night at the Air Tel Motor Inn. With the impromptu announcement of the affair, I must admit, I had reservations about its total success. However, all doubts were quickly removed soon after I arrived. From the cocktail hour right on through the evening was thoroughly enjoyable. The crowd was handsomely attired. Particularly Mr. and Mrs. John Blow. Mrs. Ruthie Blow was dressed in a studded floor length gown, with studded hat and bag to match and a white beaver and fur coat. John wore a steel gray suit with burgandy accessories. Both were smartly dressed. The Tri-Essence has been the only social club this year, to offer their friends and associates a complete evening of: good food, music, service and libations for such a reasonable sum of money. The present officers include; Dave Clark, President; Grover Jackson, Vice President; Barbara Jackson, Secretary; (unrelated) Cicero Curry, Treasurer; Maxine Davis, Social Director; Nehoma Gay, Correspondence Secretary; and Jobie Adams, Sergeant at Arms. Julius "Jay" Williams was chairman of the dinner dance, along with being MC for the evening. A job well done Jay! However, why not restrict your vocal exercising to the shower (smile). Ken Adair and the Northwest Sound Association provided the music for the evening. A young lady by the name of Linda Hornbuckle kicked off the evening festivities by singing, "Lift Ev'ry Voice", the Black National Anthem. Ken Adair played soft piano music while we feasted on succulent roast beef. "A Touch of Class," everyone seems to approve of. The Northwest Sound Association is unquestionably one of the best groups around. They played over a dozen selections. Tunes such as; "Mr. Magic," "True Devotion," "Sun Goddess," "Fight the Power," "Sing A Song" and a medley of Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes tunes, "Pleasure." A local group who recently recorded their first album were scheduled to play. But were unable to attend because half the group was in Los Angeles and the other half remained here in Portland. I certainly hope "Pleasure" doesn't fall in the same rut like so many singing group, so often get the "Big Head." Never the less, if they were missed no one seemed to notice and I didn't either. Tri-Essence, if next year's dinner dance is anything like this one was - I can't wait!!

Music '76

In the few months that I've been writing the Entertainment Guide, it's been a challenge and a pleasure to do my utmost to keep you informed on: concerts, shows, social events and general information on music in and around Portland. 1976 offers more beautiful music and here are some observations I'd like to share with you.

Jazz Music

In the past two years, Jazz has made an indelible impression on music lovers in general. Jazz has slowly but surely converted millions of people in the states as well as around the world to a type of music everyone can understand and appreciate. The Renaissance of the 20's has made the likes of, Miles David, Cannonball Adderly, George Shearing, Dexter Gordon, Ahmad James, Wes Montgomery, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Nancy Wilson, Armen Macrea, "Sassy" Sarah Vaughn, Dinah Washington, Esther Phillips and all the other heavy weights of Jazz Vanguards in the struggle for international acclaim. Quickly Jones is probably more noted for the innovation of having "voices" in the background along with Grover Washington, Jr. Bobbi Humphrey, a beautiful young sister on flute has been the best to have "voices" while playing, as far as I am concerned. Check out her albums; "Black and Blues" and "Satin Doll" (my favorite) if you don't believe me. In '76 I think Jazz musicians will play down the voices and play more of themselves. Either way it goes, you can bet Jazz is going along too.

Rock and or Rhythm and Blues

As one of the Rock groups so aptly put it; Rock and Roll is here to stay! Earth, Wind and Fire, Stevie Wonder, Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, the Isley Brothers, Rufus, John Denver, the Staple Singers, Elton John, the O'Jays, Willie Hutch, Helen Reddy, Aretha Franklin, the Spinners, Olivia Newton John, Petula Clark, Captain and Tennille have probably been the most played artists of 1975. Quite a few of the "Top" white artists have been using "Black" back-up groups this year, such as: Helen Reddy, Tony Orlando and Dawn, Elvis Presley, Petula Clark (has a Black arranger) Dr. John and others. I see this on a definite upswing in '76. I've been extremely impressed with: Earth, Wind and Fire, the Isley Brothers, Willie Hutch and Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes this year. Their lyrics and arrangements have been just out-of-sight this year. "Musical arrangements" will be very important in '76 to the Rock and Roll listeners - we're sure!

Pop Music

Pop music has been popular for over a decade now. You can easily attach its popularity to Peter, Paul and Mary in the early 60's. Pop and Rock are closely related to one another now. It's almost hard to tell the difference between the two anymore. If there aren't some progressive changes in '76, Pop will turn to Rock and no one will notice. If it wasn't for Olivia Newton John (known as a Pop Country star), John Denver, Janis Ian (a sister), the Carpenters, Carly Simon, Phoebe Snow (a sister), and a few others, 1975 would have been a bad year for Pop music fans. By the way, whatever happened to Peter, Paul and Mary??

Country-Western

Ever since 1962 when Ray Charles recorded a country and western album, everyone became more aware of its existence on the other side of the color line. Country and western music has even lost the "twang" connotation it's had on it for years. Charlie Pride, Charlie Rich ("Behind Closed Doors"), Glen Campbell, Donna Fargo, Lorreta Lynn, Tammy Wynette and Dolly Parton, who has made a bath tub full of money this year. Country and western music has picked up in popularity and '76 offers more of it!

Check It Out

Incidentally, Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes are permanently broken up now. It seems that Mr. Melvin has been finding it difficult to make it to his gigs on time. The rest of the group made it to the Dinah Shore TV spot, but Mr. Melvin never showed. They were booked recently at the plush Play Boy Club in Los Angeles, when Mr. Melvin arrived, the other members of the group were on stage. Apparently the audience didn't approve and Mr. Melvin told them what they could do about it - "on stage." Their engagement was cancelled - that night. Theodore Pendagrass who actually sings all the lead songs anyway - will take over the group himself. See what the big head can do to a highly successful group - "Pleasure"!

On behalf of the Staff of the **Portland Observer**, may you and yours have unity, opportunity and prosperity in 1976!!



Joyous New Year

Let's ring it in with happy hopes and great expectations for brighter, better days.

SENATOR WILLIAM McCOY
SENATE DISTRICT #8

HAPPY NEW YEAR



SEASON'S GREETINGS

We hope the holiday season brings you joy and happiness and prosperity for the coming year. We would like to thank you for your patronage and hope that we can continue to serve you in 1976.

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