

Entertainment guide



by Allen Jones

SPECTRUM IN BLUE

HUMMINGBIRD

To describe Hummingbird as a band of session musicians is an inadequate representation - in fact, that description is totally misleading.

Max Middleton (keyboards), Bobby Tench (guitar and vocals) and Clive Chaman (bass) were all members of the Jeff Beck Group that recorded the albums *Rough and Ready* and *Jeff Beck Group*. In '72, Beck disbanded the outfit so he could fulfill his ambition to play with ex-Vanilla Fudges Tim Bogert and Carmine Appice. Max, Bobby, and Clive wished to continue playing together, but without the restrictions Beck had imposed on them. To that end, they formed Hummingbird as a proper recording and concert band in January, '73.

Originally, the fifth member of the old Beck Group, drummer Cozy Powell, wanted to be involved in the project, but instead he decided to play with Badlam, and later form his own band, Hammer. Therefore, Conrad Isidore, who'd previously worked with Stephen Stills and Joe Cocker, joined. And the final member of the line up was Bernie Holland (guitar), who'd been playing with Pure Chance and Georgie Fame.

This format then went into the studio to record. But it was a time-consuming process, and while business deals were being arranged, individual members worked sessions: Middleton, for instance, continued to record with Beck and was also involved with the Mick Taylor-Jack Bruce Band, while Tench joined Streetwalkers.

The original tracks recorded by Hummingbird and produced by Ian Samwell were, with the exception of two, scrapped; and they recorded again. The result was their debut album, *Hummingbird*, released in mid-'75.

"I was pleased to see it come out," Bobby says. "But it was very difficult, when you've got five people in the band who're all strong players, not to force a direction. We just wanted to see where the music would go naturally. On the other hand, a lot of Conrad's songs were recorded, which made the album very one-sided. It is a good album, but it could have been better."

Charles pleases Seaside crowd

by Steve Egan

"I've got nothing to sell you but my sound, and it's got to be right," said Ray Charles recently. He was talking to the sell-out crowd at Seaside's Convention Center, Sunday the 6th. The microphones were wrong on his voice and piano, and he wisely stopped the show till they were right. (Unlike the Paramount show, where he reportedly lost his composure and the mood of the evening over the same thing.) For Ray has perfect pitch, maybe the best ear in the business; he's a legendary perfectionist - a few times while playing, he even turned to correct some of his band members. But he enjoyed himself the whole show, and of course the people did too.

"Georgia" sounded even sadder than its hit record version, painfully caressed, drawn-out. The same style sobbed that great country song "Born to Lose." Ray was playful-sad, with humor and outrage in another blues "How Long Has This Been Going On?" He mixed humor too, with poverty, in "Johnny Cash hit. Still with country tunes, his perfect-timed back-up girls the Raylettes helped with a rhythm 'n' blues version of John Denver's "Country Roads." Though they were flawless, I missed the gusto that Marjorie Hendricks used to give the group, years ago. They did others with Ray, including the finale, that greatest of rock 'n' roll songs, "What I'd Say." Ray did it on the organ, though he used to play it crisper on piano; and it was shorter - lessening its tension and impact, recalling those stale cover treatments of Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison, Bobby Darin. But then, seventeen years is a long time to play a song that hectic.

It got him his encore.

Ray's voice was strong as ever, and sad: artfully jagged, crude, echoing Southern poverty. Yet how many people know he used to sound smooth and bland, when he copied Nat Cole and played Seattle with his trio in the 1950s? Or that Ray's country hits of the 1960s were not commercial sell-outs, as some "soul"

purists thought at the time? Ray had played piano in a Florida hillbilly band in the late 1940s, listening regularly to the Grand Old Opry. A man of musical contradictions, when Ray married rural gospel sounds to ghetto blues in the 1950s, bluesman Big Bill Broonzy complained: "That's wrong... He's got a good voice but it's a church voice. He should be singing in church." And Ray Charles was there when rhythm 'n' blues merged with hillbilly to become rock 'n' roll - his "I Got A Woman" was on Elvis' first album. Progressive jazz, R & B, white country, Tin Pan Alley, Ray plays all that, well varied, not confused.

For he's had the time, and the hard times, to learn it all. Born Black watching his brother drown when he was four, blind at seven, motherless at fifteen, playing professionally and taking hard drugs by the time his father died when he was seventeen, Ray was a giant recording star for white and Black audiences before he was thirty. And following the narcotics arrests, he was cured of heroin in a hospital at the age of thirty-five.

At forty-five Charles is relaxed, joking between numbers, super-confident within his sunglasses-and-tuxedo image. Nor bitter... "People... should go out into the world and learn to keep fighting for themselves," he once told an interviewer.

Still you feel that nothing is forgotten, such as that time Ray was paid only with a can of sardines, and was so hungry and hurried, that he spilled it in his blindness trying to open it. Those scars will always be in his voice. The only voices I've heard as sad as his, belonged to Hank Williams and Billie Holiday, both losers in the fight Ray won: drugs. The cost of that victory, and others, aches in his singing.

His flawless band opened with a short set of jazz, with solo-after-solo, followed by ventriloquist Aaron Williams and Freddy. The caustic dummy was hilarious, insulting the audience, Blacks, whites, ventriloquists in general, and especially the police. After all, it was benefit for the Seaside cops!

Names in the News

Lisa Reynolds has assumed a new position as secretary at Schick Center for the Control of Smoking.

Junius Nacosta of Port Bane, Louisiana has returned home after visiting relatives in Portland, California, Nebraska and Texas.

Lucy Johnson has returned home after a five week trip to Denver and Oklahoma.

Christaline Maxwell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Maxwell, spent two days in the area visiting friends in Portland and Seaside. She comes from an old family and was raised in Salem. While serving in the Army in World War II, and adopted a child in North Africa.

George Tribble has accepted a position with Data Systems, Inc. in San Francisco, where he will be a sales representative for computer systems. He formerly worked at IBM in Portland. Tribble is treasurer of the Albina Lions' Club.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ingram had a pleasant trip to Los Angeles, California where they attended the Imperial Conference of the A.E.A.N.M.S. The trip did not end there, however, as they flew to the Hawaiian Islands. The Ingrams toured several sites with the Shrine group, the visit being highlighted by a trip to the Punchbowl National Cemetery and a dinner cruise on the Pacific Ocean.

Bill Ingram is a Noble in Mina Temple #68 of Portland.

Stanley Cage, maintenance engineer at the Bethel A.M.E. Church will be retiring after 7 years on the job. Congratulations!

May Finney has completed a two week IRS training course. She received her training in Ogden, Utah.

Juanita LyDay has entered Willamette University majoring in journalism. Juanita, an outstanding student who graduated from Jefferson High School in June, received a \$2500. scholarship.

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Whitney Young Classic honors Bethune

"... Despite many crushing burdens and handicaps, I have risen from the cotton fields of South Carolina to found a college, administer it during its years of growth, become a public servant in the government and country, and a leader of women. I would not exchange my color for all the wealth in the world, for had I been born white, I might not have been able to do all I have done or yet hope to do."

These words are from the Legacy of Mary McLeod Bethune, a truly great woman of the world, who will be honored along with the salute to the National Council of Negro Women during pregame activities at the 6th Annual Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Football Classic at Yankee Stadium on Saturday, October 30th.

Mary McLeod Bethune was born in 1875, in Mayesville, South Carolina to Samuel and Patsy McLeod, ex-slaves. After emancipation, her parents obtained

a five-acre tract of farm land near Mayesville. She was the fifteenth of seventeen children born to the McLeods. Some of the older children were also slaves, but the younger ones grew up at their home.

"Mother worked in the field at father's side, cutting rice and chopping fodder. When I was nine, I could pick two hundred fifty pounds of cotton a day," Mrs. Bethune recalled in her Legacy.

From these humble beginnings Mrs. Bethune rose to become one of the outstanding women on both the national and international scene. She served on the National Commission for Child Welfare under Presidents Coolidge and Hoover; special advisor on minority affairs to President Roosevelt; was director of the Office of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration from 1936 to 1944; founded Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida; founded the National Council of Negro Women; and was an officer of many other national organi-

zations, including the NAACP and the National Urban League.

When she founded the Daytona (Florida) Normal and Industrial School for Girls in 1904, she had \$1.65 in cash, a borrowed four-room cottage and faith in God and in herself. Her first class consisted of five little girls and her own son.

Today, Bethune-Cookman College, a liberal arts institution, has an enrollment of 1,250. Mrs. Bethune passed away on May 20th, 1955.

The Wildcats of Bethune-Cookman College will face the Spartans of Norfolk State College in the 6th Annual Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Football Classic at New York's Yankee Stadium. Besides the tribute to the "Great Lady" and the National Council of Negro Women, headed by Mrs. Dorothy I. Height; Melba Moore will sing the National Anthem, Connie Parker will sing the Black National Anthem; there will be recognition of Black American Legionnaires; live entertainment; presentation of the Whitney Young, Jr. Memorial Award; and sparkling precision marching by both school bands.

Bar approves PCC program

The Portland Community College legal assistant program was granted final approval by the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association during their August meeting.

The PCC program was one of eight granted the full accreditation. Don Fiser, department chairman, indicated of the more than 200 colleges offering legal assistant programs, less than 20 have been approved.

Working in consultation with the Oregon Bar Association, PCC was one of four institutional programs in the United States to start a pilot project of testing legal assistant educational guidelines developed by the national legal body.

To enroll in the program at PCC a student must be employed in the legal profession or have departmental approval. A certificate is awarded to the student who completes core courses and selects one of the nine specialty course clusters which allow specialization. The student

completing additional general education and three specialty areas is awarded an associate degree.

Those course clusters offered to the student are family law, litigation, property law, taxation, probate practice, office management, criminal law, business law and general.

All classes are offered evenings and Saturdays only. They are taught by practicing attorneys and law office managers.

The American Bar Association defines a legal assistant as a specially trained nonlawyer who assists an attorney in the performance of certain limited professional services under the attorney's direction and control. This person can perform any acts under such direction except accept a case, set a fee, give legal advice and appear in court.

To become certified in Oregon an individual must complete the associate degree, pass a certification examination and have two years legal work experience.

Tea benefits UNCF campaign

The public is invited to attend an educational fund raising tea featuring the United Negro College Fund at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Daniels, 10845 S.E. Mill Court, Portland, from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 26th, 1976. Those attending will be invited to make a free will gift to the 1976 Oregon UNCF Campaign. Light refreshments

will be served and those dropping in will have an opportunity to learn more about UNCF schools from audio visual presentations; and through conversations with UNCF Alumni, Oregon Advisory Board Members, and UNCF Staff. Mrs. Willie Mae Hart and Dr. Ernest Hartzog are Co-Chairpersons of the UNCF Oregon Advisory Board. Mrs. Harrie B. Paris is Chairperson for the September 26th Tea.

One in every four school children has a vision problem, according to the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness. Make sure your child's eyes are checked and get necessary treatment.



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HOBBIES: Music, basketball, traveling.
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