



Fat Larry's Band



Entertainment Guide

by Allen Jones

SPECTRUM IN BLUE

In 1972, Larry James was playing with the Delfonics, and recalls going to see Blue Magic perform at a local Philadelphia Club. When Blue Magic's regular back-up band struck out for greener pastures, James was also free, having departed the Delfonics organization. He handpicked the members of the band which played behind Blue Magic for the next five years. "We called ourselves the Magic of Blue, and those were some great years."

Now anyone who's had a dose of Blue Magic's electrifying performances onstage, and wondered about giving credit-where-credit-is due to the regular bunch of musicians who back up the vocal group, need wonder no more. Fat Larry's Band has come into its own, and rightly so. Their individual and collective experiences have taken them across the U.S., Canada, the Virgin Islands, and Europe; working with such major artists as Major Harris, the Delfonics, Ben E. King, Margie Joseph, the Manhattans, Ebony, and Eddie Kendricks, to name but a few.

"The band prefers doing raunchy, earthy tunes with a commercial flavor, based on personal experiences and surroundings, love, spiritual guidance, and everyday life," beams James. "Life, of course, is a process of constant change and growth. By 1974, we were ready to record as an individual unit, and fortunately, WMOT Records president Alan Rubens and vice-president Steve Bernstein felt the same way." It was about that time the band decided to take on the name of their leader, and Fat Larry's Band signed to an exclusive recording contract with WMOT Records early in '76.

Their first album was "Feel It" on WMOT Records, distributed by Atlantic. "It was an all-out, up and up disco album. Disco was really happening. But today I sense that a lot of slower songs are more popular."

Fat Larry signed with Stax Records in September '77; his debut Stax LP is "Off The Wall," and, all modesty aside, it's anything but off the wall! Produced by Larry James, Alan Rubens, Steve Bernstein, and the entire band, for WMOT Productions, "Off The Wall" is a terrific demonstration of this band's versatility and talent.

Larry and Doris James are prolific, and proficient, songwriters. Married almost two years, the couple claims to get a lot of inspiration from the movies. "We're always going to the movies - I imagine most songwriters get their inspiration from what's around them - what they're doing. Well, what we do is go to the movies!"

A brilliant example is "Sparkle," the lead track on "Off The Wall." "We had just been to see 'Star Wars.' We were driving home afterwards, and Doris started humming this little tune. She writes most of the melody lines, and I'm the lyric man. Well, when she started humming, I saw the word 'sparkle' in my head, and visions of this beautiful and totally strange woman with green skin and see-through clothes. Then, after you get the melody and lyrics down, you have to try to make it believable. That's what all those thunder and lightning sounds are at the beginning of 'Sparkle.' I mean, the song is about a very, very strange woman from outer space, and she definitely sparkles!"

Over the years, there have been almost no changes in the personnel of Fat Larry's Band - surely a meaningful demonstration of their determination and musical enjoyment of each other. The lineup includes keyboardist Erskine Williams, who also handles some of the arrangements; Ted Cohen on guitar; bassist Larry LaBes; Douglas (Khalif) Jones and John Bonnie on saxophone; Art Capehart and John Lee on trumpets; trombonist Jimmy Lee; and vocalist Darryl Grant.

Fat Larry's Band works quite regularly. "Oh, we keep real busy," laughs James. "We're musicians, and we gotta play. It's very simple."

PH Masons honor Vickers

Prince Hall Lodge District #1, PHA, will honor Grand Master Thomas R. Vickers with a dinner on Saturday, February 25th at Knott Street Center. Vickers is Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oregon.

The Lodges representing District #1 are: Enterprise Lodge, Worshipful Master Andrew Chiles; Beaver Lodge, Worshipful Master Robert Earvins; Acaica Lodge, James Gronner; and Logan Lodge, Fred Taylor.

A thirty-three degree Mason, Vickers is serving his second term as Grand Master. He is Deputy of the Desert of the Prince Hall Shrine (AAONMS) and a

past Imperial Potentate.

He also is a past president of the Portland Branch, NAACP; a former board member of the Urban League of Portland; past Exalted Ruler of Billy Webb Lodge, IBPOE of W; Director of Kappa Alpha Psi; and has been active in numerous organizations and causes.

The public is invited to attend and express their appreciation for Vickers' work on behalf of the Lodge and the community. This dinner will be held at 7:30 p.m. and will be preceded by a Friendship Hour at the Masonic Temple, 116 N.E. Russell. Donation is \$4.00.

Women select Pina Williams

Guessippina B. Williams was elected State Vice President at the recently held convention of the Oregon Women's Political Caucus.

An advisory specialist for the Portland Public Schools, Ms. Williams has resided in Portland for nearly five years. She taught at Jefferson High School and is active in community affairs.

As a result of Ms. Williams' efforts in the OWPC, a minority women's resolution was approved at the state convention and the by-laws were changed to reflect the needs of special interest groups.

"I think the political process is the only way women and minorities will ever make significant gains. We need to define our own goals and actively pursue them," Ms. Williams stated.

Also elected to state offices were Mabel Armstrong, of Eugene, President, and Robyn Remaklus and Margie Hen-

dricks as national representatives.

In connection with the Oregon Women's Political Caucus, a Minority Women's Breakfast was held. Attending were: Pina Williams, Gail Washington, Barbara Roberts, Delores Leggroan, Sharon Steen, Tanya Collier, Ann Stein, Esther Randall, Gladys McCoy, Teace Adams, Faith Mayhew, Carol Bryant, Maria Milligan, Emmons Henry, Annabelle Bates, and Evie Crowell.

Ms. Faith Mayhew, a Native American who is from Klamath Falls but now lives in Portland, presented a resolution establishing the Minority Women's Caucus as a special interest group of the Oregon Women's Political Caucus. Ms. Mayhew, a delegate to the National Women's Conference in Houston, said the resolution, which was adopted, was patterned after the one adopted at that conference.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Senior citizens and low-income residents free income tax preparation. Where: King Facility, 4815 N.E. 7th; When: February 9th, 14th, and 16th; Time: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Who: Volunteers from IRS Vita Program.

The Family Circus Theater Collective from Portland, Oregon will be performing "The Rip City Follies," an original musical comedy about older people and housing. Which will be performed on Friday, February 17th, 221 S.E. 11th Avenue, 8:30 p.m., price \$2.

The Family Circus Theater Collective from Portland, Oregon will be performing "Labor Pains," an original play focusing on women and work; and also "Toys and Underdogs," a colorful theatrical comment on male roles. The Family Circus studio, 221 S.E. 11th Avenue, on Saturday, February 18th at 8:30 p.m. for the price of \$2.

There will be an NAACP Membership Meeting being held on Sunday, February 19th, at 4:00 p.m. at the Church of God in Christ, corner of Rodney and Stanton. Everyone is invited to attend.

The Community Coalition for School Integration will be sponsoring community forums on Tuesday, February 14th, at Washington High Cafeteria and Thursday, February 23rd, at Adams High Cafeteria, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Topics to be discussed will include 1) History of the Coalition; 2) History of desegregation in Portland; 3) Early childhood education centers; and 4) Administrative transfers. The outcome of these forums will go into a comprehensive study done by the Coalition to be turned over to the Portland School Board with accompanying recommendations (Completion: June 1978). The public is encouraged to come and express their opinions.

Come to a Community Meeting to discuss the Portland Grand Jury's attack on the People's Health Clinic. When: February 12th at 3:30 p.m.; Where: Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott (at Rodney). For more information call 281-6000.

The Northwest Artist's Association will sponsor a benefit Wednesday, February 8, 1978 at 9:00 p.m. featuring the jazz group Tom Grant and Friends, dancer Laura Stillwell and visuals by Ken Butler. The event will be held at 115 N.W. 5th. Admission: \$2.00. The Oregon Arts Commission is co-sponsoring the event. For further information contact: Diane Rader, 226-3372.

Portland School Superintendent Robert Blanchard will discuss the report of the Community Coalition for School Integration regarding desegregation in the Jefferson attendance area, on the KPTV Channel 12 "Conversation with the Superintendent" program on Sunday, February 12th at 9:00 p.m. Topics considered on the program will include background leading to formation of the Coalition, Mr. Blanchard's recommendations to the Board of Education on the Jefferson desegregation matter, implications of the Board of Education's decision on specialized high school programs, and future desegregation efforts. The Superintendent will also respond to questions, from hostess Susan Keil, in regard to a joint City of Portland/Portland School District planning proposal.

The Jackson High PTA is sponsoring a three session Rapid Reading and Comprehension Seminar for High School students and adults on March 1st, 8th, and 15th (Wednesdays) from 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. The cost is \$36.00, \$26.00 for additional members of same family. The Seminar will be taught by a trained A.G.P. (Achieving Greater Proficiency) reading instructor as part of the most widely used national reading program in the United States. Taught on one out of five college campuses in America, the course is guaranteed to double your reading speed. It stresses reading efficiency skills, thereby increasing both speed and comprehension. Deadline for registration is February 27th. A \$5.00 deposit must accompany registration and the balance is due at the first class. Checks should be made payable to Jackson High School. Sign-ups are now being accepted in the Jackson High Student Store.



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Twelve young ladies will be presented to the Portland community at the Links, Inc. First Annual Debutante Ball. (Front row, left to right) Camille Hamilton, Debra Fuller. (Back row, left to right) Karen Jenkins, Melissa Smith, Kelly Jamison, Rita Martin, Sharon Hartzog, and Sophia White. Not pictured: Benita Talley, Joy Wallace, Dana Easley, and Mary Strayhand. The Ball will be held on February 19th at the Sheraton Hotel. Mrs. Jeanne Hartzog and Mrs. Lydia Roy are Chairpersons.



Marian Gilmore (right) and resident of Brandy Angle House unload household items and clothing collected for the home by members of Delta Sigma Theta.

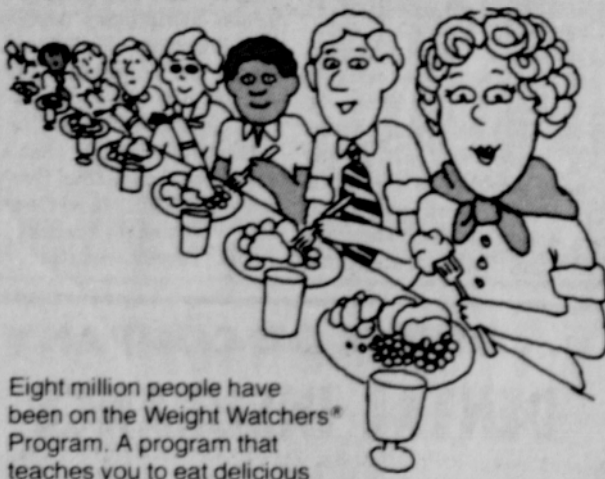
Deltas donate household items

The Beta Psi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. has adopted as one of its projects collecting household items, appliances and clothing for residents of Bradley Angle Shelter House. Bradley Angle assists battered women who need to get away from husbands or boy friends who abuse them.

Gifts were donated by the sorority during the Christmas holidays and the things collected during the first drive were delivered late in January. Ms. Marian Gilmore, Chapter President, said the drive will continue under the auspices of the Mental Health Committee chaired by Ms. Emmins Henry and Lois Irving.

"One dog barks at something; the rest bark at him."
Chinese Proverb

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