



McFADDEN & WHITEHEAD



## Entertainment Guide

by Allen Jones

### McFADDEN & WHITEHEAD: AIN'T NO STOPPIN' THEM NOW

The names Gene McFadden and John Whitehead should not be new to anybody who has been even remotely connected with the music industry during the '70s because they have written and produced some of the most powerful R&B hits of this decade.

Although known primarily for their producing and composing abilities, McFadden and Whitehead have finally fulfilled a lifelong dream: they have now stepped out front as performing artists on their debut LP, *McFadden & Whitehead*, on Philadelphia International Records. Featuring eight brand new tunes written by this dynamic duo (along with Jerry Cohen), *McFadden & Whitehead* is a pulsating album that weaves its way through several grooves—from funk to disco to romantic ballads—while maintaining a cohesiveness rarely found on wax today.

Ironically enough, they were first signed to Philly International as recording artists way back in 1969. "Actually," says John, "it's taken a lot longer than that because we've been anxious to record since we first teamed up years ago as kids in the streets of Philly. You can trace our beginnings all the way back to the tenth grade when we formed a group called The Epsilons." The Epsilons found moderate success when, after approaching the late great Otis Redding with a proposition that he manage them, the group became part of the famed Otis Redding Revue. Despite being with Otis, however, the two young men eventually tired of the constant road travel and returned to the familiar setting of Philadelphia.

Upon returning to Philly, McFadden & Whitehead signed as recording artists with Philly International but, because of their inexperience and lack of a track record, the venture was not as fruitful as anticipated. In fact, John ended up taking on assorted odd-jobs within the company.

"That was somewhat of a drag," he relates. "But it was good for both of us because while I was there I checked out how these cats were writing songs and I realized that Gene and I had been writing songs all along but didn't know it."

One night they finally sat down in John's kitchen determined to create their first "official" song and the results were phenomenal. *Backstabbers*—McFadden & Whitehead's first song—became a number one across-the-board smash for The O'Jays just weeks after its release.

"It was hard getting Mr. Huff to listen to our lyrics," John laughs, "because we were literally following him down the hallway reading the words to him. But we finally got to him because before we even finished he stopped by his office, turned to us and said, 'come on in here.'" That was the start of one of the most successful songwriting duos to emerge since Lennon & McCartney.

McFadden & Whitehead's credits now include having written and/or produced *Easy*, *Got To Take It Easy*, *Cold Cold World*, *Somebody Told Me* (To Deliver This Message) and *The More I Get, The More I Want* for Teddy Pendergrass; *I'll Always Love My Mama* for The Intruders; *Standing Right Here* and *Pick Me Up, I'll Dance* for Melba Moore; and *Bad Luck*, *Where Are All My Friends* and *Wake Up Everybody* for Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes. In addition they've written and/or produced albums for Archie Bell & The Drells, The Jacksons and Lou Rawls, as well as perform with such headliners as The O'Jays, Gladys Knight & The Pips, Sammy Davis, James Brown and Stevie Wonder.

"That's why this album, *McFadden & Whitehead*, is an important move for us," says John. "For years we've poured our all into making things happen for other artists while all the time saying to ourselves, 'hey, that could be us doing our tunes.' If Gamble & Huff (mentors of the Philly International label) hadn't given us this opportunity I think it would have hurt our morale. It would have taken something away from us because, in all honesty, despite the enormous success we've had as composers and producers, our hearts were really into being—or at least attempting to be—performers."

# Community Calendar

The film "Attica" will be shown in Portland on Sunday, August 19th and Tuesday, August 21st. Sunday's showing will be at the Centenary Wilbur Church, 215 S.E. 9th and Tuesday's showing will be at St. Andrew Church, 806 N.E. Alberta. Show time is 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$2:00 general admission or \$1.00 for the unemployed. For child care reservations, call 288-4405. *Attica* chronicles the events surrounding the 1971 uprising at the Attica State Prison. The showing is a benefit to send Chicano representative from Portland to the Peoples National Moratorium on Police, BIA, and INS Repression. The Moratorium will be held in New York on Sept. 7-9.

*Analyzing the Economics of Construction Operations* seminar will be held at the Portland Sheraton, 1000 N.E. Multnomah, on Sept. 11th. Topics will include handling cash flow, the affect of taxes on decision making, and the application of economic analysis techniques. The seminar is sponsored by the Construction Education and Research Foundation and the Division of Continuing Education at OSU. (754-2676)

The *Pickle Family Circus* is San Francisco's magical mixture of super juggling, tight-wire dancing, acrobatics and balancing feats with original music from the PFC band. Giggles, guffaws and belly laughs are guaranteed from the entire cast of clowns. The Pickle Family Circus will be presented in Portland by Oregon Fair Share at Waterfront Park, S.W. Pine and Front Street, on August 11th and 12th. Showtimes are at noon and 3:00 p.m. both days. The Midway of games and food treats will open at 10:00 a.m. Advance tickets are \$1 for children and seniors and \$2.50 for adults. (Prices go up 50¢ at the game.) For more information please call 223-2981.

The public is invited to a *Health Fair* on the grounds of Kaiser-Permanente Sunnyside Medical center, 10180 S.E. Sunnyside Rd., Clackamas on August 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Nurse practitioners will measure blood pressure, weight and height. Individuals will be able to take self-test quizzes which show how lifestyle contributes to the state of health.

*Music of the Black Church*: "Influence of the Black Preacher on Gospel Song", examples of the Black minister and his use of song in the Black church. KBPS, August 17th, 7:00 p.m.

*Jazz Alive!* Ernie Carson All Stars, Hot Frogs Jumping Jazz Band, The Dixieland Saints, the Dick Cary All-Stars. KBPS August 17, 10:00 p.m.

*The First Amendment and a Free People*: E. J. Kahn, Jr., New Yorker magazine. KBPS, August 13th, 1:30 p.m. *University of Portland Summer Commencement*, garden and lawn area of Mago Hunt Center for the Performing Arts, August 10th at 7:30 p.m. Sister Callista Roy, Ph.D., Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, adjunct professor of nursing at the university will deliver the commencement address. A total of 160 degrees will be awarded.

The Washington Park Zoo's education department is recruiting volunteers for educational programs. Call 226-1561 for information.

*Solar 79 Northwest*, a regional solar energy conference is scheduled for the Seattle Center from August 10 to 12. Solar 79 is organized in two parts. As a technical conference, a registration fee of \$45 is required. Public programs offered free of charge will include presentations on solar topics, films, demonstrations and a "Solar Olympics". A public session on the use of gasohol will be held Friday evening. The conference is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, BPA, the City of Seattle, the Washington State Energy Office, and the Oregon Department of Energy. (Call 636-0075 Shanna Reed for information).

*Boise Citizens Improvement Association* - August 13th, 7:30 p.m. New Hope Baptist Church, 3725 N. Gantenbein.

*Northeast Police Precinct Council*, August 14th, 7:30 p.m., King Neighborhood Facility.

*Vernon Community Association*, August 16th, 7:30 p.m., Redeemer Lutheran Church, 5431 N.E. 20th Avenue.

*Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods*, August 21st, 7:30 p.m., King Neighborhood Center.



"Bittersweet" put on a duel of the drums in a Friday afternoon preview for the employees of the Sheraton-Airport in the Showplace Lounge.

This group proved to be an excellent show group that can be enjoyed by everyone. They played music from the Beach Boys to the disco of today; they even went back to the 30s and 40s to bring enjoyment to everyone in the crowd.

"Bittersweet" is featured at the Showplace Lounge through August 15th.



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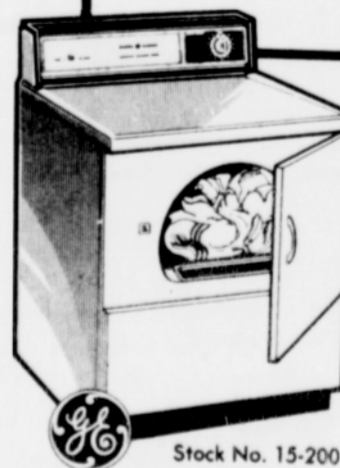
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