

ENTERTAINMENT

HAPPENINGS

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During a recent fashion show at N.Y.C.'s famous Mudd Club, Cameo's Arnett LeFountain demonstrated a new dance created by the members of Cameo called "Shake Your Pants." "Shake Your Pants" is also the title of a tune from Cameo's upcoming Chocolate City/Casablanca Lp Cameosis.



RFC recording artist Janice McClain recently celebrated her sweet Sixteenth birthday in her native Philadelphia. Her debut single, "Smack Dab In The Middle," is still riding high on the record charts, after four straight months. The five octave songstress took some time out to party with friends and industry people at the London Victory Club in her home town in honor of radio station WCAU-FM. When Janice was introduced to one of her favorite singers, Teddy Pendergrass, she had one request. "I told him how pleased I was to meet him," she recalls, "and how much I love his records." Then, before I could stop myself, I asked him for his autograph -- for my mother! She's a singer too, and is a big Pendergrass fan.

Pictured above are (left) Janice McClain and (right) Pendergrass.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Jefferson Acting Ensemble's Touring Show, Celebrate! appears at the Jefferson High School's Performing Arts Center, 5210 N. Kerby Avenue, April 4th and 5th at 8:00 P.M. Students through high school and senior citizens \$1.00 Adults \$2.00 For reservations or booking information call: 287-1398 or 287-2631, extension 74.

The Friends of Charles Jordan are sponsoring a fund-raising Champagne Sip April 12, 1980, 7:30-10:00 p.m., at the Galleria downtown.

Celebrate! is a program of music, dancing and magic compiled from the writing of Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Langston Hughes, Simon and Garfunkle, and others. It will be performed at the Museum by the Jefferson Acting Ensemble of Jefferson High School, April 9, 8 pm., Berg Swann Auditorium. No admission charge.

The Pacific Northwest Labor College presents a labor history play about the 1934 Portland Longshoreman's strike. There are 6 paid positions (3 women-3 men) available for actor-singer roles. Also needed are people for sets, costumes and stage managing. Auditions will be held Saturday, April 12 at 3:30 and Sunday, April 13 at 1:00 by appointment only. To be scheduled for auditions or for more information call 288-0006, day or evening.

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FATBACK

Since the release of their first album back in 1971 on the now-defunct Perception label, Fatback has become synonymous with good-time party music, the kind that insinuates itself into your body, making it impossible not to shake your booty uncontrollably. On their latest Polydor/Spring release, HOTBOX, the thirteenth in Fatback's long and distinguished history. Bill Curtis puts America's earliest purveyors of pure funk through its paces with another set of gyrating dance tunes and soul-stirring ballads. Curtis leads the way on drums, providing the funky rhythms which have become Fatback's musical signature. With the current revived interest in the roots of funk music, Fatback should be on the verge of capitalizing on the trends they first set in the early 70's with the invention of dance steps like the Bus Stop, the Double Dutch and the Rock.

"Our way of recording is fresh and unique," proclaims Bill Curtis. "The music we play is not something that has been thought out for a long period of time or rehearsed over and over. Everything we record is based on the way we feel that day and on the way the studio audience reacts. It's all live. We go into the studio, start the tape, and begin to play."

Bill Curtis started out playing the piano, then switched to drums. He played in high school and all the way through a stint with the U.S. Army Band. On arriving in New York in the mid-50's, he studied tympani and mallet instruments and is now a certified percussion instructor. He had played behind various artists, including Arthur Prysock, Bill Doggett and Clyde McPhatter before he began to play with the Fatback Band in 1966.



Fatback began as a recording company in the 60's, with Curtis himself scouting out the groups, writing their material and then producing them. The nucleus of Fatback existed as a band on Bill Curtis' label when he decided to use the group to record some of his own material. "People kept asking me why I didn't record the material I had written myself, so I did," recalls Fatback's mentor. "The basis of the band is rhythm. The name Fatback was given to me in the early 60's because of the way I played the drums. People thought it was something special. Today, I guess you'd call it funky, but in those days down in New Orleans, they called it 'Fatback.'"

Fatback has become an entity apart from its individual members -- a personality in itself. All the members of the group write, produce and shape their distinctive sound under the supervision of the band's leader, Bill Curtis. This cooperation, and the fact that they have never strayed from their initial audience, accounts for Fatback's continuing popularity and success all over the world.



The "Inspirational Souls," will be featured at a Gospel Train benefit on April 6th at 3:00 p.m. at St. Paul Church of God in Christ. Also featured will be the 4-H Choral Ensemble. The church is located at NE Stanton and Rodney. Proceeds will go to Gospel Train, aired each Sunday from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. on KGAR. The benefit is sponsored by the "Sensational Portlandaires."

GOOD FRIDAY DISCO DANCE

DATE: APRIL 4, 1980

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