

ENTERTAINMENT

HAPPENINGS

ENTERTAINMENT



Jimmy Witherspoon and his golden voice will be at Jazz de Opus 33 N.W. 2nd Ave., June 15th. Advance tickets now being sold at: Jazz De Opus, Frederick & Nelson's downtown and Music Millennium, 3158 E. Burnside. Price of tickets: 6:00 p.m., \$6.50 - 10:00 p.m., \$6.50.

JIMMY WITHERSPOON IN PORTLAND

Jimmy Witherspoon is not just a blues singer, repeat, Jimmy Witherspoon is NOT JUST A BLUES SINGER. It's not a bad place to begin when thinking about him, it's just that he is much more.

Most respected jazz and blues artists know of Jimmy's invaluable contributions to the world of music, especially as far as vocal phrasing. Witherspoon became one of the most popular and admired vocalists by starting with the blues, but his vocal range and inflection far exceed the standard 12-bar, four-chord blues interpretation.

"I'm much more than a blues singer, much more," agrees Spoon. "I've sung with all the best musicians in the world and I don't just sing the blues. I hate to label it because it's all really good music. But sometimes people can only think of you in terms of blues or jazz or rock, and that can hurt a person's career. It's a shame because people limit themselves in terms of appreciating all kinds of music."

After first trying his luck as a vocalist in a Merchant Marine band during World War II, Jimmy began his professional career in 1944 when he joined the Jay McShann Kansas City Band. Through the years, Spoon has travelled all over the world singing with the best musicians our society has produced. He's performed with Miles Davis, Gerry Mulligan, Ben Webster, Count Basie, Coleman Hawkins, Woody Herman, John Coltrane; the list is innumerable.

The story goes that when many of the popular English rock musicians began imitating the style of Black musicians, Jimmy was one of the most influential vocalists copied. A long association between Jimmy and Eric Burton, as well as the group War, helps support the notion. Many white and Black vocalists have listened to Spoon's music and borrowed his style.

"I don't mind, not at all," he says. "It's really been a compliment to me over the years. I've been in this business over 30 years and I'm still young. I've got a long time to go before these pipes begin to rust. It's nice to see young musicians tell me that they listened to my stuff a long time before they came up with their own style."

"I just want people to know that I'm not ready for that kind of Hall of Fame attention, where they put you on a shelf somewhere and you just collect dust. I'm still around and the only place I'm going is straight ahead."

Spoon has, if anything, become more active in recent years.

MISS BLACK AMERICA PAGEANT LEAVES AMERICA

For the first time in Miss Black America history, the Miss Black America Pageant is set for Jamaica, West Indies, June 9th through 15th. The pageant, in its 13th year, is being held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, WI.

Such stars as Jayne Kennedy of "NFL today," Margarite of "Sanford," Leon Kennedy, star of the movie "Penitentiary," and professional model Beverly Johnson will be on hand to judge and participate in the pageant activities.



JAYNE KENNEDY, Star of "NFL Today."



BEVERLY JOHNSON, Professional Model

J. Morris Anderson, president and founder of the 13-year-old contest, announced, "The pageant is to be a cosmopolitan holiday in Black." He added, "The pageant is being held in Jamaica instead of America because Jamaica is 95 percent Black. What location could appreciate the beauty of a Black woman more? Plus the scenic beauty of Jamaica provides a natural setting for the stellar event."

SEE SPORTS ON GIANT SCREEN T.V.

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HANG IN THERE RICHARD!

By Nyewusi Askari

Many Black people are totally numbed by the recent accident involving brother Richard Pryor. To restate what has already been stated: Brother Richard, 38, suffered third degree burns over 50 percent of his body, Tuesday, June 10, 1980. According to Sherman Oaks Hospital Ward, Richard is listed in critical but stable condition, fairly alert.

The common belief is, he was burned when ether, being used to make "free base," a cocaine derivative, exploded in his face. The drug, created thru a chemical reaction of cocaine, with the highly volatile solvent (ether), is smoked in a pipe.

Knowing the manipulative powers of the white press, we here at the

Portland Observer do not accept the credibility of the reports being published throughout Amerikkka at this time. However, we do hope to address the subject fully, when and if, brother Richard pulls thru.

Richard Pryor's tragedy is a tragedy difficult to accept; mainly because those of us who play his albums, follow his stage acts, and movies, cannot imagine a physical re-arrangement of the "Richard" we know. Doctors report that his condition is improving. We hope so, and pray that Allah gives him the strength to win this ultimate battle with death. Knowing Richard, he's probably saying "Feet don't fail me now! cuz this niggah ain't crazy and ain't about to give up!"

Hang in there brother Richard, we need you!



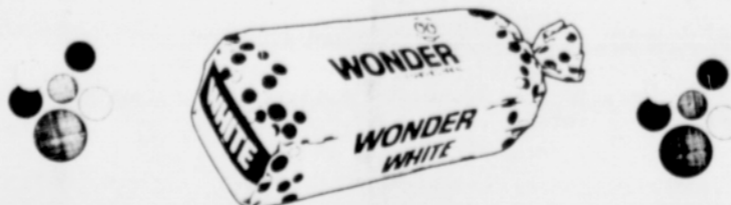
HINES: WORLD FRISBEE CHAMP

Update: Tyrone Hines, the N.E. resident recently broke the World Frisbee Indoor Record in the Seattle Kingdom. According to the International Frisbee Association, Hines is the first human in the world to throw a frisbee 96 meters. Hines will

appear on "Dialogue," a minority based talk show on KPTV-12 this Saturday, June 14th at 7:30 a.m. and June 15th at 10:00 p.m. The show is hosted by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

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PRESENTS

JIMMY

WITHERSPOON



SUNDAY, JUNE 15th

6:00 P.M. \$6.50 10:00 P.M. \$6.50

Advance Tickets now being sold at:

JAZZ DE OPUS 33 n.w. 2nd ave
FREDERICK & NELSON'S TICKET PLACE downtown
MUSIC MILLENNIUM 3158 e. burnside

a touch of new orleans

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