

ENTERTAINMENT

HAPPENINGS

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MICHU, THE SMALLEST MAN IN THE WORLD BRINGS GIANT TALENT TO THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

Although Tom Thumb, P.T. Barnum's tiny protege, was hailed as the world's smallest, 33-inch tall Michu, the diminutive star of the 110th Edition of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, stands a full seven inches shorter than his famous predecessor. Acknowledged by the Guinness Book of World Records to be the world's smallest man, Michu, born Mihaly Mezaros in a small village in Hungary, adds the tremendous stature of his talent to *THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH*, coming to Portland's Memorial Coliseum on Thursday, September 11th for performances through Sunday, September 14th.

The 25-pound dynamo dances, clowns, performs acrobatics, rides an elephant and fills the arena with his majestic personality. Since his celebrated arrival in America in 1973, which was greeted by the press with photos and headlines of a size and nature usually reserved for visiting royalty, Michu has been delighting audiences of every age and every size. His wonderful sense of humor illuminates everything he does, winning round after round of applause.

A veteran performer whose parents were in Budapest's Lilliputian Theatre, Michu attended a state-run Circus School in Hungary where he learned the arts of juggling, acrobatics, pantomime and other circus basics.

After graduating he went to work for the Liebel Circus, a small traveling show, with which he served for 15 years as a clown, unicyclist, announcer and dancer. Word of his achievements reached Irvin Feld and Kenneth Feld, producers of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, and early in 1973 they visited Hungary in search of Michu.

They found him in a village called Lilliput Faly (translated as "the town of small people") in a dark kitchen that they entered through an alley up a flight of stairs, passing two Doberman Pinschers and a tied-up bear en route. Eventually Michu materialized and proceeded in that kitchen to give a demonstration of his skills that prompted the Felds to sign him up immediately for *THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH*.

Michu came to America knowing no English, but today he has no trouble communicating. He inhabits specially scaled-down quarters on the 40-car silver Circus train and enjoys traveling and the challenging life of the Circus.

The diminutive entertainer likes the outdoors and fishing, although it sometimes presents a problem when he hooks at big one. A friend recalls that once a particularly large fish took the bait, hook, line, pole, and would have taken Michu, had he not let go of the fishing rod.

Unselfconscious and outgoing, Michu likes meeting the crowds in the arenas and signing autographs. "I understand that their curiosity is normal," says Michu, "because I am a special person, and this will not change. I have made a life that is good and happy for a person of my size," and indeed joyful for all those who see him at *THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH*.



The Greatest Show on Earth - Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus is returning to Portland. The all new 110th Edition will play in Portland's Memorial Coliseum from September 11-14, 1980.

Run benefits Emanuel

By Stephanie L. Michael

The Blazer, KEX Fastbreak Run is set for Wednesday, September 10th, in the metropolitan area of the city.

Portland Trailblazer Promotions Director Wally Scales says the race will begin at 7 p.m. from the Memorial Coliseum. He says a 6.2 miles course (10,000 meters) has been planned for the runners. Scales says a shorter course of three has also been prepared.

Last year around 3,000 persons participated in the event which raised proceeds of \$18,000. Scales says this year about 5,000 persons will take part in the run. He says the Blazers and KEX radio hope to raise proceeds over \$20,000. Scales says all funds raised will go to Emanuel Hospital's Pediatric Ward and Special Olympics.

The cost of the run is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Scales says T-shirts and discount coupons will be given to all Fastbreak Run participants.

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album, *Go All The Way*, has gone at least that far; having turned platinum in two months, the hit record refuses to budge from the top of the music charts. The Isley's single "Don't Say Goodnight (It's Time For Love)" is stubbornly staying on the airwaves as well. So rather than wait out one sexy song, the group has wisely released another called "Here We Go Again." It's already racing madly up the charts. Clearly some special kind of magic is at work.

The Isley Brothers - half of them, anyway - have been at it since the Fifties, and they've made their string of stellar successes look easy and fun. The early records -- of which "Shout" their first, classic hit, is typical -- were full of raucous, joyous frenzy. The mid-sixties saw the Isley Brothers making hits for Motown. Listen to Ronald Isley's crazed vocal on the smash "This Old Heart Of Mine," and you'll be convinced that the Brothers were the realest band to ever record for Berry Gordy.

Always two steps ahead of the competition, the Isleys were among the first group to form their own label in the early Seventies: T-Neck Records. The Isley's bold bid for total artistic control paid off with potent, gritty hits like "It's Your Thing," and the initiation of a second generation -- Ernie on guitar and drums, Marvin on bass and percussion, brother-in-law Chris Jasper on keyboards -- extended a family tradition far into the musical future.

Call it magic, staying power, charisma, or seasoning. For the next few months, six men will be filling arenas with an average seating capacity of 10,000 from coast to coast, and beyond. After twenty-plus years in the business, they can still dominate the charts and airwaves at will, for the amazing Isley Brothers, going all the way is a way of life.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Summer is just starting, but the Isley Brothers' brand of hot fun is well underway. The Brothers, one of Black music's biggest crossover acts, are in the midst of a fifty date tour of major American markets that's taking their trademark sound from Tennessee to Hawaii, Alabama to L.A. Their latest

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INTELLECT
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yet whenever i turn i'm still in line with all these a.a.'s ba's ph.d's and d.d.'s too wondering why of the unemployed.

SWEET INSANITY
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By Julius D. Snowden #38013

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