

ENTERTAINMENT

HAPPENINGS

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THE COMMODORES RELEASE NEW ALBUM TO PUBLIC

A new Commodores' album is released; a top five single emerges; the album goes double or triple platinum and, it's as if this is the way the record business is supposed to work all the time.

It does work that way for the Commodores who have released nine albums in six years and seen every one go gold (the first four), platinum (the fifth and sixth), double platinum (the seventh) or triple platinum (the eighth and ninth).

In that six-year stretch, they've also accounted for seven top five pop singles ("Sweet Love," "Just To Be Close To You," "Easy," "Brick House," "Three Times A Lady," "Sail On" and "Still"). Five other ten R&B singles ("Machine Gun," "I Feel Sanctified," "Slippery When Wet," "Fancy Dancer" and "Too Hot To Trot") and four top live albums (Commodores Live, Natural Live and Midnight Magic.)

These six young men have played together for eleven years with no personnel changes, longer than any other group in pop history. Much of the credit is due to Benny Ashburn, the seventh Commodore and their personal manager since 1968. Ashburn's street savvy and marketing expertise kept the Commodores always pointed towards their goals which have expanded as their career grows.

In addition to grossing eight figures a year, the Commodores have invested their earnings wisely in Southwestern real estate, African art, stocks and bonds and American coins. They manage their bodies and personal lives as



The Commodores will be at the Memorial Coliseum tonight at 8:00 p.m. The Portland Observer ask all of their readers to go and check out these sensational performers

wisely as their money. They take no drugs, have stable family relationships and yet make music like nobody else on the face of the earth.

Things changed so rapidly that the Commodores had their first hit, "Machine Gun," from the albums of the same name. Thanks to Ashburn's farsighted touring policy, the single went gold in Japan, The Philippines and Nigeria.

By the following summer, "Machine Gun" was gold. The Commodores toured the U.S. over the next two years with acts including the Rolling Stones and Stevie Wonder. By 1976 the Commodores were headlining themselves and starting a pattern of gold singles and platinum albums they've kept up every year since. While their early hits - "I Feel Sanctified" and "Slippery When Wet" were Black-oriented, "Easy" began crossing the group over to white audiences and their concert crowds became 50% Black and 50% white.

They joke among themselves but take their music seriously. Confidence, talent, leadership, business acumen and similar backgrounds have taken them onto a unique level of popularity and accomplishment.

Why?

Ronald LaPreard says, "There's something different about us. Maybe it's just a feeling, but six little country boys have evolved into a pretty fantastic musical force. The people we once looked up to are now looking up to us. We like to think that once you have been exposed to the Commodores, you will never settle for anything less than the best."

COMMODORES ENTERTAINMENT & CONCERTS WEST PRESENT

THE



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Listen to KJMK FM 107 for details



Pictured left to right: Jamilah Spencer and Steven Roberts (Disco Skaters) and Keedah Gianetti (Coordinator) and Janet Amundson.



Posing for pictures after successfully modeling international fashions are, left to right: Brenda Sherman, Billy Mitchell and Norma Scott.

"ON THE ROCKS" HAPPENINGS

By Nyewusi Askari

If you're into personal development and fashions, then you should have been at "On The Rocks," Sunday, October 19, 1980, when *El Giagatto's Partita* presented "An International Countdown of Fashions."

Coordinated by Keedah Gianetti, the program moved like a groove/slidin down a bass string/bringin a touch of spring/inner beauty/and self-awareness that expressed the soul and spirit of the show's participants.

The show fashioned/Skated/and moved thru the countries of China/Spain/Africa/Jamaica/Italy/Hawaii/France/Russia/America/and of course Portland 1980. There was Renaissance of Fashions/Photo Scenario a presentation of a Mink Cape to Miss Tan 1980 (Jill Franklin)/Drawing for door prize/Oba Herero Collection/Modern Dance/Western Scene/and there are names to remember: Janet Amundson/Brenda Sherman/Jamilah (Kim) Spencer/Mary Mozena/Norma Scott/Nicole Ginet/Steve Roberts/Billy Mitchell/Louise McCullough/Bobby Fother (the pace setter of African/International fashions in the Portland area)/and Keedah. "We recognize that inner beauty shines and endure, while outer beauty, often given too much credit, will fade away. Success in life comes most readily to those who best play the game of self-awareness and self-improvement, being fully aware of the proper moves to make and when to make them," Keedah said, in explaining the concept of *El Giagatto's Partita*.

LEONTYNE PRICE TO APPEAR AT CIVIC AUDITORIUM

Leontyne Price, "prima donna assoluta" of the operatic world, will appear in concert with the Oregon Symphony Orchestra, Sunday, November 2 at 8:00 p.m. in Portland Civic Auditorium.

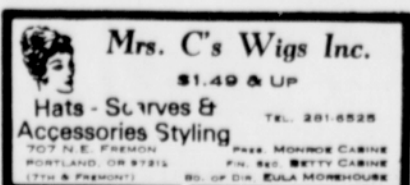
Under the baton of guest conductor Lawrence Leighton Smith, Ms. Price will sing "D'Oreste, D'AJace" from Mozart's opera *Idomeneo*, "Un bel di vedremo" from Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*, "My Man's Gone" from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and "Pace, pace mio dio" from Verdi's *La Forza del Destino*. The Orchestra will also perform Bizets Symphony No. 1 and two works by Verdi *Aida* Sinfonia and ballet music from the opera *Othello*.

In a distinguished career spanning over the past three decades, Ms. Price has sung in all the great opera houses, with major orchestras and in solo recital around the world. Her highly acclaimed Metropolitan Opera debut as Leonora in *Il Trovatore* evoked a rousing 42 minute standing ovation -- the most prolonged demonstration of enthusiasm ever witnessed there.

Described as the "Stradivarius of singers," she is recognized for her musicianship in such operas as *Aida*, *Don Giovanni*, *Tosca*, *Il Trovatore*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Tosca*, *Manon Lescant* and *Ariadne auf Naxos*. She has won 15 Grammy Awards for her recordings and an Emmy for her 1979 television special "Leontyne Price at the White House."



Leontyne Price



The Salvation Army

MOORE STREET COMMUNITY CENTER

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The Salvation Army Moore Street Community Center will host a Halloween Costume party on October 31 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The party will be for children ages 6 to 11 and will include games, prizes and refreshments. Call the Center for more details at 282-2571. Everybody gets a candy apple.

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