

ENTERTAINMENT

# HAPPENINGS

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## THE OBSERVER SPOTLIGHT

By Nyewusi Askari

This week the *Observer* will spotlight two very dedicated Black artists whose dedication and hard work deserves praise, support and involvement. The spotlight is on Bruce Smith and Chonitia Smith.



**Bruce Smith** - Jefferson High School graduate; graphics - 1968-1971, Lewis and Clark College; Art design and Calligraphy. **Musical Training:** Studied under the direction of Master drummers such as Mychal Smith (Percussionist for Cal Tjader), February, 1971, Portland, OR; Bill Summers (Percussionist for T.V. Movie "Roots"), September, 1974; June, 1975; March, 1977, Oakland, CA.; Leonard Gibbs (Yoruba Drummer), July, 1977; November, 1978, Philadelphia, Penn.; Obo Addy (Master Drummer from Ghana, Africa), August, 1979; February, 1981 to Present, Portland, OR.; Jalal Sharriff (Jimbe Drummer from Sudan, Africa), April, 1981, Portland, OR.

**Experience:** Musician on nationally known record albums: *Pleasure* - Fantasy Studios; *Jeff Lorber Fusion*, Ripcord Studio; *Wayne Henderson*, Fantasy Studios; *Ronnie Laws*, Total Experience Studios.

**Special Projects, Achievements and Awards:** Employed by Contemporary Crafts Association for "Artists In The

Schools Program,"; did a series of lecture demonstrations in African Cultural Rhythms and Song at the elementary and high school levels from February, 1981 to April, 1981; awarded Gold Plaque for co-composing hit song that reached over 250,000 units sold from American Society of Composers and Publishers, September, 1980, New York, N.Y.

**Locally:** Accompanist for Jefferson Performing Arts Department, October, 1980 - June, 1981, Jefferson High School; Jefferson Dancer's Spring Concert, May 1981; African Drum and Dance Recital (West African Program) April, 1981; Benny Bell Troup (Assistant Artistic Director of NW Repertory Dance); Haitian Dance, January, 1981; National concert tours with musical group *Pleasure*, October, 1974 through November, 1980.



**Chonitia Henderson-Smith.** Studied at the University of Colorado - Boulder, Colorado. Majored in Anthropology and minored in Cultural Art Forms. **Experience:** Sculptural Art - Braid Sculpture, designing hair into forms; body design, fabric and clothing and facial design, make-up and mask. **Theatre and Stage:** Designed clothing for the Portland Black Repertory Theatre production of "Stardust" (1977); "For Colored Girls..." (1979); "Potolo" (1980) and "Red Beans and Rice" (1980). Designer for the national recording artists "Pleasure." Recently designed Braid Sculpture for one of the internationally famed "Sister Sledge." L lectured throughout the Portland and Washington area schools (elementary to college) regarding the esthetics of Art relating to Hair and Textiles.

These are just some of the accomplishments Chonitia and Bruce have made as a result of their dedication as Black artist.

They are also husband and wife.

## HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN JULY 4th WEEKEND

By Nyewusi Askari

**The Johnny Smith Memorial Softball Tournament:** Columbia Park, Saturday, July 4th starting at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 5th, the tournament will begin at 9:00 a.m., and last until 5:00 p.m.

This tournament honors Johnny Smith, a well know Portland softball player who died recently. His mother will arrive in Portland from Louisiana to accept a Plaque honoring her son's memory. The Tournament is sponsored by Geneva's.

**Thara Memory's Creative Jazz Orchestra:** Saturday Market, July 4th, beginning at 12:30. This 24-piece orchestra will be playing selections from their "Timesound" concert performed recently at the Civic Auditorium.

**Jazz Quarry:** Herb Ellis - Thursday and Friday for two shows - 9:00 p.m. and 11:00. July 4th - Sky Trio & Guests. Jam Session Sunday, July 5th.

**Bourbon Street:** Billy Jo Newman, George Brown, The Four Sounds, Beverly Dockett - Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Sunday: Champagne - 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**1981 Summer Jam and Picnic:** July 5, 1981, East Delta Park, 10800 N. Denver - 11am - 8pm. Featuring Gospel Singing, Disco Roller Skating with music by J.W. Friday and Dupree Casey, Herero Dancers, Guest speakers, Booths, Arts and Crafts. There's something for everyone! Sponsored by The Community Professionals.

**The Danny Osborn Group:** Now playing at Brasserie Montmartre, 626 S.W. Park. Don't miss their magic!

**On The Rocks:** July 5th - Dance with "Brenda and Fantasi" in addition to being entertained by a high quality fashion show by the Black Modeling Association of the Northwest. The show starts at 5:00 p.m. Also, On The Rocks is sponsoring a talent show each Tuesday night starting at 10:30. 1st place winner will receive \$50 in prize money. Performers can be individual/group acts. Try your luck!

**Jam Time!** at the Sheraton-Airport with "Eruption" and "Sophisticated Funk Band," July 4th at 9:00 p.m. Sponsored by 69 Production.

**SKYY** -- the million-selling group whose *Skyypori* LP is soaring up the record charts -- loves Brooklyn. And it's little wonder. SKYY got its start in the Brooklyn basement of leader Solomon Roberts, whose patient parents managed to tolerate a steady stream of music oozing through the floorboards of their living room. In this photo, SKYY are shown on their way back to their



Brooklyn base (they still live in the New York Boro) after a sold-out concert tour in the southern U.S. Shown here, from left to right, (bottom row) are SKYY's Gerard LeBon, Boone Dunning, Dolores Dunning-Milligan, Butch Sierra, Denise Dunning-Crawford and Larry Greenberg; (top row, left to right) Solomon Roberts, Tommy McConnell.



**Former Broadway actress Sylvia Striplin**, who is currently having success with her debut single "Give Me Your Love," is shown with producer Roy Ayers putting the final touches on her soon to be released premier album. The album also titled, "Give Me Your Love" is scheduled for release in mid-April, on Uno Melodic Records & Tapes. His album marks the first to be released on the newly conceived label by master musician Roy Ayers.



"Coach" calls a time out -- acting as a "coach" for the *Emotions* during the recording of their upcoming *New Affair* album in L.A., Earth, Wind and Fire's Maurice White (second from left) joins producer Bill Myers (left) and Jeanette and Wanda Hutchison (third and fourth from left) in listening to a playback of one of the songs. From the look of it, it seems they hear more of the hit sound that has made both the *Emotions* and *White* famous.

During their recent tour of South America, *Earth, Wind & Fire* taped a special for Brazilian T.V. The TV special involved videotaping of a cruise of Rio de Janeiro's harbor -- a welcome break in a tour the South American papers reported



was the biggest the continent has seen in over 22 years. *Earth, Wind & Fire* -- whose latest LP *Faces* "may be the best Earth, Wind & Fire album ever" according to the *L.A. Times* -- performed for 200,000 people south of the border.

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AND A "Dance"



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Date Sunday July 5, 1981 Time 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Also for tickets call 287-3123 or 287-1454

Advanced tickets \$4.50 At the Door \$5.50 Dorthy Smith, Consultant



**Tamla/Motown recording artist Stevie Wonder's** recent European tour has been made even more triumphant by gold and platinum record ceremonies honoring his album *Hotter Than July*.

After his concert in Switzerland's Zurich Jallenstadion, he was presented a gold disk for 25,000 sales of *Hotter Than July*. At Stockholm's Ice Stadium, he was presented with gold and platinum disks for 100,000 sales of *HTJ*.

The day after, he was in Frankfurt receiving another gold award, where German sales exceeded 250,000.

## ROOMMATE WANTED

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FRED MEYER KATU TV FAMILY NIGHT \$1.00 off all regular priced tickets at selected Fred Meyer Stores on Wed. July 1, 8, 15 & 22

SMITH'S HOME FURNISHING NIGHT \$1.00 off all regular priced tickets on Thurs. July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 with a limited selection of Smith's

CHILDREN 12 & UNDER \$1.00 off per ticket for the following performances: Thurs. - 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 12:00, 1:30, 3:00, 4:30

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Fri. July 3, 7:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.  
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