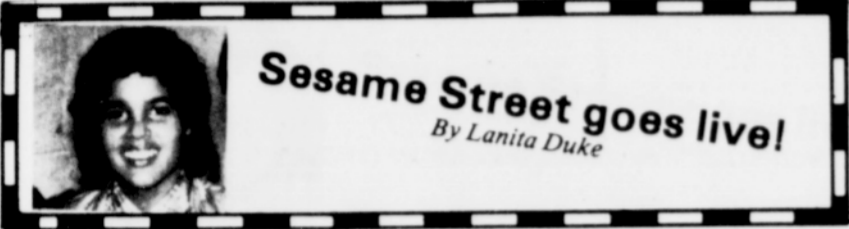


ENTERTAINMENT **HAPPENINGS** ENTERTAINMENT

**Grassroot News N.W.** - The instructions for disseminating and instilling the 3 R's were radically altered in the late 60s when the world was introduced to Sesame Street. From this platform came the "Muppets" and a spin-off of "The Electric Company" which is geared for grade schoolers and for the viewers of Sesame Street to graduate into.

As a trendsetter on the screen in the early 70s, Sesame Street has evolved into a trendsetter for Theater in the early 80s with a travelling cast that includes Super Groover, Cookie Monster and Big Bird. For 11 months "Sesame Street Live" toured North America and their last public performance was a five day run in Portland.

It should be of no surprise that Sesame Street ventured into live performances. But a pleasant surprise was the discovery that the main characters of the show are Black. Tom Sanford is the Green Seedy Bird and a Keystone Cop. Lionel Douglass portrayed Big Bird and another Keystone Cop, along with Derrick "Kooly" Jackson as Grover and Brian Tucker was the varacious Cookie Monster.



**Sesame Street goes live!**  
By Lanita Duke

Sesame Street, whether performed on the screen or the stage has one working concern, and that's to teach children basic skills in an enjoyable way. "They don't just make learning all cold and strict, they add songs to the process. The count comes along and counts everything he sees. It's a pleasure instead of a straight learning process," answered Big Bird to a question about the uniqueness of Sesame Street. The Seedy Bird said the reason why Sesame Street has been successful in teaching the basic skills to Third World children is that "The Sesame Street characters are able to identify with the children, like the children are able to identify with them. They don't have to be a certain color. Big Bird is yellow and Cookie Monster is blue. Since there is no certain color of the character, any kid can relate."

One general criticism of the Sesame Street format is one surrounding the quick pace of their teaching process. It starts with a 20 second plot on counting to 20 and makes a switch to "Who are the people in your neighborhood?" Seedy Bird responded: "When a child sees Mr. Rogers they see a guy sitting down taking his shoes off as opposed to Big Bird who is bright. Children can relate to him as a fantasy character better than an adult can. Big Bird can count, the Cookie Monster eats cookies and Grover is dumb like some little kids. Since an adult leveled that charge, well, I'll let our record speak for itself."



Marquis Taylor, 8 years of age, pose with Sesame Street characters. (Photo by: Richard J. Brown)

Brian Tucker, the Cookie Monster, gave an account of how he started in Sesame Street Live. "My friend, Grover and I were in a group called the 'Dynamic Boppers' and I was one of the skaters. The first Cookie Monster dropped out and they took my word that I could skate and gave me the part. The rest of the group were members of funk-dance group 'The Lockers.' The dance that's hot now is called the Pop Bop. We influenced the Black style of the dance and brought it up to date. What we're doing now is fun and we



Pictured left to right: Theresa Allan, Derrick Johnson, Eileen Clark, Verrane Tucker, Lolih Foster, and Lionel Douglas.

(Photo by: Richard J. Brown)

make money and enjoy it. With the character of Grover, he has to be loose and the years of dancing have helped us to dance loose," said Lionel "Big Bird" Douglass as he reflected.

The main element that they all share is a concern for the children in the audience. The glow and smile that they create is enough reward for them.



VIVIAN KITTY CYNTHIA MARY ANN

**KITTY AND THE HAYWOODS**

They have personally invited you to fly the friendly skies and have told you to start your day with a pow-pow powerful feeling. Perhaps you enjoyed the real thing at their suggestion or went to McDonald's because they told you it was your kind of place. Over the past several years they have probably told you to eat more foods, do more things and go more places than any singing family in the business. So who deserves a break today more than Kitty and the Haywoods, whose new *Excuse Me, I've Got A Life To Catch* LP represents their capitol debut (April 1981).

Kitty Haywood and her sisters -- Vivian, and Mary Ann -- have been singing "Since we were tots," says Kitty. "Everyday after homework we would gather around the piano with our mother and sing. That's how we learned to harmonize." The siblings' mother, Mary L. Haywood, an active church member and the congregational piano player, supplied them with inspirational motivation, and their first public singing appearance was in the church choir.

In 1971 Kitty entered and won a cross-country talent contest conducted by CBS television to find performers for a summer replacement show called "New Comers." Kitty was chosen as winner out of 200 applicants in the Chicago area.

Although the TV show never got off the ground, Kitty and the Haywood sisters were flooded with offers to record background vocals on various albums. They were soon heard on projects by Aretha Franklin, Curtis Mayfield, Tyrone Davis and Minnie Riperton. They also appeared on stage backing several artists, including Roberta Flack and Quincy Jones.

One night the Haywood trio was in a studio putting finishing touches on a track when an engineer asked them if they would like to audition for a radio commercial. The sisters agreed, got the job, and have been doing commercial jingles on a steady basis ever since; among their credits are United Airlines, Cherro-s, Coca-cola and McDonald's spots.

In 1976 Vivian's daughter, Cynthia, joined the Haywoods. "She was always around us when we were singing and she just happened to fall into it," says Kitty. Working as a quartet, the group recorded an album, *Love Shop*, that was produced by the Ohio Players in 1977.

The LP enjoyed but moderate sales, so the Haywoods returned, undaunted, tot the jingles studios. They did not consider another foray into the record business until 1979 when one of their jungle producers asked them to sing on a demo of nursery rhymes set to disco music. The demo turned out well and Capitol Records picked it up, releasing it as "Disco Fairyland" by Kitty Haywood. The quality of the vocal performance was fine enough to warrant Capitol's signing Kitty and the haywoods to an exclusive contract last year.

These four young ladies enjoy their vocation tremendously and they make *Excuse Me, I've Got A Life To Catch* a fun-filled experience. The record is a testament to their love for harmonizing and represents a fine mix of material. "We're comfortable with all kinds of music, from soul ballads to spiritual numbers," acknowledges Kitty. "We could sing every day."

As a matter of fact, they do. There are still the daily calls from producers for the Haywoods t do jingles, and now there is the business of supporting their revitalized record career. "We're ready," says Kitty. "We've worked out all the vocal parts and we have the entire album choreographed. We're even going to make outfits."

You will have to excuse Kitty and the Haywoods now -- they have a life to catch.



Bruce Broussard, Observer publisher and guest host on KEX's "Northwest at Night," interviews Freddie Petett, executive director of the Portland Urban League, and school board member Herb Cawthorne. (Photo: James E. Alterby)

**COMING UP ON "NORTHWEST AT NIGHT" WITH HOST ED ANDERSON:**

**Thursday, July 9, 7:00 p.m.** - Diver Don Reed talks with Ed about experiences at Marineworld-Africa, USA, in the San Francisco Bay area, and all the whales, dolphins, sharks, etc.

**8:P.M.** - Daytime fans will want to talk directly with "Wheel of Fortune" game-show host Chuck Woolery and his pretty sidekick Susan Stanford. They're in Portland this week to line up contestants for their show.

**Friday, July 10, 7PM:** - Majorie Michaels joins host Ed Anderson, to talk about some of the myriad ways to use wine - and you thought drinking was the main use. She says you can "Stay Healthy with Wine." Did you ever hear of a wine-cucumber mask for your complexion?

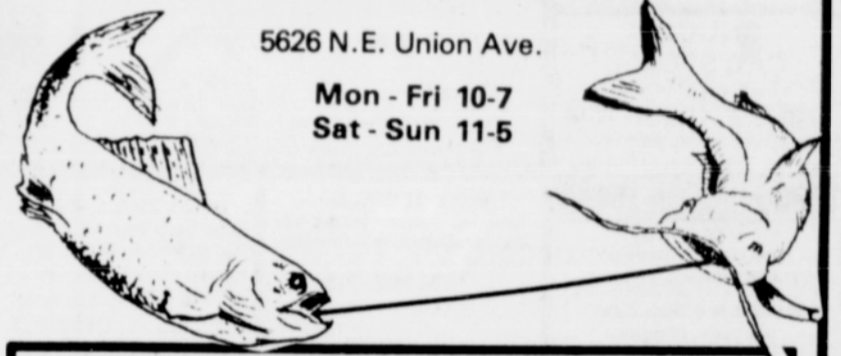
**Monday, July 13, 7PM:** - The story of Jimmy Frattiano is also the story of "The Last Mafioso," at least according to Ovid Demaris. He's Ed Anderson's guest tonight on "Northwest at Night."

**Tuesday, July 14, 7PM:** - How many themes are there about the end of the world? Charles Berlitz, renowned author, explores most of them, as detailed in his book "Doomsday 1999."

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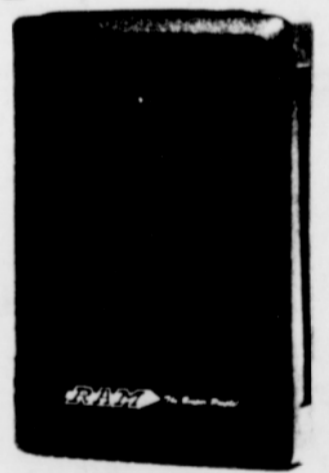


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