

ENTERTAINMENT

HAPPENINGS

ENTERTAINMENT

Grassroot News N.W. - Different artists are well known to a certain generation of listeners. Although you can find a small group of musicians who cross the age and category barriers, Lonnie Liston Smith is such a keyboardist. "I was born into a musical family, so all I ever really did was play music. My father was into gospel music and along with my two brothers, we would either play the piano or sing. You get a certain feeling or happiness when you play gospel and that feeling helped me when I began to compose." Smith's music is a multiplicity of textures and of rhythm accents. The effects of his music is calming and comforting, and it can be powerful; not the power that makes you get on your feet and bop or pop, but the power of serenity. "I am developing a universal sound because people are people and everybody is relative. I saw from first hand experience that music is a universal language. I bring qualities like language and magic into my music so that I can reach everyone."



VICTOR TAVARES

The Tavares family name has been synonymous with cross-over rhythm and blues smashes such as "More Than A Woman," "She's Gone" and "It Only Takes A Minute." It all began for the Brothers with "Check It Out," a top R&B hit with Victor Tavares handling lead vocals. Now Victor breaks out with his own solo debut album, *Victor Tavares*. Produced by brother "Butch" and Benjamin Wright (one of the music industry's hottest music men, having arranged "Rock With Me" for Michael Jackson, "Boogie Wonderland" and other top tracks for Earth, Wind & Fire, as well as cuts for Shalimar and Whispers), *Victor Tavares* is an irresistible collection of steamy soul and percussive rhythms. Stand-out tunes include "First House On The Right Side," "Come Into The Heartbeat," "So Good" and an unexpectedly delightful cover of J.D. Loudermilk's "Then You Can Tell Me Goodbye."

Victor Tavares has assembled a superlative line-up to help him on the album, featuring R&B practitioners like guitarists Paul Jackson, Jr., David T. Walker and David Williams; bassist James Jamerson, Jr., Drummer Nathaniel Neblett, famed percussionist Paulino DeCosta, keyboardists John Barnes, Jr., Toney Coleman, Rene Moore, Angela Winbush and Benjamin Wright himself. A red-hot horn section highlighted by George Bohanon and Garnett Brown on "bones along" with trumpeters extraordinaire Robert O. Bryant, Sr., Oscar Brashear and Nohlan Smith round out the talented ensemble, known collectively as the Benjamin Wright Orchestra. A 14-piece string section and an eight-person choir, including brother "Butch," supports Victor's red-hot vocals with swirling textures amidst the big band sound. "Victor Tavares" is a true musical celebration -- from the City streets to your living room turntable, none of its furious energy is lost in the translation.

Groove Factor Relays: Saturday, July 18th, 12 noon to 5p.m., Jefferson High School, 521 N. Kerby. Events: Sprints, Distance runs, Fat mans' 50-yd dash, long/high jump, relays. Bring the whole family. It won't cost a thing to come out and have a good time. For more information call 282-1460. Brought to you by the Community kids and those who care.

Black United Front's "Community Unity Day." Theme: "Now Is The Time." August 22, 1981, Peninsula Park from 12 noon to 6 p.m. There will be music, speakers, dancers, food! food! food! Something for everyone! Thara Memory will be there, Portland Stars and Stripes Drill Team will be there stepping high! The Sojourner Truth Readers Theater & Dance Troupe will be there with their presentation of "Atlanta Heartbreak" and others. Come one come all.

COSMIC ECHOES

An Exclusive Interview with Lonnie Liston Smith
By Lanita Duke

Smith has a diversified roots and experiences in his art form. In blues, he has worked with Betty Carter and Al Hibbler. With jazz, his instructions came from the best like Max Roach, Art Blakey, Pharoah Sanders and Miles Davis. "Each of these people influenced me because they represented a different form of music. Every gig expanded my conscience."

Smith, in terms of audience recognition, was able to jump over the hurdle of the jazz category that his music was placed in. "I was blessed in that case because my expansion just took off. I believe that everyone is a creative person inside. We all have that potential. In 1978, my release *Expansion* was jumped on by the public. I was very fortunate because I didn't have to com-



promise myself musically. Everyone else makes the labels and it's just music to us. Max Roach told me that when he was with Charlie Parker, Miles Davis and Bud Powell, the music they played, people would dance to. Later, the labels were made and you were cast into a lot that break from. We all just considered it music."

Smith now is being placed in the category of jazz fusion. "In London, they call it jazz-funk. Over here it's fusion. The main element in jazz is improvisation. In fusion, we just incorporate various musical scales into one. Charlie Parker played off the rhythms of Max Roach. 'Train' came along with all these multi-rhythms; with Pharoah Sanders, we played off a free-form of rhythms. But jazz fusion today is based off contemporary R&B because people relate to that form of music. The first thing they hear is the beat."

Local actor makes good: Stars with Richard Pryor



While many actors anticipate the much debated conflict over producers and directors' rights, to share the percentages of Cable television's rapidly expanding marketplace, one young talented actor has surely been reaping his share of profits here in Hollywood.

After completion of studies at the University of Oregon, Roger Reid worked in and around several locally produced plays in the Portland area.

After several years of frustration over the lack of theater, he packed his bags and headed for Hollywood.

The days of frustration were hardly over as Roger discovered "of all the places to starve to death" Hollywood surely has its share of losers.

One day while standing in for extra work, one producer took notice and from that point, Roger's career has been uphill. A talented writer and actor, Roger got his break in *The Jerk*, starring Steve Martin where he played the foreman of the jury. Roger's credits include: *Hill Street Blues*, *Quincy*, *Flamingo Road*, several commercials, and will be seen this September as nationally recognized *Captain Kangaroo* celebrates the show's 25th anniversary.

Personal manager *Jerry Griffin* indicates Roger will be going into production on a project, to be filmed in Atlanta later this year, budgeted at 4.4 million.

Roger is currently on location with *Richard Pryor*, filming his upcoming project that portrays Richard as a Vietnam veteran. The rest will be history. This one has Oscar written all over it.

Under the direction of producer Samuel Vance, Roger has several major roles along with Richard Pryor. The film is due for release in late 1981. Roger's supporting part as a stand in for Richard, has surely made his mark in Hollywood.

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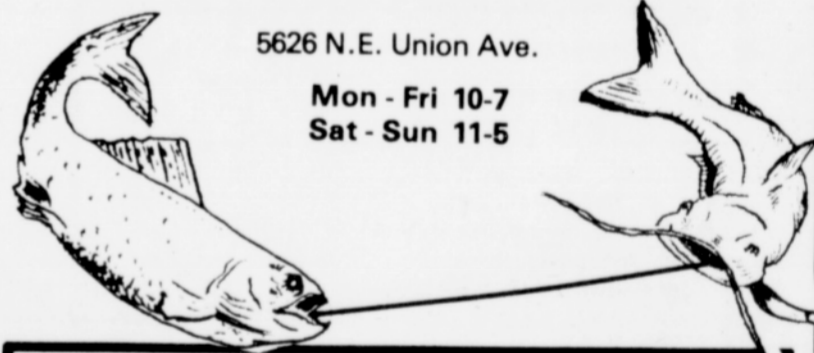
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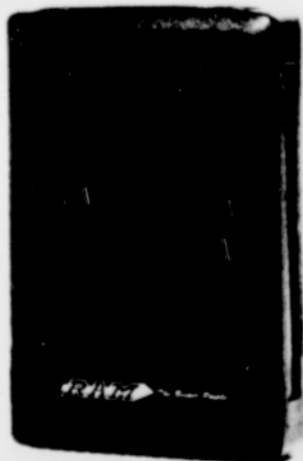


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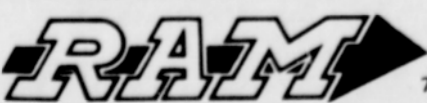
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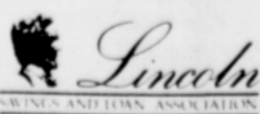
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