

Grassroot News N.W. - Black styles of dance has never seen such waves and movements as it's seeing now with the latest dance.

No, the youngsters aren't having seizures; it's just the pop. The pop has swept the country and the Northwest is no exception. At any given moment you can walk down the street see young men waving their arms, jerking their bodies and shuffling their feet. They are poppin'.

Clarence Williams, 13, explains how he does it. "When I pop, it's like bouncing up and down real hard. The feet slide back and forth and my hands just start waving. My friends taught me last fall and now everybody does it."

Leo Taylor, 18, is a practitioner of this art form with his group called the "Robotniks." "I learned how to pop when I was in the seventh grade in San Francisco. At that time it was called the pop-lock. It's like robot mixed with the lock. There are many styles of poppin, like the tidal wave and the floor wave. The floor wave is when you lay on the floor and wave through your body. The moon walk is when you're stepping forward but you're really moving backwards. And sometimes when you're poppin, you just keep your feet still."

J.W. Friday, a funk-soul D.J., who spins many of the songs to dance the pop, stated that the pop is the aggregate of the jerk, twist, robot, freeze, modeling, mime and the Philly dog. "You really have to have a very limber body to do all the body twists and shaking. that's why you only see young-bloods poppin'."

Bruce Smith, percussionist for Portland's own "Pleasure," says that a correlation can be made between traditional African dance and contemporary Afro-American movements. "The parallel starts when you begin to see the same physical movements because you're working from the same concept. It's the beat. Black people have a natural instinct for rhythm. I don't know why, but it's there." Smith plans to go to Africa soon to learn more about traditional African dance and to search for reasons for this qualitative correspondence between two comparable entities.



MAZE: Top Row: Ron Smith, Frankie Beverly, McKinley Williams. Bottom: Sam Porter, Roame Lowry, Billy (Shoes) Johnson, Robin Duke.

MAZE

Featuring Frankie Beverly

"We are a people's band," explains Frankie Beverly of Maze. "A very self-contained one at that. People realize that at the start when they felt our music, our personality, our presence come rolling out from concert stage speakers. We create all our music from within and therefore it's very distinctive. Maze doesn't share its sound with anyone else."

Proof of Beverly's statement lies in the group's last three albums: *Maze* featuring Frankie Beverly, the band's debut, gold within seven months of release; *Golden Time Of Day*, gold after two months; and *Inspiration*, gold inside of six weeks.

Now the fourth and latest installment of this success story opens with the release of *Joy And Pain*, the soul and pop charted group's latest Capitol albums (July 1980).

Some people think that all of this just happened overnight," smiles Beverly. "It may seem that way, but that's not the way the band sees it. Most people don't realize that this band has been together and working hard for a lot of years."

And the hard work begins with Frankie Beverly. The band's lead singer and rhythm guitarist, he also writes, arranges and produces all of Maze's material. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Beverly formed his own band, *The Blenders*, while still in high school, then began singing with *The Butlers*, a group that recorded several regionally successful singles. After high school, the group evolved into Frankie Beverly's *Raw Soul*, recorded two singles (*Color Blind* and *While I'm Alone*) and toured with *Kool & The Gang*, *Mandrill* and *Issac Hayes*. But though they were making a name for themselves in the burgeoning Philadelphia music scene, Beverly and company weren't quite satisfied. "We didn't want to be part of the Philadelphia sound," Beverly explains. "We finally decided on San Francisco because the city has both charm and funk - and a great club scene."

So, in 1972, Beverly, Roame Lowry, McKinley Williams, Sam Porter and four others, who later left the group, headed West in an old bus. In San Francisco, the group came under the tutelage of Marvin Gaye, who offered them creative guidance, support and the opportunity to perform.

Maze featuring Frankie Beverly, the band's debut (Jan. 1977), quickly earned the tag, "The quietest gold album of the year." Not only did it earn gold, it yielded two strong pop and chart charted singles, "While I'm Alone" and "Lady Of Magic" and a sizable disco hit in "Time Is On My Side."

The group's next LP, *Golden Time Of Day* (Jan. 1978), added still more credits to Maze's growing list with such hits as "Travelin' Man," "Workin' Together" and "I Wish You Well."

Inspiration, the group's third outing and third gold album (March 1979), also produced several hits during its run on the soul and pop charts, among them, the title track, "Feel That You're Feelin'" and "Timin'."

Now Maze has committed themselves to vinyl a fourth time with *Joy And Pain*. Once again, producer/arranger/composer Frankie Beverly has delivered seven superb tracks, showcasing the diversity of this talented group.

"This time we tried a few experiments, but we still tried to keep in our stride what the people actually want," Beverly explains. "We have used more moods and keyboards for this album, because we were looking for a fuller kind of sound. As far as using horns and strings though - not until I feel that our sound is starting to get tired."

The album also marks the debut of two new members, Ron Smith and Billy Johnson, both of whom toured with Patti LaBelle, who have replaced Wayne Thomas and Ahaguna Sun. Among the selections on this latest album are the fluid instrumental "Roots" which Beverly explains "I wrote that some time ago during a period when I was listening to John McLaughlin's Mahavishnu Orchestra. It really isn't too commercial with the 6/8 time, but I put it in to show the fans what we can do."

Other outstanding selections are the funky "Changin' Times," "Southern Girl," a tribute to the area where the group first gained popularity, and "Family," written for anyone and everyone who feels they belong.

No overnight success, talent and hard work have put this group on top. And with albums like *Joy And Pain*, Maze featuring Frankie Beverly is going to rate star billing for a long time to come.



'POP ALONG KIDS'

By Lanita Duke

Benny Bell, a professional dancer from the Kathryn Durnham School of Dance, believes that the roots of all popular forms of Black dance stem from the historical dances of Africa. "I dance the Afro-Haitian form of dance which deals 1/4 in voodoo movements. We dance from the premise that Africans communicate through movement and it's a universal motion that has been in the body for years and years. It's dictated by feelings and has found its way into Afro-American culture through the church. In watching a



Portland's Robonicks -- "J.P.," "Jonathan," "Hammer" and "Leo" -- will appear on Ulysses Tucker's television show, Dialogue, on KPTV Sunday.

voodoo dance, many youngsters would swear that they are doing the pop. "His body twists and bends/directions never end/they named him after the pop."

The above musical lyrics are from the 1980 sounds of "Shalamar." Jeffrey Daniel, a member of "Shalamar" was instrumental in sliding across stage with the pop during their 1980 concert tour. Shalamar was among the first nationally known groups to choreograph the pop into their act.

Right now the pop is building a new dance called breaking, where youngsters pop for a while and then flip onto their backs, and slide to stand up and start again. Among the Black dance forms, the pop calls upon the individual creativity of the dancer. So the next time you see a young man doing unique waves with his arms and body, don't think he's freaking out...He's just poppin'!



Second place winners in the Dance Fever contest held in Portland, Leo Taylor and Rubie Pledger.

(Photos: Richard J. Brown)

butch coors

Phone: 284-1897

HOT CUTS SPECIAL \$15.

free conditioning treatment with every cut

1405 NE Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97212



COUPONS DAYS

Store Time
6am - 10am
Breakfast
10-10
Lunch

Your Best Buy

"TWO WEEKS ONLY"
Buy a hamburger & drink
Get your "French fries" free
(Small french fries only)

Offer good until July 30th

Bring this ad to the Corral



INTERESTING FACTS



Brought To You Every Week

AMERICAN STATE BANK

More people live in Los Angeles County than live in 42 of the 50 states in the U.S. Only New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas, California, Michigan, Illinois and Ohio have more population than Los Angeles County.

One jumbo jet airplane costs about 25-million dollars, or about the same price as 4-thousand medium-priced automobiles.

Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, was known as the "Forbidden City" because until 1904 no foreigner was ever allowed to set foot in it.



American State Bank

AN INDEPENDENT BANK
Head Office
2737 N. E. Union
Portland, Oregon 97212

GOLD EAGLE FISH MARKET

5626 N.E. Union Ave.

Mon - Fri 10-7
Sat - Sun 11-5



BUFFALO FISH.....	\$1.59/lb
CULTURED PROTEIN FED CATFISH.....	\$2.59/lb
GAR.....	\$2.25/lb
GOO.....	\$1.69/lb
NEW ORLEANS OYSTER.....	\$1.99/jar

Flown in daily from Louisiana at a low low price.

We have DMSO

Specializing in all curly perms, styling & trimming.

Proline Style Shop

917 S.W. Alder 224-8401
(across from the Galleria)



\$42.50

Ask for Gerald

M. J. PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

"THE FINALLY"

LIVE

Lady C. • The Berry Bros.

AND

Michael J.

For One Night Only

LIVE

LIVE

An evening of soulful vibration of all the latest jams - featuring Portland celebrities. Come dress to impress - Door Prizes.

Sunday, August 2nd - 8:00 p.m. - 2:30

\$3.00 Donation

At

"On The Rocks"

15 N. W. 6th Street
Portland, Oregon 228-1308