

ENTERTAINMENT

HAPPENINGS

ENTERTAINMENT



ROBERT WILLIAMS KEN COVINGTON RICKIE STORY

L.D.P. Promotes Entertainment

Low Down Productions is a non-profit organization geared to produce and promote both quality and professional entertainment in the Portland-Vancouver, Seattle-Tacoma areas. All profit from L.D.P.'s local activities will be recirculated into the communities in the form of scholarships, free community picnics, free park entertainment etc. It is the opinion of L.D.P. that entertainment, especially Black, is lagging far behind the rest of the country in quality and frequency of entertainment activities.

Within the last decade the electronic media has been the center of attention of the American public. The power of this medium is not to be taken lightly; it is a serious business. It is L.D.P.'s long-range goal to establish a medium that is more than "a couple of hours a day and twice on weekends," one that offers a wider variety of Black recording artists and a format suited to fit the needs of our community. They also plan to bring more recording artists to this area for major concert appearances. In the meantime, L.D.P. will do all in its power to bring the best in entertainment, all to be given in an atmosphere in which a touch of class will always be evident. This is a promise to the community in hope that it will spark a new era in not only entertainment but in the community as well.

The source of L.D.P.'s concept is a trio of men from the Los Angeles area with a broad range of credentials both in and out of the entertainment field. They are Ken Covington, a musician song-writer who has spent the last three-and-a-half years in L.A. as a studio and performing musician. Covington is a native of St. Louis where he was a disc jockey and also founded his own production company at the age of sixteen. It is still very active to date.

Then there's Rickie Story who holds a degree in business law and accounting. Rickie has an uncanny sense of attention to detail that not only applies to figures but to any project he is involved in. This intense young man has a long list of credits including one of the most successful production companies in the L.A. area.

Last but not least is Robert Williams, the wise man of the trio. In his younger days Williams toured the U.S. as a performing musician. He has since put away his horn and pursued other interests. They include a degree in history and a long list of community projects. Williams also founded and headed the Linwood Community Outreach Association, a non-profit organization designed to place the unemployed and the needy in jobs in and about the community.

The group has the necessary ingredients for a successful and provocative association with the community.

Portland Saturday Market more than a weekend marketplace for Christmas shoppers. It will be open during the week before Christmas, Monday through Thursday, Dec. 21-24, 10 am-4 pm Mon.-Wed., 10 am-3 pm on Christmas Eve. 230 vendors will be there; gift wrapping will be available; shoppers can enjoy holiday music from strolling carolers and special entertainment by juggler Roberto Morganti and Scorby the Clown. Also, visit the Sat. Market retail store, open especially for Christmas shopping, 213 NW Couch St., open Tues.-Sun., 11-6, thru Dec. 24.

Four Kings of Grooving

Some things do improve with age, and after twenty-seven years together, the Four Tops have returned to dazzle a whole new musical generation with "Tonight," their debut LP from Casablanca/PolyGram Records. Nobody who's been anywhere near a radio within the last seventeen years could mistake the Four Tops' incredible sound for any other. Hits such as "I Can't Help Myself," "Reach Out, I'll Be There," and "Standing in the Shadows of Love" have become standards of a Musical Golden Era, and Levi Stubbs, Lawrence Payton, Renaldo "Obie" Benson, and Abdul "Duke" Fakir have no intention of letting up.

"Tonight" features "some of the old and some of the new," says lead singer Levi Stubbs. "It has a street sound in the old Four Tops kind of groove," yet it boasts perhaps the cleanest and most contemporary sound of their career. Produced by David Wolfert for the Entertainment Company, "Tonight" returns the Four Tops to their prime with brilliant tracks like the first single, "When She Was My Girl," Kenny Loggins and Richard Page's "Who's Right, Who's Wrong," "Let Me Set You Free," and "Something To Remember." With ace sidemen like drummer Jeff Porcaro, bassist Ron Carter, and sax soloist Tom Saviano, "Tonight" is the crowning achievement of a career that began on the streets of Detroit.

Born and raised in "Motor City," the Four Tops have been best friends since they were kids. One of the first times they entertained was at a high



THE FOUR TOPS

school graduation party back in 1954! A succession of amateur contests, local lawn parties, church socials, and school functions led the group to the "Chitlin' Circuit" of exhausting one-nighters. Lawrence Payton recalls those early dues-paying days when they were known as the Four Aims: "It was pure hell! Every single day we were on the move. No rest at all. We knew we had it together and that if the breaks came we could make it. That was the only thing that kept us going."

After a name change to the Four Tops, they finally got that break: a contract with Motown in 1964. Says Levi, "When we started we were very much influenced by the Four Freshmen and the Hi-Lo's sound." But then Berry Gordy put them to work with the company's top writing-producing team of Holland-Dozier-Holland, and that magical combination resulted in their first single, "Baby I Need Your Loving." The rest is musical history. "We never realized at the time that the music we made would set trends or be part of something that really would last," says Levi. "It sure feels good."

"Tonight" retains much of the raw earthiness of the Four Tops' early work. "We're fortunate because on stage we sound like we do on record," says Levi. "The reason is that we don't use a lot of gimmicks in our recording sessions."

After twenty-seven years, how have the Four Tops managed to stay together while so many others are memories? "We still enjoy singing together," notes Levi, "but we're friends first. That's what binds us. Ever since the Four Tops first burst upon the musical scene, their music has helped to bond the rest of us. "Tonight" will undoubtedly prove no different.

We Invite You

Geneva's Lounge cordially invites you to a night of fun and holiday cheer to benefit the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, Tues., Dec. 29 at 7:30 pm. Geneva's Lounge is located at 4228 N. Williams Ave. Donation: \$5.00. No host bar, hors d'Oeuvres.

VISION PRESENTS

"CHRISTMAS-ON-STAGE"

FEATURING

"THE MELLOW MAN" **GEORGE FITZ**

Bourbon Street Lounge

1530 N.E. Grand Ave.

Date: Saturday, Dec. 19, 1981

Time: 8:00 pm to 2:00 am

Price: \$5.00 Per person or \$9.00 per couple

No Host Bar and Hors D'Oeuvres from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm

A special appearance by Santa Claus

Tickets can be purchased at:
• The House of Sound Record Shop
• Bourbon Street Lounge

For more information contact Viola Washington 282-9881



WONDER IN MONTEGO BAY—Recording artist Stevie Wonder spent a few restful days at the Rose Hall Inter-Continental Hotel and Country Club recently. Donna Gadishaw (right), guest relations coordinator for the hotel, presents Stevie and friend Stephanie Andrews with a Rose Hall beach bag as a souvenir.

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frantically presents

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LDP



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Airport Holiday Inn
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Portland, Oregon

9 p.m. till 2 a.m.
Attire Semi-Formal
Must be over 21

- Entertainment provided by "Velvet"
- Featuring Alescia Locke & Anita McCowan
- Fashions - Le Models by Cheloi

Donation:
In Advance \$8.50 per person ----- \$15.00 a couple
At the Door \$9.00 per person ----- \$16.00 a couple

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- Walt and Jack's Hair Affair - 2309 Neals Lane, Fourth Plain
- Budget Tapes and Records - 2700 N.E. Andresen

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