

ENTERTAINMENT

# HAPPENINGS

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## Best Pick Of The TV Season:

*The Righteous Apples* deserves a very special place in this season's television line-up. It's a youth-oriented show that succeeds in delivering a "message" without forgetting to be entertaining.

The show centers around a multi-ethnic group of four talented high-school students who come together as the "Righteous Apples," a new but dedicated rock band. In each episode, they involve themselves in realistic situations and conflicts confronting today's teenagers.

What gives *The Righteous Apples* believability is its realization that life is not as simple as black and white. The characters, from kids to parents, whatever their race, all have opinions about things—as individuals. They give us the shades of gray. Instead of wrapping up each show in a neat, little, ribbon-tied package, the endings are often left open-ended so the audience can draw their own conclusions. *The Righteous Apples*, unlike many television programs, gives the viewer credit for having some intelligence. In an episode about inter-racial gang violence, a white youth is killed and a Black, crippled for life. The ending has both sides still angry, still confused. There are no handshakes and smiles—but the message is obvious. Fighting



The Righteous Apples

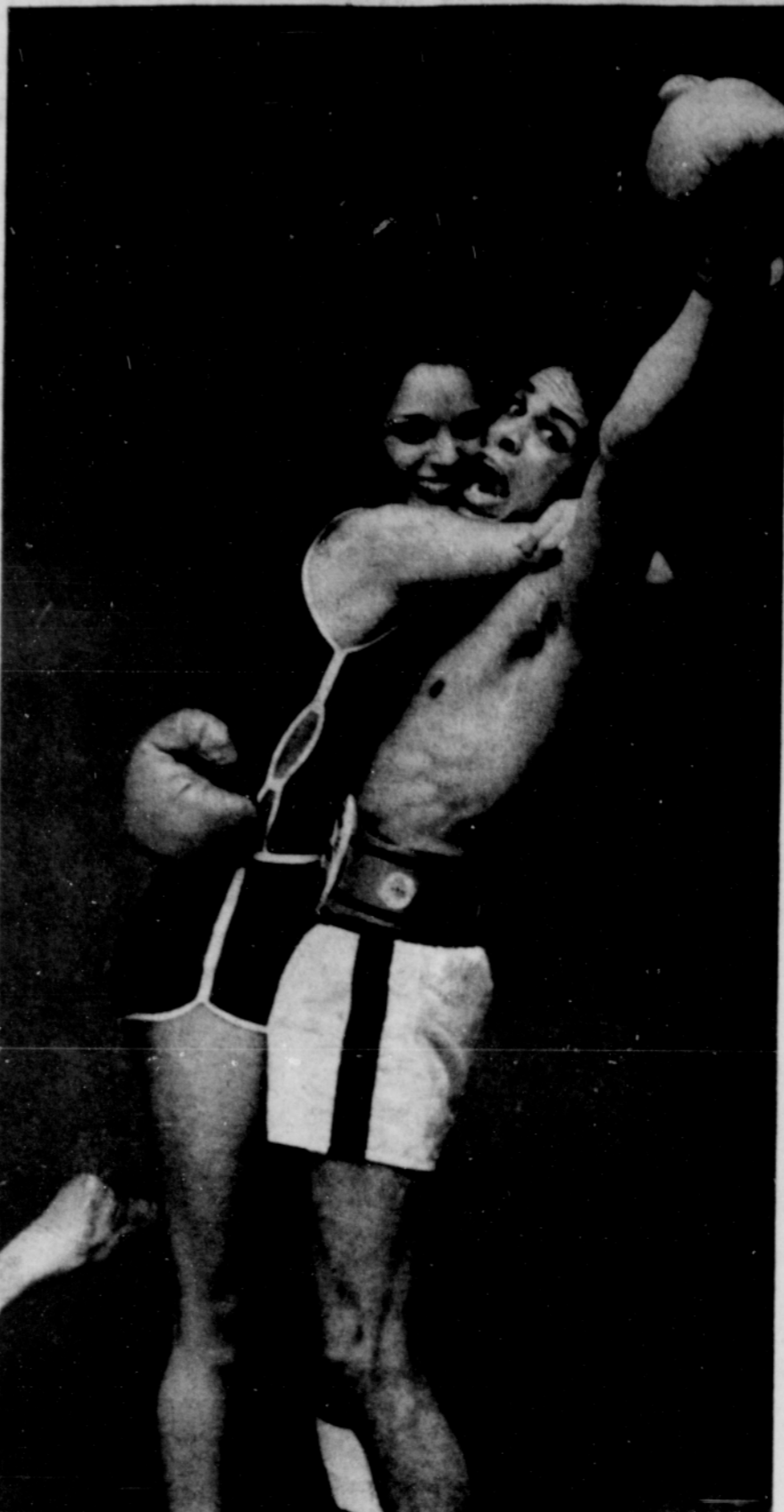
is not the answer.

Each one of the "Apples" is a well-defined individual. Big Neck is Black, the charismatic, street-wise leader of the band. He's everybody's big brother. D.C. is a short, Jewish kid who's liked by all. He's really a shy, "old-fashioned" guy but hides behind the facade of a boppy, swinging musician. Glo is an honor student, a high scholastic achiever who also happens to be beautiful. She's Black, upper middle-class and outspoken. Sandy is blond, a bit giggly with a Betty Boopish charm. She's the youngest member of the group and has aspirations to be a star.

The stories all develop naturally around the characters. Instead of being preached to about drug abuse, we see it happening. Glo, a person we care about, finds her whole world falling apart as she gets hooked on amphetamines. When D.C. confesses to a sexually aggressive young lady that he's a virgin, we can feel the embarrassment and understand something about teen peer pressure. Sandy finds herself torn between family and friend when Big Neck is accidentally shot by her aunt, a frightened woman who mistook him for a robber.

These four kids come across as real, three-dimensional people. Like all of us, they're vulnerable. They do stupid things, get hurt, make mistakes, etc.—but they don't give up and are strengthened by their experiences. The "Apples" are a positive and believable role model for young people. Their characters are skillfully written so as to avoid cliches and stereotypes. On the opening shot of every show, the first thing we see is four multi-racial teenagers performing on stage; but by the show's end, we have come to know and care about four fellow human beings.

Tying the half-hour together is the very danceable, original music performed by the cast. The well-choreographed production numbers are an integral part of the show. Songs such as "Stay in School" or "Merry-Go-Round" (about drug abuse) serve to support and complement the theme of each story.



Jayne and Leon Kennedy were a joyous pair before their marriage ended.

## Money Doesn't Guarantee A Successful Marriage

Did Jayne and Leon Kennedy's "10 year plan" to become rich and famous break up their marriage?

The Kennedy's plan was to work hard in Hollywood for 10 years, make money (they only wanted \$50,000 a year, now they pay a PR firm that much), buy a ranch, raise children, and "live happily ever after."

Leon Kennedy says their careers kept taking them away from each other. He says the sacrifices they made to achieve their goals ended up eroding he and Jayne's relationship. "... It's all just a tragic loss. We have the fame and the fortune but we no longer have that true love that really comes only once in a lifetime."



Big Tour Set

Fresh for the first leg of a successful U.S. tour to promote their best-selling MCA album, *Freetime*, Spyro Gyra's percussionist Gerardo Velez and bassist David Wofford paid a visit to WBLS's popular Frankie Crocker. The grammy nominated jazz-fusion group is currently on a triumphant return tour of Japan, and will kick off the second half of the U.S. tour with a performance at New York City's Radio City Music Hall.

## Dance & Exercise

Registration is going on right now for classes at GYMNI'S located at 6049 S.E. Stark Street. All classes begin the week of January 10th for winter term 1982. Classes offered include: "Dance/Exercise," "Conditioning with Weights," "Fitness Over 50," "Current & Popular Dance," and "Couples Dancing." Also available are classes in "Jazz," "Tap," and "Ballet." There are group classes for Men, Women, and Teens, as well as private lessons for individuals. Call 232-3311 for class schedules and registration information.

## Oregon appears at Reed College

Oregon, one of America's most original and contemporary bands, will perform a concert Sunday, January 24 at 8:30 p.m. in the Reed College Commons. The \$7.50 tickets are available at Longhair Music and Reed College, 771-1112, ext. 425.

Ralph Towner, Glen Moore, Collin Walcott, and Paul McCandless are the musicians who make up Oregon. The four band members play a total of over 50 instruments including classical guitar, French horn, piano, flugelhorn, bass, sitar, tabla, clarinet, violin, oboe and flute. They draw heavily on the traditions of American jazz, but their music also reflects European classical, Indian and African sources.

After recording several widely acclaimed albums for the Vanguard label, Oregon made their first LP for Elektra/Asylum, *Out of the Woods*, in 1978. They now have a second E/A album, *Roots in the Sky*.

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