

HAPPENINGS



Carlton Jackson, drummer with Le Bon, hears the sound of the "future funk." Man in Motion will play Tuesday, April 19th, 9:30 p.m. at the Luis La Bamba Club, 58 S.W. 2nd.

(Photo: Russ Hamilton)

Future Funk Comes To Portland

Le Bon (which means "the good" in French) is a new band organized by music writer Rick Mitchell. It features a select group of musicians including Carlton Jackson (Dan Siegel Band) on drums, Dave Captein (Shirley Nannette) on bass, Dan Balmer (Tom Grant and Friends) on guitar, John Jensen (Chris Conrid Big Band) on trumpet, Jim Pribbenow (Chris Conrad Big Band) on saxophone, Billy Kennedy (Special K) on vocals, and Mitchell on percussion.

Mitchell calls Le Bon's sound "future funk" because of the diverse elements that have gone into it. "The horn solos reflect the harmonic freedom of jazz, the vocals are oriented more toward the energy of New Wave, and the rhythms are rooted in driving, danceable contemporary funk," he explains. In addition to Kennedy's originals, the band covers a variety of material by Miles Davis, Prince, Jimi Hendrix and others less well-known. "It's serious music, but it's also fun," says Mitchell. "And no one had done anything like it in Portland before."

Man in Motion will play at 9:30 p.m., Le Bon at 11 p.m. Cover is \$3.00. For more information call 288-2977.



ART ALEXANDER

black programming

Channel features

It is not news to report that the black perspective is seldom given in the mass media. It would almost be a fantasy for a television channel to be devoted to black programming 24 hours a day, seven days a week. But in Portland fantasy is becoming a reality. Cablesystems Pacific Black Community Television, BCTV-23, is entirely devoted to Afro-American oriented entertainment and information distribution.

"Blacks have suffered gross misrepresentation in all of the mass media," said Art Alexander, BCTV Coordinator. "BCTV provides a unique, funded opportunity for black community and cultural self-definition." As Coordinator, Alexander's duties involve producing and securing programming, and training volunteers for BCTV. His experience includes producing local and public affairs programs for public television; producing and hosting music, news and public affairs programs for public radio; writing; and black community activism.

The black community in Portland can currently enjoy two locally-produced series: *Moving Together* and *Talking Book*. *Moving Together* is a magazine format show which focuses on Portland black public and cultural affairs. A recent topic was "Where To Now: Projections for the Black Community." The live, call-in show featured black community leaders from the Portland Urban League, the Albina Ministerial Alliance and the Black United Front.

Talking Book focuses upon lectures and the oral history of black

culture. Nationally known guests such as Ambassador Eke of Nigeria, Congressman Ron Dellums of California and Dr. William McClendon, former Director of Black Studies at Reed College in Portland. In addition, many local experts on black culture have appeared. "I want to demystify the concept that an expert is someone from another place," said the BCTV Coordinator.

One of Alexander's goals is to give community volunteers experience, and at the same time utilize the skills of independent black producers. He hopes to have an independent producer provide a complete black music series by summer.

Also supplementing local programming are electronic print messages and Black Entertainment Television (BET). BET is a three-hour-a-day satellite service focusing on the black community, with feature films, news programs, reruns of black television series, a cooking show and more. The electronic print messages provide biographies of notable blacks, book reviews and community announcements. Recently added was a glossary of computer definitions.

Alexander regards community involvement as an important step toward providing such extensive quality programming. "It's a tall order for one person, but not for an active community," he said. "It's been my goal to ultimately create an ever-growing group of people with the variety of skills necessary to produce good community oriented programming. I'd love it if my job gets to where I'm coordinating the productions of a host of black community video activists."



NEIL YOUNG

Mr. Success

Neil Young released his first solo album in January of 1969. At age 24, he had already seen whirlwind success and pop stardom with the Buffalo Springfield. Expectations were high for his first effort, and Young more than met the challenge with songs like "The Loner" and "Last Trip To Tulsa."

Young recently recorded a series of six songs accompanying himself on computerized synthesizers and other electronic instruments. After having completed these compelling new tracks, Young called together several favorite musicians with whom he had worked in the past. The resulting sessions, which took place in Hawaii, produced yet another new group of songs. This new material, combined with Young's synthesizer-oriented music, or "trans music" as he calls it, comprises his latest album *Trans*, on Geffen Records.

Young also brought the same musicians back to his Northern California home for two months of rehearsal and surprise performances at clubs around the area. With this band he is able to perform material from every point in his 15-year-long career, from his first album to *Trans*.

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