

THE ENTERTAINMENT SEEN

Portland Observer
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Act One

By Ken Covington



Editorial Explosion Waterfront Wrong

Hello, folks. I'm here again this week with another commentary. I hope to return to spotlighting local entertainers soon. I did not intend for Act One to become political or promotional or a place for me to continually express my personal point of view. I feel my commentaries are a necessary reflection of the general opinion of the community and of those who are concerned with what is right, fair and just to all humanity. Your continued input and support is appreciated and welcome—power to the people—Ken

On Saturday, July 5th, one day after America celebrated her 210th year as a "free" nation, another stroke of the lash was felt by all who were in attendance at J.W. Friday's "Waterfront Fresh".

"Waterfront Fresh" was a unique project in a number of ways. In the old days, it was a common thing in the community to have "cliques" or gangs that kept up a lot of the confusion and unrest with vicious verbal attacks in public places. These sometimes led to physical confrontations, most of them harmless, but violence is violence, unrest is unrest. In today's society, instead of street gangs, we have rapping groups, break groups and their followers. Just like the old days, the verbal attacks cause the same type of confusion. "Waterfront Fresh" brought these adversaries together for the first time under one common cause, as Kelvin Woods, AKA "Doc Rock," put it, "to do the best that WE can do." There were a few meetings and rehearsals. The first couple of times there was a lot of tension in the air, but as showtime grew near, instead of the "We'll crush you!" attitude and greeting, things like "How are you guys doing?" and "Are you guys ready?" replaced the old. A community comradery among our young people, tomorrow's adults, was a beautiful sight to behold. I'm sure I wasn't the only one who noticed this, because when Saturday afternoon rolled around, Tom McCall Park was filled with adults and children alike. There were aunts, uncles, cousins, grandmas, grandpas and friends; there were curiosity seekers from across the street at Saturday Market; one lady drove down from Spokane, Washington, with 17 children; hundreds upon hundreds there to see youth from our community put their best foot forward.

"We got there to set up for the show," says J.W. Friday, "and were greeted by a park full of trash. The park maintenance crew arrived just as we finished cleaning up the trash. And I really didn't mind that, but when we're 30 minutes into the show and the power went off, I began to get concerned. After calling the emergency number given to me three times and getting a recorded message, I began to get frustrated. I got the police to put in some calls and called 4 or 5 times myself. I began to get a little angered. I was told by the crew foreman that if the breaker tripped, to call this number, and he would come back and reset the breakers. After trying for three hours to reach someone, anyone who could help, I had to tell the performers and a park full of people that I'd done all I could and that "Waterfront Fresh" would have to be postponed."

During the three hours, the spectators remained in the hot July sun, and if you could have seen the kids' faces as the clock ticked away, you might have been as angry as I am today. It looks like the maintenance crew foreman lied to Friday. I think there should have been a pager number or even a person on duty, just in case. I'll bet during KGW's Neighborfair or "other events," if the power went out, it would be seconds before power would be restored. Also, The Rose Festival and Neighborfair with all those booths are on those same circuits. Why don't they blow, then? The very next day in the same spot a Rock 'n Roll band played. The whole thing went off like clockwork without a hitch. What message does this give you? Is someone trying to tell us something? I think if we are honest and open with ourselves, we can say that the old double standard still exists in today's society. At least they did on Independence Day weekend in Portland, Oregon. Happy Birthday, American. Were still waiting for our full slice of the cake.

The Portland Observer salutes and recognizes:

J.W. Friday, Randy's Restaurant, Sweet Sound Inc., The Mos' Def Crew, Larry Bell, Dynamic Sound Machine, T.C. Rockmaster, Electro Wiz, Michael J. and the Regime, Buggy Mike and The Mikestands, Cazall, E.G.R. Crew, Benie & Gallene Bickum, The Street Music Band and The Untouchable Rappers for their participation and formation of:

"Waterfront Fresh"

May God bless you all.

- About Town**
- Brasserie Montmartre 626 S.W. Park Ave., 224-5552
Fri.—Sat., The Calvin Walker Band
 - Donegals 10330 S.W. Greenburg Rd., 684-1844
Fri.—Sat., The Calvin Walker Band
 - The Eldorado Club 5016 N.E. Union, 284-8654
Thurs., Just 17 Big Band; Fri.—Sat., Cool 'R;
Sun., Walter Bridges Big Band/The Janice Scroggins Quartet;
Mon., The Mel Brown Quintet
 - Eli's 424 S.W. 4th Ave., 223-4241
Thurs., Dan Reed Network; Fri.—Sat., Hypertension
 - Key Largo 31 N.W. 1st Ave., 223-9919
Thurs., Alan Holdsworth; Fri.—Sat., RIA; Sun., Cool 'R;
Mon., Here Comes Everybody; Tues., Jackals;
Wed., Lonnie Brooks
 - Pyramid Club 1701 N.W. Thurman St., 228-2809
Sat., Obbo Addy & Krukruudu
 - Red Lion Inn (downtown) 310 S.W. Lincoln St., 221-0450
Mon.—Sat., Blaze
 - Remo's 1424 N.W. Glisan, 221-1150
Tues., Shirley Nanette w/ Ron Cledinin;
Sun., Jam Session w/ Ron Steen Trio
 - River City Saloon 1133 S.W. Jefferson St., 224-2800
Fri.—Sat., Norman Sylvester Band
 - Royal Esquire Club 1701 N.E. Alberta, 287-5145
Fri.—Sat., Leroy Vinnegar & Co.
 - Salty's foot of S.E. Marion, 239-8900
Thurs., Cool 'R; Fri.—Sat., Beverly Ducatt Band
 - Shanghai Lounge 0309 S.W. Montgomery, 220-1865
Sun., Calvin Walker and The Conquerors Orchestra
 - Top of the Cosmo 1030 N.E. Union, 253-8433
Mon.—Sat., Gene Diamond and Aries

- Down the Road**
- The Cotton Club 820 M.L. King Way, (206)328-1333
Fri.—Sat., The Chi-Lites

- Hot Ten Albums**
- Headlines Midnite Starr/Solar Control
 - Janet Jackson/A&M
 - Rumors Timex Social Club/Jay Burning Love
 - Confunkshun/Polygram
 - Sands of Time S.O.S. Band/Tabu Winner
 - Patti Labelle/MCA
 - Theatre of the Mind Mtume/CBS
 - Stay The Controllers/MCA
 - Johnny Kemp Johnny Kemp/CBS
 - E.T. Eddie Towns/Total Experience

Word of the week: Demoralize—deprive of energy or spirit.

Color of the week: Ocean Blue

"KISS"

"Kiss," the first single from Prince's new album "Parade: Music From Under the Cherry Moon," has been declared gold. This is Prince's fourth gold single.

"Do all the good you can./ By all the means you can./ In all the ways you can./ In all the places you can./ At all the times you can./ To all the people you can./ As long as ever you can."
John Wesley

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RIA
- Sun. July 13
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