

THE ENTERTAINMENT SEEN



Commissioned

Spirit Fall Down by Ken Covington

This past Monday night the contemporary gospel group Commissioned came to Portland's Albina Church of God and brought the spirit with them. From the moment they entered the auditorium, a blind man would have been able to tell that something was different.

Unlike most concerts where the frenzy leads to destruction and sometimes death, the frenzy or excitement was of a totally joyous and positive nature. Young and old alike praising the Father's name was a sight that I'll not soon forget. Also appearing were Portland's own Total Experience and new recording artist Greg Brinkley who filled the auditorium with his dynamically powerful tenor voice, as well as the spirit of God. Hats off to Stewardship Productions for doing something to make a permanent and positive change in the City of Roses. May God bless you!

Act One

By Ken Covington



Calvin Walker/Stretching Out

Hello, people! It's my pleasure to introduce to you this week someone from my hometown of St. Louis, Missouri, who, in the last couple of years, has become one of Portland's favorite club personalities. My feeling is that this took place not only because of the unmistakable style of his music, but also his striking personality. Calvin is not your average stage clone who is usually "so glad to be here" and "gee, don't I look cool this evening". Calvin is smooth, witty and spontaneous, just like his music. One of a kind, that's Calvin Walker. (Yeah, St. Louis!)

"This is not glamorous!" says Calvin, with a serious look on his face. "What people see up here on stage is the result of a lot of hard work, both individually and collectively. Even though we have fun, I really want people to know that the music business is a job, just like any other, where hard work is what pays off."

"My mom pressed hair and my house was always full of people and music. Little Willie John, Albert King, Miles Davis and B.B. King could be heard almost 24 hours a day. St. Louis is a great jazz and blues town that even influences people not from there and will always be a part of what I am and what I play."



Calvin Walker & The Conquerors

Left to right: Kerry McCoy, Dennis Carter, Jim Cheek, Brian Davis, Tom Cheek, Calvin Walker, Tod Carver, Sandy Wilson.

"When I was ten years old, I knew what I wanted to do. My Uncle Sam played sax in nightclubs, so I took trumpet lessons and studied hard. In two years I was playing the club circuit, too."

Since then Calvin hasn't stopped growing, both musically and mentally. Calvin moved to Portland and attended Jefferson High School. He attended Reed College and Portland State University, where he graduated with a degree in Communications. Musically, he has played Country and Western, Rhythm and Blues, Gospel, and Jazz. Calvin is an excellent drummer and was noted among Portland's best.

Two-and-a-half years ago, as his song writing ability reached maturity, he searched for someone to play his material, but to no avail, so Calvin started singing them himself. He and Sandra Simmons (who is now with Anita Baker) drew crowds downtown night after night. His video "The Perfect Crime" has been viewed nationally and is the recipient of many prestigious awards due, not only to the song content, but for the production quality that carries Calvin's magic touch as well.

This week he is releasing his first album, "The Perfect Crime", which is a work of art, and, I'm sure, will have as much, if not more, success as his peers (Nu Shooz, Cool 'R, Quarter Flash, Dan Reed Network, etc.). Amidst all of this, Calvin Walker remains himself, undaunted and unchanged.

"I'm lucky to have come up where and when I did with Lester McFarland, Nate Phillips, The Hepburn Brothers and a lot of other people in the Portland music scene. Portland is far advanced when it comes to musicianship. I'm blessed. We (the band) are ready to start playing in other states and countries. We're ready to stretch out and let others see and hear what we have to offer. I think we'll do okay. I can never forget where I came from and who I am. An artist, I believe that it's my duty to always put something back into the community and to always know what's going on there. My advice to them is to educate yourselves, no matter what you are and what you do. Musician, mechanic or brain surgeon, education always gives you an option in what you want to do in your life. You'll never feel stuck or walled in. Also, you have to believe or have faith in something other than what is happening in your reality on a day-to-day basis. Life itself is more than that, be it God, Buddah, Mohammed or whatever, you've got to believe!"

Personally, I believe that the world would be a much better place if there were more Calvin Walkers. He puts his time, money and effort where his mouth is, time and time again. For those of you who don't know who Calvin is, catch him and The Conquerors Orchestra, Kerry McCoy, Dennis Carter, Brian Davis, Sandy Wilson, Tom and Jim Cheek, Tod Carver and Sandy Wilson, either downtown or on their album, "The Perfect Crime", available at your local record store. Go on and try it. I'm sure you'll love it....God bless you, "homey". I know you'll go far.

ABOUT TOWN

- Bee G's 5700 N.E. Union, 281-1176
Fri.-Sat., Billy Larkin & Co.; Sun., Jam Session
- Brasserie Montmartre 626 S.W. Park, 224-5552
Fri.-Sat., Dennis Springer Quartet
- Eldorado Club 5016 N.E. Union, 284-8654
Fri.-Sat., Eastwind featuring Ural Thomas
Sun., Walter Bridges Big Band/Mel Brown Quintet
- Key Largo 31 N.W. 1st Ave., 223-9919
Fri.-Sat., Cool 'R; Sun., Mt. Hood Kicks Band
- Last Hurrah 555 S.W. Alder, 224-1336
Fri.-Sat., Dan Reed Network; Sun., Cool 'R
- Pyramid Club 1701 N.W. Thurman, 222-2809
Sat., Obo Addy & Krukudu
- Remo's 1424 N.W. Glisan, 221-1150
Sun., Jam w/ Ron Steen
- Royal Esquire Club 1701 N.E. Alberta, 287-5145
Fri.-Sat., The Norman Sylvester Blues Band
- Salty's foot of S.E. Marion, 239-8900
Thurs., Cool 'R; Fri.-Sat., John Muzzako Band
- Shanghai Lounge 0309 S.W. Montgomery, 220-1865
Sun., Calvin Walker & The Conquerors Orchestra
- Top of the Cosmo 1030 N.E. Union, 235-8433
Mon.-Sat., Gene Diamond & Aires

HOT TEN

1. Rumors The Social Club/Jay
2. Word Up Cameo/Polygram
3. Always in the Mood Shirley Jones/Manhattan
4. Back in Black Whodini/Jive
5. The Juice Oran (Juice) Jones/Def Jam
6. Rapture Anita Baker/Elektra
7. Get Busy 1 Time Full Force/Columbia
8. Bloodline Lavert/Warner Bros.
9. Control Janet Jackson/A&M
10. Live in L.A. Frankie Beverly & Maze/Capitol

Centennial Date Celebrated

On October 3, 1986, The Oregon Salvation Army will celebrate its 100th birthday by holding a "March Of Witness" parade; staging an "open air" preaching and singing service; and dedicating a commemorative plaque at the site of its first meeting in Portland, S.W. 5th & Burnside streets (today's U.S. Bancorp Tower).

On October 3, 1986, Captain Mary Stillwell held The Salvation Army's first "open-air" meeting in front of a small group of Portlanders.

Weekend events include a theatrical presentation at David Douglas High School on October 3 at 7:30 p.m. and a series of workshops and "open-air" the following two days.

Transforming Body Image

Are you at war with your body? Millions of women are in this body-centered culture. To combat this, the Portland State University Women's Union is sponsoring a workshop with Linda Moore, M.A. entitled "Transforming Body Image," a group for women who hate their bodies.

This eight-week workshop will begin Thursday, October 2, and meet once a week from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on the campus of Portland State University, Room 333 of Smith Memorial Center.

For more information and registration, call group leader Linda Moore, 221-4276.

The March Is On October 12

Oregon NOW will sponsor "The Border March For Women's Lives" in memory of Rosie Jimenez. Oregon and Washington pro-choice supporters will meet at 11:30, on the Oregon side of the I-5 Bridge and march across the bridge to Vancouver, Washington. A rally, featuring national and regional speakers will take place directly following the march.

Contact Christine at 223-6722 for more information.

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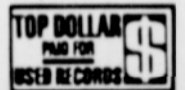
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