



THE ENTERTAINMENT SEEN

By Ken Covington



Canadian Musician Gordi Munro To Entertain in Portland

Gordi Munro, a Canadian vocalist, musician and composer will perform in concert Thursday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Community College Cascade Campus Auditorium, 705 N. Killingsworth. A successful and well-respected entertainer, Mr. Munro plays the flute, harmonica and percussion. The concert will be free of charge to the public as part of an American tour by Mr. Munro to entertain and teach about the unifying principles of the Baha'i Faith. He will also give a free noontime concert on the Portland State University commons Thursday, April 30.

36th Annual Debutante Ball

On Sunday evening, June 28, 1987, Les Femmes will present approximately 20 debutantes and cavaliers at the 36th annual Debutante Ball. Around the theme "Today's Dreams, Tomorrow's Accomplishments," these young women and men will make their public debut celebrating their high school graduations and achievements. This year, Les Femmes have the distinct honor of presenting one of the Rose Festival Princesses.

The ball will begin at 7:00 P.M. at the Red Lion Jantzen Beach with presentation at 8:00 P.M.

Mel Brown Quintet To Play At PCC Cascade Campus

One of Portland's finest jazz groups, the Mel Brown Quintet, will present a free clinic and concert Thursday, May 28, at the Portland Community College Campus Cascade, 705 N. Killingsworth.

The quintet's appearance is being sponsored by the Cascade Campus Cultural Affairs Committee, with cooperation from the PCC Vocational Music Department.

The clinic will be held at 3 p.m. in the auditorium of Cascade Hall. It will be conducted by group members in their specialties: Thara Memory, trumpet; Michael York, woodwinds; Gordon Lee, piano; Tim Gilson, bass; and Mel Brown, drums. The concert will follow at 6 p.m.

Both clinic and concert will be open to the public. Further information is available from the PCC Vocational Music Department, 283-2541, Ext. 5226.

Act One

by Ken Covington

"They Don't Let Us Have Nothing"

The nightclub is filled to capacity. The dance floor is packed. The band is laying out the groove; hot, hard, and funky.

Perspiration streams down the faces of the band, as well as the audience, especially those rocking the dance floor. This is what live music is all about — close and spontaneous contact with the audience, the crowd, the following. The bass player casts silent, content glance at the lead vocalist right before he hits the note of notes, the one that drives the house wild. He then turns around and leans toward the drummer, the neck of his guitar extended like a soldier's rifle when marching into battle. They smile and engage in a silent duel, trading note for note, lick for lick, as the rest of the band falls right into sync like only true musicians can. . . . All of the sudden — POP! POP! — like the sound of a firecracker or a young cannon. The noise fills the room, changing the atmosphere from jovial to one of death and sheer panic. People are hitting the ground everywhere along with drinks, tables, and chairs. It's called survival.

The gunman chooses a target: The large bouncer who said something he didn't like earlier. He'd show him who was Mr. Big now! POP! POP! One of the bullets catches the big man in the shoulder right before he disappears behind the bar. POP! One more for good measure, you M_____ F_____, you!

His eyes wander the room for another target. He spots the sax player frozen in fear on the bandstand. He raises his weapon to aim, then changes his mind. A slow, sick grimace spreads across his face. "Keep on playing, man, just keep on playing."

Does this sound like fiction to you? Well, my brothers and sisters, I wish it was. With all my heart, I wish it was.

This incident took place Saturday night at a Northeast Portland nightclub. I'm not going to mention names, because, one, I'm an entertainment editor and not a news reporter. Two, I'm ashamed, and three, I'll bet you already know.

My reason for bringing this to your attention is maybe this incident further illustrates how it's up to us on how much black entertainment is available, and where it is available to be seen.

This particular club where this incident occurred is Black-owned and did not want to institute the use of metal detectors, because the management wants people to feel at home in their establishment. I wonder how many of this guy's friends knew he had a weapon. I wonder how many others carry weapons into clubs each and every weekend. How about the drug problem? Was the gunman high? Did he purchase the drugs on the premises? Did he do the drugs on the premises also? How many witnessed it? What would have happened if someone had witnessed it and spoken up. Could it have been avoided?

In this instance, it is by the grace of God that someone wasn't seriously injured or even killed, for that matter. However, the repercussions to the community and to Black entertainers will be serious.

Already this week, I have had calls inquiring into this "incident" from other club owners who feature live entertainment in their establishments. Believe it or not, clubs downtown do not often book what is referred to as "local Black entertainment" for fear that their following will disrupt and abuse their normal clientele and have a generally undesirable effect overall. This affects Black entertainers greatly.

In any field, especially entertainment, the name of the game is exposure or expansion. The more clubs you play, the more you build a following. The more of a following you have, the more attention you will get from the powerbrokers in the industry: booking agents, managers, producers, etc. Without these people, your career remains limited to playing the same clubs time after time until the people grow weary of you (no matter how good you are), or you grow into a frustration that starts eating at your creativity like cancer. (Variety is the spice of life!) Wouldn't you like to see someone from the neighborhood make a national success like Nu Shooz, Tom Grant, Jeff Lorber and others who have come out of the Portland music scene?

When you listen to commercial radio, I'll bet you that 4 to 6 out of every 10 songs are by Black artists. So why, then, out of all of the larger clubs and all the Portland bands, is there only 1 all-Black band working these places. Think about it next time you hear, "They don't let us have nothin'." Make sure that the "they" isn't "us".

Jefferson High Reunion

Jefferson High School's class of 1957 will hold their 30th year reunion August 14th and 15th at the Columbia River Red Lion Inn. All class members are asked to contact Jack Stacey, 235-8741, for further information and to update the Class of 1957 mailing list.



Rick Jones as "Wally" and Maggie Seats as "Wendy". Photo by Clifford Vel Smith

"Angry Housewives" Returns To Storefront Stage

Storefront Theatre's long running hit "Angry Housewives" re-opened on Thursday, April 23 at 8 p.m., and continues through June 28th at the downtown theatre, 6 SW Third at Burnside.

The longest-running musical in Portland theatre history, "Angry Housewives" will have completed two full years by the end of June.

Tickets for "Angry Housewives" are \$12 regular, \$10 students and seniors. Call 224-4001 for advance reservations. Performances are at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and 7:00 p.m. Sunday, April 23 through June 9. All Storefront Theatre productions are made possible, in part, by funding from the Metropolitan Arts Commission.

Jazz Festival Foundation Initiates New Event


The Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz Foundation will sponsor the Mt. Hood International Wine Experience on Friday, July 24. The event is a new addition to the events sponsored by the Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz.

The Wine Experience will feature French and Oregon wines in a dinner and wine-tasting event to be held on the Mt. Hood Community College campus here.

More details will be announced next month.

The Jefferson Dancers present an unprecedented season of new choreographic gems — Lynn Dalley's *Ellington Suite*, Paul Russell's *Immunity*, Rachel Lampert's *Terrific*, Bruce Smith's *Serekunda*, Julane Stites' *Looking Glass*, and two new ballets from the Beijing Central Ballet. Brilliant new dances all! Two performances only. Each night a totally different program.

Tickets available now at Civic Auditorium Box Office (248-4496), Stevens and Son, Dance Togs.



The Jefferson Dancers

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FEATURING
ROGER TROUTMAN
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May 20
DOUBLE TREE PRESENTS






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2 SHOWS • June 11
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Tickets: G.I. JOE'S, GALLERIA JEAN MACHINE

TICKETS SUBJECT TO SERVICE CHARGE AND/OR USER FEE



ROY DECARAVA PHOTOGRAPHS AND JAZZ PORTRAITS

PORTLAND ART MUSEUM APRIL 1—MAY 31

Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts
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