

# THE ENTERTAINMENT SEEN

## Act One

by Ken Covington

### No Black Concerts?

My partner, Rodney, waves at me from the checkout stand as I enter the supermarket and motions for me to hang on a minute. After pocketing his change and getting a grip on his bag, he walks over to where I'm standing and extends his hand. "Hey, Ken, whatcha know good?" "Not much," I reply, "just staying busy." "Ken," he says, as a serious look replaces the grin, "I'm bored, man, pleeeeeease tell me that something is coming up soon, cause it's been a long time since Freddie Jackson. Hell, man, summer's almost here!" As I prepare to deliver my speech (whereas I am asked this so often, I've got one prepared), I think about the sea of white faces that greeted the last three Black recording artists that came to the city: Gill Scott Heron (political satire with a jazzy groove), Messenjah (Canada's No. 1 Reggae band) and King Sunny Ade (African Beat).



King Sunny Ade

Brothers and Sisters, you are really robbing yourselves when you limit yourselves to attending only Top 40 R&B concerts. I am really appreciative of the whites in this city who not only book these events but patronize them to such an extent that there are at least one or two a month, either at Starry Night or Pine Street Theatre.

We, as a people (Blacks), have one of the richest and interesting cultural backgrounds of any of our Asian or European brothers, and it puzzles me that we Afro Americans, who have been systematically stripped of our cultural heritage since our arrival in the Western World, don't seize these opportunities to acquaint and rejuvenate ourselves at every opportunity.

Remember Kunta Kinte/Toby? The term "I Am Somebody!"? — which was popular during the 60's? It should still be popular today, tomorrow and forever. Never forget who and what you are, and take pride in it.

To be honest, I would rather take my children to a Reggae or African concert than to a Top 40 R&B concert. At one of the R&B concerts, I would be concerned about harsh language, lewd and sexist actions, and effeminate male "role models", if you please. At the African and Reggae concerts, the musicians are consistently asking you to repeat African words and explaining their meaning in depth. Their music is also about ideas and ideals, rather than "how my baby done me wrong" or "how I can make love

all night long".

Now, I'll be honest. I love most all music, but remember, a steady diet of poison will make you sick, just like a healthy diet will make you grow.

Let's especially remember our young who get enough poison just from day-to-day living. Expose them to the music, dance and art that has everything to do with who and what we are.

You may even see where the Temptations got all those steps from or hear where the dominant drum and bass lines in Rhythm and Blues comes from. Maybe, you'll see yourself.



Messenjah

Even though there is less than a 10% Black attendance to these African and Reggae concerts, I have convinced some of the promoters of the importance of advertising them within the Black community, and, as of late, there has been a noticeable increase in Black attendance. There is room for more, a lot more.

To all those who read Act One, please pay attention to our entertainment advertising; patronize, attend, and tell them where you read it. To my friends, no offense, living is learning. Let's grow together. To everyone, when is the last time you went to a BLACK CONCERT?

### Alcohol and Drug Abusers

A workshop for co-dependents of alcohol and drug abusers, sponsored by Project for Community Recovery, will be held at the Maranatha Church, 1222 N.E. Skidmore, 7:00 to 9:00 pm on Monday evenings starting June 8, 1987 to be continued for the next five weeks.

The main focus of this program is education and intervention. Presentations will be given, free of charge, to co-dependents, informing them of the symptoms and progression of substance abuse, as well as available community resources. The workshop teaches a structured confrontation intervention method to get the addicted individual into treatment.

Since only a small percentage of substance abusers avail themselves of the opportunity for help, this co-dependent education is established to offer help to those close to the abuser that are in need.

For additional information contact Fred Williams at 282-2468.

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### Free Concert June 4

The Vocational Music Program housed at the Portland Community College Cascade Campus will host a June 4 free concert featuring three student rock bands and surprise special guests.

The groups, under the direction of Instructor Allen Jones, will provide a variety of styles . . . from "historical" early rock to the latest in contemporary sounds.

The audience should expect wild costumes, light shows and even a little stage smoke, said Clifford W. Waits, program lead instructor, who would not divulge names of the special guests.

Billed as the Term Final Rock Concert, the program will be from 6:30 to 9 p.m., Thursday, June 4, in the Cascade Hall auditorium. Cascade Campus is located at 705 N. Killingsworth St.

Futher information is available from Waits at 283-2541, Ext. 5226.

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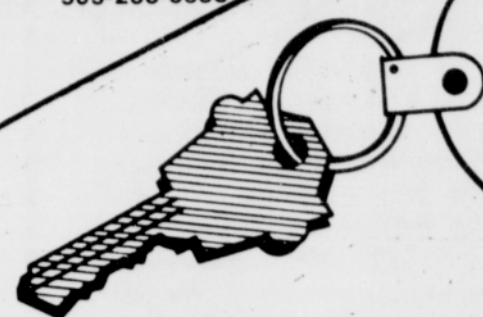
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