



THE ENTERTAINMENT SEEN

By Ken Covington

The Mighty Diamonds Come to Pine Street Theater

Heavy-duty crucial reggae comes to Pine Street Theater August 4th with The Mighty Diamonds, one of the most popular and well-known reggae groups from Jamaica, headlining the show which also includes The Defenders (formerly The Gladiators) of Jamaica.

The Mighty Diamonds have had a series of reggae hits through the years in both England and America featuring their great vocal harmony, rocking reggae soul fusion and a militant message wrapped in some of the prettiest melodies around.



The Mighty Diamonds

The Mighty Diamonds came together in 1969 when 3 schoolmates—Donald "Tabby" Shaw, Fitzroy "Bunny" Simpson, and Lloyd "Judge" Ferguson—began singing together in Kingston. All three grew up in Kingston and knew first-hand the difficulties of living poor in the city, something they have never forgotten. Their early musical influences were State-side Motown, and the classic reggae of Bob Marley & the Wailers, The Heptones, and The Paragons.

The show starts at 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$9 advance and \$11 at the door. They are available at G.I. Joe's, Jean Machine Galleria, Music Millennium East and West, Second Ave. Records, and Rockport Records.

Newspapers Wanted

The Underprivileged Children's Hot Meal Program is sponsoring a Newspaper drive now through August 15th. Disneyland has offered us a free pass for one day and our newspaper drive will help with the additional cost. If you wish to assist in this project, you may deliver your newspapers to 4128 N.E. Union Avenue or contact Ms. Vera Benson at 281-1973; please leave your name, address, and telephone number and we will be happy to pick them up at your convenience. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Jeff Parks is Thinking Again

I was greeted with an old-fashioned handshake from the stocky, light-skinned man attired in a cowboy hat, western vest and those pointy, pointed-toed boots you can tell didn't come from J.C. Pennys. He gave me a direct stare, as we shook hands, with crystal clear, brown eyes, neither friendly nor unfriendly, but with an even, piercing gaze that kinda made my back get a little straighter and created a desire for my eyes to deliver the message: "Hey, man, I'm on the level. Really!"

The message seemed to be received, and, as we relaxed the handshake, a twinkle came into the old guy's eyes; and a grin came across his face, with one of those ceeee-gars locked firmly in the side of his mouth. "Pleased to meet ya, young man," he said with a smooth, Texas drawl. "My name is Jeff, Jeff Parks; and I'm the one you want to talk to."

Yes, it was him I wanted to talk to, being that he is in charge of The Royal Esquire Club where, since he's been in command, things have been changing all for the better. Re-do and remodel have been the status quo since his arrival a few years back, and now, though more changes are taking place, The Royal Esquire seems to be the spot for Northeast nightlife. From "Say No to Drugs" campaigns to the recent "Cotton Club Revisited Kickoff", the newly remodeled "Royal Room" has seen more action in the last year than it has since the building was first opened way back in the 30's.



Jeff Parks

"This room is here for anyone who wants to do something positive, especially for the community," says Jeff. "As long as people are straight, they have our support 100%. We've had The Arkansas Club, The Louisiana Club, The Black United Front, The Oklahoma Club, KBOO and a number of others have events up here from time to time, but things really got moving after Dr. Rock came here from Geneva's. After Geneva's burnt down, Dr. Rock came and asked me if he could play the ballroom on weekends and maybe do 'a little remodeling'. 'A little remodeling' turned out to be a major change; and after he and his friend, Jim Bonner, finished, I got to thinking and decided to put in a larger bar, and we have been open every weekend since."

After last April, Le Roy Vinnegar, Mel Brown, "Stompin'" Gregg Smith, Billy Larkin, and Benny Wilson are just a few of the names that have been through the newly remodeled "Royal Room". In addition to house D.J. Dr. Rock, Jeff has allowed D.J. Lady Blue to start a flourishing career at the Esquire; and also allowed the "New" Flirt Band to cut their new teeth and get an even larger following than they brought with them.

The Royal Room seats around 200 and has a raised stage and a dressing room. The Royal Esquires also own another club in Seattle, with a yearly membership for only \$2.00 which allows you to enjoy the benefits of both establishments.

Both Jeff Parks and Bobby Brown, along with the staff of The Royal Esquire Club, do their best to make you feel right at home; and there seems to always be something happening in the place. In my opinion, if they carpet the seating area in the ballroom, it will be more than fit for a king.

Jeff Parks is quite a character, and I will be doing a 3-part feature story this fall on the ex-Marine, construction worker and bonafide rodeo star. Meanwhile, go check it out for yourself. It's one of the Northeast's hottest spots. On your visit, look for the hombre with a heart as big as Texas. Y'all come back now, heah.

If you need a trivet for a hot pot, wrap some foil around several thicknesses of newspaper.

Meeting Notice!

International Air Academy will host a free 2-hour seminar at the Portland Urban League, 10 N.E. Russell, for those interested in a career with the airline industry. The seminar is scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. and those interested are requested to use the rear entrance. Date: Thurs., July 30, 1987.

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