

# THE ENTERTAINMENT SEEN

## Ray Tellis Moving in the Spirit

Usually when I ask a musician what their aspirations are, the reply is "to land a recording contract, to be playing steady gigs," etc. But when I asked Ray, he replies softly, "I just want to do what the Lord wants me to" and smiles.

In these days when so much controversy surrounds the church and religion, from Jim and Tammy Baaker to Rev. Jim Jones and The Bag-wahn, and we could go on and on naming names, it is to say the least that it is pleasurable to meet someone who is sincere and totally committed. Ray Tellis is just that: Committed.

This slender, soft spoken young man really does have a message; one that starts at the pit of his heart, runs through the pages of his life, out into his fingers, accented by his smooth tenor voice, and into the hearts of all who will listen.

This may sound to some like a commercial or a hype, even as I am writing it. And though it may seem. But, as some do really have a story to tell, so does Mr. Tellis; and it is my pleasure to write it right here and now, in black and white, for the world to see.

"I was and am sometimes an incredibly shy person, so this whole thing about getting up in front of people has not really been an idea of mine at all. I have always loved the piano, and some of my earliest recollections were of the choir director at my church saying, 'No, no, no! The note sounds like this,' and 'Your part goes like that,' each time hitting one of what seemed like millions of those black and white keys, filling the sanctuary with strong or soft, high or booming bass notes. After that, she would put them all together, the notes and the people, and it would literally sound like heaven to me; and, boy, I wanted to do that, too."

"By the time I was five, I was hard at work practicing and playing 'til my fingers hurt, but trying to make the piano kind of sing back to me."

"I was happy just being able to play and sing with the choir until my imagination started playing songs to me that I know must have come from the Lord. I was fortunate enough to have friends around (namely Ricky Callier and Mel Abel) who encouraged me to start writing down what I was hearing, and family to help me perform it. Once again, I was happy just having my songs performed, and, in turn, performing theirs. In that time, I started playing sax and trumpet in addition to increasing my skills and knowledge on the keyboard. One time I was teaching a song of mine, and the vocalist just wasn't the way I wanted, so guess who ended up performing it?"

"My life is just like anyone else's, with ups and downs, triumphs, pain, heartaches, family, children and all that life holds for anyone. The difference is I have the Lord to fall back on and songs to sing what I am feeling. I just learned to move in the spirit and let Him have his way."

In recent months, Ray has been collaborating with gospel vocalist Ada Jackson, who Ray says is an inspiration both spiritually and musically. He also won third place in the state-wide KPDQ Songwriting Contest.

He and his family have done various performances in Oregon and Washington and opened for such major gospel acts as the famed Commissioned.

All in all, Ray hopes to touch someone's heart so they can come to know the Lord and all that He has to offer. Judging by all the talent that He's bestowed on Mr. Ray Tellis, what have you got to lose?

## Summer Classes at The Oregon Art Institute

The future is in your hands at the Oregon Art Institute! Studio art classes ranging from sculpture, portraiture, illustration, computer graphics, costume design, photography and drawing and painting are offered all summer long. Classes meet one or two evenings a week from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm and during the day for children. The Art Institute's studios are open to parents, children, adults, teachers, high school students and seniors of all levels of accomplishment. Call 226-0462 for registration and a free brochure.

The Oregon Art Institute is the oldest and largest visual arts organization in the state and operates the Pacific Northwest College of Art, the Portland Art Museum and the Northwest Film and Video Center. The Art Institute is a not-for-profit organization.

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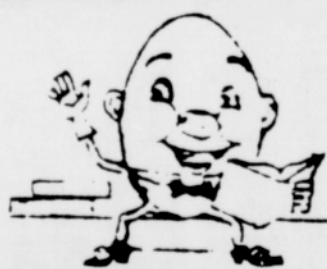
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## Grace Collins Memorial Center Day Care



N.E. Crime Prevention Coord. Sharon McCormack and Comm. Bob Koch in Piedmont, July 29, 1987.

## Piedmont Wraps Up Month of Prostitution Protest

About 25 members of the Piedmont Neighborhood Association turned out with Commissioner Bob Koch to walk along Union Avenue to protest the continuing problem of prostitution in the neighborhood.

The walk, on July 29, was the last of six walks held that month. Twice the neighborhood association asked Koch to join in, and he gladly accepted.

"We want to make the price of prostitution for the customers, the johns, so high that they no longer want to come into our neighborhood to do business," says Koch. "If we can dry up the marketplace we can begin to solve the problem of street prostitution."

Neighbors recounted stories of finding used needles, broken bottles, discarded quantities of drugs and other items in front of their homes, and told of being threatened by pimps.

Koch says the problem is so severe that "it is no longer a question of 'Does the county handle this?' or 'Does the police department handle this?' Cleaning up these streets is something we all have responsibility for."

## Stumptown Jazz Returns to Summer Stage

For the fourth consecutive year, with the size and enthusiasm of its audience growing annually, Stumptown Jazz returns to Summer Stage. Their performance takes place Thursday, August 13, at 8 p.m. in the amphitheater of the Washington Park Rose Garden.

Stumptown Jazz is a Portland-based traditional Dixieland jazz band, with roots in Oliver, Armstrong, Morton, Watters, and Murphy. In addition, they are a show band—as fun to watch as to hear. Their program is great fun and outstanding entertainment for the entire family.

## PORTLAND, THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1987 WOMEN'S RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATION

"The Role of Black Women in the Fight for Women's Suffrage" will be discussed by guest speaker Black feminist educator Milly Harmon. Join us in honoring Black women leaders of the struggle for women's right to vote who broke ground in the women's and Black movements, fighting racism in one and sexism in the other, connecting and strengthening both. Radical Women meeting is on Thursday, August 20, 6:30 p.m., Multnomah County Central Library, 801 S.W. 10th Avenue. Everyone is welcome. For more information call 249-8067. Wheelchair accessible.

## 4-H Reunion

The Oregon State University Extension Service in Clackamas County is searching for former Mr. & Miss 4-Hers to help celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Extension Service in Oregon. Former Clackamas County Mr. & Miss 4-Hers, or individuals who know their whereabouts are asked to contact Jean McCabe at the Clackamas County Extension Service, 655-8635, before August 18.

## Herndon Appointed by Governor

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt today announced the appointments of Ronald Herndon to the Oregon State Apprenticeship Training Council.

Herndon, 42, of Portland, is the director of the A.M.A. Headstart program and is Co-Chair of the Black United Front. A graduate of Reed College, Herndon is also the director of the Black Educational Center, which he and two others founded in 1970. He replaces Terry Williamson, who is deceased. Herndon will serve an unexpired four-year term, ending June 30, 1989.

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