

## "Cliche"



by Danny Bell

Cliche is a tight group of proven professionals composed of leader Michael Cooper, acoustic and electric woodwind (Saxophone), keyboard and background vocals. Randy also serves as band director. Linn Russell drums. Rosalyn Johnson lead vocals.

Although Cliche as a unit has only been around 6 months, their show reflects the crowd pleasing talent of these veteran performers. I was particularly impressed with their energy and technical execution, when they performed at Juleps for Dick Bogles victory party. However on balance they appeared a lot more restrained and less comfortable at Mary's Place when I caught them there in April.

This is Michael's first stint as a bandleader. 18 years ago he attended Vortex and that experience served as a profound catalyst to motivate him to pursue a career in music. Michael has played with and studied under Thara Memory as a member of the local 1970's band The Gangsters. He also played extensively with Greg Smith well-known local singer who very active in Portland in the late 1970's. Working with Greg gave Michael a chance to earn a living and an opportunity to hone his craftsmanship. These experiences are paying off now, in as much that there is a distinct lack of demand for Funk, R&B bands in the Portland area. Yet with the business savvy he has accumulated playing with other successful bands has enable Cliche to stay a working band.

Since their inception the band has played as an opening act for Cool "R" at the Red Lion Lounge downtown. Say No To Drugs concert Hoover Park Newberg, Oregon - Mary's Place, and on two occasions for commissioner Dick Bogle at his fundraiser held at the Museum of Advertising, and at his victory party at Juleps.

Michael after playing 18 years or more is now experiencing a different facet of the show biz industry, as a band leader he is the central business person for the band, the band is dependent on him to provide leadership and to keep the band working. Michael last comment to me is that he finds being the leader challenging and inspiring. Hang in there brother you have some exceptional talent in the members of Cliche and deserve to go places.

### Community Beauticians Provide Service to CSD

A new project, launched approximately three months ago, by Linda Thompson of Children Service Division and Lonnie Jenkins, Unity of Love Beauty Salon is providing a much needed service to the Multnomah County Children Service Division.

These local beauticians, in addition to Ms. Lonnie Jenkins, are Pearl Hall - Tiffany II; Alzena DeDeleueaux - Lovely Lady; Barbara McCord - Whips & Waves; Janet Hart - RSJ; and Geneva

Knauks - Marey's Barber Shop. Please contact - Linda Thompson - 238-7599.

## Atlanta: A New Era, Or More Of The Same

Part I of II Parts

by Sam Kahl

The Democratic Convention, packaged for prime time and well staged: did it produce a vehicle for addressing the needs of our time? With politics, as with many things in life, there is usually more than meets the eye.

What are the prospects of the Dukakis-Bentson ticket actually delivering that which the present times cry out for? I speak of actual needs, as distinct from the perceived needs of the candidates, their patrons and their constituency. To size up the prospects will require a profile of some complexity. One ingredient of that profile is the complexity of the candidates themselves - their inner drives, ambitions, commitments, self-conscious identities and possible resources lying dormant within them. Other ingredients include the political machines and social institutions that work for and against them, the objective laws of the universe which determine the consequences of human decisions in the form of events beyond the control of individual persons and the nature of what public and private interests perceive to be their self-interests. All these ingredients form a process, in part shaped by individuals, in part shaping individuals. Such a process is always undergoing a dynamics of change and transformation.

Michael Dukakis and Lloyd Bentsen, like George Bush, are establishment candidates. I mean to say that they are not just hacks of a political establishment; they have the stamp of approval of a patrician class that dominates and too often dictates U.S. policy-making through both parties. If this were not true, the nominees would not have gotten as far as they did. However, this is not the final word on the matter.

Life often takes on new and unexpected twists and turns. Both Franklin Roosevelt (FDR) and John Kennedy were establishment candidates such as I have described. Yet, though they were not ster-

ling characters, nor were their accomplishments flawless, both reached out of their limitations to meet the needs of the age with something extraordinary which bucked the expectations of the establishment. FDR tapped into an economic and political ferment during the war years to generate a project, called the American Century, for the development of the Third World as a groundwork of strategic stability. The American Century was aborted by FDR's untimely death. Later, Japan would profit handsomely by adopting aspects of the American Century, John Kennedy spearheaded the Apollo space program to put an American on the moon and the investment tax-credit program to modernize plant and equipment of U.S. manufacturing. The combination generated an economic boom not enjoyed in twenty years since. Also, Kennedy took the political risk of endorsing Dr. Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights movement.

Sometimes life will generate extraordinary human beings, whose authority comes not from the office they may wear, but from the truth they bear. It is an authority that comes from within, developed from a humility that is in touch with humanity's historical destiny in the universe. Such in our time have been the character of France's Charles DeGaulle and Catholicism's Pope John Paul II. More often, if we are to have anything extraordinary, life will produce it, sometimes for just a moment, out of that which is otherwise mediocre. In some respects, the process is something like the way a composer will produce a beautiful symphony, full of growth and development, out of components which are rather ordinary; Under extraordinary conditions of power and responsibility, to meet the challenges of a crisis, a leader or even an entire people may be momentarily transformed to accomplish that which they would never have thought to accomplish under ordinary circumstances. Such is the nature of former French President Valery Giscard D'Estaing and former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Like actors who thrive while on stage, they were heroic, in the classical sense of the word, while they were in office. Now, as ex-officeholders, perhaps bewildered by defeat, like has-been actors looking for parts, Giscard and Schmidt today are content to be lap-dogs of the establishment powermakers.



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