




ENTERTAINMENT



BEHIND THE SCENES

by Lisa Collins

Recapping The Grammy's: In case you hadn't heard, this year top grammy winners were Bobby McFerrin and folk supersensation. Tracy Chapman, who both walked away with three statues each. Anita Baker nabbed top honors for best R&B vocal performance, female for her "Giving You The Best That I Got", and best R&B song--"Giving you The Best That I Got," while Terence Trent D'Arby was crowned with best R&B vocal performance--male. In other highlights, it must be the year for Gladys Knight & The Pips, who last month won the American Music Awards and last week picked up the Grammy for best R&B performance by a group. Newcomers Take Six walked away with two awards including best jazz vocal performance by a group, and best soul gospel performance by a group for their jazz-gospel blends.

No Show For Rappers: D.J. Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince picked up a Grammy for their single, "Parents Just Don't Understand," but weren't on hand to pick it up. Instead they were reportedly at a boycott party hosted by MTV. Charging that "rap music is treated like a stepchild, the rap duo (as well as L.L. Cool J & Salt-N-Pepper) had earlier announced a boycott of the ceremonies because the awards were not going to be handed out during the televised segment. (Response from the people at NARAS, who put on the show, was that rap music was one of 76 categories. Time allows for the airing of just 12 on the nationally televised award show).

Kool Moe Dee Faults Rappers: Kool Moe Dee, who was also nominated and did show felt that the boycott was a negative move. "I fault the rappers 50% for what's happened. Middle America is basically intimidated by what they've been seeing in the past. You see them on TV grab their jock and shake their pelvis. I think that it's time that someone comes out and gives rappers a totally different image, and lets the public know that all rappers are not what you've been seeing in the past. I think that we got a bad rap and we've been seeing in the past. I think that we got a bad rap and we've been misrepresented up to this point."

Dull Night Backstage: This year's Grammy's certainly had its share of controversies, what with the boycotting of the rap delegation, and the discord due to the absence from the nomination process of those like Bobby Brown and Keith Sweat who experienced smash successes, and yet were overlooked in the Emmy nominating process. Quite a slap in the face. Then there was the show's star-studded lineup, which was devoid of the color (with just the performance of one R&B act--Luther Vandross), that usually sets the pace. Still, whatever the reason, the atmosphere backstage was dull, save for the appearance of Al Green. The Boys and Take 6 who proved to be lively diversions. Then, of course, everyone commented on Paula Abdul's stunning dress.

Setting The Record Straight: Terrie Williams, Eddie Murphy's publicist, who was also backstage, wanted to set the record straight on the infamous incident that took place between Eddie Murphy and Michael Jackson onstage at the American Music Awards. According to Williams, the incident was blown totally out of proportion. "The two of them have developed a friendship over the last four to five months, and it wasn't at all what it was made out to be. Eddie and Michael are friends."

Short Takes: That was Pebbles (who was up for best R&B vocal performance--female) dotting on top producer Antonio Reid, alias "LA", of "LA & Babyface" (one of the record industry's top producing teams), at the award ceremonies. Pebbles, who had been rumored to be pregnant a couple of months ago, was hardly in the family way. However, Vanessa Williams (also up for best R&B vocal performance--female, is looking very pregnant these days..Next week: Vanessa Williams says life at 25 is great, and Miles Davis denies charges that he has AIDS.

Talks to Merge Motown and Solar Records Are Dead:

Motown has confirmed that talks are off and the deal to acquire Solar Records--in negotiation since October,--is officially dead. Irreconcilable differences between Solar CEO, Dick Griffey and Motown were cited last month as the reason for the souring of the negotiations. At present, word is that Griffey is shopping a deal with both CBS and Capitol Records. Meanwhile, Motown's suspension of the talks coincided with it's announcement of a pact with Diana Ross, returning her to Motown as both artist and equity owner. However, a press conference slated to announce the signing of Ross, (and presumably address the dissolution of Motown/Solar talks) was canceled due to Ross' busy schedule. Dick Griffey Productions, which posted revenues upwards of \$43 million (1988), was ranked by Black Enterprise as the nation's eleventh largest black-owned firm. The deal would have afforded Griffey a share in Motown's equity ownership as well as a board seat. However, sources close to Griffey reported that he (Griffey) wanted a bigger share than he was offered, and that the board seat rendered no real clout.

Llewellyn To Manage New York Times Cable System: James Bruce Llewellyn, a key player in the purchase of the New York Times Company's cable-TV network (NYT), for \$420 million, has been designated to manage its operations. Llewellyn, who is CEO at the Philadelphia Coca Cola Bottling Company, already has a 20% stake in the cable purchase, and is in the process of assembling a group of investors to put a up \$25 million of the equity, while assuming 20% of the debt.

Sammy Davis Jr. Turns Entrepreneur: For years, veteran performer Sammy Davis Jr. has been cooking for relaxation, during stints in Las Vegas and Reno, but starting in April, others will be able to partake of his culinary talents when Sammy's Barbecue Sauce, chili and mustard hit Ohio and Pennsylvania store shelves. The label, which will feature a caricature of Sammy is expected to go national in the fall. Said to be his own personal favorites, Davis has been testing recipes for months to try to work out how to keep food fresh on the store shelves.

Maxims For Success: Joshua Smith, founder of Maxima, the nation's ninth-largest, black-owned firm, was on hand in Los Angeles on the occasion of the Black Business Association's annual awards. Smith, who keynoted the ceremonies, said that entrepreneurship was "the most critical subject in the black community." Said Smith, "hopefully, we can create our mark in the business world. We've done it in athletics and entertainment, but now it's time to get down to business." Smith, who founded his company ten years ago, now has over 1,400 employees and annual revenues topping \$54 million. Listed below are some of his own personal maxims for success:

1. Know your weaknesses.
2. Don't take on the competition until you are the competition.
3. If it ain't billable, it ain't doable.
4. Know what you are not and constantly work on your knowledge of what you are.
5. Small business and federal procurement are incongruent.
6. Small successes are critical.
7. Winning means that everybody else in the whole world loses. Smith stressed that blacks should take advantage of any openings. "Let's face it, the only thing that comes to you at your doorsteps are trouble, mangy dogs and other people's opportunities."

MT. HOOD FESTIVAL OF JAZZ FOUNDATION

GRESHAM, Ore. - Four jazz acts have been signed to the 1989 Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz, Diane Schuur with the Count Basie Orchestra, Branford Marsalis and the Yellow jackets, representing the opening salvo of the eighth annual event, according to Paul Kreider, Festival of Jazz Foundation President. Vocalist Schuur returns to the Mt. Hood Festival armed with several Grammy Awards she's picked up the past three years. She will perform in conjunction with The popular Count Basie Orchestra, which last played here in 1985. Tenor saxophonist Branford Marsalis was last here in 1983 when he was part of the Wynton Marsalis Quintet. He has become one of the brightest saxophone stars in jazz and has also toured in a major rock show with String. The Yellowjackets were part of the 1986 Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz, playing to a wildly enthusiastic afternoon crowd. The fusion-styled group's bold rhythms and lyrical ensemble work has garnered a growing legion of young fans and veteran jazz listeners. The four acts are the first of a dozen names who will participate in the annual Festival, this year occurring Saturday and Sunday, August 5 and 6. It is held outdoors at the Mt. Hood Community College here and for the past few years has been a complete sell-out. The Festival also stages the Friday Night Event, a separate concert to be held Friday, August 4. Tickets to the 8th Annual Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz go on sale in June. Sponsors of the Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz are the Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce and Mt. Hood Community College Foundation. Corporate sponsors are Maletis Beverage/Seagram's Coolers, Portland Bottling/7UP, KINK-FM 102, KGW-TV8, G.I. Joe's and Portland Area Volvo Dealers.



HAWAIIAN LUAU AT UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND

The University of Portland's Hawaiian Club presents its 13th annual luau Saturday, March 18 at 6 p.m. in the University Commons. The traditional luau offers food, flowers, music and entertainment from the islands. The highlight of the Hawaiian Feast is Kalua pig, a specially-fattened pig buried with red-hot rocks, seawater and ti-leaves to roast for 24 hours. Also on the evening's menu are teriyaki steak, lomilomi salmon, chicken long rice, poi, coconut pudding (haupia), and fresh pineapple. This year's luau theme is "Hookahi no ka kou" (Together We Are One). Students in the 100-member club will provide entertainment, performing Hawaiian music, ancient Hawaiian chants and traditional island dances of Hawaii, Samoa, and Tahiti. Tickets are available on campus for \$12. Call 283-7471. Seating is limited.



BARBER SHOP BALLAD CONTEST

Hear the harmony at this year's Barber Shop Ballad Contest, March 10-11. This is a judged competition which will begin Friday March 10 at 7pm, with 15 groups, out of which 8 will be chosen as semi-finalists. The semi-finalists will then perform Saturday March 11 at 6:30pm, and the winner will be announced. For more information, please call Pat Budai, Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce, 357-3006. The 6th annual Spring Rhododendron Show will be held on April 23, at the Jenkins Estate, Aloha. Rhodies will be exhibited throughout the interior of the house, and the best entries will receive awards. There will also be a hosted tour of the gardens. The rhododendron show is sponsored by the Tualatin Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, who will do the judging. The show runs from noon to 5pm, and admission is free. For more information, contact the Jenkins Estate at 642-3855.

COLORED MUSEUM SETS RECORD DOWNTOWN

by Stephen E. McPherson

George C. Wolfe's poignant satire, "The Colored Museum" which made a big hit when it opened at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center moved downtown to the Winningstad in Portland's Center for the Performing Arts and captured another huge following. With 23 performances of the show before sellout audiences now under their belt this singular success now can put to rest forever the false notion proffered by Nina Lowry of Portland State University in which she inferred that the African American community does not support its own theatre efforts. That misapprobation comes up with a resounding negation especially in view of the fact the key participants in the "Colored Museum" were the very same performers who played in Langston Hughes' classic, "Simply Heavenly," last summer. In their Winningstad format, "The Colored Museum" played before two types of audiences. In addition to the evening shows there were several matinee performances played exclusively before high school students from the Portland Public Schools. Their faces were a study in mixed emotions. Several young girls up front roared with laughter when Denise Williams, the erstwhile flight attendant instructed our progenitors to keep their shackles buckled at all times during the inner passage, but remasked their faces with dismay when Neal Thomas playing the ghost of a Black soldier, kills all of his war buddies in order to spare them the pain of returning to a dismal civilian existence. In an earlier review of the "Colored Museum," this writer suggested that white attendees might need an African American friend to interpret some of the subtleties of our culture. This view might have been overstated judging from the manner in which these young white students reacted to the play. They laughed at the appropriate times and remained enraptured with the lines throughout the production. One suspects that their teachers must have given them an adequate briefing prior to their visit to the Winningstad.

STUDENT PRODUCTION COMPANY PRESENTS TWO ONE-ACT PLAYS

The S.P.C. is proud to present GRACELAND and ASLEEP ON THE WIND, two one act plays by Ellen Byron. Both plays will run March 9, 10, & 11 at 8 PM, at the IFCC Theatre. Ticket prices are \$3.00, and the IFCC Theatre is located at 5340 N. Interstate Avenue. GRACELAND is the story of Rootie, a 23 year old woman who arrives at Graceland, Elvis Presley's mansion in Tennessee, three days before its historic opening to the public in 1982. Already there, is Bev. Conflict between the two women arises with the question of who will be the first inside. Rootie, a shy country girl running from an abusive husband -- or Bev, the woman who knows all about men and life and Elvis. Featured in the play are Lisa Catterall as Bev, and Becky Burleigh as Rootie. Both plays are directed by Jenny Adams and stage managed by Keely Thrasher, Special guest appearance by Matt Barber as Elvis. ASLEEP ON THE WIND takes place ten years earlier than GRACELAND. Rootie is thirteen and loves her thirty year old brother Beau with all her heart. He has joined the army and is off to fight in Vietnam. Beau must tell Rootie that he is going, and leaving her alone in the same house with a drunken father and abusive brothers, but he finds it harder than he expected. In the end the play makes it evident that we all forget to say "I love you" before it's too late. Don Finkbiener is featured as Beau and Karen Griswold as thirteen year old Rootie.

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PCC SETS CLASSES FOR BUSINESS PEOPLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

The English as a Non-Native Language program of Portland Community College has scheduled two special classes this spring at Cascade Campus for business people whose native languages are not English.

Speaking Skills for Business Professionals, a three-credit class, will meet Tuesdays, starting March 28, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. The course will cover pronunciation, business idioms and conversation, telephone skills and communication problems encountered in the office or work place. Cost of the three-credit class is \$70.50. Students must have a verified command of spoken English. Appointments for oral evaluation and an interview may be scheduled March 23 from 8 am to 3 pm, or March 25 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Business Writing Skills, a series of three one-day Saturday classes, is designed to help non-native business people develop writing skills they need to function effectively in the American work environment, said Penny Thompson, ENNL tutor supervisor at Cascade Campus. All three sessions will be from 8 am to 5 pm. Tuition for the one-credit classes is \$23.50 per class. Topics for Saturday, April 22, include letters for all business situations, resumes and letters of application. April 29 topics will be memos, inter-office communications, agendas and minutes for meetings. On May 13, the class will study proposals, reports and outlining. Applicants must make an appointment to have their writing skills assessed. Those who are not qualified to take the class at this time will be referred to an alternate class, Thompson said. Appointments can be scheduled from 8 am to 3 pm March 23 and April 14, or 9 am to 2 pm March 25.



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