



# ENTERTAINMENT



## U-Krew: A Rapid Rise to the Top



L TO R: HAKIM, J. MACK, HOUGH-KOUGH, P. KOOKIE, LARRY "DLB" BELL

By Tony Washington

Portland's own U-Krew is fastly experiencing "growing pains" as a result of its huge success of recent. Currently enjoying a successful 50 city road tour (scheduled to end in Seattle on Thursday, June 28th) the group headlines the show at the Starry Night Theatre in Portland on Saturday, June 30.

The group played before sold out audiences in Huntington, West Virginia and Jackson, Mississippi. The highlight

of the tour was St. Louis, MO, where the show was forced to move to a larger facility due to ticket demand.

U-Krew also played before SRO audiences in Boston, appearing with M.C. Hammer and New Kids on the Block. Music critics hailed their act in San Diego (again with M.C. Hammer) as "outstanding."

U-Krew are products of Jefferson, Benson, and Grant High Schools.

## Robert Cray Headlines Slam & Jam '90



Robert Cray

The three-time Grammy award winning Robert Cray Band will headline the onstage entertainment for "Seafirst Bank Blazer Slam 'N Jam '90". Event activities include an All-Star Jam featuring Portland's best musicians, a game between the summer roster of the Trail Blazers and the Utah Jazz and a 3-point shoot out competition including Drazen Petrovic.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Parren J. Mitchell, above, former Maryland Congressman and Founder and Chairman of the Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense and Education Fund (MBELDEF) congratulates Pepsi-Cola officials who accepted, on behalf of their company, the Fund's Corporate Leadership Award for 1990. The executives are, from left, Dr. H. Naylor Fitzhugh, retired Vice President and currently a consultant and Betty Darrell, National manager of Supplier Development, Pepsi-Cola Company. Presented during the Fund's 10th Anniversary Dinner at the J. W. Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C., the annual award is given to the majority company "demonstrating outstanding leadership" in business development programs for minorities.

## Generations Stars Robert Torti and Mina Kolb Visit Portland



By Tony Washington

*Generations* was created and produced by Sally Sussman. The show

began airing on channel eight (NBC) on March 27, 1989. Its current ranking among soaps is in stiff competition and is still climbing. Star of *Generations*, Robert Torti, has been an actor for 14 years. He enjoys musicals, and has a great interest in fishing and softball. Married, with a newborn baby boy, he is a very nice person to be associated with. Polite, sincere, a real person to talk to, he was accompanied

by Mina Kolb.

Robert Torti portrays Kyle Masters in search of D.P. Cooper, and feels this soap is unique in its cast. If one really got the opportunity to meet Mr. Torti and Mrs. Kolb, they would be very pleased about honesty and openness about themselves. Mr. Torti also appeared in *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Watch *Generations* on KGW 8 at 1:00 Monday through Friday and absorb a good soap. It's a great program and different type of soap.

**Generations' current ranking among soaps is in stiff competition and is still climbing.**

## Behind-the-Scenes

By Lisa Collins

Seduction-Supergirl group of the 90's? At least that's how they'd like you to see it. And if the success of their debut LP (with sales nearing 700,000 and two smash singles including "My One & Only") is any indication, a great many people are starting to get the picture. The trio was born when a producer/writer team got the idea of creating an ethnically diverse female group, one white, one black, and one mixed. (There was an attempt made to find an Asian, but it didn't work out. "We couldn't find one that looked good and could sing", says Michelle Visage). With three hit singles under their belt, the New York-based trio of April Harris, Sinoa Loren, and Michelle Visage, is now working to build an image, focusing more on the music and their ethnically-diverse look. "When I listen to the other girl groups albums", Harris says, "it's all pop, all rap or all R&B, and we wanted our album to be different. So our music is diversified with rap, pop, and R&B." Fact is while Michelle's forte is rap, April's is R&B, and Sinoa's is more jazz-oriented, all three have a little pop input. Ironically, once hired, they had just six weeks in which to pull the album together. Says Visage, "it was a matter of whatever song we completed the best or whatever song fit a particular vocal style." Said Loren: we definitely want to grow on the next album and show a little more." (Loren replaced Idalis Leon who decided to go solo). Whether or not Seduction can become or remain the top girl group of the 90's appears to rest on the laurels of their competition. By most accounts, that competition is the San Francisco-based four girl team calling themselves En Vogue, who recently capped the number one spot on the R&B chart with their debut single "Hold On". Like Seduction, they too, are a concept group, the brainchild of award-winning producers Denzel Foster and Thomas McElroy. The four, made up of Cindy Herron, Maxine Jones, Terry Ellis, and Dawn Robinson, came together at auditions being held by the Foster-McElroy team, then looking to put together a hot

female group. Their album, "Born to Sing", has sold over 500,000 units, and more than proves that they might have just what it takes.

Back In The Saddle: Actress Beverly Todd whose heartwrenching story of loss we followed last year (as her 18-year old son, Malik was murdered), is busier than ever these days. Aside from teaming with Dionne Warwick to produce an upcoming HBO movie—"The Don Jackson Story", based on the exploits of the California-based activist who challenged the police department in their practice of racial discrimination and brutality, she produced an hour-long syndicated special with pal Whoopi Goldberg, entitled "A Laugh, A Tear". But most recently, she landed a co-starring role in a pilot for ABC, called "The Boys". And yes, you guessed it, the show centers in on the talent of Motown singing stars—"The Boys", and will feature some big production numbers. In it, Todd will play the aunt of the Boys, who come to live with she and her husband (played by Ron O'Neal of Superfly fame). The pilot, directed by Debbie Allen, is expected to become a midseason replacement....Speaking of Allen, she and husband Norm have joined the list of the enterprising celebrities with the opening of a Sunset strip restaurant and nitery. Among those guests on hand for the star-studded opening were Denzel Washington and Spike Lee....Short Takes: Little Richard was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame...Diana Ross, Lionel Richie, Paula Abdul, Quincy Jones, Stevie Wonder and a host of other stars were on hand for a star-studded celebrity reception upon Nelson Mandela's arrival in Los Angeles...In Minneapolis, members of the Time and media converged for a listening party of their upcoming album in Minneapolis. The album marks the first time the group (including Morris Day and dynamic producing duo-Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis) has reunited together since disbanding a few years back...Next week: Find out what's next for Marla Gibbs.

## TALL JAZZ TRIO JOINS PARCHMAN FARM SUMMER WEEKEND LINEUP

The Tall Jazz Trio blend of music begins weekend duty in July at the Parchman Farm, adding cool jazz to the warm summer environment.

Opening with the weekend of July 6-7, Tall Jazz brings in the expressive keyboard and vibes talents of Mike Horsfall, the bass work of Dan Presley and the percussion rhythms of Kurt Deutscher, three guys who indeed walk tall in a jazz groove.

Each member of Tall Jazz is inches over the 6-foot mark, causing a fan at one of the trio's first gigs 18 months ago to remark, "Boy, you guys sure are tall," hence the new name. That's the only change in the July calendar at the Farm, as Monday-Thursday nights remain the same, each offering its own style of jazz. Tuesdays offer the intimate, yet swinging sounds of Charlie Crossman's guitar coupled with Dave Captein's strong and mellow bass playing and Le Jazz Hot, the duet of guitarist Turtle Vandemarr and bassist Tom Miller, continues to enchant Wednesday listeners with a varied offerings of '30s swing and jazz.

The Darin Clendenin Trio has established itself on Thursday nights at the Farm as jazz listeners keep discovering the many talent of pianist Clendenin.

Monday is still flagship night when it comes to one of the important facets of a jazz club: The jam session. The Gordon Lee Trio bolsters the many players who pop in to play at the quite popular Monday Night Jam Session. The Parchman Farm offers live music six nights a week (no cover) and recorded jazz from a wide selection of compact discs (CD) during all other open hours. The club, at 1204 SE Clay, one block south of Hawthorne Boulevard, boasts a full-service restaurant and bar.

## Striving To Be The Best She Can Be



By Nathaniel J. Baker, Jr.

Angela R. Greer is an aspiring young Executive, Actress, Model, Wife and Mother, Greer explains that juggling five complicated careers is a tough job, but she's confident in herself, and so are we. "How about you?"

Catch the Neighborhood News Angle... In The Portland Observer



## ANGELA DAVIS: STILL ON THE FRONT LINE

Today wearing dreadlocks in place of the proud Afro natural hairstyle that was her trademark during the 1960s, activist Angela Davis is "Still On The Front Line," as she changes with the times, reports the July EBONY.

The symbol of defiance, protests, Black power and radicalism throughout the 1960s and 70s, Ms. Davis, 46, a self-proclaimed "soldier for freedom" once wanted by the FBI for advocating the overthrow of the U.S. government, is no less committed to the struggle for human rights, though she now labors as a writer, professor and lecturer living in California. "It is up to the younger generation to develop new ways of protesting, derived out of their experiences," Ms. Davis says. "Many young (rap and pop music) artists are already on track," she adds. Twice a candidate for the vice presidency under the U.S. Communist Party banner, once imprisoned and once married, Angela Davis, the fiery orator of the 1960s black nationalist movement still works to awaken the spirit of activism in others.

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