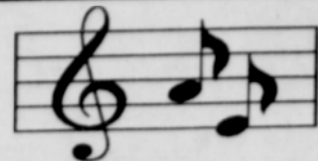




# ENTERTAINMENT



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### Portable Video Games for Vacation

Imagine being able to take Arnold Schwarzenegger, Spider-Man and a "cool tomato dude" wherever you go. Now, it's possible. Whether hanging out at the beach, camping in a trailer or hiking through fall foliage, relaxation time is even more enjoyable when portable gaming goes along.

The latest in family fun is Nintendo's Game Boy, a hand-held version of the popular home entertainment system that has swept the nation. This lightweight, pocket-sized unit is compatible with a variety of games that tease the brain, amuse the adventurous and thrill action-seekers. And, electronic hand-held video games such as Acclaim Entertainment, Inc.'s SuperPlay Hand-helds, also fit neatly into a beach bag, knapsack or shirt pocket, adding yet another dimension to vacation recreation.

When school is out for summer or in for fall, learning becomes easy because the challenge is a game—a strategy game, that is—such as Acclaim's *Kwirk* for Game Boy. A tomato character with a mohawk, *Kwirk* is coyly maneuvered through twisting tunnels and maddening mazes as he fills holes, moves blocks and selectively rotates turnstiles to complete particular puzzles. *Kwirk* is twice as fun when two players join together in head-to-head action using Game Boy's "Video Link."

If the sun gets too sultry, cool comfort may be found in the imaginative adventures of comic book super heroes. Classic characters such as *Spider-Man* spring to life wherever you go with the Game Boy version from LJN Ltd. In this video quest, Spidey encounters a variety of adversaries as he webslings through city streets, runs on rooftops and clings to buildings.

Arcade action on the shore? Sure! Campsite video contest? Uncanny! Based on popular arcade, movie, TV and video game properties, Acclaim's SuperPlay Hand-held games offer arcade-style excitement that fits in the palm of the hand. Choose from *Total Recall*, based on the summer smash Arnold Schwarzenegger movie; *Narc*, the riveting anti-drug arcade title; *Arch Rivals*, a real "basketball," and *BigFoot*, a monster truck metal-munching extravaganza. Surf's up? An automatic shut-off feature ensures there will still be hours of super play ahead after that wave is caught.

So if you're planning to get away for a week or a day, consider portable gaming. Lightweight and compact, these units provide entertainment for the entire family and turn time off into a festival of fun.

The review of Prince's latest album "Graffiti Bridge" will be postponed until next week due to limited space.

## Dennis Springer: The Man Loves His Sax



BY ULLYSSES TUCKER, JR.

**C**all it the end of summer jam if you will, but the performance put on by Dennis Springer last week at the Harborside/KINK-FM concert series should warm your heart well into fall. That's because his recently released LP ("Rio") is now available at local record stores. It doesn't have to end with summer.

Springer, a native Portlander and 1960-something graduate of Parkrose High School is also thirty-something. According to Springer, he has been around the blocks a few times and most of the time his sax was with him. Springer, along with drummer Carlton Jackson of Tom Grant, Mike Klinger (piano/keyboards), bassist Kris Kent, and Caton Lyles, who has to be one of the best percussionists on the West Coast, put on a wonderful show. Jackson is an excellent drummer too.

Many of the people in the crowd had never heard of Springer, but they left the concert with a compact disc or cassette sold at the Nu Vision Records table set up on location. At this stage of his career, Springer is pleased with the new album and happy to be making music. He has seen a lot of people come and go in the business. There have been times where Springer even wondered if he was on the right track, but his faith in his ability and belief in God pulled him through some dark moments.

Portland Observer - People think

that you are some new overnight sensation, but the fact is that you have been around for a long time, haven't you?

Springer - "You're right. I have been around a very long time. Actually, I've been playing since I was fifteen years old. I started off at the old Cotton Club on North Vancouver Avenue and I used to have to go in the dressing room during breaks just to have a Seven-Up. When I turned twenty-one, I started drinking coffee nudes on the breaks. I use to play with the Soul masters and Pleasure also. With Pleasure, we toured all over the United States and we played with some really great people. I can recall going to Philadelphia once and Grover Washington would join us on stage. In fact, he sat in with us a couple of times. I always looked forward to going out on the road because I met people who inspired me, guys like Dexter Gordon and Freddie Hubbard."

Portland Observer-Why so long for your first album, you've been away from your last National group for some time now?

Springer-"I don't really know to be honest. I think that there are several factors as to why I haven't. I've had material for a long time, but wasn't until Marlon McClain and Mike Mavrolas (Darkhorse entertainment/Nu Vision records) approached me to do this project ("Rio") with their game plan that it happened. The tunes that I write are more straight ahead and the one they wanted to do was more like urban contemporary or cross over material."

Portland Observer-How do you feel

about your New album "Rio"?

Springer-"I think that 'Rio' is a real stronger urban contemporary album. It has a nice hook, something that people can ride down the street and hum to, and it's fun to play on. Jeff Lorber actually wrote the title tune. The tune that I write will probably not even be played on the stations that play 'Rio'. The album is real progressive."

Portland Observer-Where are you at this stage of your career?

Springer-"I'm only about a quarter away as far as being able to do what I want to do. I want to branch out and play around the world. Hopefully, this album will open the door for future opportunities. I believe that everything happens for a reason. When it's my time, I think that everything will happen and fall in place."

Portland Observer-Is your work easy?

Springer-"No, it takes years and years to get ahead. Some people make it overnight and others just struggle for years and years before they make it to the point where they can earn a living at playing music. I'm still working a steady day job. I hope this album can get me to the point where I can do music full-time. That's what I'm hoping for."

Portland Observer-What advice do you offer the youngster who has designs on being the next Dennis Springer, Grover Washington, or Najee?

Springer-"I would say just practice hard and learn as much as you can about your instrument. Also, the business element of the music industry is becoming very important. There are books out that can help a young person out in that area. I heard about a book the other day called 'Hit Men'. It talked about the industry itself and how people make it, get air play, pay-offs, and all types of stuff. Young artists should read the book. There is a lot of politics involved in music and it's about who you know. It seems like politics is taking the place of talent. That's real sad. In the era I came up in, I had to really learn how to play in order to be considered a professional. Now days, there are so many people out there picking up instruments and calling themselves artists, but they don't spend the time it takes to be a true professional. That's the difference today."

Portland Observer-What do you want people to know about Dennis Springer?

Springer-"Well, I want them to know that I'm real serious about my music and I'm going to keep on keeping on, no matter what. I will always continue to play and grow as a professional. I won't stay in the same space. I want my music to always stay fresh."

### ONE STOP TOP 10 SINGLES

NO	TITLE LABEL & NUMBER	ARTIST
1	So You Like What You See Atlantic 86151 NEW	Samuelle
2	Call Me D-Nice Jive 1351	D-Nice
3	The Boomin' System Def Jam 73457	LL Cool J
4	I Ain't Lyin' Polygram 877534-4	Sinbad
5	Make You Sweat Elektra 4-64961	Keith Sweat
6	Ownlee Eve Atlantic 87923	Kwame
7	Slow Love Motown 2028	Doc Box & B. Fre
8	Lies Atlantic 4-87893	Envogue
9	Crazy Motown 2053	The Boys
10	Oooops up Arista 2071 NEW	Snap

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