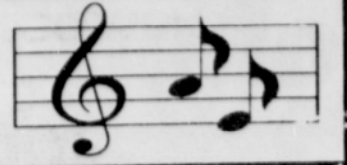




ENTERTAINMENT



PORTRAIT

HiFive



Fresh, exciting, dynamic. The music of Portrait is, you might say, picture. As depicted on Portrait, the four-man team's debut album for Capitol, the album is a distinctive meshing of '70s R&B, funk and soul with hard-edged, hip-hop street grooves of the '90s. Portrait beautifully covers the musical gamut, whether it's the cool, stylish, insistent "Here We Go Again" (the album's first single), the punchy, rap-laced "Honey Dip," the tender, haunting interlude "Why?," or the sensitive, romantic ballad "Day By Day." Portrait delivers.

"Every track has our signature on it," says Michael Angelo Saulsberry.

"It's like a musical kaleidoscope, with a range of colors, textures and feelings. And...it's slamin'!" Very much a self-contained unit, Portrait wrote and produced their impressive album but themselves. "This album reflects our experiences, our observations about life," explains Phillip Johnson, one of Portrait's three lead singers. "It's a 100% collective effort from beginning to end."

In many ways, Portrait musically reflects the viewpoint of four young men with distinctly different geographical and cultural backgrounds. While Michael Angelo Saulsberry and Eric Kirland both hail from Los Angeles,

Irving Washington III is a native of Providence, Rhode Island and Phillip Johnson was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. "Our album's bout portraying life as we see it, from different perspectives. There's an East Coast flavor, a Midwest attitude and West Coast style, all combined together. It's a mix, a fusion that comes from growing up in different places...and yet, there's a unity of spirit. We've lived together, argued, been hungry, laughed together, we've become best friends...and you can hear that bond in our music."

Portrait had its nucleus in the friendship and musical union of Eric Kirland and Michael Angelo Saulsberry, both of whom grew up in L.A. playing in different high school bands and groups, and finally hooking up in 1985 as part of a trio. "Basically, we were doing R&B, funk and hip-hop," says Eric. "There were three of us: Michael was the musician, I was the singer and we had another guy who rapped."

The talented foursome began working in earnest, constantly writing and working together. Portrait soon came to the attention of Capitol Records executives who were duly impressed with the vibrancy and immediacy of the group's sound. "We came up to Capitol a few times and sang a cappella for different executives," recalls Irving, "and we played demo tapes for everyone." "We must have written about 100 songs up to that point," adds Phillip. "Then we got the green light to start the album in July '91," says Eric. "We moved into a house together. And we got real about what we were doing."



Their biggest fans include a who's who of the music industry: Janet Jackson, Teddy Riley, Kin 'N Play, Bobby Brown, Johnny Gill, Ralph Tresvant, Tony! Toni! Tone! and many more. They are Hi-Five, the sensational vocal quintet that put Waco, Texas on the entertainment map and amazed the world with a spectacular style of singing and dancing reminiscent of the glory days of the Jacksons.

After hitting number one on Billboard's Black album chart with their 1990 gold, self-titled debut, these five exceptional teenagers show they've grown musically and emotionally on their second album, *Keep It Goin' On*, which features their sizzling first single "She's Playing Hard To Get."

"This album is much more mature," says 17 year old lead vocalist Tony Thompson. "We've grown up and this time we have songs that appeal to an older audience as well as our younger fans."

Tony and musical partners Russell Neal (18), Roderick "Pooh" Clark (19), Marcus "Mac" Sanders (19) and Treaton Irby (19) became instant stars with three consecutive smash hits from their debut album: "Just Can't Handle It," (Top 10 R&B/Top 40 Pop); "I Like The Way (The Kissing Game)," (#1 R&B/#1 Pop); and "I Can't Wait Another Minute," (#1 R&B/#5 Pop). Now they are ready to *Keep It Goin' On* with nine versatile new songs that reflect the maturity and experience they've gained performing all over the

world during the past two years.

Hi-Five personally selected all the tunes on their new album, and immediately recognized their next hit when they recorded a breezy romantic song, "She's Playing Hard To Get," produced by veteran, Timmy Allen. "I loved it because the groove reminded me of 'I Like The Way'" comments Tony and "because it's about a situation we've all been through. It's also a perfect song for the summer."

Tony's outstanding vocal ability propelled Hi-Five to sudden stardom and on *Keep It Goin' On*, he displays an even more impressive sound. "I knew my voice would change," Tony says, "and you can hear it on the new album. My voice is much deeper now and I can do more riffs."

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Nancy Wilson To Host Star-Studded "Family Night"

Internationally-renowned songstress Nancy Wilson will host the second annual "Family Night's Holiday Family Reunion Concert," a star-studded, two-hour television musical tribute to family and the holiday spirit, airing nationally primetime in over 110 cities November 18 through December 8, 1992.

The syndicated telecast will be taped before a black-tie audience from UCLA's Royce Hall in Los Angeles November 1 and will feature appearances by After 7, High Five, Miki Howard, Melba Moore, Shanice and Dionne Warwick serves as co-executive producer. Dennis Rosenblatt will direct and Barbara AL. Wilson is the producer.

bers of his family.

Additional celebrity participants will be announced at a later date.

"We are proud to present, once again, the opportunity to celebrate the strength and unity of the African-American family through entertaining programming that can be enjoyed by all, regardless of race, creed or color," said Don Jackson, President, Central City Productions.

The program is presented by Central City Productions in association with the National Council of Negro Women. Jackson is executive producer and Dionne Warwick serves as co-executive producer. Dennis Rosenblatt will direct and Barbara AL. Wilson is the producer.

Inspiration for "Family Night"

comes from the six-year success of the National Council of Negro Women's Black Family Reunion Celebration, a nationally held annual festival dedicated to fostering positive images of the African-American family. "Family Night" will also show highlights filmed in cities from this year's festivals including Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Chicago, Philadelphia, Memphis and Cincinnati.

The Chicago-based Central City Productions, founded in 1970, develops and produces programming for television and cable networks. Upcoming television specials include "The Eighth Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards," "The Hip Hop New Year's Eve Countdown" and a Black History special, "Road To Success."



MUSIC MILLENNIUM

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Saturday, November 14, 1992; 10:00 AM to NOON

Mid-life and older women are invited to the Portland Chapter of the Older Women's League (OWL) at new meeting place, Good Samaritan Hospital, 1015 NW 22nd, Conference Room A3, Main Floor. SPEAKER: Marian Sarles, American Association of Retired Persons. TOPIC: "Proposed Health Insurance Plan for All- Your Input Needed". Meeting is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, NO ADMISSION CHARGE. Free parking available in structure B on NW Marshall ST., between Nw 21ST

Just James Fashions Lost My Lease Inventory Reduction Sale 30-50% Off Everything Sale Begins October 21 Thru November 1, 1992

1512 NE Broadway 287-7230

Public Service Announcement

Percussionist Ron Steen and his Band will conduct a live performance at Sheba's on November 1st from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sheba's is located at 3223 NE Broadway. There is no cost of admission, however a donation of \$10 is suggested. For more information, please call Marina at 284-7756.

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"T-Ride" And "Tora Tora"

BY AMI A. WEGHORST

"Well, "I thought as we walked through the door of the Roseland, it looks like I'm dressed inappropriately." Wednesday, October 14 at the "T-Ride" and "Tora Tora" concert, was the first time I have ever felt awkward because my clothing as far too conservative. I had chosen a typical "Ami outfit for the concert: leggings, shorts, a T-shirt, and a flannel. However, every other woman in the room was clothed in a much different style. Never before had I seen so many black Spandex body suits with holes where there were never meant to be holes. The men were dressed in tight jeans and dirty T-shirts which displayed either a half-naked woman or a brand of cigarettes. Again I thought to myself, "If the clothing of the crowd is any indication of the quality of music, I may be hard pressed to come up with some positive comments."

However, my original thoughts proved to be wrong. I guess it rally is true that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover. The first band, "T-Ride," left me with plenty of positive comments. The band consisted of three men, two guitars and a drummer. AT first it seemed to me that neither of the guitar-

ists had much in the way of talent, but again I was wrong. The lead guitarist was indeed very talented. The lyrics were a bit unintelligible, but I heard a rumor that was more a cause of the Roseland's poor sound system than a fault with the singers. The background vocals added a lot, even if the exact words were slightly unclear.

Something else that added a lot was the visual effect. A smokey environment, (partly caused by the plethora of smokers in the crowd, and a smoke machine) along with some simple light work, was a nice touch.

I would recommend a bit of variety in their work. The one slower tempo song was a pleasant change from their speed-metal set. As I mentioned, the background vocals were good, and combined nicely with the lead singer.

All in all, "T-Ride" was a pretty average rock band, with nothing too extra-special, yet nothing horribly detrimental either.

"Tora Tora" was very similar to their opening band. Their visual effects, especially the lighting, had a nice look to it. They also used a smoke machine, although it was hardly necessary by the time they got on stage.

This band had two guitarists, a drummer, and a singer. The lead singer seemed to know his crowd, and he worked them well. I would estimate there to have been about 100 people at this show, and they all appeared to be devout fans. The singer sounded (to me at least) somewhat like Led Zepplin, with a more metal base. The drummer had little variety in his beats, and the guitarists were good, without being overly talented.

I would classify the music as speed-metal: a little on the heavy side for my taste. However, there was one song that I liked a lot. I understood the singer enough to gather that its title was, "As Time Goes By." This song had a much slower tempo, and the lyrics were mostly decipherable. A really good guitar solo in the middle of the song convinced me that this was definitely their best. I think the band's talent was most glorified in this slow song. I wonder, though, if they wrote the lyrics themselves.

Neither band was really in line with my usual taste in music. However, I still found the concert enjoyable and entertaining. Even if I wasn't particularly fond of the way the crowd chose to dress themselves, the music was definitely worth listening to.