

RELIGION



Thelma Houston, Ce Ce Peniston, Phoebe Snow, Lois Walden with Albertina Walker as guest member (shown separately)

At the heart of American music beats the sound of gospel. From the plaintive strains of country to the down home wail of the blues through soul and rock, all the way to the thundering growl of house, you'll find and hear the power of this music. Gospel has shaped all the music we grew up loving and it's the love of this music that brought The Sisters of Glory together, taking them on a fantastic journey that first took them to Woodstock '94 and next to Rome to perform before the Pope for "Christmas at the Vatican II." It then led them into the studio to record a unique celebration of this glorious music, Good News in Hard Times, their debut album on Warner Bros. Records.

of Thelma Houston, CeCe Peniston, Phoebe Snow, Lois Walden and Albertina Walker, with backing from friends like The Uptown Horns, John Sebastian, Vincent Nguini and an all-star band, Good News in Hard Times is a stirring declaration of

American music: for CeCe Peniston's pop-dance attack and the R&B punch of Thelma Houston to Phoebe Snow's pop-jazz vocals, and from the jazz-folk roots of Lois Walden's lyrical styling to the soulful intensity of gospel legend

THE SISTERS OF GLORY

Albertina Walker, the breadth of cultural experience is inspiring. Equally uplifting is the fact that such unique and diverse women would find common ground in their love of gospel, speaking volumes about this music's legacy and yes, its power. As Lois Walden, founder of the group and the album's co-executive producer, explains, "It's an extraordinary experience to be part of a creative project which, by its very nature, puts egos and commercial considerations aside, where you have all these different artists and musicians joining together for the love of gospel to create something about hope, about love, about community, to make something that reaches beyond musical categories...now that's magic."

faith and the power of music. As the youngest member, "Baby Sister" CeCe put it, "I always said that there's a difference between singing and saanging. Saanging is when you sing from your full heart and your soul and you touch other people. That's why we wanted to do this album."

Saanging they are. The Sisters of Glory are women of different races, ages and backgrounds who each bring with them a lifetime of experience that spans generations. The five voices of The Sisters of Glory also encompass every shade and hue of

Second Coming Of Book Challenges Religions

The best seller, "The Book Your Church Doesn't Want You To Read," has returned with its second printing.

The book's editors are challenging fundamentalists and televangelists to the "Million Dollar Challenge" in regard to the hyped "Second Coming" of Jesus the Savior.

"This borders on consumer fraud," charged "The Book" editor Tim C. Leedom. "Fundamentalists are scaring the hell out of people, taking their money, and living high on the hog — while pleading poverty."

"This whole campaign is the most cynical to date — it is even worse than faith healers. End-time scenarios are the consequence of total religious illiteracy on the part of the leaders and the uneducated followers," Leedom said.

"End times, end-of-the-world predictions have been around forever. Most of the predictions are astrological, which is the basis for most of the ancient religions. The year 2000 is being used to keep the troops in line. We went through this charade and fraud 1000 years ago and Jesus was a no-show then and will be again in the year 2000," Leedom said.

Another of "The Book's" authors, Dr. Alan Albert Snow, reveals that the modern televangelists are off in their predictions by at least 240

years. Snow says modern Christians are using the totally arbitrary Gregorian calendar of Pope Gregory XIII (1502-1585 AD). He said "A real Biblical scholar should use the

same Jewish calendar that was used by the Jews of the first century, which would put us in the Jewish Year 5755, not 1995."

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The Regional Drug Initiative Presents Spirit Summit III

September 15, 1995

Location: Lutheran Inner-City Ministries, 4219 N. E. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Theme: The Vision: A City of Virtues Rather Than Violence
Registration: 11:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. - Entire event is free
Afternoon session: 12:00 - 4:45 P.M.

Keynote address: The Reverend Fred D. Smith (Assistant Director for Violence and Substance Abuse, Interfaith Health Program, The Carter Center, Atlanta, Georgia, and President of the Executive Committee of the National Interfaith Alliance Against Substance Abuse).

Workshops: Violence and Youth • Violence and the Family • Violence and the Faith • Community • Violence and the Media • Violence and Virtues • Violence and Character Renewal

Panel: Reverend Bernard Ings, Moderator Representative Eileen Qutub, Reverend Rozell Gilmore, Judge Roosevelt Robinson, Judge Henry Kantor, Imam Mikal Shabazz, Mr. Victor Leo, Mr. Vincent Wannaasay, U.S. Attorney Kris Olson, Ms. Chiquita Rollins, Reverend Rodney Page, Bishop A.A. Wells

Evening session: 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Celebrating healing: Music, soloist, testimonies

Keynote message: Reverend Fred D. Smith

10:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. The Portland Adventist Health Van offers free health screenings and information. Co-sponsors: Portland United Methodist Association for Metro Ministries - Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries - Greater Faith Ministries, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon - Albina Ministerial Alliance - Multnomah County Alcohol and Drug Program Office - Western Center for Drug-free Schools and Communities

Dawson Park Festival Is Sept. 2; Theme Is "They Kingdom Come"

Portland's vibrant black gospel music community will put on its largest annual event in the third annual Dawson Park Gospel Music Festival Saturday, Sept. 2, from noon to dusk in the little park at North Williams and Stanton across from Emanuel Hospital, and the event is free and open to the public.

More than 25 choirs, groups, and soloists will sing, and there will be music in every black gospel style, from blues to rock and from old-time to contemporary, according to producer Joyce Boles of Albina Art Center, Inc., the nonprofit organization which sponsors the festival.

"This festival should be the largest yet," she said. "But it isn't big. It's still very small-town and family-like in its feeling. This event has really caught fire in the African-American community. I don't know what we've done to make it so blessed, but it is. We've been successful at creating a sense of community that you can't find at any other event in northeast Portland. After the festival last year, a man told me he hadn't seen the park rock like that since Robert Kennedy was here in 1968.

"We've had artists call from out of town, asking to be on the program. This is on the way to becoming an important regional cultural event," she added. She stressed that the event celebrates only black gospel music, with only black art-

ists performing, with one or two exceptions.

"The majority of the community often forgets that black gospel music is the source of all American musical forms, including Dixieland, bebop, doo-wop, jazz, rap, rock, and the blues. The source of it all is inside the black church, and this is still the source. Portland has a living, breathing, vibrant gospel music community which is writing, composing, recording, and performing all the time, and the majority of the community needs to know that this is a far more important aspect of life in Northeast Portland than what you hear on the news media."

Boles said that she attends as many as six musical events per month in the local black churches in Northeast, and that far more people attend these events than either neighborhood associations or the various nightspots. "And there are certainly a lot more black children singing in church choirs than there are involved in gangs," she said. "I know that for a fact."

And she stressed that gospel music is liturgical music which cannot be separated from its religious and spiritual base. "This is not entertainment. This is ministry," she said. "It has to be respected as much as Gregorian chants and masses written by Bach and Beethoven are respected. This festival, and Albina Arts Center, are my personal ministries."

Boles said she took the name Albina Arts Center to show respect for an organization of the same name which disappeared in the 1970s. "I called up one of the founders and got permission to use the name," she said. "With the grace of God we'll be able to bring it back to life. I'm going to give it a try. I am certain that supporting these traditions in the black community is a path toward some important solutions. At a minimum, this kind of support will help black people hold up under all the large historic load the majority community has laid on them."

Among the choirs and groups performing will be: the Mt. Olivet Gospel Choir, the Mt. Olivet Chancel Choir, Cary Simms & Co., the Celebration Singers, Chanesa Jackson, Marietta Wells and many others.

Major sponsors of the event are SafeCo Insurance Co., First Interstate Bank, AGG Enterprises, Key Bank, Meier & Frank, Southland Corp., and Popeye's, and a host of others.

Albina Arts Center, Inc., is chaired by George Fitz. Other board members are Bill Leigh, Mike Dowd, Elsie Jackson, and Leon Fox. The organization also has a musician advisory committee which includes Terry Davis, Milton McCullough, Eugene Blackmon, and others.

Community Festival

Ainsworth Community Festival will be held on Saturday, September 9, 1995 from 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Sunday, September 10, 1995 from 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at Ainsworth United Church of Christ located at N.E. 30th and Ainsworth. The Festival will feature Arts/Crafts... Homebake Sale... Silent Auction of Goods and Services.

Lunch will be served both days. Contact person is Marcie Geary, she can be reached at: (503) 223-4366.

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