

RELIGION

CeCe Winans "...Everlasting Love"

CeCe Winans is ready for her close-up. After a decade of successfully swinging on the gospel tip, Girlfriend has clearly decided that it's time to cultivate the secular ground she broke in 1958 with gal pal Whitney Houston on the *Waiting to Exhale* hit "Count on Me." *Everlasting Love* shows the Grammy-winning belter effectively exploring a wide range of pop flavors-but with enough spiritual correctness to keep Winans' diehards from burning her at the stake.

Now, it ain't easy to praise the Lord properly and at the same time, be realistically competitive with the Missy's and Mary J's of the world, but Winans has the lyric finesse and vocal chops to pull it off. In fact, she exudes an unexpectedly saucy, finger-waving attitude in the Jeep fueled cruiser "Well, Alright," while bringing an astonishingly seductive, almost smoldering sensuality to the lover-be-honest jam "Slippin'." The true revelation of

Everlasting Love, however, is "On That Day," a gloriously executed Lauryn Hill composition in which Winans injects a formidable funk flair into a rich soundscape of skittling, jungle-spiked beats and melancholy, hymn-like keyboards.

Hill is but one of several high profile folks shrewdly enlisted to wrap Winans in mainstream accessibility. Tony Rich unfurls his instantly recognizable acoustic soul sound on the single worthy "What About You," while Keith Crouch weaves charming pop/soul (a la his platinum productions for Brandi and Toni Braxton) with "I Am." But don't look for a sequel to "Count On Me;" Houston is conspicuously absent from the star studded proceedings. Still, it's fascinating to hear Winans adapt and embrace so openly the influence of others while never reducing her own undeniable talent and vision. In the end, the overall Jeep-pop flavor of *Everlasting Love* should work commercial miracles



CeCe Winans

on Winans career. It's the sweet, every tune that truly makes the set churchy subtext she sews into nearly soar.

Cox Funeral Home Inc.
 2736 NE Rodney
 Portland, OR 97212
 503-281-4891



This is your community based funeral home supported by you.
We make the loss of your loved ones easier to bear.
Let us guide you through our facility and explain about pre arrangements with you.

C. Cox Tanner **Jerome Cox Tanner**
 Owner Funeral Director

Lewis & Clark College to host 'Culturefest,' a celebration of diversity in Pacific Northwest Presbyterian Churches

Lewis & Clark College will host "Culturefest," a conference that will focus on cultural diversity issues facing Presbyterian churches in the Pacific Northwest, Friday, April 3, and Saturday, April 4 in Agnes Flanagan Chapel, Lewis & Clark College, 0615 SW Palatine Hill Road. The conference is open to the public. It will feature cultural performances and cultural food. Admission is free.

The conference's theme is "Together in Christ We Celebrate and Affirm One Another." Patricia Brown, Presbyterian Church USA moderator, will be the featured speaker.

Brown, an African American and seventh generation Presbyterian, says

of "Culturefest." "Linked to nurture, one of the great ends of the church, this will be a celebration wherein people come together across racial lines and share cultural experiences and traditions. Cultural sharing and fellowship is one way of building trust and understanding between racial/ethnic groups."

The conference will open with a service of cultural celebration and worship at 7:30pm, April 3. The program will include a welcome address by Brown and performances by the Inner Strength Choir; Ginosko, a gospel band and from Korean Presbyterian Church in Portland; Chinese Presbyterian Church Children's Group; and Lewis & Clark College Hawaii Club dancers.

A reception featuring traditional cultural foods will follow the service.

Brown will discuss the challenges of cultural diversity in the Presbyterian Church at 9:30 am, April 4. Cascade Presbyterian representatives will make presentations followed by small-group discussions.


"This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our cultural diversity and to hear form Moderator Brown on her visions for the church," said the Rev. Mark Duntley, dean of the chapel at Lewis & Clark College.

The "Culturefest" at Lewis & Clark College is one of three conferences taking place at Presbyterian related colleges. Bloomfield College in

Bloomfield, NJ and Trinity University in San Antonio, TX, are also hosting "Culturefests."

Lewis & Clark College was founded by Presbyterian pioneers in 1867 and has a historic relationship with the Presbyterian Church. Although the College became independent in the 1960's, it remains a member of the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities (APCU). For more information, call 503-768-7082.

"THE SEVEN LAST WORDS"



GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION
Journey With Jesus as He suffered on the cross through the preached word.

WHEN: FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1998, AT 7:00P.M.
WHERE: ALLEN TEMPLE CME CHURCH
 4236 NE 8TH AVENUE
 PORTLAND, OR (503) 287-0261

Sponsored by the Pan-Methodist Alliance (Bethel A.M.E.; Hughes Memorial Temple CME and Associates: Rev. Arron Hamlin)



A Thank You From Johnny Williams and Family

"In the words of Johnny, 'Whoa!!!'"
"In the mind of Johnny, 'I wanted to be there too!'" *"In the spirit of Johnny, 'at my Elks, taboo!'"*
"In the vision of Johnny, 'Hey man, remember March 7, 1998?'" *"In the thoughts of Johnny, 'I'm too proud!'"*
"In the expression of Johnny, 'I Love ya' all!!!'"

From the family of Johnny, we appreciate your bringing in the rays of sunshine, the presence/support of the event for Johnny. From the family of Johnny, thank you for your caring enough about our son, brother, father, uncle, grandfather, 'main man.' From the family of Johnny, cheers to Oliver "Ollie" Smith, Jr. Exalted Ruler of Billy Webb Lodge #1050, The I.P.B.O.E of W, Chuck Hinton of the African American Men's Club, the members and friends, complimented by The Portland Observer, too!

From the family of Johnny, we're happy he touched you all in such a kindly way, no pretense, but just Johnny. God bless you all, from The William Family

Resolve To Do Something For Yourself and For Your Community--
Learn as if your life depends on it - it does!

 **at NPBC** 

North Portland Bible College offers More Than just an academic opportunity, or preparation for a career in Ministries

You Can:

- Gain a mature working knowledge of the Bible.
- Get working answers to the questions our youth are asking.
- Discover the power of a new life through Christ.
- Discover God's assignment of Rules for Black in the Bible - Shed those Non-Biblical Stereotypes.
- Discover that you CAN handle College level work and go on to realize a higher Potential


All This and Credit, Too?
Spring Term begins March 30 Call 288-2919 to register

North Portland Bible College 4905 N. Vancouver Ave. Portland, Oregon 97217

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
 To The **Only Daily Gospel Music Programming** in the Portland/Vancouver Metro Area!

"GOSPEL GREATS"
 With Host - Al Matthews

MONDAY - FRIDAY / 6PM - 10PM
 only on



LISTEN TO

"GOSPEL GREATS"
 APRIL 13TH-17TH FOR A CELEBRATION OF
THE BEST IN GOSPEL MUSIC TODAY!

Kirk Franklin, Shirley Ceasar, Hezekiah Walker, Bebe & CeCe Winans, Luther Barnes, Carlton Pearson, T.D. Jakes, Donnie McClurkin, John P. Kee, Fred Hammond, The Williams Brothers, The Canton Spirituals, & more!

CALL 503-242-1950 FOR A PROGRAM GUIDE.