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Music

BY FELICIA L. SLIDER
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Presented by Beaverton Infiniti and Portland's premier jazz station KKJZ, Saturdays JazzFest had babies be-boppin', husbands & wives jazz-hoppin' and the plain ole' lovers of the jazz genre... jovial at the outdoor Showplace at Portland Meadows this past July 8 weekend.

The Temptations, Dave Koz, the Tom Grant Band, Lori Perry & Brain Culbertson, Joyce Collins and the list goes on. And as promised... KKJZ's JazzFest proved that nothing would come close to this jamboree of jazz being Portland's premier smooth & soul event of the summer.

Peaks of sun, pillows of clouds, dews of rain and dances of sun... these were the highlights of Saturdays weather scene. But for July 8th's, high notes, not even the few ironic rain drops that drizzled and dropped during the Temptations serenade of "I Wish it Would Rain" could dampen the spirits their devoted and smooth jazz fans.

When you ask a lover of jazz to define "what is jazz music?", you'll get a kaleidoscope of answers.

Some will say jazz is cool. Others will say jazz is phunky. Then again on one hand, down south, a little

closer to New Orleans, jazz is feisty, flamboyant and ferocious. But in other regions or if you're a generations X, Y, or Zer... you may like the more melancholy, mysterious and mellow moods that jazz evokes. But whatever your flavor neighbor, contemporarily cool, big band & jumpin' jazz, or the timeless classical jazz eras of Nancy Wilson, the late John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Grover Washington and the list goes on... Whatever formats your flavor for this genre, JazzFest 2000 represented it all in full fashion.

And ooh... were the Temptations, timeless.

"The legend continues," writes the only original Temptation, Otis Williams, in the liner thank-you notes of their recent CD "Phoenix Rising". From "This is My Promise", and "Stay" from their nominated 1999 Grammy Award for Best Traditional R&B Vocal Performance, to their vinyl classics of "The Way You Do The Things You Do", "Aint Too Proud To Beg", "I Can't Get Next to You", and "Just My Imagination", the Temptations know the recipe and

taste for success. Otis Williams is the only remaining member of the original Temptations to grace this CD, but new members: Ron Tyson, Terry Weeks, Barrington Henderson and Harry McGillberry compliment the classic legacy that each past member dedicated to the groups history.

When you mention Motown, you must mention this powerful and musically provoking dynasty that started out as a five-man ensemble from Detroit. Although names have changed due to personal tragedies and losses, this male group has continued to stay amongst the chosen few from their humble beginnings in the 60's, 70's, 80's 90's and into the 2G millenium.

From 1961 to present day, there have been a total of 15 voices that have made up Motown's fab five, Temptations. But of them all, there are only five that were regarded as one of the most prominent black vocal groups of the '60s. These black supermen were: David Ruffin (his raspy, soulful preacher-like vocals were grossly underrated), Melvin Frankin, Paul Williams, Otis

(Please see 'Jazz' page 4)



Boney James



Left to right: Jackie Dobbins, Gaylea Smith, Nick Nozaki, Roger Shaw. (Bottom Row) Linda Hoffeditz, Wanda Warren

*The Jefferson High School
Class of 1970*

will be celebrating their 30 year reunion on August 25, 26 and 27, 2000. Memorabilia night will be on Friday, August 25 with a dinner and dance at the Red Lion Thunderbird on Saturday, August 26. On Sunday, August 27, there will be a picnic at Oaks Park. If you are a classmate interested in attending, please call Ralph at 249-1721 X290 before July 1, 2000. We are planning a fun event. We hope to hear from you soon!!