

Metro / Religion

Ricky Dillard proves himself limitless

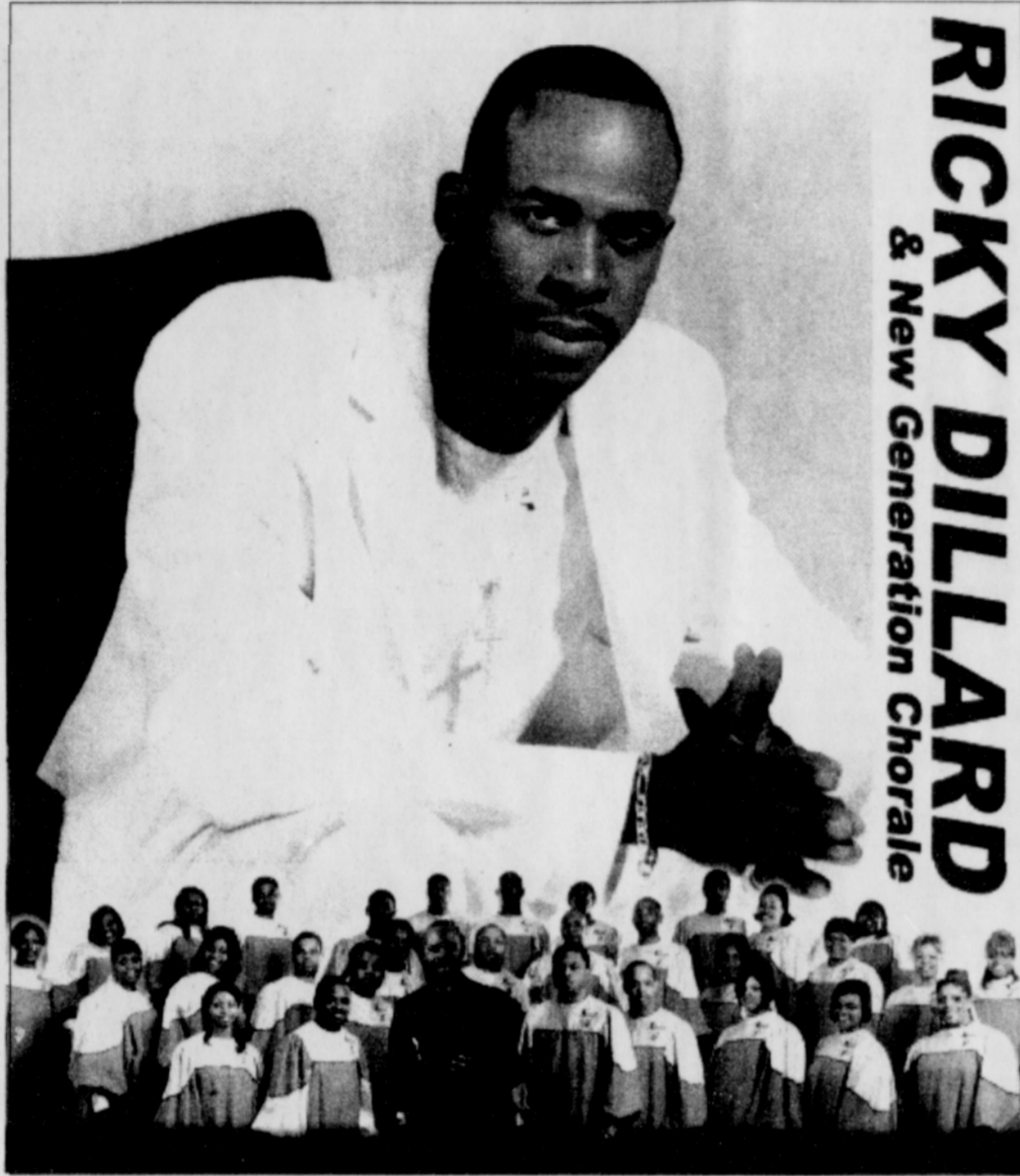
CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Reared, raised and residing in Chicago, Gospel music's most flashy showman Ricky Dillard is hoping to experience limitless success on his new CD "No Limit" (Crystal Rose Records). Coming from a broken home in Chicago's Mason Court projects, Dillard and his three siblings always went without something, but one thing they had was their mother's faith. She always told them that they could take the family out of the ghetto, moving them into a racially diverse, middle-class neighborhood by their teen years.

Dillard has kept that can-do, limitless dream spirit ever since and his new CD (his first in four years) is entitled "No Limit" because he wants his Grammy-nominated, Stellar-award winning choir to act on to same principles that moved his family out of the projects and on the better things. He's been rewarded already. The CD debut at #17 on Billboard magazine's gospel charts two weeks ago and then, last week moved into the #11 position on the chart. A big Chicago concert celebrating the new CD and the Choir's tenth anniversary was standing room only at the 2,000 seat Sweet Holy Spirit church a couple of weeks ago as well.

Dillard's last three CD's all hit the Top 10 of Billboard's gospel charts. His choir had a huge role in Steve Martin's hit film "Leap of Faith" and for the last three years they have toured extensively throughout Europe. Moreover, Dillard's ensemble has performed three years in a row at the prestigious Aspen Jazz festival.

This year they opened for pop superstar Bonnie Raitt. "No Limit" is more than just a title. It's a revelation of the singer-conductor himself. "There is no limit to the power of



RICKY DILLARD
& New Generation Chorale

God," Dillard says in a hushed baritone. "When I look back over the years and think of the trials and trying times this choir had been through, I have to recognize God's favor to us. We've been through hell, but we were not burned. We're still here and God showed us that when we were ready to give, there is no limit to what we can do as a group. When we thought we couldn't take it, God said

we could." Dillard has been involved in music ever since his childhood. Over the years, he worked with a number of local groups and even had brief stints as a disco vocalist (he collaborated with DJ Frankie Knuckles) and radio announcer. He founded the New Generation Chorale in 1998. They have released a half dozen hit albums and received

Grammy nomination and won GMWA Excellence and Stellar awards. Dillard was also a consultant on Whoopi Goldberg's "Sister Act II" movie and has shared TV stages with Patti LaBelle and Chicago gospel queen Albertina Walker. With the highly anticipated release of "No Limit," it's probably safe to say that there is "No Limit" on the future success of Ricky Dillard & the New Generation Chorale.

Church-based family shelter program plans major sale

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FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Church-based Family Shelter Program Plans Major Garage Sale
The 26 churches of Metro East Portland Interfaith Hospitality Network (MEPIHN) are hosting a Huge Multi-Church Garage Sale, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 8 & 9, 9am - 5PM at Timothy Lutheran Church, located 14500 SE Powell in Portland.

All members of the participating churches have been invited to clean out their basements and attics to help provide items for sale. Metro East Portland Interfaith Hospitality Network is a growing volunteer coalition of 26 congregations from various spiritual traditions, with support from several community service organizations. Our program began in October of 1999 to provide temporary shelter, food, transportation and professional counseling support to homeless families as they look for housing and employment. We host as many as fourteen children and parents around the clock in our various facilities seven days a week, and can provide several significant success stories

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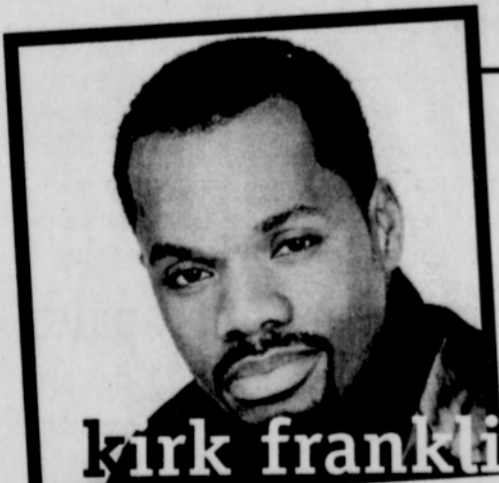


Toby McKeehan of D&TALK

saturday

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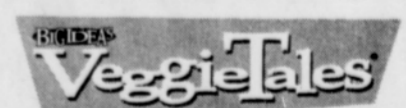


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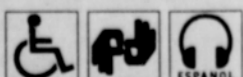
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