

Focus

A SUPPLEMENT OF

The
Portland
Observer

Editor in Chief,
Publisher
Charles H. Washington

Editor
Larry J. Jackson, Sr.

Copy Editor
Joy Ramos

Business Manager
Gary Ann Taylor

Creative Director
Shawn Strahan

4747 NE Martin Luther
King, Jr., Blvd.
Portland, OR 97211

503-288-0033
Fax 503-288-0015

e-mail:
thefocus@portlandobserver.com
subscription@portlandobserver.com
ads@portlandobserver.com

Deadlines for
submitted material:

Articles: Friday by 5 P.M.
Ads: Monday by Noon

Focus welcomes freelance
submissions. Manuscripts and
photographs can be returned
if accompanied by a self-
addressed stamped envelope.

All created display ads
become the sole property of
the newspaper and cannot be
used in other publications or
personal usage without the
written consent of the general
manager, unless the client has
purchased the composition of
the ad.

1999 The Portland Observer

Music

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Entrenched as we are in the Pop
Teen Era, it's not unusual to hear

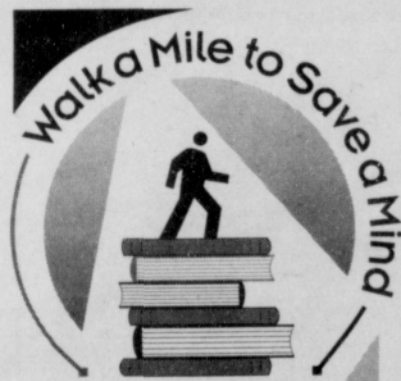
about a young girl with a voice.
Mikaila, however, is anything but
the typical teen chanteuse. The fact
that she's brunette is just the tip of
the iceberg.



"I'm not that...sweet?" Mikaila
says, pointing out one personality
trait that sets her apart – and helps
make her pop music so refreshing.
"I love R&B and I love rap, so I
want my songs to be a little edgy –
to be real, to be cool."
And so they are. Big rumbly drums
and quirky-twinkly keyboards set
the tone for the first single, "So In
Love With Two" – a delicious take
on indecision served up true diva
style. "Straight to My Face" and
"Perfect World" drip attitude and
demand respect. Mikaila calls upon
fluid phrasing and emotional
expression for "The Art of Letting
Go," while "Playground" is pop at
its most provocative. Even the
classic teenage crush song "Talk
About Me," and ballads like "My
Heaven" and "My Heart Can't Let

You Go," which Mikaila co-wrote,
have a depth that belies the Dallas-
based singer's youth. Mikaila's life
has always involved music. "I could
sing before I could talk," she says.
"At 3 years old, I'd stand in front of
the mirror, singing into a candlestick,
and tell my mother I want to be a
star." Back then, inspiration came
from the ruling radio divas – Mariah,
Celine and Whitney Houston – as
well as contemporary gospel music.
Mikaila would sing her heart out in
her bedroom and in church, where
her mom played piano. When Mikaila
was 9, her family left her in Edmond,
Oklahoma, hometown for Dallas, where
she began showing off her velvety
voice

(Please see 'Mikaila' page 3)



2000 UNCF Walk-a-Thon
to Benefit the United Negro College Fund

Saturday, September 9th
at
Peninsula Park

Registration Begins - 8:00am
Walk Begins - 10:00am

Join us
for food, fun
and prizes!!!

Sponsors
Adidas, KKJZ, KPTV, NW Natural, Portland Parks & Recreation,
Safeway, Sheraton Portland Airport Hotels, Sleep Country USA
The Oregon State Lottery, Wells Fargo Bank, WinCo Foods

STEVE HARVEY • D.L. HUGHLEY • CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER • BERNIE MAC

ROGER EBERT & THE MOVIES, Roger Ebert and Richard Roeper

"TWO THUMBS UP!"



MTV FILMS AND LATHAM ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT A 40 ACRES AND A MULE FILMWORKS PRODUCTION A SPIKE LEE JOINT
STEVE HARVEY D.L. HUGHLEY CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER BERNIE MAC "THE ORIGINAL KINGS OF COMEDY"
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ALEX STEYERMARK PRODUCED BY BARRY ALEXANDER BROWN PRODUCED BY WYNN P. THOMAS DIRECTED BY SPIKE LEE
MUSIC PRODUCED BY BUTCH ROBINSON EXECUTIVE PRODUCER VAN TOFFLER PRODUCED BY WALTER LATHAM DAVID GALE SPIKE LEE DIRECTED BY SPIKE LEE

NOW PLAYING

225-5555-4601
LLOYD MALL
REGAL CINEMAS 3RD LEVEL FOOD COURT

775-0000 IEX
EASTPORT 16
CENTURY THEATRES 4040 SE 82ND

225-5555-4606
DIVISION ST. 13
REGAL CINEMAS

225-5555-4627
TIGARD
REGAL CINEMAS

360-397-5555-4631
CITY CENTER 12
REGAL CINEMAS

Special Engagement
• No Passes •
Call Theatre
for Showtimes