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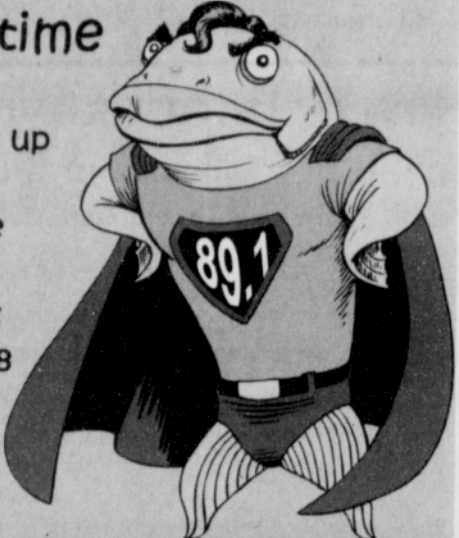
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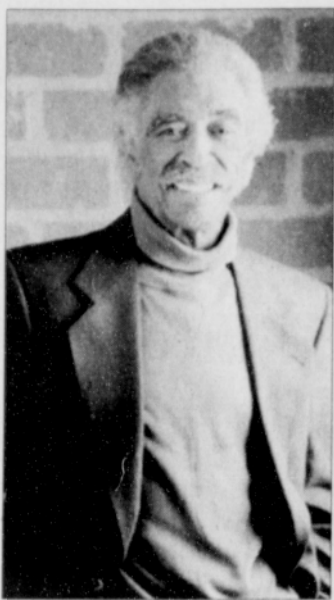
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Gerald Wilson

Jazz Composer Gerald Wilson Honored

(AP)—Jazz composer and musician Gerald Wilson was honored Saturday by his record label and local officials at a reception in Clarksdale, Miss.

The reception for the 85-year-old Wilson, a native of Shelby, Miss. follows the release of his new album, "New York New Sound," on Mack Avenue Records. The album also features Wilson's son, Anthony, on guitar, along with Clark Terry, Kenny Barron, Stix Hooper and others.

"I'm looking forward to just coming back. I'm told I won't be doing anything else, so I just plan to sit back and take it easy and visit," he said in an interview with the Clarksdale Press Register from his home in Los Angeles.

Wilson played with the Jimmie Lunceford Band, the Count Basie band and Dizzy Gillespie's group. He became an arranger and composer in jazz and popular music in the 1950s.

London Drama Premieres in Portland



PHOTO BY JEFF SIMMONS
Tobias Andersen plays 'Salter,' the father of an original son and two clones in Caryl Churchill's 'A Number.'

'A Number' is the story of a father with two cloned sons

Clones have always been the subject of science fiction. But this controversial topic had not been discussed in serious drama until Caryl Churchill opened "A Num-

ber" at the Royal Court Theatre in London in September last year to critical and audience acclaim.

This brave new play, which explores the very real possibility of cloning within a dysfunctional family, is having its American premier in Portland at Imago Theatre, 17 S.E. 8th Ave.

Salter, whose wife has died and has left him with an unmanageable child, takes the opportunity of cloning to start his life again. He frees

himself from alcohol and drug addiction and gives up for adoption his child whom he has neglected due to his addictions. While he is in recover, he waits for the second coned son to be born. The play begins 35 years later. Both adults sons confront their father about the buried secrets.

The play runs through Oct. 26. Tickets can be obtained by calling 503-231-3959 or TicketsWest at 503-224-8499.

Rappers Debate Downloading Music

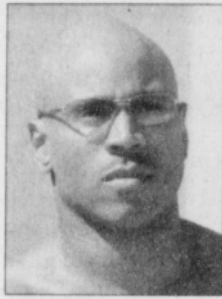
(AP)—Rapper LL Cool J joined entertainment executives in defending the music industry's lawsuits against hundreds of Internet users who illegally distribute music online.

"My question is, if a contractor builds a building, should people be allowed to move into the building for free?" the rapper, dressed in a black suit with an earring glistening in his right lobe, asked senators in Washington, D.C. "That's how I feel if I record a song or make a movie, and it zooms around the world for free."

Another rapper, Chuck D,

I trust the consumer more than I trust the people at the helm of these (record) companies.

— Rapper Chuck D



LL Cool J

consumer more than I trust the people at the helm of these (record) companies."

"LL's a staunch American," Chuck D added in a brief interview. "He's my man and all, man, but when you solely have an American state of mind, you're increasingly becoming a smaller

part of the world."

The music industry's trade group, the Recording Industry Association of America, has filed 261 lawsuits against people it accuses of illegally distributing music online. The RIAA blames lagging CD sales on the downloading of music.

Berry, Benet Separate

(AP)—Actress Halle Berry announced she has separated from her husband, R&B singer Eric Benet, after less than three years of marriage.

"Eric and I have had marital problems for some time now and have tried to work things out together," Berry said in a statement last week. "However, at this point, I feel we need time apart to reevaluate our union. We ask that you respect our privacy as we are going through this emotional time."

Tabloids have speculated about instability in their relationship from nearly the moment the "X-Men"



Actress Halle Berry shares a laugh with her husband, R&B singer Eric Benet, during a Lakers game last season in Los Angeles. (AP photo)

star married Benet in January 2001.

This is the second marriage for the actress, who divorced Cleveland Indians David Justice in 1996.

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