

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Black Eyed Peas Tops Billboard Charts

(AP) -- Will.i.am would love to say "I told you so" to all the people who have bashed the Black Eyed Peas in the past, but he won't — even though the group just made history on the Billboard charts.

"There's a part of me that wants to be cocky, but then I can't be cocky," the 34-year-old Peas leader said. "There's a part of me that wants to call out all of my other peers and competitors. I don't want to say no names because I'm not like that, but part of me wants to do that."

The foursome, who have had their share of critics, topped



Will.i.am

Billboard's Hot 100 singles charts for 20 consecutive weeks last week, the most ever by an act.

"Boom Boom Pow" and the song that dislodged it, "I Gotta Feeling," have been at the top of the charts for 12 and eight weeks, respectively.

Though the band has had big

hits over the years, "Boom Boom Pow" was their first No. 1 single. Will.i.am says he's surprised how successful the song became.

"I knew that 'Boom Boom Pow' would be big in the clubs, but I didn't know it would be that potent with the world, outside of the club," he said.

But the success is not pure luck, will.i.am explains. Though he says the band didn't listen to the radio when creating their latest disc, "The E.N.D.," he says they did heavy research by partying at underground nightclubs and events.

They chose "Boom Boom

Pow" as the first single after the response it got when they debuted it at a Grammy party this year. After its success, they used the same idea for their current hit.

"When I picked up 'I Gotta Feeling' we tested in the clubs, looked at people, how they responded to a song they didn't know," he explained. He says the group will use the same strategy for the third single, the groovy "Meet Me Halfway."

"We kept in mind when it would be coming out: It'll be out for the holidays. Do we want to be jam-pack smacking people high octane in the club during

Christmas? No. So let's know that the emotion we want to get out there is still melodic, a love subject would be cool around Christmas and we still want to be in the club," he said.

Will.i.am says he's not sure how to take it all in.

"Like how am I supposed

to take this and soak this in? If these people like the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Michael Jackson have these No. 1s, but yet we just broke a record, how am I supposed to take that because we came from the under, under, underground," he said.



International favorites Pink Martini will put away their passports for a special tribute to their home state 150th year birthday celebration. The group will take part in the musical comedy "Oregon! Oregon!" and perform a set of Pink Martini favorites during the special Saturday, Sept. 5 performance at the Oregon Zoo.

Pink Martini Joins Tribute Bash

Celebrating Oregon's 150th birthday

Hometown favorites Pink Martini and the 234th Army Band return to the Oregon Zoo stage for a special performance of "Oregon! Oregon!" to celebrate the state's 150th birthday.

The performance takes place

Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. and replaces the previously scheduled show at Memorial Coliseum. In addition to the play, both bands will also be performing their own sets of music.

"We're thrilled to host these beloved Portland bands for such a special occasion," said Krista Swan, the zoo's events coordinator. "This is the icing on the cake of the state's 150th birthday party."

In 1958, to mark Oregon's Centennial the following year, the Blitz-Weinhard Brewing Co. commissioned a musical comedy about the beaver state by renowned adman and radio personality Stan Freberg. He produced the 21-minute-long "Oregon! Oregon! A Centennial Fable in Three Acts."

This year, for the state's sesquicentennial, a team of Oregonians have added another act

to Freberg's original three, with contributors including Metro Council President David Bragdon, "Chariots of Fire" conductor Harry Rabinowitz, Pink Martini's Thomas Lauderdale, PICA Flash Choir's Sarah Dougher and Pat Janowski, and writers from OPB's "Live Wire!" radio show.

Additional information is available at oregonzoo.org or by calling 503-226-1561.

Battle to Vote -- The Clark County Historical Museum, 1511 Main St. in Vancouver, hosts a free women's suffrage exhibit though the end of the year. Washington was an early leader in giving women the right to vote.



Soulful Amos Lee -- Amos Lee's sophisticated, soul-folk fusion will close out the Summer Zoo Concert series on Friday, Aug. 28. General admission tickets are \$10.50.

Northeast Farmers Market -- The new Portland Farmers Market in the King Neigh-

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borhood at King School Park take place each Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Sept. 27.

Live Jazz -- Every Friday and Saturday from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Third Degrees Lounge at the RiverPlace Hotel, 1510 S.W. Harbor Way. No cover or minimum purchase. For more information, visit pdxjazz.com

Norman Sylvester Band -- Blues great Norman Sylvester presents the First Wednes-



day Blues Showcase every month at Tillicum in Beaverton as a way to feature different music friends. On Saturday, Sept. 5, the band plays at Gemini in Lake Oswego and on Sept. 10 at 720 Nightclub in Portland.

Fiddler on the Roof -- On his farewell performance tour in the role that made him legendary, Chaim Topel is Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof. The musical plays through Sunday, Aug. 30 at Keller Auditorium.

Totally Gospel II -- Peninsula Open Bible Church, 8225 N. Peninsula, hosts all styles of gospel, country, and contemporary music with host Riny Horst each Friday night from 7:30 p.m. -- 9:30 p.m. For more information, call 503-335-3132.

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