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The

Portland Observer

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'City of Roses'



Volume XXXXI
Number 46



www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • November 28, 2012

Established in 1970

Committed to Cultural Diversity

years of
community service

a Supreme evening

A special Mary Wilson concert to benefit
Portland area non profits and activities

See page 10 for details

Mack and Dub's Will Bounce Back

Arson fire investigated as hate crime

BY CARI HACHMANN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

After a suspected arsonist lit fire to Mack and Dub's Excellent Chicken & Waffles, leaving the inside to burn a gaping hole in the roof and much of the place charred beyond recognition, co-owners James "Mack" McClendon and William "Dub" Travis III are visibly bummed, but say, "We will bounce back."

The good news is that Mack and Dub's is insured. The bad news is it that once all of the non-salvageable remains are hauled out or demolished; it will take 90 days to six months to rebuild.

Opened just this February, Mack and Dub's earned rave reviews.

"The moment they put their sign up, I was there," said the first review on Yelp from Connie C. of Lake Oswego. "I pretty much always have a hankering for chicken and waffles."

Famed for its southern-style menu, laid-back vibes and late night music, Mack and Dub's has already been doted a northeast Portland landmark by local media, including the Willamette Week, who called it "the best soul food on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard."

The restaurant also got national nods from the likes of BlackAtlas.com, a travel website catered to African-Americans.

Sadly, the foundation for their success came to an abrupt stop, the day before Thanksgiving.

At 5:47 a.m. last Wednesday, a police officer smelled smoke near Mack and Dub's vicinity, between Northeast Fremont Street and Beech.

Travis awoke to a phone call at 6 a.m. His business was on fire and he better get down here the voice on the other end told him.

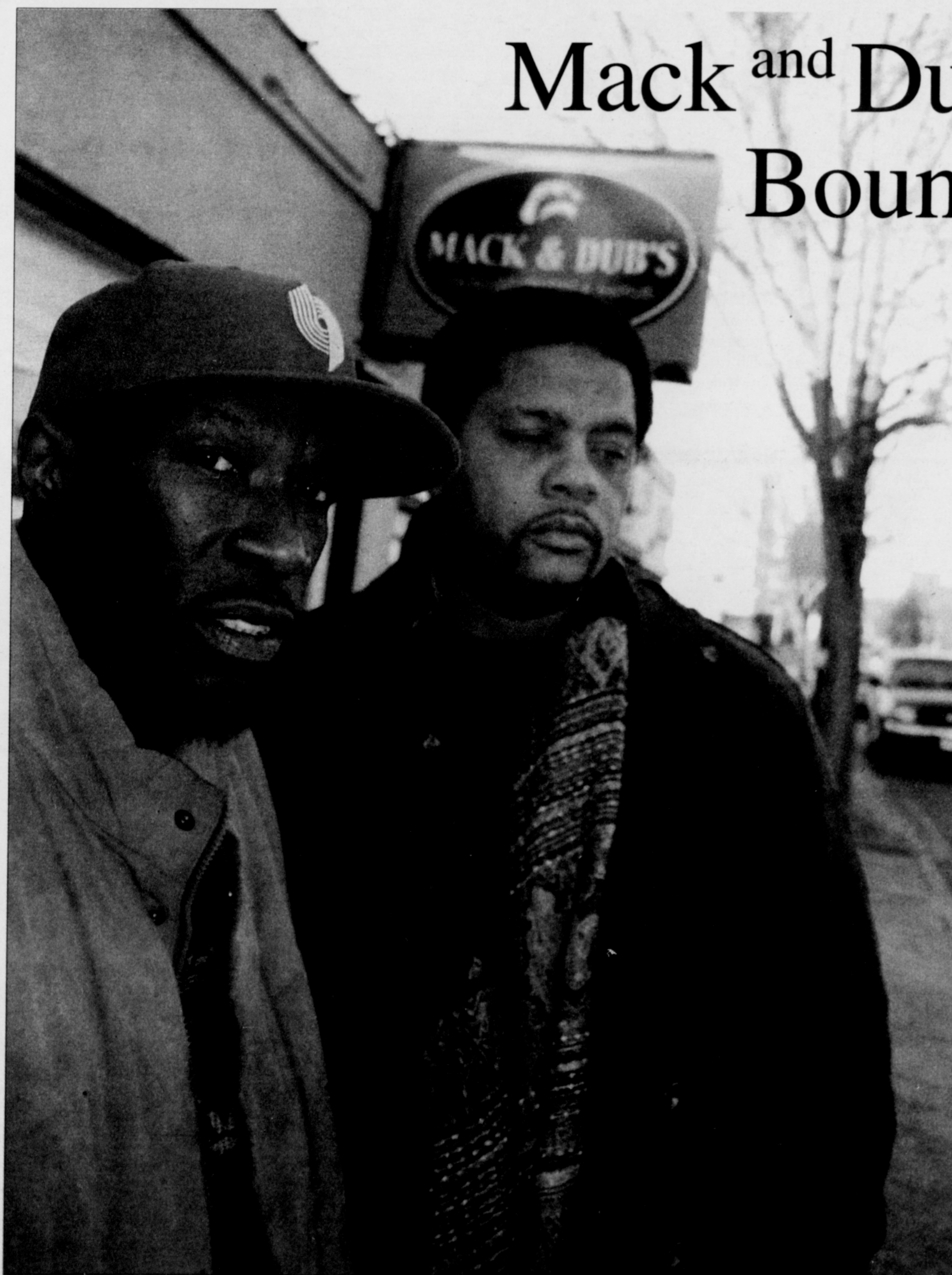


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

James 'Mack' McClendon and William 'Dub' Travis III plan to rebuild after an arson fire destroyed their restaurant at 3601 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

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