

"SHARING"--A FESTIVAL CALLED BIMBE

by KELVIN A. BELL

Durham's Annual Bimbe Festival kicked off this year's activities on Monday, July 25 at the Student Union on the campus of North Carolina Central University. The opening ceremonies, under the direction of Obataiye B. Akinwale, featured poetry by Melvin Hamilton, music by Yusef & Friends, and a highly informative lecture and discussion on the festival by Robert Harvey, professor of History at NCCU. The theme of this year's festival is "Sharing," which is the essence of the African festival called Bimbe.

"The kind of sharing that is Bimbe," said Harvey, "would not be possible with-



MELVIN HAMILTON



ROBERT HARVEY

begin to lose respect for ourselves and in the final analysis we begin to hate and denounce ourselves.

"Thus, anything that a black person obtains in this society becomes his alone, and he feels that it is not to be shared with anyone who cannot offer him something in return. This is the way blacks feel toward other blacks. It can easily explain why it is that every black person that tries to 'make it' feels that he owes black people, and the black race nothing and that the only way to be accepted into the America mainstream is to denounce anything black.

"Without cultural and spiritual unity the essence of the Bimbe Festival is impossible.

out a sense of cultural unity on the part of its participants. This unity stems from a common spiritual, social, political or intellectual bond. When a people lack this sense of cultural unity, they lose sight of their past and their future, and their present becomes meaningless. Once this occurs they will become fatalistic - that is - they will have no past, will see no future, and will reach the conclusion that only fate can determine their lives from day to day.

"When a people get to the point of living from day to day they only become concerned with obtaining the basic necessities of life - food, clothing and shelter. There is no such thing as saving for the future, because everything that is obtained goes for right now. There is no such thing as going back to your past to find out how your ancestors handled their situations or to study other people to learn how they handle their problems simply because time and inclination do not allow for such intellectual and philosophical pursuits.

"... we were forced to leave, forget, and denounce much of our African culture and forced to accept and/or borrow from other cultures. Thus we have nothing unique or original to offer or share with America except the color of our skins. We can only accept what is given to us or borrow from someone else and not give anything in return. When this occurs we become students and slaves of other people's cultures. We



LISHA PINSON

"Pride in being an Afro-American will be a reality and a positive force for our society once we develop this

sense of history. But to develop black pride without progress is no good. As we progress, we will develop cultural and spiritual unity as a people and thus have something to share with America and all other nations of the world - ourselves. And when you can share yourself with others it is the greatest gift you can give."

On Saturday, July 30, Bimbe will host a Blues Festival and Picnic at Forest Hills Park from 6 - 8 p.m. The culminating activities for the Bimbe Festival will be held at 1 p.m., Sunday, July 31st at Hillside Park. All are invited to attend.

(Photos by Kelvin A. Bell)



FREEMAN LEDBETTER



JOHN STEWART (foreground) and Dawud Hassan. Also Harold Robinson (not pictured).

ACTIVITIES AND COLUMN BLURBS

Mercury Records has set the date of September 6 to release Jimmy Smith's new album "It's Necessary" that was recorded 'live' at Jimmy Smiths Supper Club recently. August 18th through August

20th, will find the world's greatest organist playing The LaVeek club in Houston, Texas, following this engagement, there is the strong possibility that the ole organ grinder will be on road promoting his new album in cities such as Chicago, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia and Atlanta. Now for the mid blower, Jimmy Smith has been set to headline The Russian Jazz Festival Sunday, Sept. 24; now that you've settled from the initial shock, we might as well tell you -- this Russian Jazz Festival will be played on the banks of the Russian River 75-miles outside of San Francisco, and it's being sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

D. J. Rogers is being referred to as a very sweet guy by all the nurses at the Century City Hospital; reason -- while the RCA artist/producer is in the hospital losing weight under the doctors supervision, and his current album "Love, Music, and Life" is soaring up the national charts, he had his PR agency supply all the nurses on the day and night shift with candy in appreciation of the care they're giving him.

Brother will soon be more than a phrase one hears on the streets. With the releasing of a new album "Shades of Creation" on All Platinum Records by a unique group of black and white talents that call themselves Brother to Brother, brother to brother will soon become a household word to music loving America, as the group is dynamite and their new album is an explosive out-a-sight item.

ALBUM REVIEWS "Rejoicing With the Emotions"

by RAY JENKINS

The Emotions have a sense of togetherness which should be patented as their trademark. When I heard their first l.p. a little over a year ago, this attribute stood out most to my musical palate. Their latest recording, REJOICE, is a long awaited addition to chapter one.

It requires a tremendous amount of rehearsal, patience and pride to come up with the degree of voice blending characteristics of these three women. It seems that this should be the goal of a vocal group: to become one multi-toned voice. Aside from perfect harmony, which is somewhat of a prerequisite, there must be an even greater sense of rhythm. Just as the human brain is capable of perceiving the direction of a sound due to the small fraction of a second it reaches one ear before the other, so too, it takes a sharp sense of timing for three vocalists to hit their respective lyrics precisely at the same time. Many groups have this down pretty good, however, only a minuscule amount throughout the years have achieved the perfection of the Emotions. So now they've got another l. p. re-

leased and although I'm not as impressed with the material as their last outing, their singing performance is complementary to their royal class talent. The album includes their hit single, "Best Of My Love"; "Key To My Heart," which is the best example of their rhythmic versatility; and my favorite, "Don't Ask My Neighbor," which brings to mind the beautiful sirens' song that lured some of Odysseus' men to their death. Now how's that for potency.

What does Norman Connors have in store for us these days after introducing the likes of Jean Carn, Phyllis Hyman and Michael Henderson? With that kind of track record, one might expect another smoker. To be sure it was not as earcatching as his others. ROMANTIC JOURNEY features his latest discovery, Eleanor Mills who simply doesn't match up to those who went before her. She is listenable and expressively imitative of Jean Carn. But in singing, imitation rarely results in duplication or the equivalent. She simply sounds like she is

trying too hard and at best she's o. k. But alas, Connors is not one to produce an l. p. without at least one pleasant surprise. This time it did not come from a vocalist, but a saxophonist, Pharoah Sanders, whose name shows up on Connors' album for the second time (the first time was as an author of the tune, "The Creator has a Master Plan"). On Thambi, the Pharoah, gives his all. In fact the whole arrangement sounds like a cut from a Pharoah Sanders album rather than Norman Connors. "Thambi" saves this album from mediocrity.

GENSENG WOMAN is an appropriate introduction for Eric Gale's first solo l. p. To those who religiously study liner notes, the name of Eric Gale is not new, having played guitar and fender bass on hundreds of recordings - a number of which were gold. Eric joins a steadily increasing legion of studio musicians who have come out of the studio and into the spotlight. On this recording, Eric is handsomely backed by some of the personnel of Stuff, of which he, too, is a member. Most of the cuts were arranged by Bob James.

The title tune "Genseng Woman" is upbeat and peppery which comes complete with a solo by guest artists, Grover Washington, Jr. In addition, the tune is quite danceable. Evidence of Caribbean influence is heard on three of the six tunes: "Red Ground" follows the traditional calypso ballad format (think of "Jamaica Farewell"), while "Derabbit" is more festive and jumpy. "Sara Smile" is official reggae.

This album shows good planning not only in the selection of personnel (which are as good as any producer could ask for) but also in the choice of the selections. Not to mention Eric Gale's very distinguished playing style. My choice cut on this recording is "She's My Lady." It's mellow, soothing and sweet. For this performance, I hereby make presentation of a feather for the cap of Eric Gale.

All Platinum Retains PR Agency For New Act Promo Plan

ENGLEWOOD, N. J. - Hoe Robinson, President of All Platinum Records announced that he has retained Warren Lanier Enterprises Public Relations Agency to plan and conduct a 15 city marketing and promotion campaign in association with the releasing of the latest album by Brother to Brother.

The album under the title "Shades of Creation" will be tested in New York and the Baltimore/Washington area prior to the all out program being launched in the following markets: Atlanta, St. Louis,

Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland, New Orleans, Houston, Dallas, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston and Philadelphia.

Ms. Carol Cruickshank, vice president of the National Promotion for the New Jersey based record company will work directly with the newly signed P. R. Agency, and the campaign will include television spots, radio time buys, direct consumer print medium advertising... an all out publicity campaign on the exciting new act "Brother To Brother" that will also include a personal appearance tour.

The album release on "Brother To Brother" was shipped nationally July 15, and the date set to launch the campaign is August 1.

"ROOTS" TRAVEL FOLDER

NEW YORK - A colorful travel folder titled "Gateway to Roots, Goree Island" has just been issued by the Senegal Government Tourist Bureau.

The folder gives the fascinating history of the role Goree Island played as the center of the slave trade.

The history of Goree Island is the history of slavery. Discovered by the Portuguese in 1444 Goree Island became the most important transit center in West Africa for the slave trade which continued until slavery was abolished in 1848.

The folder also takes the reader on a visit to picturesque Goree Island where visitors can still see the remains of the original slave houses, the Forts which protected the harbor of Dakar and many other points of interest dating back hundreds of years.

Copies of this interesting and informative folder can be obtained by writing the Senegal Government Tourist Bureau, 200 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017.

Jimmy Smith To Headline Russian Jazz Festival

WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. - Jimmy Smith, the world's greatest organist has been contracted to headline The Russian Jazz Festival, Sunday, Sept. 24. This particular festival date featuring Jimmy Smith and his group will follow the release date of his recently recorded album "It's Necessary" for Mercury Records, that was recorded 'live' at Jimmy Smiths Supper Club in West Hollywood.

The festival adopted its name from the site location on the banks of the Russian River located 75 miles outside of San Francisco; and the outdoor music festival

is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

This year's festival is a two day event, and will feature the Phil Woods Quartet, an all-star old timers jazz group, several other jazz units, and Jimmy Smith headlining with his group that will feature Teddy Edwards, tenor saxophone; Ray Crawford on guitar; Kenny Dixon, drums; and Buck Clarke on congas.

The appearance of Jimmy Smith and group at this year's Russian Jazz Festival, will follow the groups appearance at Club LaVeek in Houston, Texas, and a major city promotional tour on be-



B. N. DUKE AUDITORIUM of North Carolina Central University was the site of a concert performance by the Ebony Dance Theatre on Friday, July 22. The performance featured D. Garrett, D. Hill, G. Ledbetter, P. Ledbetter, G. Pennington and V. Boons. (Photo by Kelvin A. Bell).

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