

Record



Corner

Jim Berry

THE JAZZ SCENE...

Three new jazz albums are in the spotlight this week... and two of them are by sax players.

"Say It With Silence" is new from Hubert Laws on Columbia Records. It's another exceptional album for Hubert. What makes this one even better is that his brother Ronnie makes a guest appearance...and the two really blow it out on the title cut.

Also on hand is Joe Sample, who accompanies Hubert on acoustic piano on "It Happens Every Day."

Two other songs which are very well done are "False Faces," and "Love Gets Better."

Sonny Rollins "Easy Living" LP is well named. His sax style is more of an easy listening approach... good springtime music.

Rollins wrote most of the songs on this album, which is on Fantasy Records, two of the best are "My One and Only Love," and "Hear What I'm Saying."

However, the highlight of the album is Rollins version of Stevie Wonder's "Isn't She Lovely."

Of course, it helps when you have George Duke backing you up on piano.

Dexter Wansel took us way out on his "Life on Mars" album, came back to earth for

a while, and now, he's ready to take off again.

Dexter is done in his spacesuit...ready to hop into his UFO on the cover of this new album "Voyager", on CBS Records.

Actually, Wansel gives us a lot of variety...and that helps hold the interest all the way through this album.

Standout songs on this LP are "I Just Want To Love You," "Solutions," and "Time Is the Teacher."

For those of you into very progressive jazz... Shakti, the group led by John McLaughlin, has a new release on the record shelves. It's called "Natural Elements," on Columbia Records.

This is not for most jazz fans...but if you can relate to Miles Davis, you can relate to Shakti.

Saxophone and flute player Joe Thomas has done an LP on his own, for the first time. He calls it "Here I Come", on T.K. Records.

There's one cut on here that's not bad at all... It's entitled "A Place In Space." Other than that, there's not much else worth mentioning.

SOUL SOUNDS...

Something about listening to a whole album of Jermaine Jackson still bothers me. I've done it twice...and each time emerged with the same feeling...I wasted time.

Giovanni Lights-Up Stage

by Furma Bridges
Special to The Post

Nikki Giovanni lit up the stage in McKnight Hall a few weeks ago at UNCC.

On Wednesday night, she enchanted an audience at Barber Scotia College in Concord. The tiny woman, who is approaching 35, seemed much too small to house the extent of knowledge, insight, and poetic expression she possesses. For those of us who idolize the lady, the simple introductions as one of the "most brilliant personalities of our time" and "the princess of black poetry" were all that needed to be said. We were there to escape into the beautiful, intimate world of Nikki Giovanni.

At UNCC, Miss Giovanni began her journey by speaking out against Gov. Jim Hunt's refusal to free the Wilmington 10, and President Jimmie Carter's fear of getting involved. At Barber Scotia, Miss Giovanni's words were not political. She criticized the school for not having some visual recognition of Mary McLeod Bethune, a great lady among American educators, and once a student at Barber Scotia. Miss Giovanni also urged the students to "try to make better grades." The world is cold. Nobody cares," she urged. "If all we're going to do (in life) is float around...then life is not worth that existence."

After unwinding from the political overtones and the



Nikki Giovanni

...Enchants audiences personal challenges, Miss Giovanni eased into her poetry

and took her audiences sailing along with her. The lady was simply beautiful. She spoke with the same ease and clarity that is exemplified in her poetry. Her conversation and her poetry are almost one and the same. Her poems expand through her concern for her people, for politics, for human relationships, and mostly for love.

Miss Giovanni's credits include Black Feeling-Black Talk, Black Judgement, My House, The Men and the Women, and an autobiography of her first thirty years, Gemini. Her latest book will be released in October, COTTON CANDY ON A RAINY DAY.

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