

Sounds

'Back Stabbers' is O'Jays' best

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been playing sax for a little more than nine years. But his style is deeply based in the styles of Pharoah Sanders (his mentor) Sonny Rollins, Yusef Lateef, Stanley Turrentine and John Coltrane.

Stewart's smokey tenor sax sounds like it was raised on greens and chitlins. Grooves ooze out of his instrument with the verve of past eras. Listen to him pound out "Misty," complete with a Hammond organ solo by Larry Bradford. Or his deft reading of Booker T's "Green Onions." His treatment of Marvin Gaye's "Inner City Blues (Make Me Wanna Holler)" is classic.

**The O'Jays
Back Stabbers
Kenny Gamble and
Leon Huff, producers
Epic
Associated/Legacy**

☆☆☆☆
The Sound of Philadelphia (TSOP). There isn't a child of the '70s who hasn't heard that term.

Writers Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff created that sound along with a cast of characters that included Walter "Bunny" Sigler, Ron "Have Mercy" Kersey and Dexter Wansel and it still sounds good today.

Gamble and Huff's crowning achievement at the now defunct Philadelphia International Records was the signing of the O'Jays, a veteran Ohio-based group that had gone from five members to a trio of Eddie Levert, Walter Williams and William Powell. It was this group that brought the writing duo to the forefront of pop music.

The O'Jays released **Back Stabbers** in 1972. It was a landmark achievement, producing five hit singles, two of

which hit No.1 on the soul charts and one accomplishing the same feat on the pop charts.

The album has finally made it to CD this month and it still shimmers with brilliance. Levert used this recording to establish himself as one of the premier soul vocalists of the decade. His raspy baritone was complimented perfectly by Williams' honeyed tenor.

Aside from the monumental title hit, "Love Train" and "992 Arguments," there's the classic "Sunshine" and joyful "Mr. Lucky."

Back Stabbers remains one the O'Jays' best works. It deserves to be heard again.

Rating:
☆☆☆☆ Classic;
☆☆☆☆ Excellent;
☆☆☆ Good;
☆☆ Fair;
☆ Why?;

No Stars Given - Please, Spare Us.

Book chronicles black history

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that the freedoms demanded by the "founding fathers" should be extended to slaves. Lucy Terry Prince was

America's first black poet. Her first poem, written in 1746, was not published until 1855. George Herriman, an African American cartoonist and illus-

trator, was the creator of the "Krazy Kat" comic strip that appeared regularly in the "New York Evening Journal" for over 20 years.

Carter credits God for talent

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where he struggled initially. He decided to move back to Tennessee, but his fate changed.

"I was at the bus station with my bags packed when I saw three old ladies sitting in the corner eating hamburgers," he said. "Something about one of them struck me. I pulled out my pad and started drawing."

The elderly lady became the basis for "Grandma's Hands,"

Carter's favorite and best-selling print.

"That goes to show that if you believe in the gifts that God gives you - and everybody gets a gift - use them, and believe, he'll make a way."

Cater has completed nearly 30 pieces, five of which were limited prints and have sold out. His prints are priced from \$30-\$100. Originals start at

\$1,000.

Carter is the youngest of 10 children. He rents space in L.V. Custom Framing on the corner of Forsyth and Marietta streets in Atlanta, where he's been for 11/2 years.

Admission to Carter's showing is by invitation only. If you are interested in going, call Warren Turner at 556-1950 or 342-6011, extension 237.

People who make things happen.

"We need to reorder the issues and make education a priority."

William H. Gray III
President and CEO
United Negro College Fund

William Gray has launched a new career. After 17 years in the U.S. Congress, he is now President and CEO of the United Negro College Fund. The 47-year-old organization supports 41 private, historically Black colleges and universities that enroll over 50,000 students, many of whom receive UNCF financial assistance.

Ideally suited to lead the College Fund, Gray is working to ensure that education is our country's number one priority.

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