SHOWTIME

NEW ORLEANS JAZZFEST

The world's greatest music festival

NEW ORLEANS — Everybody in this picturesque city seems to love music, and once a year, when the crawfish are in season and spring adds a burnished luster to the tropical vegetation, New Orleans has a massive two-week party celebrating its greatest natural resource.

The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, having just completed its 19th year, has established itself as one of the world's preeminent musical events.

With every passing year, more and more people from all over the globe have journeyed to this fabled birthplace of jazz to hear an astounding range of music; jazz, rock, blues, cajun, zydeco, country, gospel, reggae, salsa and folk.

This year's festival covered the usual broad stylistic range, and despite harsh weather conditions over the last weekend, broke last year's record for attendance. More than 65,000 people, the largest crowd in the history of the event, showed up for the last day of music.

The breadth and quality of the music presented at the Fair Grounds infield and on traditional Mississippi River steamboat cruises makes this a festival of unique quality.

The finest practitioners of American roots music and the most artistically accomplished name groups make the event a veritable who's who of American music.

This year's highlights included Marcia Ball, Taj Mahal, Allen Toussaint, the Wild Magnolias, Song Dogs, Luther Kent, Dave Brubeck and Albert Collins at the Fair Grounds the first weekend. Texas guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughan played an inspired show on the steamboat President the same weekend.

The biggest events were scheduled for the final weekend, starting off with an exciting salsa concert on the President featuring Willie Colon, Tito Puento and Celia Cruz.



BUCHWHEAT ZYDECO performs during the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. The festival has established itself as one of the world's prominent musical events.

On Friday, the Willie Cole blues band started off the Fair Grounds program on one stage, while Washboard Leo — the "Jimi Hendrix of washboard" — and his band, the Nutria Frogs, were playing their strange combination of rock and cajun music across the field. The Jackson Travelers had a hand-clapping audience testifying at the gospel tent.

Crowds munched barbecued alligator, cajun roast pork po-boys, fried catfish and Omar the pieman's sweet potato pie as five stages and five tents pumped out a non-stop gumbo of music.

Friday's highlights included a hot set from Nocentelli, the band led by ex-Meters guitarist Leo Nocentelli; a revival of New Orleans R&B favorites by Oliver Morgan and Jesse Hill with the Reggie Hall band, downhome blues from the Nighthawks, and a magnificent reggae set from the Killer Bees.

The long-awaited reunion of legendary 1970s band Little Feat was one of the festival highlights. The band made its triumphant debut Friday night on the President and then headlined Saturday's afternoon program.

START SOMETHING GREAT IN PENNSYLVANIA



The Watsons are planning their summer trip to Pennsylvania. Teenage son Dan likes canoeing, white-water rafting, R&B music and steam railroads, enjoyed between cheese-steak sandwiches and funnel cakes.

Daughter Crystal wants to ride Pennsylvania's roller coasters, eat cotton candy and pretzels.

Mom and Grandmom are thinking about all the Pennsylvania farmers markets, clothing outlets, super stores and shopping malls. They're also eyeing Pennsylvania's many restaurants, ranging from family-style to the most elegant dining.

Will Dad find the best jazz music in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, or somewhere in between?

Grandpa knows a quiet pool on the Clarion River that has a big, brown trout with his name on it. And not far, there's a choice campsite in one of Pennsylvania's national forests or 115 state parks.

Join the Watsons in planning your summer trip to Pennsylvania. Order your 1988 Spring/Summer Pennsylvania Guide today.

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PENNSYLVANIA
AMERICA STARTS HERE
Robert P. Casey, Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

HAVE YOU HEARD?



JESSYE NORMAN



MICHAEL JORDAN

By Penny S. Demps

THAT Michael Jackson visited the Justin Boot Co. in Fort Worth, Texas, recently and took a liking to the company's new "shoe-boot" model and ordered three pairs—one in calfskin, one buffalo and one bull hide. Justin had planned to introduce the shot-boot, which has a 4-inch top instead of the regular full-length calf top, next January but has pushed the date to the fall in hopes of capitalizing on Jackson's popularity. The shoe execs also say that naming the boot for Jackson is a possibility.

* * *

THAT Georgia-born soprano Jessye Norman, acclaimed as one of the greatest opera singers in the world today, is so highly sought after that she is solidly booked through 1991. Norman easily pays tribute to Marian Anderson and Leontyne Price as paving the way for her. Her grueling schedule as a recording and performing artist has prompted her to say, "thank goodness, you like your job. You love your job!"

* * *

THAT singer-songwriter Carolyn Franklin, youngest daughter of the late Rev. C. L. Franklin, and sister of the "Queen of Soul" Aretha Franklin, died April 25 following a year-long battle with cancer. "We came here today not because someone died, but because someone lived," said her brother Rev. Cecil Franklin, "We came to celebrate a homecoming." Singers Martha and Lois Reeves, ex-Miracle Ron White, Lawrence Payton and Levi Stubbs of the Four Tops, Pervis and Cleo Staples of the Staple Singers among others, gathered to pay homage to the Franklins, described by the Rev. K. David Hudson as a "royal family with a rich heritage."

* * *

THAT "Today Show" co-host Bryant Gumbel thought he had been left behind during a brief stop in Zurich after the show's recent live broadcast aboard the Orient Express. An NBC spokesman said Gumbel left the train briefly to stretch his legs and make some phone calls. When he returned to the station—no train. Actually, the crew had moved it to another section for cleaning. His panic was understandable, since the day before another "Today" big-wig had returned from the station lavortory just in time to glimpse the fabled train from a distance, and he had to play catch-up aboard another not-so-famous choo choo.

* * *

THAT the Metropolitan Opera Association filed a trademark infringement suit against a jazz quintet called the "Metropolitan Bopera House," saying it feared people would confuse the two musical groups. The "Bopera" group dismissed the complaint. "After playing smoke - filled dates and struggling to assert itself in the rough jazz business, it is difficult for our group to see how we could possibly threaten the opera," said trumpet player John Marshal. "The opera need not worry about us stealing their mink-coated and limousines clientele."

* * *

THAT Chicago Bulls' hotshot Michael Jordan and King of Rap Kurtis Blow are joining forces in the recording studio soon to tape an "Air Jordan" rap Kurtis penned to honor his buddy.

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THAT in a two-hour ABC-TV special, May 17, "The American Comedy Awards" will decide who is funniest in 16 different categories. There is no academy vote, such as employed by movies and TV, nor is the public involved in the balloting. Instead, 2,500 entertainment industry leaders were polled for suggestions and then 1,000 professional comedians, comic actors, and actresses were sent ballots containing the names of the five leading candidates in each category. And if the Writers Guild remains on strike, the comedians will wing it!



BACK-TO-BACK—The Ohio Players will release their first album in eight years on the newly-formed Track Record label in mid-May. Broken up in the late '70s, the Ohio Players are on the rebound with "BACK".

METRO PROFILE

■ Gay Rights Fight 3C
■ People 4C
■ Contractor Fights City Hall 5C



AFRO Publisher John Oliver, Jr., Congressman Kweisi Mfume, Rev. Dr. Walter S. Thomas, Deputy Secretary Ernestine E. Jones, and panel moderator WJZ-TV Anchor Al Sanders hold hands in a gesture significant of the band between Black institutions and family that is needed for the strengthening of the Black family.



Rev. Dr. Walter S. Thomas calls for an examination and upgrading of morality standards within the Black family.

Family

Continued from Page 1A

"Education has always allowed for our survival, next to the family unit and the Church," she said. "Too many of our youth cannot compete. There is a need to put literacy training at the top of our agenda."

She discussed a proposal which would require all social service recipients to register for classes that would allow them to earn a high school diploma and prepare them for the workplace. Recipients who do not complete the requirements of the program would forfeit their social service grants.

Jones ended her address with a reminder of the necessity for blacks to keep the tools we must use in good repair.

Congressman Kweisi Mfume, in a speech which focused on Economic Development and the Family, commended the sensitivity of the AFRO and other black institutions as he stressed our need to support these institutions.

"If the government can giveth, the government can taketh away," he said. "We must take action to ensure the survival of these situations as an economic base for our youth."

He then spoke of the need for channeling the incomes of 35 to 40 million Blacks into a reciprocal agreement with corporate America to demand a fair and equitable return on these Black dollars.

"You cannot cut a diamond with glass," Mfume said. "You must cut a diamond with a diamond. We must cut the corporate boycott with a boycott."

Mfume cited the example of the honeybee, which always leaves pollen to fertilize the flower the bee draws nectar from.

"Those of us who get our nectar from the black community . . . and sow our pollen somewhere else, we kill the dream."

The third speaker, Rev. Dr. Walter Thomas of New Psalmist Baptist Church, spoke on the need to strengthen our morals and values.

He attributed the lack of love and compassion as the most important reason for the moral breakdown of our society.

He said our ethics determine our actions, not the other way around. Right and wrong are not issues to be voted upon but standards to be taught in the home, he said.

Rev. Thomas said today's youth fail to grasp the consequences of their unethical actions. He feels that the promiscuity of an earlier generation is responsible for the AIDS epidemic.

"We have created an atmosphere whose motto is 'if it feels good, do it.' We need to start enforcing the consequences of these actions," he said.

On the topic of teenage pregnancy, Rev. Dr. Thomas stressed the need for responsible planning. "It is our responsibility for deciding when, where, and how this life is passed on," he said. "Some people are irresponsible as far as passing that life on."

He concluded his remarks by saying that it is our faith in GOD that has carried us this far, and cited the importance of placing faith in God above faith in people.

"You ask me about the scandals in the church, such as Jimmy and Tammy Baker, Jimmy Swaggart, etc.?," he asked. "I said faith in GOD, not people. He is the one who brought us not by our might but by his power."



The Summit audience listens attentively to issues and solutions that strengthen the Black family.

Black Family forum draws hundreds to Palladium

Photos by John H. Murphy, III



Panel Moderator WJZ-TV Anchorman Al Sanders, introduces guest speakers.



AFRO Publisher John Oliver, Jr., AFRO Circulation Director Andre Draper and NAACP Executive Secretary George N. Buntin discuss the successful forum for Black family strengthening which emanated from the Summit breakfast.