

SALOON

CASINO

6

THE JACKSONS

LAS VEGAS VOICE

In stroll all five of the Jacksons--Jackie, Tito, Marlon, Michael and Randy--with Jackie toting an enormous tape recorder, which is blaring some pleasant, yet unfamiliar music. All five of the brothers plop down on the sofa in the den of their Encino, California home, smiling faces reflecting in the numerous gold and platinum albums that hang on the walls nearby. They're obviously enthralled about something, and Jackie explains their sheerfulness. "Hear that music?" he gleefully asks, pointing to the huge recorder. "Those tracks are from our new album." It sounds great but why all the excitement from a group that has recorded countless recordings? The answer comes soon enough: The Jacksons new Epic Album, entitled Destiny, is the very first album of the Jacksons that the family collectively wrote, arranged and produced themselves.

"Hear that break?" interrupts Jackie. "I think the guitar sounds perfect there," he says, throwing a glance of approval toward Tito, the guitarist who executed the fancy licks in question. Tito just nods, his face revealing a slight blush of proudness. "It really sounds good," chimes Michael, sitting across the room leisurely dressed in jeans, a t-shirt and 1 safari-styled hat that barely conceals his braids. "I can't wait until it's finally mixed," he says.

Exchanging this barrage of music biz lingo, they all sound just like record producers and finally, they are. "We've waited for the chance to produce ourselves for a long time," sighs Marlon. "Way back since the Motown days-maybe even longer." Then why the wait? "You have to prove to a record company that you're able to produce yourselves," answers Tito. "After all, there's thousands of dollars involved in a recording project. The company has to know whother an album is capable of selling before they give free reign. In our case, Epic Records listened to the tracks we wrote on our two albums that Gamble and Huff produced and decided to let us do it ourselves this time."

This acheivement comes in a huge wave of never-ending success for the Jacksons, now an entertainment phenomenon that began circa 1969, when the group left their hometown of Gary, Indiana, joined Motown Records and enjoyed four number one hits with recordings like "I Want You Back," "The Love You Save," "ABC," and "I'll Be There." From hit records and smash concert tours the Jacksons moved into a grand club act in Las Vegas, and have conquered television with first, a Saturday morning cartoon series, and most recently a summer replacement variety series. Now on Epic Records, the group is a household word. So, to finally produce their own album certainly falls within the natural order of things.

"Producing a record isn't hard," says Jackie, as Tito stops the tape recorder. "That's not to say it's easy either, but it just mainly involves knowing what you want on tape." Randy agrees. "Working with the musicians we've been using on the sessions has been really smooth, but it's only because we knew exactly what we wanted the music to sound like--that's half the work." Many voice surprise at the idea of the Jacksons writing their own music--a style they call "Freaky Soul"--yet the Jacksons have been writing material for some time now, saving it just for the day to produce their own record. **PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAYE** 

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JEFF KUTASH DANCERS

The Jeff Kutash Dancers will be the opening act for Dean Martin at the MGM Grand Hotel, January 11-24. The show features a "Broadway Goes Disco" theme including a special dance interpretation from "Grease," a "Copacabana" extravaganza and a dazzling 6-minute "Ultimate Disco" routine. The Jeff Kutash Dancers just closed an extended engagement at Harrahs Tahoe. Choreographer Jeff Kutash has another troupe currently headlining at the Chicago Plyaboy Club while a third group is currently on a 6-month tour of Australia.

is currently on a 6-month tour of Australia. The Jeff Kutash Dancers are featured weekly on NBC-TV's "Midnight Special," and have appeared on "The Merv Griffin Show;" "Danny Thomas Special;" "Dinah!" Mike Douglas Show;" "Phil Donahue;" "EveryDay;" "Hot City;" "American Bandstand;" "Soul Train;" and the "20th Anniversary Grammy Awards." Jeff Kutash just completed a starring role in "Family" with Kristy McNichol. The Jeff Kutash Dancers have performed internationally at the Rex Ballroom in Paris, the Byblos Hotel in St. Tropez, the Nichigeki Theatre in Tokyo and Mann Auditorium in Tel Avin NIE FOSTER



For the past few years music enthusiasts worldwide have unknowingly been applauding the efforts of keyboard specialist Ronnie Foster. As an integral member of George Benson's group, Ronnie was the "hidden" talent on such Benson hits at "This Masquerade", "The World Is A Ghetto" and "On Broadway". Now, with the release of his first Columbia LP Love Statellite, Foster is ready to let people hear what he sounds like playing and singing his own music.

Ronnie write all the material on Love Satellite and he has surrounded himself with some of the finest musicians available including

Roy Ayers, Alphonso Johnson, Byron Miller, Harvey Mason, Leon Ndugu Chancler, producer Jerry Peters on Keyboards and a special appearance by Stevie Wonder. But the emphasis is on Ronnie Foster the player, singer and composer, and he proves to be a master of mixed musical styles with an emphasis on melodic funk.