

MISSING THE BEAT

The death of a Washington, D.C. jazz radio station

By Todd Burroughs
Special to Sentinel Voice

WASHINGTON, D.C. — What happens when a jazz radio station dies? Does the ground quake and the sky fill with fire? Does the apocalypse come ever nearer?

No. Jazz in D.C. did not make the schools open on time this fall, or give the mayor and the City Council back their control over the city, or even fix the city's now infamous potholes.

It didn't solve the race — or poverty, or sex, or class problem, and it didn't give the city the commuter tax it really needs.

But it didn't need to do all that.

All it needed to do was to exist; to be hot and cool; to let us feel at home with the continuum of our history and culture as African Americans.

It did. And it was great.

Pacifica here plays jazz, too. But there's a difference between a radio station that plays jazz and a jazz radio station.

A jazz radio station has sexy female voices telling you the history of a cut, or knowing that they could at the drop of a dime. It's quiet. It gives you time to think and dream. You begin to start seeing Monk and Ellington in front of you. You become part of that crowd you hear on that record, clapping and cheering.

And then you go to bed, secure in the knowledge that when you wake up, it will be there for you to feel it all over again.

Brian Lamb, owner of C-SPAN, the corporation that bought the station, said in a local NPR interview last August that, "We didn't buy a jazz station, we bought a frequency."

Well, that's not how I see it, Mr. Lamb. Where once we saw a quiet, comfortable black, now we are blinded by the white.

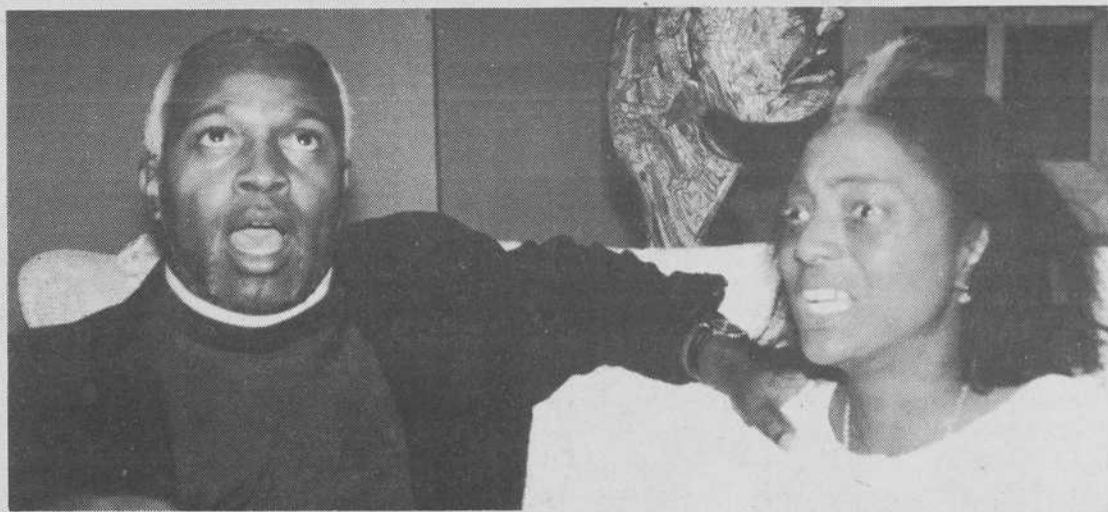
In 1997 in the District of Columbia, black culture has now been replaced by coverage of more "white men talking." An omen of the future?

The world hasn't stopped spinning, but our own space has now become saddeningly different. Somewhat empty.

That's what happens when a jazz radio station dies.

R.I.P., 90.1 WDCU-FM, a.k.a. "Jazz 90." And shame, shame, shame on the University of the District of Columbia for putting it on the auction block.

Todd Burroughs is a Journalism doctoral student at the University of Maryland at College Park.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Platinum Productions will produce a "haunting" play tonight at the West Las Vegas Library Theater.

WLV Library Theater hosts "The Haunting"

By Nyla Pickett
Special to Sentinel-Voice

With Halloween around the corner, conversation often switches from family values to Addams Family values, characterized by ghoulish deeds, devilish happenings and horrific creatures.

Oscar Robinson and Platinum Productions plan to bring Addams Family values to the premiere of "The Haunting" 8 p.m. tonight at the West Las Vegas Library Theater, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

The show will continue with 8 p.m. showings on Oct. 24-25 and 30 and Nov. 1. A Sunday matinee performance will take place Nov. 2 at 3 p.m.

According to Robinson, the show's producer/director, "The Haunting" is a chilling story of a family haunted by demons and torn apart by horrendous family secrets.

The curtain opens with HESSIE, played by Debbie Williams, poised at the door with a shotgun, prepared to meet the demonic spirit that has possessed her granddaughter Leda. Though HESSIE has enlisted the

Rev. Absalom (Earl Harrison) to ride the child of what she deems "a presence not of this world," we know from the first 10 minutes of dialogue that there is something far more evil at the root of the family's despair.

We learn that grandpa Lazarus is a depraved man whose treacherous past eats at him. The play takes place as Lazarus, like the rest of the family, is forced to face his demons.

Given such a taboo topic, Patrease Ashley, who plays the deeply disturbed 13-year-old Leda, says she had to recreate the pain she thought Leda felt. In doing so, it was easier to conjure up the feelings of rage, betrayal and confusion needed to make Leda real.

Platinum Productions will provide an open discussion following the performance to shed light on the issues examined in the play.

Tickets are \$10 and on sale at Sight and Sound Center, 811 W. Owens Ave. and Rob's Ribs, 1100 Martin Luther King Blvd.

For more information, contact Platinum Productions at 648-4417.

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**TRANSPORTATION
WORKSHOP NOTICE**

Resort Corridor Major Investment Study

Purpose of the Workshops:

The Regional Transportation Commission is presenting to the public the Resort Corridor Major Investment Study Evaluation Report. The study outlines four major solutions to help improve vehicle mobility in the Resort Corridor. These solutions include a fixed guideway system, expanded bus service, street and highway improvements and a transportation demand management system. RTC staff and their consultant team will be on hand to answer questions at the "open house" style workshops.

Study Area:

The Resort Corridor is generally described as the area bounded by Valley View Boulevard on the west, Maryland Parkway (and Eastern at some points) on the east, Washington Avenue on the north, and Windmill Lane on the south.

When and Where:

Wednesday, October 29, 4-7 p.m. at the Clark County Flamingo Library Theater, 1401 E. Flamingo

Saturday and Sunday, November 1 & 2, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Meadows Mall, 4300 Meadows Lane, first level in front of Sears

Saturday, November 8, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and Sunday, November 9, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Boulevard Mall, 3528 South Maryland Parkway, in the Disney Court

Transportation Fairs:

In addition to learning about the Resort Corridor Major Investment Study Evaluation Report, the public can find out more about other major Las Vegas Valley transportation projects at the two Transportation Fairs at the Meadows Mall (Nov. 1 & 2) and Boulevard Mall (Nov. 8 & 9). Projects on display will include the Las Vegas Beltway, US 95 and the Spaghetti Bowl.

For More Information:

Call the Resort Corridor MIS staff at 455-4481.

A Spanish-language interpreter will be on-site for the workshops. A sign language interpreter can be made available by contacting 455-4481, or TDD 455-5997, no later than five days prior to a workshop. The workshop locations are serviced by Citizens Area Transit. Call CAT-RIDE (228-7433) for route and schedule information.

