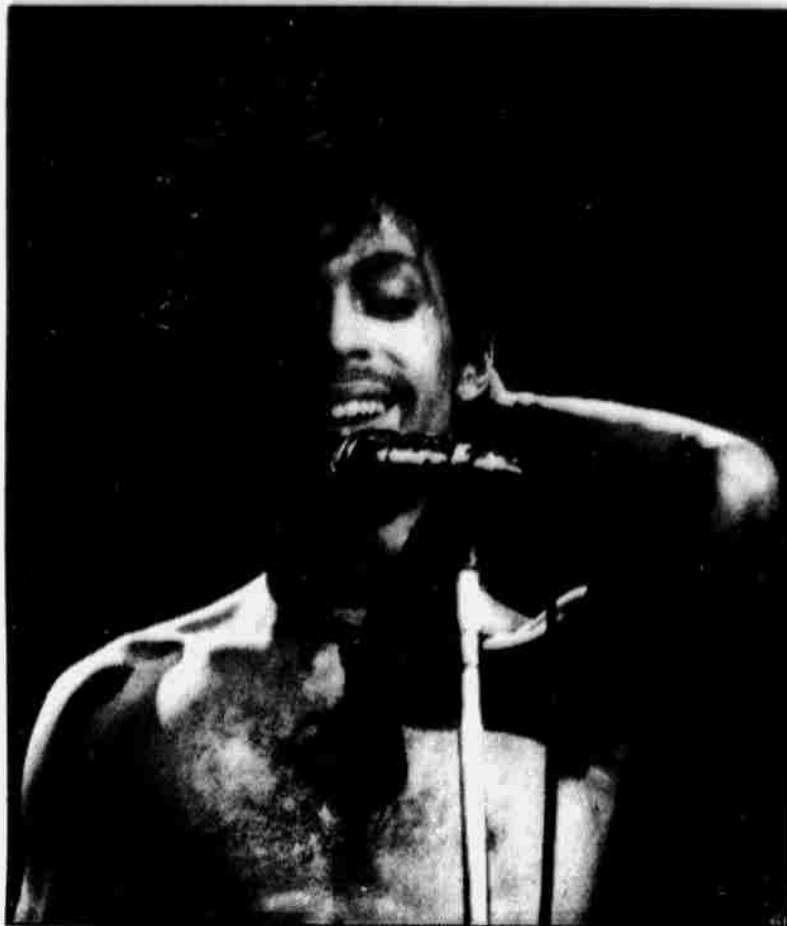


Arts & Entertainment

Prince prances to funky rock



Photos by D. Eric Kircher

By Pat Higgins

Prince is the great black hope to unite a fragmented audience in the same fashion that Sly or Hendrix did in days of yore. Prince is supposed to bring us together

Concert Review

because he mixes the forms of rock and funk, and his image is that of a rather ambiguous sexuality. Can Prince put together a following of black, white, straight and gay? Maybe.

Sunday night at the Civic Auditorium in Omaha, Prince combined his funk-rock sonic attack with some entertaining stage antics to knock out a crowd of about 7,000. The crowd was predominately black, which means Prince hasn't broken through here yet in the great frozen Midwest.

Prince started the show in a haze of purple smoke as he slid down a pole, making an entrance like a superhero. I've never heard girls scream like that at a show before. It was like Beatlemania.

The first song was "Uptown," and it set the tone for the evening's festivities. Prince sang in a creamy falsetto, alternating with spoken raps. The integrated five-piece band churned up a heavy synthesizer and guitar big-beat attack that recalled the most recent edition of the Talking Heads. In "Uptown," Prince confronted anyone's speculations by saying "Are you gay? No, is your mama?" to the crowd's delight.

The actual set, 10 songs counting encore, lasted an hour and a half and was undeniably impressive. First of all, Prince is one charismatic guy, and he gives 110 percent out there at all times. He could pass as the mutant offspring of a tryst between Mick Jagger and Jimi Hendrix as he plays many different roles, from guitar hero to romantic crooner to sex symbol. He is successful at all of them. It was enjoyable to see Prince switch from feedback and distortion to balladeer, without missing a beat.

Rather obvious was Prince's interest in sex. The song titles such as "Do Me" and "Jack U Off" indicate how blatant Prince is. However, he appears so sincere that he comes off as wholesomely dirty.

"I want to dedicate this to all the ladies in the audience" Prince said as he began "I Wanna Be Your Lover." The song was a big hit a year ago on AM radio, which is hard to believe if the lyrics have been heard by the power's that be.

Prince is a contender. If he gets any kind of airplay, he could pull off what Parliament - Funkadelic nearly did: bring the white and black audiences together.



Flamboyant rock showman Prince gives all the girls the eye at upper left; and treats his guitar neck to a quick spit-polish above.

Cityscape



The buffalo burger business is so good that Mark Frazier and his fiancée, Jodie Swanson, plan to open another Buffalo Deli this summer. Even during February, their worst month, the couple can pay the store's bills, Frazier said. And the store makes up for the slack season on football Saturdays.

"It's just a madhouse. There's a hundred people just sitting there on the curb eating buffalo," he said. "There's a big demand for it, as far as burgers and stuff."

Although literature in the store says buffalo is more

healthful than beef and more American — an American flag waves above the store's entrance — Frazier said that once they try the meat, they usually like it. And so Frazier foresees a booming business when, sometime in the future, he opens the buffalo steakhouse of his dreams.

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