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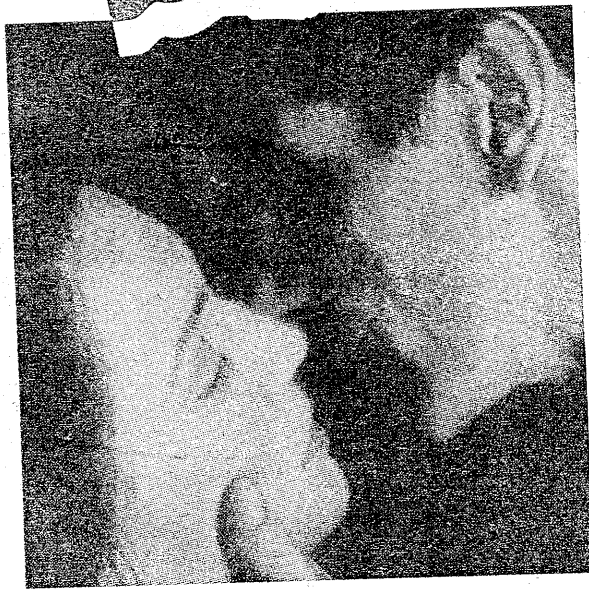
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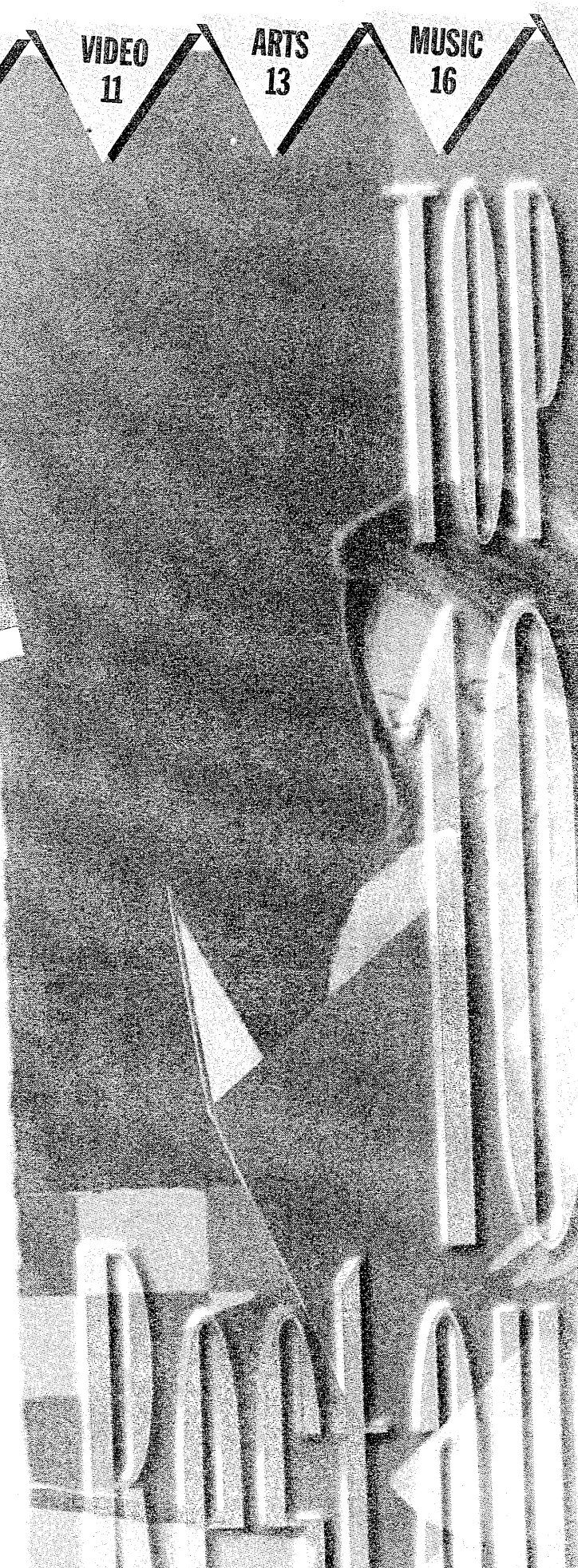
# GO!

JANUARY 28, 1994



**'M. Butterfly' never really takes off**

▲ 12



# Lovesick blues

## Snapper Mitchum follows heart, music to Dayton

Snapper Mitchum was a successful musician in Chicago, signed for a time to Alligator Records and served as the bassist and band leader for Son Seals. He also played bass behind blues notables such as Buddy Guy, Junior Wells, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, Koko Taylor and Muddy Waters.

Then Mitchum met a woman, fell in love and moved to Dayton.

### LOCAL NOTES

If that doesn't have the makings of a blues song, I don't know what does.

Mitchum tells his tale of woe on *Escapin' to Dayton*, one of the eight tracks on his

latest release, *Born in the Ghetto*, available locally on cassette and compact disc. The singer, who hosts a weekly blues jam at the Nite Owl in the Oregon Historic District, debuted his album at the club on Monday.

The set kicks off strong with the smokin' title track — a brisk number launched by a flurry of drum beats and frantic horns, cut through with a piercing, high-pitched guitar and Mitchum's tremulous, blues belter's wail. "I was born in the ghetto/ Been on welfare all my life," he shouts with the veracity of someone who's lived on some mighty mean streets.

Other highlights include *Love and Leave Me*, a growling, '60s-

### BLUES ★★★

#### Snapper and the Blues Invaders

BORN IN THE GHETTO

Family Man

■ To hear an excerpt from this recording, call 463-4636 and enter 2565

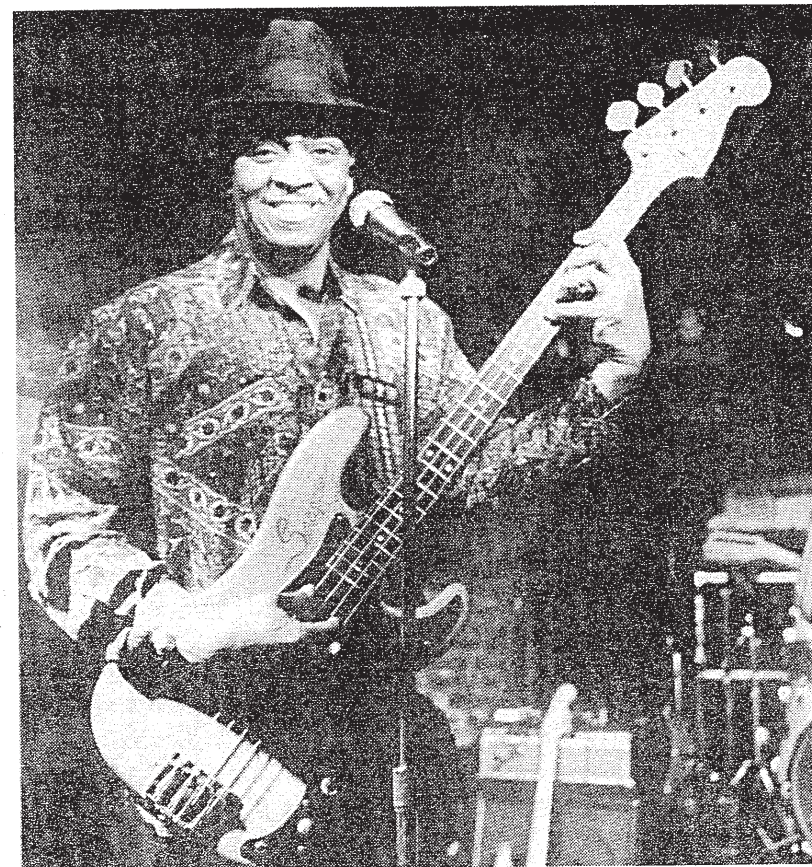
style slow blues original, and a lingering cover of Freddie King's *Have You Ever Loved a Woman*.

On the flip side — metaphorically speaking — there's *Big Leg Baby*, with its cliched lyric and chord progression, and an instrumental version of the title track that smacks of padding.

Backing Mitchum are three guitarists (**John Buedel**, **Gary Williams** and **William Tony Houston**), a keyboardist (**Larry Houston**), drummer (**Bob Thompson**) and horn section (saxophonist **Tumust Allison** and trumpeter **Dean Simms**).

Longtime stalwarts of the area blues scene, Snapper and the Blues Invaders deserve the Gem City's support. As Mitchum sings on *Escapin' to Dayton*: "If I can't make no money/ Lord knows I can't stay here."

— **DAVE LARSEN**, Pop Music Critic



Snapper Mitchum — touching upon the most bass-ic emotions