

Dizzy Gillespie excels with his music and patter

By KASEY COSTANTINI

The Community Concert Series in Troy is to be commended for its efforts in bringing to the public the likes of such talent as jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie.

The concert association kicked off its third season Friday evening. From the opening downbeat, Dizzy treats the audience to a musical journey that is energetic, yet filled with nostalgia.

Dizzy's greatness lies not only in his musical contributions, which have spanned some 40 years, but also in his ability to communicate with his audience.

His dizzy nature and his prattle add to the legend. When he announced that he had just celebrated his birthday (we calculate it was his 61st), the audience warmly came forth with a rendition of "Happy Birthday."

IT WAS A LOGICAL response to a

Review

man with whom we felt an immediate closeness. Of course, there is his music. Any jazz devotee already knows that Dizzy is an innovator in the development of bebop, a sound that revolutionized jazz.

Dizzy with his "bent-on-purpose" trumpet, which projects his sound further up and out, neither sidesteps or deviates from the music he played back in the late '40s along with Charlie ("Bird") Parker.

Dizzy combines his talent with that of several other fine musicians. Together they weave a musical happening, with each participant adding his own special spark to the compositions.

Ben Brown, who, Diz quips, "stays brown all year," is a superb bassist. He swings, he cooks, he is continuously creating sounds that enhance the likes of a Gillespie jazz classic, "A Night in Tunisia."

Blending in most aptly is a young guitarist from Kenya, Africa, who shows great talent and the promise of maturing into an outstanding musician in his own right.

Workhorse drummer Mickey Roker, like the other two, never falters the beat; he plays with the heart and the expertise of a man who has mastered his craft.

FINALLY we were charmed by a young local singer, Shewynne Wright, whose fresh, contemporary sound was most appealing. Her full-voiced offering of "Lover Man" was particularly well done, reminding us of the qualities of a young Nancy Wilson.

Cloudburst at Hurley's

Cloudburst, under the leadership of Don Rowland, is appearing through Saturday, Dec. 2, at Hurley's in the Northfield Hilton Inn, Troy.

The vocalists include up-and-coming Connie Taume as up-front female vocalist. Four male voices back her up

with harmonies and instrumentals, which are mostly disco and Top 40 tunes.

Leader Don Rowland is on bass guitar, John Huff on drums, Rick Ackley on keyboards and Mike Sevcik on guitar.

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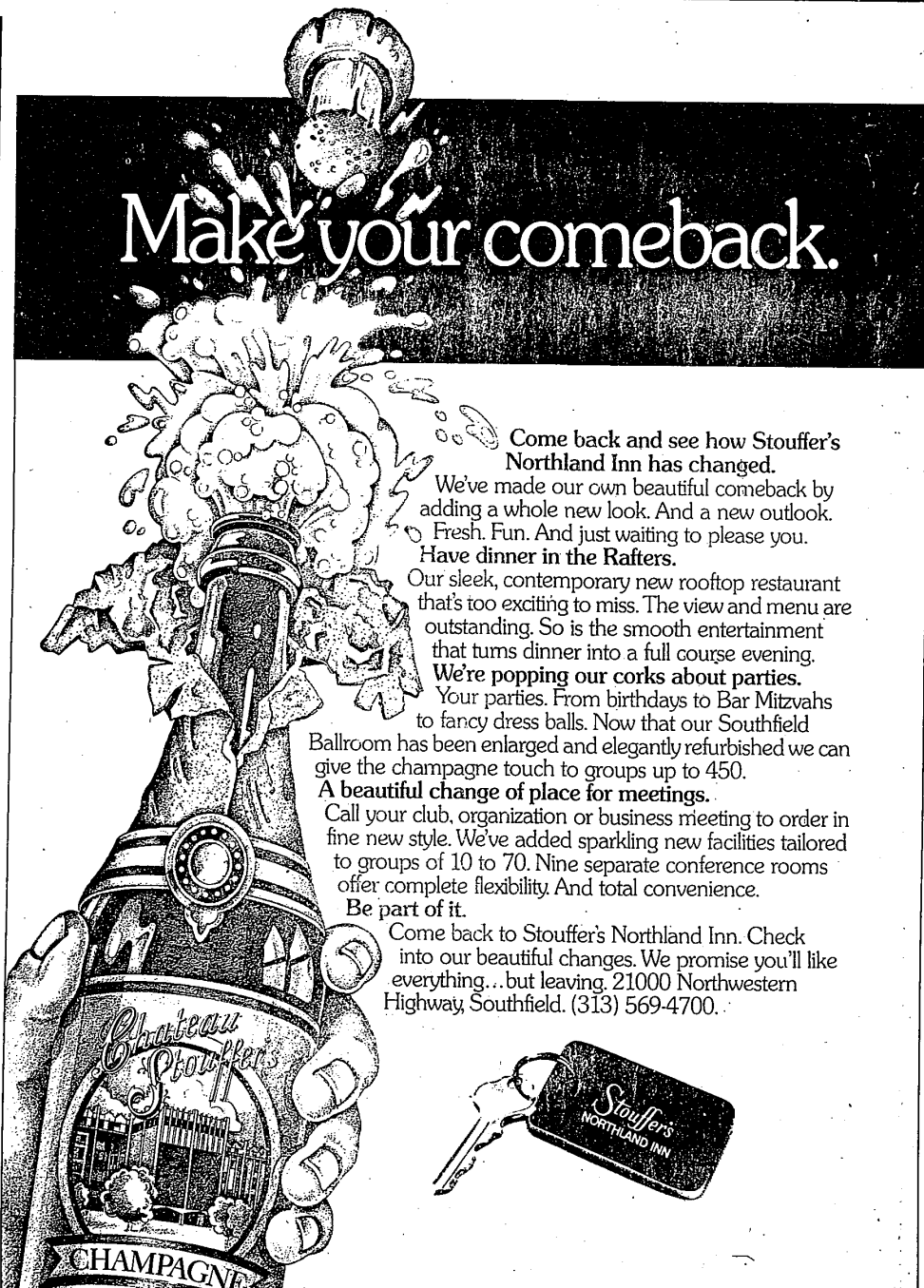
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