

Originally published in the
Yakima Herald-Republic on September 14, 1997

Yakima Herald-Republic a daily part of you

Oleta Adams up for R&B Grammy

The third time may be a charm for Miss Leta, but she's already "Moving On."

Local-girl-turned-rhythm-and-blues great Oleta Adams, who cut her teeth under the late Lee Farrell at Davis High School in the 1970s, received a third Grammy nomination last month for her third album, "Moving On" (Mercury, 1995).

Adams' 1990 debut, "Circle of One," sent three singles into the Top 20 pop charts and garnered Grammy nominations for "Get Here" and her cover of "Don't Let the Sun Go Down On Me."

The awards will be announced Feb. 26. Adams is nominated in the Best R&B Album category, up against Maxwell's "Urban Hang Suite," Curtis Mayfield's "New World Order," Me'Shell Ndegeocello's "Peace Beyond Passion" and "Words," by the Tony Rich Project.

But Adams, who lives in Kansas City with husband John Cushon, won't be holding her breath. In fact, "I don't even watch anymore," she said in a recent telephone interview. "At first it's so exciting, sitting next to Liza Minelli, Whitney Houston — all these people you heard on the radio."

Now, "It isn't important in the sense of really qualifying my talent," Adams said. "It's a politically motivated award."

Adams fondly recalls Yakima, especially what she called "brilliant Julliard training" under Farrell, who guided Adams' show-stopping lead in Davis High School's 1970 production of "Hello Dolly!"

"I love those hats — it was really wonderful," Adams said. "It's been a big change in my life since I lost Lee Farrell (who died from a stroke in 1993). She was a very important part of my life and my career."

"She was my good luck charm. She's always just sitting on my shoulder."



OLETA ADAMS
...Grammy nominee



**Hear
& Say**

**Matt
Cooper**

2-14-97

BIOGRAPHY-ADAMS, O