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they also resurrected the medium of the comedy album and brought it to a popularity and a power never before attained--even in its heyday in the early-to-mid-sixties before the medium fell on hard times.

Culturally, what is especially pertinent in their success is that it has been attained on their own terms--and with their own material. They haven't altered their jaundiced viewpoint one iota.. Irreverance and the common vernacular--common to a good hunk of the population--are the order of the day. While climbing the ladder of success, Cheech and Chong have seen the viewpoint of a large segment of the population catch up with them. Or nearly so.

Tommy Chong, son of an itinerant topless night club owner, was born in Edmonton, Alberta (Canada). The Chinese member of the group, he began his show business "career" as a guitar player in R&B bands around Western Canada. His group, Bobby Taylor and the Vancouvers, was discovered and signed to Motown by Berry Gordy. They had a hit written by Chong, "Does Your Mama Know About Me". Then the group broke up and Tommy settled in Vancouver to direct stage shows for the family-owned topless club.

Richard Marin, better known as "Cheech", (short for Cheecharrone--an affectionate term which literally means a delicacy made of deep-fried port skins) is the Mexican-American (or Chicano) member of the team.

He was born in the "better" section of Watts, (California)--ironically the son of the establishment: a Los Angeles policeman. He graduated from San Fernando College, then journeyed to Canada to see the sights. It was there, that Cheech & Chong joined forces as members of an improvisational group known as, City Lights. Said group consisted of three "freaks", four topless dancers and mime artist, and was patterned loosely after Chicago's and San Francisco's The Committee. The show was well received, and played to relatively packed houses for awhile.

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THE DEADLINE IS THIS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20.