

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

Boney James SEDUCTION



Seduction is so sexy, it could make Boney James a household name.

Not only does Boney James' Seduction confirm him as chairman of the board of contemporary jazz sax, it suggests he's chairman of the boudoir.

The modest Boney reserves his comments for the music, however.

"My producer Paul Brown and I write songs and I also collaborate with friends," Boney explains. "I pick the songs that I like best, then sit back and listen to what we have and then try to decide the vibe of the record. Somehow the songs that were most appealing to me this time turned out to be the sexy songs."

The appealing and sensual Se-

bone, James' Warner Bros. Records debut, and the buoyant Trust (originally released on Spindletop records and then later re-released on Warner Bros.). Backbone featured the bouncy "Trinidad," the sweet "Just Between Us" and the street-savvy "Bleecker Street," and climbed to Number 5 on Billboard's Contemporary Jazz chart. It also spent five weeks at Number 1 on Radio & Records' New Adult Contemporary chart. Trust yielded such hits as "Another Place, Another Time," "Kyoto" and Stevie Wonder's "Creepin'," and reached Number 2 on Radio & Records' NAC chart and Number 8 on Billboard's Contemporary Jazz chart.

When asked about his first three

solo efforts, Boney says, "Trust was about blindly entering into the solo artist's world; Backbone was about having the strength to persevere through adversity. Now, coming off a hit record, everything is beautiful, so we can just have sex."

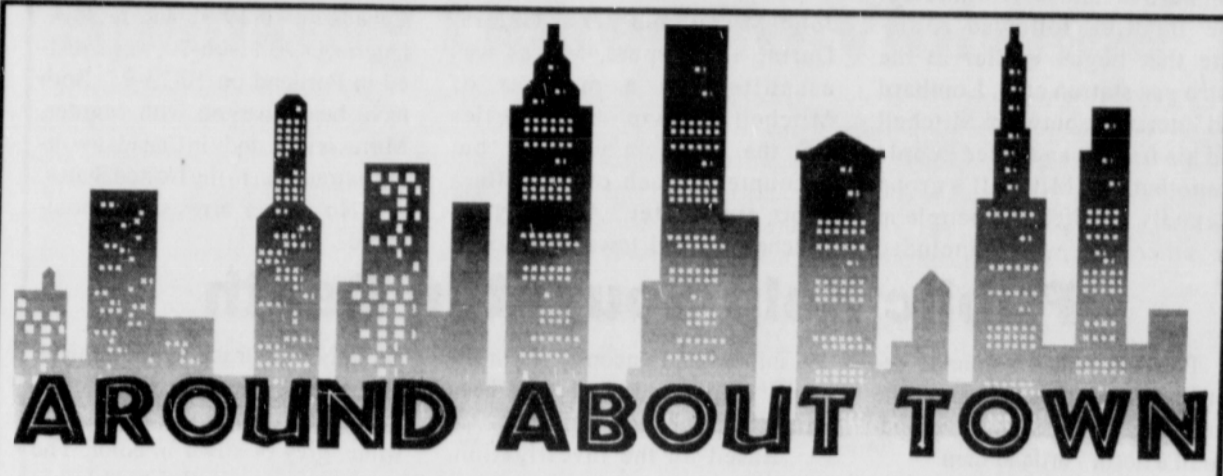
With Seduction, Boney eases into an endless reservoir of laid-back mood and style—with a new depth and maturity evident on every cut. The album blends gorgeous originals like "Lights Down Low" and "Seduction" with original interpretations of such soulful classics as "Sara Smile" and "Ain't No Sunshine."

The album also features a veritable Who's in contemporary music. Me'shell Ndege'Ocello plays bass on "Got It Goin' On"; Tony Maiden, the guitarist who powered Rufus, contributes to the sneaky "Camouflage"; and Bob James, a great pianist who Boney considers both friend and mentor, colors the atmospheric "Washington Bridge." Peter Erskine, Paul Jackson Jr. and Rick Braun also contribute their legendary artistry to the mix.

Boney was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, later moving to New Rochelle, New York. He first learned clarinet in elementary school and then graduated, grudgingly, to saxophone at the insistence of his music teacher. His parents move the family to L.A. in '75. ("They can't carry a tune, so I must be an aberration!" asserts Boney.) He kept up his music through a succession of bar bands and later a fusion band, Line One, that opened for such acts as Airto & Flora Purim and the Yellowjackets.

Prior to his solo career, Boney James also built a reputation as an in-demand session and tour musician, sculpting thematic on the tenor and alto sax, flute, clarinet and keyboards.

His versatility guaranteed him work with such acts as Morris Day, Ray Parker Jr., The Isley Brothers, Teena Marie and Randy Crawford. It also made it hard for him to take the plunge as a solo artist. It was up to chance to step in.



The Delta Mothers' Annual Breakfast

A beautiful and typical rainy day in Portland brought out the community in full force to the Delta Theta Sorority's annual Mothers' Waffle Breakfast. Delta Mother Anna Mae Lee started the affair 22 years ago.

About 500 hungry syrup pourers and fork lifters reacquainted their friendships during the Nov. 11 event.

Originally, the sorority obtained a control reader for handicapped children as a benefit of the breakfast. This year, the event raised \$2,000 for the sorority's scholarship fund.

Alene Grice directed the Del-tas and Mothers who seated their anxious guests. The generator breakdown caused some waiting, but nevermind, everyone was there to visit anyway.

President June Kent, Clarine Smith, Alyce Robinson, and Frances Johns (birthday lady), were all smiles, suited with hard work and total commitment. The breakfast was held at the Urban League

of Portland Multicultural Senior Citizens Center on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Killingsworth.

Jean and Ernest Hartgoz were seen beaming along with son, Danny, over the birth of their newest granddaughter "Danielle." Sharon, Jennifer, Samantha and Nicole were as proud as mother Brenda, in St. Vincent Hospital, who began to revisit the motherhood process. Grandfather Bill Council, former administrative assistant of the Portland Observer, was there with all of his grandchildren, Conrad, Ramon, Mario and Andrea, explaining this was his third time around for parenting grandchildren. However, his workload doesn't prevent his involvement in community activities - most recent project is the Lutheran Inner City Strategic Conference,



By Cora Smith

which is a outcome of the Million Man March in Washington, D.C.

Rosemary Harris, former Delta's Mothers' Coordinator, was busily serving as well as Leslie Houston, and Lolita Darby.

Politics as usual - a visitation to the neighborhood starred Grey Panthers Advocate and Congressman Ron Wyden who is seeking endorsement of the U.S. Senate seat recently vacated by the "kisser" Robert Packwood.

As usual the breakfast was a fabulous success and was filled with the spirit of community. Throughout the years many students in the northwest have benefited from this waffle event!

And that's the way it was 'round about town in the community.

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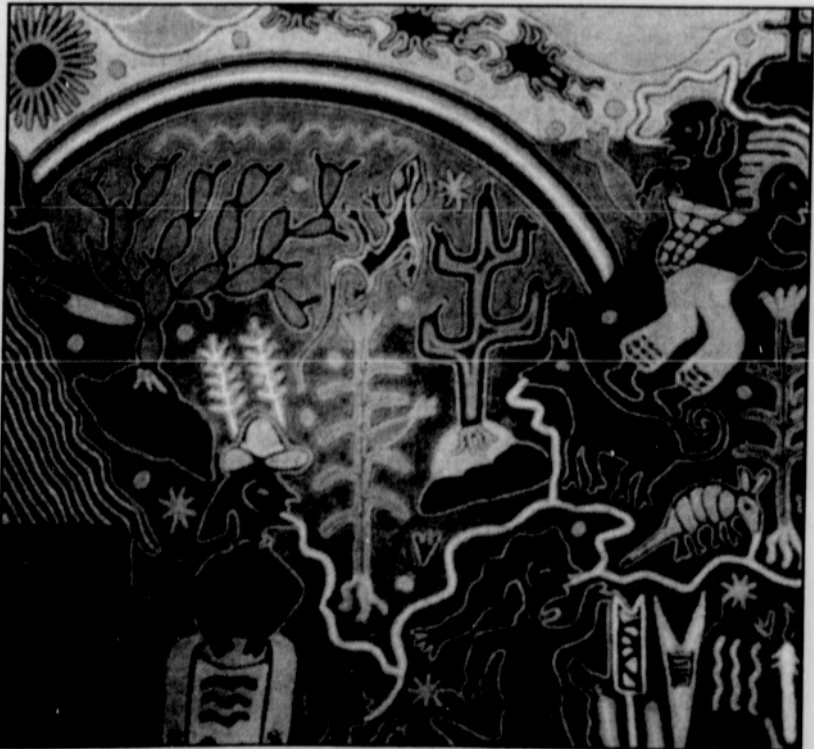
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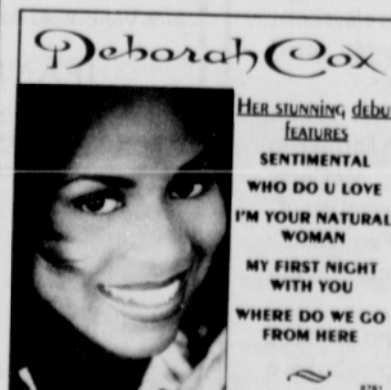
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TAKE A DIP

DEBORAH COX

At age 21, it's Deborah Cox's turn to stand in the spotlight. The Toronto-bred songstress was exposed to an electric mix of Jazz, Reggae, R&B and Pop music from birth, and began singing at the age of five. Her debut features production from Babyface, Dallas Austin (TLC, Madnna) and Vincent Herbert (Toni Braxton).



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