

## Music

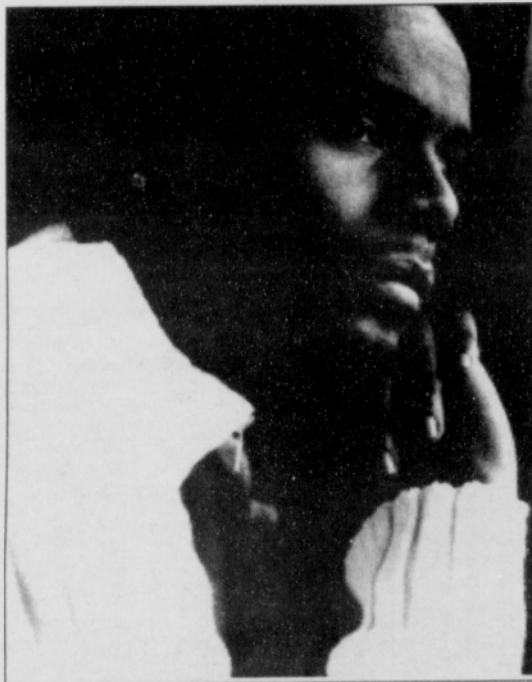
### Carl Thomas

CONTRIBUTED STORY  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Continuing to expand its frontiers, Bad Boy Entertainment had just released *Emotional*, the soul-soaked debut by its first male solo artist, Carl Thomas. The album's first single, "I Wish," penetrated radio airwaves March 6<sup>th</sup> and was successful in not only reaching the No. 1 spot on radio play lists in New York and Chicago but also generating substantial heat with heavy airplay in five major cities (Houston, TX; Atlanta, GA; Washington, DC; Richmond, VA; Philadelphia, PA). Due to the incredible response of "I Wish," Bad Boy Entertainment pushed the release date of *Emotional* forward to accommodate the overwhelming demand.

"A brilliant vocalist and performer, Carl Thomas represents the first-rate talent Bad Boy continues to bring its fans," explains Bad Boy CEO/founder Sean "Puffy" Combs. "This album will amaze music enthusiasts by bringing back sultry ballads and old-school soul. We know listeners will appreciate his music from the first note to the last beat."

The Chicago-native caught the ears of Bad Boy's Sean "Puffy" Combs while winning over a skeptical New York crowd at a late-night open mike session in 1997. After signing with Bad Boy, Carl Thomas hit the road with the Puff Daddy and the Family World tour while also writing ballads for folks like Johnny Gill, Faith Hill and Ideal. Carl Thomas next turned his attention to composing and producing *Emotional*, establishing himself as Bad Boy's newest triple threat. All cuts, except two on the classic soul debut disc, are the work of Thomas. "I go through lots of phases as a writer," says Thomas. "My past experiences have taught me to appreciate the beauty



Carl Thomas' new album, *Emotional* has been a chart-topping success since its initial debut with the single, "I Wish".

and mystery in relationships. That's why my whole album is about romance."

*Emotional's* smooth grooves and suave vocals are a testament to the time-honored traditions of soul icons like Donny Hathaway, Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder. In addition to the lush balladry of "I Wish," *Emotional* showcases melodic swayers and mid-tempo bouncers such as "My Valentine," "Lady Lay Your Body," "Cold Cold War" and "Giving You All My Love."

The album was recorded in New York and co-produced by some of today's most talented studio stars—including Heavy D., Harve "Joe Hooker" Pierre, Nashiem Myric, Deric "D-Dot" Angelettie, Rashad Smith, Gordon Chambers and Mike City.

Since its premiere on March 8, the music video for the single "I Wish" has reached double-digit rotation on BET and The Box (Box #402).

### Reengineering from page 3

John Gray, PhD, author of the popular "Men Are From Mars..." books. He has also been featured on Larry King Live, Good Morning America, BET, and can be heard locally on May 12 at 9 am. on KBOO 90.7 fm.

Limited seating is available for the May 18 seminar, which is being held at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE. MLK Blvd. The seminar will run from 9 am. to 5 pm. with registration beginning at 8 am.

Tickets are available at Fred Meyer Fastixx 503/224-TIXX or 1-800-992-TIXX or by calling Quality Results International (QRI) at 503/241-9200. Group rates are available. Buy three tickets and get one free. Full time students can receive a 50% discount, and affordable plans are available upon request by calling QRI. Visit their website at [www.ipns.com/qualityresults](http://www.ipns.com/qualityresults).

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