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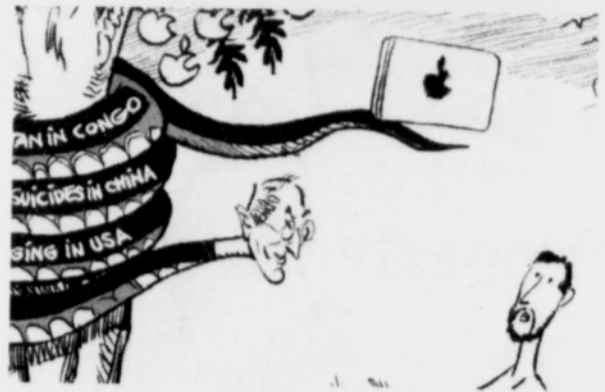
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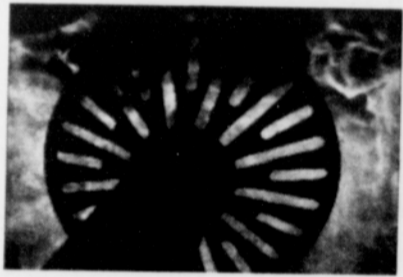
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Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS

Hall of Fame for the 'Boogie Cat'

Favorite local bluesman Norman Sylvester honored

The Oregon Music Hall of Fame has named Portland bluesman Norman Sylvester to its Hall of Fame.

Sylvester, also known as the Boogie Cat, and his band, has been together since 1984, delivering good-time original blues music around the northwest at both clubs and festivals.

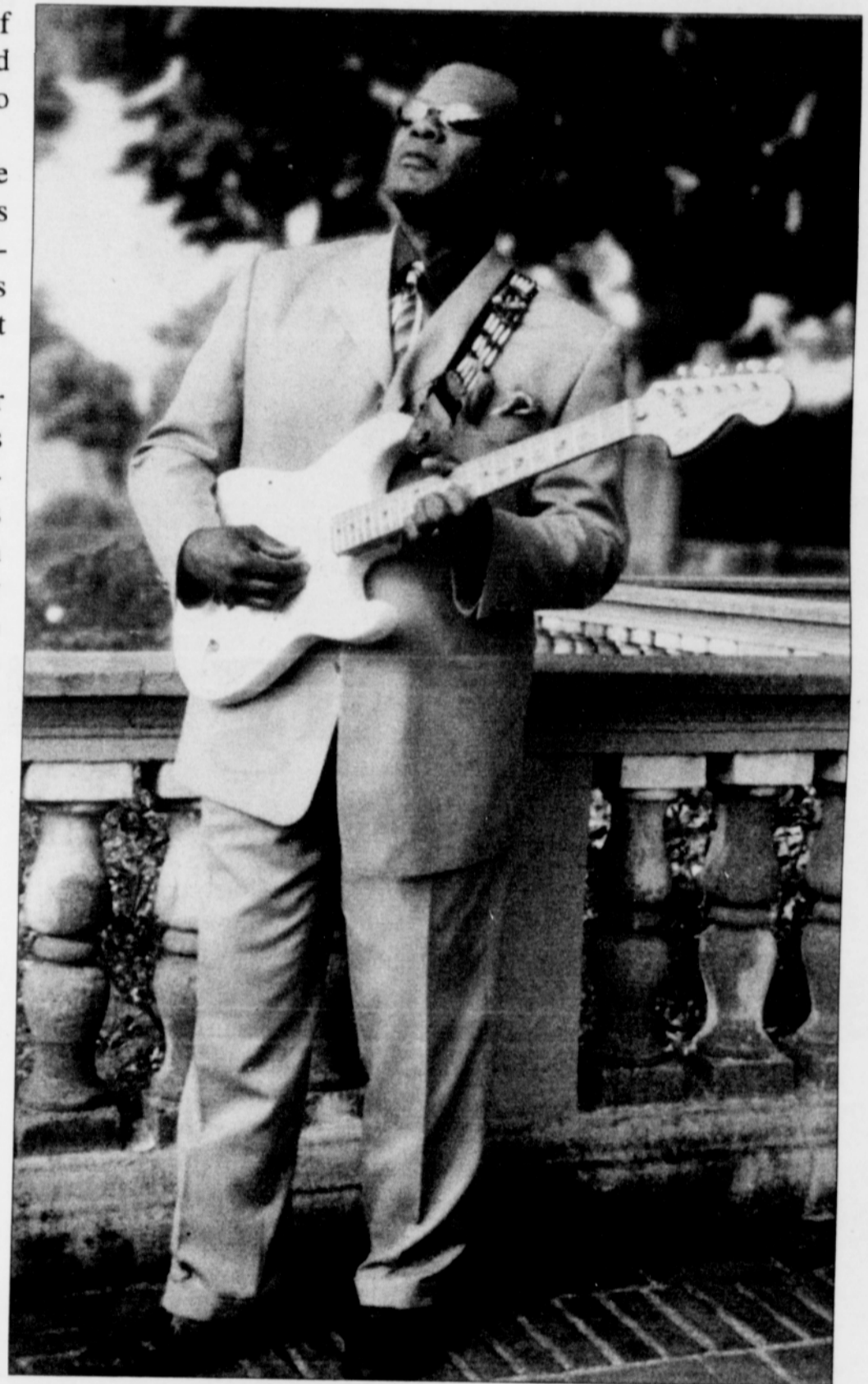
He has been featured on over a dozen records, including on his own Boogie Cat Productions label and the Rose City Blues Festival album. He has also been a great supporter of community projects and events, where he and his band help spread goodwill through their music. He's also a winner of several Cascade Blues Association Muddy Awards, including the Back What You Believe In award.

Sylvester's professional career stretches back to 1963. Since he first began to perform both in church and commercial venues with his friend and guitar teacher Isaac Scott, he has constantly honed his guitar playing, singing and song writing skills.

Sylvester formed the band Rated-X in 1969 and released one single. By the late 70s, he had sat in with Buddy Guy and Albert Collins, both of whom encouraged him to devote himself to a full time career in music.

Born in Bonita, Louisiana in 1945, Sylvester's earliest musical influence came from hearing gospel singing in church and blues sung by itinerant performers in the community.

He grew up hearing and learning to love the blues of Albert King, Freddie King, Muddy Waters, Bobby Bland, Little Milton, B. B. King and Albert Collins, as well as the great soul singers Sam Cooke, Johnny Taylor, Tyrone Davis, and Otis Redding along with more modern funk of James Brown, Sly Stone, Parliament, Lakeside, the Gap Band, Johnny Watson, Z.Z.



'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester will be inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame.

Hill and Bobby Rush.

As Sylvester grew as a musician, he came to have a clear vision of what his band should sound like. He is committed to playing music that can only be defined as blues, but not limited to any particular narrow style defined by purists, always incorporating his own wide range of influences.

To Sylvester's way of thinking, being part of the blues tradition requires obtaining a deep understanding and appreciation for the previous and contemporary blues masters, and then adding his own contribution to

the always evolving art form.

His gift for coming up with an original melody and a strong rhythmic groove is coupled with a knack for putting into words ideas that many people share but few can express. While some of his numbers are strictly dance floor celebrations, most of his songs examine personal relationships; love and loss; studies of social and political issues and the ways individuals can strive to bring about change.

The Oregon Music Hall of Fame award ceremony is scheduled for Oct. 8 at the Newmark Theatre, downtown.