

Sean "Puffy" Combs: artist of the year

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Collegian staff

The snow is falling (and falling). The twinkle lights have been strung. The end of the year is quickly approaching. Looking back at the musical smorgasbord that was 1997, very little truly stands out. As always, there were a plethora of catchy tunes by various "one-hit wonders". Who can forget addictive toe-tappers like "Fly" by Sugar Ray, "Tubthumping" by Chumbawamba, and "Mmm Bop" by the brothers Hanson, all of which took turns ruling this year's pop airwaves? Matchbox 20 revived the power ballad with the soulful, yet sappy "Push," and the spright and curvaceous Spice Girls invaded the U.S. with their chart-toppers "Wannabe" and "Say you'll be there."

Many oldies-but-goodies made triumphant returns this year. The Rolling Stones made their usual three or four year reappearance with the album "Bridges to Babylon," accompanied with yet another wildly popular and extremely elaborate world tour. Bob Dylan rose from the proverbial ashes with his release "Time out of Mind," and like the Stones, decided to drag his withered bones on yet another tour. But the most improbable of all reunions was that of Fleetwood

Mac, the angst ridden, drug riddled, and problem laden quintet from the 1970's. Their latest release, "The Dance," is a seventeen track collection (thirteen classics, four new) culled from three live performances on a Burbank, CA, soundstage. The album, which debuted on the Billboard's album chart at number one, comes on the twentieth anniversary of "Rumours," arguably the bands best and most popular release.

That's all well and good, but when

dancing in various music videos, promoting hip-hop concerts, and producing acts for Uptown Records. He soon became the A & R rep for Uptown, while producing double-platinum albums for Mary J. Blige, including her debut "What's the 411?"

After being released by Uptown, Puffy took his act to the high-bidding Arista Records' distributing team in late 1993, who are rumored to have paid an estimated \$75 million for Combs to establish his

remixing a variety of tracks for artists like New Edition, KRS-One, Mariah Carey, and Lil' Kim. At the same time, he also introduced R & B artists like 112, Faith Evans, and Total.

In early 1997, Puffy stepped aside from the production room and went in front of the mic for the first time as the prominent MC on an album. In "Can't Nobody Hold Me Down," his duet with Mase, Puffy adds his thin, monotone voice over Grandmaster Flash's classic beat from "The Message." The single went double-platinum, and maintained the number one spot on Billboard's top singles for twelve weeks. Following the tragic death of The Notorious B.I.G. in March, and his posthumous multi-platinum release "Life After Death," Puffy put together a tribute song to his friend over the Police track "Every Breath You Take" to once again top the charts. "I'll Be Missing You," featuring Faith Evans and 112, was number one on five Billboard charts, and was certified triple platinum.

Just before midnight on July 22, the Virgin Megastore in Times Square, New York was gridlocked with estimated crowd of over 3,000 fans all waiting for Puffy's much anticipated solo release "No Way Out." The album was executive produced by the late Notorious B.I.G. and features several guest

appearances including Lil' Kim, Bad Boy recording artists Faith Evans, 112, The Lox, and Mase, among others. The album debuted at number one, and has been a permanent fixture on the charts ever since.

The success of "No Way Out" was followed by Bad Boy's release of "Harlem World," the debut album from the Puffy protege Mase, that spawned the hit single "Feels So Good," which features vocals by Puffy.

And if all of that wasn't enough to solidify Mr. Combs as the best artist of 1997, he also completed a remix of the 1979 Police hit "Roxanne" which was featured on the recently released Police Greatest Hits compilation, produced the track "Honey" on Mariah Carey's newest album, as well as a song on Boyz II Men's latest album "Evolution," and won two MTV video awards for "Best R & B Video" ("Can't Nobody Hold Me Down") and the "Viewers' Choice" award ("I'll Be Missing You").

With an album currently making waves and a roster full of chart-topping artists, Combs is unquestionably the boss of the candy store. Congratulations Sean "Puffy" Combs for being the Collegian's 1997 Artist of the Year.

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historians look back at the musical scene of 1997, it will be known as the year of Bad Boy Entertainment, and its founder, producer, performer, and CEO Sean "Puffy" Combs. As hip hop's jack-of-all-trades, there are a lot of superlatives that could be used to describe Puffy. Most accurate, however, might be the term "renaissance man." Combs has established himself as one of the biggest names in hip-hop, as well as redefining the rap culture of the 1990's.

Before pursuing a career as a vocalist, Puffy made his name by

own record label. He then created Bad Boy Entertainment.

During the spring of 1994, Bad Boy began promoting the single "Flava in Ya Ear" by Craig Mack from his album "Project: Funk Da World" which was wildly successful. 1994 also brought the debut of Bad Boy's most influential and successful artist, The Notorious B.I.G., and his debut album "Ready to Die," both of which took the young label to new heights.

Following the platinum success of The Notorious B.I.G. and Craig Mack, Combs began producing and

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Writer for the Collegian

Behrend concert choir performs winter concert

by John Groller
news layout editor

The Behrend Concert Choir, as well as the Gospel Choir, performed their winter concert on Sunday at 3:00 in the Reed Commons Building. Under the leadership of Steve Skinner, the choir's new director, a very impressive adaptation was made. With nearly 200 spectators

I thought it went well. I was happy with the performance... It was better than I expected.

Lacy Heitmann
Choir President, Psychology, 07

braving the inclement weather, the concert choir performed twelve songs, including an "O Holy Night" trio by Kira Griesbach, soprano; Patrick Kramer, baritone; and John Groller, bass. The musical pieces included: "Here We Come a Wassailing," "Past Three A Clock," featuring soloists Christy Taylor, soprano; Scott Moncrief, tenor; and Kramer, "O Magnum Mysterium," and "The Shepherds' Cradle Song." The Gospel Choir

then took the stage and proceeded to perform three pieces collectively entitled "Ultimate Praise."

During the second portion of the program, the concert choir performed "Lo How a Rose," in which the choir members were positioned around the room according to their respective vocal parts; thus providing for a resonating, rich sound. The next song, "Bring a Torch," was sung in a mixed formation followed by "Snow," which featured alto soloist Lisa Perrette. Next came the "O Holy Night" trio, followed by two closing numbers: "Deck the Halls" and "A Merry Christmas Song."

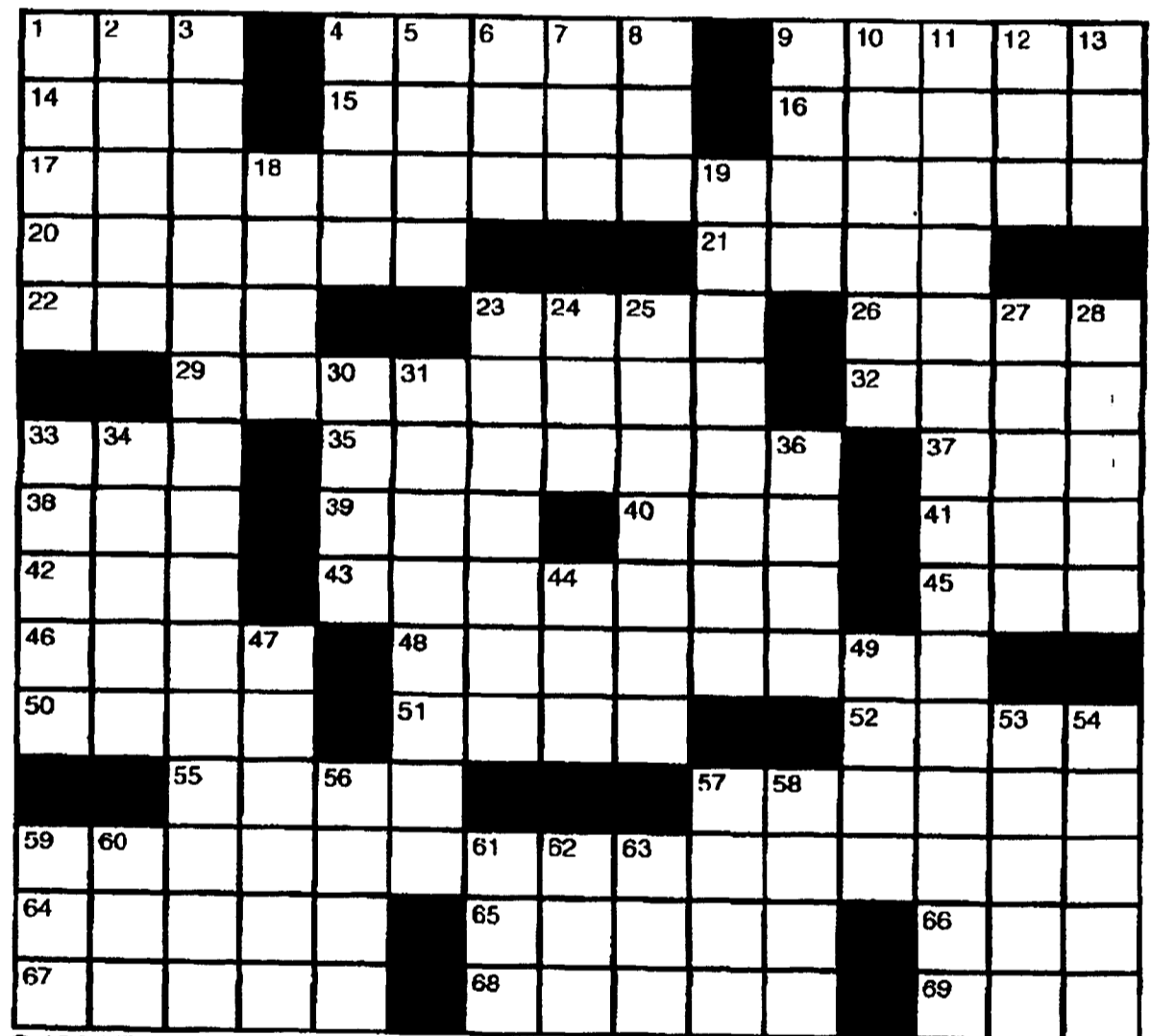
Following the concert, a reception was held, in which guests were offered cookies and punch.

Choir president Lacy Heitmann, PSY, 07, was pleased with the performance of the choir. "I thought it went well. I was happy with the performance. I was flyin' high afterwards. It was better than I expected."

Marley Stoner, History, 01, an audience member, commented that she "really enjoyed the concert. It's nice to see that Behrend has a good musical program."

- ACROSS**
- 1 La-la lead-in
 - 4 Business bldg.
 - 9 PLO's Ararat
 - 14 Shooters' grp.
 - 15 Remove soap
 - 16 Duck out
 - 17 Bribing
 - 20 Agent 99 on "Get Smart"
 - 21 Uncouth excuse me
 - 22 Chimney duct
 - 23 Polish border river
 - 26 Yiddish cash
 - 29 Notorious lover
 - 32 Historic stretches
 - 33 Phi-psi separator
 - 35 Exquisite
 - 37 New Deal agcy.
 - 38 Blocker of "Bonanza"
 - 39 Top off
 - 40 Jane or John
 - 41 Last of cash?
 - 42 Genetic letters
 - 43 Soon-to-be former car
 - 45 "___ Soffel"
 - 46 Suspicious
 - 48 Neither high nor low
 - 50 Letters
 - 51 Angry states
 - 52 Hautboy
 - 55 Bettor's figures
 - 57 Join the ranks
 - 59 Bank account choice
 - 64 Humble
 - 65 Rough weather
 - 66 Scrimp
 - 67 Dunderheads
 - 68 Frank of CNN
 - 69 Former Sov. unit

- DOWN**
- 1 Kind of switch
 - 2 Bay window
 - 3 Full of visions
 - 4 Toy-inventor Rubik
 - 5 Indication
 - 6 Explosive letters



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- 7 Cigar end
- 8 Opie's aunt
- 9 OK
- 10 Assert without proof
- 11 Eddie Cochran hit of 1958
- 12 Wedding vow
- 13 Ump's cohort
- 18 Inspiration
- 19 Persecution delusion
- 23 Poker openers
- 24 Man's best friend
- 25 The ones that got away
- 27 Two-time grand-slam winner of tennis

answers are on the next page

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- 53 Sty comments
- 54 Last one
- 56 Woad and anil
- 57 Simple plant
- 58 Sphere starter?
- 59 Hatterlike
- 60 Seller's \$\$ equivocation
- 61 Silly billy
- 62 66, e.g.
- 63 Canvases?

On average, more than half of a person's lifetime sun exposure occurs before age 18, and the damage is cumulative.

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