

Mary, Mary Quite Contrary

Seven Mary Three will perform at The Dixie Theatre tomorrow night

BY RHONDA REINHART
Staff writer

Seven Mary Three is speeding down a musical highway, and the band shows no signs of getting in the slow lane.

Since the group formed in 1992 at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, it has been on the musical fast track.

In 1994, Seven Mary Three released its debut album, Churn, on an independent label. The CD received extensive air play on a radio station in the band's hometown of Orlando, Flor., and by May 1995, the group had signed with Mammoth/Atlantic Records and released American Standard.

The album contained some re-recorded songs from Churn, including "Cumbersome," the song that would bring Seven Mary Three national recognition.

Just three years after Seven Mary Three formed, the band had a number one single on Billboard's rock chart. "Cumbersome" stayed at that position on the charts for five weeks and proved to be anything but

cumbersome for Seven Mary Three.

American Standard is not the band's only album to become a standard on American radio stations. Their second major label album, RockCrown, has held its share of the airwaves with singles like "Lucky" and the title track.

Lead singer Jason Ross said in a press release RockCrown is about the band's lives in the last two years.

"It's about four guys who have been together for around five years playing rock 'n' roll music and having a ball doing it," he said. "It's about a long, long road trip. Most of all, it's about holding it together with the only two things we really care about: love and luck."

The album was released in June 1997, and all but two of the songs were written in one of the many Days Inns that Seven Mary Three calls home while on the road.

Bass guitarist Casey Daniel said songwriting comes natural for the band.

"A lot of bands start out doing covers," he said. "But all we did was write and play our own music. We love to play. The more you play, the easier it becomes."

Daniel said having four contributing musicians fa-



Seven Mary Three

cilitates the songwriting process.

Ross writes the lyrics, and Daniel, drummer Giti Khalisa and guitarist Jason Pollock help write the music.

Such teamwork has garnered Seven Mary Three appearances on The Tonight Show With Jay Leno and Late Show With David Letterman. The band has also contributed a track to The Crow: City of Angels soundtrack.

Currently, Seven Mary Three is wrapping up a tour that has been going full-force since May. The tour has mostly been comprised of small to medium-sized venues, which Daniel said the band prefers.

"It's fun to have people right in front of you. Sweaty, hot, stinky places are great."

Seven Mary Three will make a stop in the city for a day night for a show at the Dixie Theatre. Said audiences can expect anything from cycles to monkeys on acid.

"It's the full-scale extravaganza," he said. "Every night. Craziness is all around."

And to continue its high-speed journey, releases, tours and TV appearances, Seven is scheduled to start recording a new album

Weekend Preview

Friday December 5

Texas Twister, a classic rock band, from Bryan-College Station is playing at Fitzwilly's at 8:30 p.m.

Seven Mary Three, a rock band from Virginia, is playing with the **Honeyrods** at Dixie Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

W.C. Clark, a blues musician, is playing at 3rd Floor Cantina at 8:30 p.m.

MSC Film Society presents *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, at 9:30 p.m. at Rudder Complex.

Chris Penney, a comedian who has appeared on Comedy Central, will be performing at Cafe Capri.

The Texas A&M Theater Arts Program presents, "Footfalls and Catastrophes," a play by Samuel Beckett at 8 p.m. in the Fallout Theater.

The Woodies, a rock band from B-CS, is playing at Crooked Path Alehouse at 9:30 p.m.



'magination Station, a local theatre company, presents its annual holiday production, "Miracle on 34th Street" at 7 p.m.

The Blue Note Allstars, a blues band, is playing at Blues Factory at 9:30 p.m.

Saturday December 6

Superband Wasteband, a rock band, from Bryan-College Station is playing at Fitzwilly's at 8:30 p.m.

MSC Film Society presents *Conspiracy Theory*, at 7 and 9:30 p.m. at Rudder Complex.

'magination Station presents its holiday production, "Miracle on 34th Street" at 7 p.m.

The Texas A&M Theater Arts Program presents "Footfalls and Catastrophes" at 8 p.m. in the Fallout Theater.

JACKSON

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As with all previous Jackson albums, the evolution of her music is astounding. Jackson is the only artist who leads her audience in new directions, as opposed to her audience telling her where they want to go.

Initially, fans of Jackson may not like the "new" Janet Jackson, since the album opens with the heavy bass of "Velvet Rope." But the later tracks of the CD reveal the lovably sexy Jackson lurking with such crowd-pleasing songs as "Together Again."

The Velvet Rope can be viewed as a window into the soul of Jackson. The initial tracks dissect the new incarnation of Janet in her piercings and sleek sexiness. As a listener goes deep-

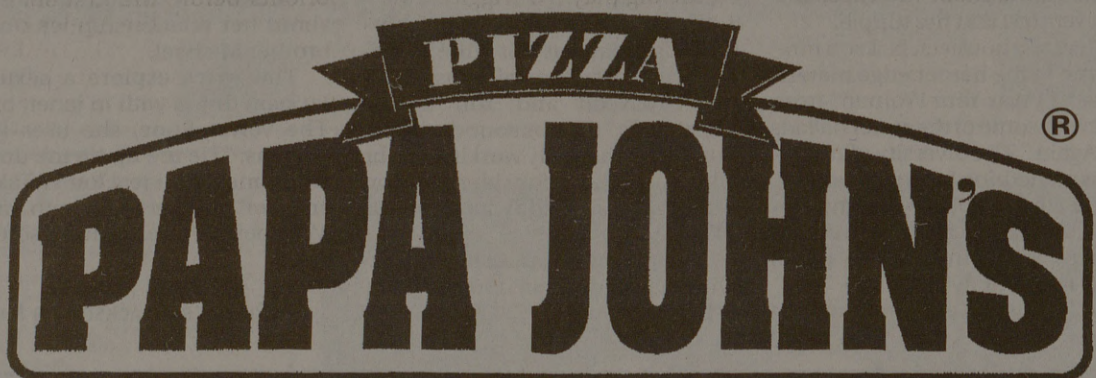
er into the album, the softness in Jackson is revealed, but that gentleness is even throughout *The Velvet Rope*. Listeners have to listen to the lyrics underneath and hip-hop beat to find it.

The album is not an instant classic like her Jackson albums, but this is due to the complexity of the music. The similarity to the album is the monotony of the beats. If listened to in one sitting, the album seems to be the same song, just repeated.

However, Jackson has come into the world as a sensitive poet with a steel-bladed edge.

Exciting as ever, Janet has returned with a new CD, a new look and a new perspective on her soul.

—By A



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