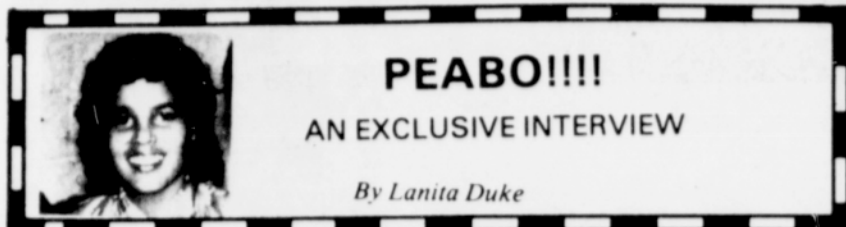


ENTERTAINMENT

HAPPENINGS

ENTERTAINMENT

Grassroot News, N.W. - In the category of male vocalists who bring romance back into contemporary love ballads, three names come to mind: Michael Henderson, Teddy Pendergrass and Peabo Bryson. Peabo recently bypassed Portland due to lack of advance ticket sales and performed in our sister city, Seattle. Grassroot News was there to obtain this exclusive interview.



PEABO!!!!
AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

By Lanita Duke

Peabo started gracing our turntables in 1977 with his timeless hit, "Crosswinds." His style is smooth and delivery is truly beyond Macho. He attributes the development of his talents to his upbringing. "I was born and bred a country boy. You tend to know who you are so you don't get confused when you're in a place where people worship idols and images. They're influenced more by that than by the true essence of people. Also coming from southern stock makes you appreciate people more because that's the way of life."

His evolution in the music industry has always been straight up. "My story is that of the traditional success story. From 0 to 1000 but not overnight. For



sixteen years I wanted to do what I'm doing now. I learned during my apprenticeship how to write and I'm expected to learn more. I do, however, believe that success is infinite. My success was gained through my development as I move through stages and hit various levels.

"I started out with a local band with regional success. I went from there to produce my first album with Bang Records which got the attention of Capital Records."

When a recording artist breaks into the market he or she is packaged. Grassroot News asked Peabo what he perceived his image to be. "Peabo doesn't have an image, he is. I don't need anyone building me up to be something I'm going to have to live up to. I'm myself. I'm normal and I like being normal."

Peabo responded to a question of what he relays through his talents. "There's a method to every madness. I try to put romance back into feeling and touching. We should mean what we do. The current civilization seems yearly to relax the moral standards which are in contrast to when I was coming up. You didn't even discuss sex with your girl. This relaxation is doing something you don't mean. My work is like a situation comedy, situation drama and its akin to being like a novel. It excerpts from my personal experience as I see them. If it's not true I don't write about it. My success shows me that people still believe in the truth and I've built a reputation on sincerity."

His talents also encompass male/female duets. His explanation of his latest hit, "Back Together Again" with Roberta Flack. "Roberta is someone whom I love. I never met a more giving person. She's what the public calls a 'Star.'"

Peabo's down-to-earthness is refreshing in a business where snobbery is a common attitude. But more so, Peabo is first and foremost a man. There are those male vocalist who are contrived or as feminine as the top female vocalist. Nothing can match the truth that illuminated from the talents of this artist as he builds a career on restoring love. According to Peabo, nothing matters more in life than caring and being cared for.



**THE DUNNING SISTERS:
SKYY HIGH!**

The three singing Dunning sisters in the hit group Skyy grew up in the Lafayette Gardens housing project in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant section, but they've not a bad word for their past. "In fact," says Skyy's middle sister Delores Dunning, "it was wonderful, it really was."

"At that time the projects weren't like they are now," says Skyy's Denise L. Dunning-Crawford, the eldest. "It was completely different."

"Our parents still live there," explains Skyy's Bonnie Bunning, "but it's changed so much from when we were ten, eleven and twelve it's amazing. When we were growing up everyone hung around together, and we used to skip rope with the boys. It was like a whole neighborhood."

"We moved there in 1962," says Skyy's Delores, "and it was brand new, and everybody that was there got to start this community. We became friends with all the kids in the buildings. They were brothers and sisters. It was really a nice community."

"After we got older, the handball court was the scene. One of the guys in the building used to sponsor tournaments. Everybody was involved."

Skyy's Bonnie explains the differences they see today. "It's a different morality now. We weren't allowed to hang out in the hallway at three or four in the morning. When we were sixteen or seventeen years old, my mother used to say that we should come upstairs before it gets dark. And if you wanted to stay outside, you had better call her and ask her permission."

"I don't know what it is now," Skyy's Bonnie laments. "I don't know if the parents don't care or can't control the kids. But back then when you had to be upstairs, you were upstairs."

"All the parents were like that," Skyy's Delores recalls. "If you were going to stay out, it was because somebody's mother was sitting out on the bench. As long as that mother was on the bench, it was fine. If not, you were upstairs, and that was it. And it was a whole lot nicer."

Skyy's girls wish families would go back to exerting discipline. "The parents were strict," Skyy's Denise concludes, "but you knew that they cared. And neighbors cared about each other, too. It's a good way to grow up."

Parade runs

The Stafflight Run will precede the Roco Festival Starlight Parade, June 6th, starting at 8:00 p.m. intersecting the parade route at NW Flanders and Broadway. The parade begins its flow at NW Flanders and Broadway once the runners have passed.



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