

## FOCUS

A SUPPLEMENT  
OFThe  
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submitted material:Articles: Friday by 5P.M.  
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1999 The Portland Observer

## Koffee Brown

## A Striking New Flavor of Soulful R&amp;B

Koffee Brown is a concept like no other in today's R&B, from art to music to film, most artistic outlets are currently succeeding off of unoriginal ideas that are as banal as they are recycled. But at least one new group stands high above the competition, making a mark in creativity and its entertainment merit. Koffee Brown's debut album Mars/Venus is a classic R&B moment. It explores the highs and lows of an intimate relationship from both a male and female point-of-view. With astonishing melodic composure, a unique lyrical style and undeniable musical grace, Koffee Brown con-

verses about relationship drama — often times trying to find solutions to their problems and other times knowing that some things are too difficult to work through. But despite the outcome of the situation, Vee's sultry vocals and Fonz's silky voice work so well with each other that even in the harshest moments, their togetherness is never questioned.

Koffee Brown is a blend of soulful R&B, mild funk rhythms along with minor hints of Gospel. The duo possesses coolly wandering melodies with exquisite midtempo arrangements that take your heart and

desires on a journey.

Koffee Brown was put together three years ago, and it took two years to record the album. They wanted to be precise about the music and the songs.

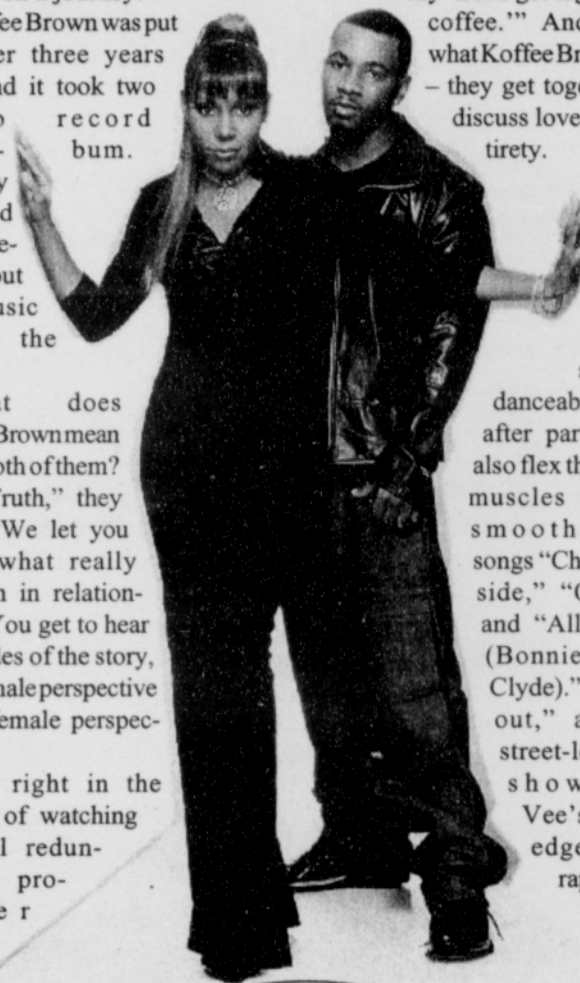
What does Koffee Brown mean to the both of them? "The Truth," they shout "We let you know what really goes on in relationships. You get to hear both sides of the story, from a male perspective and a female perspective."

And right in the middle of watching musical redundancy, producer Kaygee cre-

say "Let's get together for coffee." And that is what Koffee Brown does — they get together and discuss love in its entirety.

The album Mars/Venus contains the smooth,

danceable single after party. They also flex their vocal muscles on the smoothed-out songs "Chick on da side," "Qualify" and "All I Need (Bonnie and Clyde)." "Black-out," a rough street-love jam showcases Vee's harder edge; she raps on the track likea



Vee and Fonz sing about male/female relationships in their new CD called "Mars/Venus."

ated Koffee Brown. "I was watching videos one day and every R&B act was a solo

one. I was listening to what they were saying but something was missing. I thought, 'It would be dope if someone responded to what they were saying, like a conversation.' So that's when it hit me. When anyone needs to talk, no matter how big or small the conversation, they always

true veteran. And then there's the totally off-the-meter, red-light slow jam haters disease. Stories of

true love, creeping, cheating and getting back together gorgeously unfold throughout the album. Vee and Fonz possess an unheard tenderness that translates itself on their debut album Mars/Venus quite well. Ask Koffee Brown what they want most out of life and they'll both tell you straight up: to have the world feel our music.

Entertainment  
GuideThe Luv Jonz  
Every Thursday  
Evening

The Luv Jonz is Portland's Thursday night lounge which features live hip-hop/jazz by the David Parks Panic Project, live poetry and music d.j.'ed by O.G. One. This is for adults 25 and over only. No sneakers, jeans, baseball hats or athletic wear of any kind. The lounge is located at The House of Grooves, 13 NW. 13th &

Burnside in downtown.  
Ascending the Cosmic  
Mountain: Wednesday,  
March 14 – June 3

The Portland Art Museum, located at 1219 SW. Park Avenue will be offering an exhibition of a selection of Tibetan religious art and artifacts from Portland private collections. The event is part of the "Tibetan Arts and Culture Festival," which will run prior and concurrently to the Dalai Lama's visit in mid-May and includes Tibetan film,

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