

# FOCUS

## Reunited and Feeling Good

### Destiny's Child defies odds by regrouping

(AP) — Looking back at breakups of some of the great pop groups, the beginning of the end can often be traced to two words: "solo project." So when Beyonce - already the magnet of Destiny's Child - catapulted to superstardom last year with her triple-platinum, Grammy-winning solo debut, "Dangerously In Love," many predicted the demise of the best-selling girl group.

The trio is happy to prove the skeptics wrong. Though Beyonce's solo hits are still lingering on the charts and radio, Destiny's Child - Beyonce, Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams - have reunited for "Destiny Fulfilled," their first album in three years. With their new hit single, the sexy dance track "Lose My Breath," the women are picking up where they left off: on top of the charts.

While the album is being billed as a reunion, the women say they never stopped working as a unit - even during

Beyonce's breakout year.

Critics are still pondering why the group decided to regroup, given the diverging interests of each member. Rowland has had moderate success with acting and her own solo debut, 2002's "Simply Deep"; Williams released two gospel albums and starred in Broadway's "Aida."

There's no denying Destiny's Child's success. Since their 1997 debut, they became one of the best-selling girl groups of all time, racking up numerous hits from "Say My Name" to "Independent Women (Part II)" to "Bootylicious."

What's most clear now is their development into young women. On "Destiny Fulfilled," their earlier sexy-but-innocent tone has disappeared.

"It touches on a more sensual side of Destiny's Child because we never talked about that. Now that we're older, we're more comfortable with it," says Beyonce.

It's hard not to get the sense that somehow, the new album is a way to refocus attention on Rowland and Williams. But suggest that to the ladies, and you'll hear groans of aggravation.

"It's kind of frustrating because we always sang lead on every song since



Beyonce Knowles (from left) Michelle Williams and Kelly Rowland reunite as Destiny's Child. (AP Photo)

'Survivor,' but one of the reasons we wanted to do the solo records is for people to hear us all and know our voices," Beyonce says.

What is clear is the trio's strong friendship. Even if Beyonce's star has shone brightest, starring in several movies and dating rap superstar Jay-Z, one would be

hard-pressed to detect any jealousy or dissension.

Although a spring tour is in the works, Rowland is planning a March wedding to Dallas Cowboys star Roy Williams; Beyonce is planning another feature film; and Williams has a third gospel album due out around Christmas.

Even Beyonce hints that this may be their last album for a while: "I think after this record we're going to take some time to try and figure out what we're going to do."

However, she makes it clear that even if the group doesn't record another record, it won't be the end of the trio.

*It touches on a more sensual side of Destiny's Child.*

**-Beyonce Knowles on the new album, Destiny Fulfilled**

The Chris Dudley Foundation raised a whopping \$150,000 for children with diabetes at a recent celebrity fundraiser in Portland. Pictured from left are Blazers coach Maurice Cheeks, former NBA superstar Scottie Pippen, actress/comedian Kathy Griffin, Blazers guard Damon Stoudamire, Blazers center Theo Ratliff and host NBA veteran Chris Dudley.

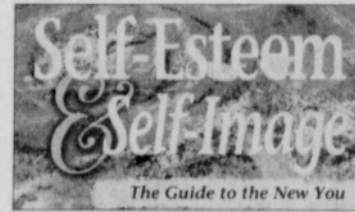


PHOTO COURTESY GREG WAHL

### The New You Author helps reinvent confidence

An African-American poet, author and motivational speaker has published "Self Esteem and Self Image: The Guide to the New You" a book to improve self-awareness and self-image among adults and youth.

Author Kisha M. Morris shows how to deal with daily stresses one situation at a time.



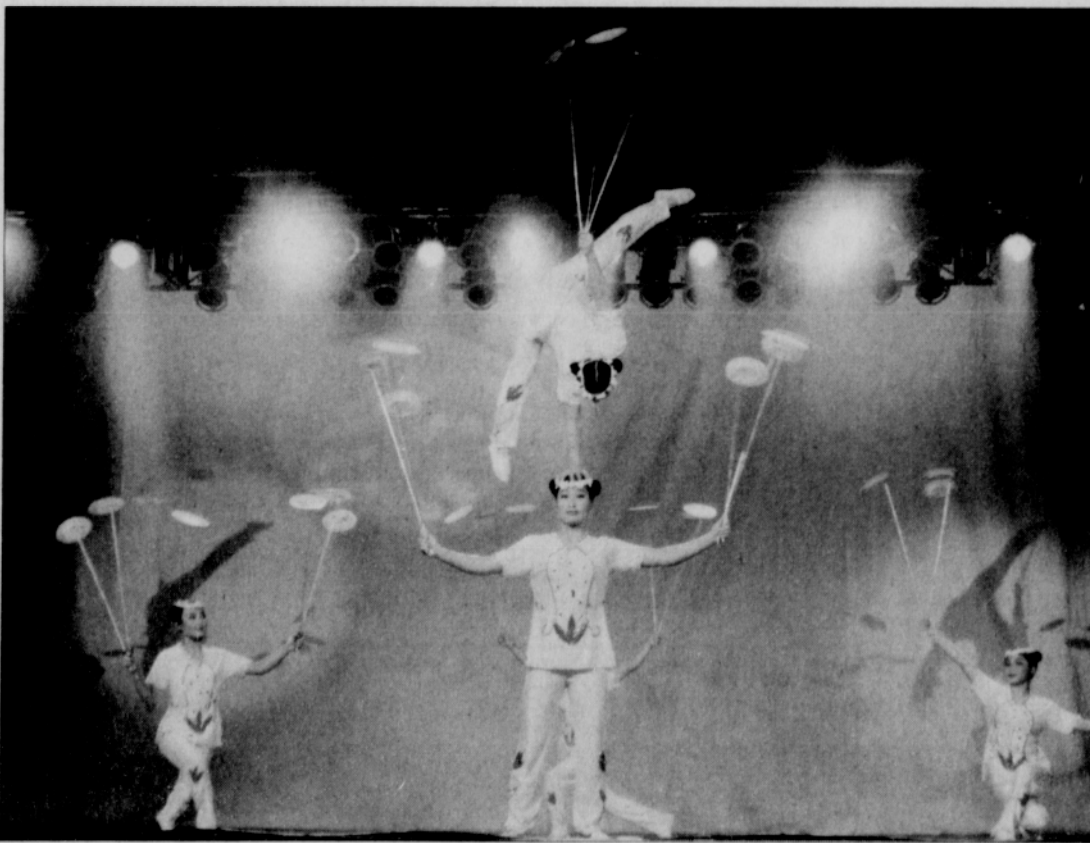
She helps readers start a daily journal and build self-esteem through writing about their life,

their work and even home environment.

Morris says if we focus more on our inner self than our outer self, then we will be able to live happier, more positive and productive lives.

For more information and to purchase a book, visit [www.kishammorris.com](http://www.kishammorris.com).

## Celebrities Help Diabetes Fight



The Peking Acrobats are a Chinese troupe of amazing gymnasts, jugglers, cyclists and tumblers.

### Peking Acrobats Amaze Audiences

#### Centuries old tradition alive at Chinook Winds

Peking Acrobats will awe audiences of all ages with their dexterity and agility in Chinook Winds Casino's Concerts By The Sea showroom in Lincoln City. This is an all ages show on Friday, Dec. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 11 beginning at 8 p.m.

The 26 member troupe is the largest of its kind and performs under the flawless direction and choreography of Hai Ken Tsai, whose family is steeped in three generations

of Chinese acrobatics.

Hailing from the People's Republic of China, members of the troupe have been seen on The Wayne Brady Show and in the movie "Ocean's Eleven." The troupe was also immortalized in the Guinness Book of World Record for Highest Human Chair Stack - six acrobats balanced themselves on a 21 foot stack of six chairs while simultaneously performing handstands and with no safety lines or guide wires.

Carefully selected from the finest acrobat schools in China, these gymnasts, jugglers, cyclists and tumblers transform 2000-year-old athletic disciplines into an all-ages

festival of entertainment and wonder. From as early as age five, the hand-selected performers commence mastering disciplines dating back to the Ch'in Dynasty (225-207 BC), a dynamic period when the acrobatic movements mirrored the pleasantries and struggles of daily life.

Tickets range from \$10 to \$20. For more information, or to obtain tickets, call Chinook Winds Casino Resort box office at 1-888-MAIN-ACT (624-6228) or Tickets West, 1-800-992-TIXX (8499).

Chinook Winds Casino Resort, on the beach in Lincoln City, is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

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January 14 & 15 • 8pm

Tickets \$35 to \$55

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