

Poetry Corner

By Jane Penn

"Sundays"

I thank God for Sundays
I can rest my tired body
evaluate my life
be with my family
and cease from all strife
There are many things that I can choose to do,
most of all Lord, Sundays are for you.

Jayne Penne'

"Let Me Be"

Walk away and let me see
all the brilliance of the world,
all the love in me.
Let me share in life's gifts
and add to its greatness.
Just walk away and let me live.

Jora H. Odom

Send your poems to Poetry Corner, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C., 27102. We are not responsible for returning submissions, and, because of the volume of mail received, there may be some delay in your poems appearing.

STARSCOPE

by Clare Annsweil

WEEK OF: SEPTEMBER 13, 1984

AQUARIUS - January 21-February 19

When it comes to advice, you're better at dispensing than at receiving. Stubborn friend becomes a little more flexible, but don't expect a complete about face.

PISCES - February 20-March 20

Intuition is not as sharp as you think - especially with regard to money matters. Writing is a present strength. Express your feelings and imagination through the written word.

ARIES - March 21-April 20

Information about friends is not as reliable as you may think. Loved one's generosity - timewise and moneywise - proves an unexpected pleasure through this period.

TAURUS - April 21-May 22

Some touchy matters at home or on the job require prompt attention. Communication difficulties may delay a trip or a plan. Budget and health require a careful review.

GEMINI - May 23-June 21

Optimism is your middle name and wins you admirers and supporters. Partnership arrangements can be favorably launched by Wednesday. Guarantees should be in writing.

CANCER - June 22-July 22

Career matter is stalemated, but carry on with present chores. Friend counts on you for support - likely regarding a romantic matter. Status at home improves.

LEO - July 23-August 22

Unexpected arrivals can lead to a social dilemma - and tact is all-important. Repair work requires prompt attention - but don't look for cut-rate assistance.

VIRGO - August 23-September 22

Spend time arranging priorities - particularly ones that relate to education and career path. Watch tendency to go to extremes - exaggerating, overestimating, etc.

LIBRA - September 23-October 22

One-time rival becomes a supporter. Beware of pranksters and practical jokers, especially toward the weekend. Home improvement plan is highlighted through this period.

SCORPIO - October 23-November 21

People from faraway places contact you for information or advice. Travel dream may begin to materialize. Relationship benefits from a lighter approach.

SAGITTARIUS - November 22-December 22

Behind the scenes, strings are being pulled that may affect your professional or academic future; be bright - and be natural. Romantic relationship perks up on weekend.

CAPRICORN - December 23-January 20

Good week for talking out a difficult problem, but choose your confidant with care. Financial dispute needs prompt and effective resolution; make this a priority item.

BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK

Wherever you go, you manage to learn something. The next four months should therefore be filled with knowledge - for travel appears on the horizon. Watch tendency to concern yourself with too many details while ignoring the larger concepts.

BORN THIS WEEK

September 13th, singer Mel Torme; 14th, actress Joey Heatherton; 15th, actress Margaret Lockwood; 16th, jazz great B.B. King; 17th, actor John Ritter; 18th, actor Robert Blake; 19th, actress Twiggy.

Broadway is my beat

From Page B6

they couldn't do anything for me. I just would not talk."

Jones broke his self-avowed silence when a teacher learned he wrote poetry and persuaded him to read it to the class.

"To my complete surprise I did not stutter," he says. "After that experience I was able to speak normally again."...

Teddy Pendergrass is resisting approaches from producers who want to translate his life story to the screen. He explains that, at this point, "I

don't want to put a movie about myself out there. Besides, I don't know the ending yet."

Even as it stands, it's a story of incredible courage and tenacity. His near-fatal accident of 1982 left the singer -- known as one of the top male sex symbols on the pop scene -- close to being completely paralyzed. But that hasn't stopped him. From his wheelchair, he's formed Teddy Bear Enterprises (a music publishing and management company), created the "Love

Language" Asylum LP that went into release last month, and supplied the title song and theme for the September-debuting "Choose Me" film, which stars Genevieve Bujold, Keith Carradine and Lesley Ann Warren.

And, through arduous physical therapy, he's already proved doctors wrong -- who predicted he would remain a quadriplegic -- by regaining use of his arms. In the last few months, he's been working on getting back control of his

fingers.

Right now Pendergrass is considering expanding his horizons into film production and music television. Making reference to the latter, and to his physical condition, he says "it wouldn't be absolutely necessary for me to be seen all the time on a video."

Pendergrass acknowledges the road back has been difficult and says, "there are a lot of problems that are hard to take." And he's taking it all in remarkably good fashion....

Spotlight

From Page B6

When only 12, he entered and won a school talent contest by singing Sam Cooke's "Another Saturday Night." He soon became a part of numerous local groups such as Al Freeman the The Upsetters -- singing, writing songs, playing keyboards. He then joined Moses Dillard and the Tex-town Display and, at 16, accompanied the band on gigs in Southeast Asia, the Caribbean and across America.

"Moses is responsible for the name Peabo," Bryson says. "My real first name is Pepo. It's a French West Indian name my father gave me but my family was in an uproar when he did that. They wanted a real name. You can't imagine the hassles and troubles I went through with a name like that. At home and with friends, they still call me Pepo. But for some reason Moses couldn't say Pepo and it came out Peabo. After eight years of him introducing me that way, I went with it."

After a couple of years in college, Bryson realized that music was his calling and dropped out to write and produce. He also began to record himself. His single "Underground Music" hit the Top 25 on the soul charts in 1976 and was followed by the album "Peabo" (Bang Records). The latter brought him to the attention of Capitol Records, which released "Reaching For The Sky" in 1978. With the help of the hit single "Feel The Fire," the LP became Bryson's first gold album. His next record, "Crosswinds," also went gold, topping the soul charts and crossing over into the pop Top 30 chart. "I'm So Into You" reached the top spot on the soul charts as a single.

"Every piece of music I've ever heard has somehow found its way into the grooves of my records," he says. "I remember watching Jackie Wilson turn a crowd to mush with a ballad and then into such a frenzy that people started getting hurt and yet he was in total control. I saw Sam Cooke moving his listeners from way down inside."

Bryson's heartfelt songs and heartwrenching voice were sensations. His albums "Paradise," "Live and More" (a double-album duet with Roberta Flack), "We're The Best Of Friends" (a team-up with Natalie Cole that yielded two more Top 10 soul hits), "Gimme Some Time" and "What You Won't Do For Love"; "Turn The Hands Of Time" (a compilation of never-released sessions of Peabo's early work), "I Am Love," "Don't Play With Fire" and "Born To Love" (again with Flack) bring us to the present and "Straight From The Heart," his first effort on Elektra.

"Having a new record company is the most wonderful surge of energy short of skydiving or going on a roller coaster," he says, "and I'm deathly afraid of heights so that tells you what kind of emotional step this is for me. This is a reward for all my hard work."

Bryson's trademark is his smooth-as-satin voice and his unique ability to convey true emotions in a romantic ballad.

"Romance is relationship, chance, blind faith, commitment, devotion," he says. "Of course, that perfect romance is at best hypothetical. In real life it's a tad bit different but you can capture some of the ambience and glamour. The pain comes from the fact that most of the time no two people fall in love at the same time. If you're lucky, you fall in love reasonably around the same period of time. But falling in love is a wonderful thing and, if it doesn't happen to you in life, it's sad."

But there's more to romance than sex, he adds. "Commitment used to mean commitment, not just until we find out it doesn't work or until it gets too difficult," he says. "I try to portray that it's surviving through suffering that makes a relationship work. It's not a perpetual state of utopia. There are peaks and valleys. That's what lovin' is. And some of the down time is falling out of love at different times."

For Bryson, "Straight From The Heart" is an important musical step forward. Though he is a consummate solo artist-producer, three of the album's tracks were written and produced by others.

"No one can accuse me of being stagnant," Bryson says. "There's been growth with each project. The danger comes when you compose and produce yourself. It's difficult to relinquish responsibility. But you can be your own worst enemy. You become a target for your own self-indulgence. Maturity comes when you're willing to take some of that weight off you."

Maturity is also managing to stay true to your devoted fans while at the same time appealing to new ones, he adds.

"Now I have a lot of older as well as younger white fans I've never had before," Bryson says, "people who like Duran Duran and people who like Benny Goodman. But I know there's still difficulty in associating the face with the voice."

Assuredly, the majority of his fans are women. "I have a large female following because of the words I use to describe my life," he says. "They like secrets and sharing secrets is a kind of camaraderie, a kind of relationship, too, a sharing. But my records are beginning to appeal to more and more men. I love my fans. They don't wear jeans to my concerts. They dress up. Maybe it's because I dress up. I like that. It makes the concert more of an event. I think, too, it's an unspoken respect I've built up over the years."

Obviously, following the current fashion is not Bryson's style. Well-dressed, well-mannered and gracious, he believes in living in Atlanta rather than New York or Los Angeles and is adamant about staying away from the usual vice found in show business.

"It's easier to keep my feet close to the ground here in Atlanta," he says. "This business can make you crazy. But I abstain from the usual frivolous behavior."

"I'm an enigma. It took the better part of my life to realize that I'm different. I'm an individual and that's freedom to me."

"If you're Bryson and black and see history as it was and all the

bloodshed and the hatred that's subsided and now you have the right to do anything you want, I'm not about to give that up to some controlled substance. We just stopped being led!"



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Yolonda

From Page B6

There are some sophisticated tests that can determine whether or not your problem is medical and, therefore, correctable.

Clipping Coupons Saves Money

Dear Yolonda: I don't have a gripe but I thought I'd write in to give your readers a helpful tip.

I'm an avid coupon-clipper. I go through several newspapers and magazines each week to find all the coupons I can. I've been doing this for approximately 12 years, and I can truly say that I save at least \$20 per month off my food bill, sometimes even more.

I believe that the people that don't bother to take the time to clip coupons are unaware of the money they could save.

It's a pity that more low- and middle-income people are unaware of the money that they could save with just a little effort. Please pass this on to your readers.

Mary Lee K.

Dear Mary Lee: Add me to that unaware group who avoided the task of coupon-clipping. But the results are unquestionable. I recently read that families with incomes of \$15,000 per year or more are more likely to be users of cents off coupons than families with incomes that fall under the \$15,000 mark. That tells me something.