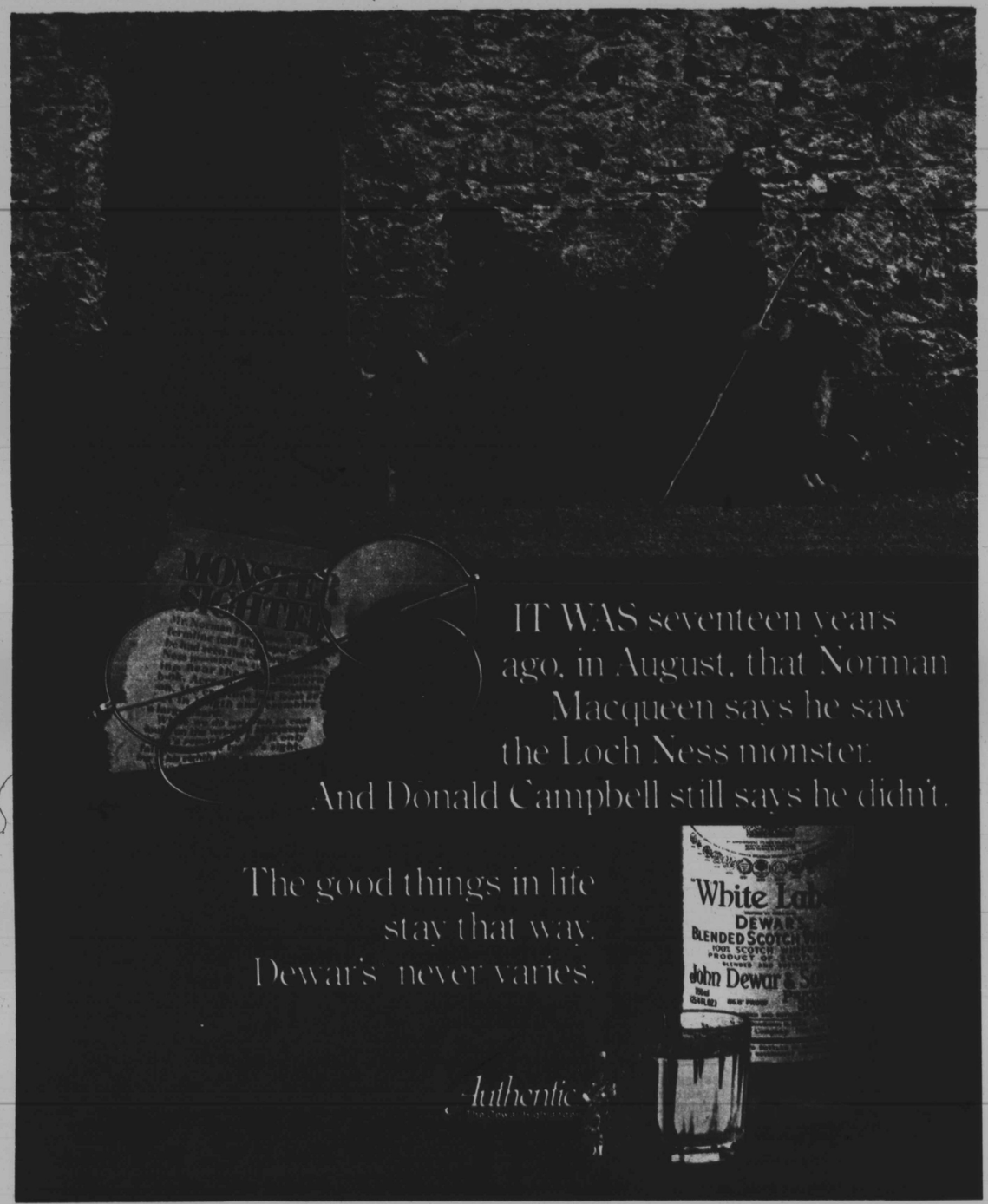

record review ratings

EXCELLENT ★★★★★ VERY GOOD ★★★★ GOOD ★★★ FAIR ★★ POOR ★

with Pamela Littlejohn

Natalie Cole

HAPPY LOVE: You Were Right Girl, Only Love, Nothing But A Fool, The Joke Is On You, These; When A Man Loves a Woman, I Can't Let Go, Love and Kisses, Across the Nation.

Capitol ST — 12161.
Rating – ★
The magic name of Natalie becomes a bit tarnished with this latest offering, for it is somewhat of a letdown from her previous efforts. One member of the DAWN panel said that it sounded like a first demo album by this seasoned pro, hopefully this one will soon pass away and the considerable talents of Natalie can shine through once again.

Randy Crawford

SECRET COMBINATION: You Might Need Somebody, Rainy Night in Georgia, That's How Heartaches Are Made, Two Lives, You Bring the Sun Out, Rio De Janeiro Blue, Secret Combination, When I Love My Way, Time For Love, Trade Winds.

Warner Bros. BSK 3541
Rating — ★ ★ ★
Another example of topflight programming, for one of the tunes on this album, Rio DeJaneiro Blue, was issued as a 45 RPM side prior to the release of the entire album. Thus it got considerable air play and a solid entrenchment on juke boxes. The entire album is somewhat spotty with only a couple of the tunes generating that electricity which spells the difference between a good and a great side.

Eric Murphy

GIMME A CALL SOMETIMES: Gimme A Call Sometimes, Get It Right, Tell The Truth, Include Me Out, It's Just Like Love, Killem With Love, To Become, You Feel Like Mine.

Rating – ★ ★
This album is almost a searching for an identity sort of thing, and according to the DAWN panel, not what was expected. That elusive quality of "get up and go" seems to be a bit subdued, as Eric moves to a newer thing. The transition began when Eric teamed with Roberta Flak for the album "You Are My Heaven." Eric also did some things with Stevie Wonder before heading out on his own. The potential is there, but this isn't it.

Brick

Summer Heat: Sweat ('til you get wet), Wide Open, I Want You To Know (that I'm in love with you), Sea Side Vibes, The Happening, Right Back (where I started from), Summer Heat, Babe, Sure Feels Good.

Bang FZ-37471
Rating — ★ ★ ½
A hot and cold session which reaches the heights with the tune "Sweat" which was termed the only cut which really got up and jammed. It seems almost as if the album was constructed to play up this particular cut, then filled with more or less inconsequential material not up to the standard of this piece. The panel had the highest rating for the tune "Sweat," but the performance on the other sets dragged down the rating. It is an interesting collection, however, and should be included in any collection of music which jams.

Luther VanDross

NEVER TOO MUCH: Never Too Much, Sugar and Spice, I Found Me A Girl, Don't You Know That? I've Been Working, She's a Super Lady, You Stopped Loving Me, A House Is Not A Home.

Epic FE 37451
Rating — ★ ★ ★ ★
Just as the voice behind a lot of animated cartoons is instantly recognizable, the voice singing on a lot of commercials, both on TV and radio can be the same. And it happens in the case of Van Dross who is heard on many commercials, some of which are still running. This may be his very first album under his own name, and it is a definite winner. In fact, the panel unanimously agreed that here is the complete album — something for everybody. And it is definitely going places.

Patti LaBelle

THE SPIRIT IS YOU: The Spirits In It, Here You Come Again, Love Lives, I Fell In Love Without Warning, Boats Against the Current, Rocking Pneumonia and the Boogie Woogie Flue, Family, Shoot Him On Sight, Over the Rainbow.

Philly International FZ 37380
Rating — ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Every now and again, a recording comes along which completely captivates its listeners, and produces almost a trancelike state of concentration. It's as if there is not a moment or a note to be wasted — it should all be savored and enjoyed. And so it was with this latest offering of superstar LaBelle, who reaches back and really belts this one out. Particular attention was paid to the familiar song, which here is given a new reading: "Over the Rainbow," which has been receiving heavy air play.

Teddy Pendergrass

TIME FOR LOVE: "I Can't Live Without Your Love, You're My Latest, My Greatest Inspiration, Nine Times Out of Ten, Keep On Lovin' Me, It's Time For Love, She's Over Me, I Can't Leave Your Love Alone, You Must Live On.

Philly International TZT 37491
Rating — ★ ★
Another instance of great expectations that failed to live up to advance billing. The Pendergrass voice has not flagged one whit, but the fault here, according to the panel, is with the material with which he is supplied. Although it is in the tried and true mold that has been successful over the years, the sameness is the attribute which leads to its downfall. It is not a very good album, Teddy alone cannot carry it — it needs a completely different approach to showcase this considerable talent, and sex symbol.