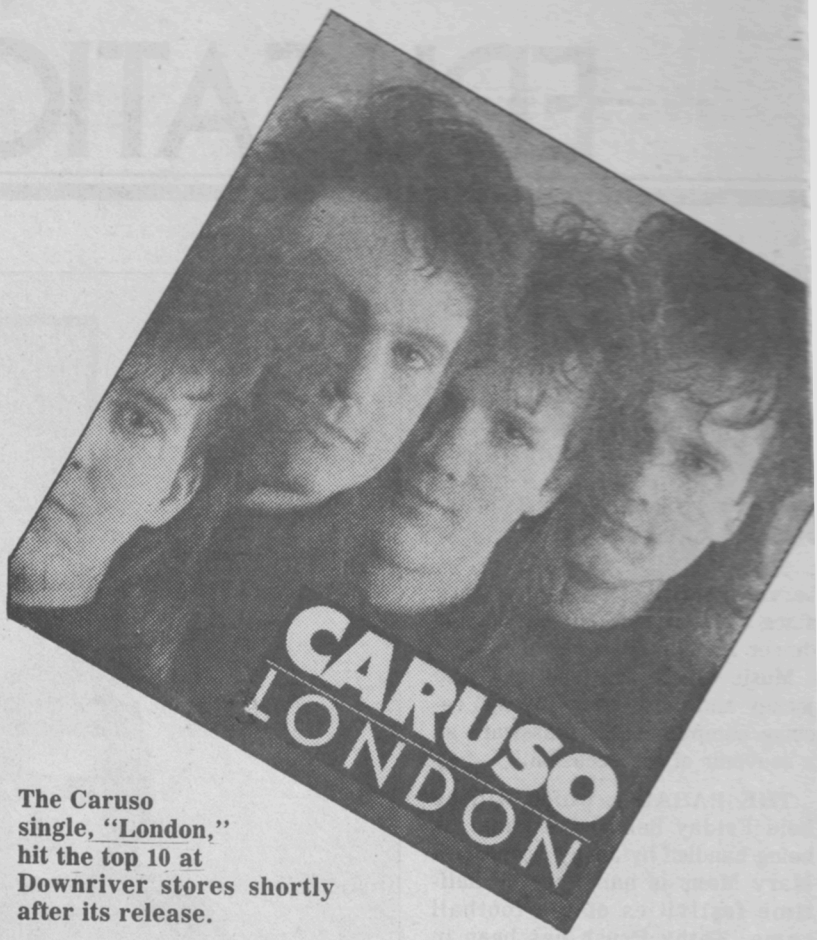
ENTERTAINMENT·C

Caruso album hits the charts



The Caruso single, "London," hit the top 10 at Downriver stores shortly after its release.

The album "In the Face," released by the Trenton-based band Caruso, has recorded some good sales since it hit Harmony House shelves in August.

Lately, sales have tapered off, but the extended play (EP) album is "still holding its own," according to Sandra Bean, distribution director at Harmony House

Bean said the large sales of "In the Face" are quite a feat for a band with no backing from a major record label. Caruso is made up of brothers Mike, Joe, Dave and Rob Caruso and Lee Thomas.

Working independently, Caruso topped the sales charts at the Southgate Harmony House in the first couple of weeks after its release, and made the top 20 in sales at all Harmony House stores.

A few weeks ago, the album was mentioned favorably in Billboard magazine, which chronicles news in the music industry.

SALES WERE SWIFT immediately following the release of "In the Face," Bean said. The album features four original songs, "London," "Young and Tender," (both on the single), "She's A Sensation," and "Can't Stop Dreaming," plus a remake of "Get Together" sung a cappella by the quartet of brothers.

During the week of Aug. 25, Caruso ranked 19th in sales at all 23 Harmony House stores, topping acts like Suzanne Vega and Brian Adams, according to statistics released by the company.

And throughout Downriver, In the Face was the No. 1 seller for the first two weeks after its release, nudging out national groups like Heart and White Snake, according to John Mohammed, Southgate Harmony House manager.

The album stayed in the top 10 at that store through most of August, according to statistics released by the company. Mohammed said about 200 tapes, albums and singles have sold so far.

SHORTLY AFTER its release, Bean had called Caruso the "most successful selling record by any unsigned Detroit band in the history of Harmony House."

She said late last month that sales have leveled off, noting that about 800 copies of the recording have been sold since it was released. "They're doing very, very well," Bean commented, "especially because they are on an independent label and doing their own thing without much promotion."

Caruso released its second album on the independent NuBeat label, and is hoping to be picked up by a major record label in the near future. Mike said a total of 5,000 albums, cassette tapes and singles were manufactured.

Band members are pleased with the reception their album has received, Mike said.

Harmony House is the exclusive seller of the album, and helped in promoting the new release with special store displays. The band also will sell the recordings during concerts.