

What's in a name?

Aspiring rock-music star **Ruth McCartney** can certainly answer that question, and has no doubt about it. "The McCartney name has opened a lot of doors for me," says Ruth, who is Paul's stepsister.

Based in Los Angeles with her mother, Ruth, 26, has her own band, **Secret Weapon**, a gorgeous-looking bunch of young musicians, and is currently negotiating for a recording contract. She is proud of the fact that, so far without the aid of agents or publicists, her group has been mentioned in several national magazines without even having a record on the market.

Besides the obvious advantage of the McCartney name, Ruth says brother Paul has been of little or no help in getting her this far. "He's a typical male chauvinist, actually," she says, "and thinks a woman's place is in the kitchen with the kids." Asked what Paul thought about her going into the family business, Ruth only says, "He just told me to get on with it. But the name has been enough to help me so far, and from here I know I will be judged on my own abilities."

While working as a dancer Ruth tried changing her name to avoid charges that she was using it to help her in her career. "Then there were stories in the papers that I was trying to live down being Paul McCartney's sister. You just can't win, can you," she says.

Ruth was very small when her stepbrother first became famous. "I just remember him as this guy who came home, made a lot of noise and left dirty socks all over the place," she says. "He and John used to take me out and buy me toys and treated me like their own Barbie doll." Later on Ruth remembers the noisy parties that used to stop her doing her homework, "and I always used to get ripped off at school. Nearly every day someone would pinch my lunch box, just in case Paul had touched it," Ruth adds with a grin.

Ruth was adopted by Paul McCartney's father when he married her mother in 1964. All her life she has been in the public eye and besides the glamorous parties, she has also had to endure false stories about her in the press. She was once reported to be pregnant at the age of twelve, and more recently was rumored to be engaged, first to Dudley Moore and then to Julian Lennon. "They are both friends of mine," says Ruth, "but I've known Julian since he was a baby!"

Much of the McCartney business sense seems to have rubbed off on this young lady. Ruth is determined to go as far as she can without signing the rest of her life away and feels she has been around the showbusiness scene long enough to keep a level head about



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any success she might have. "People are saying nice things about me and most of them have not even heard my music yet," she says. "From here on it's hard work all the way, but I know I can do it."