George Jones: He Don't Need Your Rockin' Chair

GEORGE JONES is a living legend in the field of country music. He has been acclaimed worldwide for the last 30 years as one of the greatest country singer alive. His multi-award-winning #1 smash "He Stopped Loving Her Today" was recently voted as the #1 country song of all time. Also, he was inducted into the Country Music Hall Of Fame at this year's CMA awards in recognition of his longevity and continued success in the ever-broadening country music arena.


Influencing such hot country artists as Marty Stuart, Mark Chesnutt, Vince Gill, Alan Jackson, Garth Brooks, Travis Tritt, and Billy Ray Cyrus, "The Cool One" is revered and admired for his career accomplishments. Jones' guest vocals can be found on Tritt's "Lord Have Mercy On The Working Man" and Chesnutt's "Talking To Hank." His name is used to signify country music in the Alan Jackson smash "Don't Rock The Jukebox," and he makes a special appearance in Judd's video. He is mentioned in Doug Stone's "Warning Labels," and he also recorded for George Strait's Pure Country soundtrack.

Jones' new single, "I Don't Need Your Rockin' Chair," is currently climbing the Cash Box Top 100 Country Singles chart, and sits comfortably at a #4 position this week. The single comes from his latest MCA album, Walls Can Fall, produced by Emory Gordy, Jr., and features an all-star chorus including Clint Black, Travis Tritt, Vince Gill, Alan Jackson, Patty Loveless and Pam Tillis, among others.
AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS: Three previous American Music Award winners, Bobby Brown, Gloria Estefan and Wynonna, will host the 20th annual American Music Awards airing on ABC-TV as a three-hour, prime-time special on Monday, Jan. 25, 8-11 p.m. (ET/PT). The special is a presentation of Dick Clark Productions, Inc., with Clark serving as executive producer, and will originate from the Shrine Auditorium in L.A.

Nominations for the AMAs are in six categories: pop/rock, country, soul/R&B, rap, heavy metal and adult contemporary. In all, 24 awards will be presented in the six categories. There will also be a special Award Of Merit presented for "outstanding contributions over a long period of time, to the musical entertainment of the American public." Previous recipients of this award include Bing Crosby, Chuck Berry, Stevie Wonder, Elvis Presley and Paul McCartney, among others.

Nominations for the American Music Awards will be announced at a press conference December 15 at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Winners are selected by the public. Producers of the show are Al Schwartz and Larry Klein, with Jeff Margolis directing.

ROGER MILLER DIES: Grammy and Tony award-winning singer/songwriter Roger Miller died this week in Los Angeles at the age of 56. For story, see page 23.

WESTWOOD ONE PLUGS IN BOSS: Westwood One Companies will simulcast MTV's Bruce Springsteen Plugged concert on November 11 at 10 p.m. (ET/PT). The full digital stereo simulcast will be broadcast in the U.S. and Canada.

The Springsteen performance, taped in L.A. in September while he was there for his world tour, features 90 minutes of the Boss' early hits and tunes from his latest albums, Lucky Town and Human Touch. At first the artist tried to "unplug" and perform acoustically, but figured his songs were best represented "plugged in" with his touring band members joining in the fun.

PUFF LIVES AGAIN: First signed 30 years ago, the legendary folk trio Peter, Paul & Mary has returned to Warner Bros. Records, their original label. The group is set to record and release a series of albums, the first of which will be one of children's songs, to be recorded in conjunction with the group's third PBS television special. The release date will be early next year to coincide with the program's March air date. A videotape of the special will also be made available through Warner Reprise Video.

AT YOUR BIDDING: A silent auction will be held as part of the annual Neil Bogart Memorial Fund fundraising dinner honoring Russ Bach, president of CEMA Distribution. The event, "Return To Casablanca," will be held on November 7 at the Santa Monica Airport's Barker Hangar.

Numerous sought-after and one-of-a-kind collectors items have been donated by the entertainment industry to help raise money for the Bogart Labs. Autographed items include: a drum set by Alex Van Halen; guitars from Eric Clapton, Les Paul and Jon Bon Jovi; and Dustin Hoffman's shoes from the movie "Glengarry." Also available for bidding are trips to Club Med, the Bahamas, New York, San Francisco and Las Vegas; movie passes; concert tickets; electronic equipment and dinners.

Japanese Angel

The stars came out at a recent record release party for Raise The World—The Album Of Life. The ip, on Eastern Way Records, features tracks by artists such as Hammer, Aaron Neville, Atlantic Starr, Diane Schuur and Bette Midler, with proceeds from the sale of the album going to L.I.F.E. (Love Is Feeding Everyone). Pictured (l-r) are: J.S. Lee, executive producer; Thelma Houston; Ray Parker, Jr.; and Rick Hansen, producer.

Polydor Japan recording artist Jimmy Angel recently performed in front of 55,000 fans at the Tokyo Dome. He gave the sold-out crowd this message: "I was sent by my friends in rock 'n roll heaven to bring the '50s back." It is no coincidence that his new lp is entitled, From Rock & Roll Heaven. Angel (holding an issue of his favorite magazine) is pictured here with Japan's International Show Choir.
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MUSIC REVIEWS

By Randy Clark

SINGLES

ROB & FAB: "We Can Get It On" (Taj JIE3919-2)
Out of the same bag they were packaged in when we knew them as Milli Vanilli, the reformated and renamed duo are offering up a sex-themed dance track, this time with the guarantee it's original and long a living. A track of which was assurred by a premier live performance on The Arsenio Hall Show last week which was met by a forgiving reception. The track produced by TNN, with Taavi Meto, Mikhail Sandgren, and Beas Gray, precedes a self-titled album due mid-November.

INXS: "Taste It" (Atlantic PRCD 4729-2)
This latest release from the Australian rockers' summer-released Welcome To Wherever You Are has been rejected by the folks at MTV due to the sexual-erotic nature of the video, but the song itself is a hard-driving, radio-friendly, club rocker in the band's clearly identifiable "What You Need" style. The CD single contains the UK version along with a radio remix and a club mix. Produced by Mark Opitz and INXS.

PATTI LABELLE: "All Right Now" (MCA MCA5P-2434)
With a Grammy under her belt, and a new sitcom on Saturday night called Out All Night, Patti is pushing herself to new heights in her career. This funky, R&B dance track is the first release from their recently complelted album, Patti LaBelle Live, and is filled with hot vocal licks from the multi-talented artist. This track should fare well on both urban and club playlists. Produced and arranged by Soulshock, Cutfather and Karlin.

LITTLE VILLAGE: "Don't Go Away Mad" (Reprise PRO-CD-5533)
Here's a fun, bouncy little track from the all-star group's self-titled album released earlier this year. The collaboration of solo artists and session man John Hiatt, Ry Cooder, Jim Keトン and Nick Lowe in writing, arranging and performing give a catchy, shufflin' groove to this track which started off as a solo sampling experiment, with Hiatt adding the words and vocals. The group produces themselves with mixing aid from Allen Sides and Lenny Waronker.

SHAKESPEAR'S SISTER: "I Don't Care" (London CDP 703)
With the American radio success of their second-released single, "Stay," mostly England and European success prior) Sid Faden, Jane Shaw and Marcella Detroit's sophomore lp, Hormonally Yours, popped onto the U.S. chart a few months ago. This next released track is an upbeat, slightly quirky pop cut, with an almost 60's-ith jingle to it, featuring the dual vocals of the performance artists who produce themselves along with Alan Maudlin.

LEMONHEADS: "Mrs. Robinson" (Atlantic PRCS 4853)
As a newly added bonus track to the current It's A Shame About Ray album, Lemonheads' vocalist Evan Dando has released his version of the Paul Simon classic, as part of the promotion surrounding the 25th anniversary video release of the track, which Dando produced in which Dando's spirited, post-modern/punk-ist interpretation of the song is inserted. The track is produced by Julian一遍.

ALBUMS

TALKINGHEADS: Sand In The Vesiculae: Popular Favorites 1984-1982 (Sire Warner Bros. 9 26760-2)
This two CD collection consists of 33 of the band's best tracks spanning a decade albums. If you've been listening, here's the one to have. This is the cream of what started out as an underground movement in the late 70s, turned into new pop culture in the 80's, and this seemingly misfit group of intellectuals was always on the leading edge. Various producers include the Talkingheads, Steve Hytmlywhitc, Nick Launay, Brian Eno, Mark Spector, Tony Bongiovi and Lance Quinn.

MEDICINE MEN: Keepers Of The Sacred Fire (Savage MGJ 9320)
This trio, led by Native American, Paul Carlos, is from just north of the border in Montreal, Canada. Their debut contains 12 tracks of environmentally inspired lyrics set to varied styles of hard rock, metal and acoustic rock. All songs were written or co-written by Carlos with the appropriately selected exception of Paul Revero & The Sailor's (only) hit, Indian Reservation. Producer is Richard (Co-Go's, Blondie) Coethner.

LEVELLERS: A Weapon Called The Word (BRS 5835-2)
This politically inspired group of English and Irish musicians use the traditional instrumentation (violin, mandolin, harmonica) to deliver their sharply pointed, folk-punk, sociological/anthropological messages. Having already raised the collective consciousness in their home land, they're now set their sights on the disenchanted alternative listeners here in the USA. First released single is the aggressive, "World Flood Show," produced by Phil Tennant.

DEANNA BOGART: Crossing Borders (Flying Fish FF 0603)
Here's an interesting twist to your basic blues. Bogart is a butt-kicking, barrel-house piano player that could give a good chase to old Jerry Lee. On top of that, the little lady blows a respectable harmonica, as well as sings and writes. Look out, Bonnie. Her earlier Out To Get You lp on Blind Pig showed many club dates earned her Mid-Atlantic region recognition of her rockin' boogie/jazz-blues. Her Flying Fish debut is 13 tracks of more of the same, produced by Jimm Barry.

FIVE-EIGHT: I Learned Shut Up (Sky 7-5858-2)
This power-pop/alternative trio has been gaining attention in their native Athens, GA home over the last few years. Their debut on Georgia-based, Sky Records is a collection of 11 aggressive, emotional and confrontational songs. Young fronting the Sex Pistols is the immediate impression given off by this young trio produced by Norham Kerber.

GIN GLOSSOMS: New Miserable Experience (A&M 7502 5402-3)
There is a strong suggestion of 60's influence in this Tempe, Arizona-based alternative/pop group. Guitars jangling throughout, first single, "Hey Jealousy" is a fair representation of the overall blossom sound. Several cuts on the band's 12-track self-titled album debut off what is known as the band's spirited, post-modern/punk-ist interpretation of the song is inserted. The track is produced by Alan Maudlin.

PICK OF THE WEEK:

FRANK SINATRA: Sinatra: Soundtrack To The CBS Mini-Series (Reprise 9)
This well compiled collection of Sinatras favorites also includes a few choice cuts of the time period by fellow greats, Bing Crosby, Billie Holiday and Benny Goodman, as well as early recordings of tracks; 10 originals and a cover of Lou Reed's "I Can't Stand It." A combination of Pete Townend and Noel Young fronting the Sex Pistols is the immediate impression given off by this young trio produced by Norham Kerber.
By Lee Jeske

WEIRD: Lou Reed singing Kurt Well's "September Song"? Wynton Marsalis playing a medley of Nino Rota's themes for Fellini movies? Todd Rundgren arranging Thelonious Monk's "Four In One"? Aaron Neville warbling the theme from "The Mickey Mouse Club"? Keith Richards scratching out Charles Mingus' "Lord Don't Drop The Atomic Bomb On Me"?

What the hell's going on here?

What's going on is the eclectic musical mind of Hal Willner, who is building up a wacky body of original recordings without singing or playing a note. Weird Nightmare: Meditations on Mingus (Columbia), is the fifth tribute album this weird album auteur has produced, after prismatic portraits of Rota, Monk, Well and the music for Walt Disney films.

"It's not unlike directing a film, depending on the director," says Willner from the set of the latest Robert Altman film, as if he's serving as music director. "The way Altman works is similar—it's very collaborative but it's definitely his framework, his movie. And he lets people do what they do, which gets everybody's strength out of them."

Weird Nightmare is a bit different from Willner's other portraits in that it features a core band—Greg Cohen, Michael Blair, Don Alias, Art Baron, Bill Frisell and Marc Ribot—and pungent readings from Mingus' scorching autobiography, Beneath the Underdog. Among those joining the proceedings, playing or reciting, are Richards, Public Enemy's Chuck D, Elvis Costello, Robbie Robertson, Charlie Watts, Living Colour's Vernon Reid, Leonard Cohen, Dr. John, Henry Threadgill and Diamanda Galas. And giving the music yet another dimension is the use of the homemade instruments of contemporary classical pioneer, Harry Partch.

Charles Mingus, who died in 1979, was one of jazz's greatest composers, a natural eclectic who incorporated elements of blues and gospel music into a personalized pastiche that perfectly suits Willner's purposes; the music is malleable but sturdy enough to retain its inherent nature.

While pop music is no stranger to Mingus—Joni Mitchell recorded an entire Mingus album, called Mingus, shortly before his death, and Jeff Beck had success with his "Goodbye Pork-Pie Hat"—it's hard to imagine that most pop fans are too familiar with his "Open Letter to Duke" or "Pithecanthropus Erectus" or "Three of the Fisherman's Wife Are Some Jive Ass Slippers."

And jazz fans are liable to be unfamiliar with such Partch instruments as the marimba eroica, cloud chamber bowls, and cychord.

Willner calls it "a stew." He's the chef and this might be his smoothest concoction.

"The difference on the Mingus is that on the other records I went into everyone else's worlds. I'd get a track, we'd find an artist, and then we would mostly work with everyone separately, and I would do interludes to make the work as cohesive as it could be after the fact. Here I made a blueprint tape and used a small cast for consistency." (The Kinks' Ray Davies filmed much of the making of the album for a planned movie, but that seems to have bogged down somewhere.)

Willner—who also serves as a musical consultant to Saturday Night Live—intends to apply his musical auteur concept next to Edith Piaf, with a second Nino Rota set and a "massive" Duke Ellington project planned for the future. In the meantime, there's the Altman film and in-the-works spoken-word boxed sets of material by Allen Ginsberg and Lenny Bruce.

"I hope these records work on two levels," he says, "The people who know the composer will be exposed to certain artists they may not know, and the other way around. And I hope they work as records, just for listening purposes."

By Randy Clark

This collection of unsightly characters crashed a platinum-certification party being held at a trendy Japanese restaurant in Los Angeles for the Black Crowes, where they were caught stealing artwork from the walls. No arrests were made, but fashion police were notified.

MORE SELF-GLORIFICATION: And why the hell not? Everybody else does it. The latest incestuous bash of nepotists honoring themselves are the Music Video Producers Association ("spit-o'-the fact MTV has a show with virtually the same categories... but hey, that never stopped anybody before. Apparently these guys want to vote amongst themselves.

Formed in 1987, the MVPAs established themselves as a non-profit organization representing film companies that specialize in the production of music videos. The purpose of which is to uphold professional standards in these productions and provide a forum for discussion of practices, new technologies, strategies on how to keep all the work for themselves, and various related concerns. Not to mention giving out awards to each other once a year.

The second annual awards ceremony takes place Saturday, November 7, at the Hitchcock Theater, on the lot of Universal Studios. The MVPAs' 200-and-some members, consisting of production companies, crew members and various associated patrons, have voted in a dozen categories which include "Best": Video, Director, Editor, Cinematographer, Special Effects, Stylist, Art Direction, Original Long Form Video and Longform Collection.

Unlike those other awards, the MVPAs will be handing out first place (platinum), second place (gold), and third place (silver) awards, just to make sure no one goes home empty handed. There will also be a special award presented for Directorial Debut, an International Award, as well as retroactively inducting five previously released videos (prior to Jan. 1, 1988) into a self-established Hall Of Fame.

Leading this year's nominees, with 12 nominations for two videos, are En Vogue for "My Lovin', You're Never Gonna Get It," and "Free Your Mind." The Red Hot Chili Peppers came in with the next highest number of nominations totaling six, all for their "Give It Away," video, and Genesis was third highest, with five nominations for two videos, "I Can't Dance," and "Jesus He Knows Me."

Eastman Kodak acts once again as title sponsor, and will present an award for Special Achievement in Music Videos. Last year's recipient was Virgin Records' co-president, Jeff Ayeroff. I'm sure it will be a jolly-good time. I wonder if they'll ever get around to setting up a category for Hottest Babe in a video?...

ALL BEEN SAID: Don't be a schmuck... Get out and vote, or you don't count. Period. By the next issue we'll all know whose gonna be running the country until 1997. Think about it. Next week...
Sheppard’s Flocks

By John Carmen

"I FEEL THAT alternative music, jazz and novels are what American literature is all about." So says Michael Sheppard.

Sheppard’s one-man operations have included concert promotion, vinyl singles and albums, books, CDs and ROMs.

Born in L.A., Sheppard’s odyssey began in Fort Lee, New Jersey. “Went east in 1975, saw the New York punk thing while I was in college and decided I didn’t want to be a literature major,” says Sheppard. “I returned to L.A. and started a small record label.”

Sheppard’s first project was by punk legend’s Vox Pop, who later mutated into goth rockers 45 Grave. “Our first single was ‘Cabbdriver’ b/w ‘Just Like Your Mom’,” says Sheppard. He also claims inspiration for the Angry Samoans punk label Bad Trip Records saying, “I gave them the idea, but when my backer went off to nursing school, they had to do it themselves.”

From there, Sheppard got into concert promotion in L.A. “There was no Golden Voice back then, so what I would do was contact my favorite bands and set stuff up for them here.” Sheppard’s gigs included the only L.A. appearances ever of industrial pioneers Throbbing Gristle and Cabaret Voltaire, as well as a P.I.L. show in Pasadena that drew 4,000 people. “My favorite of all the shows I did was Sonic Youth, who played on the sidewalk in front of my house (which got him evicted, of course), and then Black Flag, who turned down doing Santa Monica Civic to play in front of my house in the street. Very gratifying.”

More forays into record making included 1/2 Japanese, Christmas and P.I.L./Clash guitarist Keith Levene. “Keith sold four different labels, his tracks—me, Taang, Penelope Spheeris (now a household name as the director of Wayne’s World) and Rykodisc.” That label, Iridescence, was supposedly Sheppard’s last stand in music. “I’d had enough, I wanted to go back into literature and publishing, things that would really live on after I died.”

You can’t keep a good man down, or even a mediocre one (Sheppard has made many an adversary over the years in the business, the most celebrated one being Green Jello, currently an RCA act, who recorded an album for Sheppard, and then did everything possible to sabotage the project after major label interest was afoot), and Sheppard once again found himself putting out music and movies. “I resurrected this early ’60s film Tracks In the Sand, which has music by Yusuf Lateef, Max Roach, Tommy Flanagan, Jimmy Knepper, Richard Williams among others. It was just plain awesome. It all came about because I found this guy’s address book, and when I returned it to him, he asked me what I did, and when I told him, he gave me the rights to this bootnik film.”

Sheppard’s newest project includes the L.A. avant-garde rock combo the Wild Stares, who will be releasing an album and single on Sheppard’s new label, ACCESS. “My only regret is that the Stares didn’t do their guitarist Justin Burrill’s classic, ‘I Got Hands Like Joe Kleine’ on this CD.” But of much interest to the world will be an ACCESS book, The George Bush File, which factually chronicles Bush’s crimes as a politician. “I wish I’d been able to get it out before Election Day, but it will still be a chilling story.”

Raid Nets 104,000 Suspected Counterfeit Tapes

By M.R. Martinez

ABOUT 104,000 ALLEGED COUNTERFEIT CASSETTES were seized recently during a raid on a manufacturing facility in Connecticut, pacing such seizures during September and raising the year to date total to 1.5 million compared to 1.4 million seized in 1991, according to a recent report by the Recording Industry Assn. of America (RIAA). Special agents from the Bridgeport office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation raided the facility and confiscated master tapes, negatives, artwork, printing plates and alleged counterfeit insert cards. The facility was allegedly manufacturing the counterfeits while open to the general public for the manufacture of sound recordings. According to RIAA spokesperson Alexandra Walsh there were no arrests made, and it was unclear if the Bridgeport district attorney would file charges against anyone connected with the facility.

In an unrelated raid in Illinois, however, officials will seek a prison term for Issam Latif of Lockport, III. In a raid on the same day as the one in Bridgeport, Will County Sheriff’s deputies and agents of the Will County State Attorney’s office seized approximately 14,500 alleged counterfeit cassette from Latif’s residence, along with another 4,000 alleged counterfeits from a controlled delivery. An additional 14,000 alleged counterfeits were seized from a public storage space rented in Latif’s name in nearby Orland Hills. Equipment used in the manufacture of the suspected tapes was also seized. Latif has a prior conviction on state felony charges for possession of counterfeit cassettes with intention to distribute, in addition to recent alleged intentions to set up a counterfeit manufacturing plant.

The RIAA, in cooperation with the Turlock, CA police department discovered an alleged counterfeit cassette manufacturing facility and confiscated 11,000 alleged counterfeit cassettes, about 80,000 alleged counterfeit insert cards, a set of duplicating machines with 11 slave positions and 11,000 clear cassette display boxes. Nasser Esmail, Yahya Kassim Othman and Ahmed Kassim Othman were arrested and charged with violation of California’s True Name and Address Statute. Also in California, in an unrelated case, Celia Martinez and Javier Carbajal both pled to one felony count under that statute and were sentenced to one year in prison followed by two years probation. Martinez and Carbajal had 41,000 counterfeit cassettes and more than 1 million counterfeit insert cards in their possession when they were arrested on June 15. In another California case, Alfredo Sosa Arreola pled no contest to one felony count under the True Name and Address Statute and received a one-year prison sentence and one-year subsequent probation for his arrest in June for possession of 1,100 counterfeit cassettes and 2,186 counterfeit labels.

There have also been seizures of alleged counterfeit material and some convictions in investigations and pending cases in Texas, South Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, North Carolina and Maryland. In North Carolina, a civil judgment of $226,000 was received by Arista Records, the plaintiff in a copyright infringement lawsuit against Matthew Fornman Tysinger, et al. The civil action was filed after a criminal conviction of the defendants, who were arrested in March, 1990.
LONDONBEAT BEATS ALL: "I've Been Thinking About You," written by Jimmy Chambers, George Chandler, Jimmy Helms and Willie M of the group Londonbeat and published by Warner Chappell Music Ltd., was named 1992 Song of the Year at the annual BMI-PRS Awards dinner recently. The song, which was included on the gold-certified album, In The Blood, went to #1 on both the U.S. pop and dance singles charts.

The dinner, held at the Dorchester Hotel in London, annually honors the UK’s songwriters, composers and publishers of the past year’s most performed pop, college and motion picture scores on U.S. radio and TV. Frances Preston, BMI president and CEO, hosted the event. Joining her for the awards presentations was Phil Graham, BMI vice president, European writer/publisher relations.

Ten additional songs were honored for significant U.S. airplay between Nov. 1, 1990 and Oct. 1, 1991. These songs included Rick Astley’s "Cry For Help," Dave Stewart’s "Lily Was Here" and Genesis’ "No Son Of Mine." "Right Here, Right Now," written by Jesus Jones leader Mike Edwards, was cited as the Most Performed College Radio Song. Film composers Hans Zimmer and John Du Prez were recognized for their scores to Backdraft and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II, respectively.

In addition, BMI announced that John Lennon and Paul McCartney’s "I Love Her" and Elton John’s "Your Song" have reached the three million performance plateau.

BMI, PART II: BMI’s president and CEO, Frances Preston, has been named to the Board of Directors of the T.J. Martell Foundation for Leukemia, Cancer and AIDS Research. Preston was this year’s Humanitarian Award recipient and, during her “Share The Dream” campaign, raised more than $6 million for the Foundation. Earlier this year, Preston explained that having the facility at Vanderbilt University Medical Center named the Frances Williams Preston Laboratory.

COME TO THE CABARET: ASCAP and New York’s Russian Tea Room have joined together to present a West Coast version of their highly successful New York cabaret series. This ongoing series will showcase a songwriter performing original material and a singer performing theatre and cabaret standards.

The first installment of the series will be presented Nov. 15, 16 and 17 at 20 p.m. at The Gardenia night club and will feature performances by noted cabaret singer Karen Mason and singer/songwriter Steven Lukvak.

A couple of nights earlier, ASCAP will present its West Coast Cabaret Songwriter Showcase featuring several writers and hosted by Designing Woman star Dixie Carter, a cabaret singer in her own right. There will also be a national guest appearance by Tony-nominated composer/lyricist Craig Carnelia. This event happens at The Gardenia as well. For more info, call The Gardenia at (213) 467-7444.

UNPLUGGED: The finalists for the first annual Acoustic Artist of the Year competition have been named. The contest will take place at Santa Monica’s At My Place on Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. Finalists were chosen from hundreds of acoustic artists who have made appearances on the National Academy of Songwriters (NASY) two-year-old monthly “Acoustic Underground” show. There will be four awards given: best Female Artist, Best Male Artist, Best Group and Best Overall Artist. The first three will be presented with five-year NAS memberships. Best Overall Artist will receive a new Fender guitar and a featured spot in the Salute to the American Songwriter concert Dec. 3 at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre. (Guess if the group wins, they’ll fight for the guitar). General admission is $10, $5 for NAS members.

Peermusic recently celebrated the re-signing of songwriter Jud Friedman with an intimate piano reception. Pictured (l-r) are: Peermusic’s vice president Kathy Sandenberge; East Coast creative director Amber Fayazz; national director of acquisitions and marketing Jeff Berlin; creative coordinator Nicole Bahuchet; and West Coast creative director, Gigi Gerard.
TALENT REVIEW

Joan Baez

By Robert Adels

TROUBADOUR, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA—The screech of brakes applied too late. The crash of multi-car fender-benders. The crunch of metal is commonplace inside The Troubadour. But motorists, shocked by seeing the name "Joan Baez" on its marquee, were taking these sounds to the street outside, making both havoc and headlines.

The venerable Ms. Baez never intended to cause traffic accidents. Instead, she arrived ready to celebrate several creative firsts, not the least of which is her miraculous Virgin label bow Play Me Backwards. It may have taken 30 years, but the Queen Of Folk was finally making her Troubadour (and L.A. club) debut.

After opening her set with Dylan’s "Don’t Think Twice" (complete with an hilarious early-Beck impression), Joan launched into her new Virgin material with "Isaac & Abraham," a Bible story even an atheist could love.

This bit of Old Testament reflection represents another Baez career first—her first collaborative songwriting (with younger, lesser-known tunesmiths like Wally Wilson and Kenny Greenberg).

How does an opinionated and solitary star, famous for her unyielding creative and political positions, function as part of a creative team? With enough professionalism to deliver the best Joan Baez songs since her Diamonds And Rust album. With enough ego management skills to choose someone else’s material as the new album’s first single and video.

In the case of this first single, the “someone” is none other than Mary-Chapin Carpenter, and the song is the amazing "Stones In The Road." Here are lyrics powerful enough to point out the hidden hypocrisies of all who hear it, including the singer’s and the writer’s.

Throughout the set and album, the larger-than-life Baez brings us a more approachable Joan. She delivers it via messenger: from songwriters like Janis Ian (in the uplifting "Strange Rivers"). But mostly she expresses it in her own words: through the hard-hitting, anti-child-abuse "Play Me Backwards" and her habit-forming "I’m With You" (which offers enough hooks, bounce and warmth to become her biggest hit yet).

She even unveiled a poem about a low-impact aerobics class. (Not a serious plug for Joan Baez Workouts. Just a humorous reason not to take her too seriously)

Throughout the exceptional set, Baez shared the stage with macho guitarist Paul Kosco (working with a broken finger), and quietly fiery bassist Fernando Saunders. Together, they turned a legend into a band.

Live, her new material often eclipsed nostalgic staples like "There But For Fortune" and "The Night They Drove Ole Dixie Down"—even when reprinted by a voice all the richer for the intervening years. Her trademarked upper register sounds more angelic than ever. Maturity may have brought an encroaching lower register, but her talents have totally tamed it into another glorious plus.

Baez’s solo club tour is headed for New York, London, Paris and Munich. Then she’ll appear with Mary-Chapin Carpenter and The Indigo Girls in a collaborative touring troupe billing itself as 4 Voices.

1992 may still have two months to go, but it’s already safe to declare "Joan Baez At The Troub” one of the events of the year.

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TALENT REVIEW

The B-52’s

By Hilary Grey

THE UNIVERSAL AMPHITHEATRE, UNIVERSAL CITY, CA—There wasn’t a still pair of feet in the house as the B-52’s breezed through a wonderfully daffy dance party, supporting their latest, aptly titled Reprise release, Good Stuff. An inventive outer-space-beach-party stage set provided the perfect backdrop for the Georgia band’s 15-year span of irresistible loony tunes with joyful messages—from alternative classics like the Robby-The-Robot-meets-Peter-Gunn anthem "Planet Claire" to the current "Tell It Like It T-I-I-I-

Though founding member/singer Cindy Wilson left the B-52’s in the wake of the success of 1989’s Cosmic Thing, which brought the band off the college/alternative fringe and into the mainstream, the zany frontline chemistry was kept intact by the performance of newcomer Juliee Cruise.

Cruise, best known for her breathy, other-worldly contributions to the soundtrack of David Lynch’s Twin Peaks, donned the obligatory big bouffant and sparkling mini-dress, and more than held her own with the antics of leaders Fred Schneider and Kate Pierson. Cruise proved a versatile singer as well, carrying off full-voiced workouts like "Channel Z" and the gentle, ethereal background vocals on "Revolution Earth" with equal ease.

It was apparent from the rocking opening number "Is That You, Mo Dean?" that Kate Pierson’s vocal energy level was running at full throttle as well. Her strong voice propelled the bass-bounce of songs like "Bad Influence" and "Good Stuff," and a particularly frenzied reading of "Cosmic Thing." Her beautiful, celebratory duet with Cruise on "Roam" (with the added attraction of a clapping chorus dressed in giant condoms and ZZ Top beards) was a set highlight.

The excellent eight-member ensemble, dressed in loud colors and oddball styles worthy of a major raid by the fashion police, clearly aimed to make sure the audience had as much fun as they were having on stage. Singer/speaker Fred Schneider deadpanned, "We’re famous for our tender love ballads" before launching into an ultra-bouncy, manic version of "Strobe Light," and tweaked the lines of "Rock Lobster" with hilarious references to Jessica Hahn and Vice President Dan Quayle’s brain. Best of all was the breakdown banter between Schneider, Pierson and Cruise during an extended playout encore of "Love Shack," in which Pierson gleefully waxed on the joy of going down to Topanga Canyon and bowling at the moon.

The B-52’s upbeat message of fun and hope also gave weight to their plea for audience members to vote, and their vocal support for The Sierra Club, Planned Parenthood and the AIDS Resource Center. Band-sponsored booklets with cards to return for information on the organizations were handed out to the audience as they left the theatre. Good stuff, indeed!
Mason Williams' Xmas Gift

By Fred L. Goodman

IN 1968, MASON WILLIAMS WAS RIDING HIGH. Not only was he one of the writers for the highly successful, albeit controversial, Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour, but he also wrote and performed the format-bending, instrumental pop hit, "Classical Gas," which the record industry crowned "Song of the Year" that year for Best Instrumental Composition and Best Instrumental Performance. Throughout his career, he has recorded over a dozen albums, including one that featured a re-cut of "Cas" for American Gramaphone in 1988.

The creatively prolific Williams has also written many books of prose, poetry and music and is a conceptual artist as well. His most recent project is a Christmas album entitled, A Gift Of Song, on the adult alternative label, Real Music, out of Sausalito, CA. According to Terence Yallop, founder and president of Real Music, the Christmas Ip is part of a three-album deal with Williams. "Terence Yallop and his team have exhibited a lot of trust in me," Williams remarks, "basically giving me the flexibility to record what I want, the way I want to record it, and with the musicians I choose."

To that end, A Gift Of Song features musicians who have recorded with Williams over the years and played with him in concert. They include drummer Hal Blaine, fiddler Byron Berline and bassist Steve LaFevre. "The great part about this album is," Williams says, "I get to make music with my friends. Friends become like compositional elements. When you write a piece, you think of an individual—about how they would handle it. How would they play it?"

It is obvious to any listener that Williams and his pals handled it all quite well; the album is deftly performed and thoroughly enjoyable. A Gift Of Song includes both old-time favorites as well as Williams-penned originals. "Joy To The World," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "The First Noel" are interspersed with "Guitar Carol" and "Mistletoe Moustache."

"There's not a lot of instrumental Christmas music," Williams notes. "There are mostly carols. I figured I'd write a carol for guitar. So I wrote 'Guitar Carol.'" He feels that his original compositions have a good chance of becoming part of the traditional Christmas repertoire.

"Basically, this is something I've wanted to do for a long time," says Williams. "Each year around the holidays, I brush up on my Christmas favorites and usually end up with a new arrangement of a traditional Christmas tune or write an original one to play for friends or my own enjoyment. When I hooked up with Real Music, the opportunity finally presented itself to actually put a few of those songs down as a recording project."

That "project" is Mason Williams' latest gift to his fans and friends.

Christmas Releases

- **AMY GRANT**: Home For Christmas (A&M 31454 0001 2)
- **A TRAVIS TRITT CHRISTMAS**: Loving Time Of The Year (Warner Bros. 9 45029-2)
- **VARIOUS ARTISTS**: A Very Special Christmas 2 (A&M 31454 0003 2)
- **THE SOUNDS OF BLACKNESS**: The Night Before Christmas—A Musical Fantasy (Perspective 31454 9000 2)
- **ERIC CHAMPION**: Hot Christmas (Myrh) 7016963616
- **VARIOUS ARTISTS**: Ichiban Blues At Christmas Volume Two (Ichiban ICH 1143 CD)
- **MASON WILLIAMS**: A Gift Of Song (Real Music RM-2007)
- **MOJO NIXON & THE TOADLIGIORS**: Horny Holidays (Triple X 51117-2)
- **BABBIE MASON**: Comfort And Joy (Word 7019354602)
- **DANNY WRIGHT**: Just Wright For Christmas (Moulin D'Or/NJW927)
- **VARIOUS ARTISTS**: Alligator Stomp, Vol.4: Cajun Christmas (Rhino R2 71058)
- **VARIOUS ARTISTS**: Doo Wop Christmas (Rhino R2 71057)
- **THE BEANE FAMILY**: Christmas Classics From Around The World (Critique 01624 15409-2)

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<td>BSCAP93</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>169-172</td>
<td>Love Over (EMI Blackwood/Chase)</td>
<td>Int'ASCAP92</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>173-176</td>
<td>Money Can't Buy You Love (Flyte Time/Ramsey)</td>
<td>BSCAP92</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>177-178</td>
<td>Move Me No Mountain (Dandy Ditty's-ASCAP)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>179-180</td>
<td>Ms. Loverman (Worldwide-/BM/Rachter/Gizmos/Pow Wow-ASCAP)</td>
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</table>
By M.R. Martinez

divergent jazz: make no mistake: Blue Note records has one of the most prestigious catalogs in jazz, and the label is about to flaunt some primo gems for the marketplace. as the successful follow-up to its first compilation release, the label is releasing Best of Blue Note Volume II, which has been packaged to acquire new jazz fans to some of the best music made by legends of the genre. this compilation, set for a Nov. 3 release, contains material by the likes of cannonball adderley, Joe Henderson, herbie hancock, art Blakey, horace Silver, Lee Morgan, horace parlan, Sonny Rollins, and Dexter gordon...on the other end of the jazz spectrum there's the fusion of the Rippingtons, featuring Russ Freeman, who've been doing some serious touring around the country, honing their chops and serving up a buffet of sounds that varies from "their current GRP Records platter, Weekend In Monaco. "we've had a great time on the road, playing material from this album and our previous work," Freeman told Cash Box prior to his Nov. 7 gig at Anaheim, CA's celebrity theatre. "Playing with these guys regularly gives us an opportunity to stretch the material, give it a slightly different feel each time we play it." joining The Rippington's on this tour is David Benoit, who has also recorded with the group. Freeman said that the inclusion of some Benoit compositions during the live show also varies an already eclectic set. "It never gets stale out there," he said.
RAP/DANCE MUSIC

By M.R. Martinez

SPIKE'S JOINT: Sometimes a great notion takes form at just the right time. And when this columnist recently stumbled upon the opening of Spike's Joint West, he discovered a bit of social engineering that will probably bring some unexpected pluralism to the upscale, chic kitch of Melrose Ave. in Los Angeles. The color quotient jumped sharply as a decidedly hip-hop crowd gathered October 24 on Melrose for the grand opening of the merchandising outlet filmmaker Spike Lee, who is preparing for the November 20 nationwide opening of the much-anticipated film Malcolm X, cloned from the store he opened five years ago in his Brooklyn hood. On hand were luminaries, including Ice Cube, who was seen in a nearby gas station calmly and politely fielding questions from two attractive African-American women. In fact, there were beautiful women and fly guys of color packed all along the sidewalk adjacent to the new store, which is located adjacent to the popular jazz supper club, Nucleus Nuance. Spike's Joint West actually fits comfortably into the retail and merchandising mix that has made Melrose Ave. an international tourist attraction since the early to mid '80s. The slick, youthful sportswear and accessories store features a variety of lines and merchandise that reflects the hip-hop nation's ethic. And it's sure to attract its fair share of celebrity clientele, which also fits into the ambiance of the neighborhood. One thing's for sure, if the grand opening is any indication, the in-store music airplay will feature some of the most def hip-hop sounds available. One can almost imagine record label promotion people making regular stops there to get their records on the disc jockey.

SOUND NIBBLES: Queen Latifah and the Flavor Unit Family, which includes Latifah by Nature, Black Sheep, (Chrysalis), and Schnickens and Simple Pleasure, will be joined by rapper Heavy D to record the track "Roll Wit Tha Flava," which will launch Latifah's Flavor Unit Records. Street Knowledge Records' Da Lench Mob has been added to the Beastie Boys and (Henry) Rollins Band tour. The group joined the tour October 25 in Tucson, AZ and will perform through November 11 when they appear in Atlanta, GA. The rappers' debut disc, Guerillas In Tha Mist, is about to go gold...While on the tour tip, Quality Records is supporting three acts on the tour trail through its urban label, Pump Records. Expect to see at a venue near you hip hoppers South Central Cartel, Lighter Shade of Brown and alternative/reggae act Big Mountain. To back the tour, Quality/Pump plans extensive local and national print campaigns covering daily and weekly print, television, and other media...2 Live Crew's raunchiest hits have been enshrined on a 15-track package titled, 2 Live Crew's Greatest Hits. The package includes three new tracks.

REVIEW


Female rappers have proved that they are not dainty. And Shante (formerly Roxanne Shante) is hellbent on proving that she can be as raw, unabridged and contentious as any rapper—male or female. The album, more than two years in the making, features some gritty, sparsely produced music backing Shante, who doesn't miss a beat, especially on tracks like "Intro," on which she tells sucker enemis to step off; "Big Mama," where she challenges the reign of Queen Latifah and says she's tired of this "Monie in the middle" shit; and then there's "Trick Or Treat," where she informs the viewers that while she is not a hoe, Shante will not give up any treats for cheats.
**FILM/VIDEO**

**TOP 30 VIDEO RENTALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Studio/Supplier</th>
<th>Weekly Rental %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>BASIC INSTINCT (Live Home Video)</td>
<td>Paramount</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MY COUSIN VINNY (Fox Video)</td>
<td>20th Century Fox</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>BEETHOVEN (MCA/Universal)</td>
<td>MCA/Universal</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>BATMAN RETURNS (Warner Home Video)</td>
<td>Warner Bros.</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>FRIED GREEN TOMATOES (MCA/Universal)</td>
<td>MCA/Universal</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>FINAL ANALYSIS (Warner Home Video)</td>
<td>Warner Bros.</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>STRAIGHT TALK (Hollywood Home Video)</td>
<td>Hollywood Home Video</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>WHITE MEN CAN'T JUMP (Fox Video)</td>
<td>20th Century Fox</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>THE BASE (MCA/Universal)</td>
<td>MCA/Universal</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>WAYNE'S WORLD (Paramount)</td>
<td>Paramount</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>LAWNMOWER MAN (Columbia/TriStar)</td>
<td>Columbia/TriStar</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>MEDICINE MAN (Hollywood)</td>
<td>Hollywood</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>THUNDERHEART (Columbia TriStar)</td>
<td>Columbia TriStar</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>AMERICAN ME (MCA/Universal)</td>
<td>MCA/Universal</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>MAMBO KINGS (Warner Bros.)</td>
<td>Warner Bros.</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>PRINCE OF TIDES (Columbia TriStar)</td>
<td>Columbia TriStar</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>ONCE UPON A CRIME (MG/MUA Home Video)</td>
<td>MGM/UA</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>LADYBUGS (Paramount)</td>
<td>Paramount</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>WHITE SANDS (Warner)</td>
<td>Warner Bros.</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>CRISS CROSS (MG/UA)</td>
<td>MGM/UA</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>ONE FALSE MOVE (Columbia TriStar)</td>
<td>Columbia TriStar</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>MISSISSIPPI MASALA (Columbia TriStar)</td>
<td>Columbia TriStar</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>SHADOWS AND FOG (Cren)</td>
<td>Columbia TriStar</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>MEMOIRS OF AN INVISIBLE MAN (Warner)</td>
<td>Warner Bros.</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>SPLIT SECOND (HBO)</td>
<td>HBO</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>FERN GULLY (Fox Video)</td>
<td>Fox Video</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>GLADIATOR (Columbia TriStar)</td>
<td>Columbia TriStar</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>NEWSIES (Disney)</td>
<td>Disney</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>RADIO FLYER (Columbia TriStar)</td>
<td>Columbia TriStar</td>
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**TOP 10 MUSIC VIDEOS**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Studio/Supplier</th>
<th>Weekly Rental %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>ERIC CLAPTON: UNPLUGGED (Warner Home Video $19.98)</td>
<td>Warner Bros.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>U2, ACHTUNG BABY: THE VIDEOS, THE CAMEOS (Polygram $19.95)</td>
<td>Polygram</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>KISS: X-TREME CLOSE UP (PolyGram $19.95)</td>
<td>PolyGram</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>BILLY RAY CYRUS (PolyGram Video $12.95)</td>
<td>PolyGram</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>THIS IS GARTH BROOKS (Lively Home Video $24.98)</td>
<td>Lively Home Video</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>ELTON JOHN: LIVE (A'Svision $24.98)</td>
<td>A'Svision</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>BOB MARLEY: TIME WILL TELL (PolyGram $19.98)</td>
<td>PolyGram</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>THE CURE: PLAY OUT (Elektra Video $19.98)</td>
<td>Elektra Video</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>EN VOGUE: FUNKY DIVAS (A'Svision $19.98)</td>
<td>A'Svision</td>
<td>10</td>
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**VID BIZ**

By John Goff

BRENTWOOD HOME VIDEO, video distributor located in Westlake Village, has been open for business three years now. "We're strong in music, fitness and golf video," says Stephen Eckles, marketing and operations director.

Brentwood has recently taken over Turn Up The Volume, rock & roll video magazine which comes out quarterly and features hot bands in "Up Close and Personal," "On The Road With..." "Rising Star," "Rock Vault" and "Cover Story" segments, all designed to offer a closer look at current and enduring acts featured. Turn Up The Volume - 1, which hit about a year and a half ago trained the spotlight on Bret Michaels of Poison, went "On The Road With..." Winger, gave a nod to "Rising Star" Trixtor, put 20-year-old Scorpions in the "Rock Vault" and "Cover Story"-ed Jon Bon Jovi. Since then, they've looked at Matthew & Gunnar Nelson, White Lion, Firehouse, Damn Yankees, Slaughter, Skid Row, Nuno Bettencourt, Anfrih, Aldo Nova & Kik Trace and Kiss.

In addition to Turn Up The Volume line BVH's also distributing Mr. Big; A Group Portrait from Cherry Lane Video Inc, in association with Guitar For The Practicing Musician which features some interesting observations on their music, goals, directions and bands today in general from members Billy Sheehan, Pat Torpey, Eric Martin, and Paul Gilbert.

Speaking of getting the group together Sheehan says: "Our goal was to make music. And now, so many bands, they get together and their actual purpose is to try and get big and get famous and get successful and make money and, 'Oh yeah, there's some music here too, we'll worry about that at some point.' With Mr. Big, we went back to the old days how bands were put together because we like doing it. We enjoy doing it," making his point that many bands are manufactured for more reasons other than music, that they're trying to build with no foundation.

On standards of today Torpey mentions "drum machines. [They] brought up the standards of what good time is and now time has to be virtually perfect. And I'm kind of not necessarily in agreement with that because a lot of the old records I enjoy, there's a human feel. The imperfections of being a human is what can make music feel great or have style...All those things that make us not perfect are what, I think, is what's really great about music." Technology, in any field, can get out of hand seems to be what he's saying and it's good to stick to roots. (Maybe that's why MTV's Unplugged is catching on so well.) Turn Up The Volume 4 also includes an on-the-road segment with Mr. Big.

An interview with Ozzy Osbourne on Volume 6 sees him discussing his work during his first year of sobriety and makes one wonder (yet again) how verbal communication existed before "I know?" became its predominant phrase of comprehension, you know? If we knew we wouldn't be asking, "Up Close and Personal" with Yes lead singer Jon Anderson offers some humor:

"Yes has endured for so many years, why do you think that is?" Anderson (straight): "It had a lot to do with music." Video also spotlights Mark Wood who wants to "get the sleaze of rock and roll into the violin," and succeeds admirably.

Turn Up The Volume - 5, which will be hitting soon, features Kiss, Ugly Kid Joe, Lita Ford, Hard Line and Kings X. In addition to the Turn Up The Volume line and the aforementioned Group Portrait, BVH is also releasing Alabama In Concert, The Best Of Merle Haggard and are producing Christy Lane's Line Dancing volumes 1 and 2 (1 hit the stands six weeks ago and 2 last week), which features not only instructions for line dancing craze but also others, including the "Achy Breaky."
ABC's Jackson Family Mini-Series Follows CBS' Sinatra

By Milt Petty

Portraying The Jacksons in the early years are (l-r): Bumper Robinson, Jermaine Jackson II, Shakimamar Evans, Floyd Roger Myers, Jr. and Alex Burrall.

ABC-TV WEIGHS IN WITH A MAJOR, MARY CATHY MINI SERIES. The Jacksons: An American Dream tracks the phenomenal success of the Jackson family, Mom and Dad and nieces, nephews, over four decades. An American Dream portrays the Joe Jacksons from their humble, hard-working days in Gary, Indiana through their incredible success in every aspect of the entertainment business.

The five-hour film airs on Sunday, November 15 (8-11 p.m.) and Wednesday, November 18 (8-11 p.m.), just one month after Michael's HBO special, which achieved the network's highest music special rating ever.

An American Dream features Jason Weaver, Alex Burrall and Wylie Draper as the maturing Michael (two or three actors or actresses also portray the other Jackson siblings as they grow up), Angels Baker (boy 'N The Hood and Malcolm X) as Katherine Jackson, Lawrence-Hilton Jacobs (Welcome Back Kotter) as Joe Jackson, Billy Dee Williams (Berry Gordy) Holly Robinson as Diana Ross, Grady Harrell as Jackie Wilson and Vanessa Williams as Suzanne DePasse.

Stan Margulis (Roots) and DePasse (Lonesome Dove) executive produced.

The series bills itself as having been made with the cooperation of family members but Jermaine Jackson, who produced the mini-series appears to have been the Jackson family member most responsible for the effort. The film is directed by Karen Arthur from a screenplay by Joyce Elason.

One can only hope that the five-hour film does not completely whitewash the tabloid fodder family tensions that developed between Joe Jackson and Motown founder Gordy, nor the group disbandment as Michael became a superstar. It is realistic portrayal of the behind-the-scenes strife that could make this film more than a run-of-the-mill movie-of-the-week.

On the other hand, all the Hollywood hype and Michael's sometimes extremely unconventional behavior has taken the emphasis off the rags-to-riches quality of the Jackson family story. This series ought to restore the image and the reality of the sustained effort the family made.

Motown, hatch, has the soundtrack, The Jacksons: An American Dream, just out and beginning its chart ascent. Confusingly subtitled, Album Inspired By The Mini-Series, it includes eight real Jackson Five tunes that are lip-synched by the cast band in the movie, including an "I Want You Back/ABC" medley, as well as a Boyz II Men version of Cole Porter's "In The Still Of The Night," two tracks by Weaver and a Jermaine/Syreeta Wright duet.

The Jackson Five's heretofore un-released "Who's Loving You," recorded in 1969, was found gathering dust in the Motown vaults.

Steve Barron (Hardcore's Unforgettable) directed the big bucks production of "Who's Loving You," starring Weaver and now in rotation on video networks.

Among the 25 songs heard in the film, but not included in the soundtrack, are such Jackson Five classics as "I'll Be There," "Never Can Say Goodbye," "ABC" and "The Love You Save," as well as Michael's "Beat It" and "Billie Jean."

The Black Entertainment Network's Teen Summit and other BET specials have also taken the opportunity to feature Jackson specials. BET is now available in 34 million homes and is the only network targeted toward an African-American audience.

THE SINATRA STORY will be told in a five-hour, CBS-TV mini-series Sinatra, set for debut Sunday, November 6 (8-11 p.m.) and Tuesday November 8 (8-11 p.m).

The telefilm, produced by Sinatra's daughter Tina, stars Philip Casnoff (Broadway star of Shogun) in the role and depicts Sinatra's life from his childhood in Hoboken, N.J. to his triumphant return to show business prominence in a 1974 Madison Square Garden performance after a premature retirement. Part One takes Sinatra up to the early '50s.

Philip Casnoff (r) and the real Frank

Olympia Dukakis co-stars as Sinatra's strong-willed mother, Dolly, while Rod Steiger co-stars as mob boss Sam Giancana. This is a film, says Tina Sinatra, Stall, that "will not whitewash her father's friendship and association with leading underworld figures."

Directed by James Sadwith, Sinatra also stars Gina Gershon as Frank's first wife Nancy; Marcia Gay Harden as his second wife Ava Gardner; Nina Siemaszko as third wife Mia Farrow; and Joe Santos as his father, Marty.

Also depicted are the likes of Tommy Dorsey, Sammy Davis, Jr., Harry James, Major Bowes, Joseph, Jack and Bobby Kennedy, Peter Lawford and Dean Martin.

Produced by Tina Sinatra and Richard Rosenblum, Sinatra is from Warner Bros. Television Productions in association with TS Productions and was written by William MacDonald and Ben Cohen.

Sinatra CD/cassette releases accompany the Sinatra telepic. Wisely, record companies have seized the time to market his recordings. The Reprise, the label Sinatra founded, has the CBS mini-series album, Sinatra, which includes 25 classic Sinatra performances plus two Bing Crosby performances, one Benny Goodman and another by Billie Holiday. The Reprise two-cassette, two-disc set of material brings together work recorded for four main labels in four exact 1950s. Capitol has compiled 16 thematic Sinatra albums recorded in the '50s, early '60s, starting with Swing Easy in '53 and concluding with Study Of No Return in '62 and re-released them in CD form.

Each of the 16 CDs includes bonus tracks and comprehensive liner notes written by Pete Welding, excepting Tame Poems Of Color—which, incidentally, was the first recording session in the then-independent Capitol Studio—of which this is the first CD release.

SAMUEL GOLDWYN COMPANY'S release of the Australian film Flinging has been as close as the studio has come to the States with a host of impressive credentials and does not disappoint. Winner of the Australia Film Critics Circle Awards in Best Feature, Best Director (John Duigan) and Best Actor (Noah Taylor) categories, the film has also been a big hit in Australia, where it opened November 18 and is an excellent film.

Part two of a trilogy that began with The Year My Voice Broke, Flinging stars Taylor as Danny Embly, a very intellectual outsider at a posh 1960s' boarding school who falls for the gorgeous Tandiwe Adjeewa (Thandie Newton), a South African school, also attended by a snoopy sexpot played by Nicole Kidman (Far And Away). Adjeewa is Ugandan in the days of Idi Amin's bloody rise to power, which gives film political impact.

This innocently sexy coming-of-age film features diverse music of the period, highlighted by the Troggs' With A Girl Like You," which is an absolute delight. Don't let the "foreign film" stigma keep you from seeing this winner of a picture.
WRIGHT CELEBRATES SILVER ANNIVERSARY—Noted musician, songwriter, and producer Earl J. Wright, Jr., recently celebrated 25 years of service in gospel music. A gala celebration was held in his honor at Bailey’s Cathedral in Detroit, Michigan. Many nationally known, as well as local luminaries, were present to pay tribute to Wright. Known for his extraordinary talent on the keyboard, Wright has written, performed, and/or produced for such artists as Commissioned, Derrick Brinkley, Vanessa Bell Armstrong, Keith Pringle, Thomas Whitfield, Deliverance, Vickie Winans, The Michael Fletcher Chorale, Paul Morton, and Christian rap group, P.I.D. He also worked on many national commercial jingles, as well as such nationally recognized theatrical productions as 'Mama Don’t.'

ON THE STREET—Christian rock band Bride recently released their follow-up to 'Kinetic Faith,' entitled 'Snakes In The Playground.' Celebrating the excitement of this project, Star Song Communications is now offering an Eight Track Special Collectors Edition CD which features two songs from 'Snakes... as well as past hits from 'Kinetic Faith' and 'End Of The Age...'

...Larry Howard’s Cornerstone Blues Jam has been captured on tape. Produced by jam performer, Eddie DeGarmo, the album was released last month and features the “blues” sung by artists such as Margaret Becker, Mark Farner, Darrell Mansfield, Guardian, Jessy Dixon, Glen Kaiser, Elsa Harris, Rex Carroll, Vanessa Mitchell, and of course, Larry Howard...

...Glen Campbell has released his second gospel album for New Haven Records, entitled 'Wings of Victory.' Campbell called on songwriters Jimmy Webb and Geoff Thurman and received vocal contributions from First Call and 'The Boys Choir of Harlem.'

KEE-ING IT UP IN MOTOWN—One of gospel music’s rising stars, Rev. John P. Kee and his band of highly energized singers, known as The New Life Community Choir, recently made a stop in Motown (a.k.a. Detroit, Michigan) to share their hot brand of music. The concert was sponsored by the renowned Bell Sisters (Vanessa, Charlene, and Margaret) to commemorate their father’s 25th pastoral anniversary. Kee and crew shared with the jam-packed audience some of their favorites, along with material from their brand new release, 'We Walk By Faith.' Sharing the stage with Kee were Vanessa Bell Armstrong and hot, young, up-and-coming, artists The Ginyard Family and Derrick Starks and New Generation.

By Tim A. Smith & Cory Chesire

THE GOSPEL BEAT

MYLON LEFEVRE—STRONGER THAN EVER

By Cory Chesire

THE BIG NEWS IS THAT MYLON LEFEVRE, the “rock-n-roll evangelist,” who for 11 years with his band, Broken Heart, released 17 albums and brought nearly 200,000 people to Christ through live concerts, has just released a solo album. The reason this news is so heart-stopping is that LeFevre, who has recorded an album every year since he was 17 years old, had not, before his current 'Faith, Hope and Love project, released an album since June, 1990. Big News Part II: LeFevre recorded the album sans his compatriots, Broken Heart, and Big News Part III: LeFevre claims he is completely healed from a heart attack he suffered in 1989, one doctor said he shouldn’t have lived through. I recently had the opportunity to speak with LeFevre on the phone, and while I was seeking answers to the usual “So, you’ve got a new album” questions, what I got instead was one man’s zealous response to the unsolicited question, “Why is Mylon LeFevre stronger than ever?”

Looking back on Mylon’s career, one has to wonder how it could get better. His first break came at age 17 when he wrote “Without Him,” a song recorded by Elvis Presley. With money in his pockets, Mylon began the usual “shop” for a good studio and musicians. He soon put together the Atlanta Rhythm Section, who, in 1969, released ‘We Believe,’ a pre-CCM album, because as Mylon recalls, the worship contemporary Christian music had not yet been coined. Between 1970-78, Mylon sold nearly three million records in the Southern rock genre and worked with artists like John Lennon, The Rolling Stones and Eric Clapton. During that lucrative period, Mylon says he was also hooked on drugs and a self-fulfilling prophecy of destruction.

In 1978, Mylon committed his music to hard-core ministry, and in 1982, he and Broken Heart broke ground as a learner Contemporary Rock band, selling over a million albums and garnering multiple Grammy and Dove awards and nominations, including a Dove for "Rock Album of the Year" in 1988. Eight albums and millions of miles later, Mylon suffered a heart attack. He and Broken Heart disbanded on good terms (all but one of the members went into full-time ministry), and Mylon spent two-and-a-half years, as he terms it, refocusing.

"If I had a heart attack," says Mylon, "because I was trying too hard. So I took a year off, and I just really re-thought who I am. This record is just part of that process."

The result of that process is the simple praise and soft AC sounds of 'Faith, Hope and Love.' As Mylon explains, the album took on an almost strictly worship character, as an album not written for God, but to Him. Mylon asked several colleagues in the Christian music field to join him on the album. Artists such as Steven Curtis Chapman, Carman, Michael English, Michael W. Smith, 4 Him, and country music’s Ricky Skaggs came willingly, so willingly in fact, that none accepted payment. Other notable include Dez Dickerson on vocals, drummer Liberty DeVito, and Charles Jorge on percussion. Commenting in particular on the first single, “Invincible Love,” Mylon says, “Obviously God enjoyed what we were trying to do because He just showed up.”

"This record is basically me humbling myself before God," says Mylon. "I think the hardest thing for me, harder than giving up cigarettes, or drinking, or heroin, [was after] 12 years of being a minister, humbling myself and starting over."

Mylon is now recording with a fired-up band of young guys he named "Friends," and he will be touring spring and fall, doing festivals and such in the summer, and writing and recording in the winter months. In all fairness, Mylon's story is not only expansive but compelling. From musical integrity to spiritual integrity, Mylon offers his heart as freely as his music.

"I mean I can grunt and stomp and scream and all that," says Mylon, now suit-clad and without the characteristic Mylon mane, "but the bottom line is the songs I communicate best are the ones that I've lived."
Gospel Music

Songs of Praise

**LARNELLE HARRIS:** *I Choose Joy* (Benson)

Harris makes a sharp departure from the inspirational musical style he's been noted for throughout his career in Christian music. He opts for a more contemporary, R&B-flavored menu which he handles with relative ease. Although his staunch, age-old fans may disagree with this switch in direction, those new to his music will enjoy Harris' silky smooth vocal flair on such songs as "Take Me Home," "I Choose Joy," "It's Love," and "The Best Is Yet To Come," a prophetic title for Harris and this project.

**FLORIDA MASS CHOIR:** *...Now I Can See...* (Malaco)

This aggregation has always been one to explore various musical styles outside the realm of traditional gospel, much to the dismay of many gospel purists. On this project they return to a more traditional sound. Featured is the music of award-winning songwriter V. Michael McKay. Radio and fans alike should enjoy such songs as: "Send Your Power," "If You Just Trust Him," "We Praise Jesus," "All Night, All Day," and "I Feel Good."

**THE ANOINTED PACE SISTERS:** *U-Know* (Savoy)

This talented group of sisters are often compared musically to their female counterparts in the gospel spectrum. Witness the Clark Sisters. But this release aptly shows that these siblings are talented enough to stand on their own artistic merits. Recorded live in Atlanta, Georgia, the joy comes just listening and marveling at the beautiful music these eight sisters make together. For long-time fans of this group, check out the remake of one of their past favorites, "Be A Fence."

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**TOP BLACK GOSPEL ALBUMS**

**CASH BOX** *NOVEMBER 7, 1992*

1. *MY MIND IS MADE UP* (Word 48794) 
   Rev. Milton Brunson & The Thompson Community Singers 1 31
2. *LIVE IN DETROIT* (Malaco 6009) 
   Rev. James Moore 2 22
3. *ALIVE & SATISFIED* (Benson 2841) 
   Thomas Whitfield 3 31
4. *FOCUS ON GLORY* (Benson 6059) 
   Hezekiah Walker 4 5
5. *THANK YOU JESUS* (Savoy/Malaco 14811) 
   The New York Restoration Choir 4 20
6. *WHEN THE MUSIC STOPS* (Sparrow 1324) 
   Daryl Coley 7 15
7. *COME AS YOU ARE* (Sparrow/70559) 
   Los Angeles Mass Choir 6 22
8. *GOD GETS THE GLORY* (Malaco 6008) 
   Mississippi Mass Choir 8 41
9. *LIVE AND ANOINTED* (Malaco 6012) 
   The Jackson Southerners 10 15
10. *HE'S WORKING IT OUT FOR YOU* (Word/Eric 48795) 
    Shirley Caesar 9 41
11. *SAINTS IN PRAISE* (Sparrow 1240) 
    West Angeles C.O.G.I.C. 11 63
12. *THE COUNTRY BOY GOES HOME* (Malaco 6010) 
    Willie Neal Johnson 12 22
13. *WASH ME* (Sparrow/1401) 
    John P. Kee New Life Community Choir 13 73
14. *LIVE IN SALT LAKE CITY* (Savoy/7105) 
    G.M.W.A./Salt Lake City 15 5
15. *DIFFERENT LIFESTYLES* (Capitol 92078) 
    BeBe & CeCe Winans 16 47
16. *HE LIVES* (Savoy/14807) 
    Shun Pace Rhodes 16 64
17. *FAMILY AND FRIENDS VOLUME 3* (Malaco/15017) 
    Ron Winans/Family & Friends 17 37
18. *USE ME* (AIR 10181) 
    James Bignon & Deliverance 19 8
19. *CHILDREN OF THE KING* (Malaco 4454) 
    Mississippi Children's Choir 20 4
20. *LIVE* (Malaco 4450) 
    Dorothy Norwood/No. Ca. G.M.W.A. Mass Choir 18 65
    New Jersey Mass Choir 21 23
22. *I'M GLAD ABOUT IT* (Malaco/Savoy 14804) 
    Rev. T. Wright/Chicago Mass Choir 22 25
23. *U KNOW* (Savoy 14812) 
    Anointed Pace Sisters 24 8
24. *NOW I CAN SEE* (Savoy 6011) 
    Florida Mass Choir 23 12
25. *CALL HIM UP* (Word 48594) 
    Chicago Mass Choir 25 27
26. *STAND STILL UNTIL HIS WILL IS CLEAR* (AIR 10182) 
    Rev. E. Davis/Wilmington Mass Choir 27 5
27. *STANDING IN THE SAFETY ZONE* (Warner Bros. 26439) 
    Fairfield Four 26 4
28. *THIS IS GOSPEL* (Light/Sparrow 73077) 
    War On Sin 29 4
29. *LOOK A LITTLE CLOSER* (Word 9112) 
    Helen Baylor 28 36
30. *THE LEGEND LIVES ON* (Malaco 4448) 
    Willie Banks 30 18
31. *WE WALK BY FAITH* (Sparrow 686) 
    John P. Kee/New Life Community Choir 32 3
32. *THROUGH THE STORM* (Tribute/Spectra 790113) 
    Yolanda Adams 31 57
33. *LOVE* (Light 75080) 
    BeBe Williams 33 5
34. *KEYS TO LIFE* (Tribute 790113) 
    Ben Tankard 34 4
35. *WITH ALL MY HEART* (Savoy 6026) 
    Sandra Crouch 36 3
36. *A TRIBUTE TO JAMES CLEVELAND* (CGI/AMI 8304) 
    Various Artists 35 51
37. *NEVER LET GO OF HIS HAND* (New Haven 200142) 
    Rev. Lawrence Thomison 37 10
38. *SING IN THE SPIRIT* (Light 75080) 
    North Carolina Mass Choir 38 8
39. *YOU CAN MAKE IT IF YOU TRY* (Savoy/Malaco 14808) 
    Camel Murrell & The Newark Community Choir 39 18
40. *COMIN' HOME* (Savoy/Spectra 3001) 
    Twinkie Clark-Terrell 40 18

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**NEW RELEASES**

1. **PHILLIPS, CRAIG & DEAN** (Star Song 8256) - Phillips, Craig & Dean
2. **HOPE OF THE WORLD** (Tribute 7-90113-116-0) - Donnie Harper & New Jersey Mass Choir
3. **LIVE BY THE SWORD** (Straight Answer 1057) - Bill Itzel
4. **FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE** (Star Song 8255) - Mylon LeFevre
5. **SAVE THE WORLD** (Myrrh 701695661) - Eric Champion
DeLeon: Moving In A New Direction

By Tim A. Smith

The "little darling of gospel music" has grown up. DeLeon, who at the age of nine became the youngest person to ever be nominated for a Grammy for her self-titled Word Records debut, has come of age.

Now a 10-year "seasoned" veteran of singing professionally, DeLeon, at age 15, has released her fourth album for Word, entitled New Direction.

New Direction shows where DeLeon is, both as a person, as well as an artist. Gone are the "cutesy," novelty songs of her early years. They've been replaced by the hard-hitting sounds of hip-hop and smooth, R&B-flavored ballads.

Although urban contemporary gospel music has received a bad rap from many gospel purists for what they call, its "worldly" sound and vague lyrical content, DeLeon makes sure that her message comes through loud and clear.

"I want people to feel that I'm talking about Jesus," she says. "And I want my message really displayed that way."

Tim Miner, one of contemporary music's young, rising artist/producer, produced New Direction, as well as writing many of the album's songs. DeLeon and Miner also received assistance from such music notables as Brian McKnight, the brother of Take 6's Claude McKnight, who wrote the beautiful "My Love," Guitarist Eric "B.B." Brice, whose credits include Commissioned, Witness, and Stephanie Mills, penned the album cut, "Pure As Gold," a song which hits close to home for DeLeon.

"Pure As Gold" is about being young and dealing with the pressures that young people face and have to go through today," says DeLeon. "The song also lets you know that though it all, you can make it." She adds, "Eric wrote the song specifically for me, so it kind of describes where my life is right now."

Besides music, acting has also had a place in DeLeon's career. She had a regular role on the ABC Network television show, Brestrer Place, in which she played co-star, Oprah Winfrey's niece. She has also performed on the popular PBS special, Going Home With Patti LaBelle. Although DeLeon wants to pursue more acting roles, her main focus, for the time being, is on school and music.

New Direction is a landmark album in many ways for DeLeon. Most importantly, it is the first album that she's had the chance to have creative input. Regarding this matter of importance, DeLeon states, "Having some say-so in the creative end of the music allows me to continually grow in my music ministry as well as be a role model for youth around the world."

This album begins a new era for DeLeon—a new image, a new sound, and a new sense of maturity and freedom. For those who still may wonder, "Is this the same cute little DeLeon?" the answer can be found between the grooves.

Michael English recently performed at a fundraising banquet for Mercy Ministries of America held in Nashville. While there he met and posed with President Bush, who was in town campaigning. Pictured are (l-r): Nancy Alcorn, founder of Mercy Ministries of America; President Bush; and English.
News Etc...

MASTER CARD—VISA—COUNTRY GOLD CARD?—Yes! In the great American tradition of Babe Ruth and Mickey Mantle, Sterling Cards has been selected by the Country Music Association as the exclusive manufacturer and distributor of the CMA's official country music trading cards. A natural extension of America's fascination with trading cards, Country Gold Cards will be limited to 100 artists, reflecting an almost historic look at country music superstars for the past 25 years. Featured in the first set of cards, which will retail for approximately $1.00-$1.25 for a nine-card foil pack, are such country superstars as Billy Ray Cyrus, Clint Black, K.T. Oslin, Merle Haggard, and Ricky Van Shelton. The cards will be available in sporting cards shops, music outlets, and fine retail stores by Fall 1992.

CMT SPONSORSHIPS—Country is going corporate, and the latest in sponsorship ventures from Country Music Television include Clint Black's "Lost Hat" contest and "CMT's Jukebox Jam". The announcements were made by Steven Yanovsky, vice-president, marketing services, Group W Satellite Communications.

In conjunction with RCA Records and Target Stores, CMT is set to sponsor Clint Black's "Lost Hat" contest, which is a four-week consumer promotion scheduled to run on CMT October 26 through November 20. The contest will challenge viewers to locate a cowboy hat which has been superimposed in selected scenes in four Clint Black music videos. The Grand Prize winner will receive an all-expense paid trip for two to a Clint Black concert in Europe including round-trip airfare, luxury hotel accommodations, personalized "lost hat," The Hard Way Tour denim jacket, autographed The Hard Way CD from RCA Records and $1,000 in prize money. The contest will receive extensive promotional exposure through spots on CMT and video monitors in all of Target's 498 stores nationwide. To enter the contest, viewers must mail in with their name, address, and phone number, the names of the four Clint Black videos in which the "lost hat" appears as well as the locations of the "lost hat" in each video to: CMT's Lost Hat Contest, P.O. Box 10371, Stamford, Conn. 06904.

In recognition of the 103rd anniversary of the jukebox during National Jukebox Month in November, CMT, in association with the Amusement & Music Operators Association (AMOA), will launch a national consumer promotion called "CMT's Jukebox Jam." This sweeps event will begin on November 2 and entries will be due by December 3. CMT's on-air promotion will feature 30-second promotional spots with MCA recording artist Mark Chesnutt, to be telecast four times a day throughout the duration of the promotion. In addition, the "Jukebox Jam" will be supported by easelback display boards (featuring Mark Chesnutt and the CMT logo) with tear-off information sheets at approximately 15,000 participating jukebox locations. CMT viewers and jukebox location patrons will have the opportunity to win a CD jukebox filled with 100 MCA country singles and a CMT jacket personally delivered by Chesnutt. Entrants must send their name, address, and phone number to: CMT's Jukebox Jam, P.O. Box 10329, Stamford, Conn. 06904.

THANKS TO COLUCCI—During the recent taping of the Women of Country Music special, songwriter Jill Colucci chatted with some of those who have recorded her songs. Arista's Michelle Wright has just debuted with Colucci's "He Would Be Sixteen," and Wynonna Judd went #1 this week with the Colucci-penned "No One Else On Earth." (Photo Credit: Alan Mayor)

A BANQUET OF STARS—The CMA and Banquet Foods have teamed up with 11 of country music's rising stars for a promotion that will reach over 50 million households. "Country Music's Rising Stars" is a high-quality cassette tape that will be offered free with proofs-of-purchase on select Banquet frozen food products. The artists included are Tracy Byrd, Darryl & Don Ellis, Cleve Francis, Little Texas, Martina McBride, Neal McCoy, Tim Mensy, Ronna Reeves, Mike Reid, The Remingtons, and Michelle Wright. The free tape offer is prominently displayed on the back of 38 million Banquet frozen food packages and will also be offered through Sunday supplement newspaper inserts in millions of households across the U.S. beginning November 13, 1992.

PROMOTIONS, PROMOTIONS, & MORE PROMOTIONS—MCA recording artist Mark Collie sings the praises of the new Oldsmobile Achieva in the currently running "Heart of Tennessee" Oldsmobile commercials. Garmeyz Media of Nashville created the commercials which feature Collie.

HURRICANE RELIEF SUCCESSFUL—From 7 to 10:30 p.m. on Monday, October 19, the Grand Ole Opry House was filled with songs, as 18 country music artists donated their time and talent to benefit hurricane victims in Florida, Hawaii and Louisiana. Country Stars Shine For Hurricane Relief raised over $53,000 through ticket sales alone.

RETROSPECT—With the tremendous popularity of Country Music sweeping the nation, the Country Music Association will commemorate its 35th anniversary as a trade organization with a two-hour CBS television special tentatively titled A Country Celebration. The event will be taped at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House on Wednesday, January 13. The special will feature top country artists and will air in the first quarter of 1993.

GOING NEAR THE GOLD—Sammy Kershaw's debut album Don't Go Near The Water recently went gold, and Mercury/Nashville helped him celebrate. "Anywhere But Here" is the latest single, following the Top 10 singles "Cadillac Style," the title cut, and "Yard Sale." Pictured at the party are (l-r): album co-producer Norro Wilson, manager Jim Dowell, Kershaw, and Mercury's manager of A&R and co-producer of the album Buddy Cannon. (Photo Credit: Dan Loftin)

Giant Records new artist Deborah Allen recently kicked off her 30-day, 85-city radio tour at Nashville's WSM-FM. Pictured with Deborah are: (l) Bob Meyer, general manager and (r) Kevin O'Neil, operations manager.
Roger Dean Miller: January 2, 1936—October 25, 1992

Roger Miller, one of the most original voices in popular culture, died recently in Los Angeles at age 56. Miller, who was best known for the worldwide smash country and pop hit, "King Of The Road," and for the musical score of the multiple Tony Award-winning Broadway musical, Big River, had been diagnosed with cancer less than a year ago. According to his manager, Stan Moore, Miller died at Century City Hospital with his wife, Mary, and son, Roger Dean, Jr. at his side.

In a 1989 interview, Miller reflected on his career objectives to writer Otto Kittenburger for the liner notes to King Of The Road, a retrospective of his work re-issued by Bear Family Records. "I just want to be remembered for what I did, a writer who tried to be creative and tried to further his music by experimenting," Miller said. "I always took a great deal of pride in being original. When somebody said, 'My God, where did that come from?' that was the big payoff for me."

Born in Fort Worth, Texas and raised in Oklahoma, Miller arrived in Nashville in the 1950s after serving three years in the U.S. Army in Korea. While his professional credits boast tenure in the bands of country superstars like Minnie Pearl, Ray Price, and Faron Young, Miller soon made enduring marks on the entertainment industry as a songwriter. By the late '60s, artists including Ray Price, Jim Reeves, and Faron Young were scoring top hits with Miller-penned originals.

By 1960, he had made his own recording debut, and repeated appearances on The Tonight Show, The Jimmy Dean Show, and The Merv Griffin Show established Miller as a spontaneous and consistently original artist as he sang his own "non-commercial" songs such as "Dang Me," "Chug-A-Lug," and "King Of The Road." As his stature escalated, his music transcended musical boundaries and topped both the country and pop charts, sweeping the Grammy Awards two years in a row. His domination of the Grammys was so pronounced that the rules were changed to prevent such occurrences in the future. The only artist ever to be awarded more Grammys in a single year is Michael Jackson.

In September, 1966, The Roger Miller Show debuted on NBC, and in February 1970, Miller launched the King Of The Road hotel in Nashville, which lured travelers and local patrons alike toward the high quality entertainment found inside its Roof Top Lounge. In 1973, the Nashville Association Of Songwriters International elected Miller to its songwriters' Hall of Fame. Miller is credited for writing more than 800 songs, while more than 700 versions of his compositions have been recorded.

In 1982, he was recruited by Broadway producer Rocco Landesman to write the score for Big River, a musical based on Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn. Described as "the biggest piece of work I'd ever attempted," Miller also appeared as Pap, Huck's father, in performances at the O'Neill Theatre in New York City. Big River, which opened on Broadway in 1985, won seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Score. The original cast album on MCA Records was the first of its type ever recorded in Nashville and documents Miller's skill through a broad range of musical genres.

In addition to his 11 Grammys, a platinum single, six gold singles, and six gold albums, Miller's long list of awards also includes the time-honored Pioneer Award from the Academy Of Country Music.

Miller lived near Santa Fe, New Mexico with his wife, Mary, five-year-old daughter Margaret Taylor, and two-year-old son Adam Gray. Survivors also include his mother, Laudine Burdine; five other children, Roger Dean, Jr., Alan Douglas, Rhonda Darlene, Shari Dell, and Shannon Elizabeth; and seven grandchildren.
COUNTRY MUSIC

SINGLES

OUT OF THE BOX

■ DOUG STONE "Too Busy Being In Love" (Epic)
Producer: Doug Johnson
Writers: Victoria Shaw/Gary Burr
Album: From The Heart

The latest from Doug Stone tells the hypothetical story of what a man could have done if he wasn’t "Too Busy Being In Love." With appeals to normality and Stone's unique stacatto lead, this should be highly appealing to country radio.

FEATURE PICKS

■ NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND "One Good Love" (Liberty)
Producers: Jimmy Bowen/Chuck Howard
Writers: Radney Foster/Jeff Hanna
Album: Not Fade Away

They're as strong, tight, and uplifting as usual, and with the release of this upbeat swinger, "One Good Love" they have a sure catch for radio.

■ JEFF CHANCE "A Heartache On Her Hands" (Mercury)
Producer: Harold Shedd
Writers: Buddy Cannon/John Northrup
Album: Walk Softly On The Bridges

"A Heartache, heartache, heartache. This one's a revel in self-pity, an "Oh God, I'm gonna die without him kind of song," but with as many broken hearts as there are in the world, "A Heartache On Her Hands" might serve as a soft shoulder. Time and radio will tell.

ALBUMS

NEW ALBUM RELEASES

(October 1992)
Roses And Thorns—Michael Martin Murphey—(Warner Bros.)
Hangin' On By A Thread—The Texas Tornados—(Warner Bros.)
It's Your Call—Reba McEntire—(MCA)

CMT Top Ten Video Countdown

1. Travis Tritt . Lord Have Mercy On The Working Man (Warner Bros.)
2. Suzy Bogguss ........ Letting Go (Liberty)
3. Pam Tillis .......... Shake The Sugar Tree (Arista)
4. Lorrie Morgan ........ Watch Me (BNA)
5. Billy Dean ........... If There Hadn't Been You (Liberty)
6. John Anderson ......... Seminole Wind (BNA)
7. Radney Foster .......... Just Call Me Lonesome (Arista)
8. Mark Collie ....... Even The Man In The Moon Is Cryin' (MCA)
9. Alabama ........... I'm In A Hurry (And Don't Know Why) (RCA)
10. Wynonna Judd ....... No One Else On Earth (Curb/MCA)

—compliments of CMT video countdown, week ending October 28, 1992
By Cory Cheshire

HIGH DEBUTS
1. LIONEL CARTWRIGHT—“Standing On The Promises”—(MCA)—#8
2. TIM MENSY—“That’s Good”—(Giant)—#49
3. CHRIS LEDOUX—“Cadillac Ranch”—(Liberty)—#54

MOST ACTIVE
1. DWIGHT YOAKAM—“Suspicous Minds”—(Epic)—#15
2. MARK CHESNUTT—“Bubba Shot The Jukebox”—(MCA)—#10
3. AARON TIPPIN—“I Was Born With A Broken Heart”—(RCA)—#38

POWERFUL ON THE PLAYLIST—This week, “No One Else On Earth” becomes Wynonna’s third #1 single. What else needs to be said? As for those still gaining the momentum for their eventual top five status, Mark Chesnutt, while he didn’t garner the most moves this week (Dwight Yoakam with 11 did), he is poised for a takeover at #10, with “Bubba Shot The Jukebox.” Backing up the double-digit move by Yoakam, were Aaron Tippin at #38 with “I Was Born With A Broken Heart,” George Strait at #18 with “I Cross My Heart,” and Ricky Van Shelton at #11 with “Wild Man.”

CALLING FOR GOSPEL—KQLX radio in Lisbon, North Dakota has asked us to ask you for “all types of Christian music.” The country station is seeking gospel music by artists such as The Statlers, Barbara Mandrell, Tennessee Ernie Ford, and others for a Sunday broadcast. If you have any promotional recordings, call Jay Haaland at 701-683-5287, or send to KQLX Radio, Box 1008, Lisbon, N.D. 58054.

LOOKING AHEAD
(Listed are major label single releases which have not yet debuted on the Top 100 Country Singles Chart, but are receiving reports.)
1. LITTLE TEARS—Joy White (Columbia)
2. NO WAY JOSE—Ray Kennedy (Atlantic)
3. I GOT YOU—The Mavericks (MCA)
4. STILL OUT THERE SWINGING—Paul Overstreet (RCA)
5. THANKS FOR THE RIDE—Boy Howdy (Curb)

WMZQ IS DUO-ING IT UP RIGHT—Brooks & Dunn paid a visit to WMXQ radio recently and met (l-r): American Country Countdown host Bob Kingsley, WMZQ’s Tom Rivers and Kim Leslie.

Thanks for voting me number one last year
Indie Album Pick
Ralph Litwin & Friends (Fanny Wisdom)
Producer: Ralph Litwin
Album: Makes My Heart Feel Happy
This is a uniquerelease from banjo champion, folk singer, cable TV host, and permanent New Jersey music scene fixture Ralph Litwin. It's an eclectic blend of country, bluegrass, clypso, jazz, and western-swing, vaguely reminiscent of Jimmy Buffett. Bob Wills, and Jerry Walker, but highly original.

Included are tongue-in-cheek looks at life, obviously stemming from strange social-consciousness and musicalological over-exposure. Selections like "Merle Haggard Was Eatin' Tofu," "I Love Like Washing A Potato," and "I'd Rather Say Goodbye To You Than Give Up An Indoor Toilet" would make Ray Stevens cackle. There are 14 cuts of reining weirdness here, and it's worth checking out.

—Brad Hogue

Indie Feature Picks
Tish Hinojosa "In The Real West" (Rounder)
"In The Real West" is a harmonica ballad about the glory of the West sung solidly in a pervasively folk character. Tish Hinojosa, simply put, like labelmate Alison Krauss, tears down the independent walls with a unique, strong voice.

Josiah "Never Gonna Hold You Down" (WTM)
If nothing else, Josiah is a spirited singer, and with this upbeat ditty he struts his stuff. "Never Gonna Hold You Down" profits from its tight production and some gutsy licks from some unexpected sources. Check it out.

Metba Montgomery, recently a top independent draw on the Top 10 Country Singles chart with "You're Heart Turned Left (And I Was On The Right)," gets some points from playback producer Jack Gale. She will soon be releasing an album on Playback entitled Do You Know Where Your Man Is, to be distributed nationally by Laurie Records.
Humor That Makes A lot Of Cents

Billy Crystal, Whoopi Goldberg and Robin Williams with very special guests . . . Roseanne & Tom Arnold, Dennis Miller, Paula Poundstone, Don Rickles, Rita Rudner, Garry Shandling, Richard Lewis, Super Dave Osborne, Sinbad, Dick Van Dyke, Jim Carrey, Bobcat Goldthwait, Marsha Warfield, Heavy D, Sounds Of Blackness, Carl Reiner, Paul Rodriguez and others!

Where There’s Laughter There’s Hope.

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- A portion of the proceeds from sales will be donated to Comic Relief to fund The National Health Care For The Homeless Program.
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News Briefs...

THE AMUSEMENT AND MUSIC OPERATORS OF VIRGINIA state association cancelled its annual state convention and trade show, which was scheduled for October 23-24, due to insufficient pre-registration of operators. While exhibitor interest was better than it had been in years, AMOV felt it would be unfair to allow distributors to incur the expense of participating under these circumstances. The association will re-schedule the membership meeting that was to be held in conjunction with the show and executive director Charles Rowland advised that a Spring get-together for AMOV members is on the planning board...WMS Industries (Williams, Bally/Midway) has reportedly entered a lawsuit against Data East for patent, trademark and other infringements. No further details were available at preствие...Atlas Dist., recently set up what you might call a "second location" at its Chicago facilities (4500 W. Dickens) to house Strictly CD's, the noted Joliet, Illinois-based supplier of not only CD's but 45's, music videos, Spanish CD's, et al. Jukebox ops now have the opportunity to "one-stop" shop for their music needs. Strictly CD's offer such benefits as—title strips, no shipping costs, no minimum orders, weekly new release lists—and more. For further info contact Atlas at 312-292-4496.

Capcom Ups Backer To Nat'l Sales Mgr.

CHICAGO—Capcom USA, Inc. announced the promotion of Jolly S. Backer to the position of national sales manager of the company's arcade and amusement products division where he will direct all North American sales and distribution activities.

An 11-year industry veteran, Backer joined Capcom in 1991 as sales manager and, in this position, he played a major role in boosting revenues and defining the corporate direction of Capcom's coin-op division. He was also instrumental in the introduction and sale of the firm's Street Fighter II game series.

Commenting on the appointment, Jeff Walker, vice president of Capcom's arcade and amusement products, stressed Backer's "commitment to the success and growth of our sales force." He added that, "with Jolly's guidance, we are confident that our corporate commitment to the sales and distribution channel will strengthen."

Backer has held a number of key positions in the industry with such companies as Data East, Sega, Bally and Berton Pacific in Los Angeles. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Fullerton State University.

Capcom USA, Inc. is based in Santa Clara, California.

AMOA Jukebox Top 30
FOR MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER 1992

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<td>THE THUNDER ROLLS</td>
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NATIONAL SAMPLING BY RECORD SOURCE INTERNATIONAL (RSI) BASED ON BOTH 45 RPM AND CD POPULARITY.
NSM Intros New ‘Fully Automated Jukeboxes’ Via Its ‘ESV Technology’ System

CHICAGO—The new NSM Performer Classic CD Jukebox, which was showcased by NSM-America at the recently held AMOA convention in Nashville, marks the introduction of the factory’s “fully automated” sound system. As noted by NSM-America president Rus Strahan, “Fully automated” simply means our new Performer Classics will do everything operators would like to do with their jukeboxes to maximize income—only they will now do it—automatically.

All Performer Classics can now be operator-programmed to automatically turn on or off any number of features...any day of the year, any hour of the day...and this is made possible by the “real time clock,” which is a part of the new advanced “ESV technology” sound system.

The real time clock, coupled with all new software allows for the turning on or off of scores of different features, such as background music, attract mode, free credits, etc. at pre-determined times. In addition, it can accomplish other tasks like locking-out certain objectionable albums or titles during specific hours.

Strahan pointed out that automated features are only part of the new “ESV Technology.” “There’s really much, much more to the new technology employed in our new HyperBeam sound system,” he explained. “Even the Philips CD player is new! The only thing that even looks the same is our high-speed changer except for the fact that it is even faster, meaning there’s less delay time between selections—and this, of course, translates into increased income for operators!”

While the new “ESV Technology” system components resemble the old ones, there are some obvious differences such as the new instant hook-up connectors (standard RCA plug-ins) for hassle-free connection of external sound sources and the Data Print print-out, which now gives operators music popularity information on both CD and song title, among other data.

Among the major advantages stressed by Strahan is the Hyper Beam system’s built-in ability “to accommodate most anything the future may bring along in the way of new sound technology,” NSM has positioned itself to address present and future requirements in the marketplace. “We are building our jukeboxes now to accommodate music and technology changes that we feel may be forthcoming,” he said.

Pictured here is the NSM Performer Classic. Further information may be obtained through factory distributors or by contacting NSM-America at 5207 N. Rose St., Chicago, IL 60656.

American Laser Games’ Mad Dog II: The Lost Gold

CHICAGO—You loved Mad Dog McCree, which has maintained itself as one of the most popular and longstanding arcade games of recent years. At the recently held AMOA convention in Nashville, this game’s creator, American Laser Games of Albuquerque, New Mexico, introduced a sequel, Mad Dog II: The Lost Gold, which was very well received by showgoers.

American Laser Games’ unique technical capabilities opened the door for a new generation of interactive video games that allow players to interact with real-life characters in realistic settings relating to the game theme. In Mad Dog II: The Lost Gold, players fight their way through renegade Indians, banditos and Mad Dog’s sleazy henchmen to beat this culprit to the gold. As a player, you become the main character in a western movie, filmed with crystal-clear visibility.

The game’s cabinet design provides a large 50” screen that occupies a minimum of floor space (46.5” x 76”). A smaller cabinet version with a 33” screen takes up 31.5” x 72” of floor space.

Mad Dog II:... will be distributed in the U.S. exclusively by Betson in New Jersey and Los Angeles. Atari will distribute the machine in Europe and Capcom will distribute it in Japan and the Far East.

American Laser Games’ Mad Dog II: The Lost Gold

CHICAGO—At the AVS POST-EXPO SHOWING! A national trade convention, such as AMOA Expo ’92, always breeds a sizeable run of regional showings, hosted by distributors throughout the country as an accommodation for operator customers who could not attend the “big show” as well as for those who went and would like a second look at the new equipment that was revealed. This year’s Expo was most successful and, likewise, distrbns have been packin’ em in at their respective post-Expo gatherings. A case in point is the October 9 event, hosted by American Vending Sales at its Elk Grove, Illinois facilities.

The doors were open...the red carpet was intact...and the turnout was super! Pictured in the accompanying photos are: (photo 1, l-r) Dynamo’s Chris Brady with Chicago’s Ed Velasquez; and (photo 2, l-r) Bobby Fisher of E&B Amusements with AVS’s Leo Finn. Bill of fare included lunch, cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, door prizes, a full lineup of equipment and plenty of manufacturer reps on hand to field whatever questions ops might have had.

Chris Brady, Ed Velasquez (American Vending Sales)
Bobby Fisher, Leo Finn (American Vending Sales)
CHICAGO—AT THE WILLIAMS-BALLY-MIDWAY DISTRIBUTING MEETING. Shirt and tie were not required—and the order of the day was a gathering. Nashville-style, of its distributor network, hosted by Williams-Bally-Midway just prior to the opening of AMOA Expo '92. The venue was perfect for a strictly social evening that was highlighted by the introduction of some new pieces and the presentation of various distributor awards. Sales veep Joe Dillon, in full western garb, is pictured presenting special Williams-Bally-Midway distributor awards to (photo 1) David Patterson of Sunbelt; and (photo 2) Hans Rosenzweig of Nova Apparate, for distinguished service. Photo 3 was taken just as Dillon uncovered the new Hot Shot!

CONGRATS KONAMI! This year’s AMOA award for Best New Equipment went to Konami, Inc. for the factory’s hot, new Lethal Enforcers! This piece was developed in the U.S. by the in-house R & D team of Jun Narita, Yoshi Hatano and Steve Johnson. Proudly displaying their award for us are (l-r) Yoshi Hatano, Steve Johnson and Jun Narita.

Yoshi Hatano, Steve Johnson, Jun Narita (Konami)

BACKSTAGE AT THE AMOA EXPO AWARDS. Mega-star Garth Brooks won the AMOA Jukebox award for "Country CD of the Year" (Ropin' The Wind) and also received a “Jukebox Songwriter of the Year” award. Bob Seger was inducted into the “Jukebox Legends Hall of Fame.” Both artists appeared at the AMOA Awards banquet (10/2) in Nashville’s Presidential Ballroom to personally accept their awards, much to the delight of the packed house audience! The very talented Barbara Mandrell, whose many awards include CMA’s "Entertainer of the Year" (twice), headlined the banquet show; and VH-1’s Peter Noone (former Herman’s Hermits) once again did a splendid job as emcee. Pictured backstage, after the show, are Brooks, Bill Blackwell (of Seger’s staff) and Bob Seger.

Garth Brooks, Bill Blackwell, Bob Seger.
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