CROOK & CHASE
Music City Tonight

FOLKS AND BURKE
Countdown at the Neon Armadillo
INSIDE THE BOX

COVER STORY

Chasing Charlie

With his new smash TNN show, Music City Tonight with partner Lorriane Crook, and his album, My Wife...My Life, veteran Nashville broadcaster Charlie Chase is just beginning to hit his stride. He slowed down long enough to give an exclusive interview to Cash Box's Brad Hogue.

Armadillo Countdown

In addition to what TNN and CMT are doing to help spread the word about Country Music, along comies the nationally syndicated, weekly series, Countdown At The Neon Armadillo. Shown in 175 markets, the show combines performances, videos and line dances.

A Bette-r Gypsy

On December 12, CBS-TV will broadcast a new version of the classic Broadway musical, Gypsy. Starring as Mama Rose, a role that fits her a T, superstar entertainer Bette Midler should make most viewers forget about others who've essayed the part—even Ms. Merman.

CONTENTS

COLUMNS

Country Music ........................................ 19
East/West ........................................ 4
Rhyme/Rap ........................................ 17
Rhythm ........................................... 16
TV/Video ........................................... 8

CHARTS

Top 30 Rap Singles .................................. 17
Top 75 R&B LPs ...................................... 16
Top 100 R&B Singles ................................. 14
Top 100 Pop LPs .................................... 12
Top 100 Pop Singles ................................ 10
Top 75 Country LPs .................................. 20
Top 25 Country LPs .................................. 22
Top Christian Country LPs ......................... 26
Top Contemporary Christian LPs ................. 26

DEPARTMENTS

News ...................................................... 3
Country ............................................. 19
Contemporary Christian ......................... 26
Coin Machine ....................................... 30
Classifieds ........................................... 29
MCA DOES TEXAS: MCA Records announces the release of the premiere issue of Texas City Music, a 28-page mail order catalog spotlighting the rich and diverse musical traditions of the great state of Texas—from rock 'n' roll to honky tonk, country to conjunto, jump blues to poetical folk, Western swing to mutant jazz and countless shades and permutations thereof. The Texas City Music catalog is the first of its kind—a mail order catalog devoted exclusively to the music of the Lone Star State.

The Texas City Music catalog celebrates the state's storied musical history by chronicling the careers of such legendary Texans as Bob Wills, Buddy Holly, Bobby "Blue" Bland, Doug Sahm, Lyle Lovett, Nanci Griffith and many others. The catalog lists treasures from the vaults of MCA, Decca, Dot and ABC Records (as well as several independent Texas labels and features gems like the recently reissued Duke/Peacock Records roster, and such long unavailable albums as Doug Sahm's Texas Rock for Country Rollers and Delbert McClinton's Victim of Life's Circumstances and Genuine Couthide.

To receive a free copy of the Texas City Music catalog, or to order the Texas City Music sampler CD, call the toll free number 1-800-1-TX-TUNE (1-800-489-8863). To order the sampler by mail, send $9.98 (plus $4 shipping and handling) to Texas City Music, 507 Maple Leaf Drive, Nashville, TN 37210.

ASIAN ROYALTIES RECOVERED: In the settlement of a dispute announced, publisher Jaspark Music received a "five-figure settlement" from Viva Records, the largest Filipino recording company. Earlier this year, Viva recorded and released in the Philippines "Why Do I Still Think Of You?", a pop ballad written by the New York songwriting team of Kevin Jasper and Alastair King. This highly unusual victory may signal the turning of the tide for copyright owners in Asia.

"Even though Viva gave us credit on the album by the singer Toni Daya, they had never gotten our permission to use the song," said Jasper, the owner of Jaspark Music. Jasper, who worked for years with the producer Deodato, spent at least six months trying to discover just which recording company in the Philippines wanted the songwriting duo's song. King, who is also a vocal coach for major label acts, asked Filipino friends to help. Jasper and King's detective work eventually uncovered that Viva had actually released the song, and that the album had already gone gold.

The settlement between Jaspark and Viva agreed to a reasonable price for the song, without admitting liability or fault and Jaspark agreed to let them distribute in the U.S. "I think they acted fairly, once they understood our position that they had violated copyright law."

HOLIDAY FOR ETTA: The seminal rhythm 'n' blues vocalist Etta James, has signed with Private Music to record an album of Billie Holiday songs, set for release early next year.

Etta James explains that "this idea has been in my mind for a long time. It is certainly one of the most important works of my career, for many reasons, both professional and personal. It makes me happy, too, that my new friends at Private Music are so enthusiastic.

The album was recorded in Los Angeles, produced by John Snyder, with a stellar line-up of musicians, selected by Ms. James, including pianist Cedar Walton. Touring plans are also underway, to begin early next year.

BYOB—BRING YOUR OWN BABY: A boy, Derrian Lane was born to Lorraine Rebidas-Duryea and Richard Duryea October 20 at Santa Monica Hospital. Mother is vice president and general manager of Private Music Publishing Companies and the father is a personal manager. And like labelmate Etta James, Lorraine admits that this is one of the most important works of her career.
CHAMELEON: Herbie Hancock took over the Blue Note last week for a back-to-basics stand with his rhythm section, consisting of Dave Holland (on bass) and Gene Jackson (on drums). Hancock’s long and winding road of a career, of course, has put him in the public eye in a host of incarnations; as straight-ahead pianist par excellence with Miles in the early ’60s, as fusion/funk pioneer in the ’70s with “Watermelon Man” and “Chameleon” (our high school jazz band’s only crowd-pleaser), and as breakdance bonedaddy in the ’80s with his smash “Rockit.” And for now, while the smoke clears, he’s back behind the acoustic piano, doing film soundtracks and cameos, lurking in the background ominously in Indecent Proposal (he had a real part in Round Midnight with Dexter Gordon).

His third set Saturday began with a ballad (he can do what he wants), J. J. Johnson’s “Lament,” which ended in an extended, solo portion with just Hancock at the piano. All of his arrangements this evening were of the shape-shifting variety, the rendition of his “One Finger Snap” (way back from Empyrean Isles, Blue Note) appeared out of the mist of another piece, and their version of George Shearing’s standard “Conception” turned into a new 3/4 vamp that became the heart of the tune. Holland’s soloing was as vibrant as ever, and the harmonic ideas the group melted over the songs were of the ultra-high, eyebrow-raising variety indeed. Where Herbie’s next stop will be since his Maiden Voyage remains untold, and surprisingly, since he hasn’t released a record under his own name for a good couple years, it’s hard to be certain as to the permanence of his present m.o.

ON MONDAY, I HEADED BACK to the Blue Note to find that the club was as crowded as it ever thought of being (if I wasn’t as rude as I’ve conveniently learned to be, I wouldn’t have even gotten through the door). Akiko Yano, “Japanese Song Stylist” was leading a four-piece ensemble through a set of her pieces, most of them from her just-released Late Life Elektra/Nonesuch). The majority of the songs were in Japanese (although they’re titled in English), with one notable exception being her time-spanning cover of Stephen Foster’s “Hard Times, Come Again No More.” The band included renowned Brazilian guitarist and songwriter Tonino Hota and a special appearance by Letterman long-hauler Will Lee (on bass), who actually brought the music up a couple notches. Yano also accompanies herself with substantial facility on the piano, and her singing voice, unusually high and focused as it is, offers a mix of distinctive tones. I’m certain the club will be having her back in a big hurry!

TIME TO DECK THE HALLS AGAIN! Supposing I don’t want to go the ’90s route with almost-as-shiny used CDs and I wanna do it right—what tender holiday tidings should I bestow upon my most dear of special loved ones?

Right Stuff/Capitol has already thought about your needs with Sedated In ’80s featuring Wall of Voodoo’s “Mexican Radio,” ABC’s “Poison Arrow” and that Ramones song. New Xmas product this year round includes Harry Connick Jr.’s When My Heart Finds Christmas (Columbia) featuring “I Pray On Christmas” (“prey”), Boyz II Men’s Christmas Interpretation (Motown) and Fats Domino’s Christmas Is A Special Day (Right Stuff/Capitol), all of which seem, to have “Silent Night.” My choice is James Brown’s Santa’s Got A Brand New Bag (Rhino) featuring “Santa Claus, Go Straight To The Ghetto”!

By Troy J. Augusto

San Francisco’s Primus surprised themselves to an eager Hollywood.

SCALPERS WERE FETCHING AS MUCH as $65 for a single ticket to the recent sold-out Primus shows at Hollywood’s Palladium. And chances are, even people who paid that much felt they got their money’s worth. Tracks from both of the Bay area trio’s two Interscope albums, as well as tunes from their Caroline days, were performed, and most were greeted with near hysterical glee from the packed house. Hindsight being 20/20, Primus would probably have passed on headlining last year’s Lollapalooza festival, given that by the time they closed the long show, few people were still awake enough to care. Nice to see the crazed lads back playing venues better suited to the band’s wild style. Longtime punk faves, The Melvins, which recently released its first record for Atlantic, were also well received and the subject of much of the between-bands conversation by the gathered industry types in the balcony. Look for more choice opening-slot gigs for these road veterans.

THE ONLY PIECE OF ART created collaboratively by all four members of The Beatles will be reproduced next year, with the monies raised from the sale of 1,000 copies earmarked for donation to a group of human rights and environmental organizations. The piece, referred to by some as the “Dead Sea Scrolls of Rock & Roll,” is a felt marker, colored pencil and ink drawing that the band made for the advertising program at 1967’s Monterey International Pop Festival, an event at which the concert-retired Beatles declined to play. The original of the piece, long held by the Festival’s art director, Tom Wilkes, will be on display at a press conference in New York on December 14, and here in Los Angeles on the 16th.

PUBLICIST JEFF ALBRIGHT, FORMERLY of Levine/Schneider and Hanson & Schwam, has announced that he’s opened his own p.r. firm, known as The Albright Entertainment Group. Initial clients include Damn Yankees, Stray Cats, Ric Ocasek, Vince Neil and Rob Halford’s new band, Fight. Reach him at (818) 508-6874.

High Street/Windham Hill artist Patty Larkin (second from left) and various label and management folk celebrate after the singer/songwriter’s sold-out gig at San Francisco’s Great American Music Hall.
TALENT REVIEWS

De La Soul/A Tribe Called Quest

By Troy J. Augusto

PALACE, HOLLYWOOD, CA—It was a case of East meets West as New York-based hip-hop innovators De La Soul and A Tribe Called Quest brought their inventive, decidedly East Coast-flavored stylings to Hollywood's sold-out Palace, supported by young Bay-area crew Souls Of Mischief.

Headliners De La Soul, featuring rappers Trugoy The Dove and Posdnuos, performed a solid, if unspectacular, 50-minute set of music from its three Tommy Boy albums, including cuts from the new Bah- loone Mindstate.

While the group has long been acknowledged as the originator of so-called alternative rap, an exploratory and progressive style that mixes steady funk and jazz grooves and beats with social and political commentary, it's still music from 1989's 'Three Feet And Rising' that gets the most live respect. "Potholes In My Lawn," first hit "Me, Myself & I" and bouncing "I'll Get Back To You," all from that debut, were highlights.

On the current album, the group relies less on lyrical flow than musical, and it's in that creative decision that De La Soul loses its edge. After all, it's in thoughtful expressionism, much more evident on the first two releases, that the band truly separates itself from the rap flotsam. At this show, unfortunately, De La Soul, like its new record, was more ordinary than extraordinary.

Second-billed A Tribe Called Quest are in a similar situation as De La Soul. Also promoting its third album, the recently released Jive set Midnight Marauders, Tribe are still trying to prove that they can hold their fans' attention beyond their earliest material.

But in that respect, this trio succeeded where De La Soul failed. New cuts like hit single "Award Tour" and "Sucka Niggas" held up nicely next to older songs like crowd fave "Benita Applebum" and the "Infamous Date Rape." In spite of numerous technical difficulties, A Tribe Called Quest performed an electrifying concert flow that nicely balanced solid themes and, courtesy of DJ All, free-moving instrumental flow.

Young Jive act Souls Of Mischief opened the evening with a refreshing half-hour set of music from its exciting new 93 'Til Infinity collection. All four rappers in the group sport unique and original deliveries (much like early N.W.A. did) that, combined with the group's youthful 'tude and style, make breakthrough success a likelihood.

Firesign Theatre

By Barry Pearl and Steve Shaw

WILTERN THEATRE, LOS ANGELES, CA—They're baa-ack..."from the shadows again." Yes, "Dear Friends," Nick still spells his name "Danger," they continue to wait for the electrician or someone like him, and all of us in attendance for the Firesign Theatre's 25th Anniversary Reunion Tour at the Wiltern Theatre on Sunday, November 21 were still Bozos on this bus. But the avant-garde, cutting-edge, brainy humor of the group was exceedingly enhanced by our being able to finally see the four zany guys in action, as opposed to just hearing them.

A cross between The Marx Brothers and Salvador Dali, the astrological fire signs Phillip Austin, Peter Bergman, David Ossman and Phil Proctor first aligned on Bergman's Radio Free Oz program on KPFK in Los Angeles on November 17, 1966. Their radio show led to a deal with Columbia Records, with many LPs following. They included such classics as Don't Crush That Dwarf, Hand Me The Pliers and I Think We're All Bozos On This Bus.

The evening's fare included staged versions of sketches from five of the four sons' many albums. Act I included a bit from Waiting For The Electrician Or Someone Like Him, in which the group takes us on a surreal elevator ride; an updated version of a radio drama entitled The Further Adventures Of Nick Danger," with the gumshoe still preferring a pizza with no anchovies; and a time trip involving Ralph Spotsport (a Ralph Williams / Cal Worthington-esque send up) in which Ralph is still trying to sell us a vehicle with "a purely edible steering column and four doors to match."

Act 2 took us to the "Future Fair" ("a fair for all and no fare to anybody") with our hero, "uh...Clem," (from I Think We're All Bozos On This Bus), taking us on a tour inside the mainframe of one of the fair's major attractions. The final piece, from Don't Crush That Dwarf..., featured Ossman as "George Templeton" watching TV, tuning in to old movies in which he appeared. Thus, we could see the various stages of his life and career.

The sketches translated extremely well to the stage. Although the show was visually stimulating and colorful, thanks to Melinda Peterson's special costumes, Fred Jones' sound design, and Jeff Payne's creative lighting, much was still left to the imagination, as it was when their records were the only medium available.

The audience was intimately familiar with the material, and on many occasions would finish some of the more popular catch phrases. They loved the performance and showed their appreciation with thunderous applause and rubber- nose squeaking (made possible by purchasing said item in the lobby).

L.A. was the last stop on their tour, but we hope to see and hear more of them soon, as Mobile Fidelity will be releasing several of their classics. At present Columbia Legacy has released an album, Best of the Firesign Theatre. The show was "tons of fun." So how about it, "bozos? More sugar!"
UK
By Mick Green

Guns N’ Roses: Future Meat-beaters?

RIGHTS SOCIETIES MERGE...Britain’s two main rights societies, the performing and mechanical rights representatives, have taken steps towards a much closer union following the announcement that they are to administer royalties jointly.

PRS and MCPS have issued a statement declaring their intention to create two shared databases for works and agreements plus products and recordings. This will not take effect immediately and a five-year plan was outlined but there was immediate pressure in some quarters for moves to be much faster.

Although there are no final details as to how the new company will actually function, both sides agree that there are considerable savings to be made for both parties by sharing resources and a combined society should be more effective at protecting Anglo-American repertoire abroad.

BOOTLEGGERS...The BPI’s Anti-Piracy Unit is claiming that it smashed a ring of importers and distributors of bootleg CDs that were manufactured in Italy and Germany.

This follows joint police and APU raids on various homes in Britain when more than 7,500 CDs and hundreds of cassettes were reported as being confiscated. These featured live recordings of top artists and the CDs retailed at around $20 in Britain.

This is the second success that the APU has had recently. A couple of weeks earlier they took part in a raid in Ireland’s Belfast when more than 8,000 video and audio tapes were seized with a street value of more than $100,000. It is believed that the counterfeiters were channeling the income into terrorist paramilitary groups.

DCC STOCK TO BE RETURNED? There seems to have been some retailer reaction against the DCC software stocks with claims that some are considering exchanging their DCC stock for other established formats. One store was reported as saying that they stocked all 400 DCC titles but have only sold about 12 in the whole of 1993 but, of course, these are still early days in the battle between DCC and MiniDisc.

ALBUM SALES...There has been some good news regarding album sales with claims that they have reached a three-year high despite the fact that the recession is still hanging on.

The total number of albums shipped in the year to the end of September reached 148.7 million which is 9.6% up on the previous year and the highest total since 1990.

If you just take the last quarter then it looks even healthier with a 26.3% increase over the previous year and even single shipments were up 4.3% year-on-year.

However, it is the CD aspect that is really lifting the market with that format due to become the biggest selling aspect. CD deliveries totalled 58.5 million units during the first nine months of the year and Christmas was expected to shift getting on for another 40 million! This could mean that the year’s total will reach as high as 96 million. The highest vinyl ever reached was 91.6 million units in 1975.

There are probably two reasons for this growth in CD sales—the number of non-traditional outlets selling them and mail order.

TAKING STOCK...It seems only a few weeks ago that I reported the split between Mike Stock and Pete Waterman and now there comes a rumor that Stock may be reuniting with the members of our most successful Stock, Aiiken and Waterman team and work with Matt Aitken again in 1994. Between them the trio were responsible for more than 90 Top 40 hits in the past decade.

HORROR STORY...One of Britain’s most horrific trials has just finished with two 11-year olds being found guilty of abducting and murdering three-year old James Bulger. After passing sentence the judge questioned the effect of horror video Child’s Play which apparently at least one of the 11-year olds had seen and called for clamp downs on such releases. Two major stores, Our Price and W.H. Smith, have responded by clearing their shelves of the release.

FAT IS BEAUTIFUL...Highest new entry into our singles charts this week is “Mr. Blobby”...and it could be the Christmas No. 1. The novelty single came about because of the popularity of a costume character like a huge round brightly colored fat man on a peak Saturday evening TV program.

Toys are flooding the stores but major radio stations would not playlist the release but they may have to change their minds because it sold out its initial run of 30,000 instantly and have re-orders of 135,000 copies—including 65,000 from Woolworth’s alone. It made its debut at #3 but do not be surprised if it takes the top slot next week.

CHARTS...Still riding the top spots in both the singles and album charts is Meat Loaf. His “I’d Do Anything For Love (But I Won’t Do That)” rules the roost for the seventh straight week in the singles section and the album it is taken from, Bat Out Of Hell II—Back Into Hell, has been at the summit for one week.

What do Elton John and Frank Sinatra have in common—no, I don’t mean hair transplants! They both have very long and successful chart careers in our country and they both formed their own record labels (Rocket and Reprise respectively) and now they are both in our Top 20 with albums of the same name—Duets. Elton is a new entry at #5 and Frank has spent four weeks in the charts and dropped to #17 this week. With those titles it is not surprising that both combine with various superstar on the current releases, but no one appears on both albums. Despite its high debut, Elton is not the highest newcomer. That honor goes to Guns N’ Roses whose Spaghetti Incident went straight in at #2. These are the only new entries in our Top 20. Highest climber is Michael Crawford and A Touch Of Music In The Night at #15.

Of Blue Eyes even makes a showing in the singles charts with the second-highest debut “Stay (Faraway, So Close): I’ve Got” with a little help from U2 and Bono. Only other Top Ten debut is “Don’t Look Any Further” from M People and although they’re now well past the age when they qualify for the “YMCA,” Village People are at #12 with the re-mix. Altogether just over a quarter of the Top 75 are new entries.
NEWS FROM JAPAN

THE TOTAL REVENUES of Sony Music Entertainment for the first six months of fiscal 1993 (April 1, 1993 to September 30, 1993) dropped 1.7% from the comparable months of 1992 of $476 million. A net income after taxes showed a sharp 21.8% drop of $94 million.

"A main reason of decreases both in total revenue and net income from the comparable months of the prior year," said a company spokesman, "was in an over concentration of smash hits in the comparable months of the prior year. Beside this, a business depression in this country extending over a long period of time was another cause for a poor business performance of the company in this period." Dividing the revenues into sections: International music was $75 million, 15.8% of the total and 31.5% up over the comparable months of the prior year. On the other hand, domestic repertoire was $286 million, 60% of the total but a 12.2% drop from the comparable '92 period. Video software was up 27.5% with $41 million sales. Total sales for the 12 months of fiscal '93 (April 1, 1993 to May 30, 1994), is anticipated to reach $900 million with a net income of $103 million, down 9.6% from the comparable prior fiscal year.

A SPECIAL DISCOUNT SALES markets of abolished disks and tapes were held in three cities in this country, Tokyo, Sapporo and Nagoya in October, sponsored by RIAJ (Record Industries Association of Japan). The total records sold in these markets were, according to RIAJ, 89,931 copies for $0.7 million.

LOCAL 45s TOP 10

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<td>1</td>
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<td>TRUE LOVE (Pony Canyon)...Fumiya Fuji</td>
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<td>TEARS (EastWest-Japan)...X Japan</td>
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<td>KITTO WASURENAI (BGRAM)...Zard</td>
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<td>WAGAMAMANI DAKIETANARA (Zain)...T-Bolan</td>
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<td>$10 (Victor)...SMAP</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>IMAO DAKISHIMETE (Fun House)...Noa</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>GET ALONG TOGETHER (Crown)...Yasuhiro Yamane</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>DATTE SOJUNAI (Tokuma Japan)...Lindberg</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>RUN (Toshiba EMI)...Tsuyoshi Nagabuchi</td>
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<td>KAZENI MABUSHII (BGRAM)...Zyyg</td>
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LOCAL CDs TOP 10

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<td>1</td>
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<td>IVORY II (For Life)...Miki Imai</td>
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<td>SELF PORTRAIT (Warner Music Japan)...Tayuki Makihara</td>
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<td>UBE LOVE (Toshiba EMI)...Maki Ooguro</td>
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<td>CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP (Toshiba EMI)...Tsuyoshi Nagabuchi</td>
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<td>PHI (Sony)...Kome Kome Club</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>THE CIRCLE (Epic Sony)...Motoharu Sano</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>CALLING (BMG Vector)...Masaharu Fukuyama</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>RED HILL (Pony Canyon)...Chage &amp; Askha</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>THE BADDEST II (Sony)...Toshinobu Kubota</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>MUSIC BOX (Sony)...Mariah Carey</td>
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JVC Catches The Spirit

A QUARTET OF TOP FLIGHT GUITARISTS has been assembled for a stellar tribute to some of Motown Records’ best talent and hit singles. Dubbed Playing The Hits From The Motor City, by Spirit Traveler, the project has been released by JVC Music. The company has developed an urban radio and retail-intensive campaign for the project that includes special merchandising and pricing. In addition to tracks like “Signed, Sealed Delivered I’m Yours,” “Ain’t That Peculiar,” “Tracks Of My Tears” and eight other Motown classics, the all-star band has recorded a holiday bonus track, “Merry Christmas, Baby.”

Equally impressive is the band that serves up this music. Among the guitarists are David T. Walker (who’s played with Wilson Pickett, The Pointer Sisters, B.B. King, Little Richard), Wah, Wah Watson (Marvin Gaye, The Four Tops, Herbie Hancock), Eric Gale (Paul Simon, Al Jarreau, Grover Washington, Jr.) and Phil Upchurch (Curtis Mayfield, George Benson, Aretha Franklin). Bassist James Jamerson, Jr. and drummer James Gadsen back the quartet of skilled pickers. Vocals on several of the tunes are supplied by The Temptations singer Ali Woodson. In fact, the only original track included in the collection is “I Love You,” written by Woodson.

Because of the vast array of interpretive skills offered by the line-up, JVC anticipates a broad, multi-format appeal for the package, including strong interest from the urban adult contemporary and contemporary jazz markets. The initial campaign, which kicked off with strong press and was geared toward urban retail, included gift-wrapped “teaser” CDs to retail, radio and nationwide media. A special campaign was aimed at urban one stops and ma and pa dealers as well as discount chains such as the Price Club and CostCo. All the retail outlets and radio were serviced with the collection’s first single, “Tracks Of My Tears.” Radio promotion was also aimed at secondary and tertiary markets.

JVC has already scored this year with the Paul Hardcastle/Jazzmasters tempesto jazz album and believes that the Spirit Traveler release will solidify its presence in the NAC market. According to JVC label manager Denny Stilwell, “After two years of making an NAC impact with artists such as Special EFX and Paul Hardcastle, our upcoming releases are furthering our momentum in other directions, other markets. Considering our core artists and new signings, we are are right on track with our venture into new territory.”

JVC and Cash Box salute the coin machine operators, and JVC has shipped the classic rhythm & blues CD, “Merry Christmas, Baby,” free to operators.
TV TALK
By John Geff
DANGEROUS PRECEDENT: "A move designed to encourage and cultivate a new generation of multiracial comic writers and performing talent," was announced by Michael Fuchs, Home Box Office chairman/CEO in speaking of the launching of The HBO New Writers Project. Naturally you notice this is coming out of non-network TV where such moves are more expected. groundbreakers are coming from. Fuchs also noted the project will be headed by Steve Kaplan, former artistic director of New York's Manhattan Punch Line Theatre, and will be conducted in conjunction with Kaplan's Wavy Line Productions, Inc. The project will reach out nationally through universities, theater groups and writers programs.

"HBO is always looking for new talent," said Fuchs. "With this project, we hope to discover the next generation of comic voices who will reflect the multiracial world in which we live."

"We're looking for writers with unique, humorous, mundane and daring points of view," added Kaplan. (And if they hold true to that concept, that will be unique, mundane and daring and three out of four ain't bad in this business, said a rather jaded writer.)

The HBO-sponsored Project will get underway with the selection of 25 one-act comedy scripts with the intention they will be nurtured for possible stage, TV or film development.

Hopefully this is just a beginning and the Project will expand to include, not just comedy but all arenas of writing talent. There's a lot of talent and quality writing walking the streets right now without an avenue of interest because of lack of power contacts and agency-studio-production company closed- door policies (latest prevalent creative no-look ploy is: "We only look at material recommended by a working client."-just think hard about that one for a bit.).

Details for submission of one-act plays to The HBO New Writers Project is February 1, 1994. Guidelines for submission may be obtained by sending a SASE to: Steve Kaplan, The HBO New Writers Project, 1949 Century Park East, Suite 4200, Los Angeles, CA 90067.

PBS' DECEMBER PLEDGE DRIVE will be the spot for the latest American Masters première, Benny Goodman: Adventures in the Kingdom of Swing. Assembled by producer/director Oren Jacoby and executive producer Susan Lacy for Thirteen/WNET, the special will trace Goodman's rise out of Chicago's Jewish ghetto as a child musical prodigy during the early part of this century through the exciting jazz-driven world of the '20s and '30s with memories of Goodman's musicians and family and through his journey to become one of the great musical leaders of his or any other generation.

Goodman's obsession with the search for perfection has provided the show with a wonderful sales item/hook: He would test then discard reeds for his clarinet; use them, discard and then recycle in hopes they might have improved with age. After his death, his daughters, Rachel Goodman Edelson and Benjie Goodman Lassau, discovered almost 3,000 reeds awaiting use or reuse. Rachel and Benjie designed a booklet containing personal anecdotes and private photos for a private memorial party they put together after Goodman's death. Each booklet contains one of these reeds as a bookmark, attached by a gold cord. 2,000 reeds were useable, and they are a special Benny Goodman collectors item which will be made available to viewers during the airing of the show. Got a feeling this is one to watch for.

MADONNA! How's that for an attention grabber? (Good word, long as we're on the Big M subject, huh? Apt anyway.) The ratings November 20 looked to her like that spot just above the navel so she grabbed 'em with Madonna—Live Down Under: "The Girlie Show": 17.0 rating and 27 share overall, according to Nielsen Media Research household ratings, that beat the three network offerings in HBO homes from 10:15 to 11 p.m. (ET). That translates into 18.7 rating/27 share to ABC's 9.4/14, CBS' 9.3/14 and NBC's 10.3/15. It also translated as the highest-rated HBO original program of the year. But that's excluding sports. Guess that sports' spot's just too big to grab... FROM THERE TO THE SUB-LIME—Cinemax spotlights Clint Eastwood and his favorite films beginning December 5 (with additional dates 16, 22, 27 and 30) on the popularity gaining Favorite Films... series. What movie lover can resist Eastwood talking about the films (Treasure Of The Sierra Madre, The Searchers) and filmmakers (Huston, Ford, Kurosawa, Leone) that have influenced his career? Certainly not this one...AND BACK TO THE... Mental "metal-head" party animals Wayne and Garth (Mike Myers and Dana Carvey) set to host their second- hour special on MTV Dec. 3 and repeating on 4, 5, 6. It's A Wayne's World After All. Say, isn't there a Wayne's World II sequel coming out soon? Sequel on, dude!

TV REVIEW
Gypsy
By Fred L. Goodman

THE 1940S AND '50S are generally regarded as "The Golden Age of Broadway." Most of the classic musicals that are performed worldwide year in and year out come from that era. Right at the tail-end of that wonderful time (1959, to be exact) came Gypsy, the splashy, tuneful salute to vaudeville and burlesque that was loosely based on the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee, the most renowned stripper of all time.

Even though Gypsy is the title character, the role of Mama Rose, the ultimate stage mother, is the star vehicle, and has always been portrayed by an actress with formidable stage presence. Of course, the originator of the part was the redoubtable Ethel Merman, whose performance has been the yardstick by which all others have been measured. Angela Lansbury, Rosalind Russell and Tyne Daly have been some of the pretenders to the throne, but none have been able to unseat the Great Merman.

Now along comes Bette Midler, in the role she seems to have been born to play. On December 12, CBS-TV will air the latest version of this theater evergreen, and Bette will no doubt have viewers and critics alike crying, "Ethel who?" From the moment she comes on the screen, with a whirlwind of wisecracks and piles of personality, Midler commands attention. And when she sings those glorious songs—well, watch her talk a whole other dimension. Bette's got Ethel's power and chutzpah, but The Divine One also adds a layer of poignancy that Merman never brought to the role. Mama Rose becomes human and not just a caricature of pushy stage mothers.

In addition to Midler's stunning performance, the supporting cast also fares pretty well. Peter Riegert as Herbie, Cynthia Gibb as Louise/Gypsy and Jennifer Beck as June do terrific turns that compare favorably to those who previously essayed the roles. There are also some memorable cameos by Edward Asner as Pup, Andrea Martin as Miss Cratchitt, Michael Jeter as Mr. Goldstone, and particularly Christine Ebersole, Linda Hart and Anna McNeely as the three strippers who teach Louise "You Gotta Have A Gimmick."

The score by Jule Styne and Stephen Sondheim is one of the best ever written for the stage. Such standards as "Everything's Coming Up Roses," "Small World," "Let Me Entertain You" and "Together Wherever We Go" are all infused with such energy and style that they sound practically new. For good measure, the soundtrack has been released by Atlantic Records and will no doubt be a huge smash, stuffing lots of stockings during the upcoming holidays.

The new production is ably directed by Emile Ardolino, with the witty book by Arthur Laurents and the spectacular choreography by Jerome Robbins remaining intact. Other kudos go to Jackson DeGovia's production design and Bob Mackie's fabulous costumes. These two, along with Midler, should be holding statues come Emmy time.

One only hopes the CBS broadcast is viewed by many, especially young people who have never seen Gypsy. It's rare when TV presents a full-length musical in prime time, especially one that's nearly 35 years old. But if all the adults who have enjoyed Gypsy down through the years get their offspring to watch it, a whole new generation would get a glimpse of what quality family entertainment is all about.
VIDEO REVIEWS

Dave
By Fred L. Goodman

POLITICAL SATIRE FILMS are usually so dark they are frightening. Our paranoia usually wins out, taking away some of our enjoyment. Not so with Ivan Reitman's Dave, which had the good fortune to be released during the first months of the gentler, baby-boomer administration and rake in $65 mil. Kevin Kline plays Dave Kovic, a regular Joe who gets to stand in for the ailing, Bush-like conservative President and turn the Oval Office topsy-turvy with his more humanitarian and liberal agenda. Sigourney Weaver as the First Lady and Frank Langella as the evil Chief of Staff are standouts in a cast that includes dozens of cameos from real-life politicians and members of the Fourth Estate. Warner Home Video.

Equinox
By John Goff

WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN a fascinating study, or at least an interesting twist on the old Cain and Abel hook which has obsessed writers since the first reading in Genesis, is given a muddled go 'round by writer/director Alan Rudolph here. It does, however, contain some terrific performance values from stars Matthew Modine (in the dual role of good/evil twin brothers), Lara Flynn Boyle and Marisa Tomei. But if Rudolph had a point to his story it got lost somewhere along the way. He's great with mood and actors, but what good are they without a framework? Columbia TriStar Home Video.

The Paint Job
By J.G.

ANOTHER AUTEUR GONE AWRY is Michael Taav with this moody murder and disenfranchised-human tale. It spins out like a student film; Taav stumbling his way toward a light at the end of the tunnel. It shows promise with feel for immediate mood and sense of place but his senses of story, character and comedy/drama mixing are still in the grope/development stage. Bebe Neuwirth (Cheers) and Robert Pastorelli (Murphy Brown), make a concerted effort to break away from their TV images, except Pastorelli is still dealing in paint. Columbia TriStar Home Video.

VID BIZ
By John Goff

ELTON JOHN'S VIDEO of "The Last Song," the touching portrait of a young man dying of AIDS being comforted by his father, who's at last coming to terms with his son's sexual orientation, was honored recently with the The Nancy Susan Reynolds Music Video Award, sponsored by the Center for Population Options, a national education and advocacy group dedicated to improving the quality of life for youth by preventing risk-taking behaviors and too-early pregnancy. MCA exec Darren Higman accepted the award presented by actor Diedrich Bader. Higman commented, "We are very proud of this music video which helps us look deep inside ourselves and enables us to find the courage to fight bigotry in its many forms." The gala awards presentation at Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel brought stars Tom Skerrit, Elizabeth Perkins, Chad Lowe and Polly Bergen among others out as presenters and acceptors in other categories and raised $46,000... Speaking of awards, hear tell a movement is spreading out of San Quentin to other institutions of higher learning to set up a special interest awards ceremony honoring the videos that best promote understanding and acceptance of their alternative lifestyle. Eazy E’s "Real Muthaphuckkin G’s" and Dr. Dre with Snoop Doggy Dogg doing "Dre Day" were cited as illustrative and daring due to their envelope-pushing depiction and use of firearms in their ground- and head-breaking vids. Sir Charles Manson (knighted for his long and distinguished service) is expected to be named head of the organization. Sir Charles is currently in the market with a tune penned for Guns N' Roses' new album. TV networks are reportedly scrambling for airing rights and a site for the first show is being considered. We'll keep you posted.
1. I'D DO ANYTHING FOR LOVE (BUT I WON'T DO THAT) (MCA 54626) - Meatloaf 1 9
2. AGAIN (Virgin 36044) - Janet Jackson 2 4
3. ALL THAT SHE WANTS (Arista 12064) - Ace of Base 3 8
4. PLEASE FORGIVE ME (A&M 6422) - Bryan Adams 5 5
5. SHOPP (Next Plateau/London 867314) - Salt-n-Pepa 6 6
6. GANGSTA LEAN (Capitol 58048) - DRS 9 5
7. HERO (Columbia 77226) - Mariah Carey 7 5
8. BREATHE AGAIN (Lafayette/Arista 20549) - Toni Braxton 8 6
9. CAN WE TALK (Qwest/Warner Bros. 183468) - Tevin Campbell 10 6
10. I'M NOT MAD J.D.J. (Infinity Epic) - Zhane 11 10
11. I SAID I LOVED YOU...BUT I LIED (Columbia 77260) - Michael Bolton 12 2
12. KEEP YA HEAD UP (Inception 98345) - 2Pac 16 4
13. WHAT IS LOVE (Arista 12575) - Haddaway 14 9
14. DREAMLOVER (Columbia 77090) - Mariah Carey 13 12
15. COME BABY COME (Tommy Boy 7572) - K-Tel 15 12
16. RIVER OF DREAMS (Columbia 77266) - Billy Joel 17 12
17. ANNIVERSARY (Epic/Mercury 895560) - Tony/Tonii! 18 7
18. SEX ME (Jive 42161) - R.Kelly 24 4
19. RIGHT HERE (Human Nature) (RCA 60114) - SWV 19 14
20. IF (Virgin 12670) - Janet Jackson 21 14
21. BOTH SIDES OF THE STORY (Atlantic 5310) - Phil Collins 25 5
22. WHOMPI THERE IT BE (Belkamp 79001) - The Tag Team 23 20
23. LINGER (Island 86280) - The Cranberries 27 6
24. WILD WORLD (Atlantic 8572) - Mr.Big 3 6
25. NO RAIN (Capitol 44939) - Blind Melon 26 10
26. TIME AND CHANCE (Giant 18039) - Color Me Badd 30 2
27. KEEPING SECRETS (Epic 72764) - Babyface 39 5
28. CRYIN' (L Gefen 19256) - Aerosmith 22 11
29. NEVER SHOULD VE LET YOU GO (Jive 42178) - Hi-Five 31 5
30. JUST KICKIN' IT (Big Platform/Atlantic 79536) - Billy Joel 34 2
31. I (KNOW I GOT) SKILLZ (Jive 42177) - Shaquille O'Neal 32 5
32. ANOTHER BAD LOVE SONG (Lafayette/Virgin 24047) - Toni Braxton 33 14
33. MR. VAIN (500 Music 77214) - Culture Beat 47 2
34. I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW (Chaos 7720) - Jimmy Cliff 54 2
35. SWEAT (A LA LA LA LA LONG) (Big Beat/Atlantic 89426) - Inner Circle 35 9
36. BECAUSE THE NIGHT (Electra 64598) - 10,000 Maniacs 44 2
37. PREKICK (Eastwest 99304) - Efx 38 2
38. RIDE AROUND (Interscope 90600) - Two Pac 37 15
39. TWO STEPS BEHIND (Columbia 77116) - Def Leppard 36 9
40. EVERYBODY BURSTS (Warner Bros. 80935) - R.E.M. 19 8
41. REAL MUTHAPHUCKIN G'8 (Ruthless/Relative 5508) - Eazy E 50 2
42. REASON TO BELIEVE (Warner Bros. 18427) - Rod Stewart 41 10
43. SOUL TO SQUEEZE ("From Conchords"")(Warner Bros. 18401) - Red Hot Chili Peppers 43 10
44. DREAMY LADY (RCA 65957) - Rick Astley 45 9
45. DREAMS (GoldDisk/LondonPLG 887141) - Gabrielle 59 5
46. JESSIE (SGKERS 50429) - Joshua Kadison 64 0
47. SLOW AND EASY (Reprise 18318) - Zapp & Roger 53 4
48. COME INSIDE (Atlantic 87317) - Intro 29 9
49. HET JEALOUSY (ASM 2042) - Gin Blossoms 42 13
50. CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE (Virgin 12653) - UB40 46 18
51. BETTER THAN YOU (Perspective/4M 7430) - Lisa Keigh 49 9
52. U.N.I.T.Y. (Motown 2225) - Queen Latifah 55 7
53. AWARD TOUR (Jive 4218) - Tribe Called Quest 73 2
54. AS LONG AS I CAN DREAM (Arista 12069) -Expose 58 6
55. WILL YOU BE THERE (FROM "FREE WILLY") (Epic Soundtrack 77060) - Michael Jackson 51 85
56. INDO SMOKE (FROM "POETIC JUSTICE") (Epic Soundtrack 77256) - Mista Grimm 57 5
57. HIGHER GROUND (Virgin 12679) - UB40 62 5
58. GETTO JAM (Outburst/Chaos 77267) - Dr. Dre 48 8
59. SEND ME A LOVER (Arista 12063) - Taylor Dayne 56 7
60. LET ME RIDE (Death Row/Interscope 57129) - Xscape 4 8
61. BREAK IT DOWN AGAIN (Mercury 341541875) - Tears For Fears 67 15
62. TRUE LOVE (Epic 54762) - Elton John & Kiki Dee 65 9
63. FOUNDED OUT ABOUT YOU (A&M 09848) - Gin Blossoms 76 2
64. RUFTNECK (Priority/Atlantic 9401) - MC Lyte 66 12
65. LOOKING FOR MR. RIGHT (Grand 1814) - Jade 75 2
66. MEDELY (Reprise 40962) - Zapp & Roger 69 11
67. 93° TIL INFINITY (Jive 4218) - Souls Of Misfit 78 2
68. SUNDAY MORNING (Reprise 18451) - Earth Wind & Fire 70 9
69. INTO YOUR ARMS (Atlantic 8721) - Lemonheads 86 2
70. CRY FOR YOU (Upfront/MCA 54723) - Jodeci 78 2
71. PAYING THE PRICE OF LOVE (Polydor/90919) - Bee Gees 71 5
72. METHOD MAN ( Loud R.A. 62544) - Wu-Tang Clan 72 5
73. NOTHING BUT M.E (A&M 0350) - Sting 74 7
74. WHEN I FALL IN LOVE (Epic Soundtrack/77201) -细胞 77 12
75. RAIN (Mavrick 40988) - Madonna 79 2
76. IF I HAD NO LOOT (Wang/Mercury 895056) - Tony/tonii! 81 19
77. I'M REAL (Ruffhouse/Columbia 77237) - Kris Kross 89 2
78. RUNAWAY LOVE (EastWest 85334) - En Vogue 82 6
79. JIMMY OLSEN'S BLUES (Epic 74299) - Spin Doctors 83 10
80. INSANE IN THE BRAIN (Ruffhouse/Columbia 77199) - Cypress Hill 83 15
81. THE POWER OF LOVE (500 Music 77223) - Celine Dion DEBUT
82. LATELY (Upfront/MCA 54652) - Jodeci 52 20
83. THE SONG REMEMBERS WHEN (MCA 54734) - Trisha Yearwood DEBUT
84. BABY, I'M YOURS (MCA 5457) - Shal 55 19
85. WHAT'S IT TO YOU (Giant 18450) - Clay Walker 85 4
86. TOO MUCH INFORMATION (Capitol/4955) - Duran Duran 88 7
87. OOH CHILD (Eastwest 98398) - Dino 84 15
88. CHECK YOU SELF (Priority 53833) - Ice Cube Featuring Das Efx 92 11
89. I DON'T WANNA FIGHT (Virgin A&M/12652) - Tina Turner 90 21
90. ALRIGHT (Ruffhouse/Columbia 77103) - Kriss Kross Featuring Supercat 87 12
91. I'M IN LOVE (Mercury 892652) - Joe 91 7
92. I'M A PLAYER (Jive 45152) - Too Short 93 5
93. LOVE FOR LOVE (Big Beat/Atlantic 9062) - Robin S. 95 9
94. CHATTAHOOCHEE (Arista 12573) - Alan Jackson 94 14
95. DON'T STOP THE MUSIC (Atlantic 87317) - Dr. Dre 96 8
96. \"I'M\" A PLAYER (Jive 45152) - Too Short 98 9
97. LOVE ME (Reprise 40962) - Zapp & Roger 99 11
98. \"I'M\" A PLAYER (Jive 45152) - Too Short 100 1
MARY J. BLIGE: "You Don't Have To Worry" (MCA 2760)
Heavy New Orleans-flavored musical groove drives this deliberate, steady tune, lifted from the Who's The Man soundtrack album. Not as immediate as many of Blige's previous singles, but a strong candidate nonetheless for heavy evening airplay on most urban and many hit outlets. Simple arrangement song is offered in five different versions including a couple featuring smooth rapper Craig Mack. Tune borrowed from James Brown's "Papa Don't Take No Messs."

INXS: "Time" (Atlantic 5367)
Single release number two from the Aussie hitmakers latest Full Moon, Dirty Hearts collection is this jumping slab of rock energy, the follow-up to the more creatively challenging though less accessible "The Gift." Band recaptures its trademark sound here, missing of late, as if it's been toying with different arrangements and songwriting styles. Relatively short cut should find a happy home at album, top-40 and even a few alternative stations.

PM DAWN: "You Got Me Floatin'" (Gee Street 6809)
Track is lifted from Reprise Records' new Jimi Hendrix tribute album, Stone Free, and is the first good chance for this hippy hip-hop group to achieve some solid album-rock radio action. Trippy band's usual dreamy flight makes a cool contrast to the classic song's hard-edged style and sharp guitar, a requisite, of course, for any respectable Hendrix cover. Band's hip reputation and track record, combined with current Hendrix Fever, should produce a hit.

HEART: "Will You Be There" (Capitol 29293)
One of the better moments from Heart's fine new comeback collection, Desire Walks On, is this soon-to-be chart-topping ballad sung by guitarist Nancy Wilson and written by consistent hitmaker Robert "Mutt" Lange. Cool harmonies from sister Ann Wilson, slick guitar fills from Howard Leese and full, radio-friendly keyboards all point toward a return to chart heaven for the veteran Seattle outfit. Heart is currently on a short U.S. theater tour.

DEFF LEPPARD: "Miss You In A Heartbeat" (Mercury 858080)
Believe it or not, there was actually a time when this British supergroup was at the forefront of a movement. Featuring vocals by the New Wave Of British Heavy Metal. But that was many years (and many platinum records) ago. Ever since the band, led by pin-up dude Joe Elliott, hit paydirt with "Love Bites," a most synthy ballad, it's been next to impossible to get the band to release anything but ballads. Of course, with a string of hits like the one the Leps have amassed of late, who's to blame? Romantic song is included on Retro Active, the quintet's new odds and ends collection, and is hitbound.
REVIEWS by Troy I. Augusto

**BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD: The Beavis And Butt-head Experience** (Geffen 24613)
How to go from cheaply made cartoon to a cottage industry, by Mike Judge. His purposely moronic 'toon *Beavis And Butt-head* not only claims MTV's highest ratings, it's credited with inspiring a pre-schooler to torch his house and for inspiring the Smart folks at Geffen to gather up a host of unreleased metal and rap tunes (including four by Geffen acts) under the B and B banner. Fun moments from Primus, Anthrax and Cher (dueting with our hero) don't suck.

**CHAPTERHOUSE: Blood Music** (Dedicated/Arista 18742)
The second full album from Reading, England's Chapterhouse is *Blood Music* (the title comes from a passage in a Greg Bear sci-fi opus), a swirling collection that's part house music, part Brit guitar pop and part ambient mood vision. The pure pop pleasure of "We Are The Beautiful" (which features another sample of Led Zepp's "When The Levee Breaks"), the unameded spirit of "Confusion Trip" and the tasty "Deli" are all's best.

**WILLIAM ORBIT: Strange Cargo III** (IRS 27703)
The king of progressive techno dance is British studio wizard William Orbit, a man who always seems to be just one step ahead of experimental musical technology. Album is third in a series of ambient mood projects crafted in Orbit's London Guerilla Studios, following his 1987 self-titled debut. His seemingly effortless swirling of the human voice and synthesized keys on "Into The Paradise" is album's, and possibly the artist's, best moment.

**POP ALBUM INDEX**

| Gipsy Kings / 74 | Even Cowgirls Get the Blues / 41 |
| Guns & Roses / 4 | The Bodyguard / 47 |
| Heart / 45 | Judgement Night / 81 |
| INXS / 99 | Sleepless In Seattle / 51 |
| Jackson, Alan / 35,77 | Spice 1 / 71 |
| Jackson, Janet / 15 | Stewart, Rod / 41 |
| Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince / 88 | Sting / 86 |
| Joel, Billy / 19 | Stone Free / 40 |
| Kelly, R. / 48 | Stone Temple Pilots / 36 |
| Lemonheads / 93 | Strait, George / 39 |
| McCartney, Paul / 80 | Streisand, Barbra / 84 |
| McEntire, Reba / 24 | Survivor / 67 |
| MC REN / 44 | Tag Team / 73 |
| Meatloaf / 6 | Tony! Tony! Tone! / 57 |
| Mellencamp, John / 68 | Too Short / 18 |
| Metallica / 92,32 | Tribe Called Quest / 21 |
| Naughty By Nature / 56 | Tool / 79 |
| Neville, Aaron / 89 | U2 / 78 |
| Nirvana / 17 | UB40 / 85 |
| O'Neal, Shaquille / 27 | VARIOUS ARTISTS: Common Thread / 14 |
| Pearl Jam / 1,28 | No Alternative / 50 |
| Pet Shop Boys / 97 | Waits, Tom / 69 |
| Petty, Tom / 7 | Walker, Clay / 90 |
| Rush / 38 | White Zombie / 37 |
| Salt-N-Pepa / 54 | Xscape / 30 |
| Satriani, Joe / 94 | Yankovich, Weird Al / 91 |
| Scareface / 95 | Yearwood, Trisha / 52 |
| Serpent's Erick / 76 | Yoakam, Dwight / 64 |
| Sinatza, Frank / 2 | Zapp & Roger / 46 |

**ROCKET FROM THE CRYPT: All Systems Go**
(Cargo 023)
At the forefront of the current crazed San Diego music scene is this ear-splitting combo who set themselves out from the rest of the pack by way of Apollo 9, a man who seems to confuse his saxophone for a freight train (at least that's the way the records sound). This set collects most of the band's early '7 material, including smokin' new versions of "Bad Sonic Ninja" and "Killin' Kill." Group releases its Interscope debut early '94. Play loudly.

**PISS FACTORY: Piss Factory** (Relativity 1119)
Gal-fronted, New York-based punk group takes its name (and much musical inspiration) from Patti Smith's 1976 tale of mind over angst. Vocals/bass Liz Avonette probably wouldn't appreciate the comparison, but she often comes across like a bitter Joan Jett. Band's music takes the Music Camp 101 route throughout, but it's Lizzie's naughty chants and howls that command the spotlight anyway. Listen for Stooges lift in "Waiting," alt's best tune.

**EN ESCH: Cheesy** (TVT 3710)
En Esch is a founding member of industrial champions KMFDM and Pigface and if you're at all familiar with either of those two group's psycho-techno rantings you've got an idea what to expect from his latest debut. Thankfully, though, Mr. Esch does stretch out from the confines of his other projects, injecting Cheesy with a variety of dance rhythms, hip-hop beats, slashing guitar snippets and experimental world noises. The grand "Daktari" is genius.

**KAREN FARR: Sistina** (November 1104)
Multi-talented Philadelphia native draws upon a host of folk, rock and acoustic artists, including Joni Mitchell, Elton John/Bernie Taupin, James Taylor and Traffic, mixing in her own imaginative, often contradictory, musings. Themes run the gamut, from overseas war to domestic disasters, from childhood tragedies to affairs of the adult heart, all blessed by Farr's smooth, instinctive delivery. Award-winning songwriter's debut is a winner.

**PICK OF THE WEEK**

**COWBOY JUNKIES: Pale Sun, Crescent Moon** (RCA 66343) Producers: Michael Timmins
Fifth album from Toronto's Cowboy Junkies is a gracefully beautiful collection that finally delivers on the awesome promises of the band's 1986 debut and breathtaking follow-up, 1988's *The Trinity Sessions*. Singer Margo Timmins has never sounded more honest, with painfully exposed tales of hope, devotion, betrayal, unashamed love and infatuation leaving the listener under the smoky vocalist's hypnotic spell. The music of Pale Sun, Crescent Moon is equally inspired, drawing on traditional, emotive styles, like the slow blues of the haunting "Ring On The Stills." Album of the year nominee.
REVIEWS by M.R. Martinez

**SPIRIT TRAVELER: Playing The Hits From Motor City JVC Music Video Collection** Producers: Akira Taguchi & Masako Gale.

It’s an unbeatable combination for the urban adult connoisseur of music and jazz culture. This compilation features top guns like Eric Gale, David T. Walker, Wah Wah Hankins and Philadelphia guitarist, Billy Preston. You’ve got top flight guitarists Eric Gale, David T. Walker, Wah Wah Hankins and Philadelphia guitarist, Billy Preston. You’ve got top flight guitarists making guest appearances, and jazz, bluesy and funky, the quartet is joined by vocalist Ali Woodson on some of the tracks. This compilation features bassist James Jamerson, Jr. and drummer James Gaden.


These young men, at the very least, should be lauded for not trying to come off like Boyz II Men. They do, however, bring a great deal of engaging harmonies to nearly every track on this 11-song package. They’re funky and New Jack (“Born In The Chetto,” 1975” and “It Doesn’t Have To Be This Way”), but they also remind the listener of early Earth, Wind & Fire vocal arrangements (especially on “Lesson’s Learned”). The serious hip-hop jumps off on “Set It Off.”

**RONNY JORDAN: The Quiet Revolution 4th & B Way 164-44096. Producers: R. Jordan & others.**

Ronny Jordan serves up his prodigious jazz chops with hip-hop spice. It’s hard to tell where Jordan’s improvisational compositions end and the hip-hop sensibilities begin. Jordan does collaborate with the most visible names of the rap/jazz fusion—C-Lactus Starm—on “Season For Change.” But he also employs the groove on tracks like “The Jackal,” which boosts an ambient akin to both Rudy Ray Moore and Digital Underground. Jordan also has something for the more adult contemporary audience in tracks like “Come With Me” and “In Full Swing.”

**EIGHTBALL & MJQ: Comin’ Out Hard (Suave SR-0001). Producers: Eighball & MJQ.

Solid production and a gritty sense of humor distinguish this album from the Houston-based duo that could easily become the Texas hardcore version of Digital Underground. The samples are so raw you can hear the pops and cracks of the vinyl they’re drawn from. The subject is so true, but laughingly handled that you’ll ignore such drawbacks. There’s no innovative mic flow, unless you consider the repetitive flow of some innovative. But the lack of style/gangsta album could make some underground DJs very happy.

**PICK OF THE WEEK


This is a unique approach to the fusion of hip-hop and jazz. The samples on this Blue Note release, one of the label founder Alfred Lons, Many of the samples are music recorded by legends like Herbie Hancock, Art Blakey, Horace Silver and Bobbie Hutcherson, to name a few. Live horn work is deftly mixed with the samples and groovy mic flow by artists like Rashawn. Tracks like “Gangsta (Flip Fantasia),” “Different Rhythms, Different People,” “It’s Like That,” “Just Another Brother,” “Lazy Day” are among the list of solid selections from the Blue Note vault broken out for young hip-hop. Producers Mel Simpson and Geoff Wilkinson kick it.
THE RHYTHM

By M.R. Martinez

Mercury recording artist Oleta Adams (I) was recently joined by actress/choreographer Rosie Perez as the former prepared to go on tour in support of her current album release Evolution, the follow-up to her multi-platinum debut album Circle of One.

A FROSTY LEGEND MOVES ON: Modern bluesman Albert Collins, the man who put a hot frostice into early urban music, died Nov 24, 1993 at his Las Vegas home after a lengthy bout with lung cancer. He was 61. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Gwendolyn. Having started his career more than 30 years ago, Collins had forged an indelible individual character and had enhanced the work of a diverse set of popular musicians with his trademark guitar licks and galvanizing showmanship.

The Leon, TX native, who received five Grammy nominations the won a Grammy in 1986 with Robert Cray and Johnny Copeland on the Alligator Records Stonelium album, was lauded for his ability to find a niche for his style while playing with nearly anyone. Ike and Tina Turner, David Bowie, Joe Walsh, John Lee Hooker, B.B. King and Branford Marsalis are among the artists with whom Collins collaborated on vinyl or in live settings. Although he wandered into other genres of music, Collins was respected by his blues peers, having won numerous W.C. Handy Awards.

His star rose swiftly aboard the success of the 1962 single “Frosty” b/w “Tremble” for TCF Hall Records. Collins eventually recorded for a number of labels, but eventually settled in at Alligator, which released seven albums of his work. In between a pair of reissues of his music, Collins recorded a pair of albums for Pointblank/Charisma Records, 1991’s Iceman (nominated for a Grammy) and the recent Collins Mix. If there’s one thing to remember, it’s Collins signature electric guitar chord which stretched from the stage to the front marque of many clubs. He literally took his music to the streets and brought people the joy of his playing.

Cleveland-based crew Y.T. Style recently joined Los Angeles-based radio station KJLH for a breakfast repast at Dulan’s Restaurant where they broadcast a live version of their debut single “You’ll Never Find Another,” from their debut Third Stone Records album The Concept. Pictured after the meal are (l-r): Jabali Hicks, Third Stone creative director; Jeffrey Russell, Antoine Foote and Terry McCann; KJLH air personality Cliff Winston; and (up front) Toney Fields of the group.

Top 75 R&B Albums

1. Shock of the Hour (Ruthless/Relativity 5500) M.C. Ren 36 2
2. Tonic Braxton (LaFace/Arista 6007) Tonic Braxton 2 9
3. 12 Play (Jive 11527) R.Kelly 4 2
4. Aaliyah (Jive 11428) Aaliyah 11 2
5. I’m Ready (Jive/Warner Bros. 45681) Tevin Campbell 10 3
6. Get In Where Ya Fit In (Jive 11526) Too Short 3 3
7. Straight Up Sesame (East West 92069) DeEFX DEBUT
8. Hummin’ Comin’ at Ya (Sodas Del Columbia S 5350) 5 3
9. It’s On (Dr.Dre 187UM Killa) Ruthless/Relativity 5500 Easy E 6 3
10. For The Cool In You (Epix 53555) Babyface 8 7
11. Music Box (Columbia 52050) Mariah Carey 9 6
12. Time and Change (Gemi/Reprise 84524) Color Me Bad DEBUT
13. Black Reign (Motown 6270) Queen Latifah DEBUT
14. Janet (Virgin 87825) Janet Jackson 18 19
15. Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers) (Loud 60366) Wu-Tang Clan 7 2
16. All the Greatest Hits (Reprise/Warner Bros. 45143) Zapp/Roger 12 3
17. Gangsta Lean (Cassidy 81440) Cassidy 33 2
18. Shaggy Diesel (Jive 11420) Shaggy O’Neal 14 3
19. Sons of Soul (Wings/Relativity 51943) Tony Toni Tone 17 12
20. 187 He Wrote (Jive 11413) Spice 11 5
21. No Pressure (Chase/Columbia 57688) Eric Benet 15 3
22. Vibe in the Morning (Jive 11428) Xscape 28 2
24. Intro (Atlantic 26463) Inter 19 19
26. The Truth (MCA 10180) Aaron Hall 23 3
27. Black Sunday (Ruffhouse/Columbia 4324) 25 2
29. Christmas Interpretations (Motown 6365) Boyz II Men 34 4
30. I’ll Do Everything (Gallivitts/Alley/MCA 10568) R&B Extreme 21 2
31. Doggy Style (Death Row/Interscope 86279) Snoop Doggy Dogg DEBUT
32. Code Name of the Boom Bap (Jive 11417) 31 5
33. The Chronic (Priority 57128) Dr. Dre 28 36
34. Millennium (Reprise 42527) Earth/Wind & Fire 3 5
35. Enata da Stage (West/Novena 2002) Black Moon 31 3
36. Talkin’ Shit (Interscope 92289) Martin Lawrence 26 5
37. Never Let Me Go (Epic 53231) Luther Vandross 29 14
38. It’s About Time (RCA 66074) SW 35 32
39. Intimate (MCA 1947) Jody Watley 32 2
40. You Make It Easy (Juni/Warner Bros. 45006) Keith Washington 37 5
41. Stil Infinity (Jive 11514) Souls of mischief 42 5
42. The Bodyguard (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack) (Arista 16699) Soundtrack 41 40
43. Breathless (Arista 16696) Kenny G 44 40
44. House of Love (Warner Bros. 45754) Kris Kross 28 8
45. Between the Sheets (Warner Bros. 45340) Fourplay 45 6
46. The Truth (MCA 10810) Aaron Hall 46 5
47. A Little More Magic (Epic 61497) Teddy Pendergrass 27 4
48. Everything (Mercury 5106) Joe 48 7
49. Make It Rain (Eastwest 45734) DMX 45 10
50. Runaway Love (Epic 92096) En Vogue 43 5
51. Provocative (Motown 206035) Johnny Gill 55 18
52. Faithful (Live 41528) Hi-Five 49 3
53. Coming of Age (Zoo 11004) Coming of age 53 5
54. Razamanaz (Interscope 51489) De La Soul 52 5
55. From the Mint Factory (Perspective/W&M 9600) Mint Condition 62 4
56. Heartbreaker (EMG/ERG 9740) The O’Jays 55 9
57. Builhoone Mind State (Tommy Boy 1003) De La Soul 59 9
58. Brian McKnight (MGM 54062) Brian McKnight 58 15
59. Evolution (Fontana/Mercury 514965) Oleta Adams 54 6
60. The Hits The B-Sides (Pasley Park/Warner Bros. 45440) Prince 56 5
61. T.L.M. (Epic 61382) Leaders of the new school 57 3
62. BadaFucup (M.A.C/Chuck 53020) D.O.V. 60 21
63. Comin’ Out Hard (Suave 2001) Jadakiss 61 4
64. Love’s the Place to Be (Warner Bros. 51086) Will Downing 51 8
65. Live! (Epic 61538) The Isley Brothers 52 4
66. East River Drive (Epic 47488) Stanley Clarke 63 7
67. The Hits 2 (Pasley Park/Warner Bros. 45435) Prince 63 0
68. The Hits 1 (Pasley Park/Warner Bros. 45431) Prince 47 5
69. Menace II Society (Jive 11509) Soundtrack 65 16
70. Hey Man…Smell My Finger (Pasley Park/Warner Bros. 45435) George Clinton 66 2
71. Lose Control (Epic 61394) Silk 67 31
72. The New Breed (Wrap/Chicken 81251) MC Breed 69 18
73. The Unfold Truth (Warner Bros. 45734) The Isley Brothers 68 6
74. The Body-Hat Syndrome (Tommy Boy 660) Digital Underground 70 3
**TOP 30 RAP SINGLES**

**CASH BOX • DECEMBER 11, 1993**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Track</th>
<th>Artist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Shoop</strong></td>
<td>(Napalooza/Blackout) Shoop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Keep Ya Head Up</strong></td>
<td>(Interscope) 2-Pac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>U.N.I.T.Y.</strong></td>
<td>(Motown) Queen Latifah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Real Muthaphuckkin</strong></td>
<td>(Ruthless) Eazy-E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>I Know I Got Skillz</strong></td>
<td>(Jive) Shaquille O'Neal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Now I Feel Ya</strong></td>
<td>(RAPP-Lo) Scarface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Geto Jam</strong></td>
<td>(Outburst/Ral) Domino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>93 Til Infinity</strong></td>
<td>(Jive) Souls Of Mischief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>I'm Looking For One</strong></td>
<td>(Jive) DJ Jazz Jeff &amp; Fresh Prince</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>93 Til Infinity</strong></td>
<td>(Jive) Souls Of Mischief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Same Ol' Shit</strong></td>
<td>(Ruthless) MC Ren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>Paint The White House Black</strong></td>
<td>(Paisley Park/Warner Bros)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><strong>I'm Real</strong></td>
<td>(RuffHouse/Columbia) George Clinton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>I'm A Player</strong></td>
<td>(Jive) Kris Kross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td><strong>Shpiftee</strong></td>
<td>(UM/J/R) Onyx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td><strong>Come Clean</strong></td>
<td>(PayDay/FRR) Jeru The Damaja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td><strong>Stay Real</strong></td>
<td>(Outburts/Columbia) Erick Sermon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td><strong>Let Me Ride</strong></td>
<td>(Death Row/Interscope/Columbia) Dr Dre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td><strong>99</strong></td>
<td>(Uptown/MCA) Father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td><strong>Young Girl Blues</strong></td>
<td>(Cold Chillin/Warner Bros) Biz Markie</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td><strong>Outta Here</strong></td>
<td>(Jive) KRS-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td><strong>Many Clouds Of Smoke</strong></td>
<td>(Arista) KRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td><strong>Written On Ya Kitten</strong></td>
<td>(Tommy Boy) Naughty By Nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td><strong>Nickel Bag</strong></td>
<td>(Pendulum/ERQ) Digable Planets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td><strong>Very Special/Stop Shammin'</strong></td>
<td>(Cold Chillin' 19437) Big Daddy Kane</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td><strong>Nuttin'Ta Lose</strong></td>
<td>(Tuff Break/A&amp;M) Dred Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td><strong>Westside Story</strong></td>
<td>(EastWest) Yo-Yo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td><strong>What's Next</strong></td>
<td>(Elektra) Leaders Of The New School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td><strong>Got It Like That</strong></td>
<td>(Skansk/Tommy Boy) Hi-C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td><strong>Skinny Digit Got It Goin' On</strong></td>
<td>(Chemistry/Mercury 802652) Ed O.G &amp; Da Bulldogs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RAP SINGLE REVIEWS**

**By Dr. Bayyan**

**YGZ:** "Do Or Die" (Reprise PRO-CD 6540).

From the opening groove all the way through the opening mic mack, this record leaves the listenerrockin' and swaying. This clean version of the album track will make radio more than happy. But, it's still some hardcore gangsta groove in the mic flow. There's even an Xmas-like percussive groove in the background.

**THA HITMEN:** "Sho Gettin' Ruff" (Psychotic KMFA 1202-2).

Heavily produced and sampled (Roger and Zapp will be gettin' some royalties), this record has a groove that will not let up on the ruff tip. This track smokes like a phat blunt, especially on the radio mix. The track is b/w "J.O.E." which sounds more like the Compton hardcore gangsta production than the featured jam.

**ACE DOG:** Knock It Off (Trumpet/Tree Top TTC-125).

He's not talkin' about knockin' off the noise, because Ace Dog brings some of that on this back-beatin', hoe-killin', back-alley rap. Ace has no respect for gangsta posers. There's rarely a lyrical line that doesn't have to be blipped for radio, but that doesn't distract from the track's appeal.
REVIEW

By M.R. Martinez


This was not even supposed to be a record. But after producer Jean-Francois Delber heard these Belgian radio DAT recordings of McLean's live performance in Belgium, he was convinced that the music outweighed the technical flaws. He was right. This is some of the most invigorating, yet not groundbreaking progression in McLean's lengthy and prestigious career.

The opening track, "Cyclical," quickly draws in the listener and gives one a glimpse of the great playing supporting the alto saxophonist. Hotep Idris Galeta (piano) bassist Nat Reeves and drummer Carl Allen also show up tasty on Monk's "Round Midnight."


An excellent cast of musicians make this dramatic, often introspective music excel. The musicians nor arrangers, Mendoza and Mardin, take liberties with the integrity of the flamenco or big band sounds, yet bring a fresh excitement to each track. This could be Spain in your living room. Artists like Al Di Meola, Steve Khan, Michael Brecker, Peter Enskine, Freddie Santiago and Dieter Ils are joined by the Los Venados Flamencos and the WDR Big Band to create multiple settings that make the Old World meeting the New World a palpable experience. Several tracks are outstanding, but "Tango," "Soy Gitano," and "Buleria" merit early listening.


Lush arrangements and production by Caldwell and his increasingly ripe and mature voice make for a homogenous effect throughout this 11-song package. Caldwell's vocals are controlled, savvy and soulful. He travels between contemporary treatments ("Where Is Love?" "Once Upon A Time") to more traditional, big band treatments ("Don't Worry Bout Me" and "I Get A Kick Out Of You") to even more adventurous terrain ("Carrie Anne [You'll Never Know]").

Caldwell's vocal interpretive skills are the one constant throughout this album. This is a multi-format album that programmers should ignore during the holiday season.

**DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER**: Keeping Tradition (Verve 314 519 507-2). Producer: Dee Dee Bridgewater.

Although Bridgewater made her name using her fabulous God-given instrument on adult pop songs, she has settled into jazz as a means of expressing herself the last decade. Her woodshedding and patience in developing style and selection of material is evident throughout this album. Songs by Cole Porter, Horace Silver, Ira Gershwin and Marilyn and Alan Bergman are given insightful treatment by Bridgewater. She's delicate, yet playful on Gershwin's "Fascinating Rhythm"; she caresses lyrics on the Bergman's "The Island"; and on Silver's "Sister Sadie" she flat out has fun.

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**TOP 30 JAZZ ALBUMS**

CASH BOX • DECEMBER 11, 1993

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Sales</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>BETWEEN THE SHEETS</strong></td>
<td>(Warner Bros 45340)</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>LOVE REMEMBERS</strong></td>
<td>(Warner Bros 26688)</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>DREAMS BEYOND CONTROL</strong></td>
<td>(GRP 9714)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>NO ABSOLUTE TIME</strong></td>
<td>(Atlantic 82500)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>EAST RIVER DRIVE</strong></td>
<td>(Epic 47489)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td><strong>LUCKY MAN</strong></td>
<td>(Capitol 93902)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>THE ROAD TO YOU</strong></td>
<td>(Capitol 94601)</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>PAINT THE WORLD</strong></td>
<td>(GRP 9731)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td><strong>WHEN SUMMER COMES</strong></td>
<td>(GRP 9724)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td><strong>STRAIGHT TO THE POINT</strong></td>
<td>(Verve Forecast/4/517067)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td><strong>THREE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST</strong></td>
<td>(Warner Bros 45326)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td><strong>BELA FLECK AND THE FLEKTONES</strong></td>
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<td>13</td>
<td><strong>DEVIATION</strong></td>
<td>(RCA 66321)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td><strong>DON'T SMOKE IN BED</strong></td>
<td>(Manhattan/Capitol 81199)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td><strong>ANOTHER WORLD</strong></td>
<td>(GRP 9728)</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td><strong>BREATHELESS</strong></td>
<td>(Atlantic 81466)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td><strong>THE JAZZ MASTERS</strong></td>
<td>(JVC 2021)</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td><strong>WORTH WAITING FOR</strong></td>
<td>(Verve Forecast 517026)</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td><strong>SKY ISLANDS</strong></td>
<td>(GRP 9742)</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td><strong>LIVE IN L.A</strong></td>
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<td>21</td>
<td><strong>OVER THE TOP</strong></td>
<td>(Real Music 0137)</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td><strong>LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT</strong></td>
<td>(JVC 2023)</td>
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<td><strong>IN FLIGHT</strong></td>
<td>(Mesa/Rhino 81456)</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td><strong>WES BOUND</strong></td>
<td>(GRP 9697)</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td><strong>DRAGONFLY SUMMER</strong></td>
<td>(Reprise 45227)</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td><strong>HEART OF THE IMMIGRANTS</strong></td>
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<td>27</td>
<td><strong>ARC</strong></td>
<td>(GRP 9728)</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td><strong>BODY AND SOUL</strong></td>
<td>(Atlantic 82422)</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td><strong>ONE TOUCH</strong></td>
<td>(GRP 9691)</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td><strong>THIS TIME AROUND</strong></td>
<td>(GRP 52985/Epic)</td>
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<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Manhattan recording artist saxophonist Everette Harp (seated), who came to wide attention when he performed the tune "Your Mama Don't Dance" during President Clinton's inaugural bash, has been getting a steady dose of late night exposure sitting in with Michael Wolff (on top) and the rest of the Arsenio Hall Show band.
COUNTRY NEWS BOX

Country's Spring Break '94

NASHVILLE—In an unprecedented venture, TNN: The Nashville Network will join forces with the Country Music Association and the South Padre Island Convention and Visitors Bureau to televise live concert coverage and other events in March from the popular Texas beach resort South Padre Island during Spring Break 1994’s Texas Week. TNN will present 24 hours of original programming over three consecutive days featuring many of today's hottest young country stars including Billy Ray Cyrus and Travis Tritt. TNN Texas Spring Break 1994 will be telecast live from the beach and the convention center Wednesday, March 16, through Friday, March 18, from 3:00-6:00 p.m., 6:00-8:00 p.m., and 8:00-11:00 p.m. (all times Eastern).

Highlighting the extravaganza are three primetime specials starring Billy Ray Cyrus, Travis Tritt and a third performer to be announced shortly. Each night will spotlight a different headliner with two opening acts. Additionally, TNN will be on-location during the day for the beach concerts and popular college activities such as jet-skiing and celebrity volleyball. Artists selected to appear include Marty Stuart, Aaron Tippin, Diamond Rio, Lari White, Confederate Railroad, Gibson Miller Band and Radney Foster.

South Padre Island, which bills itself as "the ultimate spring break adventure," is on the tropical tip of Texas, 25 minutes from Mexico, and has become a popular locale for college students over the past few years. Last year, more than 100,000 students traveled to the 34-mile-long beach for their spring vacation.

CMT Countdown '93

NASHVILLE—Country music star Lorrie Morgan and Mark Miller, lead singer of the group Sawyer Brown, will host the CMT 1993 Countdown, a 90-minute special to be telecast during December on CMT: Country Music Television. The top 10 country music videos of 1993, as judged by their popularity on CMT, will be showcased. Also, top video artists will be announced in eight performance categories: Male Video Artist of the Year, Female Video Artist of the Year, Group Video Artist of the Year, Video Event of the Year, Canadian Video of the Year, Independent Video of the Year, Video Director of the Year, and CMT Rising Video Star. The CMT 1993 Countdown will premiere on Friday, December 31, at 9:00 p.m. with repeats on Saturday, January 1, at 11:00 a.m. and Sunday, January 2, at 2:00 p.m.; all times Eastern. Also for the first time this year, TNN: The Nashville Network will telecast a condensed, 60-minute version of the show on Wednesday, January 5, at 8:00 p.m. with a repeat at 12:00 midnight.

The Foundation's Country On CD

NASHVILLE—The Country Music Foundation has compiled a first-of-its-kind reference to country compact discs: Country On Compact Disc: The Essential Guide To The Music. Edited by Paul Kingsbury, this is the first book to cover the entire spectrum of country music available on compact disc—from the classic recordings of pioneers like Hank Williams, Kitty Wells and Bill Monroe to the latest hits from hot newcomers like Clint Black, Mary-Chapin Carpenter and Vince Gill. In totally frank, witty, incisive reviews, Country On Compact Disc sifts the indispensable from the intolerable, pointing fans to the treasures and steering them clear of the fool's gold. Country On Compact Disc is available nationally at better bookstores or may be ordered from the Country Music Foundation by phoning (800) 255-2357. All major credit cards accepted.

Excitement abounds when Billy Bob Loves Charlene! Joe Diffie’s latest Epic single, “John Deere Green” is off and running strong. The honky tonk hero was recently on hand to help hang a banner across the front of label offices on Music Row as employees and fans cheered from the street and rooftop.

CMT: Country Music Television and Congressman Bob Clement of Tennessee recently co-hosted a country line dance exhibition at the foot of the Capitol. Clement recently pushed a bill through recognizing October as Country Music month and, in honor of the occasion, members of the Senate and Congress were invited to learn the "CMT Dance Ranch Romp" during a lunchtime break. Leading the Capitol’s own Dance Ranch Rompers was Jo Thompson, a former Miss Texas and creator of the "CMT Dance Ranch Romp" (front, center). Also present was Francie Leader, manager, Eastern Division, affiliate relations, Group W Satellite Communications (GWSC) (second from right).

CAN WE TALK? While in New York for their performance at Nassau Coliseum, Garth Brooks and his opening act Stephanie Davis guested on The Joan Rivers Show. Garth chatted with Joan about his current hit album, In Pieces, and Stephanie performed her current single “Moonlighter.” (Photo Credit: Karen Macauley)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#1 SINGLE</th>
<th>#2</th>
<th>#3</th>
<th>#4</th>
<th>#5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alan Jackson</td>
<td>Martina McBride</td>
<td>Tracy Lawrence</td>
<td>Little Texas</td>
<td>Liberty 79008</td>
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**CASH BOX CHARTS**

**TOP 100 COUNTRY SINGLES**

**DECEMBER 11, 1993**

### #1 SINGLE: Alan Jackson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Week 12</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>WE CAN LOVE</td>
<td>(Arista 70793)</td>
<td>Larry Stewart</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>SHE'S THE ONE</td>
<td>(Arista 20622)</td>
<td>Brooks &amp; Dunn</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>WHY'D YOU HAVE TO LOOK SO GOOD</td>
<td>(Liberty KC-6902)</td>
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<td>(BNA 66047)</td>
<td>Lorrie Morgan</td>
<td>57</td>
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<td>DOES HE LOVE YOU</td>
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<td>Reba McEntire with Linda Davis</td>
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<td>REAL LOVE</td>
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<td>64</td>
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<td>TRASHY WOMEN</td>
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<td>Confederate Railroad</td>
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<td>EASY COME, EASY GO</td>
<td>(MCA 54717)</td>
<td>George Strait</td>
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<td>68</td>
<td>OUTLAW BLUES</td>
<td>(RCA NOMINEE 100-2)</td>
<td>Patti Liner</td>
<td>72</td>
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<td>WHAT'S IT TO YOU</td>
<td>(Grand 245)</td>
<td>Clay Walker</td>
<td>66</td>
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<td>HURRY SUNDOWN</td>
<td>(MCA 66668)</td>
<td>McBride &amp; the Ride</td>
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<td>MY CRAZY MIND</td>
<td>(Island 4100)</td>
<td>Roger Wall</td>
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<td>WHY ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE GOING</td>
<td>(Liberty 79715)</td>
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<td>NO THING BUT THE THING</td>
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<td>Patty Loveless</td>
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<td>CAN THIS HEART OF MINE</td>
<td>(Henry HMC-5)</td>
<td>Steve Warren</td>
<td>77</td>
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<td>HEAVEN'S JUST A SIN AWAY</td>
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<td>Kelly Willis</td>
<td>69</td>
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<td>MOONLIGHT DRIVE-IN</td>
<td>(BNA 62577)</td>
<td>Tatum Nicholson</td>
<td>71</td>
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<td>I'M NOT BUILT THAT WAY</td>
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<td>(Time TRCD-1579)</td>
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<td>78</td>
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<td>SO MUCH FUN</td>
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<td>Emerald City</td>
<td>67</td>
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<td>84</td>
<td>IT WONT BE LOVE</td>
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<td>ONLY LOVE</td>
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<td>HE Ain'T WORTH Missing</td>
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<td>HEART BYPASS</td>
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### #100 LOOKING OUT FOR NUMBER ONE | (Warner Bros. 18463) | Travis Tritt | 95 |

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<td>Travis Tritt</td>
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CHRISTMAS COUNTRY

Seasonal Releases

NASHVILLE—It's common knowledge that country artists are red-hot properties these days. Christmas time is certainly no exception. There are more country Christmas albums being released this year than ever before. Instead of offering a collage of useless reviews—here's a brief look at what's out there...

For radio only: CDX has released CDXMAS Volumes 3 & 4, with singles available to radio from Alabama, Clinton Gregory, Floyd Cramer, Jerry Reed, Aljohn Jackson, Wynonna, Kathy Mattea, The Statler Brothers, Reba McEntire, Garth Brooks, Travis Tritt, Doug Wayne, Travis Tritt, Vince Gill, Ricky Van Shelton, The Geezinslaws, Lorrie Morgan, Doug Stone, George Strait & Kenny Rogers, among others. Although CDXMAS is unavailable to the consumer, it should at least heights Christmas morning drive to Grandma's house a little more memorable. Be sure to tune in to country radio in December.

Already popular on the charts: Vince Gill's Let There Be Peace On Earth recently shipped Gold and is currently riding high on the Cash Box Top 75 Country Albums chart at a bulleted #30 position.

Alan Jackson's Honky Tonk Christmas is also doing well at #40.

Garth Brooks' Beyond The Season is sure to be a hot seller again this year. It's already Double-Platinum from 1992's sales.

Travis Tritt's A Travis Tritt Christmas: Loving Time Of The Year should also do well.

Lorrie Morgan's Merry Christmas From London has been hailed as an outstanding seasonal project incorporating a full orchestra. Check it out!

Kathy Mattea has just released Goods News, a critical success as well.

And no longer a stranger to country radio, Aaron Neville's Christmas project is simply titled, Aaron Neville's Soulful Christmas. Totally angelic!

From the BNA Entertainment label comes Sounds Of The Season, which includes songs from John Anderson, Dale Daniel, The Remingtons, Lisa Stewart, The Oak Ridge Boys, Doug Stone, Steve Wariner, Tim Ryan, Eddie Rabbit & Lorrie Morgan, among others.

Last but not least, don't forget Charlie Chase's My Wife...My Life. It also serves as a seasonal release.

These and other Country Christmas releases are sure to brighten table-talk, stuff the stockings and provide hours of joy for avid country fans. Don't miss out. Get to the record stores fast!
Music City Tonight & Charlie Chase: TNN’s Flagships
By Brad Hogue

Charlie Chase is a busy man these days. That's nothing unusual, though, Chase was also a busy boy. His first brush with professional broadcasting originated in his hometown of Rogersville, Tennessee, when Chase was only 13. "I got up every morning at 5:00 a.m. and rode my bicycle two miles to the station and signed on the air," he recalls. The station's secretary carted him to and from school and young Chase usually stayed on the air until sign-off time. Even then Charlie's innocent interest in mass communication was much more than a job; it was a love that persists to date.

Now a high-profile celebrity host, Chase's easygoing, highly approachable interviewing style comes across as unassuming and noncontroversial—even when roles are reversed and Chase is the interviewee. In a recent talk with Cash Box, Chase commented on his new show, Music City Tonight, his new Epic Records project, My Wife...My Life, and a bit of his life on and off the air.

"I've been doing a lot of traveling these days," Chase tells Cash Box. "This past Saturday I went to Orlando, then to Atlanta, then back to Nashville—all in one day. The week prior to that I went to Dallas, to Houston, then back to Nashville, and this Saturday I'm going to Jacksonville, then to Tampa, then back to Nashville again.

The reason is that I need time with my troops."

On a typical weekday, Chase arrives at the offices of Music City Tonight at two in the afternoon, prepares for the show, reads those troops, co-hosts the show with partner Lorianne Crook, then arrives back at his home at 10:30 p.m. The traveling he speaks of serves as a promotional vehicle for My Wife...My Life, as Chase makes in-store appearances at select Wal-Mart stores.

"By the time I get home my kids are asleep, so I'll wind down and get to bed myself around 1 a.m.—then I'm up again at six the next morning because that's my only time with them. If I need it I'll go back to bed for a couple hours. If I don't, I'll get up and start the day. That's pretty much it."

Prior to the launch of Music City Tonight, TNN's flagship program, Chase worked at radio stations in Kingsport and Knoxville in east Tennessee. He came to Nashville and a position with pop music station WMHK, which was followed by nine years of work with WSM, the 50,000-watt, clear-channel home of the Grand Ole Opry. During his tenure there, Chase became one of the most notable radio personalities in country music, for which he was twice a finalist for the Country Music Association's Disc Jockey of the Year Award. When WSM's television station began producing a live daytime entertainment program in 1982, Channel 4 Magazine, Charlie was asked to host and became a two-media man; working radio in the morning and television in the evening. In 1983, producer Jim Owens teamed Chase with Lorianne Crook for a new syndicated series, This Week In Country Music, which quickly evolved into the Crook & Chase nightly entertainment news series on TNN, beginning in 1986. A year later, This Week In Country moved out of syndication to TNN, where it was a popular weekend series until 1990. Since 1988, he and Crook have also hosted The Nashville Record Review, a four-hour radio program heard on more than 300 U.S. stations, and in Japan and the U.K.

And I still have to do Christmas shopping!" Chase jokes. "Seriously, there's always a way of adapting, I guess. Actually, the pressure is not as great as you might think because we've been on prime time for the last seven years of the show."

With research completed, Music City Tonight scored an impressive 2.3 rating (1,357,000 households) in its premiere telecast on Monday, October 18. Not since the Nashville Now 10th anniversary special on March 8, 1993 garnered a 3.0 rating has TNN scored such a record high rating for a regularly scheduled program in this time period. Television's only 90-minute live nightly entertainment series, Music City Tonight highlights country music acts ranging from newcomers to superstars, and it's being hailed as the most ambitious project conceived and developed by TNN since the network launched 10 years ago. Consequently, this TNN flagship flies high for not only country music, but also for the city of Nashville, which is quite metropolitan.

"That's certainly one of our responsibilities here," says Chase. "People who have this preconceived notion of what Nashville and the people who work in this industry are all about often ask us, 'Why don't you come out wearing boots and cowboy hats?' I think some people look at us and think, 'You guys really like country music—nah! But the industry people have often told us we bring a lot of class to country music. So it just goes to show that no matter how you dress, you can like country music. The diversity is there. Country music is like a town crier for Nashville, and Nashville is a very top-notch cultural and business center, as well as a major entertainment center."

Hooked into that center, Charlie Chase is also a family man. He has been married to his high school sweetheart, Karen, for 21 years and they have two children. His new album is dedicated to Karen. "I'm really thrilled with how these projects have turned out," says Chase. "And I did not get into this business to be a celebrity. I don't think I've changed any over the years. I just do what I do in front of a television camera. Celebrity is something that comes with it. The album release I think is just a softened way of letting people know where I'm coming from."

(As we go to print, country sensation Billy Ray Cyrus headlines Music City Tonight on Tuesday, November 30 and performs his new single to be released in January, "Words By Heart.")
Countdown At The Neon Armadillo

ANOTHER FLAGSHIP PROGRAM FOR TODAY'S COUNTRY MUSIC is Countdown At The Neon Armadillo, the new weekly series from Buena Vista Television which premiered Friday, September 17. The weekly, hour-long series showcases the songs, dances and entertainers that are redefining country music in the '90s. Syndicated to independent stations and network affiliates nationwide, Countdown at the Neon Armadillo has been sold in 175 markets covering 98% of the United States, making it the most widely accepted program at prime time among one-hour, non-dramas in syndicated television history.

The series spins out of last December's successful prime time television special, Rest of Country '92: Countdown at the Neon Armadillo, produced by Buena Vista Entertainment for ABC, and ranked #1 in its time period. In fact, the two-hour special increased the network's previous four-week household rating by 60% and attracted the highest adult viewership (18-49) in that time period for the '92-'93 season. Carrie Folks, who co-hosts Countdown... with partner John Burke, is elated.

"It's great to see our kind of music finally getting to the people," Folks told Cash Box. "What I think is great about the show is that it can expose the new country artists to fans in a way radio doesn't do. I think fans finish the show with a better understanding of the artists with whom they’re not yet familiar."

Featuring 15 of the hottest songs that reached #1 on the charts, Countdown... presents these artists in a lively hour of musical performances, music video clips and occasional line dances surfacing in dance clubs across the nation. Forty-six hour-long episodes of Countdown at the Neon Armadillo will be produced; 10 will be one-hour themed specials (check local listings). Executive producing the series is Don Weiner. Countdown... is produced by BIP Productions, Ltd. for distribution by Buena Vista Television. BVT is a subsidiary of the Walt Disney Company.

"If you're interested in what's going on in country," Folks reiterates. "We've got it, every week!"
HIGH DEBUTS
1. JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY—"I Swear"—(Atlantic)—#45
2. GEORGE STRAIT—"I'd Like To Have That One Back"—(MCA)—#49
3. DARON NORWOOD—"If It Wasn't For Her I Wouldn't Have You"—(Giant)—#50

MOST ACTIVE
1. CLINT BLACK—"State Of Mind"—(RCA)—#21
2. VANCE GILL—"I Can't Tell You Why"—(from Common Thread: Giant)—#40
3. TRISHA YEARWOOD—"The Song Remembers When"—(MCA)—#9
4. SHENANDOAH—"I Want To Be Loved Like That"—(RCA)—#16
5. TOBY KEITH—"A Little Less Talk (And A Lot More Action)"—(Mercury)—#30
6. DOUG SUPERNAW—"I Don't Call Him Daddy"—(BNA)—#7
7. WYNONNA—"Is It Over Yet"—(Curb/MCA)—#15
8. CLAY WALKER—"Live Until I Die"—(Giant)—#18

POWERFUL ON THE PLAYLIST—Traveling headlong into year's end we see much action again this week on the Cash Box Top 100 Country Singles chart. Clint Black's "State Of Mind" single is the biggest gainer of the week once again, moving nine notches up to #21. Another hot track is Vince Gill's contribution to the Common Thread project, "I Can't Tell You Why," which climbs seven to #40. Trisha Yearwood's latest, "The Song Remembers When" moves up six to slide into the Top 10 at #9. Also moving six for the week is Shenandoah's "I Want To Be Loved Like That," up to #16, and Toby Keith's "A Little Less Talk," up to #30. Rounding out the big movers is Doug Supernaw's "I Don't Call Him Daddy," Wynonna's "Is It Over Yet," and Clay Walker's "Live Until I Die." Each moves five for the week: Supernaw to #7, Wy to #15, and Walker to #18. Next week...

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. CONFEDERATE RAILROAD—"She Never Cried" (Atlantic)
2. BOBBIE CRYNER—"He Feels Guilty" (Epic)
3. TURNER NICHOLS—"She Loves To Hear Me Rock" (BNA)
4. RICKY LYNN GREGG—"Three Nickels & A Dime" (Liberty)
5. KENNY CHESNEY—"Whatever It Takes" (Capricorn/Warner Bros.)

CMT Top Ten Video Countdown
1. Little Texas . . . . . . . . . . . God Blessed Texas (Warner Bros.)
2. Tracy Lawrence . . . . . . . . . My Second Home (Atlantic)
3. Tanya Tucker . . . . . . . . . . . Soon (Liberty)
4. Doug Supernaw . . . . . . . . . I Don't Call Him Daddy (BNA)
5. Sammy Kershaw . . . . . . . . . Queen Of My Double Wide Trailer (Mercury)
6. Dwight Yoakam . . . . . . . . . Fast As You (Reprise/Warner Bros.)
7. Martina McBride . . . . . . . . . My Baby Loves Me (RCA)
8. Sawyer Brown . . . . . . . . . . . The Boys & Me (Curb)
9. Trisha Yearwood . . . . . . . . . The Song Remembers When (MCA)
10. Faith Hill . . . . . . . . . . . . . Wild One (Warner Bros.)

"It Won't Be Love"
Written by Sam Hogan
Produced by Johnny Morris & Dave Bush
On Evergreen Records

Contact: Johnny Morris at Evergreen Records 615-327-3213
National Promotion: Chuck Dixon 615-754-7492

INDIE CHART ACTION—Leading the Cash Box independents for the fifth consecutive week is Jeff Allen on the Epitome label. Allen's debut single, "You Can't Take It With You" moves ahead a steady three spots to #7 for the week. LRK's Kevin Charles climbs two again this week with "Why'd You Have To Look So Good" moving to #5. Chris Ridge's "Real Love," moved three to #6 for the Platinum Plus label, while Patti Miner's new single, "Outlaw Blues" takes a four spot hike to #8 for her new label, RCM Nominee. Rounding out the significant indie movers is Roger Earl's "My Crazy Mind," climbing three to #71 for the FIA label. Congrats to all!

Cash Box COUNTRY INDIE

Cash Box COUNTRY RADIO

BNA Entertainment artist Marc Beeson recently recorded material for his debut album on the label. Also an accomplished songwriter, Beeson was honored for writing the ASCAP Song of the Year during the annual award dinner. Pictured here with Beeson is his producer Robert Byrne.
Christian Country News Briefs

Arista's New Christian Country Label?

NASHVILLE—Contrary to the word on the street and in the press, Arista Records/Nashville will not be starting a Christian Country label in 1994 according to a label representative. . . .

Confusion no doubt is based on Arista Records/Nashville president, Tim DuBois's announcement early this year of his intentions to form a contemporary Christian label based in Nashville. And although Arista makes it clear that the new label will be "open-ended" stylistically to include possible Christian Country artists, it will be defined primarily as a contemporary Christian label.

Single Reviews

By Kathleen A. Ervin

Pick of the Week

MICHAEL JAMES "It Wasn't His Child" (Reunion)

The first single from James' second album for Reunion Records, Closer To The Fire, is a Christmas single radio-ready for the holidays. With words and music by Skip Ewing (who recorded the song on his own album), the single is about an illegitimate child and father who loves the boy. The song focuses on the birth of Jesus Christ from Joseph's perspective and is filled with sweet, human references to the Christ child. There's three versions to choose from here; album, radio edit and early fade. Treat your listeners this Christmas season with the album version and the interview with James at the end of the CD and his recollections of this single

LIVE FROM TBN—The Days were featured on the Trinity Broadcast Network's Live From Nashville, along with Marty Raybon of Shenandoah. The trio performed songs from their debut Cheyenne album New Step. Pictured [l-r]: Todd Payne, director of A&R, Cheyenne Records; Greg Day; Heather Day; Marty Raybon; Terry Hagan, drummer for The Days; Chuck Day and wife Selena.

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY

CASH BOX • DECEMBER 11, 1993

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY

1 CHILD OF THE LIGHT (Cheyenne) .......... The Days 1 10
2 TAKE ME IN (Cheyenne) .......... White River 2 12
3 REVIVAL IS COMING (Victory) .......... Billy Holcomb 3 8
4 I SAW HIM IN YOUR EYES (Psalms) .......... Susan Luchinger 7 3
5 LOVE CAN CARRY (Cheyenne) .......... Steve Gatlin 9 6
6 HEAVENLY HIGH (Cheyenne) .......... Bruce Haynes 11 10
7 LET'S GET THE DEVICES OUT OF HARM'S WAY (Cheyenne) .......... Judy Drames 4 19
8 EACH STEP I TAKE (Morning Star) .......... Fox Brothers 2 19
9 SPIT AND WHISTLE CLUB (His Productions) .......... Don Vinson 6 9
10 IF I'D KNOWN THEN (Word/Epics) .......... Mid South 27 2
11 ALL OF THIS AND HEAVEN TOO (His Productions) .......... Don Vinson 19 10
12 NO LIMIT (River song) .......... Jeff & Sheri Easter DEBUT
13 THEY SEE MY DADDY IN ME (Homeland 9073) .......... Margo Smith & Holly 15 19
14 THE MIDDLE MAN (HeartWrite) .......... David Patillo 17 19
15 DIAMONDS FROM DUST (Dovesong) .......... Pam Walker 13 14
16 OKLAHOMA FRONT PORCH BAND (Intersound) .......... Terry Lynn 25 5
17 HOME AWAY FROM HOME (Dovesong) .......... Barbara Fairchild 18 11
18 PAN THE FLAME (HeartWrite) .......... David Patillo DEBUT
19 AMERICA IN GOD WE TRUST (Victory) .......... Billy Holcomb 8 19
20 CRAZY 'BOUT JESUS (Expression 2004) .......... Randy Coward 12 17
21 GO DOWN MOSES (Circuit Rider) .......... W.C. Taylor 16 4
22 SEEDS (Marbury) .......... Kathy Mattea DEBUT
23 PARDON ME, I'VE BEEN PAROUSED (Manuel MFB/CE) .......... Manuel Family Band 14 19
24 GOING SOMEWHERE (White Horse Music) .......... T.J. Smith 20 5
25 COVERED IN RED (Heartfolk) .......... Rivers & Owens 22 2
26 WITH THIS FEAR (His Productions) .......... Tim Fields 21 2
27 SOMETIMES IN THE NIGHT (Independent) .......... Nathan Forrester 24 4
28 THE PRODIGAL (His Productions) .......... Bill Adams 19 3
29 COME ON IN (Circuit Rider) .......... Herman TrueLove 26 3
30 THE MISSING PIECE (River song) .......... Denis Parker 23 11

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN

CASH BOX • DECEMBER 11, 1993

1 WAITING FOR YOUR LOVE (Sparrow) .......... Susan Ashton 4 5
2 ONCE AND FOR ALL (Star Song) .......... White Heart 5 8
3 HOLD ME, JESUS (Reunion) .......... Rich Mullins 1 8
4 LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE (Benson) .......... Al Denson 8 6
5 INSIDE OUT (Star Song) .......... Tim Fields 11 4
6 WALK ON (Word) .......... Bruce Carroll 3 7
7 BECAUSE OF YOU (Star Song) .......... Two Hearts 14 4
8 I'M COMMITTED TO YOU (Warner Alliance 1146) .......... Steve Camp 10 8
9 STRANGE WAY TO SAVE THE WORLD (Benson 20062) .......... 4 Film 2 8
10 LEAN ON ME (Foresight) .......... DC Talk 15 5
11 FINGERTIPS & NOSES (Benson) .......... Newsong 12 5
12 WE BELIEVE IN GOD (Reunion) .......... Amy Grant 7 10
13 FREEDOM (Myth) .......... First Call 13 18
14 JUST REACH OUT (DaySpring) .......... Petra 16 7
15 FEELS LIKE REAL LIFE (Sparrow) .......... Out of the Gray 17 5
16 KENTUCKY ROSE (Reunion) .......... Michael W. Smith 13 8
17 LOVE CAN OPEN THE DOOR (Word) .......... Sandi Patti 23 2
18 WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE (Myth) .......... Bryan Duncan 19 3
19 I'LL BE BELIEVING (Word) .......... Point of Grace 6 10
20 LOVE SEES (Benson) .......... C.D. Thomas 25 3
21 REACHING IN (Word) .......... Cindy Morgan 24 4
22 THERE IS A LOVE (Warner Alliance) .......... Michael English 9 11
23 YOU LOVED ME WHEN (Benson) .......... Angelo & Veronica 21 4
24 LITTLE BIT OF MORNING (Star Song) .......... Phillip Craig & Dean 27 2
25 GIVING YOU THE REST OF MY LIFE (Star Song 51370) .......... Bob Carlisle 28 12
26 STANDING IN THE GAP (Word) .......... Babble Mission DEBUT
27 WALK IN THE DARK WITH JESUS (DaySpring) .......... Wayne Watson 22 12
28 THE RIVER (Benson) .......... Carman 26 9
29 ARMS AROUND THE WORLD (Star Song) .......... Geithner Vocal Band 20 6
30 IT WASN'T HIS CHILD (Reunion) .......... Michael James DEBUT
Contemporary Christian News Briefs

NCRS Sets 1994 Agenda

THE STEERING COMMITTEE of the National Radio Seminar Of The Gospel Music Association has announced the final agenda for the 1994 convention which will be held during GMA Week, April 24-28 at the Stouffer Convention Center, Nashville, Tennessee.

The 1994 NCRS will feature seminars and workshops for owners and managers, on-air personnel and program directors, an expanded sales track entitled The Sales Leadership Conference, and an increased presence for non-commercial stations.

For the fourth consecutive year, NCRS will again feature The Christian Radio Sales Boot Camp which will be held Saturday, April 23 at the Stouffer Hotel from 8:30 am-5pm. Greg Lhamon, general manager of WCBW/St. Louis is the 1994 chairman of Sales Bootcamp.

Notes Lhamon, “Whether you’re a veteran or a new recruit, from a small market or a major market, you will benefit by coming to Bootcamp.”

The 1994 NCRS will bring together an impressive array of speakers and workshops leaders for each track. Owners and managers will have an opportunity to hear from Don Osgood, president of the Career Performance Group, radio management specialist Jack Rattigan, and Tim Kimmel, motivational speaker and counselor.


Programmers will be treated to an all-day seminar on formatics, air staff training, positioning and air check critiques with top programming consultants: Dan O’Day; Dwight Douglas of Burkhard Douglas & Associates on research; and Eric Rhodes, publisher of Radio Ink magazine, on trends. The non-commercial track will host an all-day session, featuring financial consultant and author Ron Blue.

Keynote speakers will feature Jimmy Bowen, president of Liberty Records/co-chairman of Sparrow Records and Eric Rhodes.

The three-and-a-half days of the industry’s leading convention is filled with workshops and seminars, evening concerts, and the ever-popular Artist/DJ reception which will be moved from the usual Sunday slot to Wednesday afternoon to enable more artists to attend. The week culminates in the nationally televised Dove Awards Show Thursday evening, April 28 at the Grand Ole Opry House.

DC TALK STRIKES GOLD—The ForeFront Communications Group invited friends and industry to celebrate the first gold album for DC TALK’s Free At Last. Pictured (l-r) Dan Brock, president/CEO of ForeFront Communications Group; Michael Tait; Toby McKeehan; and Kevin Smith.

A STAR IS BORN—Star Song welcomes its newest member Steve Siler to its songwriter’s roster. Standing (l-r) are current Star Song writers Randy Holland; Dale Oliver; Jennifer Holland; Marty Wheeler, professional manager, music publishing; Mark Nichola, assistant, music publishing; Jonathan Watkins, manager, music publishing; Jeffrey Benward; Aaron Benward; Brian Barrett; and Dwight Lilies. Seated: Siler and Ty Lacy.

GOD IS ABLE—Integrity Music wrapped its latest live album in the Hosanna! Music series God Is Able featuring Ron Kenoly. Stephen Yake Production produced and directed the video recording, using an eight-member camera crew in the midst of the near-capacity crowd at the Atlanta Civic Center. Pictured (l-r) Yake; Kenoly; and Don Moon, vice president of Creative Services, Integrity Music.
NEWS BRIEFS

Geoff Moore & The Distance picked up the Billboard Music Video award for “Evolution Redefined” in the newly created contemporary Christian music category. The video was produced by Cindy Montano and directed by Thom Oliphant for Alternative Victorias.

The Young Messiah Tour blows into the Rosemont Horizon in Chicago for its first Pay-Per-View cable TV special December 9 available to over 20 million homes.

“Who is this Clay Crosse guy?” seems to be the question that everyone is asking of Reunion Records’ latest signing. Crosse’s February release My Place With You is said to feature “straight-ahead, adult contemporary pop with lots of blue-eyed soul” and was produced by Peter Bunetta and Rick Chudacoff known for their work with Michael Bolton, Peabo Bryson, Kenny G and Smokey Robinson. The album even includes a duet with labelmate Kathy Troccoli, “One Heart.” The folks at the label are real excited. If all this wasn’t enough, Crosse is scheduled to open for Twila Paris during her spring tour to over 40 U.S. cities between March 3 and May 14. Now if we could only get a pre-release...
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SPECIAL BULLETIN! We have the following beautifully
refinished games in stock at the lowest prices ever quoted. If inter-
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price. FABTEK: Legionnaire 19". KONAMI: X-Men. MIDWAY:
Strike Force 19". SEG: Clutch Hitter 19"; G.P. Rider R/O; D.D. Crew
25"; Time Traveler; G Loc U/R. SNK: Beast Buster. TAITO: Super
Chase. SPECIAL NOTE: Brand new two-game SNK Neo-Geo
cabinets in the original crates at a bargain price. Only a few avail-
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ture/Black Lagoon; Dr. Who. DATA EAST: Batman; Star Wars;
Lethal Weapon 3; Rocky, Bullwinkle. PREMIER: Street Fighter II;
Operation Thunder; Super Mario Bros; Too'ed Off. WILLIAMS: The
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Rap Boys $95; Clutch Hitter $295; G.I. Joe $95; Heated Barrel $325;
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II CE Turbo $795; Shogun Warriors $95; Silent Dragon $95; Super
High Impact $495; Total Carnage $195; Wizard Fire $95; Wrestle Fest
$95. NEO GEO PAKS Slightly used (cartridges): $15 each: Ninja
Combat; Alpha Mission. $50 each: World Heroes. $150 each: 3 Count
Bout; Fatal Fury II. $200 each: World Heroes II. For all your parts
needs, old and used PC boards—call Darren, Parts Dept. Call Cele for
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C.A. Robinson Attracts 1,000

LOS ANGELES—Even though this year’s AMOA Convention took place in nearby Anaheim, there were still over 1,000 people at C.A. Robinson’s Los Angeles show a week later, with 600 taking part in the one in San Francisco. Every year the Bettelmans seem to outdo themselves with their own brand of hospitality, including the best buffet in the land. As Robinson’s vice president/sales manager Hank Tronick put it, “C.A. Robinson’s welcome mat is second to none.”
To the COIN OPERATORS who have always been dedicated to the Music JVC MUSIC and CASH BOX MAGAZINE give something back… ABSOLUTELY FREE THE CLASSIC HIT SINGLE…

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“Merry Christmas Baby”
SPIRIT TRAVELER

James Gadson + Eric Gale
James Jamerson, Jr + Phil Upchurch
David T. Walker + Wah Wah Watson
With special guest vocal: Ali "Ollie" Woodson

PLAYED BY THE ORIGINAL MOTOR CITY SESSION MUSICIANS:

Wah Wah Watson  Eric Gale
David T. Walker  Phil Upchurch
James Jamerson, Jr.  James Gadson
And Special Guest Vocalist Ali "Ollie" Woodson
(Currently With The Temptations)

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CASH BOX MAGAZINE

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