Waiting to Exhale: A Breath of Success
Cover Story

Waiting To Exhale

The film and soundtrack to Waiting To Exhale are achieving success in their respective areas. The Arista Records soundtrack has emerged from the holiday sales season as the #1 title on the Cash Box Top 100 Pop Albums chart and is already estimated to be multi-platinum after eight weeks in release. Meanwhile, the film's premiere won the Christmas holiday weekend box office derby and remained a top five silver screen title after three weeks of release. Everybody involved with the project has something to celebrate. Story by Cash Box managing editor M.R. Martinez.

Composer John Debney

With a pair of film scores already being heard in theatre's nationwide, music composer John Debney has signed up for a couple more projects that will keep him busy in '96. The Burbank, CA-native that provided the film scores for action-thriller Sudden Death and the swashbuckling Cutroast Island talks with Cash Box film & TV editor John Golf about his plans.

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ACCORDING TO THE Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), Hootie & The Blowfish's "Cracked Rear View" was far and away the top-selling album of 1995, certifying at sales of more than 11 million copies since its 1994 mid-year release, making it one of the top-selling debut albums of all time.

A wrap-up survey of certifications comparing '94 to '95 shows that: Gold LPs dropped from 340 in '94 to 278 in '95; Platinum LPs rose from 180 to 191 while Multi-Platinum moved 283 to 294. Longform Videos dropped in each mine, contrasting thusly: Gold, 39-27; Platinum, 22-14; and Multi-Platinum, 19-4.

Highlights include:

11 Million—Hootie & The Blowfish, "Cracked Rear View," Atlantic Records, accumulated sales of over 10 million during this year alone to become the fifth top-selling debut album of all time.

8 Million—Garth Brooks, "The Hits," Capitol Nashville. The Garth Brooks Collection also certified this year for sales of three million.

7 Million—TLC, "CrazySexyCool," LaFace/RCA. TLC's second album release has become the best selling album ever by a female group.

6 Million—"Boyz II Men," "II," Motown Records. Released in August of 1994, the album sold more than half its sales in '95, bringing it ultimately to 11 million.


Women Pace Grammy Noms

NEWCOMER ALANIS MORRISSETTE and veteran Mariah Carey each pulled six nominations and led a bevy of female nominees when the National Academy Recording Arts and Sciences recently announced its final nods for the 38th Annual Grammy Awards, which are set to air on CBS-TV Wednesday, February 28 from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

Canadian alternative rock singer/songwriter Morissette, whose Maverick/Warner Bros. album "Jagged Little Pill" was among the most favorably received albums critically and commercially in '95, was nominated in the Album of the Year category, Song of the Year (with Glen Ballard for "You Oughta Know") and also Best New Artist.
NOW EVERYBODY KNOWS THEIR NAME. Warner Bros. Records act The Goo Goo Dolls, whose latest album, A Boy Named Goo, spawned the mega-hit "Name" and the follow-up, "Naked," ended last year by appearing on Dick Clark's Rockin' New Year's Eve. Keeping in the TV vein, the band recently appeared on The Tonight Show and will play on the American Music Awards before they return to the road for a series of dates with Bush. Pictured (lr): Goo Goo Doll Johnny Rzeznik, Dick Clark and Goo Goo Dolls Robby Takac and Mike Malinin.

CAN I GET THAT IN 3/4 INCH? Labels have been known to try and transform themselves when they feel they are becoming stagnant. This was the trend for Mute Records, which was well regarded for its early championing of industrial/dance music. The label's first American signing ever, Toucan, signaled a change in spirit. The Atlanta-based group is not a strict volk face though, as the group has an eerie quality of putting together different sounds that separately would appear to grate against each other. Seeing them play at the Khyber Pass in Philadelphia during the holiday season would have allayed those fears. The group unleashed a squall of noise that would have been able to churn earth. But then vocalist Katie Walters entered with her uniquely beautiful voice that was a haven within the maelstrom. These two seemingly opposite sounds combined amazingly well in drawing in the crowd for the unfamiliar group. With Toucan's album, Information, Mute Records appears to have found a firm foundation in its attempt to try a new direction.

DEFINITE CLUB PULL. Only a year ago a show by the Magnetic Fields would be just another show by a well-received, but obscure band. Now, with the success of its in-house tribute album, The 6th's Moops Next, on London, in which the group backed up a host of indie-rockers singing the well honed tunes of Stephen Merritt, even in the freezing cold the Mercury Lounge is packed with well bundled bodies to see a rare show of the full band on the Thursday before the East Coast's favorite blizzard. Opening up for them is the trio Contain, who has never sounded better with its sweet pop songs. The group, which has already released a well received mini-album, is currently recording a new album to be put out by anyone who is smart. It was the Magnetic Fields that drew the crowd on to the stage as the band charmed the onlookers with its updated versions of Cole Porter/Noel Coward like tunes. Witty and catchy, it's the reason it was originally called Popular music. With its current Merge release Get Lost attracting a growing following, no doubt the band will be causing ripples in the ionosphere for some time.

WOULD YOU LIKE RUMMY OR ROCK? There is something disarming about a band that tells you what style its next song will be like. Papas Fritas did exactly this when it played on a recent Friday at the Knitting Factory. The trio just strip everything down to its bare essentials and attempt to pull you in with the hooks. The band appeared to be doing this quite ably as the audience had no problem following the changes. The group's self-titled debut is out on the Chicago based label Minty Fresh.

BY J. S. GAER

BY STEVE RALBAN

IF IT SEEMED LIKE LAST HOLIDAY season's releases were weaker than what you've usually come to expect, you're not wrong. However, the good news is that the labels were holding out for the beginning of the year. Starting with the January 9 release of Ruby's critically acclaimed Silt Peter, from Work/Creation, and the dazzling Dead Man Walking Soundtrack on Columbia, the first quarter of 1996 will see a slew of proven artists coming out with new projects.

One of the biggest will be Tori Amos' new Atlantic album, Boys For Pele, due in stores January 23. A proven seller with the high-wire act in the industry, Amos should jump out of the box strong, and when she hits the road in April, look out for this album. A couple of other noted female singer/songwriters will have albums out this quarter on Geffen. Former Til Tuesday vocalist Aimee Mann will finally have her landed I'm With Stupid album out at the end of the month, and it's everything you've heard. Meanwhile, the always under-appreciated Maria McKee releases her third solo album, Life Is Sweet, March 26.

Also out at the end of January are two records from techno icon William Orbit, both on resurgent Discovery Records. In addition to his latest Strange Cargo project, Orbit will also put out a disc under the Torch Song moniker. Warner Bros., which distributes Discovery, will have the highly anticipated new Ministry record out on January 30. It's hard to picture Al Jourgensen as a rock star, but don't bet against a breakout year for Ministry. In March, Warner Bros. will also have new releases from former American Music Club frontman Mark Eitzel and the always dependable L.A. band, Los Lobos. In addition the label will have the new Porno For Pyros disc out sometime in April.

March will also see new releases from two bands on the cusp of stardom. Epic's Rage Against The Machine is set to release the long-awaited follow-up to its platinum debut, Elektra's Afghan Whigs, which will shortly be seen in the new flic, Beautiful Girls will release Black Love on March 12. The three years between records were well worth the wait, as this will be a monster for the Cincinnati band.

NOTEWORTHY ITEMS: Country superstar Dwight Yoakam presented an end-of-the-year present to the Los Angeles Mission and the Los Angeles Fireman's Relief Organization when he raised $25,000 with a sold-out benefit at the Viper Room in West Hollywood...Reggae hammers Giant recording artist Big Mountain celebrated the first holiday of the new year with a free show at San Diego's Balboa Park on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The show came one day prior to the release of the band's new album, Resistance...Baywatch star and German singing sensation David Hasselhoff received the 2,000th star on the Hollywood Walk Of Fame last week. For those curious, his star is at 7018 Hollywood Blvd., in front of the Johnny Grant Building...
SYNERGY IS A TRICKY thing. But in the case of the film Waiting To Exhale and its soundtrack companion, the marketplace has made this project a sure bet for success. The Arista Records soundtrack album featuring a stellar line-up of female artists, produced by ever-rising hitmeister Kenneth "Babyface" Edmunds, is firmly planted in the #1 spot on the Cash Box Pop Albums list and, by label estimates, has already registered sales of more than 4 million units in eight weeks time. And the Twentieth Century Fox film list week remained a top five seller after three weeks, having soared to a box office of $45 million.

At year's end, the soundtrack to...Exhale was bulleting at #5 after debuting in early December at #2 on the Cash Box pop LPs chart. The first single, "Exhale (Shoop Shoop)" by pop superstar Whitney Houston, sustained the soundtrack's pop sales while keeping the album at the top of most R&B albums lists. The album's second single, "Stittin' Up In My Room" by Brandy, has furthered buoyed the soundtrack's sales. Brandy's...Exhale entry debuted is currently bulleting at #8 on the Cash Box Urban Singles chart and debuts this week at #29 with a bullet on the Cash Box pop singles list.

But when the film was released during the Christmas holiday weekend, pacing the four-day holiday weekend box office receipts with $14.3 million, album sales soared, generally helping to salvage for many music retailers an otherwise chilly holiday cash flow. Some observers believe that there are as many as six singles on the Babyface-produced soundtrack, a prediction not a stretch considering artists as diverse as Toni Braxton, Aretha Franklin, Mary J. Blige, Sonja Marie, SWV, Chante Moore, Patti LaBelle, Faith Evans, For Real and Shanna all have entries on the album and appeal to a broad range of music tastes.

In fact, it has been the diversified movie audience that seems to have bolstered and maintained Waiting To Exhale's box office success. In addition to strong and consistent traffic from African-American women and men of all ages, the movie is attracting audiences in largely white suburbs. Last week's figures showed that the film had earned $6 million, good enough for fifth on the list and a per screen average of $4,416, which is considered a healthy draw by most industry standards.

Industry pundits believe that Waiting To Exhale has benefited from the star power of Houston and the fact that it is a film that features African-American in an upscale light and not as the gun-toting, liquor swilling, drugged and otherwise dysfunctional minors that have inhabited many recent African-American films achieving box office success. First-time feature film director Forest Whitaker, already a respected actor, and Oscar-nominee Angela Bassett along with Gregory Hines, Wesley Snipes and others all contributed to the quality of this film, and in varying degrees have brought fan followings to the theaters.

But for Houston, who made her big screen debut with the love story/thriller Bodyguard, and turned the Arista soundtrack to that film into a multi-platinum marquee, was further solidifies her status as a double threat with the ability to successfully "open" a film and to continue to make people open their wallets for her music. For Babyface it seems to be the touchstone project that will permit him opportunities to more deeply define other creative dimensions and commercial success.

NEWS (Continued from page 3)

Carey's Columbia album Daydream was also nominated for Album of The Year, along with Michael Jackson's Epic Records album History: Past, Present And Future, Book I; Pearl Jam's Epic album Vitalogy and Reel to Reel by Blue Gorilla/Mercury recording artist Joan Osborne. Carey was also nominated in the Record of The Year category for her collaboration with Boyz II Men on "One Sweet Day."

"She was joined in that category by rapper Coolio for his MCA soundtrack single "Gangsta's Paradise," "Kiss From A Rose" by ZTT/Sire/Warner Bros. recording artist Seal, TLC's breakout LaFace/Arista hit "Waterfalls" and Osborne's "One Of Us."

Osborne also led a nomination rush by women, receiving five nominations, including Best New Artist along with Morrisette, mega-platinum act Hootie & The Blowfish, pop/urban throb Brandy and country music's bright new vocalist Shania Twain. Osborne was closely followed by female acts TLC and Twain with four. Other multi-nominees included Glen Ballard with five (for his work with Morrisette), Michael Jackson and composer/conductor Pierre Boulez with four.

WEA led all major distributors with 74, followed by PolyGram (72), Sony (71), BMG (49), MCA (42) and EMI (41)

Cover Story

...Exhale Draws In Big Bucks

Soundtrack And Film Support Each Other

By M.R. Martinez

Everybody involved with the film and soundtrack to Waiting To Exhale have cause for celebration.

NEWS

BMG GETS WINDHAM HILL: BMG Entertainment North America has acquired the Windham Hill Productions record label by purchasing the remaining 50% it did not previously own, announced Strauss Zelnick, president/CEO, BMG Entertainment N.A.

Anne Robinson, Windham Hill president, will continue to lead the label, which has established itself as a premier label of New Age music, as well as other adult-oriented genres. Under Robinson's management, Windham Hill has expanded its record division to include subsidiary labels Lost Lake Arts, High Street Records and Windham Hill Jazz, and distributes George Winston's Dancing Cat label.

RIISING TIDE BECOMES UNIVERSAL: Rising Tide Records has been renamed Universal Records, announced Doug Morris, chairman/CEO, MCA Music Entertainment Group. Concurrently, the label, established in 1993 as a joint venture between Morris and MCA MEG, becomes a wholly-owned subsidiary of MCA Inc. The label's Country music operation will remain as Rising Tide/Nashville.

"Building a record label from the 'ground up' has always been a passion of mine," stated Morris. "Universal Records will establish a major East Coast presence for the MCA Music Entertainment Group and give the company another important source for signing and developing new artists."

POLYGRAM PICKS AT GRAMERCY: At the expiration of the initial three-year term of their joint venture, PolyGram Filmed Entertainment (PFE) and Universal Pictures have reached an agreement for PFE to acquire U.S. 50% interest in Gramercy Pictures for a total of 100%, for an undisclosed purchase price, announced Michael Kuhn PFE president, and Casey Silver, MCA MPG chairman.

Originally formed in 1992 as a joint venture between PFE and UP, Gramercy handles the North American marketing and distribution of theatrical motion pictures, for release in up to 1,000 theatres, supplied by both partners. Headed by its president Russell Schwartz, the L.A.-based Gramercy has around fourteen films planned for release in 1996. Universal Pictures will continue to release a select number of films through Gramercy.

WESTWOOD ONE LICENSES AUDIO ARCHIVES: Westwood One entertainment division president Greg Batusic announced the company will make available its vast Audio Archives of entertainment programs and news events.

The Westwood One Audio Archives is a catalogue of momentous events, extraordinary interviews, and live performances now made available for licensing. Comprised of both the historic audio collection of the Mutual Broadcasting System and the entertainment library of Westwood One Entertainment, the Westwood One Audio Archives is the largest and most comprehensive in the world. As a component of a working radio network, the Archive continues to grow daily. Based in the Culver City office in California, Joe Garner, director of Audio Products will head up the project.
This Week's #1:

**Mariah Carey**

High Debuit:

**Brandy**

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**CASH BOX**

**TOP 100 POP SINGLES**

**JANUARY 20, 1996**

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1. **ONE SWEET DAY** (Columbia 61170)
   - Mariah Carey

2. **EXHALE (SHOO SHOO FROM "WAITING EXHALE")**
   - Whitney Houston

3. **HEY LOVER** (Def Jam 7065)
   - LL Cool J

4. **BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S**
   - (Rammack/Interscope 95130)

5. **NAME** (Warner Bros. 17758)
   - Goo Goo Dolls

6. **DIGGIN' ON YOU** (La Face/Arista 44119)
   - TLC

7. **FANTASY**
   - Mariah Carey

8. **MISSING**
   - Everything But the Girl

9. **BEFORE YOU WALK OUT OF MY LIFE LIKE THIS AND THAT**
   - (Arista 9552)

10. **GANGSTAS PARADISE (FROM "DANGEROUS MINDS")**
    - Coolio feat. L.V.

11. **SOON AS I GET HOME**
    - Bad Boy/Arista 9041

12. **ONE OF US**
    - (Bad Girl/Mercury 32585)

13. **YOU'LL SEE**
    - Madonna

14. **TONITE'S THA NIGHT**
    - (Ruffhouse/Columbia 70492)

15. **ANYTHING**
    - (U.S.S.) 7063

16. **TIME**
    - (Atlantic 70695)

17. **BE MY LOVER**
    - (RCA 64448)

18. **LOVE U 4 LIFE**
    - Jodeci

19. **YOU REMIND ME OF SOMETHING**
    - (LoVe 0324)

20. **RUNAWAY**
    - (Warner Bros. 8119)

21. **BEAUTIFUL LIFE**
    - (Arista 2868)

22. **TELL ME**
    - (Epic 77981)

23. **TOO HOT**
    - (Tommy Boy 713)

24. **SET U FREE**
    - (Columbia 73262)

25. **NO ONE ELSE**
    - (Bad Boy/Arista 9042)

26. **BACK FOR GOOD**
    - (Arista 12848)

27. **NOBODY KNOWS**
    - (La Face/Arista 24115)

28. **WONDER**
    - (Elektra 61745)

29. **SITTIN' UP IN MY ROOM**
    - (Atlantic 70822)

30. **AS I LAY ME DOWN**
    - (Columbia 77801)

31. **ONLY WANNA BE WITH YOU**
    - (Atlantic 87312)

32. **KISS FROM A ROSE**
    - (Arista 87712)

33. **Hootie & The Blowfish 31 27**

34. **GETTING TOGETHER (Giant 17750)**
    - Blues Traveler

35. **I GOT IDIOM ROAD (Epic 71899)**
    - Pearl Jam

36. **I'D LIKE FOR YOU (AND THAT'S THE TRUTH)**
    - Meat Loaf

37. **RUN AROUND**
    - (A&M 9892)

38. **WATERFALLS**
    - (La Face/Arista 21405)

39. **CELL THERAPY**
    - (La Face/Arista 4113)

40. **SEXUAL HEALING**
    - (G.O.S./Zoo 14248)

41. **LET'S PLAY HOUSE**
    - (Death Row/Interscope 53230)

42. **THAT DOGG POUND FEAT. MICHELLE**
    - (Death Row/Interscope 53230)

43. **WHEREEVER YOU ARE**
    - (East West 9533)

44. **LOVE & HATE COLLIDE**
    - (Mercury 2424)

45. **CRUSIN'**
    - (BM 32029)

46. **PRETTY GIRL**
    - (Yao Yun/M50 Music 77813)

47. **DECEMBER**
    - (Atlantic 87575)

48. **VISIONS OF A SUNSET**
    - (Mr. Holland's Opus)

49. **COME WITH ME**
    - (Gasoline Alley 55081)

50. **HOOKED ON YOU**
    - (Elektra 61849)

51. **I WILL REMEMBER YOU**
    - (Epic 70852)

52. **THAT BROTHERS MCCULLEN**
    - (Arista 12893)

53. **I MISS YOU**
    - (Warner Bros. 54909)

54. **THE COME BACK HOME**
    - (New York Undercover)

55. **THE STRAND**
    - (Ruthless/Relativity 55047)

56. **THE REMBRANDTS**
    - (East West 6434)

57. **JUST A GIRL**
    - (Trauma 98116)

58. **NO DOUBT**
    - (Bad Boy/Arista 9041)

59. **I CAN LOVE YOU LIKE THAT**
    - (Epic 76733)

60. **GLYCERINE**
    - (Epic 85068)

61. **RO SesIA**
    - (Elektra 64452)

62. **BROKENHEARTED**
    - (Epic 6175)

63. **GOLD**
    - (Epic 60599)

64. **YOU ARE NOT ALONE**
    - (Epic 8762)

65. **MAGIC CARPET RIDE**
    - (Epic 9014)

66. **THE MIGHTY DUB KATS**
    - (Columbia 55476)

67. **SOMETIMES I MISS YOU**
    - (Epic 6434)

68. **THE CHRIST CONSCIOUSNESS**
    - (Island 53476)

69. **ICE CREAM IN CARCERAL SCARFES**
    - (Island 53646)

70. **DO YOU SLEEP?**
    - (Island 5346)

71. **MACARENA**
    - (Atlantic 56407)

72. **HURRICANE**
    - (Warner Bros. 54909)

73. **BOOM BOOM BOOM**
    - (Atlantic 53230)

74. **FUGEES**
    - (Atlantic 7034)

75. **THROW YOUR HANDS UP/GANGSTAS PARADISE**
    - (Atlantic 70699)

76. **AIN'T NUTHIN' BUT A SHE THING**
    - (Tommy Boy 70699)

77. **I'M NOT A PEPA**
    - (Salt-N-Pepa)

78. **DON'T CRY**
    - (ZT/Eve/Warner Bros. 7939)

79. **AUTOMATIC LOVER (CALL FOR LOVE)**
    - (Warner Bros. 8787)

80. **RUNNING**
    - (Capitol 5843)

81. **SENTIMENTAL**
    - (Arista 12852)

82. **SOLITUDE**
    - (Columbia 58141)

83. **WE'VE GOT IT GOING ON**
    - (Island 53429)

84. **WINGS**
    - (Atlantic 53230)

85. **MOBSTER**
    - (Ruthless/Relativity 53429)

86. **A NOVER LA COLITA**
    - (Island 56407)

87. **THE CORRIS**
    - (Atlantic 56407)

88. **EAT MY MIND**
    - (Atlantic 56407)

89. **THE GREATEST**
    - (Atlantic 56407)

90. **GOING HOME**
    - (Atlantic 56407)

91. **THE CHARIOT**
    - (Atlantic 56407)

92. **LA LA**
    - (Atlantic 56407)

93. **THROW YOUR SET IN THE AIR**
    - (Atlantic 56407)

94. **THE MIGHTY DUB KATS**
    - (Atlantic 56407)

95. **THE CORRIS**
    - (Atlantic 56407)

96. **THE MIGHTY DUB KATS**
    - (Atlantic 56407)

97. **THE CHARIOT**
    - (Atlantic 56407)

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**MORE SINGLES**

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**SAME SONGS REISSUED**

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**VOTED SONGS**

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**ALBUMS**

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**TOP 75**

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**TOP 50**

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**TOP 25**

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**TOP 10**

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**TOP 1**

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**OTHER SONGS**

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**OTHER ALBUMS**

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### CASH BOX
### TOP 100 POP ALBUMS
### JANUARY 20, 1996

#### This Week's #1:
**Waiting To Exhale**

#### To Watch
**Oasis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Album</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Label</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>WAITING TO EXHALE (Anista 18796)</td>
<td>Mariah Carey</td>
<td>Soundtrack</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>DAY DREAM (Columbia 667000)</td>
<td>Mariah Carey</td>
<td>Soundtrack</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>CRACKED REAR VIEW (Atlantic 82613)</td>
<td>Hootie &amp; The Blowfish</td>
<td>Rock the Bells Records</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>JAGGED LITTLE PILL (Reprise/Warner Bros. 45001)</td>
<td>Alanis Morrisette</td>
<td>Atlantic</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>FRESH HORSES (Capitol Nashville 32080)</td>
<td>Garth Brooks</td>
<td>Capitol</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>ANTHOLOGY 1 (Atlantic 34445)</td>
<td>The Beatles</td>
<td>Capitol</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>MELLON COLLEGE AND THE INFINITE SADNESS</td>
<td>Smashing Pumpkins</td>
<td>A&amp;M</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>THE WOMAN IN ME (Mercury 52286)</td>
<td>Shania Twain</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>THE GREATEST HITS COLLECTION (Arista 18901)</td>
<td>Alan Jackson</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>CRAZY SEXY COOL (Curb/Atlantic 26089)</td>
<td>TLC</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>SIXTEEN STONE (Trauma/Interscope 92531)</td>
<td>Bush</td>
<td>Trauma</td>
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<td>R. KELLY (Jive 41597)</td>
<td>R. Kelly</td>
<td>Jive</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>SOMETHING TO REMEMBER (Warner Bros. 61700)</td>
<td>Madonna</td>
<td>Warner Bros.</td>
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<td>SOUVENIRS: GREATEST HITS (MCA 13394)</td>
<td>Vince Gill</td>
<td>MCA</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>(WHAT'S THE STORY) MORNIN' GLORY? (Epic 07351)</td>
<td>Oasis</td>
<td>Epic</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>TIGERLILLY (Elektra 61745)</td>
<td>Natalie Merchant</td>
<td>Elektra</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>THE MEMORY OF TREES (Reprise/Warner Bros. 46100)</td>
<td>Enya</td>
<td>Reprise/Warner Bros.</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>GANGSTA'S PARADISE (Tommy Boy 1141)</td>
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<td>PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES (Sony 6729)</td>
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<td>I WANT (Curb 77800)</td>
<td>Tim McGraw</td>
<td>Curb</td>
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<td>FOUR (A&amp;M 54026)</td>
<td>Blues Traveler</td>
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<td>DOGG FOOD (Death Row/Interscope/Priority 50549)</td>
<td>The Dogg Pound</td>
<td>Death Row</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>THE BRIDGE (Atlantic 18806)</td>
<td>Boyz II Me</td>
<td>Atlantic</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>THE REMIX COLLECTION (Motown 53056)</td>
<td>Boyz II Me</td>
<td>Motown</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>STARTING OVER (MCA 11264)</td>
<td>Reba McEntire</td>
<td>MCA</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>INSOMNIAC (Reprise/Warner Bros. 40089)</td>
<td>Green Day</td>
<td>Reprise/Warner Bros.</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>RELISH (Blue/Gold/Mercury 50665)</td>
<td>Joan Osborne</td>
<td>Blue/Gold</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>GREATEST HITS 1985-1995 (Columbia 67300)</td>
<td>Michael Bolton</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>UNDER THE TABLE AND DREAMING (RCA 66449)</td>
<td>Dave Matthews Band</td>
<td>RCA</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>CHRISTMAS IN THE AIRE (Motown 5049)</td>
<td>Mannheim Steamroller</td>
<td>Motown</td>
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<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>A BOY NAMED GOO (Warner Bros. 45750)</td>
<td>Goo Goo Dolls</td>
<td>Warner Bros.</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>ALICE IN CHAINS (Columbia 72748)</td>
<td>Alice In Chains</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>THE HITS (Liberty 26953)</td>
<td>Garth Brooks</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>VAULT (Mercury 526718)</td>
<td>Def Leppard</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>E. 1999 ETERNAL (Ruthless/Relativity 5539)</td>
<td>Bone Thugs N Harmony</td>
<td>Ruthless/Relativity</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>DANGEROUS MINDS (MCA 11225)</td>
<td>Soundtrack</td>
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<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>ONE HOT MINUTE (Warner Bros. 45733)</td>
<td>Red Hot Chili Peppers</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>FROGSTOMP (Epic 62747)</td>
<td>Silverchair</td>
<td>Epic</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>YOUR LITTLE SECRET (Island 24154)</td>
<td>Melissa Etheridge</td>
<td>Island</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>GAMES REDNECKS PLAY (Warner Bros. 45856)</td>
<td>Jeff Foxworthy</td>
<td>Warner Bros.</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>MR. SMITH (FA/Def Jam 52346)</td>
<td>LL Cool J</td>
<td>FA/Def Jam</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>CYPRESS HILL IN TEMPLES OF BOOM (Rhuff/House/Atlantic 659911)</td>
<td>Cypress Hill</td>
<td>Cypress Hill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REVIEWS by Steve Baffin

MR. MIRANGA: Mr. Miranga
(Way Cool Music/MCA 11379)

Seeing this Costa Mesa (celebrated on "57 South") outfit live is like putting extra hot salsa on your burger. Mr. Miranga blends an in-your-face punk attitude and pop hooks with a distinctly Latin feel. The result is a rethinking of most fest laced with zest. It takes awhile, until the smooth "Saguarro's Cryin,'" for the band's flavorful percussion to kick in. Once it does though, Mr. Miranga captures the same sense of frivolity that permeates the group's shows. It's unfortunate that the sequencing of the quartet's debut album holds its biggest strength back for so long. But when it finally emerges, you may discover that that burger tastes better when it bites back. Also of note is the mambo-like "Grandma's Cookin'" and the melodramatic reading of "Ants & Bees."

ESQUIVEL: Cabaret Manana (RCA 66657)

The much ballyhooed Four Rooms anthology was supposed to do for lounge music what Quentin Tarantino's Pulp Fiction did for surf. Unfortunately for acts like Combustible Edison, the film falls way short. Thus, it seems likely that for at least another year, the swinging music celebrated on this 20-piece collection from Juan Gabriel Esquivel, the ultimate lounge lizard, will remain the property of the underground hip scene. But if you wanna be down with the underground, this is the music to be playing at your parties. And not only is it good for you, it tastes good, too. Whether it be on the lovely "Estrellita," the swinging reworking of Cole Porter's "Night And Day" or the festive "Todavia," Cabaret Manana captures the joyous spirit of Esquivel's "space age pop."

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PICKS OF THE WEEK

VARIOUS ARTISTS: Dead Man Walking Soundtrack (Columbia 67522)
Ten reasons to support this album:

SPARKLEHORSE: Vividixitunsubmar intransi missi on lot (Capitol 2816-2)
It's easy to dismiss Virginia band Sparklehorse: as yet another roots based rock band. However, in front man Mark Linkous (who leads the "band" in much the same way Trent Reznor fronts NIN) Sparklehorse has a unique talent that's closer to Nick Drake and Morphine's Mark Sandman than Son Volt's Jay Farrar. On the haunting "Weird Sisters" Linkous opens the song, "The parasites will love you when you're dead." Consistently on the 16-song CD Linkous' ironic sadness resonates, most notably on "Homecoming Queen" and "Spirit Ditch." But, it's the tragic coldness of the Velvet Underground-sounding "Sad And Beautiful World" that sums up the bittersweet mood of Sparklehorse's mesmerizing debut.
### CASH BOX

#### TOP 100 URBAN SINGLES

**JANUARY 20, 1996**

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<th>Song Title</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Label</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>BEFORE YOU WALK OUT OF MY LIFE/LIKE THIS AND LIKE THAT</td>
<td>Whitney Houston</td>
<td>(Arista 5052)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ONE SWEET DAY</td>
<td>Mariah Carey</td>
<td>(Columbia 6070)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>EXHALE (SHOOP SHOOP)</td>
<td>Whitney Houston</td>
<td>(Arista 2050)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>SOON AS I GET HOME</td>
<td>Faith Evans</td>
<td>(Bad Boy/Arista 9041)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>HEY LOVER</td>
<td>LL Cool J</td>
<td>(Def Jam 7065)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>TONITE'S THA NIGHT</td>
<td>Kris Kross</td>
<td>(Ruffhouse/Columbia 75002)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>LOVE U 4 LIFE (Up/Town/MCA 11255)</td>
<td>Jodeci</td>
<td>(Up/Town/MCA 11255)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>SITTIN' UP IN MY ROOM (Atlantic 01922)</td>
<td>Brandy</td>
<td>(Atlantic 01922)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>YOU REMIND ME OF SOMETHING (Jive 0134)</td>
<td>R. Kelly</td>
<td>(Jive 0134)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>DIGGIN' ON YOU (L.A. Face/Arista 4419)</td>
<td>TLC</td>
<td>(L.A. Face/Arista 4419)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>CRUSIN' (EMI 32929)</td>
<td>D'Angelo</td>
<td>(EMI 32929)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>WHERE EVER YOU ARE</td>
<td>Terry Ellis</td>
<td>(EastWest 9919)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>NO ONE ELSE (Arista 79043)</td>
<td>Total 16</td>
<td>(Arista 79043)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>HOOKED ON YOU (Elektra 61649)</td>
<td>Silk</td>
<td>(Elektra 61649)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>YOU PUT A MOVE ON MY HEART</td>
<td>Qwint Jones</td>
<td>(Qwest 7544)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>WE GOTT IT (MCA 55146)</td>
<td>Immature</td>
<td>(MCA 55146)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>WHO CAN I RUN TO</td>
<td>Xscape</td>
<td>(Go Go Def/Columbia 75066)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>I MISS YOU (COME BACK HOME)</td>
<td>Monifah</td>
<td>(From &quot;NEW YORK UNDERCOVER&quot;)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>TELL ME (Epic 79715)</td>
<td>Groove Theory</td>
<td>(Up/Town/MCA 11255)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>WHERE DO YOU WANT TO PUT IT?</td>
<td>Solo 60</td>
<td>(Perspective/ADD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>FANTASY</td>
<td>Mariah Carey</td>
<td>(Atlantic 01922)</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>CELL THERAPY</td>
<td>Goochle Mob</td>
<td>(Lattice/Arista 4113)</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>ALREADY MISSING YOU</td>
<td>Gerald &amp; Eddie Levert, Sr.</td>
<td>(Elektra 61649)</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>BROKENHEARTED (Atlantic 0979)</td>
<td>Brandy</td>
<td>(Atlantic 0979)</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>LET'S PLAY HOUSE</td>
<td>Tha Dogg Pound feat. Michelé</td>
<td>(Death Row/Interscope 53230)</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>SENTIMENTAL (Arista 12852)</td>
<td>Deborah Cox</td>
<td>(Arista 12852)</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>DANGER (Mercury 7049)</td>
<td>Blahzay Blahzay</td>
<td>(Mercury 7049)</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>ANYTHING (MCA 5507)</td>
<td>JT</td>
<td>(MCA 5507)</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>STILL IN LOVE (Mercury 56980)</td>
<td>Brian McKnight</td>
<td>(Mercury 56980)</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>TOO HOT (Tommy Boy 713)</td>
<td>Coolio</td>
<td>(Tommy Boy 713)</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>HEAVEN (Perspective 7498)</td>
<td>Solo 28</td>
<td>(Perspective 7498)</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>I WANT YOU BACK</td>
<td>Pure Soul</td>
<td>(Interscope 9236)</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>HURRICANE (Luv 42335)</td>
<td>C-Nice</td>
<td>(Luv 42335)</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>COME WITH ME (Gasoline Alley 55081)</td>
<td>Shai</td>
<td>(Gasoline Alley 55081)</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>DON'T GIVE UP</td>
<td>Island Inspirational All Stars</td>
<td>(Island 55447)</td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>JUST TAH LET U KNOW</td>
<td>Eazy-E</td>
<td>(Ruthless/Relativity 5535)</td>
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<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>I REMEMBER</td>
<td>Boyz II Men</td>
<td>(M.O.T. 9046)</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>NOBODY KNOWS (LaFace/Arista 4115)</td>
<td>The Tony Rich Project</td>
<td>(LaFace/Arista 4115)</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>FUNNY HOW TIME FLIES</td>
<td>Intro</td>
<td>(Atlantic 87093)</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>VISIONS OF A SUNSET (FROM &quot;MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS&quot;)</td>
<td>Shawn Stockman</td>
<td>(Polydor/AM 509902)</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>RUNAWAY (A&amp;M 511194)</td>
<td>Janet Jackson</td>
<td>(A&amp;M 511194)</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>GANGSTA'S PARADISE (FROM &quot;DANGEROUS MINDS&quot;)</td>
<td>Coolio Feat. L.V.</td>
<td>(MCA 55104)</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>DAMN THING CALLED LOVE</td>
<td>After 7</td>
<td>(Virgin 40547)</td>
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<td>44</td>
<td>WHERE IS THE LOVE (FROM &quot;DEAD PRESIDENTS&quot;)</td>
<td>Jesse &amp; Trina</td>
<td>(Underworld/Capitol 55064)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**This Week's #1:**

**Monica**

**High Debut:**

**Tha Dogg Pound**
# CASH BOX • JANUARY 20, 1996

## URBAN TOP 75 R&B ALBUMS

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<tr>
<th>#</th>
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<th>Artist(s)</th>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Week 20/26</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>WAITING TO EXHALE</td>
<td>Anita Baker</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>R. Kelly</td>
<td>R. Kelly</td>
<td>RCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MR. SMITH (Jive/RAL)</td>
<td>LL Cool J</td>
<td>Jive</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>DOGG FOOD (Death Row/Interscope)</td>
<td>The Dogg Pound</td>
<td>Priority 50546</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>DAY DREAM (Columbia)</td>
<td>Mariah Carey</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Q'S JOOK JOINT (Qwest)</td>
<td>Quincy Jones</td>
<td>Qwest</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>D'NA (Elektra)</td>
<td>Gerald Albright</td>
<td>Elektra</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>FAITH (Atlantic)</td>
<td>Faith Evans</td>
<td>Atlantic</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>MISS THANG (Rowley/Arista)</td>
<td>Monica</td>
<td>Arista</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1990 SICK (Jive)</td>
<td>Spice 1</td>
<td>Jive</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>OFF THE HOOK (So So Def/Columbia)</td>
<td>Xscape</td>
<td>So So Def</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>ON TOP OF THE WORLD</td>
<td>EightBall &amp; MJG</td>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>SOUL FOOD (LaFace/Anista)</td>
<td>Goodie Mob</td>
<td>Anista</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>BROWN SUGAR (EM/232829)</td>
<td>D'Angelo</td>
<td>RCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>GAME RELATED: THE CLICK</td>
<td>So So Def</td>
<td>RCA</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>SOLO (Perspective 49017)</td>
<td>Solo</td>
<td>RCA</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>LIQUID SWORDS (Geffen 24813)</td>
<td>Genius/GZA</td>
<td>Epic</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>SILK (Bec/My 5149)</td>
<td>Silk</td>
<td>RCA</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>DEAD PRESIDENTS</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>RCA</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>E. 1999 ETERNAL (Ruff/Rhythm)</td>
<td>Bone Thugs N Harmony</td>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>ETERNAL E (Priority 50544)</td>
<td>Eazy E</td>
<td>Priority 50544</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# THE RHYTHM

By Gil L. Robertson IV

Sisqo/MCA Records artist Jesse Powell and director Keith Ward recently completed filming the video for "All I Need," the steamy, soulful first single from Powell's self-titled Sisqo/MCA debut album. The "All I Need" video features an appearance by Stacey Dash, star of such films as Clueless, Mo' Money, Reparations. Powell's debut album boasts the writing and production talents of Grammy-winning Daryl Simmons, Kari "KL" Lewis & Stokley (of Mint Condition), Red Lovelace & Jane "Poke" Oliver (aka The Track Masters), Lanier Stewart, Buster & Shavoni, Carl Poland and R&B veteran Michael Stokes. Pictured at the "All I Need" video shoot are (l-r): Louis Silas, Jr., president/CEO, Sisqo Records; Sisqo/MCA artist Jesse Powell; and video director Keith Ward.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL STELLAR GOSPEL AWARDS: Honoring achievements by African Americans in Gospel music, and coinciding with the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the 11th Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards were held over the January 5, weekend in Nashville at the Andrew Jackson Hall Theatre. A literal Who's Who of the gospel music world turned out for the ceremony: Shirley Caesar, Yolanda Adams, Kirk Franklin, CeCe Winans, William Beeton, Fred Hammond & Radical for Christ, Jackson Southernaires, Mighty Clouds of Joy, Candi Staton and many more. Winners were awarded in 16 categories, both contemporary and traditional. Beeton, John P. Kee, and Dottie Peoples won multiple awards, while Adams, Ben Tankard, Anointed, The Canton Spirituals, and the Reverend James Moore were each awarded one Stellar. Special awards were given to The Fairfield Four who won the James Cleveland Award and Trans Africa founder/president Randall Robinson was awarded the Excellence Award while Reverend Milton Bronson received the Pioneer Award. Produced by Central City Productions, the show is set to air in hundreds of markets nationwide January 13 through February 18. Additionally, a portion of the proceeds from the event's ticket sales will benefit the United Negro College Fund.

DIS N' DAT: The industry is slowly gearing up for a solid season of releases for the new year. Over at Warners the label is set to release debut projects from Something for the People, and Little Indian as well as the soundtrack to the film Thin Line Between Love and Hate. Over at Arista that label is busy working the just-released debut recording from Tony Rich and is preparing for an elaborate promotion and marketing plan for the upcoming release from Toni Braxton. Elektra will drop debut recordings from Omniscence and Seduce. RCA will make a significant impact in the urban marketplace with recordings from Chante Savage and SWV. The first quarter over at Big Beat is paced by releases from Mad Skillz and Art and Soul. A&M is preparing for a new release from CeCe Peniston. Capitol is set to release the Earth Greeley, Brand New Heavies, Dazzie D., Hurricane Gloria, Royal Fam and jazz diva Cassandra Wilson. At EMI the label is issuing releases from Joli, Speech, Bahamadia Dia and Heather B.
By Gil L. Robertson IV

**THE RHyme**

Rappin' Duo Blah Zay Blah Zay were part of a major hip-hop lineup at the Apollo Theater in New York City. The concert, which featured some of the hottest names in hip-hop, was hosted by Hot 97's Big Scoop. Pictured (l-r): DJ PJ Cuttin' of Blah Zay Blah Zay, Little Ceaser (from Junior Mafia, who also performed), The Notorious B.I.G. (who was part of the surprise lineup) and the other half of Blah Zay Blah Zay, the prolific rapper Outloud.

**HIP HOP FROM THE NATION'S HEARTLAND:** Tired of that same old East vs. West hip-hop madness? Then try a dose of Kansas City native, Vell Bakardi's debut album on the Wild West/Atlantic Recordings label, Genuine Liqa Hits. The album is more than Vell's ode to alcohol, it is his life-story on wax. Vell takes you on a journey of rueful tunes about his childhood such as "F.A.T.H.A." and "Life's SO Hard." Then he puts you in the mock mode with songs like "Playa Shit." Heads will trip off the liquid perfection of the album's first single "Drink Wit Me," while ladies will appreciate the nods in his elegy about girls on the street; "Daddy's Lil Angel" or his Bonnie and Clyde-esque, "Deep Shit." Fans will be glad to hear AMG taking them wavy back to the 'Bitch Betta Have My Money' days with his input on the singles, "Liqa Industry" and "Drunk Bitches." This project is loaded with gangsta bomb and smoothed out hip-hop rhythms that makes it a must-have. Duce for release on January 16, you can expect much more to follow about this midwestern contender for the hip-hop throne.

**DISN' DAT:** The hip-hop world is gearing up for a slate of hot new releases. Over at Perspective look for releases by Young Jez, Pudgee, Dabby Blaq, The Black Spook and "The Almighty" Arrogant. The folks at Noo Trybe look for new product from 5th Ward Boys, Menace Clan, Face Mob, Shyne, Original Gangsta and the Ghetto Boys. Def Jam is in the house with new product from Hostyle, D.G. Domino and South Central Cartel. Epic is coming at ya hard with the sophomore release from the Fuggses, and LV will be the first release from Tommy Boy to be followed by new releases from De La Soul and Above the Law. The Priority schedule includes releases by Me and My Cousins, Conscious Daughters, L'il 1/2 Dead and Homicide. The big release from Deathrow is the highly-anticipated debut from Tupac Shakur and at Jive, the rap-heavy label will be releasing product from Suga T, Celly Cel and Too Short.

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**TOP 25 RAP SINGLES**

**CASH BOX • JANUARY 20, 1996**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Peak Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Breathless (Arista 18646)</td>
<td>Kenny G</td>
<td>A&amp;R</td>
<td>1 (125)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jazz to the World (Capitol 32127)</td>
<td>Various Artists</td>
<td>Mercury Records</td>
<td>5 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mood (Mood 525755)</td>
<td>Will Downing</td>
<td>Epic</td>
<td>3 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Get Shorty (Arb/Verte 9310)</td>
<td>Various Artists</td>
<td>Soundtrack</td>
<td>2 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Elxier (Warner Bros. 45022)</td>
<td>Fourplay</td>
<td>Atlantic Records</td>
<td>4 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pearls (Celebrate 61759)</td>
<td>David Sanborn</td>
<td>Warner Bros.</td>
<td>6 (31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Naked and True (Bluenote 92905)</td>
<td>Randy Crawford</td>
<td>Warner Bros.</td>
<td>11 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Najee Plays Songs from the Key of Life-A</td>
<td>Najee</td>
<td>Atlantic Records</td>
<td>15 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Giving Myself to You (Atlantic 82329)</td>
<td>Gerald Albright</td>
<td>Atlantic Records</td>
<td>7 (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Seduction (Warner Bros. 45913)</td>
<td>Boney James</td>
<td>Epic</td>
<td>8 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Joe Cool's Blues (Sony 69500)</td>
<td>Wynott &amp; Ellis Marsalis</td>
<td>Epic</td>
<td>10 (25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>First Instrument (Blue Note 72502)</td>
<td>Rachell Ferrelle</td>
<td>Epic</td>
<td>13 (27)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Jazz Masters II (Vic 2049)</td>
<td>The Jazz Masters</td>
<td>Epic</td>
<td>9 (19)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sax on the Beach (GTR 4578)</td>
<td>John Tesh Project</td>
<td>Epic</td>
<td>17 (34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Holiday (GRP 9626)</td>
<td>Russ Freeman</td>
<td>GRP</td>
<td>DEBUT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>It's a Wonderful Life, Sax at the Movies (Discovery 77027)</td>
<td>Jazz At The Movies Band</td>
<td>Capitol</td>
<td>DEBUT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Soul Survivor (Sin Drome 8510)</td>
<td>Bobby Caldwell</td>
<td>Warner Bros.</td>
<td>12 (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>100 Degrees &amp; Rising (Forecast/Verve 20000)</td>
<td>Incognito</td>
<td>Mercury Records</td>
<td>14 (24)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Tales From the Bright Side (KCA 60665)</td>
<td>Alex Buxton</td>
<td>Warner Bros.</td>
<td>18 (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Power Forward (Metal/Matrix 0532)</td>
<td>Wayman Tisdale</td>
<td>Epic</td>
<td>16 (17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>The VNUA Smooth Jazz Sampler Vol. 8 (VNUA 0995)</td>
<td>Various Artists</td>
<td>Epic</td>
<td>DEBUT</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Maysa (Blue-Thomb/GRP 7001)</td>
<td>Maysa</td>
<td>GRP</td>
<td>22 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>The Best of David Benoit 1987-1995 (GRP 931)</td>
<td>David Benoit</td>
<td>GRP</td>
<td>19 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Sapphie (White Cat 77727)</td>
<td>Keiko Matsui</td>
<td>Warner Bros.</td>
<td>24 (11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>High Life (Verve 9224)</td>
<td>Wayne Shorter</td>
<td>Verve</td>
<td>25 (7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By Michael Hill

**L.A.D.: "Ridin' Low" (HR 60004-2)**

I'm not sure how much this track will appeal to Urban radio or its listeners, but this track will definitely work for the crossover format and the Latin community. Darvy Traylor's performance and the Sixties Doo Wop feel of this track makes the listeners reminiscent of a track long ago. L.A.D. flows smoothly through this and Traylor's exceptional vocals make me want to play the Joy Ride Mix over and over again.

**AL KAPONE: "Once A Thug" (Brutal DJ 1695)**

Let's start with the good part of this single. Af's lyrics are good and his rap style is sound. The background vocalist he has on his single is cool. (The label didn't supply me with the credits so I can't tell you who she is.) The bad part of this single is the track. It sounds like a demo of a Dr. Dre produced track. This track lacks imagination, there should be a unique sound for every new artist. This track makes Al Kapone's style and performance mediocre.

**BLACK 9 (featuring Threat): "Back Down Memory Lane" (Street Life 72392)**

Whenever I see or hear that an artist used a song from the great Minnie Riperton, I wonder if it will do justice to this incredible vocalist. Black 9 put together a track that any old school listener would approve of. Background singer Barbra Wilson did a great job of making this sample free track possible. Black 9's rap style is typical of most West Coast rappers, but with the incorporation of Threat they make this a pretty funky single. The best mixes are the radio mix, LP version and the accapella mix.

---

EastWest/EEG recording artist 80ft recently went into Unique studios in NYC to record the remix for his second single, "Alize For Dolo." Masterminded by A&R supervisor Kim Spikes, the remix features the vocal styling of Uptown recording artist the Lost Boyz. "Alize For Dolo" is the follow-up to Hot 97 favorite "Ghetto Girl," and is from 80ft's forthcoming debut album, Wrap Your Lips Around This. Pictured (l-r): back row: Kim Spikes, Elektra A&R rep; Charles Suitt, Lost Boyz mgr.; front row: Mr. Sexx, Lost Boyz producer; 80ft: Jim Janik, engineer; Buttnaked Tim Dawg, producer; Mr. Checks, Lost Boyz.
Jazz Notes

By M.R. Martinez

MoJazz records was all the way up in the house for the Fourth Annual Public Relations Advertising Marketing Excellence (PRA) Awards celebration held in early December at the Wyndam Hotel. Ed Hawk, head of promotions for Johnny B. [left], saxophonist J. Spencer (center) and improp'tz's Sean E. Mac.

RIM SHOTS: HonestJazz, a division of Honest Entertainment, seems poised to offer a diverse selection of sounds with the roster it has established. Multi-talented trumpeter Rahmlee, who contributed mightily to recordings and live shows of seminal R&B pop act Earth, Wind & Fire and to several projects by Phil Collins as a part of the Phoenix Horns, came out last year with his HonestJazz debut album SoulJazz.

HonestJazz CEO Jim Long says the Rahmlee project gained a great deal of attention at last year's MIDEM and the company felt it would be the way to establish HonestJazz in the NAC arena. Melding a mixture of his jazz, R&B and rock sensibilities into a compact and individual statement, Rahmlee has been garnering air support from NAC outlets and some progressive urban radio.

Versatile acoustic guitarist Doug Smith has also been tapped by the label which will release his Deep Heart album. The steel guitar player mixes seven original compositions with four covers, most notably the Moody Blues classic "Nights In White Satin" and the country/pop classic "I'm Sorry." Deep Heart will pump into the market place this month.

HonestJazz also boasts stalwart jazz vocalist Jack Jones, who released product last year. And country music newcomer (country?) Kate Wallace. Additionally, the label distributes in North America the 50 audiophile jazz and classical titled line of Linn Records, Spirit Of Django, a homage to the legendary French guitarist Django Reinhardt, offered up by Brit guitarist Martin Taylor, is the first offspring of the Linn-HonestJazz union.

MORE RIM SHOTS: Viktor Wooten, the much-admired bassist that helped establish a cult following for Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, has inked a solo deal with Compass Records of Nashville, TN. Wooten's debut album, A Show Of Hands, is due out Feb. 20 and will feature predominately original material drawing on the jazz, funk and spoken word connotations that the musician brought to the Flecktones party. Late Show house bassist Will Lee, the Wooten Brothers and the bassist's parents all guest on the album...The Jewish Community Center of Cleveland in conjunction with the Northeast Ohio Jazz Society and public radio station WCPE will be hosting a unique appearance Feb. 11 at the Stonehill Auditorium by Israeli jazz vocalist Tzina Brauer and pianist Elias Meiri, who are internationally renowned for fusing ancient Jewish music sources with (Yemenite?) jazz flavor, with arrangements reminiscent of Cole Porter with a touch of flamenco. The performance will be capped in a scenario dubbed "Israel Jazz Cafe," which transforms the auditorium into a non-smoking jazz club filled with Middlet Eastern flavors.

Yemenite jazz? Only in America.

GRAMMY JAZZ: This year's Grammy Award jazz nominations reflect the expansive dimension of the genre. And for PRA Records artist Marcus Miller, his album Tales has garnered nominations outside the jazz categories. Miller's album earned a nod in the Best Contemporary Jazz Performances. He'll compete with Fourplay (Elektra), Pat Metheny Group (We Live Here), Lee Ritenour & Larry Carlton (Larry & Lee), and the Yellowjackets (Dreamland). The much-lauded bassist also shared a nomination with Allen Toussaint for the title track to his album in the Best Instrumental Composition category, which is inhabited by jazz artists, including Billy Taylor, Chick Corea, Billy Childs and Bill Holman. Finally, Miller earned a nod in the more eclectic Best Instrumental Arrangement category for the Tales' track "Come Together." He's joined by people like Michael Abene, Robert Fannon, Jorge Calandrelli.

JAZZ

TOP 25 JAZZ ALBUMS

CASH BOX JANUARY 20, 1996

1. HEY LOVER (RAL/CalJam/Island 71496)......... LL Cool J 1 6
2. TONIGHTS THE NIGHT (Ruffhouse/Columbia 78092) ..... Kris Kross 3 3
3. CELL THERAPY (LaFace/Atlantic 4113) .......... Goodie Mob 4 11
4. JUST TALK LET U KNOW (Ruthless/Relativity 5532) ..... Eazy-E 8 2
5. GANGSTA'S PARADISE (MCA 55104) .......... Coolio feat. L.V. 5 30
6. DANGER (Fader 7049) .......... Blahzay Blahzay 2 12
7. LET'S PLAY HOUSE (Death Row/Interscope 53230) . The Dogg Pound Feat. Michielle DEBUT
8. TOO HOT (Tommy Boy 7718) .......... Coolio 8 3
9. HURRICANE (Sick Vibz 5/Ave 42335) .......... The Click 6 7
10. FU-GEE-LA (Ruffhouse/Columbia 78194) ..... Fugees DEBUT
11. EAST 1999 (Ruthless/Relativity 6332) .... Bone Thugs-N-Harmony 13 4
12. THE RIDDLER (Atlantic 87100) .. Method Man 15 8
13. FAST LIFE (Cord Chill/Excl/D/Day/Epic 7805) .... Kool G Rap 9 4
14. THROW YOUR SET IN THE AIR (Ruffhouse/Columbia 78042) Cypress Hill DEBUT
15. I NEED YOU TONIGHT (Undees/BigBeat 90907) .. Junior M.A.F.I.A. Feat. Aaliyah 14 5
16. WINGS OF THE MORNING (African Star/Island 7108) .... Capleton 7 9
17. RUNNIN' (Delicious Vinyl/Capitol 55438) .......... The Pharcyde 16 12
18. BEWARE OF MY CREW (JacoMac/Warner Bros. 17722) ... L.B.C. Crew Feat. Tray D And SouthSentrel 12 3
19. COLD WORLD (Geffen 1939) .. Genius/GZA Feat. SlickDeck 9 3
20. RETURN OF DA LIVIN' DEAD (Giant/Warner Bros. 17796) .. The D.O.C. 11 8
21. ICE CREAM (Loud 64426) .......... Chef Raekwon 21 12
22. Y'ALLAIN'T READY YET (BigBoy 42333) .... Mystikal 17 9
23. LIQUID SWORDS (Geffen 19383) .. Genius/GZA 19 9
24. 1990-SICK (Kill Em' ALL) (5/Ave 42350) ...... Spice 1 Feat. MC Eiht 22 6
25. LAST DAYZ (Atlantic 7195) .......... Onyx 24 9

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Columns Disc, Netherlands, has entered into a long-term, exclusive agreement with U.S. Group Wishbone. The Orange County, CA-based rockers' initial CD will be distributed throughout Europe and Asia by the dutch company. The package will contain an eight-page color insert which traces the saga of the musicians. The album is currently shipping along with the single "Open Heart" from the debut album. Pictured are (l-r): Wishbone members Kurt Koch, Bryan Rosen, Michael Stewart, Butch Say, Mark Koch, and Andre Robichaud with Columns Disc vp J.H.N. Vollebregt.

Chris Camozzi signed a multi-album deal with Higher Octave Music. Camozzi has contributed to dozens of Gold and Platinum projects, so it was only natural that his own solo projects are in the works. Camozzi's debut album for the label is scheduled for an April, 1996 release date. Pictured are (l-r): Milt Marshall, president of Higher Octave Music; Camozzi; and Tami Levy, A&R exec for the label.


Legendary songwriter Brian Wilson was recently inducted into Hollywood's RockWalk with longtime Beach Boys' collaborator Van Dyke Parks 'n a special ceremony recognizing their contributions to the rock 'n roll firm. Wilson and Parks have reunited after 30 years for the recent Warner Bros. release of Orange Crate Art, produced by Lenny Waronker. Pictured are (l-r): Rick Shoemaker, president of Warner/Chappell Music Publishing; Jim Berk, executive director, The NARAS Foundation; legendary broadcaster Casey Kasem; Wilson; Ray Scherr, RockWalk industry advisory committee; and Bob Merlis, sr. vp of Warner Bros. publicity.

Brothers Planet At S.O.B.'s: After a recent performance at S.O.B.'s in Manhattan, pianist Bob Mamet was joined backstage by brothers Tony, a fellow musician, and playwright/screenwriter bro David. The S.O.B.'s performance was presented by NY's smooth jazz station CD 101.9 in support of Bob's second recording for Atlantic Jazz, Day Into Night. Pictured backstage (l-r): Tony Mamet, Bob Mamet and David Mamet.

Van Halen In Japan: Van Halen wound up its recent world tour in Japan and was greeted backstage for a special ceremony commemorating the Japanese Double Platinum status of its latest Warner Bros. Records release, Balance. Pictured (l-r) kneeling: Hide Nakamura, WMA; Eddie Van Halen; Ryuzo 'Jr.' Kosugi, WMA chairman; Sammy Hagar; Kei Hayashi, WEA Japan; Scotty Ross, VH tour mgr.; (Standing) Kyotaro Imoto, WEA; Katrina Fernandez, WBR; Alex Van Halen; Michael Anthony; VH mgr., Ray Daniels; Yoko Nishimura, WEA.
Profile

Composer John Debney Sails Beyond Cutthroat

By John Goff

IT'S A NICE WAY TO BEGIN A NEW YEAR. For me, to be able to interview a composer with his feet on the ground, fingers on the keyboard and a smile on his face. For the composer, John Debney—who turned the corner into '96 with two (Sudden Death and Cutthroat Island) films out—whose goal it is to be "very happy doing two to three (feature) films a year" and who already has two set for '96. Hey, need I say more? How would you feel?

It's the second week in January, The East Coast is hibernating under six feet of snow. In his comfortable Burbank, CA studio Debney's got his electronic equipment, which allows him to put a created score to whatever film he's working on prior to orchestral scoring in one room, and a piano in another. He can wrap himself in the warmth of creation, something he obviously enjoys doing: a fact revealed by the grin, the enthusiastic movement projected outward from the inner force of happiness.

John Debney's right at home in Burbank, CA. That's where he was born. He's happy with music since he began playing guitar at age 6, piano at 11, studied acting and music at Loyola University and attended CalArts for a degree in Music Composition, and he worked summers in the Disney Studios music library on the lot. He doesn't come to the work with stars in his eyes, set up for either the plucking of stars or the falling into the depths of despair if a grab misses. He's firmly grounded, and that's refreshing.

Debney paid his "working seven days a week" dues in episodic TV on such series as Cagney & Lacey and Fame and The Young Riders, which earned him his first Emmy. He picked up another for the Main Title Theme Music for Steven Spielberg's Sequest DSV. His work on the latter and Spielberg and Amblin Productions' Civil War drama Class of '61 led to his first major feature, Amblin's Little Giants. He's been constantly on the move, since with a wide variety of projects: Disney's Home Pocus, White Fang 2: Myth of the White Wolf and the upcoming Hanna/Barbera Jetsons: The Movie.

"I was very pleased with Cutthroat Island," Debney says. "One of the highlights was going to London and working with the London Philharmonic, and being able to pay homage to... the great composers 'such as (Eric) Korngold,' who did the Errol Flynn swashbuckling epics Sudden Death, the Jean Claude Van Damme action feature prompts me to ask about the perils of keeping freshness to the work, since it seems every

Top 15 Weekly Film Grosses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK/TITLE</th>
<th>DISTRIBUTOR</th>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>SCREENS</th>
<th>WKN D TOTAL</th>
<th>AVG</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 12 Monkeys</td>
<td>Universal</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,533</td>
<td>$13,842,990</td>
<td>$9,030</td>
<td>$14,206,379</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Grumpier Old Men</td>
<td>Warner Bros.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,037</td>
<td>$7,907,676</td>
<td>$3,882</td>
<td>$41,655,319</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Jumangi</td>
<td>TriStar</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>$7,522,134</td>
<td>$2,973</td>
<td>$68,400,785</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Toy Story</td>
<td>Buena Vista</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2,469</td>
<td>$7,061,114</td>
<td>$2,860</td>
<td>$160,800,738</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Waiting To Exhale</td>
<td>20th Century Fox</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,402</td>
<td>$6,191,493</td>
<td>$4,416</td>
<td>$44,969,225</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Father Of The Bride 2</td>
<td>Buena Vista</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2,148</td>
<td>$5,752,193</td>
<td>$2,678</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Heat</td>
<td>Warner Bros.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,341</td>
<td>$5,502,846</td>
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<td>$44,635,883</td>
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<td>8. Sabrina</td>
<td>Paramount</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,976</td>
<td>$4,595,308</td>
<td>$2,326</td>
<td>$37,807,829</td>
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<td>9. Tom And Huck</td>
<td>Buena Vista</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,606</td>
<td>$2,574,123</td>
<td>$1,603</td>
<td>$18,452,204</td>
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<td>10. The American President</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1,181</td>
<td>$2,252,807</td>
<td>$1,908</td>
<td>$54,154,554</td>
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<td>11. Sudden Death</td>
<td>Universal</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,658</td>
<td>$2,122,240</td>
<td>$1,280</td>
<td>$16,938,980</td>
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<td>12. GoldeneYE</td>
<td>MGM/UA</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1,432</td>
<td>$2,067,099</td>
<td>$1,444</td>
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<td>13. Nixon</td>
<td>Buena Vista</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>977</td>
<td>$2,016,601</td>
<td>$2,064</td>
<td>$10,300,341</td>
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<td>14. Sense And Sensibility</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>$1,902,279</td>
<td>$10,012</td>
<td>$6,706,060</td>
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<td>15. Ishtar</td>
<td>Universal</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,315</td>
<td>$1,124,325</td>
<td>$855</td>
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Domestic box office, which includes USA and Canada for the weekend of January 5-7, totaled $72,435,228, breaking down to a $3,044 per-screen average off a total of 23,795 screens, giving a combined total of $664,059,064. (Courtesy Entertainment Data, Inc.)
other film the last couple of years has been action-oriented. Debney admits it difficult to “stay fresh” but a lot of “it depends on the director...some fall in love with the temp track (canned or previously used music added to a rough cut for in house viewing only).” The problem he’s faced with then is getting the same feel and/or emotional impact that temp track offers without repeating the music. “Ultimately,” Debney says, “my job is to give the director what he wants, and get my own voice in there.” And that, his friends, is no small feat, accomplished only by having one’s feet firmly rooted in reality combined with an inner peace and confidence few in the creative end of the entertainment business are able to know and appreciate. John Debney does, however, and he credits “having a great family (wife Lola and children Josh, Jason and John Jr.)...Having grown up in the business helps also.”

He’s seen those who exude the inner power and relates a meeting with Walt Disney, remembered from the tender age of eight—think people with power don’t impress?

“I have vivid memories of weekend visits to Disney Studios.” (Debney perce was a producer there at the time.) “Weekends were quiet there...and (once time) I remember seeing this figure come around a corner of a hall (and approach us).” His father introduced him to Walt Disney and “there was just a feeling from the man, a warmth,” he remembers, seeming to see it all over again through time’s eye. “There are people who exude power and

strength, people like him (Disney) and Spielberg.” Meetings like that, with people like that tend to bolster one’s confidence as well as give one, if not a goal, an image to work toward and a special moment in time to remember.

Where does Debney start with film composition? “I start with themes...I wrote about 10 Main Themes for Catfish Island.” He also considers themes the hardest part to do in many a film. Obviously though, directors Benny Harlin (Catfish Island) and Peter Hyams (Sudden Death), thought well enough not only of Debney’s themes but his overall work; Harlin signed him immediately to score his currently-filming New Line thriller The Long Kiss Goodnight and Hyams inked him in the same manner for his upcoming Paramount sci-fi Relic.

“My favorite thing to do would be a love story,” Debney says, “I would love to do a love story,” wherein he could compose and expand on great themes, expressing emotional character underpins. The young man lights up at the thought of that and we both find we share a fondness for the John Barry score for the achingly wonderful Somewhere In Time.

A good bet would be that John Debney will get a love story for which to compose the music. With a wish list of two-three or four films a year to do, and a pair of them already on the gaming table the second week of the year, who knows?, maybe in a few months. At any rate, right now he’s got the wind at his back, his sails full and is undoubtedly enjoying sweeping, soaring successful themes in his head. The successful Debney goes on!

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**TV Review**

*By John Goff*

**AMC Debuts Remember WENN As Initial Original**

**AMERICAN MOVIE CLASSICS**—the cable entity whose name speaks for itself—the channel where viewers can tune in and return to eras when films, stars and stories possessed more than mere modicum of class, sensibilities and taste, has entered into original programming. And, like its primary fare, it’s a welcome area of airtimes.

Rupert Holmes—who dominated Broadway by picking up Tonys for Best Book, Best Music, Best Lyrics and Best Musical for The Mystery Of Edwin Drood—created, wrote and directed the first two episodes of Remember WENN, which is planned as a ten-part series. He has set it in 1939, a time of innocence and experimentation in the electronic arts, and at a radio station, station WENN. So when the half hour is over and viewers return to movies, they don’t experience any great culture shock.

Holmes’ story isn’t complicated: An innocent young writer, Amanda Naughton, arrives at the station as an unpaid intern and is immediately thrown into full creation when the regular writer (who scripts soaps, sci-fi, whatever...) passes out drunk at the keyboard of his old Royal. We see all this innocently through her eyes, and it makes for a tender touch since the others

are fairly jaded toward the action. There are the married stars, Melinda Mullins (older and jealous) and hubby Hugh O’Gorman (with a ruddy rowing eye), man of all voices possessing the soul of Shakespeare, Christopher Murney; director/programmer John Bedford Lloyd; heiress/star wannabe Dina Spybey; voice of sanity, George Hall; and the pulse of the place at the switchboard, Margaret Hall. Watch the first episode and you’re gonna fall in love with this bunch.

What Holmes offers is a look at another era, an extremely likeable bunch of egos attempting to survive in a relatively new medium—the era of the greatest creative and experimental success of the medium—and an opportunity to revisit and/or discover (depending upon your age) where all the madness began.

It also spotlights some delightful talent. You’re hooked almost immediately watching Mullins, Murney and O’Gorman switch accents in live-on-air broadcasts, becoming entirely new persons with changes of tone, suggestions of vocal inflection. Holmes and cast catch the spirit of artsans unaware they’re creating any kind of art, unaware of the density of their own talent. The script of the second episode (orcestas) becoming of the current rage of Talk Radio and Holmes neatly recognizes the driving force which has brought that about (the Bottom Line-S) and the relatively bimboish talent it will elevate to star status. A delicious comment.


Comparison?... How do you compare Entertainment to Babbie? Each episode of Remember WENN will incorporate both on-air and off-air story lines involving the workings and mishaps during broadcasting while living in the lives of the participants. It sports a great period ‘30s look and feel put together through The Entertainment Group/Turtleback Productions. Producers are Howard Meltzer and Frank Doefer.

Hopefully this is just the beginning of AMC’s venture into original programming. And even more hopefully, they’ll continue in the vein of Remember WENN in remembering class, keeping Class in Classics.
**LARA & REYES: Two Guitars - One Passion** (Higher Octave Music, 7082) Producers: Sergio Lara and Joe Reyes. WORLD/FOK.

This is the second project by the acoustic guitarist duo extraordinaire, Sergio Lara and Joe Reyes. All of the 10 selections were written and arranged by Lara and Reyes with the exception of three numbers. Even those selections, however, bear the unmistakable stamp of Lara and Reyes' magical touch. The album is appropriately entitled Two Guitars - One Passion. Acoustic guitar fans will not be disappointed with the production. There are familiar numbers like Chick Corea's 'Spain,' George Bizet's 'Sequidilla' from Carmen Suite, and the classic 'La Biquita' by Rubén Fuentes. A magnificent album by some of the best guitarists in this genre.

**MIJARES: El Encuentro** (EMI Latin, 7243) Producer: Oscar López. POP.

Pop star Mijares capped his ten-year career with a live in-concert recording entitled El Encuentro (The Encouter). Producer Oscar López describes Mijares as one of the few major Latin stars to undertake a live recording with his acoustic guitar. Could very well be: Mijares, nevertheless, sounds right in tune with his audience. There are 17 songs on the album including three duets: 'Tarde o Temprano' with the Barrio Boyzz, 'Tu Desejo' with Patricia Sosa, and Lucero on 'Cuatro Veces Amor.' All in all, a very positive encounter for Mijares and fans.

**DONATO & ESTEFANÉ:** Mar Adentro (Sony Latin, 81556) Producer: Estefané. Co-producers: Donato & Carlos Nieto. POP/ROCK.

With comparisons akin to being the Latin world's Lennon and McCartney, Donato and Estefané are definitely a duo with similar attitudes about music as the famous pair of Beatles. They have even influenced the likes of Gloria Estefan. Jon Secada, José Luis Rodríguez, Julio Iglesias, Ruben Blades and Juan Luis Guerra! Delving into the basic of Latin musical roots, you'll find elements ranging from Afro-Cuban, to rock, to heavy metal, to folkloric, to fusion, and, of course, pop. Perhaps that's why you'll find Iglesias featured on two tasty selections. The Donato and Estefané combination offers one of the most prolific and innovative productions on the market today.

**GUSTAVO RODRIGUEZ:** Septimo Sentido (NRT, 1028) Producer: Unknown. TROPICAL/SAlsa.

Known as one of the former singers with the popular Colombian band, Los Niches, this is Gustavo Rodríguez' debut album entitled Septimo Sentido. Rodríguez renders a vibrant and appealing style on the first promo single, 'Celos.' Add in some of the most exquisite arrangements and equally ideal compositions, you've got a hit-bound piece. His first album received accolades from La Feria de Cali, Premio ACE, just to mention a few. Chucho Ramirez, Rodriguez' arranger, Ramon Sanchez, Cuto Soto, Humberto Ramirez, and writer Estefané give this swinging album a bitting edge.

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MOVING OVER KING CHARLES II and make room for a duke—Duke Ellington, that is. Peter Bozot, pizza magnate and director of the Soho Jazz Festival is raising $10,000 for a lifesized bronze statue of the great Duke to be set in the old Gold Club, at 195 Wardour Street, central London.

Is Elvis Britool? Well, Sid Shaw, owner of Elvis Your memorabilia company in London thinks so. He’s going to the UK Patent Office to fight the Elvis Presley estate who want the name “Elvis Presley” registered as a trademark in the UK. He says he was there first.

UK SINGLES: To start the New Year, here are 1995’s Top 10 UK singles. In 1st place is Robson & Jerome’s “Unchained Melody” followed by Cocho’s “Paradise.” In third place we find Robson & Jerome with “I Believe.”

The Chart Monitor, an independent chart monitoring company, has said that “Back For Good” by The Style Cinen’s “The Color Of My Love” is three and Simply Red’s “Life Is In Four with five being covered by Queen’s ‘Make In Heaven,’ Jackson’s ‘Sky’s The Limit,’ Past Present’s ‘Shine On’ and Pulp’s ‘Different Class’.

The Year’s Top Albums finds Robson & Jerome’s ‘Alone’ and Robson & Jerome in the number one spot, followed by Oaxis’ ‘What’s The Story, Morning Glory?’, Simple In ‘The Color Of My Love’.

The year ends with ‘Back For Good’ and ‘You Are Not Alone’ and ‘Little Things’ by Take That.

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The year ends with ‘Back For Good’ and ‘You Are Not Alone’ and ‘Little Things’ by Take That.
Fans eagerly awaiting something new from the Judd daughter may be surprised by the pure pop offering of "To Be Loved By You." Wynonna's voice is in top form and her rendition of the Gary Busey/Mike Reid song does not disappoint. Although she's ventured more toward country pop with each solo album, this single appears to be the strongest continuation of her move away from the Appalachian harmonies she and Mama made famous.

GARTH BROOKS: "The Beaches Of Cheyenne" (Capitol Nashville DRepublic -10332)

The third single from parnell's debut album for Career Records抓获 the surface of one of the most consistently sold albums country ever produced. Parrell's effortless, sultry brooding layered over a searing slide guitar is the reason why the masses are finally catching up to critical praises.

TRAVIS TRITT: "Only You (And You Alone)" (Warner Bros. Pro-CD-7966)

Travis Tritt covers it all—rock and roll, country and now '50s classics. "Only You," made famous by The Platters, is given the southern rock treatment, complete with guitar solo instead of background "ooohs and ahhs. Seems like the Georgia boy can do no wrong.

JO zee MESSINA: "Heads Carolina, Tails California" (Curb/D-1215)

You can bet that several female country singers are kicking themselves for passing on this additive little Lucky for Missina, "Heads Carolina, Tails California" is her debut release, a crucial pick for any artist. Missina's command of the song's free-wheeling spirit sounds like a foreshadowing of good things to come. Radio should devour this one.
**COUNTRY MUSIC**

**Rounder Rounds Up Grammy Noms**

By Wendy Newcomer

ROUNDER RECORDS, ONE OF THE LEADING independent labels in traditional music, received an amazing 11 nominations for the 38th Annual Grammy Awards (to be broadcast Feb. 28). The honors come at the end of their 25th Anniversary year.

Bluegrass superstar Alison Krauss garnered a nomination for Best Female Country Vocal Performance for the song "Baby, Now That I've Found You," from her platinum-selling album Now That I've Found You: A Collection. The Cox Family's Beyond The City (produced by Krauss) was nominated for Best Bluegrass Album, along with Claire Lynch's Moonlighter, Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum's The Oak and the Laurel also earned a nomination for Best Traditional Folk Album.

Other Rounder noms included three out of five for Best Traditional Bluegrass Album, two for Best Polka Album, one for Best Reggae Album and one for Best Musical Album for Children.

"It's most gratifying to see such broad recognition of traditionally based music from someone as young as Alison Krauss to real veterans like Charles Brown, Lowell Fulson and Burning Spear," said Rounder co-founder Marian Leighton Levy. "It's always exciting to be part of releasing records by musicians we love best."

**Loveless Garners Grammy Nods**

EPIC RECORDS' PATTI LOVELESS received two special birthday gifts as she hosted Nashville's National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences nominations press conference. She was nominated in the Best Female Country Vocal Performance and Song of the Year categories for the Grammy Awards.

Specifically, Loveless was nominated for "You Don't Even Know Who I Am." Her #1 hit written by Gretchen Peters from the CMA Album of the Year Award-winning When Fallen Angels Fly, produced by Emory Gordy Jr.

"As far as birthday presents go, it doesn't get any better than this," she said. "Emory and I work so hard on getting this music right. We like to think that these songs can touch people. That's what we're trying to do—and I know, certainly for me, these songs are very real."

Loveless will be in Los Angeles to attend the Grammys. She is currently on tour with Vince Gill (whose Male Vocalist nomination for "Go Rea High On That Mountain" she sang harmony on throughout 1996 and is gearing up for the Jan. 23 release of her third epic album, The Trouble With The Truth.

**In Other News...**

TNN AND AFTRA HAVE REACHED an agreement under which AFTRA has ended its request that members not work for TNN without a contract. AFTRA is now encouraging its members to work on any TNN related show. In addition, TNN has agreed to withdraw its pending unfair labor practice charge filed with the National Labor Relations Board.

CMT'S FEBRUARY SHOWCASE ARTIST will be Canadian superstar Shania Twain, whose career skyrocketed in '95. The CMT honors coincide with Twain's Fan Appreciation Tour which begins Feb. 8 in Minneapolis. In related news, Twain's The Woman In Me is now tied with Wynonna as the best-selling studio album ever by a female country artist, and has also become the fastest certified album for a female artist in country music history.

TAMMY WYNETTE WAS NAMED the 23rd winner of the American Music Awards special "Award of Merit." Wynette will receive the honor during the awards telecast which airs on ABC Television Mon. Jan. 29. Previous country stars who won this award include Johnny Cash, Kenny Rogers, Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard.

JOLENE MERCER, COUNTRY MUSIC publicist, has opened an office in Nashville. Mercer clients have included Chris LeDoux, Charlie Pride and Asleep At The Wheel. She specializes in national and tour press for artists.

JOHNNY PAYCHECK BEGAN 1996 20 pounds lighter and ready to publish his book, The Only Hell My Mama Ever Raised. Paycheck will also be touring some dates with longtime pal Merle Haggard in '96.

**NSAI Plans Tin Pan South '96**

THE NASHVILLE SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL (NSAI) is once again sponsoring Tin Pan South, a week-long music festival that celebrates the songwriters of Music City USA. The event was named in tribute to Nashville's songwriting predecessor, New York City's Tin Pan Alley.

Throughout the week of April 16-20, Tin Pan South will feature hit after hit from some of America's top songwriters. The festival will kick off Tuesday with the Tin Pan Jam and Piano Night; Wednesday will bring the annual Songwriters Golf Classic as well as the beginning of the club showcases (through Friday), and Tin Pan South loses Saturday evening with the Legendary Songwriters Acoustic Concert in the historic Ryman Auditorium.

**Indie Single Review**

STERLING BLYTHE: "Remember Me I'm The One Who Loves You" (Silver dew CD-2345)

If you're looking for a singer who fits the classic country mold, look no further than Sterling Blythe. Blythe croons "Remember Me I'm The One Who Loves You" in a soothing voice that turns back the hands of time.
## Top 75 Country Albums

### January 20, 1996

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Album Name</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Week #1</th>
<th>Total Weeks</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fresh Horses (Capitol Nashville 32060)</td>
<td>Garth Brooks</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>The Greatest Hits Collection (Atlantic 18051)</td>
<td>Alan Jackson</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Woman in the Mirror (MCA 52398)</td>
<td>Shania Twain</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Souvenirs-Greatest Hits (MCA 11384)</td>
<td>Vince Gill</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>All I Want (Curb 77800)</td>
<td>Tim McGraw</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Starting Over (MCA 11264)</td>
<td>Reba McEntire</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>The Hits (Capitol Nashville 25887)</td>
<td>Garth Brooks</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Strait of the Box (MCA 12093)</td>
<td>George Strait</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Gavies Rednecks Play (Warner Bros. 45856)</td>
<td>Jeff Foxworthy</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>It Matters to Me (Warner Bros. 45872)</td>
<td>Faith Hill</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>John Michael Montgomery (Arista 52728)</td>
<td>John Michael Montgomery</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Greatest Hits from the Beginning (Warner Bros. 46001)</td>
<td>Travis Tritt</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cash Box Music

**High Debuts**

1. ALAN JACKSON—"I'll Try"—(Arista) — #2
2. MARK CHESNUTT—"It Wouldn't Hurt To Have Wings" —(RCA) — #36
3. CLAY WALKER—"Hypnotize The Moon"—(Capitol) — #45
4. GARTH BROOKS—"The Beaches Of Cheyenne"—(Capitol) — #47
5. WYNONNA—"To Be Loved By You"—(Curb/MCA) — #48

**Most Active**

1. TRACY LAWRENCE—"If You Loved Me"— (Atlantic) — #31
2. PATTY LOVELESS—"You Can Feel Bad"— (Epic) — #15
3. MARTINA MCBRIDE—"Wild Angels"— (RCA) — #24

**POWERFUL ON THE PLAYLIST**

- The Cash Box Top 100 Country Singles chart is led by the Bryan White single "Rebecca Lynn." This week's chart displays three big movers and five debuts breaking into the Top 50. Leading the way in the most-movement category is Tracy Lawrence and "If You Loved Me," which takes a 17-spot leap to #31. Patty Loveless and "You Can Feel Bad" jumps 15 spots to #34, while "Wild Angels" by Martina McBride bounds seven spots to #24. As for debuts, the highest debut was the single "I'll Try" by Alan Jackson at #32, entering at #34 is Mark Chesnutt with "It Wouldn't Hurt To Have Wings." Clay Walker debuts at #45 with "Hypnotize The Moon." Garth Brooks' hits come in at #47 with "The Beaches Of Cheyenne," and "To Be Loved By You" by Wynonna debuts at #48.

**Songwriters Of The Week:** Congratulations go out to Don Sampson and Skip Ewing, writers of the Bryan White #1 hit, "Rebecca Lynn."
Profile

Jeff McKee Climbs To Mountainview

Artist-friendly label seeks to provide home for creative growth and profit.

By Wendy Newcomer

NINETEEN-NINETY-FIVE WAS A GOOD YEAR for Jeff McKee. Not only did the singer end the year by being named Cash Box's Positive Country Top Independent New Male Artist, he also began a new chapter of his career by switching record labels. McKee, who had two number one hits ("Matters of the Heart" and "Faith Holds On") on the Gateway Label, recently made the move to his own company, Mountainview Records.

"They're good people over there," McKee says of his former artistic home. "Ron Cornelius is a tremendous producer. They're real good folks and I love them. I just felt like this was something I needed to do." While McKee is the first artist to release a product, Mountainview is also home to three other signed artists, Jim Carruthers, Betsy Craig and Steve Hughes. Their products will most likely be released in late January, along with McKee's.

McKee says that the new label is entirely different from other record labels in Positive Country. "Mountainview is probably one of the most artist-friendly labels in the industry today. As the artists perform and sell product, they earn stock in the company. Eventually a large majority of the company will be owned by the artists," he says. Mountainview product will be distributed in the CBA market and to the general market (i.e. Walmart) through Mountainview Distribution.

As director of operations, McKee happily shoulders the double duty of both the creative and business departments of the company. "I'm very aggressive. I probably sleep five hours a day," he admits. "I stay on the move all the time so it's really not any harder. I just have to make sure that I watch what I do with my time and don't waste it. If you waste time today, you'll never make it up tomorrow." Even though the Positive Country format is only a few years old, McKee is no stranger to country music. Since 1982 he has been entertaining alongside some of Nashville's best. McKee has opened for, among others, Ricky Skaggs, Lee Greenwood and Steve Wariner. But seven years ago he decided that it was time for a change. "I'd gotten so involved in the drug scene and the alcohol scene that it destroyed me. It destroyed me financially and physically," McKee says. "I became a born-again Christian in 1989 and from that point on I started writing Christian songs, positive songs.

The first single from Mountainview's debut release is the title track from McKee's album, Random Acts Of Kindness. According to McKee, this song and the others on the album deal with present-day issues such as literacy and homelessness. The chorus simply says that random acts of kindness rarely make the news. I believe that folks are just really tired of hearing cheating, lying and stealing (in songs). There are some of us who love our wives, love our families, love our homes," he says.

"Folks say the world's gone to Hell, but it really hasn't," McKee continues. "There are good people out there. You'll find 'em everywhere."

Two "good people" in particular were largely responsible for the material on Random Acts Of Kindness. Songwriters Dana Sigmun and Glen Ashworth wrote most of the album. "We went through probably 2,000 songs hunting for these ten songs," McKee recounts. "These guys sent me these songs and they were just exactly what I was looking for." He adds, "I look for songs that deal with folks out doing stuff that we really wish we all had time to do."

Although McKee speaks of a lack of time, he actually spends many hours as a modern-day good samaritan. The singer/songwriter devotes a great deal of time working with underprivileged children and adults. "There's an old saying that goes, "When the last individual has given his heart to the Lord, when the last individual cries 'Help me,' the rapture (of the church) will take place."" McKee says. "I'm looking for that one guy."

Jeff McKee

With such a busy schedule, McKee hopes that his music will play some part in reaching those with whom he volunteers his time. "If we can change the lives of individuals... if we can just let 'em know that life is not as bad as they think it is, a lot of things would change," he says. But he also is aware that music is just the first of many steps. "The music in itself is not gonna do that... but what the music will do is cause the person to listen and to think," McKee explains. "In my life, when I was in the clubs, I saw folks killed, families broken. And I think my songs show that all of that is unnecessary."

As the new year begins and Mountainview takes the first steps in a long climb toward success, McKee has a viewpoint that is unconventional by today's standards. "Success is reaching hurting people. It's not wealth," he says. "Somebody's gotta reach those people." Still McKee has high hopes for Mountainview. "By the time the industry realizes that we're here, we'll be so far ahead of 'em they'll never catch up."
This Week's Debut

RONNY MCKINLEY—"Build By The Horns"—(Cheyenne)—#33
THE FOX BROTHERS—"Squares"—(Sierra)—#37

Most Active

LISA DAGGS—"The Gift"—(Cheyenne)—#20
BILLY WALKER—"Every Heart Needs A Chance To Shine"—(Tall Texas)—#25
DAVID PATILLO—"When The World Runs Out Of Parties"—(Heartwrite)—#14
THE MANUEL FAMILY BAND—"Look Who's Laughing Now"—(MFb)—#8

Powerful On The Playlist

Leading the Cash Box Positive Country singles chart this week is Cross Country's "My Choice" on Dove, "Not Livin' That Way No More" by Rivers & Owens moves into the #2 Position, followed by Marty Raybon's "Daddy Talks To Jesus" at #3. Susie Luchsinger moves up two more to #4 with "You're It." "Banking On Jesus" by Marvell holds on to #5, and "Hoedown" by Ken Holloway moves down to the #6 position. Terri Lynn and "No Stranger To Treason" stays at #7. Breaking into the Top 10 with an eight spot leap to #8 is The Manuel Family Band and "Look Who's Laughing Now." Likewise, "Child Support" by The Boys moves in at #9. Ricky Van Shelton & Andy Landis finish off the Top 10 this week with "She Stays"

LOOKING AHEAD

Singles that are still gaining ground at radio this week include:
Randy Coward with "Say No," "Church Of The Cherokee" by Bruce Haynes, and Del Way's "One Of These Days."

Sierra Nashville Christian country artists The Fox Brothers join with Bob Robbins of Little Rock's KSSN to celebrate the birthday of Sonny Simmons of Century II backstage after a rousing performance at the Arkansas State Fair. Pictured are (l-r): Derrick Conner, Lynn Fox and Roy Fox of the Fox Brothers; Robbins; Randy Fox and Jerry Porterfield (Fox Brothers); Simmons; and Marty Lyon (Fox Brothers).
Record Booth Sales For Asian Expo

CHICAGO—Show organizers report that booth sales for the upcoming Asian Amusement Expo have, to date, surpassed total sales for last year’s show.

“The growth of the Asian Amusement Expo is consistent with the growth and demand for amusement products throughout Asia,” commented show committee chairman John Wood (Sally Corporation). “In anticipation of the projected growth in scope and size of the exhibits, we were able to secure space in the Upper Level Exhibit Hall that will facilitate nearly 300 booths.”

The 1996 Asian Amusement Expo will expand to a three-day format with a full day of conferences scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 1996. Four concurrent conferences will feature topics on Safety Management, Waterpark Safety, Family Entertainment Centers and Redemption Repair & Maintenance. The additional day of conferences will broaden the scope of industry knowledge for both amusement park/attractions and coin-op sectors in the region. Expanded seminars on show days are planned in response to the growing demand for education from owners and operators of parks, FECs and arcade locations in Asia. Seminars will be presented this year in both English and Mandarin.

Asian Amusement Expo ’96 will be held at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, with exhibits on May 8-9 and a full day of conferences on May 7. The exposition, entering its third year, is sponsored by the International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions (IAAPA) and the American Amusement Machine Association.

Further information may be obtained by contacting show organizer William T. Glasgow, Inc., 16066 South Park Avenue, South Holland, IL 60473-1500 or phoning 708-333-9292. FAX number is 708-333-4086.

Bally-Wulff Named Capcom Distrih In Germany

LOS ANGELES—Capcom Coin-Op, Inc. has named Bally-Wulff exclusive distributor of its line in Germany.

Commenting on the appointment, Capcom Coin-Op president Michael Stroll stated, “To bring to the Capcom family a distributor that has the understanding, clarity, technical know-how and market know-how of Bally-Wulff is clearly a feather in the cap of Capcom Coin-Op. This move provides us with a clear step forward in our joint abilities to create not only new and wonderful technology in the form of pinballs, but also to approach the entertainment world with other philosophies and other types of games.”

Uwe Christiansen, managing director at Bally-Wulff, said, “My visit to Capcom’s new facilities in Arlington Heights, Illinois truly excited me for many reasons, not the least of which is their goal to be the number one manufacturer of pinballs. What I learned is that this is not just an idealistic vision but an appropriate, honest goal, backed by experience and a thorough understanding of the industry...” He continued, “In addition, the engineers are aware that they must go back to their roots with regard to developing pinballs and recall that what the players are asking for is to be entertained. I am convinced that the cooperation of Capcom and Bally-Wulff will serve as a guideline for the best interest of not only the players but the future of the pinball.”

Uwe Christiansen is pictured (r) with Michael Stroll during his visit

New Appointments At Valley Recreation

CHICAGO—Don Grivetti has joined Valley Recreation Products in the position of sales representative for the eastern United States, as announced by Doug Blair, vice president of sales and marketing.

Working out of Valley’s headquarters in Bay City, Michigan, Grivetti will be responsible for sales activities involving both distributors and operators of Valley products.

“Don Grivetti is the type of representative we look for at Valley,” stated Blair. “He has an excellent understanding of the importance of strong and consistent customer relations and support. We are confident that he will play an important role in implementing our future plans and programs,” he continued, “and that our customers will benefit from the same high level of service they have come to expect from Valley.”

Scott Schroeder, Valley’s director of marketing, announced the appointment of Jennifer Adamcik to the position of marketing coordinator. Her responsibilities include assisting in the development and implementation of marketing objectives, short- and long-term planning of advertising and promotional programs, monitoring and evaluation of results, and other administrative duties.

Prior to joining Valley, Adamcik held the position of marketing analyst at Prince Corporation in Holland, Michigan, where her duties included sales forecasting, competitive intelligence, market research, buyer profiles and product analysis.

She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration as well as a Master of Business Administration Degree, both from Central Michigan University. She was also a participant in the National Collegiate Honors Semester at Iowa State University; is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and was on the Dean’s List at both C.M.U. and I.S.U.

“We are proud to have someone of Jennifer’s caliber on our team,” commented Schroeder. “She has an ideal combination of qualities we need—an excellent academic background as well as proven, in-depth business experience. We look forward to working with her and expect she will play a vital role in implementing our future plans and programs,” he added.

ICMOA Launches ’96 Tournament

CHICAGO—the eleventh annual ICMOA Pool, Dart & Pinball Tournament, sponsored by the Illinois Coin Machine Operators Association, is currently underway. It is open to members only. Kits covering all three game categories are available to operator members for purchase.

Finals have been scheduled for April 12-14, 1996 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois. A new event, 301 Senior Open for 45 & Older, has been added to the Friday agenda.

Further information may be obtained by contacting ICMOA headquarters at 710 E. Ogden Ave., Suite 113, Naperville, IL 60563. Phone number is 708-369-2406; FAX number is 708-369-2488.
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